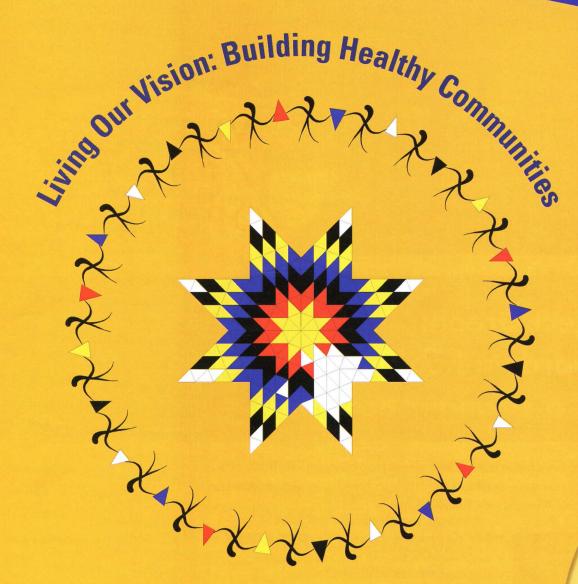


Spring 2005



Health and Education Summit Year of the First Nations Woman Saskatchewan First Nations 2005 Treaty Schedule Centennial Urban Treaty Day 2005 PLUS MORE...

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the editorial staff at the Saskatchewan Indian want to know what you think. If you have any comments, questions or concerns about this publication please don't hesitate to contact us.

The Saskatchewan Indian also invites your submissions. If you have articles, photographs, artwork or letters to the editor, give us a call or simply visit our web site at www.fsin.com. Or simply forward your submissions to:

Saskatchewan Indian C/O Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Suite 100 - 103 A Packham Avenue Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 4K4 Phone: (306)665-1215 Fax: (306)665-0115



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Volume 35 #2

Spring 2005

Saskatchewan Indian is the official publication of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and is intended to serve as an effective communication vehicle for First Nations in the province of Saskatchewan.

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

Saskatchewan Indian provides an opportunity for advertisers to reach the First Nation consumer. The magazine is distributed to all First Nation communities in Saskatchewan and to all First Nation groups, organizations and institutions. For more information contact:

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Contributors: Dana Arcand, Crystal Albert, Emile Carignan, Angela Desnomie, Angela Donald, Bev Kynoch, Bonnie Leask, Tina Merrifield, Carla Nokusis, Martin Paul, Patricia Schuster, Kyle Prettyshield, Dana Soonias, Erin Taman, Harvey Tootoosis.

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- SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN CULTURAL CENTRE LIBRARY DEPARTMENT 120-33rd STREET EAST SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN Cover Story 7K 0S2 12 Living Our Vision:
 - 2 Living Our Vision: Building Healthy Communities
- 2 Indian Outlook Saskatchewan's First Nations Calendar of Events
- 4 Message from the Editor
- 4 Letter to the Editor
- **5** Centennial Urban Treaty Day 2005
- 6 Achieving Excellence AFOA
- 7 New Aboriginal Research Centre Launched at U of S
- 8 Recognizing Our Past for Our Future
- **10** 2005 Year of the First Nations Woman
- 11 New Program to Assist Aboriginal Students at the U of S
- **15** Sakimay First Nation
- 16 First Nations Environmental Technicians Bridge Gap
- **18** Profile: Marie Battiste
- **19** Working for Aboriginal Students
- 20 12th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards
- 22 First Nations Off-Reserve Community Action Program for Children
- 24 First Nations 2005 Treaty Schedule
- 26 Special Investigations Unit Honoured
- **26** Bright Future
- 27 Indian Outlook Summary of Aboriginal Sport Events
- **28** Regional Opportunities Fund Eliminated



Saskatchewan's First Nations Calendar of Events

May 1 – 4, 2005 First World Indigenous Youth Leadership Conference "Visions For Success"

Edmonton Delta Hotel & Conference Centre-4404 Gateway Blvd NW Edmonton, AB Dennis Arcand (780) 939-0275 dennisarcand@hotmail.com wiyca.ca (TBA)

May 11 – 15, 2005 Brudhiba'r – A Children's Opera by Hans Krása Special Project of SK Music Educators Association

Persephone Theatre Saskatoon, SK Tickets, or to donate: Rita McLeod (306) 374-8077 rita@brundibar.ca

May 21 – 22, 2005 Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation 7th Annual Pow-wow in conjunction with the Annual Big Bear Healing Walk

Makwa Sahgaiehcan Arena Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation, SK David Kytwayhat (306) 837-2102

May 25 & 26, 2005 8:30 am – 4:30 pm F.S.I.N. Treaty Governance Exploratory Treaty Table Meeting

Office of the Treaty Commissioner 1150-606 Spadina Cres Saskatoon, SK Brenda Manitoken (306) 667-1876

May 26, 2005 7:00 pm Prairie Voices: Aboriginal Talent Search and Showcase (North & South)

Casino Regina Show Lounge Regina, SK Morris Agecoutay (306) 332-3792 Lorraine Delorme (306) 584-0411

May 27, 2005 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm Meet George

Dinner 6:30-7:30 pm Presentation 7:30-9:30 pm Stan Latkowski's Kids Against Drugs Inc. along with CKRM Gala Banquet with George Chuvalo – Crystal Meth Ramada Hotel & Convention Centre Regina, SK Stan (306) 569-5898 (306) 529-0660 cell

June 2, 2005 Food Security, Nutrition and Community Health

Saskatoon, SK Priscilla Settee (306) 966-5556 Alex Munoz (306) 966-2027

June 2, 2005 Innovative Training Informational Seminar REDPATH

Ramada Hotel Saskatoon, SK Peggy (705) 740-2003 Toll-free 1-888-887-7981 info@whitepathconsulting.com or Brian (306) 981-8456 info@bearheartassociates.com

June 8 & 9, 2005 F.S.I.N. Legislative Assembly

Western Development Museum North Battleford, SK Carol Burns (306) 956-6912 Joanne Cardinal (306) 956-6947

June 10, 2005

2005 Year of First Nations Women "Honouring Our Sisters" Memorial Walk – Prince Albert Provincial Court House to the PAGC Childcare Education Gymnasium

Prince Albert, SK Corrine Fiddler (306) 765-5300 Sandi Morin (306) 953-7200

June 15 & 16, 2005

2005 SK Centennial Celebration Urban Treaty Day Celebration hosted by Muskeg Lake Cree Nation co-hosted by the Saskatoon Tribal Council

Asimakaniseekan Askiy Reserve Saskatoon, SK Patricia Arcand (306) 466-4959 centennial@muskeglake.com www.muskeglake.com

June 17 – 19, 2005 Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Pow Wow

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, SK Selma Greyeyes / Rodney Venne (306) 466-4959 or admin@muskeglake.com

June 18 & 19, 2005 Muskeg Lake Treaty Day

Muskeg Lake First Nation, SK Selma (306) 466-4959 infosystems@muskeglake.com

June 21 & 22, 2005 8:30 am – 4:30 pm F.S.I.N. Treaty Governance Exploratory Treaty Table Meeting

Office of the Treaty Commissioner 1150-606 Spadina Cres Saskatoon, SK Brenda Manitoken (306) 667-1876

June 21 – 23, 2005 Muskeg Lake Cultural Camp

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, SK Selma Greyeyes / Rodney Venne (306) 466-4959 or admin@muskeglake.com

July 30 – August 1, 2005 Muskeg Lake Homecoming/ Heritage Day

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, SK Selma Greyeyes / Rodney Venne (306) 466-4959 or admin@muskeglake.com

August 23 & 24, 2005 8:30 am – 4:30 pm F.S.I.N. Treaty Governance

Exploratory Treaty Table Meeting Office of the Treaty Commissioner 1150-606 Spadina Cres

Saskatoon, SK Brenda Manitoken (306) 667-1876

August 27, 2005 Saskatchewan Centennial Aboriginal (& Friends) Summer Music Festival

Saskatoon, SK Priscilla Settee (306) 966-5556 Alex Munoz (306) 966-2027 September 6 – October 25, 2005 Tuesdays 7:00 – 9:00 pm Basket Weaving with Vivian Nipshank (8 sessions)

Saskatoon, SK Priscilla Settee (306) 966-5556 Alex Munoz (306) 966-2027

September 20 – 21, 2005 8:30 am – 4:30 pm F.S.I.N. Treaty Governance Exploratory Treaty Table Meeting

Office of the Treaty Commissioner 1150-606 Spadina Cres Saskatoon, SK Brenda Manitoken (306) 667-1876

October 18 & 19, 2005 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

F.S.I.N. Treaty Governance Exploratory Treaty Table Meeting

Office of the Treaty Commissioner 1150-606 Spadina Cres Saskatoon, SK Brenda Manitoken (306) 667-1876

October 19 & 20, 2005 F.S.I.N. Legislative Assembly

Centennial Auditorium Saskatoon, SK Carol Burns (306) 956-6912 Joanne Cardinal (306) 956-6947

October 20 – 22, 2005 6th Annual National Aboriginal Women in Leadership Training Conference "Our Children, Our Youth, Our Future"

Montreal, QC First Nations Training & Consulting Services: (250) 652-7097 www.firstpeoplescanada.com

INDIAN Outlook

Saskatchewan's First Nations Calendar of Events

October 21 – 23, 2005 SK Parks and Recreation Association 60th S.P.R.A. Annual Conference "Looking to the Future - Through the Rear View Mirror" Yorkton, SK Darren Spelay (306) 786-1752

November 9, 2005 Onion Lake Career Symposium Location: TBA Onion Lake First Nation (780) 847-2200

November 22 & 23, 2005 8:30 am – 4:30 pm F.S.I.N. Treaty Governance

Exploratory Treaty Table Meeting

Office of the Treaty Commissioner 1150-606 Spadina Cres Saskatoon, SK Brenda Manitoken (306) 667-1876

December 13 & 14, 2005 8:30 am – 4:30 pm F.S.I.N. Treaty Governance Exploratory Treaty Table Meeting

Office of the Treaty Commissioner 1150-606 Spadina Cres Saskatoon, SK Brenda Manitoken(306) 667-1876

If you would like your meeting notice or special event to be included in the Summary Listing of First Nations Calendar of Events, Please forward a copy of the information to:

calendar.info@fsin.com

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations -Saskatoon Office Tel: (306) 665-1215 Fax: (306) 244-4413

Message from the Editor

Tansi and Happy Indian New Year!! I hope everyone has thawed from the winter, though I must admit it wasn't that bad. There has been so much going on across Saskatchewan that we hope we were able to get all the information. Make sure to get your stories in or contact the magazine and we will be sure to try and get someone to your event.

This issue covers lots of different events that have happened over the past three months. The FSIN hosted its Health and Education Summit "Living Our Vision: Building Healthy Communities" and the turnout was tremendous. More than 900 people attended the event! Kudos to the organizing committee for its efforts in hosting such a large and successful event.

2005 has been designated Year of the First Nations Woman by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and Year of the First Nations and Metis Woman by the Province of Saskatchewan. To commemorate this, the province presented FSIN with a plaque at its Winter Assembly.

Finally, the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation had designated Saskatoon as the host city for the 2005 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards. First Nation, Metis and Inuit people from across Canada converged on Saskatoon to take part in the awards. It was a great opportunity to visit and meet new people.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the magazine. Please send in any comments you might have.

Lastly, I would like to welcome my first niece, Bella Arcand to the world.

Bonnie Leask Managing Editor

Letter to Editor: Recently, I received this email from Leona Tootoosis and thought it appropriate to include it in the magazine. Enjoy.

Bonnie Leask, Editor

Recently I spoke at a meeting at the Sandman Inn with the Watershed Authority and Environment. They wanted to hear an Elder speak on the Native perspective on the water situation in the country. I told them we respected all things entailed in the universe. First and foremost water came moments before they were even born.

I think this paragraph I wrote a long time ago gives the idea of the sanctity of the world as most Natives see it. I dedicate this to the memory my late mother Mrs. Louisa Angus – Tootoosis.

Lake Louise

I was met with the magnificent, picturesque scene befitting the pictures I had seen. The pines and poplar trees encircled the scene. The floral pathway that lead to the lakefront emitted fragrances of different blossoms. The still water reflected the many colorful trees, snow capped mountains and the cumulus clouds. The scene was exhilarating and the stillness deafening. I took a deep breath and relaxed into a feeling of gratitude for life and the pleasure of observing such a beautiful sight, that it took all feelings except awe. This was a place to find the closeness to the Creator. His presence was all around. The majestic mountains representing Grandfather Rock, the breezes that blew through the pines made Grandfather wind's presence, Mother Earth seemed to encircle me with her arms. I was home in the country. This was a perfect place to meditate and lose all sense of time, relax, heal and pray. 🦟

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Presents Saskatchewan Centennial **Urban Treaty Day 2005** Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

By Dana Arcand

Saskatchewan history is abundant with many stories that each community has to tell. This year, 2005, the Saskatchewan Centennial offers a unique chance for the province to hear our stories.

In the Treaty Six territory, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, also known as pitihkwahākēw reserve, has faced many obstacles in the past. However, our strong family and community foundation have offered valuable contributions to the Saskatchewan community.

It is our history within Saskatchewan that has encouraged us to celebrate the province's Centennial through a variety of means. Firstly, "maskeko-sakahikanihk: 100 years for a Saskatchewan First Nation" is a book written by the Honourable Judge Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond. This book reflects many of the struggles that Muskeg people have faced since the creation of Saskatchewan as a province. It tells the story of our involvement in the theatres of war to our attendance at the residential schools and our love of sports.

We have always demonstrated our pride in our community and a commitment to the greater good. As a proud farming community, we have been able to withstand hardships in both the past and the present. I am sure many of the readers know, we have always demonstrated a high level of competition in the many sports and recreation levels offered throughout this great province. We have never backed down.

It is important for our community to recognize the past hundred years and part of our role within Saskatchewan is to present our own story. Our theme, "Taking Our Place In Saskatchewan", is one of the steps that our community has taken during this Centennial year and it is one that we hope others will adopt and adapt, as we move toward an even better Saskatchewan.

The Chief and Council of Muskeg Lake Cree Nation invite all people who would like to celebrate these 100 years to any or all of our Centennial celebrations and commemorative events.

Taking Our Place in Saskatchewan One of the most exciting events to be held is coming up in Saskatoon on June 15th and 16th. This event will be 2005 Saskatoon Centennial Urban Treaty Day at our MLCN reserve land asimakanissekan askiy on Packham Avenue in Sutherland (near Creeway).

In Attendance at the Urban Treaty Day will be: Her Honour, Dr. Lynda Haverstock, Lieutenant Governor Chief Gilbert Ledoux (Muskeg Lake Cree Nation) Chief Glenn Johnstone (Saskatoon Tribal Council) Chief Phil Fontaine (Assembly of First Nations) Chief Alphonse Bird (Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations)

And other dignitaries from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and Canada

Other events include:

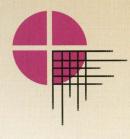
- Pancake Breakfast
- Trade Show and Tipi Village
- Treaty Annuity Payments
- Unveiling of Veterans Monument
- Re-enactment of Treaty signing
- Children's Entertainment
- Entertainment on Stage

Other Centennial events that Muskeg Lake will be holding are our Annual Veteran's Traditional Powwow (June 18 & 19), the Annual Treaty Day (June 20) and our exciting Heritage days (July 30 & 31st). We are hosting a banquet and art show (October 8) to honour our Muskeg Lake Cree Nation members who have achieved success in their postschool endeavours. We will bring further updates on our fall and winter activities in the next issue of the Saskatchewan Indian.

Contact Patricia Arcand, Events Coordinator at (306) 466-4959 or centennial@muskeglake.com or visit our website at www.muskeglake.com for more information.



Achieving Excellence



The Aboriginal Financial Officers Association (AFOA) of Canada hosted its 5th Annual National Conference entitled, "The National Forum for **Excellence and Innovation in Aboriginal** Finance and Management - Effective Financial Management - Supporting our Communities", in Ottawa on February 8-10, 2005. The national conference is held each year in different locations across Canada, allowing delegates to network, attend workshops and strengthen their financial management skills with other members and organizations. The keynote speakers at this year's conference included Assembly of First Nations, National Chief Phil Fontaine and the Honorable Andy Scott, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Former NHL player and coach, and current motivational speaker

AFOA Saskatchewan 2005 Board of Directors

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Director – Brenda Ironeagle File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council

Member at Large – Laurie Johnstone-Clarke Johnstone-Clarke, MacDonald Law Group Ted Nolan, also spoke at a luncheon on Indigenous youth, education, substance abuse and self-esteem.

The Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada (AFOA) is a notfor-profit organization that was founded in 1999 and has quickly become a leader in developing Aboriginal financial management capacity. AFOA was created to address accountability issues and increasing the capacity of First Nation financial officers, as part of a strategy to achieve First Nation independence and self governance.

AFOA is comprised of hundreds of financial officers and is governed by an independent Board of Directors from across Canada. Each AFOA Chapter appoints an individual from their respective boards to represent them on the national board. Marilyn Osecap, CAFM, is the Saskatchewan Chapter representative and is also the Chair of AFOA Canada.

AFOA is committed to excellence in financial management for Aboriginal organizations. It is responsible for training, certification, and professional development in financial management. AFOA accomplishes this through the management of the Aboriginal Financial Management Program, which contains a curriculum of 14 courses and is delivered through their educational partners across the country and three of the courses are accessible on-line. The professional competency standards for Aboriginal financial managers serve as the basis for the curriculum used in granting credits towards the Aboriginal Financial Management Program Certificate and Diploma, and Certified Aboriginal Financial Manager (CAFM) professional designation. A CAFM designation is approximately equivalent to a third level Certified General Accountant (CGA).

AFOA conducts most of its programs partnership with various in organizations and different levels of government, most notably the federal government. AFOA has many proud partnerships including; the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, the Assembly of First Nations, CGA-Canada, Export Development Canada (EDC), Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), National Aboriginal Health Organization, National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) and the Native Women's Association of Canada, The AFOA also partners with its provincial

AFOA Saskatchewan would like to thank the January 2005 Workshop sponsors: Meyers, Norris, Penny – Gold Sponsor First Commercial Brokers Inc. – Gold Sponsor Xerox Canada – Silver Sponsor SaskTel – Bronze Sponsor First Nations Bank – Corporate Member Reception



Brenda Garneau, President AFOA Sask

and territorial chapters to host professional development workshops on issues critical to band managers, program managers, financial managers, administrators, and First Nation leadership. The Saskatchewan Chapter is a key founding member of AFOA. Their members were instrumental in organizing the national and provincial bodies. They volunteered many hours and days to get the organization up and off the ground, making it a reality.

The Saskatchewan Chapter of AFOA held its Annual General Meeting and Conference on January 18 and 19, 2005, in Saskatoon. A key topic of discussion was a strategy aimed at increasing the number of delegates and members in the organization.

The Saskatchewan Chapter also appointed a new Board of Directors for the province. The new board has many new agenda items to accomplish this year such as developing a new organizational marketing strategy, strategy, developing roles and responsibilities for the board, including policies, procedures, and rules for board governance. These strategies will then be implemented over the next vear to assist AFOA Saskatchewan in achieving the goals and objectives of the organization. The new Board of Directors also attended the National conference in Ottawa in early February.

AFOA's mission is to provide leadership in Aboriginal financial management by providing opportunities to share knowledge. Financial officers from across Canada can take advantage of the professional program leading to the Certified Aboriginal Financial Manager professional designation. AFOA members also benefit from various professional development programs and services and other learning opportunities with AFOA partners such as the Certified General Accountants Association of Canada. Members can increase their knowledge of financial management and achieve their peak professional growth.

AFOA sets high standards for Aboriginal financial management in Canada. New competency standards for Aboriginal financial management have recently been established and



are the basis for development of

curriculum used in granting credits towards the Aboriginal Financial Manager Program certificate, diploma, and the professional designation. The standards are also used in assessment of practical experience and the professional CAFM exam.

The provincial and regional chapters provide members with additional research and information resources. The increased networking opportunities include career support services and access to the Members' Directory. The Annual National Conference and the Aboriginal Financial Management News are both coordinated by AFOA members.

As long as you contribute to the advancement of the Aboriginal financial management discipline, you can be a member of AFOA. Chapters are currently operating in BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, the NWT and Saskatchewan. The groundwork has been laid in establishing chapters in Nunavut, Quebec and Atlantic Canada.

If you are interested and would like to join the AFOA team, simply fill out the online membership form at the AFOA website www.afoa.ca. The website is also the reference point for anyone wanting more information on the organization, program certification and the different chapters across the country.

2005 AFOA Saskatchewan Workshop October 18 & 19 Gold Eagle Casino, North Battleford

New Aboriginal Research Centre Launched at U of S



In mid-February the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan announced its intention to create a unique research centre dedicated to the enhancement of Aboriginal peoples' education.

The yet-unnamed Centre will partner with First Nations and Metis groups as well as government, the business community, faculty and students in the College to conduct research on broad historical, cultural, social and economic issues in Aboriginal education. It will enhance the training of the next generation of teachers.

"The College of Education has played an important role in advancing Aboriginal education in Saskatchewan but more needs to be done," said Cecilia Reynolds, College of Education Dean. "We hope through our research that we will come to better understand the needs of the Aboriginal student populations and to develop successful teaching methods which will enhance the delivery of education to Aboriginal students in both provincial and band schools."

"Nearly every Aboriginal community in Canada has identified education as a top priority, yet there has been no coordinated research activity on the best methods of delivery," said George Lafond, U of S Special Advisor on Aboriginal Issues. "Given our history of developing innovative Aboriginal programming, the U of S is uniquely positioned to take on this role."

For more information on this new Centre, or to learn how you can be involved, please contact Academic Director Marie Battiste at (306) 966-7576.



Recognizing Our Past for Our Future

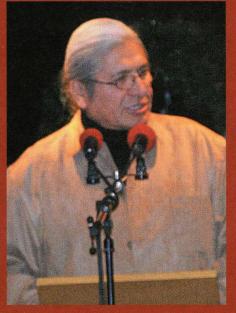
The leadership at Red Pheasant First Nation wanted to give its membership a pat on the back. On December 10, 2004 the Red Pheasant First Nation honored 87 of its members at the Recognition for Individuals with Ancestral Roots from Red Pheasant event. According to Chief Craig Wuttunee, the premise of the evening was simple, "It was a chance to recognize our people and create our own role models. We see lots of initiatives through posters and others and we wanted our people to see we had our own role models right here."

The evening, which was held at in North Battleford at the Painted Hand Casino, began at 4:30 pm with Mahmohayeh (gathering together) and Kewkatowin (everybody visit) followed by a buffet supper and ended after midnight. Howard McMaster, whose mother was a member of the Red Pheasant First Nation, was one of the event planners but was also recognized for his role in the community. Throughout the evening, Mc Master shared the history of Red Pheasant to ensure invited guests had a full understanding of its history.

There were a total of 87 people recognized at the event including those that had passed on. Past Chiefs, Veterans, Elders, pow wow dancers and drum groups, those members who had received their Ph.D's, or served in the military and law enforcement were just a few of the people recognized. Chief Wuttunee says the community has received an added boost from the awards night. "I believe it brought the community closer together. One of the most impressive situations to come from the night is the added pride which has started."

Hundreds of people packed the room and enjoyed listening to the Master of Story and photos by Patty Schuster

Ceremonies, Gordon Tootoosis. Official delegates included executive members from the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations including Chief Bird, Vice Chief Lawrence Joseph, and Vice Chief Delbert Wapass. Assembly of First Nations Vice Chief Jason Goodstriker also attended the event. Worldrenowned First Nation artist and member of the Red Pheasant First Nation, Allan Sapp also attended the recognition evening and was recognized for his contributions.



Building a bridge between the old and the young is important for Chief Wuttunee. Part of the evening was to ensure the youth of Red Pheasant First Nation recognize there are role models right on their reserve. Chief Wuttunee says he wants to bring the community closer together. "Unfortunately there is a lot of drinking and we want to offer something better that that. The pride of our people is important and we want to provide something better for our younger people. It was most important to recognize the youth and



Building a bridge between the old and the young is important for Chief Wuttunee. Part of the evening was to ensure the youth of Red Pheasant First Nation recognize there are role models right on their reserve.

the everyday people who dance, who are cultural and arts and of course the youth."

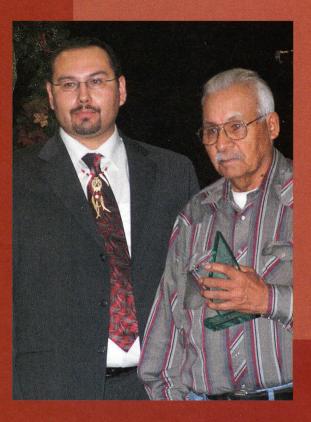
The planning of the recognition night started after Chief Wuttunee, one of the young chiefs in Saskatchewan, realized he would need a fresh approach to leading his community. He knew he would have to be a risk taker in order to assess the limitations and challenges he faced as a youth on the reserve. A group was formed called the Red Pheasant Recreation Authority and was responsible for bringing his vision to fruition. It took a good six months to plan the event with the last two and a half months being really heavy. The Red Pheasant First Nation did some fundraising and used some of its gaming dollars to develop the evening.



"It was nice to hear people say I didn't know this person did this or that. We accomplished what we set out to do, acknowledge the community members and share as a community our successes."

Chief Wuttunee hopes other communities follow this celebration mode and advice for those who wish to take on the challenge, "Get a good team in place, make sure to represent the community properly so that it is not lopsided, create community support and fundraising and find sponsors."

Chief Wuttunee believes the evening was a success. Many families had a chance to see their members being honoured and recognized for their hard work and dedication. For Chief Wuttunee the most impressive part of the evening for him was the sharing of accomplishment among community members. "It was nice to hear people say I didn't know this person did this or that. We accomplished what we set out to do, acknowledge the community members and share as a community our successes." Red Pheasant First Nation set precedent with their evening of honor and what started as a seed to create role models has blossomed into a sense of pride and respect shared by the whole community.





2005: THE YEAR OF THE FIRST NATIONS WOMA

By Patty Schuster Photos by Cheryl Foster

On a blustery, snowy day in Swift Current, October 20, 2004, the Chiefs in attendance at the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations 2004 Fall Legislative Assembly resolved to make 2005 the Year of the First Nations Woman. The intent of the resolution is to honor and celebrate the accomplishments of our women who work tirelessly for the betterment of their communities.

The road to recognition for First Nations women in political circles in Saskatchewan has been a long, arduous journey. For some, it has been a lifetime. In the past few years there has been a deliberate movement to acknowledge and support the everyday efforts that women in our communities make everyday.

In October 2004, the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) brought forth the resolution to the FSIN Chiefs in Assembly. It was their Women's Commission that first brought the resolution to their Grand Council seeking support for their recommendations to deal with violence and to give recognition to women at the community, Grand Council, FSIN, and AFN level.

The FSIN Women's Commission and the Advisory Circle, of which the PAGC Women's Commission has two seats,

> Shirley Henderson and Minister Joan Beatty

supported the resolution and assisted with lobbying the Chiefs to make 2005 the Year of the First Nations Woman a reality.

In February 2005, during the FSIN's Winter Legislative Assembly in Regina, Cabinet Ministers Joan Beatty and Maynard Sonntag made a presentation on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan to also recognize 2005 as the Year of the First Nations and Metis Women. Plaques were presented to Chief Marie Anne Day Walker-Pelletier of the FSIN Women's Commission and Councillor Shirley Henderson of the PAGC to recognize all First Nations women in Saskatchewan. Specifically, the FSIN resolution declared 2005 the Year of the First Nations Woman for our First Nation Saskatchewan communities, however it also charged the FSIN Executive to bring the request for the same declaration from the Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly for all of Canada. Finally, it mandated the FSIN Office of the Legislative Assembly to call a Special Legislative Assembly that, for the first time ever, will have an agenda dedicated to issues that women in the community want discussed.

Apart from supporting community and Grand/Agency/Tribal Council initiatives, there are some key activities that the FSIN Women's Commission is putting on. In 2005, the Women's Commission will assist the FSIN Office of the Legislative Assembly in putting on the Chief's mandated Special Legislative Assembly. Another major initiative involves the Women's Commission Secretariat visiting different communities to assist in capacitybuilding for a formal women's voice through women's groups. Other activities will be announced





throughout the year. Please check FSIN's calendar of events for upcoming initiatives.

The Women's Commission's members are Chief Marie Anne Day Walker-Pelletier, Chair (Okanese First Nation), Chief Connie BigEagle (Ocean Man First Nation), Chief Elaine Chicoose (Pasqua First Nation), Chief Phyllis Head (Peter Chapman First Nation), Chief Pauline Okemow (Lucky Man First Nation), Chief Isabel O'Soup (Key First Nation), Chief Pat Sparvier (Cowessess First Nation), and Chief Shirley Wolfe-Keller (Muskowekwan First Nation) and Senators Theresa Stevenson (SFNWC) and Margaret Keewatin (FHQ Tribal Council).

The Women's Commission's Advisory Circle is Karen Stevenson (Yorkton Tribal Council), Freda Crowe Buffalo (Touchwood Agency Tribal Council), Linda Bigknife (File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council), Charlene Heeg (Saskatoon Tribal Council), Shirley Henderson (Prince Albert Grand Council), Irene Tootoosis (Battleford's Tribal Council), Velma Night (Independent), Margaret Bear (South East Treaty 4 Tribal Council), Alma Kytwayhat (Meadow Lake Tribal Council). We currently have vacancies for the Agency Chief's Tribal Council and Fort Carleton Tribal Council.

If there are any activities that communities want to initiate that promote women's governance structures or community wellness, please feel free to contact any of the women above, especially if they represent your area. Please also feel free to call or email the Women's Commission Secretariat office. The contacts are Erica Beaudin (erica.beaudin@fsin.com) or Rebecca Pelletier (rebecca.pelletier@fsin.com) at 721-2822. 🧨

NEW PROGRAM TO ASSIST ABORIGINAL STUDENTS AT THE U OF S By Tina Merrifield



CROWN INVESTMENTS CORPORATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

The University of Saskatchewan and the Crown Investments Corporation (CIC) have established a program to help aboriginal students prepare for careers in the maths and sciences.

The Mathematics and Science Enrichment Program will assist up to 50 aboriginal students each year, starting from September 2005.

Students will be recruited mainly from high schools across the province with the help of guidance counselors but there will also be spaces for current U of S students.

The program will offer students courses for credit that will serve as a solid foundation for future study in science, mathematics, and professional programs in scientific fields.

The program staff will be guided by an advisory committee made up of University of Saskatchewan scientists, Aboriginal leaders, and Aboriginal students.

Funding for the program includes CIC's contribution of \$1,053,200 over 5 years which will pay for university instructors, a program coordinator and elders and will provide skill development workshops and internships for the students. The University will provide in-kind contributions and direct investment.

University of Saskatchewan President, Peter Mackinnon, said: "In recent years, the University of Saskatchewan has emerged as a national and international leader in the field of Aboriginal research and teaching. We are taking concrete steps to provide better educational resources for Aboriginal students and preparing them to succeed in many areas of business and academia. We are proud of our latest initiative that will result in the future success of Aboriginal students in Saskatchewan.

CIC's generous support will go a long way to help us design an innovative and relevant program which will prepare our students for the global opportunities that lay ahead."

Crown Management Board Minister Pat Atkinson said "We are pleased to form this partnership with the University of Saskatchewan to help aboriginal students pursue careers in the maths and sciences.

Aboriginal people are a growing segment of Saskatchewan's population, so we need to ensure that they have opportunities for advanced education that will lead to fulfilling careers in our Crown Corporations and in other companies in our province. This is government's part of our commitment to building a bright future for our youth and aboriginal people right here at home."

For more information on registering for this program, contact: Admissions, tel: (306) 966-5788 or visit www.explore.usask.ca/aboriginal /programs/mathandscience/

Guidance counselors may contact Dave Cowan, Director, Math and Science Enrichment Program for Aboriginal Students, tel: (306) 966-5214 or email dave.cowan@usask.ca

"Living Our Vision: Building Healthy Communities"





Story by Martin Paul, Kyle Prettyshield & Harvey Tootoosis. Photos by Gerald Bird.



The Summit logo symbolizes the community members joining together to create a plan for health and wellness. The star blanket is symbolic of the health plan that is being created. There are pieces missing from the star blanket and the community members hold those pieces. The star blanket was chosen because it represents security, which is key to health and wellness. A Lakota Elder explained that the star blanket represents a protective robe that encircles the earth and that the robe is directly linked to the spirit of women. It is our First Nations women that usually create star blankets. They worry about and ensure our security, our health and our wellness.

Health and Education Summit Draws Double Expected Participants

The Health and Social Development and Education portfolios, under the leadership of Vice Chief Morley Watson, held a Health and Education Summit at the Saskatoon Inn March 29th-31st, 2005. The objectives of the summit were to:

- Determine the priorities of First Nation members;
- Raise awareness of programs and services for First Nations;
- Determine the strategic direction for the FSIN Health & Social Development and Education & Training Secretariats; and,
- Provide consultation and evaluation of current programs and services.

The overall objective for FSIN Health was to unveil the draft fiveyear Strategic Regional Health Plan, while engaging participants to contribute to the plan.

In terms of numbers, the summit was a smashing success. The organizers had initial expectations of 400 people; however, more than 900 attended the summit and banquet. Because of this unexpected attendance, it created several logistic problems that were not anticipated - especially with the on-site registration process and



accommodating participants in the workshops. FSIN Chief of Staff, Ron Crowe, congratulated the staff stating that, "Facing the challenge of accommodating twice the the amount of anticipated attendance requires quick decisions and immediate attention."



This attendance was achieved despite competing for attendance with the AFN western conference that was held in Vancouver at the same time. The Summit drew representatives of First Nations and Non-First Nations, Elders, Chiefs, Health Care Providers, and Health Committees of all age groups from across Saskatchewan.

The organizers planned the morning sessions with theme

In addition to the plenary sessions, 30 workshops were held covering:

- Diabetes
- Residential School
- Mental Health/Addictions
- HIV/AIDS
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder



speakers and presenters. The Luncheon Speaker, Dale Lang, spoke on the topic of school "bullying". He related the tragic death of his son in an Alberta school by a youth who was bullied into a vengeful gun-shooting attack on his fellow students.

The plenary sessions provided information on topics such as the Strategic Regional Health Plan, the Action Plan for Youth, Primary Health Care and Public Health and Strategy to Promote First Nations in Health Care Professions.



- Ownership & Control Of Health Research
- FSIN Science Program
- Adult Children Of Alcoholics
- Environmental Health
- Health/Holistic
- Crystal Meth Jimmy Dean Story
- Traditional Gaming Practices
- Diabetes Curriculum
- S.A.D.D. Chapter
- Community Library Initiative
- Health Human Resources
- Suicide Awareness
- Parenting
- Grief Recovery
- Headstart A Unique Initiative By BTC
- Teaching Treaties In The Classroom
- Cultural Resource/Transitions
- Non-Insured Health Benefits
- Determinants Of Health
- Crystal Meth Crisis
- Sask. FN Regional Health Plan
- Personal Care Homes
- Treaty Right To Life-Long Education
- Sports, Culture & Recreation.



Those who attended the conference selected which they wanted to attend and this format was repeated on the second day. The Crystal Meth workshop attracted more people that the rooms could accommodate.



While some sessions like the Residential Schools workshop held a capacity crowd, it was the Crystal Meth workshop and the "Jimmy Dean" Story that had an over capacity crowd.

Training Sessions were also provided on the following topics:

- Youth Training on Tobacco Control & Traditional Use of Tobacco
- Tobacco Control Strategy -Training by Elders on the Traditional Use of Tobacco
- Injury Prevention
- Regional Dialogue on Early Childhood Development
- Disabilities





The Training Session provided by Eddie Jack Ballantyne for the "Youth Training on Tobacco Control & Traditional use of Tobacco" was a hit among the Youth. Eddie was honoured by FSIN Chief Alphonse Bird who presented him with a star blanket for living a smoke-free holistic, healthy lifestyle. Several youth expressed that they would like to see more workshops targeted at issues facing youth.



At the banquet, participants were treated to messages from the Honourable Joan Beatty and the First Nation Olympic athlete Waneek Horn Miller, as well as the comedy of Derrick Starlight.





The feedback that has been received thus far from some of the people who attended this conference is very favorable. This is encouraging, especially knowing that another similar effort will be made for next year's health and education conference.

Several participants stated that they saw, heard and learned a lot of positive information from these workshops.

Vice Chief Morley Watson committed to hosting another summit next year. More effort will be made to address the youth and preparations will be made to ensure high-capacity attendance can be accommodated.

Vice Chief Watson, along with the staff of the Health and Education Secretariats, extends their appreciation to the presenters, trainers, facilitators, elders, youth and all the participants that attended and made this event such a huge success. Special thanks and acknowledgement goes to the support staff including Computer Services and Finance that worked extensive overtime over the Easter weekend to ensure the summit went smoothly. 🖍









Sakimay First Nation ventures into the Retail Business By Emile Carignan

Within the past 2 years, Sakimay First Nation has set up two retail outlets. The first was opened on the main reserve north of Grenfell, Saskatchewan, about 1 mile south of Crooked Lake. Known as the **"Goose Lake Gas & Grocery Store"**, its main purpose is to provide services to the community, provide training, new job skills and employment opportunities on the reserve, and promote economic activity locally. Chief and Council and the Economic Development Committee have devoted much time and energy to plan and establish this retail outlet. Pictured below is the store, and some of the Committee members involved in its development:





Left to right: Wm. Kinistino, Alvin Kaye, Carol Sangwais, Councilors Wayne Kaye and Fred Wahpoosywan

reserve land. At time of writing, regular gas for treaty card holders sells at 69.9 cents per liter compared to the main Regina pump price of 81.9 cents per liter. Tobacco is also discounted at the rate of 10 cents per cigarette stick, or per gram of loose tobacco.



Economic Development Committee members involved in planning of the Regina area store, left to right: Lynn Acoose, Rachel Sangwais, Alvin Kaye, Sam Bunnie, Councilor Wayne Kaye)

Although there are several routes to get to the store, the best is directly along Regina's Dewdney Avenue west, preferably off Albert Street. Travelers from Highways 11 or 6 from the north can access Dewdney either from Albert Street or the Lewvan. Travelers from the South West can come off the Trans Canada (#1 Hwy) onto the Lewvan and then Dewdney, or could instead take Pinkie Road off Hwy#1 directly to the store at Dewdney.

The store provides full-time employment for a staff of 8, and part-time (casual) employment for 5 more, since the store is open 7 days per week, normally from 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. week days, 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. Saturday and Sunday, and will stay open at times to 11:00 P.M. weekends if business warrants it. Summer hours likely subject to change.

Assistant Store Manager Lisa Sunshine and Pump Attendant Ed Ponace



Sakimay's second store known as **"Saulteaux Junction Gas & Convenience Store"** is pictured above. It is located on Sakimay Reserve # 74-6 which is one mile (1.6 Km) west of the city of Regina, at the corner of Regina's Dewdney Avenue West, and Pinkie Road. Sakimay has 288 acres of land at that location.

This store opened for business on November 24, 2004. There are 7 Regular Gas dispensers and 1 Diesel dispenser at the pumps. Tobacco and fuel are the main drawing cards, especially for Treaty customers, since the store is on Snowmobile enthusiasts take advantage of the location of the store to "gas up".



First Nations Environmental Technicians Bridge Gap

ince 1999. Saskatchewan Environment (SE) and the FSIN have participated in the mutually beneficial program called the First Nations Resource Management System (FNRMS) and the Resource Management Personnel Program (RMPP). These programs, now exclusively funded by SE, were originally created to build a stronger relationship between SE and the First Nations of Saskatchewan in matters dealing with First Nations lands and resources. Ultimately, the objective of the programs has been to enhance and build capacity at the First Nations level so that they are more involved in the resource management of their traditional territories. However, due to funding cut backs, the FNRMS program is short staffed with the current staff having to assume heavy caseloads.

Currently there are four field staff that assist all the First Nations of Saskatchewan. First Nations environmental technicians have been actively promoting and participating in successful programs, workshops and conferences dealing with such issues as environmental protection, forestry initiatives, fisheries and land use management.

As First Nations environmental technicians, staff are charged with various responsibilities ranging from analyzing and interpreting provincial policies and their impact on Treaty Rights, to communicating the concerns

of First Nations members to SE and the FSIN. The technicians have become a vital link between the communities and the political representatives in communicating and addressing their issues and concerns regarding lands and resources.

These programs are intended to educate SE and communicate the interests of Saskatchewan First Nations. Past confrontations have wide ranging impact on people's lives. Clearly the FNRMS and FNRMPP will continue to bridge the gap between First Nations and non First Nations in Saskatchewan.

For the past six years at Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC), Ryan Kay has faced many challenges in fulfilling his role as an environmental technician. The greatest challenge he says is the limited resources, "I am responsible for twelve bands that include 30,000 First Nations members with one PAGC staff member to assist", he says. "Work can be very hectic as all bands want equal treatment and time."

Another technician situated at the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council but also responsible for all surrounding First Nations, Howard Desnomie also echoes this concern. "Some of our major challenges with the program are funding. The work that has been done has been very exciting and diverse and as Indian people our concern has always been the protection of our environment." Other issues impacting First Nations lands include environmental impacts of pesticides, insecticides, strip mining, oil and gas exploration states Howard.

"We need to be more active within our traditional areas when we discuss environmental impacts. We should have our own structures in place like Biologists, Conservation officers, veterinarians etc. We should all be working towards protecting the environment. Diseases within our birds and animals are growing at an alarming rate, and this concerns me, because our younger generations will be impacted if we have no animals or plants for our medicines."

Patrick Derocher is situated in the Meadow Lake Tribal Council office where he deals with many environmental concerns of national importance. One such issue is the **Canadian Environmental Protection** considerable Act which poses concerns to First Nations land use planning and land management. The Act impacts First Nations lands in a significant way as the federal government has plans to include First Nations traditional knowledge to suit However the legislation. well intentioned, it is imperative First Nations protect and prevent the exploitation of Elder's knowledge.

Another technician, Alfred Quewezance, is housed in the Regina - Saskatchewan Environment office as an employee of the FSIN under the RMS program. Alfred's efforts in analyzing provincial policies that impact on First Nations Treaty Rights have been beneficial. His main concern is, "I am the only analyst within the SE offices analyzing provincial policies and there are not enough man hours to deal with the tremendous amount of policies being drafted by SE, including those policies already in place." There is a definite need for increased financial support from INAC so that the FSIN can provide increased policy analysis.

As FSIN looks to the future of the FNRMS and FNRMPP programs, funding will continue to be a factor affecting the effectiveness and success of the programs. Despite this hurdle, the FSIN is looking to continue the evolution of the program and transitioning the staff to focus more of their efforts on policy and planning.

"The program has become a national model for other jurisdictions to strive towards, given today's climate and relationships regarding First Nations lands and economic development. The program has contributed to the development of positive working relationships with individual First Nations through the establishments of co-management, memorandum of understandings, and land use planning agreements" states Third Vice Chief Delbert Wapass, FSIN Executive Member responsible for Lands and Resources.

This relationship between the FSIN and SE has succeeded in initiating a First Nations Conservation Officer degree program through First Nations University of Canada. This program is the first of its kind in Canada and is offered to First Nations people across Canada.

There is definite shortage of youth in resource management. The FSIN

will continue pursuing efforts among our First Nations youth to encourage involvement in environment and resource stewardship fields of study. There are opportunities for First Nations youth to be more active in lands and resources with the FSIN Youth Summer Science Camps, Conservation Officer Ranger Program, and enrollment in the environmental sciences and/or the SIAST Integrated Resource Management programs.

The importance of the FNRMPP and FNRMS programs is evident when confrontation has ensued in the past in other jurisdictions. Chris Morin, Manager for the FNRMS program states, "Before this program was in place, roadblocks and sometimes violent confrontations occurred as a great deal of misunderstanding between the general public and First Nations was present." These programs are intended to educate SE and communicate the interests of Saskatchewan First Nations, Past confrontations have wide ranging impact on people's lives. Clearly the FNRMS and FNRMPP will continue to bridge the gap between First Nations and non First Nations in Saskatchewan.

If you belong to a First Nation not affiliated with a tribal council please contact Chris Morin, manager for the FNRMS program at FSIN for any assistance you require. He can be reached at 956-6945 or chris.morin@fsin.com.

"The work undertaken by the FNRMS staff has proven to be invaluable in building positive relations between the provincial government and Saskatchewan First Nations", states Vice Chief Wapass. "In our efforts to move the FSIN away from program and service delivery, 2004-2005 will be a transition year whereby we will be working with the Tribal Councils in helping to further build their capacities in the lands and resources area". Ryan works out of the PAGC and can be reached at 306-765-5300, his fax number is 306-922-5544, or you can email him at rkay@pagc.sk.ca

Howie works out of the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council and can be reached at 306-332-3558, fax number is 306-332-2557, or you can email him at howard.desnomie@fsin.com

Patrick can be reached at 306-236-4437, his fax number is 306-236-3373, or you can email him at patrick.derocher@fsin.com

Alfred can be reached at 306-787-8200, his fax number is 306-787-9544, or you can email him at alfred.quewezance@fsin.com



Chris Morin, manager for the FNRMS program at FSIN. He can be reached at 956-6945 or chris.morin@fsin.com





Profile: Marie Battiste **By Erin Taman**

Marie Battiste is one of Canada's most influential researchers in the field of Indigenous and First Nations education, and a technical expert to the United Nations on issues surrounding the protection of Indigenous knowledge and heritage.



A Mi'kmaq educator originally from the Potlo'tek First Nations in Nova Scotia, Battiste is a full professor in the U of S College of Education and coordinator of the Indian and Northern Education Program within Educational Foundations. She is also the academic director of the new Aboriginal Education Research Centre and co-director of the Humanities Research Unit at the U of S.

Battiste's writings have focused on topics that include linguistic and cultural integrity, and the decolonization of Aboriginal education. Her research interests are in initiating institutional change in the decolonization of education, language and social justice policy and power, and educational approaches that recognize and affirm the political and cultural diversity of Canada and the ethical protection of indigenous knowledge.

These interests reflect a rich academic background, which includes graduate studies at Harvard University and later Stanford University, where she earned her doctorate in curriculum and teacher education. Battiste's academic credentials also include a Bachelor of Science and credentials in elementary and junior high teaching (1971) from the University of Maine, Farmington; she was also presented with an honorary degree from that institution and another from St. Mary's University.

Battiste's background also includes actively working with First Nations schools and communities as an administrator, teacher, consultant and curriculum developer. Her efforts have helped to advance Aboriginal epistemology, languages, pedagogy and research.

She has published numerous articles and scholarly papers in books. journals and documents, and remains involved in research on Aboriginal education, languages, teachers and teacher education. Battiste is coauthor of Protecting Indigenous Knowledge: a Global Challenge, (Saskatoon, SK: Purich Press, 2000), editor of Reclaiming Indigenous Voice and Vision, (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2000) and co-editor of First Nations Education in Canada: The Circle Unfolds (Vancouver: UBC Press, 1995). She and her co-author and husband J. Y. Henderson received the 2000 First Peoples Publishing Award for Protecting Indigenous Knowledge and Heritage: A Global Challenge, from the Saskatchewan Book Awards.

In fall 2004, Battiste was named the University of Saskatchewan's Distinguished Researcher – an award bestowed twice annually, and the first to be awarded to a woman at the university.

Battiste is a board member of the International Research Institute for Maori and Indigenous Education (University of Auckland, New Zealand). She is also a member of the founding board of the Canadian Council on Learning, a member of the Circle of Experts for the Aboriginal Language Task Force for Heritage Canada, and a member of the Advisory Board of Canadian Heritage's Traditional Knowledge Gatherings on Indigenous Knowledge.

She has previously sat on the board of governors for the University College of Cape Breton and Dalhousie University, and the board of governors of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).



Working for Aboriginal Students

SHASS: Science & Health Aboriginal Student Success

By Bev Kynoch

SIAST – Science & Health Division has a new strategy designed to enhance success, retention and recruitment of Aboriginal students. If you're a student and/or know of a student interested in a science and/or health career, you'll want to know more about SHASS: Science & Health Aboriginal Success Strategy.

SHASS has identified ways to better support Aboriginal students. Working together with Saskatoon Health Region and Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, the SHASS project has begun work on several initiatives.

SHASS is creating a formalized mentorship program that will help students who make the transition into SIAST health/science programs. This program allows new students opportunity to learn from volunteer mentors who are already students at SIAST. A second level to mentorship will help existing students to make meaningful contacts in employment areas.

SHASS is exploring job shadowing opportunities to allow students ways to ensure their choice of academic program will match the employment goals they have.

At Wascana Campus in Regina the targeted programs are; Health Information Management Program, Occupational/Physical Therapist Assistant and Emergency Health Care. At Kelsey Campus in Saskatoon the selected programs are; Medical Radiologic Technology, Medical Laboratory Technology, Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technician and Biotechnology.

SHASS is exploring job shadowing opportunities to allow students ways to ensure their choice of academic program will match the employment goals they have.

Core principles that guide this work include a holistic approach that views education and employment as extensions of each other. Becoming a student at SIAST in the Science & Health Division is the first step in moving toward a meaningful career. We understand students have very busy and complex lives that require having a healthy balance between home and school life. SIAST programs helps students prepare to meet the demands that the workforce demands, and SHASS Advisors are here to help make that transition a smooth one.

A SHASS Advisor can help students with study skills, organize cultural events or advocate for childcare and funding concerns. SHASS Advisors also help make referrals for tutorial help and can provide support for other issues regarding attendance, progress or behavioural concerns.

While SHASS events are targeted at Aboriginal students, events are open to everyone.

SHASS is integrated with SIAST services that exist in other areas. Cultural affirmation promotes health, self-esteem and well-being. Check out the SIAST website to learn more about a program that will meet your needs. www.goSIAST.com

For more information about SHASS, please call:

Bev Kynoch SHASS Aboriginal Advisor Kelsey Campus Phone: 933-8052 E-mail: kynoch@siast.sk.ca

Jackie Belhumeur SHASS Aboriginal Advisor Wascana Campus Phone: 798-0032 E-mail: belhumeurjac@siast.sk.ca



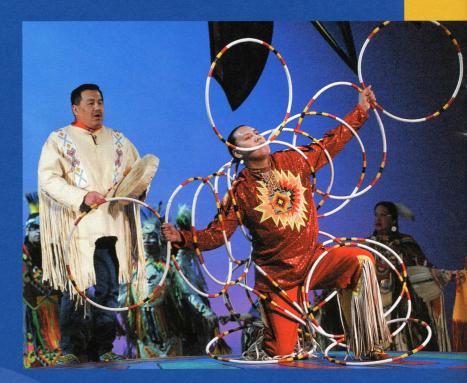
12TH ANNUAL NATIONAL ABORIGINAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS By Bonnie Leask

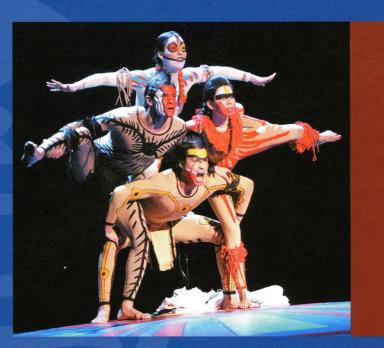
The 12th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards were handed out in Saskatoon on March 31st. The awards celebrate and honour the achievements of 14 Aboriginal people from across Canada, including two Saskatchewan recipients. Many dignitaries were on hand for the event including Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor Lynda Haverstock, FSIN Chief Alphonse Bird, AFN Chief Phil Fontaine, Premier Lorne Calvert and National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation CEO Roberta Jamieson.

Saskatchewan hosts Michael Greyeyes and Andrea Menard did an amazing job of ensuring the evening went smoothly and entertained the crowd with their witty banter. The selection of performers for the evening was excellent and included traditional and modern dancing and an eclectic mix of singers which truly made the evening a night to remember.

The 10,000 year-old cultures and stories of the Great Plains nations were the inspiration for this year's production. One of the traditional legends of the Great Plains describes the all powerful Thunderbird that hovers over Turtle Island and protects its peoples. The fantastic set, inspired by the Thunderbird, was truly memorable as it is said that any person glimpsing even a part of the Thunderbird will become forever transformed.

The National Aboriginal Achievement Awards were created in 1994 to celebrate and promote positive role models to Aboriginal youth. The awards are part of the work of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, a non-profit organization that encourages and empowers young Aboriginal people to advance their educational and career opportunities. Since 1988, the Foundation has provided more than \$16 million to deserving Aboriginal students across the country, with scholarship disbursements reaching more than \$2 million each year.





Photographs courtesy of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

Photographer Fred Cattrol



Below is a list of the 2005 National Aboriginal Achievement Award recipients. Listed left to right in photo.

Education – Dr. Eber Hampton, Chikasaw Tribe, Oklahoma (Saskatchewan) Medicine – Dr. Thomas Dignan, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, Ontario Youth – Fauna Kingdon, Metis, Manitoba/Nunavut Heritage and Spirituality – John Joe Sark, Lennox Island First Nation, Prince Edward Island Business and Commerce – Douglas Golosky, Metis, Alberta Education – Dr. Emma LaRocque, Plains-Cree Metis, Big Bay, Alberta Lifetime Achievement Award – Bertha Allen, Gwich'in First Nation, Northwest Territories Social Services – Lolly Annahatak, Inuit of Nunavik, Quebec Environment – Andy Carpenter Sr., Inuvialuit of the Northwest Territories Sports – Sharon Anne Firth, Gwich'in First Nation, Northwest Territories Media and Communications – Brenda Chambers, Champagne and Aishihik First Nation, Yukon Arts and Culture – Joe Jacobs, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, Ontario Arts and Culture – Dr. Gerald McMaster, Red Pheasant First Nation, Saskatchewan Community Development – Judy Gingell, Kwanlin Dun First Nation, Yukon



FIRST NATIONS OFF-RESERVE COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

By Angela Donald

At the May 1992 United Nations World Summit on children, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was signed by all but two countries (USA and Somalia) in the world.

One of the key items agreed upon by the nations was that governments have a duty to help families fulfill their responsibility for their children's care and upbringing.

The government of Canada responded with several initiatives, including Brighter Futures for First Nations Communities. The Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) is the off-reserve component of Brighter Futures.

In 1993, the province of Saskatchewan negotiated a Protocol Agreement with the Government of Canada. The four provincial government departments involved in this protocol are:

- Community Resources and Employment
- Learning
- Health
- Intergovernmental Affairs

As part of the overall CAPC strategy, a number of First Nation CAPC projects have been initiated across Saskatchewan. For its part, the FSIN works with 8 projects that include Wollaston Lake, Archerwill, Melfort, Duck Lake, along with four in Prince Albert.

CAPC is designed to help communities develop comprehensive culturally appropriate programs to improve the health and development of children (0-6) and their families living in at risk situations. The community- based programs must invest in the health of children and families. Programs are to involve constructive partnerships at the community level to develop effective and coordinated prevention and early intervention programs for children. Programs include education. prevention, and intervention activities. Ultimately, CAPC is designed to empower families and communities to provide a brighter future for children and families.

OUTCOMES

The major outcomes of CAPC in Saskatchewan are:

- 1. Better health and well-being of children living in at risk conditions;
- Increased partnership and teamwork among governments, families, professionals, and community groups;
- More effective community resources and programs to address the needs of children through pre and post-natal, infancy, and early childhood periods;
- Empowerment, knowledge and awareness for families and communities, and;
- 5. Improved accessibility to cultural and linguistic programs for children and their families.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles are to provide a foundation in reaching the outcomes as outlined above:

Children First

In planning, developing and carrying out programs for children and their families, the health and well being of the child is the most important consideration.

Strengthening and Supporting Families

Parents have the main responsibility for the care and development of their children. However, all parts of Canadian society including governments, agencies, employers, organized labour, educators and voluntary community organizations, share the responsibility for children by supporting parents and families.

Equity and Accessibility

Children are entitled to equal rights and opportunities to develop to their full potential. Programs must be sensitive to the cultural and linguistic differences of families and must also be accessible:

- To children with disabilities; and,
- To off reserve First Nations,
- Métis, and northern children.

Partnerships

Partnerships and cooperative activities at the community level are necessary to develop effective and coordinated prevention and early intervention programs for children.







Community-Based

The community is the focus for decision-making and action. Families and community groups must have a key role in the planning, design,

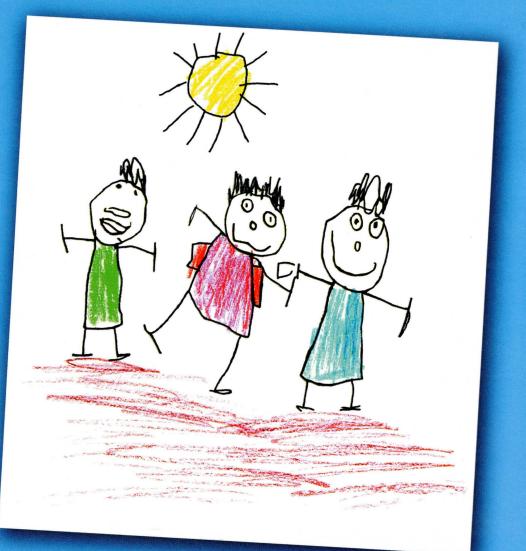
operation and evaluation of programs. This initiative is aimed at improving, community based programs and services, through not only the programs and services themselves, but also through the learning which takes place during planning and implementation.

Flexibility

Programs must be flexible in order to respond to the differences in communities and in the changing needs and conditions of children and families in those communities.

The CAPC provides longfunding term to community groups to establish and deliver services that respond to developmental the needs of children from birth to six years of age who are living in conditions of risk. CAPC funded prevention and early intervention

activities help children get a better start in life, prepare them for school and improve their chances of growing into healthy adults. If you require further information concerning CAPC and its programs, please contact Marilyn Sand, CAPC Coordinator for the FSIN Urban Development office at 306-665-1215.



FIRST NATIONS 2005 TREATY SCHEDULE

Date	Day	First Nation	Place	Time
May 3	Tuesday	One Arrow	Band Hall	10:00-12:30 1:00-2:00
May 4	Wednesday	Kinistin	Band Hall	10:00-12:30 1:00-2:00
May 4	Wednesday	Muskowekwan	Band Office	9:00-12:00
May 4	Wednesday	Day Star	Gymnasium	2:00-3:30
May 5	Thursday	Gordon	School	9:30-12:00 12:30-3:00
May 5	Thursday	Pelican Lake	Band Hall	10:00-12:30 1:00-2:30
May 6	Friday	Kawacatoose	Gymnasium	9:00-12:00 1:00-3:30
May 10	Tuesday	Muskoday	Band Hall	10:00-12:30 1:00-2:00
May 11	Wednesday	Witchekan Lake	New Health Centre	10:30-12:30 1:00-2:00
May 11	Wednesday	White Bear	Community Hall	1:00-4:30
May 12	Thursday	Yellow Quill	Band Hall	10:00-12:30 1:00-2:30
May 12	Thursday	Pheasant Rump	Band Office	10:00-12:00
May 12	Thursday	Ocean Man	Band Hall	2:00-3:30
May 13	Friday	Little Red River	School	11:00-12:30 1:00-2:00
May 13	Friday	Cowessess	Old School Library	10:00-12:00 12:30-2:30
May 16	Monday	Hall Lake	Sally Ross School	11:00-12:30 1:00-2:30
May 17	Tuesday	Stanley Mission	Band Hall	10:00-12:30 1:00-3:00
May 18	Wednesday	Carry the Kettle	Band Hall	10:00-12:00 12:30-2:30
May 18	Wednesday	Grandmother's Bay	Nihithow Awasis School	9:30-12:30
May 18	Wednesday	Sucker River	Band Hall	2:30-4:00
May 19	Thursday	Muscowpetung	Gymnasium	1:00-2:30
May 19	Thursday	Lac la Ronge	J.R. Memorial	8:00-12:30 1:00-4:00
Ividy 19	muisuay	Lacia nonge		8.00-12.30 1.00-4.00
May 20	Eriday	Las la Danga	Community Centre J.R. Memorial	9:00-1:00
May 20	Friday	Lac la Ronge		9.00-1.00
M- 00	E	D'	Community Centre	10.00 10.00 10.00 0.00
May 20	Friday	Piapot	School	10:00-12:00 12:30-2:00
May 24	Tuesday	Big River	High School	10:00-12:30 1:00-3:00
May 25	Wednesday	Makwa	Arena	10:00-12:30 1:00-3:00
May 25	Wednesday	Nekaneet	Gymnasium	10:00-12:00
May 26	Thursday	Onion Lake	Community Hall	9:00-12:30 1:00-3:00
May 27	Friday	Okanese, LBB,	Black Bear	10:00-12:00 12:30-2:00
		Star Blanket &	Band Office	
		Peepeekisis Little		
May 27	Friday	Thunderchild	Gym-Chief James	9:00-12:30 1:00-2:00
			Memorial Centre	
May 30	Monday	Sweetgrass	Community Centre	11:00-12:30 1:00-3:30
May 31	Tuesday	Mosquito/Grizzly Bear	Band Hall	10:00-12:30 1:00-3:00
June 1	Wednesday	Red Pheasant	Arena	10:00-12:30 1:00-3:00
June 1	Wednesday	Keeseekoose	Band Hall	10:00-12:00 12:30-2:00
June 2	Thursday	Cote	Band Hall	10:00-12:00 12:30-2:00
June 2	Thursday	Little Pine	Community Hall	10:00-12:30 1:00-3:00
June 3	Friday	The Key	Community Hall	10:00-12:00
June 3	Friday	North Battleford	Urban Fort Battleford	9:00-12:30 1:00-2:00
			National Historic Site	
June 7	Tuesday	Sturgeon Landing	School Gym	10:00-12:00
June 7	Tuesday	Denare Beach	Garage	2:00-4:00
June 8	Wednesday	Sandy Bay	Band Office	11:00-2:00
June 9	Thursday	Pelican Narrows	Arena	9:30-12:30 1:00-3:00
June 10	Friday	Deschambault Lake	School Gym	9:30-12:00 12:30-1:30
June 10	Friday	Kahkewistahaw	Community Hall	10:00-2:00
June 13	Monday	Mistawasis	School Gym	10:00-12:30 1:00-3:00
June 13	Tuesday	Ahtahkakoop	Band Hall	10:00-12:30 1:00-3:00
June 15	Wednesday	Saskatoon Urban	Muskeg Lake Urban Reserve	
June 15	Vicunesuay	Gaskatoon orban	muskey Lake orbait neserve	10.00 4.00

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Date	Day	First Nation	Place	Time
June 15	Wednesday	Saskatoon Urban	Treaty Day Packham Place – Tent	9:00-3:00
			(Muskeg Lake Urban Reserv	
June 16	Thursday	Saskatoon Urban	Muskeg Lake Urban Reserve	
June 16	Thursday	Saskatoon Urban	Treaty Day Packham Place – Tent (Muskeg Lake Urban Reserv	9:00 -3:00
June 17	Friday	Prince Albert Urban	Stuart Park (Riverbank)	9:00-12:00 1:00-5:00
June 17	Friday	Clearwater	Campground	10:00-12:30 1:00-2:00
June 17	Friday	Sakimay	Powwow grounds	1:00-2:30
June 20	Monday	Muskeg Lake	Arbor – Powwow grounds	11:00-2:00
June 21	Tuesday	Poundmaker	Veteran's Hall	10:00-12:30 1:00-3:00
June 22	Wednesday	Moosomin	Band Hall	11:00-12:30 1:00-3:00
June 23	Thursday	Saulteaux	Band Hall	11:00-12:30 1:00-3:00
June 23	Thursday	Ochapowace	Fred Bear Complex	11:00-2:00
June 24	Friday	Montreal Lake	Band Office	10:00-12:30 1:00-3:00
June 27	Monday	Red Earth	Community Hall	9:30-12:00 12:30-1:30
June 28	Tuesday	Cumberland House	School Gym	11:30-2:00
June 28	Tuesday	Regina Urban	Treaty Day	9:00-12:00 12:30-3:00
			The Gathering Place (4001 3rd Ave. North)	
June 29	Wednesday	Shoal Lake	Band Office	10:00-12:30 1:00-2:00
June 29	Wednesday	Regina Urban	Treaty Day The Gathering Place (4001 3rd Ave. North)	9:00-12:00 12:30-3:00
June 30	Thursday	Pasqua	Memorial Hall	10:00-12:00 12:30-2:00
June 30	Thursday	Lucky Man	Band Hall	11:00-1:00
June 30	Thursday	James Smith	School Gym	10:00-12:30 1:00-3:00
July 4	Monday	Flying Dust	School Gym	12:00-3:00
July 5	Tuesday	Waterhen	Band Office	10:00-12:30 1:00-3:00
July 6	Wednesday	Island Lake	Band Hall	10:00-12:30 1:00-2:00
July 7	Thursday	Meadow Lake	Urban Friendship Centre	10:00-1:00
July 11	Monday	Fond du Lac	Band Hall	11:00-12:30 1:00-3:00
July 11	Monday	Canoe Lake	Teepee in front of Band Office	11:00-12:30 1:00-3:00
July 12	Tuesday	Buffalo River	Treaty Grounds	10:00-12:30 1:00-2:00
July 12	Tuesday	Black Lake	Band Hall	10:00-12:30 1:00-3:00
July 13	Wednesday	Hatchet Lake	Front of Band Hall	10:00-12:30 1:00-2:00
July 13	Wednesday	Birch Narrows	Clinic	9:30-12:00
July 14	Thursday	English River	Treaty Grounds (across from band office)	10:00-1:00
July 14	Thursday	Southend	School Gym	10:00-12:30 1:00-2:30
July 15	Friday	Sturgeon Lake	School Gym	9:30-12:30 1:00-2:30
July 19	Tuesday	Fishing Lake	Kylemore Community Hall	11:00-12:00 1:00-2:30
July 25	Monday	Beardy's/ Okemasis	Willow Creek Memorial Centre (Arena)	10:00-12:30 1:00-3:00
August 4	Thursday	Big Island Lake	Band Office	10:00-12:30 1:00-2:00

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Special Investigations **Unit Honoured**

By Crystal Albert

An eagle feather, sweetgrass and star blanket were presented to Oliver Williams, Senior Investigator for the FSIN Special Investigations Unit (SIU). Individually all those gifts have their own special meaning; taken together they culminate into an honour that is the peak of achievements for First Nation people. The Special Investigations Unit was recognized for their contributions at the Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation Community Justice Forum held January 25th and 26th, 2005 in a special ceremony. Event organizers for the Beardy's Community Justice Forum

noted that the Special Investigations Unit garnered a high amount of interest from event attendees.

Oliver Williams is a veteran of the FSIN Justice Secretariat and has been involved since the inception of the SIU in January 2000. A retired RCMP officer, Oliver has dedicated years to ensuring that Saskatchewan First Nations people have an understanding, sympathetic and professional means to have their complaints thoroughly investigated by an impartial party. SIU not only ensures that complainants receive some type of closure, but also stresses client consultation and involvement during the entire investigation process.

There is a high level of community interest in the SIU, in addition to national and international interest in this Unit, and the work that it does. The Special Investigations Unit raises awareness about this unique complaints body and ensures that more First Nations know that they can lodge complaints against municipal police and the RCMP. The SIU is staffed by only two people and

operates on a limited budget. Vice Chief Lawrence Joseph is doing all he can to ensure that this Unit remains operational and will hopefully receive an increase in funding in the future.

The SIU has taken over 4000 calls and has opened more than a thousand files. The Unit averages 2 to 3 calls per day, and always finds time to attend community and informational events when possible to ensure Saskatchewan First Nation communities are aware and able to access this investigative body. Educating communities about their rights and the options available to them in the instances where they feel the police did not properly treat them is, and will always remain, an important part of the work that is done by the SIU.



Bright Future

By Bonnie Leask

With the hustle and bustle of Christmas approaching, ViaTech Solutions officially celebrated its grand opening on December 9, 2004. ViaTech Solutions is a First Nations owned and operated high technology providing technical company solutions, training, consulting and support services to First Nations and non-First Nations communities, businesses organizations, and individuals.

Computers and learning about computers is often causes anxiety in many people, however ViaTech simplifies this process by offering courses that cater to the needs of many First Nations organizations as well as reducing the gap between First Nations and the information technology sector.



Lisa Watson, a member of the Mistawasis First Nation, is the proprietor of the business and a **Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer** with more than eight years in Information Technology. Watson stated, "ViaTech has the vision to assist the progression of our First Nation in the IT industry and commitment to contribute back to the community by assisting in the development of our people's skills. It is an industry that not only improves morale, but also provides a positive impact on the social and economic base of our community."

In addition to the grand opening, Lisa was named the 2004 YES We Can! Youth Entrepreneurship – Business Plan Competition winner. The Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority Inc Saskatoon Tribal Council and Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies sponsored this award.

Via Tech Solutions is located at Suite 112-335 Packham Avenue, Saskatoon and can be reached at 306.956.0333 or check them out at www.viatechsolutions.ca



Summary of Aboriginal Sport Events

May 21 – 23, 2005 S.T.C. & P.A.G.C. Softball, Soccer, Track & Field Mini Tournament

Prince Albert, SK Marvin Sanderson (306) 956-6100 Mel Mercredi (306) 953-7234

June 2 & 3, 2005 Centennial Symposium on Management Issues in Sport,

Culture & Recreation Regina, SK For more information: (306) 585-4372

June 6 & 7, 2005 (pre-register by May 23) Banquet & Awards June 7 – 6:00 pm BTC Indian Health Services Inc. 1st

Annual Golf Tournament

proceeds tot Diabetes Research & Prevention Jackfish Lodge Golf & Conference Centre, SK Dick Kennedy (306) 937-6700 Sonya C. Jimmy (306) 937-6700

July & August 2005 Young Athlete SK Summer Basketball: Weekly sessions in Saskatoon, Regina, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert

Features: 32 – 40 hrs gym time, jersey, basketball, graduation pennant, balanced teams, equal playing time To be won: medallions, champion pennants Groups: 8-10; 11-13; 14-16

Free information Package including Pizza Hut coupons (306) 249-4747 or info@yas.ca www.yas.ca

July 2 – 9, 2005

2005 Saskatchewan First Nation Summer Games

Kawacatoose First Nation Kawacatoose – Dennis Dustyhorn (306) 835-2125

July 4 – 8, 2005 Mike Thomas Professional Hockey School

Winnipeg, MB Mike Thomas (204) 255-3854/(204) 981-8031 cell www.mtprohockey.com

July 4 – 9, 2005 Saskatchewan Legion Camp (Athletics)

Saskatoon, SK Sask Athletics (306) 664-6744

July 13 – 16, 2005 2005 Northern Saskatchewan Games & Cultural Festival

Cumberland House, SK Janna Horn (306) 425-3127

July 23 & 24, 2005 P.I.R.A. Approved Rodeo (2 – 1 Day Rodeos)

LaPlante Ranch (on Moosomin First Nation) Cochin, SK Sonya L. Taypotat – P.I.R.A. www.piraregion11.com www.iifrodeo.com

July 23 & 24, 2005 (Deadline July 15) 9:00 am shot-gun start

Ne-hi-yaw Iskwawak Ladies Golf Classic

Pigeon Lake Golf Course Mulhurst Bay, AB Matilda Roasting (780) 361-3983 Shelli Yellowbird (780) 585-0777 Leiha Crier (780) 585-3012

July 30 & 31, 2005 P.I.R.A. Approved Rodeo – TENTATIVE

Beardy's & Okemasis (2 – 1 Day Rodeos) Duck Lake, SK Sonya L. Taypotat – P.I.R.A. www.piraregion11.com www.iifrodeo.com

July 30 & 31, 2005 Tee-off 10:00 am Shoal Lake Cree Nation Oscar

Bear Memorial Golf Tournament

Kachur's Golf and Country Club Prince Albert, SK Rudy, Rayme, or Sonya (306) 768-3551

August 6 – 20, 2005 2005 Canada Summer Games Regina, SK

S.C.Y.R. (306) 425-4350

August 20 & 21, 2005 (Entry Deadline Aug 16, 2005) 7th Annual "Gwen Whitehead

Memorial" Women's Slo Pitch Tournament

Prince Albert Prime Minister's Park Prince Albert, SK Vicki / Bryan Whitehead (306) 922-6628 vikkisw78@hotmail.com Cindy / Gerald Whitehead (306) 752-1842

August 20 & 21, 2005 P.I.R.A. Approved Rodeo (2 – 1 Day Rodeo)

Sweetgrass First Nation Gallivan, SK Sonya L. Taypotat – P.I.R.A. www.piraregion11.com www.iifrodeo.com



Saskatchewan's First Nations Calendar of Events

August 29, 2005 Shot-gun start 1:00 pm Fight Crystal Meth with George Chuvalo's 2nd Annual Hole-in-One Tournament

Emerald Park Golf Course Country Club Regina, SK Stan Latkowski (306) 569-5898 / (306) 529-0660 cell

September 2 – 4, 2005 P.I.R.A. Finals Rodeo & Pow Wow;

Year End & Finals Award Buckles (Entries Aug 29: 5 – 10 pm; Call Back

(Entries Aug 29: 5 – 10 pm; Call B. Aug 3: 5 – 10 pm) Kahkewistahaw First Nation Broadview, SK Sonya L. Taypotat – P.I.R.A. www.piraregion11.com www.iifrodeo.com

September 5, 2005 Muskeg Lake His & Hers Golf Tournament

Dakota Dunes Golf Course Whitecap Dakota First Nation, SK Selma Greyeyes / Rodney Venne (306) 466-4959 or admin@muskeglake.com

December 26 – 27, 2005 Muskeg Lake Open Curling Funspiel

Blaine Lake Curling Rink Blaine Lake, SK Selma Greyeyes / Rodney Venne (306) 466-4959 or admin@muskeglake.com

February 12 - 18 2006 Saskatchewan Winter Games Melfort, SK

Zone 9, Kerry Bailey (306) 425-3127

April 2006 2006 Saskate

2006 Saskatchewan First Nation Winter Games

Regina, SK George Gordon First Nation Joe McNab (306) 835-2232

2006

North American Indigenous Games

Denver, Colorado Shirley Greyeyes Macdonald (306) 956-1034 Courage Bear (306) 956-1043

REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND ELIMINATED By Angela Desnomie

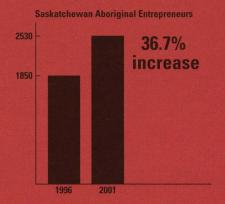
On February 23, 2005, the Federal Government confirmed the elimination of business development programs. Programs eliminated are the Economic Development **Opportunities** Fund, **Resource Acquisition Initiative and Major Business Projects Program.**

In a recent statement, Vice -Chief Guy Lonechild has said, "First, I am deeply concerned that the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada would choose to back out of the equity-gap programming afforded to First Nations, which are taking more control and effective management of new business developments. Through our partnership with Indian and Northern Affairs Regional Opportunities Fund Initiative over 1200 jobs have been created since its inception in 1998. This Program has created partnership opportunities and re-invigorated entrepreneurialism to a national focus right here at home in Saskatchewan.'

The Opportunity Fund Program has contributed over \$12 million to First

Nations businesses in Saskatchewan. Eligible First Nations communities and entrepreneurs had accessed funds for business development costs such as purchasing equipment and renovating buildings.

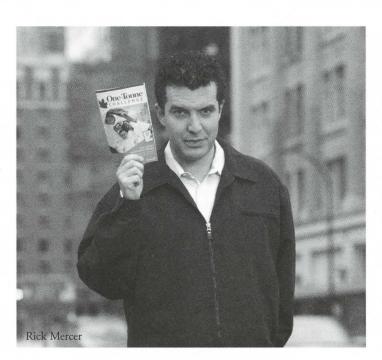
A growing number of First Nations communities and entrepreneurs are establishing new businesses in Saskatchewan.



In March, Regional Transitional Workshops were held in both Saskatoon and Fort Qu'Appelle. INAC officials discussed the Community Economic Development Program changes with First Nation representatives that attended. INAC indicated Saskatchewan Region would work with First Nations to assist them in developing working relationships with other departments, such as Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC) and Western Economic Diversification that could provide resources for First Nations economic development initiatives.

Dave Cote, Councilor of Key First Nation stated, "Eliminating the equity programs just adds another barrier for First Nations that desire to be self-sufficient. The eligibility criteria for other departments would disqualify many First Nations to access funding."

As of February 24, INAC cannot accept business development proposals for the equity programs. INAC will review and access projects already in the system to determine next steps. Any business development projects already approved or undergoing departmental assessment will be given consideration.



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Celebrating First Nation Achievement in Saskatchewan



Tayven Roberts

As a youth growing up in Northern Saskatchewan, Tayven knew there would be unlimited opportunities for him. Upon graduating from University, Cameco recruited him to work at their McArthur River Operations in his current role as Mine Engineer. As for Tayven's future, he wants to own and operate a business that promotes and advances economic development in Northern Saskatchewan.

Johnny Walker

Johnny is always on the go. He's not only the Director of Post Secondary for Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, he's also a successful entrepreneur, recently opening Walking Smoke Confectionary on the Prince Albert Urban Reserve. When he's not in the office or at the store, Johnny volunteers his time for sports and recreational activities.





Community Radio

A small radio station with big dreams, 95.3 FM "The Creek", a community initiative of the Okanese First Nation, has hit the airwaves with a First Nation flavour. On the dial they feature Powwow music, stories and educational teachings by Elders, compositions by Aboriginal artists and much more. "The Creek" should continue flooding the airwaves for years to come.

Charlotte Ross

Charlotte is the Coordinator of Academic Programs for Aboriginal students in the College of Arts and Science at the University of Saskatchewan. In addition to her administrative duties, Charlotte also dedicates countless hours talking to hundreds of Aboriginal students seeking advice. Most importantly, she provides support on issues specific to Aboriginal students requiring her unique sensitivity, care, and attention.



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