

PREMIERE EDITION

SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN



MAGAZINE

NEW ERA, NEW LEADERSHIP

Saskatchewan Indian
Premiere Edition
Volume 1. Issue 1.
2010



PAGC

Women's Commission
20th Anniversary Year

SFNVA

Grand Chief Emile Highway

Aboriginal
Health Strategy

Whitecap Dakota First Nation
Building New Opportunities

FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild
First Nations University
of Canada

Sharing Success

Creating Employment
Opportunities for
First Nations people
for over 14 years.



Saskatchewan Indian
Gaming Authority



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial Message By Eldon Henderson	2	PAGC Women's Commission 20th Anniversary Year By Eldon Henderson	20
Letter to the Editor		Meeting with Premier Wall and Cabinet	22
FSIN Chief's Message Chief Guy Lonechild	3	Positivity and Humility Keep this Youth Focused on Nationhood By Deanne K. Kasokeo	26
FSIN First Vice Chief Morley Watson	4	Cowessess First Nation Creating Opportunities in the Agriculture Sector By April D. Roberts	28
FSIN Second Vice Chief Delbert Wapass	5	Whitecap Dakota First Nation Building New Opportunities By Dwight Percy	30
FSIN Third Vice Chief Edward "Dutch" Lerat	6	Aboriginal Health Strategy By Staff Writer	32
FSIN Fourth Vice Chief Lyle Whitefish	7	First Nations Engaged in Forestry Partnership By Eldon Henderson	34
The FSIN Chiefs-in-Assembly have made the right choices for the FNUniv By FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild	8	Economic Development Securing a Healthy Economy By April D. Roberts	36
Wanuskewin Heritage Park By Barb Selsky	9	MLTC Resource Developments Inc. Engaging in Renewable Energy By Jessica Iron	38
Saskatchewan First Nations Veteran's Association (SFNVA) Grand Chief Emile Highway	10	Battle River Horse Club Fostering Community Spirit Through Horsemanship By Deanna K. Kasokea	40
In Memoriam, We Shall not forget	12	Sask Indian Role Models Featuring Brenda Dreaver By Eldon Henderson	44
National Aboriginal Hockey Championships By Courage Bear	14		
Nursing Graduate grounded In Family and Community By Deanne K. Kasokea	16		
SIIT Moving Forward By Jennifer Whitecap & Robert Daniels	17		
One Earth Farms Spring operations in full force By Trina Schmid	18		

Since 1970, the Saskatchewan Indian Magazine has been the official communication vehicle for First Nation communities and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN).

The tradition of the Saskatchewan Indian Magazine is to provide coverage of people, issues and events both entertaining and informative throughout First Nation communities. There is such an overwhelming number of First Nations community events and happenings that we are unable to cover them all. Therefore, we invite stories, photographs, artwork and letters from our readers.

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Editorial Message

By Eldon Henderson

Saskatchewan Indian Magazine was first published back in 1970 and its now 40 years later.

With a new editorial board being established, the main priority is to ensure and navigate the Saskatchewan Indian so it will become the "credible and vibrant publication" again and ignite the high readership tradition for the years to come.

It's timely for the Saskatchewan Indian to be re-launched and revamped into a new and innovative brand as part of the "New Era, New Leadership Administration" and "FSIN Accountability, Transparency and Redress" back to First Nations.

Today's publishing sector is more competitive and our goal is to create a more visible and streamlined FSIN communication vehicle. This will allow Saskatchewan Indian to be a more accessible and modern publication within the local, provincial, national and global advertising and media landscape.

We are in the process of developing our own Saskatchewan Indian Magazine website homepage that will be incorporated into the FSIN website as part of our marketing and advertising strategy. The public will be able to read on-line and it will make it easier for free lance writers and advertisers to follow the publishing schedule and deadlines.

In addition, we are looking at ways to generate revenue through fund raising efforts and partnerships to help off-set publishing costs. For example, we are looking at hosting the first ever "1st Annual Sask Indian Summer Golf Classic" to be held this summer.

Saskatchewan Indian is already working hard on new stories and editorials, special features and columns for the next issue. We look forward to hearing from you and I would like to extend a special thanks to all the contributors and advertising clients for your submissions for the Saskatchewan Indian Premiere Edition. The next publication launch date is July 15, 2010.

Ekosi Pitama

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The following is the viewpoint of Dr. Vianne Timmons, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Regina.

I am proud of the shared vision the University of Regina has with the First Nations University of Canada as an institution founded "to enhance the quality of life, and to preserve, protect and interpret the history, language, culture and artistic heritage of First Nations people." Thirty-four years after its creation as the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, the First Nations University of Canada continues to fulfill this vision.

Through our federated partnership, the University of Regina approves all courses and provides quality assurance on all programs at the First Nations University of Canada. Students graduate with University of Regina degrees, diplomas and certificates.

This unique educational model is very successful. Enrolment has grown over the years, and 40% of Saskatchewan's Aboriginal university students take courses through First Nations University. As well, more than 1,000 University of Regina students – many of them non-Aboriginal and many of them from beyond Saskatchewan – broaden their knowledge of Aboriginal culture by taking courses at First Nations University. It's a unique Canadian

institution that specializes in Indigenous knowledge – something that is of extreme importance in Saskatchewan and beyond. First Nations University alumni – both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal graduates - are making positive contributions to our society.

First Nations University has recently experienced significant challenges – challenges which continue to threaten its future ability to provide a quality education that is relevant to Aboriginal people. The outpouring of support for the institution during the past few months demonstrates the pride and commitment people have for First Nations University of Canada. The issues raised are being addressed, and we are embarking on a new era. The University of Regina and the First Nations University of Canada are working together, always placing the interests of students and quality education at the top of our list of priorities. Changes to governance and administration have been introduced, but what will not change is the vision of working in partnership to deliver on the principle of an educational environment that preserves and protects the heritage of First Nations people.

I take heart in the leadership demonstrated by our First Nations University of Canada students over the past several months. Their commitment to the First Nations University of Canada has created an opportunity for all sides to work collaboratively to preserve important and relevant educational opportunities for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people alike.



Chief Guy Lonechild
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

Welcome to the Summer Legislative Assembly of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations. This is the time for the leadership of Saskatchewan First Nations to tackle the issues that are important for advancing the interests of First Nations people in Saskatchewan. This summer, we have many pressing issues to discuss and I look forward to moving forward on a number of fronts.

Over the last several months, I have had the great pleasure of being greeted warmly by First Nations communities across the province and I want to express by gratitude for your kind hospitality and support.

I am pleased to report that your Vice-Chiefs have been hard at work over the last several months and I look forward to their reports. I want to especially thank Vice-Chief Lerat for accompanying our veterans to the commemoration ceremonies marking the 65th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. We will never forget the contributions of our brave First Nations men and women.

Saskatchewan Indian Magazine

On behalf of the 74 Chiefs, Senate, Veterans, FSIN Executive and staff, I am very pleased and honored to witness the rebirth of the Saskatchewan Indian Magazine.

Many of our present day leaders remember when the Saskatchewan Indian would arrive at our band offices. Many of them recall flipping through the pages, searching for news and reports of our community events. The publication has been truly a fixture in this province and is like an old friend returning home.

The magazine went through numerous changes since it first began publishing in the 1970's but has remained a popular and vital voice for First Nations in Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Indian will play an important role as we communicate with each other in this New Era of New Leadership.

The magazine will document the work of our people as we build healthier communities and celebrate these successes by sharing stories with each other across our territories.

I want to thank the team at the Saskatchewan Indian for taking on this challenge to produce the most popular First Nation magazine ever published in Saskatchewan. Please enjoy reading this month's edition.

Executive Responsibility Changes

In consultation with the Executive, I have made some changes to the Vice-Chief Portfolios: VC Watson will take over for veterans. VC Wapass will be responsible for the Centre of Excellence in the area of oil and gas. VC Lerat will share responsibility for Economic Development, VC Whitefish will handle special events and projects and I will assume duties for Urban Issues.

**FSIN Revitalizing:
Make Your Voice Known**

I am pleased to report that I and the Vice-Chiefs have made progress in developing a process for the revitalization of the FSIN. At the Legislative Assembly we will launch an on-line consultation tool that can be used for interested First Nations individuals to provide input into the various aspects of the revitalization issue.

This will be one consultation among many to start the debate on this important agenda. In addition to this tool, I have called upon the Vice-chiefs to undertake consultations on this issue within the work of their commissions and agencies. I have also tasked Senator Sol Sanderson and Dan Bellegarde to work closely with my office on moving this agenda forward. This is important work and responds to the wide spread calls upon us to strengthen our governance mechanisms so that they better meet the needs of our First Nations and serve to improve the quality of life of First Nations people on/off-reserve.

NRTA Treaty Conference

It is my great pleasure to report on the successful Treaty Conference held at the end of March. The Conference on the impact of NRTA on Treaties was well attended by both Elders and First Nations Leaders. I want to thank all of you who attended and for your insightful dialogue on this important topic. The conference will help shape both our political and legal strategy going forward. The FSIN also played an active role in the UN Permanent Forum where we made several interventions promoting our treaty rights.



FSIN First Vice Chief Morley Watson

On behalf of my office and portfolio staff of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, I extend greetings to our Elders, Veterans, Chiefs, Council Members and First Nation citizens. I am grateful and honored to serve in the position as your First Vice Chief. Our Federation is 68 years old; we have seen tremendous growth in our people, communities and institutions. Since the signing of Treaty and joining Confederation, we have struggled with colonial legislation and intrusion from being political and economically independent. We need not look any further than our own SIGA to reassure ourselves we must do things for ourselves. The vision and fortitude of our leaders then are solely responsible for a \$300 million dollar a year business, 2500 jobs and an 80 Million dollar profit, but most of all, it provides hope for our children and grandchildren. It is time for us to create and shape our own First Nation economies and tap into various sectors, so our people can properly provide and we can further develop our First Nations now and into the future. In April of this year, I was given the responsibility of Economic and Community Development, Finance and Administration which includes Treaty Rights Protection Fund and Sport, Culture, Recreation and Youth. At this time I would like to briefly update you on the more pressing issues we are facing and bring awareness of the actions being pursued in these areas.

PROPOSED PROVINCIAL TOBACCO LEGISLATION

The provincial budget was announced on March 24, 2010 and that budget included items which directly affect the First Nation Treaty Right to be Tax Exempt. In particular the budget proposes reducing the quotas on the amount of tobacco purchased by First Nations citizens on reserve under their tax exempt status. Under current agreement appendices First Nations people are allowed to purchase three cartons of cigarettes per week without paying provincial sales tax. Meetings were held with First Nations and First Nations store owners at which time lengthy discussion had taken place. From those meetings it was decided that a legal team be developed to address the issues of Duty to Consult and Tax Exemption status of First Nations based on the agreements. In addition to this direction was given to meet with the Province and put forward the First Nations concerns raised at the two meetings. A meeting was held on April 19, 2010 with Ministers Gantefero and Hutchinson in attendance. At that time both Ministers agreed to address their colleagues and request that the proposed legislation be held in abeyance until such time that the legal advisors on both sides have a chance to meet and discuss the current Fuel & Tobacco Tax agreements. On May 11, 2010, a request was made once again to Premier Wall to hold the

proposed legislation in abeyance until proper consultation and accommodation had taken place with the First Nations of Saskatchewan. Premier Wall stated that he will not hold in abeyance and will move forward with the legislation. A legal team has been established comprised of Jim Jodouin (Bainbridge, Jodouin, Cheecham), Al Brabant, Ron Cherkewich, Ranji Jeerakathil (MLT) and Darren Winegarden (FSIN Legal Counsel) to develop legal options. These options will be presented to the Economic & Community Development Commission on May, 17, 2010. A follow up meeting with the First Nations and First Nations retailers was scheduled on June 4 for updates and further direction.

HOUSING

With regards to the 2010/2011 Housing Program Financials, we are still waiting on budget distribution from National Office for the majority of the 2010/ 2011 programs. The received budgets for CEAP Retrofits and New Builds are still subject to final budget distribution however, conditional commitment letters have been issued. A full report has been requested from INAC on program financials and FSIN is currently awaiting this report.

FINANCE

The Federation continues to implement the deficit reduction plan established to eliminate the deficit of the organization. On the Fiscal Year 2008-09, the Federation completed the terms required to remove the conditions of the Remedial Management Plan (RMP), but the remaining deficit still needs to be addressed. The entire deficit will be extinguished over the next four years by applying a percentage of revenue each year to debt and the earlier we identify additional resources, we can accelerate deficit retirement. Today, I am confident that we can meet our target of allocating between \$250,000 - \$300,000 towards the deficit for the Fiscal Year 2009/10.

ACTIVE MEASURES

I would like to conclude that our First Nations population is growing at a rapid pace compared to any other groups in the province or country. Saskatchewan's population is aging but the First Nations population is coming of age. We have a young, diverse, educated and mobile First Nation population which is a potential resource and asset to address labour shortages in Saskatchewan. I believe this potential can be realized only if First Nations increase their participation in the labour market, become successful in starting their own businesses, and strengthen their employability, trades and training skills. We are hoping those will be addressed through the programs available to the First Nations. There is an opportunity for Saskatchewan to reach out to the First Nations workforce of tomorrow, the entrepreneurs, the artists, the business leaders and bankers to empower the overall economy of First Nation communities and the Province of Saskatchewan.

In closing, on behalf of the Saskatchewan First Nations, I would like to honour and remember all the First Nations leaders past and present who have taken up the fight towards full recognition of our Treaty and Inherent Rights for our people. Thank you for all your commitment and sacrifices for a better future for our grandchildren.



FSIN Second Vice Chief Delbert Wapass

I am happy to send out greetings from the Saskatchewan Indian Education and Training and Indian Justice Commissions.

There are many issues that require our continual attention in First Nations education. One of the key and primary areas is the threat to Post Secondary Education. The federal government continues to allege mismanagement of student funds resulting in surpluses. Our staff is working with post secondary coordinators to develop options in the delivery of student support funding to minimize surplus funding. We are also looking at ways to further support the post secondary coordinators with professional development.

The funding of Band operated schools continues to be an issue. With the province introducing new curriculum, the First Nation schools are struggling to keep pace. Furthermore, the STF is expecting a new contract for teachers this year resulting in additional financial stress on education budgets. We are completing a study on comparable funding and expect to present it to INAC and the First Nations in June.

It is apparent numerous barriers exist for Band schools in delivering education to our children and youth. Despite these obstacles, data released from INAC indicate the graduation rate from First Nations schools in Saskatchewan is 44% which leads the graduation rate of First Nations in provincial schools by 5%. This is encouraging news, but graduating less than half of our youth on or off reserve is not sufficient enough.

Presently, we are working toward a new Memorandum of Understanding with the province. We are examining the needs of our students in provincial schools as well as in band operated schools. Some primary areas of this work are in analyzing tuition rates, comparing the costs of educating on and off reserve, infusing First Nations world views into all curricula, and retaining, reclaiming and retraining our youth in First Nation languages.

The Indian Justice Commission advances the governance agenda of the First Nations. The major focus is on legislative, policy, framework and justice institutional development, while supporting First Nations in fulfilling their goals of building governance capacity within their respective territories.

Over the last three years, the Justice Secretariat has been in consultation with communities and the results of which have shown support for the development of a First Nations Justice System. There are two avenues that we must keep in mind: our reality which the criminal justice system and the components of the system; we would like to include the implementation of prevention and intervention, peacekeeping, institution building, healing and reintegration.

The Peacekeeping Initiative is part of the prevention and intervention strategy process while traditionally peacekeeping has been an integral part of First Nation community life. Currently, First Nations are involved in the Peacekeeping Training Pilot Project which will be complete by July 2010.

The Special Investigations Unit is the first step in establishing a First Nations oversight. The SIU mandate is to: ensure that First Nations' Inherent, Treaty and Human Rights are recognized and respected in all oversight matters. This Unit provides an alternative for First Nations citizens to the mainstream offices of public complaints. This institution has enhanced the level of trust between First Nations oversight and First Nation citizens.

Within the next fiscal year, the Office of the 2nd Vice Chief intends to have models of a First Nations Education and Justice System.



FSIN Third Vice Chief Edward "Dutch" Lerat

Greetings on behalf of the Health and Social Development Commission, Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association and Staff of the Office of the Third Vice Chief and the Secretariat.

As Chair of the Health and Social Development Commission (HSDC), the Office of the Third Vice Chief is responsible for fulfilling the Mission of the HSDC:

"Through the full implementation of Treaties, First Nations powers, laws, and jurisdictions, we will develop a sound and responsive traditional, social, economic, and environmental infrastructure for the health benefit of our children and families and to deliver good quality services to all First Nations citizens, both on and off-reserve".

The FSIN Third Vice Chief has been assigned the following portfolios:

- Health and Social Development Commission (HSDC), Chair
- Implementing Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding
- Indian Child and Family Services (ICFS)
- Social Development
- FSIN Disabilities Office
- National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP)
- First Nations Addictions Rehabilitation Foundation (FNARF)
- Off-reserve Child and Family Services
- Off-reserve Health Care
- Veterans (SFNVA)
- Bold Eagle
- FSIN Economic Development Commission, Co-Chair

The Office of the Third Vice Chief takes a community-

based approach in the protection and promotion of our Inherent and Treaty Rights. Recognizing First Nations Elders, leadership and technicians are the experts when it comes to determining the needs of the community. We are committed to working directly with communities in the development of strategies and solutions in the fulfillment of our collective mission to improve the lives of First Nations citizens.

Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association (SFNVA)

SFNVA has relocated its offices to the Grasswoods sub-office. The new address is #140-2553 Grasswoods Road East and they can be reached at (306) 385-3250.

The SFNVA has completed its booklet titled, "We Answered the Call." This booklet is filled with Veterans' biographies, stories and little-known facts regarding the contribution of First Nations people to Canada's freedom and democracy. "We Answered the Call" is now available on our web site, and will be distributed to all Saskatchewan schools, bands, tribal councils and to other interested parties.

Bold Eagle

The April 30, 2010 Bold Eagle Program deadline for applications has passed and we set a record in terms of applications. As of May 14, 2010, Bold Eagle received 440 applicants on a national level with 169 coming from Saskatchewan. Although there were only 22-28 spots for Bold Eagle, the Canadian Forces have other similar programs for Aboriginal Youth and they have made every effort to accommodate them.

Saskatchewan Indian

We congratulate the "Saskatchewan Indian" on its re-launching and recognize the important contributions it has made in keeping our people informed about news and issues, in both the communities and beyond. We are pleased to see this important news magazine continue.



FSIN Fourth Vice Chief Lyle Whitefish

I am pleased to send greetings on behalf of the FSIN Lands and Resources Commission. The work being done from my office and within our Secretariat combined with the new challenges we face, keep us moving forward in addressing the needs of the First Nations in Saskatchewan.

The fundamental issue of importance facing the Lands and Resources Secretariat at this point is facilitating the development and implementation of an effective and enforceable unified strategy to support the rights of First Nations in Saskatchewan to be meaningfully consulted and accommodated when conduct is contemplated which may impact our territories and Inherent and Treaty Rights.

The role of the FSIN in this process is to provide support to First Nations in order to build capacity to ensure the protection of our rights to the lands and resources and minerals which were never surrendered during the Treaty making process.

It is the Secretariat's mission to provide excellent policy, planning and strategic development advice, information and assistance to First Nations on all land and resource goals, on reserve and within our territories.

THE FSIN CHIEFS-IN-ASSEMBLY HAVE MADE THE RIGHT CHOICES FOR THE FNUUNIV

By FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild

During the months leading up to October 29, 2009 when I was elected as the Chief for the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations by the Chiefs and Councils of Saskatchewan, I campaigned on a platform for a renewed focus on New Era, New Leadership. Immediately after being elected, I met with the students to discuss the governance, management and financial administration issues with the FNUuniv.

On February 3, 2010, the Honourable Rob Norris, Minister for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour (AEEL) announced that the Government of Saskatchewan would end its \$5.2 million annual contribution to the FNUuniv, stating that his government had, "lost confidence in the governance and management of First Nations University." This announcement came while the FSIN Chiefs were in assembly, deliberating those very issues, primarily the downsizing and depoliticizing of the board, as had been recommended in previous task force reports. On February 4, one day later, the FSIN Chiefs-in-Assembly made the right choice. We followed due process and gave political direction to downsize and depoliticize the FNUuniv Board of Governors, thereby dissolving the Board. On February 8, four days later, the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada followed suit announcing that the federal government will end the \$7.2 million in annual funding effective April 1, 2010, citing "systemic problems related to the governance and financial management of the institution."



On March 23, 2010, Minister Norris announced that the Province of Saskatchewan would reinstate its \$5.2 million investment upon all parties concerned signing an MOU addressing the financial and administration issues. On April 30, 2010, the FNUuniv signed the Liaison Agreement with the University of Regina, one day after the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs announced that he will be funding the \$3 million Indian Studies Support Program proposal for the FNUuniv. With signing of the Liaison Agreement, two of the primary reasons for which the funding was pulled in early February have been met—financial administration and management issues.

On June 9 & 10, 2010, the Chiefs-in-Assembly will be presented with the proposed changes to the First Nations University of Canada governance structure; one based upon 'best practices' for post-secondary institutions and First Nations entities. I trust that the Chiefs-in-Assembly will again make the right choice regarding the governance structure. And with this, the third reason for which the funding was pulled, will be addressed and it stands to reason that the remaining \$4.2 million in federal funds will be reinstated.

The First Nations University of Canada has a strong history and a future envisioned by our Elders which is deserving of our steadfast support and commitment to implement the necessary changes. During the past few months, I have been committed to protecting the students of First Nations University and this institution which they value for its cultural relevance and uniqueness. I look forward to continuing this effort with the First Nations University and the University of Regina.

Feel the Power of Wanuskewin Heritage Park

Explore, Discover, Understand

By Barb Selsky

Wanuskewin Heritage Park embraces the sacred, cultural and spiritual values of the First Nations people and this is where visitors can seek peace of mind; enjoy a place of natural beauty; a place of learning and understanding; and a place where living is harmonious with nature. Admission is charged. Group tours can be arranged.

Please join us in our Official Re-opening Ceremony on Friday June 18, 2010 from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, then enjoy the rest of the weekend with fun-filled educational activities from Saturday, June 19, 2010 – Sunday, June 20, 2010, and then help Wanuskewin celebrate National Aboriginal Day on Monday, June 21, 2010. Please check our website at www.wanuskewin.com for more detailed information on the weekend's festivities.

Hours of Operation: 7 days/week

9:00 am – 8:00 pm (May 25, 2010 to September 6, 2010)

9:00 am – 4:30 pm (September 7, 2010 to May 23, 2011)

Phone: 306-931-6767

Toll-Free: 1-877-547-6546 (North America Only)

Email: info@wanuskewin.com

Web Site : www.wanuskewin.com

Come and Share the Experience! Wanuskewin Heritage Park sits on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River overlooking the valley where the Opimihaw Creek flows into the River just minutes northeast of Saskatoon. For more than 6,000 years, First Nations people gathered on this site of natural beauty where today visitors can relive stories of people who came here to hunt bison, gather food and herbs, and escape the winter winds. Walking in their footsteps, you will understand why this site was a place of worship and celebration, renewal with the natural world, and of a deep spirituality.

Imagine 360 acres of scenic trails, archaeological digs and interpretive sites, and a Visitor Centre with a 60 seat theatre and 40 foot projection wall to highlight short films based on several traditional and cultural themes of the Northern Plains people that include sacred sites, the pow-wow and its different dance styles; a 2,500 foot exhibit hall with temporary exhibits; an art gallery; gift shop with traditional Aboriginal crafts; and a restaurant serving traditional foods such as bison burgers, bison stew, rabbit stew, 3 sisters chili, bannock, muskeg tea, and much more.

The land surrounding the building has been maintained as original native habitat. Four elaborate interpretive walking trails totaling six kilometres have been maintained to highlight various aspects of the First Nation's heritage from the archaeological site and buffalo rubbing stone to the medicine wheel and tipi ring and traditional dance. The trails are open year round with visitors having access to snow shoes during the winter.

Interpretive programs focus on educating visitors on aspects of traditional life and focus on the understanding of the significance of the dances, regalia, colors and design. Visitors can learn the significance of a tipi, learn about traditional crafts and games, and experience the serenity and power of the First Nation's ancestral roots.

For 6,000 years our ancestors have gathered here.

Walk our trails and discover the magic of Wanuskewin.

Experience first-hand the traditions of our people.

See history uncovered at our archeological digs.

- Interpretive centre and trails
- Authentic First Nations cultural experiences
- Unique First Nations cuisine • Tipi village
- Dancers, drumming, storytelling

Feel the power of Wanuskewin!

Contact us for information:
306-931-6767 Toll-Free: 1-877-547-6546
www.wanuskewin.com

 **Wanuskewin
Heritage Park**

Saskatchewan First Nations Veteran's Association (SFNVA)

Grand Chief Emil Highway

SFNVA History

The Saskatchewan First Nations Veteran's Association (SFNVA) was established in 1972 and mandated by the Chief's in Assembly as an Institution of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN).

SFNVA mandate is to promote, preserve and protect the Treaty Rights of First Nations Veterans and to advance the physical, social, economic and spiritual well being of the First Nations Veterans and their families. Today, there are approximately 350 surviving First Nations Veterans who are part of the Saskatchewan First Nations Veteran's Association (SFNVA).

SFNVA Governance

The Saskatchewan First Nations Veteran's Association (SFNVA) is made of three branches: North Battleford, Prince Albert and Regina- Ft. Qu'Appelle. The SFNVA is governed by a seven member elected Executive that consists of the following:

- The Grand Chief, elected by all SFNVA full members;
- One President for each of the three SFNVA branches, elected by the full members of the appropriate branch; and
- One Vice President for each of the three branches elected by the full members of the appropriate branch.

SFNVA General Assembly

The SFNVA General Assembly was recently held on May 28, 2010 at the Dakota Dunes and the cool and cloudy weather did not deter the First Nation Veterans who travelled from different parts of the province. Grand Chief adds, "I am very compassionate about my duties and responsibilities as Grand Chief and

there has been great governance work being completed by the SFNVA Executive with their new portfolio mandates. There is more focus and attention on specific assignments and duties. It really makes our Executive function more effectively and efficiently in their respective Branches, but also at the provincial and national level to bring certain issues to the forefront." It really makes our Executive function more effectively and efficiently in our respective Branches, but also at the provincial and national level to bring certain issues to the forefront." Brad, its part of an on-going quote as you may notice.

The SFNVA Executive is currently talking with Ken Usher, Regional Manager, Last Post Fund about assisting SFNVA in dealing with unmarked grave sites. The Last Post Fund is a non-profit organization funded by the Veteran Affairs Canada and private donations.

"We opened our new SFNVA office at Grasswoods, we have released the SFNVA book titled, "We Answered the Call" and printed the SFNVA Newsletter of the April Edition titled the, "Bugle Call." We can provide more updates on SFNVA Executive in the next issue of Saskatchewan Indian," says Grand Chief Highway.

Call for Duty

The "Call for Duty" came in 1962 for Emile Highway from the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) to join the armed forces, a decision that would take him travelling to different parts of the world and back. In his travels, he met a lot of interesting people and experienced a diverse array of cultures.

Emile first service was with the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry then moved to the 3rd Canadian Mechanized Commando, where he achieved the rank of Master Corporal. After more than 10 years overseas, Emile transferred to the Royal Canadian Engineers on Vancouver Island, where he would further advance his education, adding onto his years of armed forces experience.



**L to R - Back Row: Arland Tootosis, Ray Sanderson, Arthur Sanderson, Ron Redwood and Phillip Ledoux
Front Row: Grand Chief Emile Highway and George Benson**

Emile retired from the Armed Forces in 1982 and came back home from his duties and was eventually elected into his new role as Grand Chief of the Saskatchewan First Nations Veteran's Association (SFNVA) on March 2009 for a three year term.

Grand Chief Emil Highway has brought forward years of experience and knowledge into his new post and is working hard alongside his fellow veterans on the SFNVA Executive and SFNVA Director, Reta Guilbault and Vice Chief Dutch Lerat.

SFNVA Executive Member Contact Information

Emile Highway, SFNVA Grand Chief	306.940.9327
Ray Sanderson, Children & Families Portfolio, PA Branch President	306.220.5502
Phillip Ledoux, Finance Portfolio & PA Branch VP	306.466.7849
Arthur Anderson, Benefits Portfolio & Ft. Qu' Appelle President	306.731.7725
Ron Redwood, Historical Portfolio & Regina – Ft Qu' Appelle VP	306.696.2822
George Benson, Protocol Portfolio & North Battleford President	306.466.1517
Arland Tootosis, North Battleford, VP	306.481.6122
FSIN Portfolio Holder, FSIN Vice Chief Dutch Lerat	306.665.1215
SFNVA Director, Reta Guilbault	306.385.3250

**New SFNVA Office
Grasswoods #140-2553 Grasswoods Road East
Phone: (306) 385-3250**



DAVID F. AHENAKEW

BORN: JULY 28, 1933

DEPARTED: MARCH 12, 2010

INTERRED: AHTAHKAKOOP FIRST NATION

In Memoriam, We Shall Not Forget

The election of David Ahenakew to the position of president in 1968 signalled a marked change in the style of leadership up to this point. Ahenakew was born on July 28, 1933, at Sandy Lake Indian Reserve. In 1951 he married Grace Ahenakew and together they had three sons and two daughters. He also joined the army in 1951 where he would serve sixteen years. He achieved the rank of sergeant while serving in Germany, Egypt and the Korean Conflict. He was awarded "The Canadian Decoration" for distinguished service and good conduct in 1964. Also during this time he completed his education, which would help him later in his battles on behalf of the Indians of Saskatchewan. In 1967 Ahenakew accepted a position with the Saskatchewan government as a placement and training officer, which gave him the opportunity to work closely with band councils. A year later in 1968, he became employed with the FSI as a communications worker and he was then elected president later in the year.

Ahenakew, like Knight and Bellegarde, was also a veteran. His long period of service in the army very much influenced his decision to enter into politics: "I could see that what was happening to our people was the same kind of exploitation and degradation I had seen in Korea and Egypt."

Ahenakew's veteran background was perhaps the only thing he really had in common with the three previous presidents. Ahenakew was a transitional leader. His election as president really marked a generational change within the leadership of the organization. Ahenakew was well educated, energetic, ambitious and in relation to past leaders, he was quite young. Elected when he was 35, Ahenakew was the youngest person to hold the position of president up to that point. Ahenakew was certainly the new, young vibrant leader that the Indian electorate seemed to be looking for at this time. Ahenakew built upon the foundation laid by Tootoosis, Knight, Bellegarde and Deiter. He set the FSI on the course of building and organizing the programs and institutions of today.

Ahenakew accomplished many tasks during his term in office, such as successfully negotiating federal/provincial Indian government relations in Saskatchewan and releasing a report entitled "Indian Education in Saskatchewan," which outlined the unsatisfactory situation affecting the education of Indians in the province.

Ahenakew was also instrumental in the establishment of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural College and the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College in 1972, serving as an original board member of both institutions. It was also during this time that he helped organize a radio and communications network for Saskatchewan Indians. In 1976 David Ahenakew was presented with an honorary LL.D. by the University of Regina and he received the Order of Canada in 1978 for his dedication and commitment to the advancement of Indian rights. David Ahenakew was a founding member of the National Indian Brotherhood and the World Council of Indigenous Peoples. He was also elected Chief of

the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) in 1982. Ahenakew was an outspoken leader and often emphasized that Indian people should not wait around for the government to do things for them, but that they should take responsibility for their rights: "We will never secure our rights and have our authority recognized by sitting around asking somebody to recognize them [for us]." This sentiment was most likely a result of his many years of training in the army, where recruits were taught independence and self-sufficiency, but it also reflects the confidence he had in the abilities of Indian people to secure their own rights.

If success is measured by longevity, then David Ahenakew was quite successful. He remained president of the FSI for ten years, the longest term ever held by a President or Chief in the organizations history.

On behalf of the SFNVA Executive, membership and staff, our condolences to the Ahenakew family





NATIONAL ABORIGINAL HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2010

By Courage Bear

Another year of the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC) has come and gone with Team Saskatchewan making its presence known! The tournament ran from May 2-8, 2010 in Ottawa. Team Saskatchewan took an entourage of 58 athletes, coaches and chaperones.

The Team Saskatchewan Female group ended up playing 6 games in 7 days, earning one day off after doing well in the round robin play. They ended up finishing 2nd in their pool defeating both NWT and Alberta, only to lose to Manitoba. They advanced to quarter final play where they played the Eastern Door and North (Quebec) and were victorious in a very exciting game with a score of 7-6. This win set them up to play in the semi-finals against Manitoba for the 2nd time.

Unfortunately, they lost that game and went on to play for bronze against the team from Ontario South. After a full week of hockey at the Championships, they came away with 4th place at the tournament. The Team Saskatchewan Male players had another

great year at NAHC and came out first in their pool (3-0-1) after beating Manitoba, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia while finishing in a 3 all tie against Alberta. In exciting quarter final action, Team Sask was victorious over Nunavut while another semi final action saw Sask beat Ontario North with a score of 7-3.

Team Manitoba was now waiting for their rematch against Team Sask for the gold medal. Team Sask however came out with a decisive victory of 8-1 over Manitoba to capture the National Aboriginal Hockey Championship for the third straight consecutive year. After a great Championship game, Team Saskatchewan ended up with great representation on the Tournament All Star Teams. Hillary Lerat was named to the Female All Star Team as All Star Defense. On the male side, Bryce Gervais was named All Star Forward, Garrett Kazmiruk was named All Star Goalie, and Justin Waskewitch was named the Most Outstanding Player (MVP) for the tournament.



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Nursing Graduate grounded in Family and Community

By Deanne K. Kasokeo

Raina Kona Henderson is content that her recent accomplishment will support her life long aspiration to serve and care for people in her home community of Montreal Lake Cree Nation. Raina has just completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and she recently convocated on June 3, 2010. The Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan is facilitated in partnership with First Nations University of Canada (FNUC), Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) and the University of Saskatchewan (U of S).

Before deciding to pursue post secondary education, Raina quit high school, worked and decided to go back and finish her grade 12 at the age of 19. She then applied for the entry level program of the Northern Health Sciences Access Program which inspired her to move forward with an education in Nursing.

Raina is lucky she had the chance to attend school in Prince Albert close to her family and support system. She states, "I felt that being in the North would give me the opportunity to be close to home and my family while I cared for my niece, Kiana during my third year of Nursing. Kiana helped me through difficult times in Nursing, and kept me going to school." She credits her parents, Shirley and Noland (Edward) Henderson, her brother Dean Henderson, and niece Kiana for providing much needed guidance and inspiration to succeed her goal in becoming a Nurse. She relates that being a student was difficult academically and financially, however, her father reminded her "that life has its struggles but to be thankful for what I do have."

She currently resides in Prince Albert and has already begun working in Montreal Lake at the William Charles Health Centre as a part-time Home Care Nurse and part-time Community Health Nurse. She relates that her passion for nursing stems from, "My inspiration to care for people and knowing I could help in so many ways." She plans on gaining experience in her home community and is appreciative of the support she receives. She is interested in all areas of nursing and hopes to find her niche area through innovation and opportunities that arise for her.



Raina believes that perseverance and hard work are the basis towards self-sufficiency. Prior to and throughout attending the Nursing program, Raina worked at the Northern Lights Casino (NLC) as a security officer. Late nights of working and studying did not deter her dedication to school and work. The management and staff accommodated her schedule so that

she could pursue her studies and she is grateful for their support.

Raina loves the chance of living in the north as she enjoys the advantages of the great outdoors, "I feel good by sitting outside and listening to nature where I can clear my thoughts." Her interests include reading, golfing, camping and fishing.

Raina feels confident in the career path she chose and believes that this is the beginning of life long learning with her people, "the greatest gift that I have is the opportunity to go back home with my education, I love working home care because I get to visit my Elders and gain insight to the past."

SIIT Moving Forward

By SIIT Marketing & Communications Department
Robert Daniels and Jennifer Whitecap

Under strong senior management and board of governors' leadership, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) continues to thrive and grow in a fiscally responsible manner. We are entering our 34th year of operations and there are some new and exciting things happening at SIIT this summer....new campus, new program and new RV's! Plus be sure to check our out newly revamped website at www.siid.ca

We are very pleased to announce that we will be opening our new Regina campus this summer located at 261 Albert Street. The new location offers more classrooms, offices and meetings rooms allowing for increased enrolment and programming. This new, brighter, bigger building is also close to public transportation, has plenty of parking and a Tim Horton's right across the street!

August 30th, 2010 will mark the first intake of students into our new SIIT Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (AME) Program. AME technicians maintain, replace and repair all components of all types of aircraft, perform scheduled inspections and check avionic systems.

The program is 2 years in length and graduates receive 18 months towards the 48 months of industry experience required to obtain a license. Applications are still being accepted and please contact the SIIT Recruitment or Admissions Department for more information.

Keep an eye out for our SIIT Mobile Career Coaches, they are busy travelling across the province and could be visiting your First Nation community next!

From all the staff at SIIT, we wish everyone a great and safe summer!

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Educating & Training for Over Thirty Years

One Earth Farms spring

By Trina Schmid

On March 26th, 2009, One Earth Farms was officially launched in Saskatoon with start up money from Sprott Resources, an investment fund headquartered in Toronto. The idea behind One Earth Farms (OEF) was that by bringing together large amounts of agricultural lands we would create a size of farming operation that could be consistently profitable. Investors from Sprott Resources first became aware of this opportunity while touring First Nations in Saskatchewan. They were impressed with the large blocks of land and believed in the potential to bring them together in a sustainable company that would employ First Nations people, and provide fair lease values to the communities' whose land was being farmed. OEF

started small, seeding approximately 13,000 acres in 2009 with Muskowekwan First Nation, Little Black Bear First Nation and Thunderchild First Nation as our first partners. Harvest was late due to the weather, but by November of that year, everything was off the fields and in the bin.

Much has changed since November 2009. Seeding has officially begun in One Earth Farms' (OEF) second year of operations. This year more than 60,000 acres of First Nations soil in Western Canada will be planted by OEF machinery and crews. In addition, to grain lands, OEF is testing the profitability of a cattle operation with a herd of almost 2,000 cows that are more than 70% finished calving. The herd is centered around approximately 12,000 acres of pasture and yardsite at Thunderchild First Nations' White Buffalo Ranch. This year OEF's First Nations partners have grown to include: Muskowekwan First Nation, Little Black Bear First Nation, Thunderchild First Nation, Yellow Quill First Nation, Fishing Lake First Nation, Star Blanket First Nation and Kawacatoose First Nation. We are already in discussions with additional First Nations in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba regarding land for 2011.

The One Earth Farms promise is to be a leader in the farming community, recognized as a responsible steward of the land under its management, ensuring the sustainability of agriculture for future



When our discussions begin with First Nations, we are often asked why OEF is any different from the individuals who are currently leasing First Nation lands. There are four things that we believe sets One Earth apart from many of the Nations' current tenants:

1. We will employ skilled people from the Nation to operate equipment, drive semi's and assist in cattle operations. We will also continue to train our employees so that they can take on greater levels of responsibility if they are interested;
2. We are actively involved in making training available to ensure that band members have access to training in agricultural operations;
3. We will conduct a fair value assessment of the land based on the condition of the land and the market rental rate for similar quality land in the area. Lease rates will be comparable to those for non-First Nations land in the area, and;
4. OEF provides our partner Nations with opportunities to gain equity in the company through formulas that provide per acre equity for extended lease terms. We believe it is important that our success is shared with the people and organizations who have contributed to it.

One Earth Farms has consciously chosen to focus first on farming in Canada. Often referred to as the 'bread basket' of the Canada, the Prairies are an obvious

operations in full force

One Earth Farms seeding at Muskowekwan First Nation

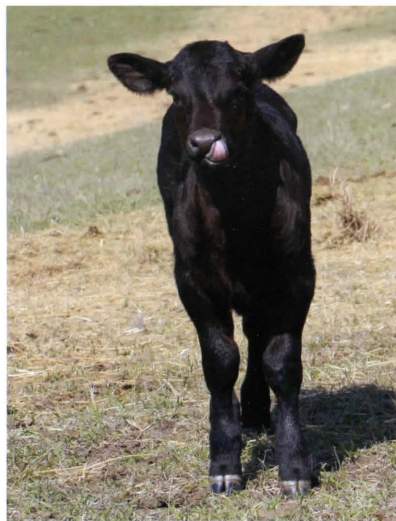


place to start. However, we believe that there are great opportunities in agricultural in many parts of the world. Once we have refined the way we operate in Canada, One Earth Farms will continue to look at agricultural operations in the United States of America, South America and other parts of the world that will enhance our current operations. In order to accomplish this we are using leading edge equipment that is equipped with GPS monitors and the ability to gather information about all of the operations of the equipment.

With one year of significant growth behind us and looking towards a much larger operation in 2011, the OEF team has grown significantly from around 6 people in March 2009 to more than 80 employees in May 2010. More than 40% of the OEF team are First Nations people from across Saskatchewan and into

Alberta. These team members represent all sectors of One Earth operations from equipment operations to finance and business development to human resources. As we continue to grow so will career opportunities and training opportunities for OEF

employees and members of our partner Nations interested in jobs in the agriculture industry. At One Earth Farms we believe that in order to keep our team at the top of their game, we need to be constantly learning about new technology, new opportunities, new crops and new ways of doing business. One Earth is currently hiring, if you are interested please contact Wendy Noonan at 403.464.8444. Spring is always an uplifting time of year as it signals a new lifecycle. This spring season is particularly exciting for One Earth Farms and our First Nations partners as it brings new opportunities, new partnerships and new growth. For any questions or inquiries, please contact the One Earth Farms office at 306.979.8055.



A One Earth Farms calf at White Buffalo Ranch

PAGC Women's Plans for the 20th

By: Eldon Henderson

This year marks the 20th Anniversary for the PAGC Women's Commission. A celebration will be held during the "10th Annual Women in Post Secondary Scholarship Award Banquet" prior to the PAGC Annual Assembly in October.

Shirley Henderson, Chairperson, PAGC Women's Commission mentioned a brochure and poster will be sent out well in advance to promote the banquet event. It's a special time for all the PAGC Women's Commission members and the Grand Council.

"The PAGC Women's Commission was formed in 1990 while the PAGC Convention Act of 1993 officially established the Commission under the Prince Albert Grand Council," says PAGC Vice-Chief Edward Henderson, citing the Women's Commission is mandated by the Council of Chiefs to promote and protect the rights of First Nation Women, Elders and Youth. The PAGC Women's Commission members are comprised of 14 women who represent each community. With the exception of La

Ronge Indian Band (LRRIB) and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) who have 2 women who represent their large sector communities.

2010 Women's Commission Members

Shirley Henderson,
Montreal Lake

Linda Naytowhow,
Sturgeon Lake

Doris Morin,
Air Ronge

Marg Beament, La Ronge

Ina Whitehead, Red Earth

Velma Buffalo, Wahpeton

Pauline Thatcher,
Black Lake

Marilyn Fern, Fond du Lac

Annie Joseyounen,
Hatchet Lake

Rose Morin, Cumberland

Eldeen McKay,
James Smith

Norma Bear, Shoal Lake

Rose Dorion,
Pelican Narrows

Bella Dumais,
Southend

As portfolio holder responsible for the PAGC Women's Commission, we are continuing to work closely with our 12 Bands and First Nation women concerns and issues," said V/C Henderson and over the course of the year, we see our PAGC WC working hard on fund raising initiatives and projects.

"The PAGC Women's Commission 10th Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament was recently held at Kachur's Golf Course on June 4th, 2010 and the turnout was great to see," said Shirley Henderson, explaining over the years, the Annual Golf Tournament has always received great support from various organizations and communities. We had 36 teams registered in a short period of time and the PAGC Women's Commission would like to thank all the golfers and volunteers that made it out.

"On June 10th, 2010, we are hosting the 6th Annual "Honouring Our Sisters & Brothers Memorial Walk" and once again, four stops will be made to honour those who

Commission h Anniversary

have gone missing or those who have lost their lives to violence,” said Shirley Henderson.

Opening ceremonies will begin at City Hall in Prince Albert at 9:00 a.m. and will end at the Senator Allan Bird Gymnasium approximately 12:00 p.m. with lunch being served at the gymnasium to all participants, dignitaries and guests.

The Grand Council generously offered the PAGC Women’s Commission the opportunity to acquire two four-plexes which were renovated and rented out as of September 1st, 2009. They continue to house First Nations members, students and low income families.

For further information please contact Shirley Henderson, PAGC Women’s Commission Chairperson at (306) 980-8180 or Angie Bear at (306) 765-5305.

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Onion Lake Handgames Players
Photo by SIGA

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Gaming Dice
Photo by Brad Harrison

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MEETING WITH PREMIER

On May 11th, 2010 I, and the Vice-Chiefs met with the Premier of Saskatchewan, the Honourable Brad Wall and six of his Cabinet Colleagues on a wide range of issues. I would like to report that we had a very productive meeting and have agreed over the coming year to continue to build upon our relationship. As a result of the meeting we have agreed:

- To increase First Nations involvement in the provincial justice system with a priority on establishing more effective remand centres and looking more broadly at the development of a First Nations community safety strategy;
- Following strong objections by VC Watson on the provincial attempt to regulate tobacco products on reserve, the parties agreed to disagree on the issue with the Premier suggesting that litigation may be a next step;
- that the looming labour shortages requires both parties to address the underemployment of First Nations youth and the parties will sit down to discuss a FSIN Youth pilot project;
- Health Minister Don McMorris and Vice Chief Lerat agreed to meet as soon as possible to deal with a range of health issues including satellite dialysis and HIV/ AIDS;
- Environment Minister Nancy Heppner agreed to meet with Vice Chief Whitefish to discuss environmental and land sales issues.

Over the coming months we will explore these issues with First Nations and the province. The balance of the information on this page comes from excerpts from information that was prepared to guide our discussion with the Premier and Cabinet. I am providing this information to the public so as to enhance our transparency and to facilitate greater insight into the workings of the Chiefs office. I welcome your comments and input.

Chief Lonechild Opening Remarks Cabinet Meeting

Process and Relationship: I would like to first start by thanking the Premier for pulling members of his Cabinet together to meet with the FSIN Executive. The idea for this meeting stems from an earlier meeting I had with the Premier where we agreed to develop a stronger working relationship on issues of mutual interest.

While our relationship with provincial governments in Saskatchewan over the years has been generally good, they have often been tested by a lack of understanding and communication. Too many times this has been complicated by hot button issues where both party's motives and intentions are often questioned leading to mistrust and acrimony.



I believe the Premier and I have agreed to learn from the past mistakes and to establish a better process going forward. Now I am under no illusion that we will agree on all matters but we must keep the lines of communication open.

Today we take our dialogue and discussions to a new level. We have an ambitious agenda in front of us. Some of the issues we will discuss will only be conversation starters and may have to be pursued bilaterally between Ministers and Vice-chiefs. Others I hope will lead us to action where we will take concrete action leading to tangible results that can be brought back to this table.

Education: In the area of education, I am particularly interested in how we give voice to our shared interest in improving the educational outcomes for First Nations students. For our part, we are tabling a proposal to establish a Joint Task Force on First Nations education to address the life long learning issues of First Nations learners. We are interested in your views on the Task Force concept and the process that could be put in place going

ER WALL AND CABINET



forward. We would also like to discuss options for building the capacity of FNUC and securing a private sector fundraiser for the University.

Corrections and Community Safety: I am very interested in pursuing greater First Nations involvement in the Justice area and look forward to the Premiers thoughts and suggestions on how that can be achieved in the provincial correctional field. I have tasked Vice Chief Wapass to pursue a First Nations community safety strategy. This will include:

- Youth at Risk & Anti-Gang initiatives;
- Implementing community peacekeeping approaches;
- Enhance community control for corrections and restorative justice initiatives; and
- Establish remand centres to address overcrowding.

I look forward to discussing work on how the province can work with us in the development of that strategy.

Taxation of Tobacco Products: I have asked Vice-Chief Morley Watson to lead the discussion on the recent decision by the province to attempt regulate the sale of some products on-reserve that will lead to a loss of some \$11 million in sales of tobacco. As you know, First Nations were surprised by this decision as it came without notice or warning and First Nations believe it is wrong in both law and policy. I look forward to discussing how we can remove this impediment to our emerging relationship.

First Nations Employment Strategy: I have asked Vice-Chief Watson also to address the looming labour shortages that are expected to occur in this province over the coming years and the FSIN's approach to meeting those needs by addressing the underemployment of First Nations youth. We are interested in hearing from the province on the 3 year pilot project proposal I tabled with the Premier to address the unique needs of First Nations youth (15-29). A majority of these youths have left the school system and need support to return to school or to obtain the skills they need to find meaningful jobs.

Satellite Dialysis: Premier there can be no greater pressing issue than addressing the dire health needs of the thousands of First Nations people who are afflicted with diabetes. As you know, this affliction causes life-limiting restrictions and imposes physical hardship on many of our people. To many of these people rely on renal dialysis treatments that are only provided in select locations often causing extreme travel requirements on our people. We are tabling with you today a proposal to open four renal treatment centers in Nipawin, Meadow Lake, Broadview and Fort QuAppelle.

Combating the Scourge of AIDS: As you are aware, HIV/AIDS is a crisis in our communities and we need to continue to work with the province in a collaborative partnership on issues related to Surveillance, clinical management, prevention and harm reduction, and community engagement and education. We have been working with Ministry of Health and local health regions, First Nation health and communities to ensure programs and services are effective and grass roots driven. Clearly, resources are required to assist First Nations deal with this issue. We have made a good start and I commend the province for working and financially supporting the FSIN Women's Commission. We need now to build upon this work in the coming years.

Crown Lands/Duty to Consult: I have asked Vice-Chief Whitefish to brief us on the potential impact of changes to the Wildlife



Habitat Protection Act and related environmental and Crown sales legislation. He will raise the issue of the loss of environmental funding and the impact this will have on the FSIN and the provinces ability to effectively honour the duty to consult and accommodate.

He will raise the need for there to be expanded consultation with First Nations in order to meet the FSIN consultation and accommodation procedures that have been adopted by the Chiefs of Saskatchewan.

Process Going Forward: In closing, I want to thank you again for this meeting Premier. I hope that from this day forward we can make this province more inclusive of First Nations interests. Too often we have not been treated equitably and our interests are too often ignored. We cannot and will not be taken for granted any longer.

There is too much at stake. Not only for First Nations but also for all of the people who make up this great province. We seek and need many changes to occur in this province and we can start here today by making forward-looking decisions. The FSIN Executive is prepared to extend our hand to the province once again. We need to know from the province that you are interested in working with us.

Task Force On First Nations Education: The FSIN is in the process of developing a broad reference to guide the work of the Task Force on Education. The FSIN's primary objective is to improve the life long learning and educational experiences and outcomes of First Nations living on and off-reserve to ensure that First Nations fully share in the prosperity and future direction of the province of Saskatchewan. This will involve exploring inclusive life long culturally supportive and effective learning strategies in the following life long learning areas:

- Early Childhood Development;
- Primary School
- Education;
- Secondary School Education;
- Post-Secondary Education; and
- Learning later in life.

First Nations are also interested in a number of education related cross cutting issues of interest to First Nations including:

- Governance, Capacity & Curricula;
- Equity in Funding; and
- Data Development, collection & Analysis.

In establishing the Task Force a number of other important issues need to be examined carefully including:

- Jurisdiction;
- Role of INAC;
- Resourcing;
- Non-interference in other education processes; and
- Composition & resources for the Task Force.

Call for Amendments to Bill C-3 (Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act): Chief Lonechild called upon First Nations in Saskatchewan to critically examine the need for First Nations to consider pushing the federal Government to amend Bill C-3 to expunge the legacy of discrimination against First Nations women. There is a growing consensus that the current Bill continues the legacy of discrimination against First Nations women, said Lonechild. I appreciate that this Bill is flawed in many other respects, and we will deal with those at the right time and in the right process, but we should not perpetuate the discrimination that the Supreme Court exposed, he continued.

A petition has been circulated that calls for amendments to: Eliminate the 1951 Cut-Off date for return of status, and to include those who are denied status, even though their Indian woman ancestor lost status due to marriage, because they were born before September 1951. Include those who lost status because they were born outside of marriage, and the Registrar deemed their father to be non-status (under s. 11(e) of the *Indian Act* as it then was). For More Information, please contact FSIN Treaty Governance Office.

Executive Retreat: FSIN Political Agenda-Strengthening Treaty Rights: At the FSIN Executive Retreat held April 12 to 14th, 2010, Executive Members reinforced the direction adopted under "New Era, New Leadership" to shift the FSIN focus away from a

“programs and services” agenda to a treaty rights advocacy approach.

The Executive is focused on strengthening the ability of FSIN to advance the inherent rights of First Nations, Tribal Council’s and other FSIN institutions. The Executive is in agreement for the need to pursue fundamental treaty rights related issues including:

- Facilitating First Nations inherent rights to governance under treaty (getting out from underneath the *Indian Act*);
- Asserting responsibilities for citizenship and facilitating First Nations control over the citizen registry processes (responding to Mclvor related issues); and
- Re-shaping the treaty governance processes to move from exploratory discussion tables to establishing meaningful processes to enable First Nations to implement their rights to selfdetermination.

“At the Executive level, we have agreed to hold ourselves accountable for results and each portfolio holder has agreed to report fully to the FSIN Legislative Assembly on the results of our work”, said Lonechild following the retreat. An accountability template has been created to facilitate this work.

New Chief of Staff: To strengthen the work of the FSIN, the Chief’s Office has appointed Luwayne Tanner as the new Chief of Staff on an interim basis. Luwayne brings a wealth of hands on experience to the Chief of Staff Portfolio. The FSIN is also in the process of creating a position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The new CEO will work towards assisting FSIN Executive and its Institutions to carry out its true Treaty mandate.

FSIN Revitalization On-line Consultations to be Launched: The Executive has made major headway in preparing for the launch of the FSIN revitalization agenda at its Executive Retreat. Senator Sol Sanderson and Dan Bellegarde led the discussion on the potential direction the reforms could take. It was decided that a good first step would be to distribute the terms of reference for the consultations to as wide a group as possible for input and feed back. Specifically, the Executive is looking for input on the following Terms of Reference:

This review will examine the Treaty processes, the Federation structure and will include:

- Procedural improvements/enhancements in the conduct of the Commissions, Secretariats and Legislative Assembly with a view to enhancing the level and scope of policy discussions;
- Examining the nature and scope of existing resolutions, regulations, policies adopted by the Legislative Assembly that have yet to be implemented;
- Review of MOU’s with other jurisdictions;
- Developing alternative service delivery options/protocols for current FSIN direct delivered programs and services;
- Strengthening accountability frameworks and critical issues management;
- Examining existing protocols between FSIN and related Institutions/bodies; and
- Strengthening the role of veteran’s and elders within the FSIN.

In order to obtain the broadest possible input into the Revitalization agenda, the FSIN is creating an on-line consultation Portal that will allow all First Nations persons with an opportunity to provide their views on Revitalization. The consultation will be linked to the FSIN website. In addition to providing comments on-line, the Chief and Vice-Chiefs will be working with their respective commissions and agencies to identify recommended changes. The staff at the Federation, First Nations Tribal Councils as well as First Nations are all invited to provide input into the most appropriate way to strengthen the FSIN governance structure.

It is anticipated that the on-line Revitalization Portal will go live at the FSIN Summer Legislative Assembly. Chief Lonechild stated, “This is a modern consultation tool that allows every body on and off-reserve to provide input. It is by no means the only avenue to provide input, but it is a start in a new direction in a new era, and I look forward to hearing directly from our people”.

First Nations Electoral Reform Discussions: The FSIN Executive is interested in exploring the views of Saskatchewan First Nations on the issue of electoral reforms to the way First Nations leaders are selected. Over the last couple of months, the FSIN has had preliminary discussions with INAC on ways to strengthen and extend the electoral processes within First Nations communities. This could entail obtaining new electoral mandates that could be lengthened from two years to four.

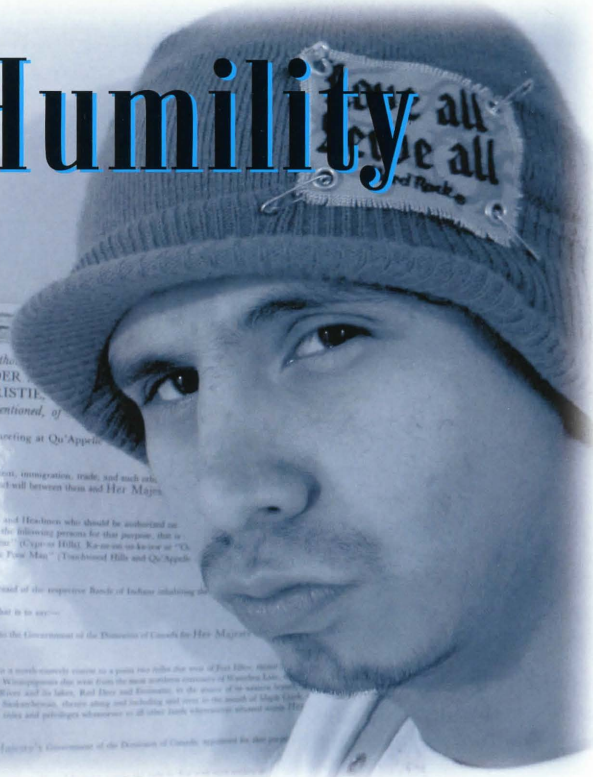
While the need to reform the framework for conducting First Nations elections is not a new issue, recent events affecting First Nations registration and citizenship has pushed the issue forward. Currently, there are three ways for a First Nation to select its leaders: 1) *Indian Act*; 2) local community custom; and 3) under self-government arrangements. Since 1996 some 39 First Nations nationally have converted from the *Indian Act* system including 6 in Saskatchewan. While there is no single reason to convert, there have been a number of reasons for ditching the *Act* including:

- Challenges in the courts where residency restrictions have been struck down (and opening up the possibility of the entire band council being composed of nonresidents);
- Challenges imposed by a short two-year time frame where there is very little time to learn how to deal with and manage critically important issues to the community; and
- Challenges relating to the slow election appeals process, week ballot box systems, etc.

The recent release of the Senate Report on First Nations elections highlighted the need to ditch the *Indian Act* system of elections. The Study included hearings in Ottawa, Manitoba and British Columbia. According to Chairman Sen. Gerry St. Germain, the federal government-imposed elections rules have “failed to provide more open and accountable governments...Under the *Indian Act*, electoral accountability primarily lies between the elected officials and the Minister of Indian Affairs, not between the elected officials and the citizens”. The Executive is interested in hearing from First Nations in Saskatchewan on the need for reforms.

Positivity and Humility

Keep this Youth Focused on Nationhood



By Deanne K. Kasokeo

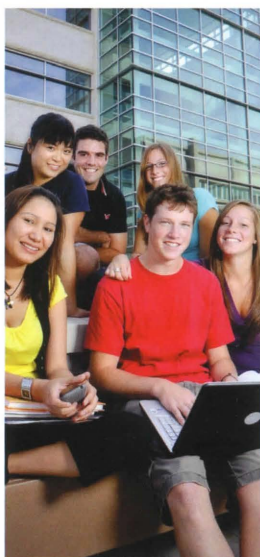
Colby Tootoosis is a young successful Nakota Cree who has experienced a lifetime of travels and knowledge. Growing up on the majestic hills of the Poundmaker Cree Nation, Colby has much to be proud of at this stage in his young 28 years. He is an accomplished fancy dancer, role model, activist and promoter of First Nations Treaty rights and Nationhood across North America.

His perspective on the recognition of First Nations jurisdiction is, "Only Nations can make Treaties and strengthening nationhood is one of my passions. This movement is only as strong as the awareness and clarity of the people." He believes that through community involvement, providing awareness, and advocating for positive change within our First Nations is a powerful tool towards the acknowledgement of strength that all Treaty Nations possess.

Colby currently works for the File Hill's and Qu'appelle Tribal Council as the Youth Program Coordinator in the area of suicide prevention as well as being a part of the Crisis Response team. He relates, "It's been an interesting experience and an honour to serve these communities."

He also works at the national level with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), as the Co-Chair of the AFN Youth Council. Prior to this, he acted as the regional male representative for Saskatchewan through the FSIN Environmental Youth Council with the AFN. Colby articulates "It's a beautiful opportunity for youth to get involved and get informed. There is so much more that can be done, and I have come to realize that things just take time. And that the real 'power' lies within the community. AFN is only as strong as the people they represent and strengthening and advocating within our Nations has been a concept I've brought to the national table - along with inviting some healing within our leadership across this land."

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Contact Lisa Kruszelnicki at (306) 337-2500 or fax (306) 585-5686
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Colby attended the University of Saskatchewan for two years studying psychology, although he enjoyed it, he states, "it wasn't serving my purpose" which is a lofty recognition of his principles that one does not need to pursue the status quo in order to fulfill his life. After attending U of S, eight years ago, he decided to take a year off and began training and working as a life skills coach and running programs from anywhere to Saskatoon's core area, to specialized programs on First Nations reserves. He is a certified Grief and Recovery Specialist, and a Journey Practitioner in Training along with being a Visionary Leadership Coach. Colby loves to learn and he believes that one day he will return to University when he feels the time to go back. For now, he is content on the work that he does by empowering and witnessing the growth of First Nations communities.

Colby shares that an experience that changed his life was when his father got sick with the beginning stages of bone marrow cancer, "We came upon this work called The Journey. In doing Journey process's my dad healed so quickly they put him in a medical journal - they did a case study on him. Modern Science explains this through cellular healing and The Journey provides a method." Since this experience Colby has been doing the work on himself and shares it with the communities he works with.

Colby is very grateful to his parents Kimberly and Arsene Tootoosis, his grandmother Mary Scribe, for continuously being the foundation of his dreams while being grounded on the fundamental values of being a Cree Treaty person. Colby is very proud to be from the Poundmaker Cree Nation and acknowledges his ties to the land and the people. Colby is also appreciative of his aunt and uncle, Millie and Edwin Tootoosis for their guidance and some teachers from Chief Poundmaker School who positively influenced his life. Colby has four sisters, Jolaynee, Tishanna, Deanna Ledoux-Rain, and Lynette Kyplain, and one brother Mylan.

Colby promotes a positive and healthy lifestyle by abstaining from drugs and alcohol. He remains strong in his beliefs as a healthy person by practicing his culture and spirituality. He says, "I love wearing two bustles on the weekends and seeing the fog of my breath as they announce 'mens fancy stand by'...thats the best!"

One thing he wants to be more involved with is the Treaty 1-11 movement. Colby believes that Indigenous liberation is at the heart of First Nations youth, "My passion is working with the youth by empowering them, helping them find their voice, helping them clear away emotional pain that has been limiting their capacity. I encourage them to be the leader that they are." Colby is a young First Nations male who has so much to offer his people and has already accumulated much success through his journey in life. To name a few places he has travelled around the world including India, The Netherlands, and England. He contends that there is much to be done in First Nations communities and he hopes that all youth will become empowered by the knowledge that we cannot succumb to the colonial oppression that negatively affects First Nations. But rather focus on the inherent and simplistic notion that, "Laws of nature govern everything and that we must acknowledge the divinity in us all."

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Celebrating Achievements and Excellence

Cowessess First Nation Creating Opportunities in the Agriculture Sector

By April D. Roberts

Cowessess First Nation is located along the beautiful Qu'Appelle Valley near Crooked Lake and the Qu'Appelle River, approximately 155 km southeast of Regina. Cowessess sits on about 12,048.7 hectares of land and has over 2,800 registered band members. With increased land reclamations and the population of members steadily growing, an innovative approach was developed.

"The purpose of 4C is to create opportunities for our members in the agricultural sector" is the mission statement for the Cowessess 4C Ranch Project that was developed in the fall of 2008.

Councilor Barry Sparvier, who assisted with the community planning process, said "The leadership and membership have been looking at various approaches of using the land since we started purchasing land in 1996. With all the ideas generated, one remained consistent, starting a ranch or farm to train and encourage our members to use their lands properly and be more involved in agriculture."

The 4C Ranch was developed as a community based project to encourage members to utilize the growing land base and be more involved in the area of agriculture. Since being implemented,



the project has taken off, what once was a project that consisted of 28 head of cattle, has grown to exceed 300 head of Black Angus. Enough cattle to warrant the hiring of one on-site supervisor who oversees the daily operations, with an additional 6 casual employees hired during the spring and fall seasons.

In addition to the internal capacities growing, the ranch is giving back to the community by investing in its youth through a 4-H club that was developed in the local community school. The 15-20 youth involved are from Cowessess and surrounding communities.

The youth receive hands-on training through assisting with the annual round up. It is during this season that the youth learn about the calving, sorting, branding and selling of the cattle. This year a new component called 'Adopt-a-Calf Program' will be piloted with the eager youth from this 4H Club.

Any revenue that has been generated is rerouted to pay for the daily operation of the ranch; however it is anticipated that once the project is further developed and more money is coming in, the bottom line will begin looking favorable for community development initiatives.

To ensure that Cowessess membership will benefit from this innovative opportunity, a ten-year strategic plan has been developed. A few of the long term goals are to look at providing training for potential ranchers, creating a member driven custom cow/calf operation and partnering up with other communities to develop First Nation branded line of beef product.

Chief Grady Lerat states about the ranch, "interest in the agricultural sector has planted seeds in the younger members of the community and more awareness of what goes into our land is a major success since the start up of the 4C Ranch."

The ranch is looking into incorporation status, so they can eventually expand as indicated in the strategic plan for the future. Until then, its business as usual for the 4C Ranch as they continue creating opportunities in agriculture sector for their membership.

Celebrating National Aboriginal Day Monday, June 21, 2010



SASKATOON INN

HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

Whitecap Dakota First Nation Building New Opportunities

By Dwight Percy

Whitecap Dakota First Nation may be best known as home to a world class golf course and casino but the story goes much further than that. It's actually about residents and jobs.

Dakota Dunes Golf Links opened to the public in April 2004. The nationally recognized golf course was designed by highly acclaimed Graham Cooke and is the only course in Saskatchewan that can make that statement.

As the winner of the Tourism Saskatchewan award as the 2006 Business of the Year and the FSIN Circle of Honor award for Economic and Community Development during the same year, Dakota Dunes Golf Links had just come off being named Golf Digest's Best New Canadian Course in 2005.

Similarly, the Dakota Dunes Casino has been a success since the day it opened. With a magnificent view of the South Saskatchewan River Valley Basin, the casino wows visitors with its exceptionally courteous customer service, over 80,000 square feet of space and an entertainment venue that can accommodate over 500 guests for concerts.

But all that being said, the golf course and the casino are only part of the story. Equally important are some of the successes and developments that are often not reported by the media.

One such project was a program involving students from the Career Academy at E.D. Feehan Catholic High School in Saskatoon. The students built a

Ready To Move Home which was then purchased by Whitecap to be moved to the First Nations upon completion.

Whitecap Dakota Chief Darcy Bear recalls, "The entire Construction Technology initiative was the right project at the right time. One of our top priorities at Whitecap is to address the growth we are experiencing. We now have more jobs than residents, with hundreds of employees commuting from Saskatoon every day. Many of these people want to move back home to Whitecap, resulting in increased housing demand."

More recently, a retrofit program of forty-four homes at Whitecap was intended to ensure that the housing stock could keep pace with the

increasing demand for homes at the First Nation. That particular project accomplished even more than enhancing housing quality. It turned, once again, into a job creation project.

Noted Chief Bear, "In order to ensure the work could be undertaken on time and completed on schedule, we have witnessed yet another positive outcome of this investment with the creation of Whitecap Construction, the community owned company that that is undertaking the construction project."

Apparently, Whitecap Dakota First Nation is not yet done with creating jobs and opportunities. In announcing plans for the development of a new Whitecap Trail Business Park slated for construction in the spring of 2011, Darrell Balkwill, the chief economic officer of the First Nation's development agency stated that 40 acres had been set aside to accommodate businesses to operate at Whitecap. The development could house ten new companies and fifty or more new jobs.

The focus of Whitecap Dakota First Nation is clearly centered on job creation and population growth. The fact that unemployment has plummeted from 70% when Chief Bear first took office to only 5% today is a function of Whitecap continually looking for "the

next project."

"First and foremost, there are more jobs at Whitecap than there are residents," says Chief Bear. "This has been one of our goals since I was first elected. Today, with over 600 jobs at our First Nation, compared to an on-reserve population of just over 350 residents of which about 200 are working age, it means that, day in and day out, Whitecap is a net employment generator."

Chief Bear added, "As well, the First Nation Land Management Act, a piece of legislation which eliminated 25% of the Indian Act, enabled Whitecap to self-

govern its lands, and in turn, allowed our First Nation to issue long term commercial and residential leases. The net result has been the creation of land value at Whitecap. While all that has been good, in order to attract more business activity, we also had to invest in infrastructure: expanded natural gas capacity, three-phase power, telecommunications, fiber optic cable, high speed internet, roads, street lighting, storm water systems, and potable water and sewer systems. With this in place, progress can continue in the form of additional growth in employment opportunities at our First Nation."

Greetings to Saskatchewan First Nations!

For an updated description of the Star-Orion South Diamond Project proposal or dates and locations of public open houses, visit our website: www.shoregold.com



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ABORIGINAL HEALTH

By Staff Writer

A boriginal health in the cities has special challenges and a two year study by the Strengthening the Circle partnership will be used to develop a comprehensive aboriginal health strategy for urban aboriginal people in Saskatoon. The project is one of those few examples of Métis and status Indians working together with local authorities.

Strengthening the Circle is a partnership between the Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC) who were represented by the Kinistin First Nation, Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI) and the Saskatoon Health Region. They undertook the study to determine the needs of Saskatoon urban aboriginal people.

One of the original architects of the study was Kinistin Chief Felix Thomas. He later went on to be the Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief and newly elected Chief Peter Nippi continued the work.

In the past bringing Métis and First Nations organizations together has been difficult because First Nations have been reluctant to place treaty rights in jeopardy. Chief Peter Nippi from the Kinistin First Nation stated, "We're not putting away treaty rights here; we're not negotiating anything here. We have some special status and that special status is intact. What we're negotiating here is getting a service done for our people. Treaty rights were the first thing they need to understand. Once we have that collective understanding we know the direction we're going."

The study had two objectives. First they would obtain input from the aboriginal community and second they would enter into a dialogue with the end users about how health services could be improved for aboriginal people in the City of Saskatoon.

The consultations were conducted by staff members over a one year period. The interviewers operated under the guidance of the members of the partnership. The interview team gathered information on a wide range of issues including

specific health concerns, socio economic issues and ways and means of improving health facilities and services.

Speaking at the launch for the health strategy, Saskatoon Tribal Vice Chief, Geraldine Arcand stated that this was a dream that began with Tribal Chief Felix Thomas. He realized that there was a need for better services for our people in the City of Saskatoon. "It's really good to see that there are many people that care. We're here because you want to make that difference. I know that there is a great need here in Saskatoon. I was the only First Nations social worker at the University hospital. The social workers were each given a ward to work in. I worked with the whole hospital and I ran myself ragged. People were coming there not knowing why they were there,

language barriers; because it was a learning hospital it was scary when the specialist came in with all these interns. I realized there is a need for First Nations people to be employed in our health here in town.

The team spoke with aboriginal community leaders, health workers and members of the aboriginal community. In the end, they conducted 34 focus groups, received both on line and written submissions and involved a total of 636 participants. In addition

elders advised the group and discussion points and questions focused on the persons experience in receiving health services at hospitals, clinics, emergency and doctor's offices. In addition, they asked the participants what changes they felt were needed to improve the delivery of health services for aboriginal people with special attention paid to the Saskatoon Health Region.

Shan Landry, Vice President of Community Services for the Saskatoon Health Region played an important role in the development of the health strategy. "I give a lot of credit to Shirley Isbister from CUMFI and Chief Peter Nippi from Kinistin, first of all built the bridges between themselves and their organizations and them went beyond and that made a difference."



STRATEGY



According to Shan Landry the wide ranging report covers all of the areas of health care delivery. "There are recommendations about just about every aspect of health care service, inside the hospitals from intensive care to the emergency room to translation services, transportation services as well as many things we do in health care in the community such as home care services, chronic disease management and so on."

To sum up the report Ms Landry stated, "First we need to move forward on having cultural liaison people within our facilities to improve the communication from our health system and aboriginal people. The second set of recommendations has to do with, how do we go on from here? It's one thing to make a set of recommendations but how do we actually keep moving forward? It's a memorandum of understanding that's been signed by almost every aboriginal group representative in our health region saying we want to work with you on an aboriginal health council. So everything from service changes to policy and governance will be working in partnership with you."

Feedback ranged from access to services including childcare and transportation needs. Also the respondents stressed the need for culturally appropriate services including access to aboriginal languages and culturally appropriate services. Many older people come to the city for improved health services but they are unable to communicate comfortably with health professionals in their language. Many older people are stressed and unable to fully comprehend the extent of their health needs. Access to a person to translate and provide information in their language was seen as an important need.

Of particular concern was the need for traditional healers and to embed cultural practices in the health system. Also health professionals should respect the diversity among aboriginal peoples and understand the range in experience, culture and language that exists among us. Indeed, the affects of poverty on the status of a person's health is always an issue among aboriginal peoples. The respondents reflected the need to improve the standard of living among aboriginal peoples as the way to address the root cause of many of the health issues. Also aboriginal people must become more visible in the health professions and serve on committees and health boards. It is through direct involvement like this that specific change can be achieved.

The Strengthening the Circle Partnership has developed a strategy and will continue to work with the Saskatoon Health Region in the coming months and years to see that their shared vision is implemented.

Metis Nation of Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette stated, "This is a proud day, not only for the Métis Nation but for all of the community of Saskatoon, this is a proud day. I'm also pleased with the work that the Saskatoon Health Region and the committee has undertaken because you're paving a path."

Speaking at the public presentation of the strategy, FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild stressed the need for the implementation of the strategy "This is about working for our people, our families are hurting, our communities are hurting and when we embark on such an important initiative here in Saskatoon we are one community. We are neighbours. Our elders are praying for that brighter future that we are all hoping for."

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

First Nations LANGUAGE KEEPERS CONFERENCE



December 2 & 3, 2010 - Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, SK.

The Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre announces the 2010 First Nations Language Keepers Conference. This event celebrates and supports language education for First Nations people. The 2010 Conference is organized around the theme of youth. Bearing this important concept in mind, workshops and presentations will focus on innovations and best practices on how we can insure that our languages and cultures will endure. Teaching methodologies, involving traditional practices to technological innovations will be focused on to help individuals, schools and communities to better meet this challenge.

We invite you all to bring your enthusiasm and quest for knowledge, contribution and network with like minded educators, administrators, parents, linguists, community cultural advocates.

Information pertaining to Session topics will be in the areas of:

- Teaching methods that inspire youth to learn
- Elder teachings focused on youth
- Integrating traditional teaching methods into classrooms
- Incorporating outdoor teaching into curriculum (ex. Culture and Language Immersion camps)

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT

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First Nations Engaged

By Eldon Henderson

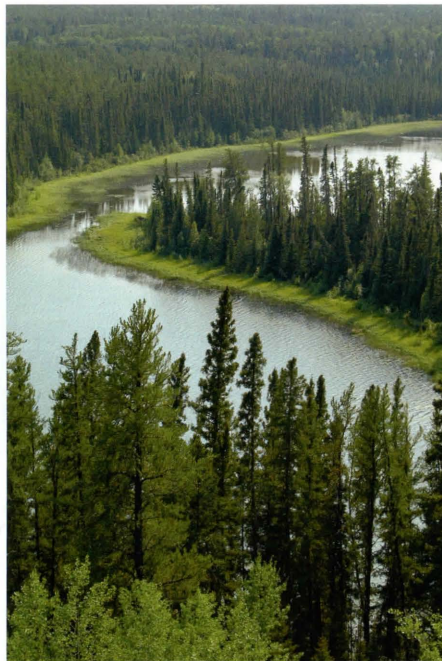
Saskatchewan's forestry sector is rebounding from one of the most difficult economic downturns in its long history. There are approximately 355,000 square kilometers of various commercial forest zones that include hardwoods (balsam poplar, trembling aspen and white birch) and softwoods (balsam fir, black spruce, jack pine, tamarack and white spruce) spread across the province that various stakeholders are focused on and interested in accessing these timber resources.

First Nations do not want to be left behind or excluded from these new forestry sector opportunities. Forward looking discussions and negotiations are currently underway between Agency Chiefs Tribal Council (ACTC) and Montreal Lake Cree Nation (MLCN) with industry partners and government as to how this new forest partnership will evolve and expand. These new and innovative forestry talks include economic opportunities, environmental concerns, forestry sustainability, forest renewal, and the overall future of the forest industry.

Bob Gerow, Executive Director, Agency Chiefs Tribal Council said, "Yes, with the help of the Provincial Government, especially Minister Boyd. Minister Heppner and Hutchinson have also gone to bat to ensure First Nations partnerships in the forest industry.

ACTC Chiefs are excited about the future opportunities that are going to develop for the communities" and Gerow visions this as an example of how First Nations and Non-First Nations can share in resource development. Although, there are some differences with government, we feel that the Wall Government is open to future development and to working with First Nations and Industry.

Montreal Lake Cree Nation (MLCN) is situated on some of the most prime location for forestry development in Saskatchewan. Chief Roger Bird says, "MLCN Council has conditionally accepted an allocation of soft wood and hardwood from the Province of Saskatchewan. This allocation will allow Montreal Lake Cree Nation to be a major player in the forestry industry sector and create new employment, training and skills opportunities for its membership."



Chief Bird says, "we would like to thank the Hon. Bill Boyd, Minister of Industry for making a great move to include First Nations in this endeavor," and we now have the task and challenge to create a better future for our young people in the forestry sector and with all the stakeholders prepared to work with Montreal Lake Cree Nation.

"Montreal Lake Cree Nation has never had so much input as to what happens in their Traditional Territory and will take full advantage of every opportunity to create a better way of life for its

in Forestry Partnership

people,” says Alphonse Bird while negotiations should conclude in June and a new relationship will be brought forward between MLCN, Industry and Government of Saskatchewan.

Noland (Edward) Henderson, Director of MLCN Lands & Resources adds, as First Nations forestry partners, we need to explore and identify new forestry revenue streams that come out of our respective Traditional Territories, FMAs and into the global market. We see increased global demand for Saskatchewan’s forestry products and the diversification of new and innovative trends and value-added products being produced here. That’s part of moving forward and we can’t be left behind. We have to be treated as equal partners at all levels of the forestry industry sector.



A hand wearing a blue and yellow safety jacket sleeve holds a large, vibrant bouquet of flowers. The bouquet includes yellow daisies, pink roses, orange lilies, and various greenery. A small white tag with a red border and the word 'Congrats' is attached to the bouquet. Overlaid on the image in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters is the text 'WHERE ENERGY MEETS APPLAUSE'. At the bottom left of the image area is the 'GLOBAL100' logo, which consists of a circular icon and the text 'GLOBAL100'.

Enbridge would like to congratulate the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations on this premiere edition of Saskatchewan Indian Magazine.

We value our relationship with the First Nations of Saskatchewan and wish you all the very best. At Enbridge, we deliver more than energy. We deliver the benefits of rewarding relationships.



Economic Development: Securing a Healthy Economy

By April D. Roberts

The world of business is seeing a refreshing new trend; First Nations are participating and encouraging their membership to explore the world of entrepreneurship, all in a concerted effort towards creating a secure, sustainable and healthier economy.

Economic Development is a complex and rewarding process, unfortunately, there are no generic policies or strategies that will bring immediate success partly due to the fact that each First Nation community is different and has their own distinct opportunities.

Sturgeon Lake First Nation is located approximately 50 kms northwest of Prince Albert and is one of the many communities in Saskatchewan that aims to strengthen and expand their economic capacity for the band and its membership.



In 2007, recommendations were taken from the membership through three focus group consultations. The timely process allowed members to express their thoughts in relation to the economic development strategy. The consultations proved to

be very successful, the membership offered tangible approaches by helping to identify the key areas of the Community Economic Development Plan that should receive attention.

Identified Areas:

- Develop a corporation, to identify viable & low risk business opportunities
- Elect a board for the corporation
- Payout membership benefits
- Purchase commercial property
- Provide financial support for members wanting to start a business
- Offer small business training
- Teach business in high school
- Create more jobs for membership



On behalf of the Westcap Mgt Ltd. Staff and Executive, we would like to congratulate and recognize the nine candidate BRIDG communities.



Ahtakakoop Cree Nation



Flying Dust First Nation



Birch Narrows Dene Nation



Sturgeon Lake First Nation



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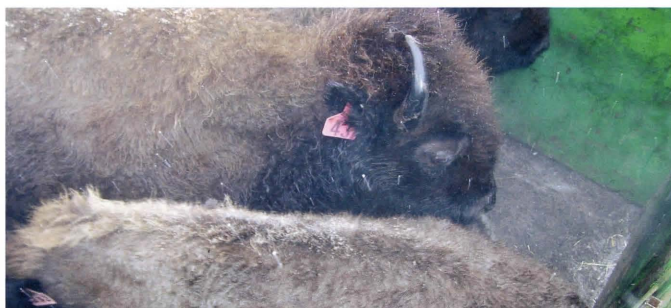


The businesses that are owned and run on reserve are the Store & Gas Bar; Sand Gravel Project; and Amisk Adventures which is a recreation site that is used annually by the Junior Forest Ranger Program for the youth of Sturgeon and surrounding communities.

The band has also taken purchased commercial property in Prince Albert where the Sturgeon Lake Office Complex is located on the corner of Marquis Road and 5th Avenue East.

Speaking on the economic development activities, Chief Wesley Daniels states, "Sturgeon has accomplished a lot since the creation of the strategic plan, I anticipate that the opportunities in economic development will only increase and accelerate as these investments open new doors of business spin-offs and enterprise."

In 2008, Sturgeon Lake Development Ltd. was incorporated to identify viable, low-risk business opportunities for the band. The Board of Directors for the corporation has been in place for the last few years, evaluating opportunities as they present themselves. In addition to the corporation, the band now offers its members the Entrepreneurial Equity Support Program, which is small grant for anyone wanting to start a business and Small Business Development workshops on demand.



Most recently, Westcap Mgt. Ltd. announced nine successful First Nations and Métis communities into a new initiative that will help establish Aboriginal energy and resource businesses in Saskatchewan as part of their Bridge Program. Out of the 30 applications received province wide, Sturgeon Lake is one of the successful applicants.

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MLTC Resource Developments Inc. Engaging in Renewable Energy

By Jessica Iron

It takes vision, determination and expertise to create innovative business opportunities in today's global economy. Sometimes it takes a little waste too. For Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC), who are continually breaking new ground with developments that will profit their nine bands, forestry waste by-products could be a new source of gold.

They aspire to create a power plant in Meadow Lake, owned by MLTC, by generating power using the waste-products from their Norsask lumber plant, along with natural gas, which will create a sustainable and renewable power source. SaskPower would then purchase the units of electricity as they are produced and in turn sell them to its consumers.

Ben Voss, CEO of MLTC Resource Developments Inc, was enlisted two

years ago to help create new business ventures for the tribal council. Voss, an engineer with a background in biotechnology and business says, "I've got an interest in renewable energy, but I'm also interested in how we can take all the things MLTC has to its advantage and turn that into something that's tangible so that they can see the benefits."

After months of discussion and research, MLTC found an option that was not only feasible and



potentially profitable, but it was also environmentally sound - an important consideration for many First Nations. "Obviously, especially for our nine First Nations, respecting the forest is a big deal. We have such stringent rules to make sure that we're respecting the forest as we harvest it. And that gives us tremendous credibility to governments and the public to trust that our power generation process is going to be purely renewable - because of that whole linkage to the way that we harvest and the way that we treat and manage the forest," says Voss.

Burning of coal and other fossil fuels brings forth images of pollution and smoke along with that, the fear of greenhouse gases. Though this is an age where job creation and a turn-around in the economy are incredibly crucial, anything created that jeopardizes the environment and increases our carbon footprint and global warming is hotly debated.

Ben Voss, CEO of MLTC Resource Developments Inc,



Fortunately, the carbon dioxide that is produced from burning the forestry waste by-products is immediately extracted by the consumption of younger trees. "What happens is that the new trees that are going to grow in place of the old trees, they're young and they grow really quickly and they take carbon dioxide out of the air," explains Voss.

Unlike fossil fuels, he adds, which leave carbon dioxide lingering in the air. By replacing what they take and recycling the waste MLTC will be a leading example for renewable energy. "The good thing about wood, and the reason why it's considered renewable," says Voss, "is when you burn wood you're part of a system that is totally sustainable. Because what we do is harvest the trees, and we make lumber and other things out of it. But then we plant trees right behind."

Since other sources of renewable energy are costly and often unreliable based on the fickle nature of the elements, wind power and hydro power can be quite unpredictable. This is where utilizing the remnants of wood has an edge, since forestry is far more consistent, and is recognized all over the world as a renewable resource.

To help visualize how much power could be potentially generated, Voss compares the energy capacity of Saskatoon's power plant to what could be generated in Meadow Lake. "The Queen Elizabeth Power Station burns natural gas to make power, but that's 300 megawatts, and it supplies Saskatoon. So we'd have a plant that's one tenth that size using wood. So 40 megawatts might be enough to power twenty or thirty thousand homes."

After the power is sold to SaskPower, however, it's anyone's guess as to where that energy will be used. The power is all blended together and sent in every direction it is needed, so it's impossible to track.

MLTC hopes to move forward with this project in the next few months. But like many businesses, it depends on various stages of development and partnerships with investors, governments and naturally, SaskPower. If successful, and once construction begins, many jobs will be created. Profits will begin to flow when the plant starts running.

Project / Term Financing Commercial / Residential Mortgages Deposit / Investment Accounts

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BATTLE RIVER HORSE CLUB FOSTERING COMMUNITY SPIRIT THROUGH HORSEMANSHIP



By: Deanne K. Kasokeo

Approximately 16 years ago, the Battle River Horse Club (BRHC) was formed by community members whom witnessed a decline of horsemanship within their community and surrounding areas and wanted to revitalize the sport.

Celine Pewapsonias, member of the BHRC relates, "First Nations people believe that the horse was given to them by the Creator and that the horse teaches values of respect, kindness, humility, and compassion." She believes that there is a reciprocal relationship between the horse and rider teaching each other values while giving the rider inner strength, patience, and an avenue to relieve stress by working with the horse.

Situated on the Little Pine First Nation approximately 70 km west of North Battleford, the BRHC brings the community alive with events at the HK Memorial Racetrack and Sports Grounds. They host gymkhana events, rubber tire wagon races, trail rides, rodeos, roping clinics, barrel racing clinics and horse training clinics.

Originally BHRC was named Blue Hill Riding Club but the name changed in 1995, their purpose remains true to the values that the horse teaches while the love of riding is the cornerstone of the club. Celine states that, "Our success is based on teamwork and the camaraderie of a variety of club members working towards a common goal."

One of the goals of the BHRC was to provide riding lessons to youth. However, it was troublesome for the club to fully implement due to rider injury liability and insurance coverage was costly.

In the spring of 2006, BHRC was approached by the First Nations Agricultural Council of Saskatchewan (FNACS) on the opportunity to participate in a 4H (Light Horse) project for their community. The 4H program offered liability protection for 4H members through its annual membership fees. BHRC readily accepted the proposition so that they could offer riding lessons and horsemanship skills to interested youth within the community.

The 4H club members learn that horsemanship is not just about getting on a horse but learning the horses' personality, showmanship, conformation (what is the ideal shape of a horse), colour, breeds, equipment use and care, horse first aid, gaits (how your horse places its feet) to name a few. Riding lessons for the 4H members teach how to approach a horse safely, using leg pressure training techniques, lead changes, flying lead changes, side passing, learning when to correctly ask your horse to make a right-left turn.

The 4H program also benefits youth with the skills to provide them with a strong basis for success in life by offering public speaking events; fundraising initiatives, teamwork and decision making while instilling community spirit. The Battle River Horse Club 4H Program remains to be a pillar of success for the club and will host its Annual 4H Achievement Day on June 25, 2010 at the Little Pine First Nation.

The achievement day is an opportunity to celebrate and showcase the skills that the club members have gained since the beginning of the 4H this year that

began on February 3, 2010. Parents and community members are invited to share in the success of the BHRC 4H youth.

Recently in 2009, the BHRC began a Gymkhana Summer Program. The BRHC provides all gymkhana equipment and riders practice together in the various gymkhana events. Gymkhana events teach the horse and rider to work together as a team to complete timed events. The practices are not timed and provide opportunity to practice and make friends with fellow riders. The club members provide mentorship to help struggling riders and to horses that are not behaving when competing in an event. Club membership has an open door policy to anyone interested in riding and volunteering.





The Battle River Horse Club is exemplary of community members who have taken to task positive initiatives to benefit their community through the sport of horsemanship. For more information on becoming a member or to volunteer please contact the following individuals:

- Garry Pewapsonias**, President at 306-398-2386
- Rene Nighttraveller**, Vice President at 306-398-3628
- Celine Pewapsonias** at 306-441-5589 (4H Program)

The 2010 BRHC Calendar of Events:

- **BRHC 4H Horsemanship**
February 3, 2010 to June 25, 2010
- **BRHC Family Hockey Tournament**
March 6 & 7, 2010
- **BRHC Annual Trail Ride**
May 23, 2010
- **BRHC Steak Night Fundraiser**
June 18, 2010
- **BRHC Annual Gymkhana, Rubber Tir**
Wagon Races & Horse Races
September 12, 2010
- **BRHC Annual Rodeo (KCRA)**
July 31 & August 1, 2010
- **Gymkhana Practices**
July-August, 2010
- **BRHC Sponsor & Voluntee**
Appreciation Night
December 3, 2010

First Annual Graduation Powwow

June 16, 2010

Griffiths Stadium, PotashCorp Park, College Drive, Saskatoon

8:30–10 a.m.	Registration – Singers, dancers, Grade 12 graduates, dignitaries
10 a.m.	1st Grand Entry – Honoring of Grade 12 Graduates
10 a.m.–2 p.m.	Campus Expo and Youth Cultural Teachings
11 a.m.–2 p.m.	Youth Competition Singing and Dancing
3–5 p.m.	Hand Drum Contest & Multi-cultural Program
5–6 p.m.	Registration – Singers, dancers, U of S graduates, dignitaries
6 p.m.	2nd Grand Entry – Honoring of U of S Graduates
7 p.m.	Adult Competition Singing and Dancing
10 p.m.	Retiring of the Colors

(Note: schedule subject to change)



Dance Competition

Category	1st	2nd	3rd
Tiny Tots	Day Money		
Junior	\$75	\$50	\$25
Teen	\$150	\$100	\$75
Adult	\$300	\$200	\$100
Golden	\$300	\$200	\$100

Drum Competition

Category	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Youth	\$400	\$300	\$200	\$100
Adult	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$800	\$600

Three-man Hand-Drum Competition

Category	1st	2nd	3rd
Youth	\$75	\$50	\$25
Adult	\$300	\$200	\$100

The University of Saskatchewan reserves the right to take photographs of this event, including attendees, for use in future promotional materials.

Master of Ceremonies

Don "Tatanka Hoksila" Speidel
Sanford Strongarm
Jason Good Striker
Sheldon Wuttunee

Arena Directors

Chris Scribe
Stacy Makesgood

Host Drum

Wild Horse

On-line registration available:
www.students.usask.ca/powwow



- Public is welcome – free admission to all
- Only invited elders and veterans will receive honorariums
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Sask Indian Role Models

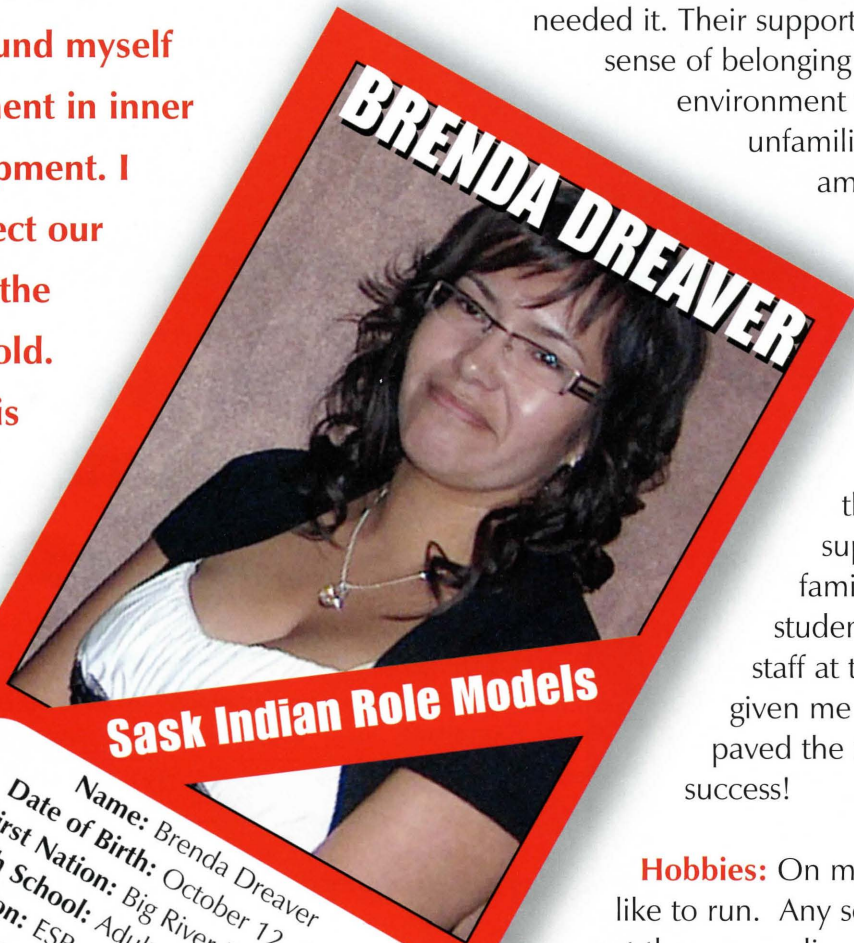
By Eldon Henderson

Advice: Personal growth and well being have always been the driving forces that compel me to persevere. I feel that self development will pay its dividends to those family, friends and community I surround myself with, as an investment in inner growth and development. I was taught to respect our Elders and respect the information they hold. My Cree language is something I cherish and I want to pass onto my children and others.

It's been a challenge to pursue my education. A lot of self sacrifice, hard work and determination were necessary in order to succeed. Sure it was difficult to attain a B. Comm however there was some great moments as well. I appreciated the education system since the staff and faculty went above and beyond to help me when I needed it. Their support gave me a sense of belonging in an

environment that was rather unfamiliar to me, as I am the first within my immediate family to graduate from university. I am truly thankful for the support that my family, fellow students, faculty and staff at the ESB have given me that ultimately paved the road to my success!

Hobbies: On my spare time I like to run. Any season, I will be out there pounding the pavement. I will run my first 5k challenge in June, 2010. After witnessing loved ones living with diabetes I have taken on a proactive approach to health management by torturing myself every off day. I have to admit I never regret it and I look and feel great for a thirty-five year old mother of 3 beautiful children.



Sask Indian Role Models

Name: Brenda Dreaver
Date of Birth: October 12, 1974
First Nation: Big River First Nation
High School: Adult 12 – SIAST in PA
Education: ESB majoring in Management and graduating in August 2010
Favorite Restaurant: Red Lobster
First Language: Cree

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