

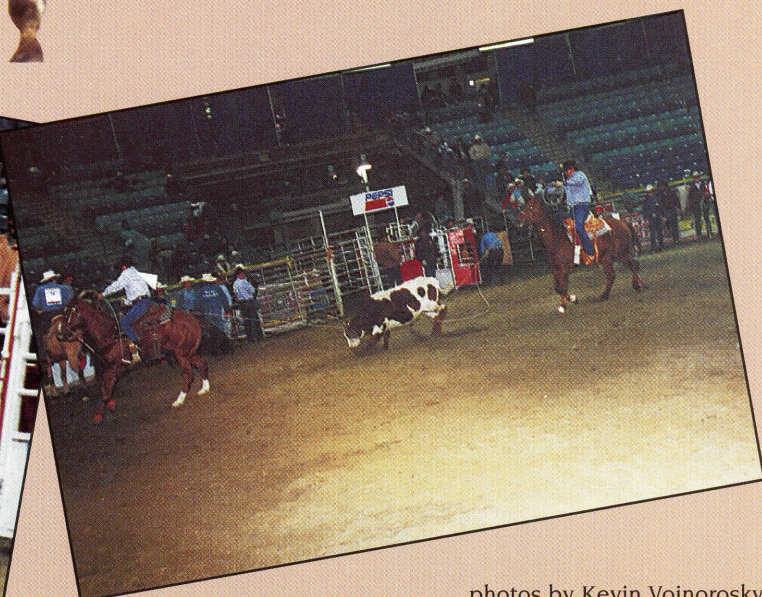
SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN

DECEMBER 1996



Allen Sapp

INDIAN NATIONAL FINALS RODEO MOMENTS




Greetings from the Chief



For the first time in its 50-year history, the FSN is on its way to eliminating its deficit. This financial milestone was accomplished through the efforts of the Treasury Board, the FSN Executive and staff. To ensure that this position of financial stability is maintained, the reinstatement of the Office of the Auditor General has been proposed as part of the renewal process. The proposal has received tremendous support.

With regard to treaty obligations, the Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC), the most comprehensive treaty process in Canada, has been renewed by the federal government and the FSN. The renewed OTC has an expanded mandate that will now include health, child welfare, education, justice, treaty annuities, shelter and hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering. The renewal of the OTC is one of many steps Saskatchewan First Nations are taking towards self-determination.

As we enter into another year of work for recognition of our Treaty rights, we must acknowledge the work that has been done by past leaders and renew our commitment to achieving our long term goals.

On behalf of the FSN Executive and staff, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our warmest wishes for a safe and happy holiday season. May the up-coming year bring peace and prosperity to all. 

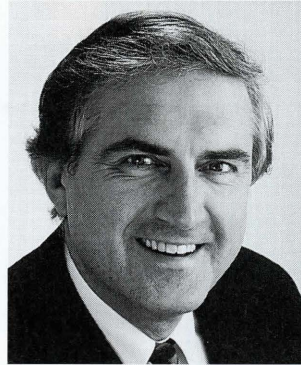
Dear Readers,

The drawing to a close of this historic year grants us the opportunity to reflect on the issues and initiatives influencing the development of First Nations people in this province. In this, the 50th Anniversary of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), there are a number of accomplishments of which First Nations people can be proud.

Among these is the establishment of the First Nations Bank of Canada (FNBC), the first Canadian bank with First Nations involvement and ownership. The FNBC will offer a full array of banking services to First Nation and non-First Nation individuals, corporations and governments. The main branch is expected to open in January of 1997 and will be located in Saskatoon.



PREMIER OF SASKATCHEWAN



A Holiday Greeting from the Premier of Saskatchewan

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, I am happy to offer my heartfelt greetings to all during this Christmas season.

Each year at this time we give thanks for our blessings, and here in Saskatchewan, our blessings are many. Indeed, Saskatchewan is one of the best places to live in the world, and it is easy to see why. Our province is home to unique, breathtaking landscapes, peaceful, caring communities and warm, friendly people. We have an abundance of natural resources, a healthy growing economy, and citizens with a co-operative and innovative spirit second to none. These are all treasures beyond measure, treasures each one of us can take pride in. At this special time as we gather together as a community, as a family and as friends, we can remember to give thanks for these riches we have been blessed with and be proud of the contributions we have made to preserve and strengthen them.

Once again, season's greetings to all. My wife, Eleanore, joins me in extending sincere best wishes for warmth and harmony, peace and goodwill during the holidays and throughout the year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roy Romanow".

Roy Romanow
Premier



Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

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 was 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 Nations community events and happenings that we will be unable to cover as much as we would like to. Therefore, we are inviting stories, photographs, artwork and letters from our readers.

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

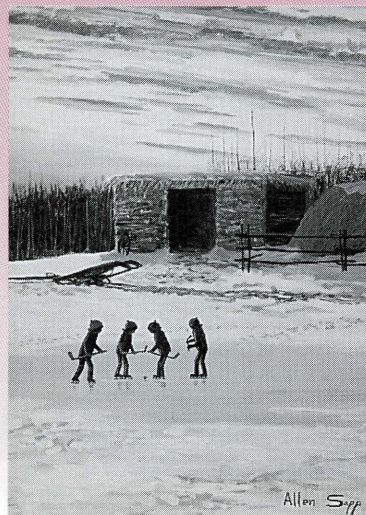
**Saskatchewan Indian
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations**
Suite 200 - 103A Packham Avenue
Saskatoon, SK
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ON THE COVER:

"Playing Hockey at Sundown 1995"
Painting by Allen Sapp

Who was honored by the FSIN Chiefs
Legislative Assembly in August.



SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN

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FSIN and Federal Government Sign Renewal of OTC



Minister Irwin, Chief Favel, Minister Crofford signing Protocol Agreement.

On October 31, 1996, a Memorandum of Agreement renewing the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, a Protocol Agreement establishing a Common Table with the federal and provincial governments and draft Orders-in-Council proclaiming the new Treaty Commissioner were signed during the Fall Session of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Legislative Assembly.

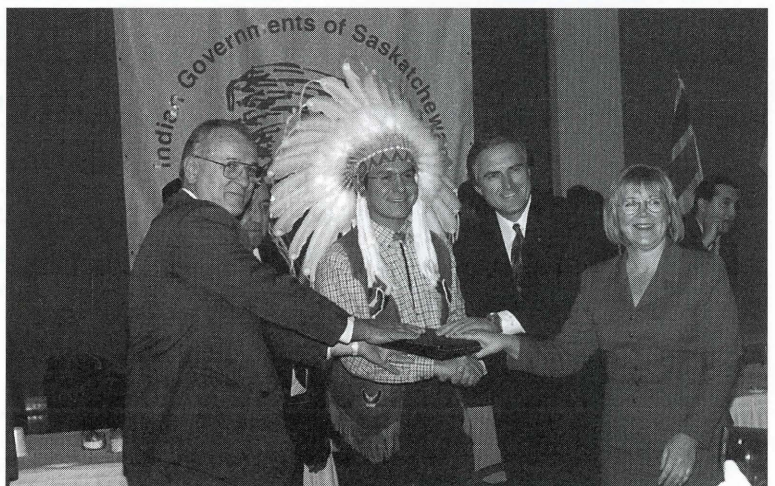
The signing was attended by FSIN Chief Blaine Favel, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Ron Irwin, Saskatchewan Lieutenant-Governor Jack Wiebe, Premier Roy Romanow, Minister of Indian and Metis Affairs Joanne Crofford and former Treaty Commissioner Cliff Wright. "This is an important and historic occasion," said the Honourable Jack Wiebe.

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner is the first and unique process of resolving

land claims in Canada. The Memorandum of Agreement that renews the OTC for an additional five years was signed by Chief Favel and Minister Irwin. The FSIN and the federal government have been engaged in the process to renew the OTC since March of 1995. Their goal was to give the OTC a broader and more independent role in treaty implementation and self-government.

Under the terms of the agreement, the OTC is established as an independent body to coordinate and facilitate the bilateral process between the FSIN and the federal government; assist in defining the rights and obligations resulting from the Treaties; and monitor the implementation of those rights and obligations.

The mandate of the OTC has been expanded and now includes treaty rights



Minister Irwin, Chief Favel, Premier Romanow, Minister Crofford with signed documents.

and/or jurisdiction in the areas of child welfare, education, shelter, health, justice, treaty annuities and hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering. The priority given to each of these topics will be determined by the FSIN and the federal government and may be defined further if necessary.

The Protocol Agreement establishing a Common Table between the FSIN, the Crown and the Province was signed by Chief Favel, Minister Irwin and Minister Crofford. The Common Table will provide a forum for the parties to discuss issues of mutual concern and facilitate common understandings related to jurisdiction and fiscal matters.

Intended to identify and facilitate effective processes for negotiating and implementing self-government among Canada, First Nations and Saskatchewan, the Common Table will also be used to discuss the interrelationships between jurisdictions and fiscal arrangements related to the development of First Nations self-government.

The Common Table will consist of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Minister of Indian and Metis Affairs and the Chief of the FSIN. Other Ministers or Vice-Chiefs may be invited to participate when matters falling within their scope of responsibility are being discussed. In addition, the Treaty Commissioner may facilitate the work of the Common Table with consent from each of the parties.

The agreement is effective for a five-year time period, during which the parties will meet on at least one occasion per year.

The final document signed was the draft Order-in-Council that will allow the Governor-General of Canada to proclaim the new Office of the Treaty Commissioner and the new Treaty Commissioner. The OTC and the Treaty Commissioner are independent from government.

Among the many duties of the Treaty Commissioner is the facilitation of meetings between the FSIN and the Crown and the arrangement of mediation services when requested by both parties. The Treaty Commissioner is also required to prepare an annual report with copies going to both the FSIN and the Crown.

The signings demonstrate the intent of the federal and provincial governments to begin examining their treaty obligations to First Nations people in Saskatchewan. In a statement after the signing ceremony, Chief Favel said, "We hadn't had [a fair and objective treaty process] prior to today. It's an historic move on the province's part. It's the first time they've acted on their commitment to the inherent right of self-government."

The Governor-General is expected to appoint the new Treaty Commissioner before the end of the year. 

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Brad Hertz

Regina, Saskatchewan

Whether it's at the office or at the climbing wall, Brad Hertz knows the price of success. As the owner of a school bus company, an antique shop, a courier service and a golf course business, Brad has a strong work ethic that defines everything he does.

“I DEMAND A LOT.”

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bucks in my jeans
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Federal Government to Amend Indian Act

The *Indian Act* has long been described by First Nations people as, at best, colonial, paternalistic and archaic. In light of the fact that the Act has remained unaltered since 1951, 45 years ago, the federal government has recently developed a number of amendments to update some of the more antiquated sections.

In a recent interview, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Ron Irwin stated that his department began looking at the Act approximately two years ago. At that time, a number of changes were proposed.

The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) then polled the 608 First Nations Chiefs and the Tribal/Grand Councils across the country. Irwin says that it was always his intention to make the amendment process a partnership with Canadian First Nations.

A plain language version of the amendments was released in September 1996. The proposed amendments fall, generally, into four main categories. The first category would see the powers of the Minister and First Nations restructured, leading to more local control of revenues and land transfers. The second would see processes streamlined; Orders in Council would be needed less often and First Nations could set their own methods of elections.

The complete repeal of some sections is the third category and involves outdated ideas such as Ministerial approval of First Nations agricultural sales. The final category would see the validation of current practices. Among these, Band councilors would be simply required to sign BCRs instead of holding a formal meeting.


While a number of the proposed amendments are beneficial to First Nations people, Canadian Chiefs

told Assembly of First Nations Grand Chief Ovide Mercredi to reject the unilateral changes at a recent two-day conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Saskatchewan's Chiefs have also come out in opposition to the unilateral nature of the amendments. At a Special Session of the FSIN Legislative Assembly, Saskatchewan Chiefs passed a resolution that rejects the proposed amendments. The Chiefs also established a task force to review the amendments at their Fall Assembly. "If there are issues that we want to stop, if there are sections of the Indian Act that we want to stop, then we have to do it collectively," said FSIN Chief Blaine Favel.

In light of First Nations opposition, Irwin has stated, "Nothing is written in stone." At the FSIN Fall Assembly, he assured the Chiefs that there will be an "opting-out" clause for Bands to whom certain amendments do not apply and that any amendments that are considered offensive will be deleted. Irwin points to the lease-hold amendment that was removed from consideration after First Nations registered their concerns about its potential repercussions.

Irwin has also stated that "the federal government will continue to respect its fiduciary relationship with First Nations. It is my clear intention that Aboriginal and treaty rights will not be affected."

The amendments are expected to begin the Parliamentary process in the House of Commons by the end of the year. 



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File Hills Telecommunications

The File Hills Telecommunications Corporation (FHTC) was established in July 1995 and has enjoyed substantial success during their relatively short existence. Because telecommunications are still under federal jurisdiction, the company was incorporated federally by the File Hills First Nations.

FHTC is mandated to provide a national telecommunications service to First Nations people by a First Nations-managed corporation. Chief Eugene Poitras of the Peepeekisis First Nation says FHTC is concerned with "First Nations controlling their own destiny with respect to telecommunications."

The long-term goal of FHTC is to create employment for First Nations people and to provide training and professional development opportunities. General Manager and Chief Financial Officer James Jestrab says, "File Hills Telecommunications was created to provide a less expensive telecommunication option for First Nations. We also want to be a leader in the fields of employment, education and training. For example, we can train people through the Internet and then employ them through File Hills."

Jestrab is referring to a sister company of FHTC, First Nations Internet Association (FNIA). FNIA offers home page or web site development services that will be accessible to the estimated 40 million Internet users world-wide. Among its clients are the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) who developed a home page detailing its Treaties, history and past Presidents.

While many see the Internet as the future of business, FHTC is certainly the present. With the Saskatchewan long-distance market expected to open up on November 25, 1996,


the FHTC product is timely. The company is primarily a long-distance telephone service reseller. Chief Poitras explains that FHTC purchases a block of access to long-distance service through AT&T. They then resell portions of this block to individual companies and subscribers as a discount service.

SaskTel remains the local access provider and maintains their current service obligations. As a result, customers of FHTC will not see a change in telephone number or service delivery.

As an incentive to Saskatchewan First Nations, FHTC is offering ten per cent cash back to Bands who subscribe. The cash back is effective on all individuals or companies who subscribe under the Band. Therefore, non-Aboriginal people who sign up under a Band's subscription generate the cash back for the Band. Chief Poitras stresses that the money is for the Band to do with as it pleases.

"We're here to try and promote [First Nations] economy," said Chief Poitras. "Our company is not making a lot of money off of this. The opportunity is there for First Nations to do that." And, with its involvement with AT&T, Poitras sees the opportunity for First Nations companies and individuals to develop ideas for new programs.

FHTC is eventually planning on expanding nationally. Jestrab has already met with First Nations in Alberta to discuss services and expansion plans. FHTC representatives have also explored expansion possibilities in Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia.

They are also examining the financial feasibility of laying new lines and expanding a fibre optics network. Their aggressive entrepreneurship has made this company a true success story in First Nations business. 

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FSIN On Course to Deficit Elimination

In a time of government deficits of astronomical proportions, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) is leading the way to responsible spending. For the first time in its 50-year history, the FSIN is expected to be debt-free by the end of this fiscal year.

The fiscal year ending March 31, 1994 saw the FSIN with an accumulated debt of over one million dollars. Close to half of its \$8.53 million budget was being spent on travel and consultants.


During the 1994 elections for FSIN Chief, Blaine Favel's campaign was based on financial accountability. Since being elected, Chief Favel has stood by those campaign promises and changes have been made in the Finance Department.

Among the changes, compensation to retiring or defeated executive members was cut in half, travel policies were tightened, travel budgets were reduced and an independent Treasury Board was established to monitor and control spending. The Board is composed of a number of Saskatchewan Chiefs, Tribal Council representatives and FSIN staff.

The implementation of these policies, brought about a \$215,000 operating budget surplus in the first fiscal year. Vice-Chief Lindsay Cyr says, "We were able to bring the debt down 49 per cent."

Since that time, Chief Financial Officer Keith Martell reports that permanent salaries have gone up eight per cent, largely because staff has increased by ten per cent. However, this increase in permanent staff has reduced the number of contract workers. Staff travel and legal expenses are also both

down significantly. "We plan our expenditures and live by those plans," says Martell.

The FSIN is currently reporting a standing deficit of just over \$300,000. This debt should be eliminated in its entirety by the end of the 1995-96 fiscal year. Its elimination means that more money can now be devoted to FSIN programs. 

FSIN WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SPONSORS OF THE INFR 1996 RODEO



FSIN Holds Fall Legislative Assembly

The Fall Session of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Legislative Assembly was held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on October 30-31, 1996. This particular sitting proved to be significant in that it marked the 50th Anniversary of the FSIN.

In his opening remarks to the Assembly, Chief Blaine Favel stated, "We gather in the footsteps of history." These words proved to be meaningful on a number of issues.

First, Vice-Chief Lindsay Cyr reported to the Chiefs-in-Assembly that, for the first time in its history, the FSIN is about to eliminate its deficit. The current deficit of slightly more than \$300,000 should be eliminated by the end of the current fiscal year.

Proposed changes to the Indian Act were also a subject of discussion. For the first time in 45 years, the federal government is planning to amend the Act. The Chiefs passed a resolution that will establish a task force to review the amendments and report back to the Assembly in January. The FSIN has come out in opposition to the proposed amendments on the basis that it is a unilateral proposal and contains some changes that are offensive to First Nations.


Since its inception in 1946, the FSIN has seen a number of organizational changes. Saskatchewan's Chiefs recently mandated the FSIN to provide a structure that would effectively support its function. Vice-Chief Dan Bellegarde reported that the re-organization plans are progressing and that they should be ready for implementation by October 1997.

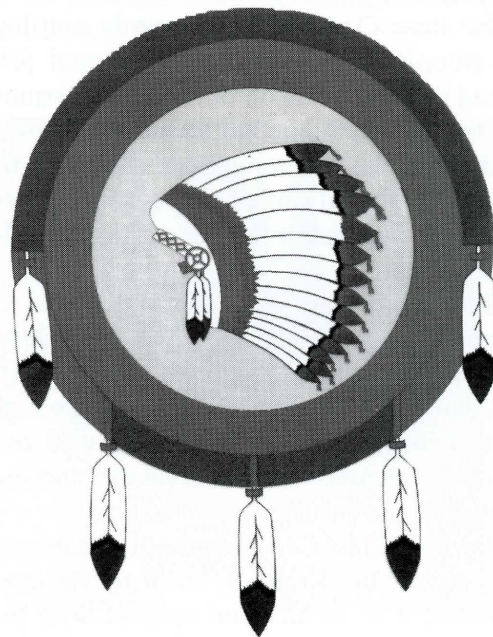
Another milestone for the FSIN is the introduction of the First Nations Bank of Canada. Expected to open in January 1997, the First Nations Bank of Canada will be the first bank in Canada with First Nations involvement.

The highlight of the Legislative Assembly was the signing of a Memorandum of

Agreement that renews the Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC) and a Protocol Agreement to establish a Common Table between the Province, the Crown and the FSIN. The Memorandum of Agreement between the federal government and the FSIN establishes the OTC for a period of five years under an expanded mandate. The Protocol Agreement will establish a Common Table for the parties to discuss issues of mutual concern.

The documents were signed by Chief Blaine Favel, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Ron Irwin and Minister of Indian and Metis Affairs Joanne Crofford. The signing ceremony was attended by the Honourable Jack Wiebe, Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, Premier Roy Romanow and former Treaty Commissioner Cliff Wright.

During opening remarks to the Legislative Assembly, Chief Favel stated, "The ambition of our people was to live with respect." With 50 years of initiatives from the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Saskatchewan First Nations have done just that. 



Bear Claw Casino Opens at White Bear

Saskatchewan's newest casino recently opened its doors on the White Bear reserve. On November 12, 1996, dignitaries gathered to commemorate the grand opening of the Bear Claw Casino with a ribbon-cutting ceremony held in the early afternoon. Attending officials included E. Dutch Lerat, Chief Executive Officer of the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA), Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Chief Blaine Favel, White Bear First Nation Chief Brian Standingready and former White Bear First Nation Chief Bernie Shepherd.

Described as the "sparkplug" in bringing casino development to the forefront, Shepherd was one of the key players in establishing the Bear Claw Casino. In his remarks, Shepherd acknowledged the role of Elders and members of the White Bear First Nation in the development of the casino, "They were the real driving force behind having a casino here." He went on to say, "The bottom line is unemployment on our reserve. If you look around, I think the proudest moment we're looking at here is all these people in the white shirts that are working today. That's what it's all about."

The Bear Claw Casino currently employs 100 people and provided additional jobs during the construction of the 15,000 square foot facility. Ancillary employment is provided through the restaurant, gift shop and the eventual operation of a 36-room hotel adjoining the casino that is currently under construction.

The casino features 53 slot machines, 67 video lottery terminals, eight blackjack tables, a poker table, a roulette wheel and a big wheel. The works of local artists are highlighted throughout the casino as well as a large replica of a white bear on its hind legs located in the lobby.

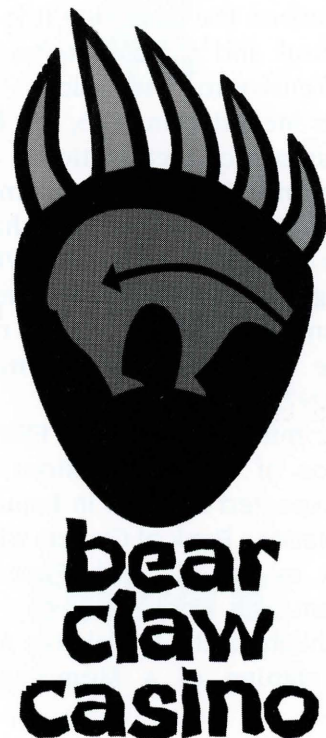
The Bear Claw Casino is the first casino in Canada to be located on reserve land. However, it is, in fact, the second time that the White Bear First Nation has established

a casino on its reserve. White Bear's first attempt at an on-reserve casino came in January 1993. At that time, legislation prohibited on-reserve casinos and, in March 1993, the RCMP stormed the facility and closed its doors.

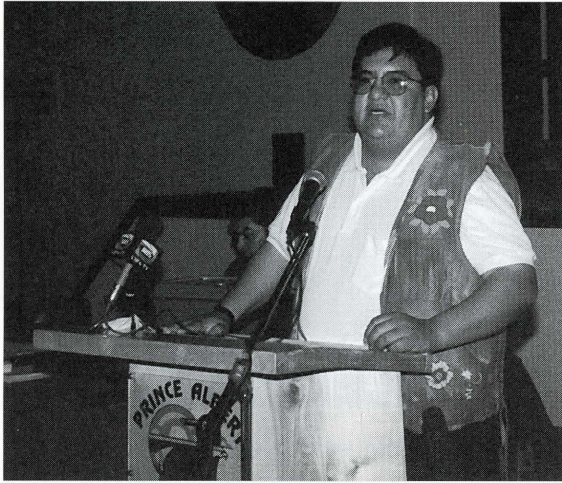
After much negotiation, the FSIN and the provincial government entered into an agreement on gaming in November of 1995. Under the terms of the agreement, SIGA could establish four casinos anywhere within the province.

In his remarks at the opening, Dutch Lerat, the CEO of SIGA, referred to White Bear's ground-breaking attempt stating, "We want to...acknowledge that 1-2 punch that kick-started gaming in Saskatchewan and in Canada."

The first two SIGA casinos, the North Battleford Gold Eagle Casino and the Prince Albert Northern Lights Casino, opened their doors in March 1996. Yorkton's Painted Hand Casino is expected to open its doors later this month.



Tribal Councils Hold Fall Assemblies



Grand Chief Alphonse Bird giving acceptance speech.

With the end of the year drawing near, many Saskatchewan Tribal Councils are holding their annual Assemblies. In recent weeks, both the Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC) and the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) held their Fall Assemblies. Both were significant in that the position of Tribal or Grand Chief was up for election.

The STC Assembly was held on October 17, 1996 at the Whitecap Dakota Sioux First Nation. Joe Quewezance of the Yellow Quill First Nation was elected to the position of Tribal Chief by acclamation. In his acceptance speech, Chief Quewezance stated, "There lies ahead of us some very hard decisions we must make for our people."

One of these difficult decisions that STC is facing is how to encourage and promote the participation of urban members. Chief Quewezance said, "We are attempting, at this time, to create an atmosphere of participation for our urban First Nations."

In his report to the assembled STC delegates, Tribal Vice-Chief George Lafond acknowledged the economic growth of the Tribal Council. At its inception in 1982, STC had an annual budget of \$200,000. That number has grown over the years and last year STC's annual budget was over \$8 million with economic development providing

additional revenues. Continued economic growth remains the goal for the STC.

The PAGC Assembly was held over two days, October 28-29, 1996. During the first day, the Annual Report of the PAGC was reviewed. Al Ducharme, the Executive Director of Deloitte & Touche, verified the financial statement.

October 29, 1996 was devoted to the election of a new Grand Chief. The candidates were incumbent Alphonse Bird and A.J. Felix. The ballots were counted and in a landslide victory, Alphonse Bird was elected to his second term as PAGC Grand Chief. In his acceptance speech, Bird stated, "I give my commitment, my strength and my time."

Grand Chief Bird also spoke of his commitment to boosting the economic sector of PAGC. He sees mining, natural resources and forestry as means for the more northern regions of the province. In the urban areas, such as Prince Albert, he sees an expansion into the business sector, specifically housing and real estate.

With economic development remaining a main priority for both STC and PAGC, these First Nations corporations will surely continue to provide financial benefits for their members.



STC Chief Joe Quewezance giving acceptance speech.



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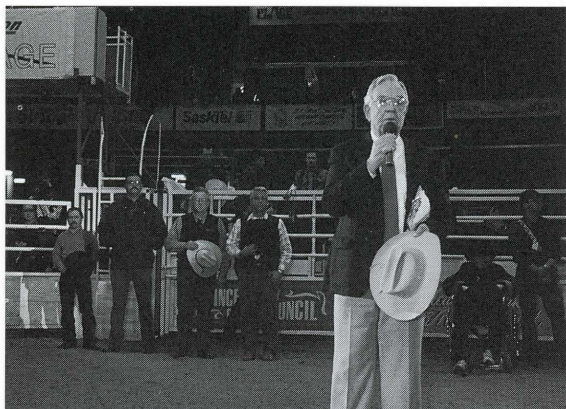
Casino Training - North Battleford, Prince Albert, Whitebear, Yorkton.

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INFR Main Attraction at FSIN 50th Anniversary



INFR General Manager Clem McSpadden at Opening Ceremonies.

The Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) were held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan from October 31 to November 3, 1996. For the first time in its history, the event crossed the American border and was held in Canada as part of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) 50th Anniversary celebrations.

The INFR was established in 1975 to give Aboriginal cowboys the recognition that they deserved. The contest is the World Championships for these talented contestants. The INFR made its home in Albuquerque, New Mexico until last year when it was held in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Saskatchewan was chosen as the site for 1996 following a successful bid proposal by the FSIN. Earlier this year, a contingent of FSIN Executive Members travelled to Oklahoma backed by a substantial prize payout package and corporate and government support. Clem McSpadden, General Manager of the INFR, says that the FSIN's bid proposal was impressive and, "they have more than delivered."

Delivery of the package was contingent upon corporate sponsorship and Saskatchewan businesses met the challenge. Major sponsorship came from Nelson Homes and the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority. SaskTel, CJWW, Labatt's,

Pepsi, Confederation Bingo and the FSIN also made substantial contributions.

The support of these companies produced the largest prize payoff in the history of the INFR. In addition to cash prizes, saddles and buckles valued at \$20,000 and additional merchandise valued at \$30,000 brought the total payoff to over \$200,000.

The size of the payoff was motivation for contestants from the 12 regional rodeo associations across the United States and Canada. Each association holds its own finals in September or October in saddle bronc riding, bareback bronc riding, bull riding, steer wrestling, calf roping, team roping, ladies barrel racing and ladies breakaway roping. The top two competitors from each event qualify for the INFR.

The Kick-Off for the INFR was held on October 30, 1996 and was attended by Clem McSpadden, FSIN Chief Blaine Favel, Vice-Chief Eugene Arcand, representatives of the corporate sponsors and by the cowboys and cowgirls.

Competition began on Friday, November 1, 1996 and continued throughout the weekend. When the dust settled, Jay Lyle Louis of Vernon, British Columbia had captured the title of All Around Cowboy. Louis placed second in the saddle bronc riding competition and partnered with Jay Crawler from Morley, Alberta to compete in team roping. Louis takes home a brand-new pick-up truck in addition to his cash prizes.

Lesla Arnold of Pryor, Oklahoma rode her way to the All Around Cowgirl title. Arnold won the ladies barrel racing event and placed third in ladies breakaway roping. In addition to her cash prizes, she won a Championship horse trailer.

In bareback bronc riding, Kenton Randle of Fort Vermillion, Alberta won with a four-event time of 303 (76-70-84-73). Randle came out of retirement to compete in the first INFR to be held in Canada. Also notable in the bareback competition was second place winner Curtis Taypotat of Broadview,



1996 Indian National Finals Rodeo Champions.


Saskatchewan. Taypotat was one of four Saskatchewan competitors and the only one to place in an event.

Spike Guardipee of Browning, Montana won the calf roping competition with a four-round time of 45.2 seconds. Steer wrestling was won by Howard Edmundson of Dewar, Oklahoma with a four-day time of 20.1 seconds.

Smiley Sierra of Kyle South Dakota took home the title of World Champion Bull Rider. His four-event total was 303 (74-79-77-

73). With a four-event time of 36.5 seconds, Dee Keener of Inola, Oklahoma and Joel Maker of Tahlequah, Oklahoma won the team roping competition. The World Champion Ladies Breakaway Roping title went to Whisper Alexander of Bozeman, Montana.

Regional results saw the cowboys and cowgirls of the All Indian Rodeo Association of Oklahoma earn 772 points and first place standing. The Great Plains Indian Rodeo Association placed second with 733.5 points and the United Indian Rodeo Association came in third with 649 points.

The sportsmanship and talent of all of the cowboys and cowgirls of the INFR contributed to making the competition unforgettable for family, friends and fans. Spectators, organizers and competitors alike are calling the 1996 Indian National Finals Rodeo the best ever. 

INFR Rodeo Results

Bareback Bronc Riding

1st	Kenton Randle	303	\$2,800
2nd	Curtis Taypotat	291	\$2,100
3rd	Steve Meridith	283	\$1,400
4th	Harold Blyan	281	\$ 350
4th	Mike Brown	281	\$ 350

Saddle Bronc Riding

1st	Marty Hebb	291	\$2,800
2nd	Jay L. Louis	288	\$2,100
3rd	Wyle Wells	283	\$1,400
4th	Ramos Benny	266	\$ 700

Bull Riding

1st	Smiley Sierra	303	\$2,800
2nd	Hank Winnier	225	\$2,100
3rd	C. L. Johnson	224	\$1,400
4th	Dale Wagner	214	\$ 700

Calf Roping

1st	Spike Guardipee	45.2	\$2,800
2nd	Karl Dennison	46.2	\$2,100
3rd	Jay B. Lytle	52.3	\$1,400
4th	Ed Holyan	52.7	\$ 700

Cowgirls Barrel Race

1st	Lesla Arnold	58.57	\$2,800
2nd	Traci Creighton	58.86	\$2,100
3rd	Sharon Small	58.98	\$1,400
4th	Traci Vaile	59.23	\$ 700

Cowgirls Breakaway Roping

1st	Whisper Alexander	5.7	\$1,146.66
2nd	Traci Vaile	6.9	\$ 859.99
3rd	Lesla Arnold	7.3	\$ 573.33
4th	Shannon Williams	9.6	\$ 286.67

Steer Wrestling

1st	Howard Edmundson	20.1	\$2,766.66
2nd	Richard Bish	24.0	\$2,074.99
3rd	David Shade	29.5	\$1,383.33
4th	Jay Bob Lytle	39.8	\$ 691.66

Team Roping

1st	Dee Keener & Joel Maker	36.5	\$2,800 each
2nd	Don Bettelyoun & Terry Fischer	40.8	\$2,100 each
3rd	Rudy Yazzie & Alfonso Begay	43.8	\$1,400 each
4th	Victor Begay & James Begay	47.0	\$ 700 each

Miss Indian Rodeo America Crowned



Chief Favel with Miss Indian Rodeo America Perrie Brett Whidden.

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) hosted the Miss Indian Rodeo America Pageant which complemented the Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) and other events during the FSIN 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Each year during the INFR, a young woman is crowned as Miss Indian Rodeo America. Miss Indian Rodeo America was established to promote the sport of professional rodeo and to serve as an ambassador at the national level. This exceptional young lady reigns for one year, representing all twelve regional rodeo associations affiliated with the Indian National Rodeo Association. The national title and crown of Miss Indian Rodeo America has become the most prestigious of all Indian rodeos.

This year, contestants from across North America competed for the national title. These Rodeo Queens were required to participate in various events throughout the week, being judged at all times.

The six judges of the Miss Indian Rodeo America Pageant were Mary Ellen Turpel-

Lafond, Albert Angus, Alma Favel-King, Mike Obey, Sheila Musqua and Mary Obrodovich. They selected Miss Indian Rodeo America based on a point system consisting of horsemanship skills, personality, appearance, public speaking skills and modelling in western and traditional dress attire of their nation during the Web of Dreams IV Fashion Show.

The contestants who competed for the Miss Indian Rodeo America title were:


Amanda Jimson of the Navajo Nation of New Mexico representing the Navajo Nation Rodeo Cowboys Association;

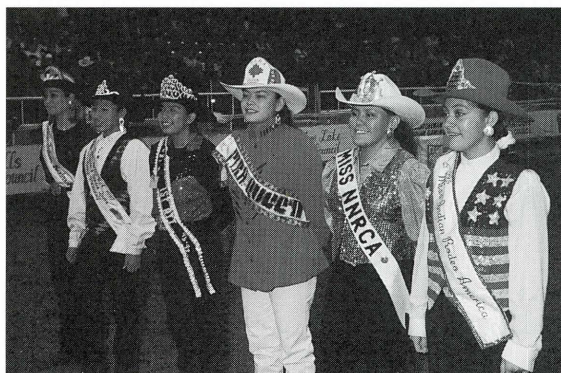
Mona Lee Lasas of the Waterhen Lake First Nation representing the Prairie Indian Rodeo Association;

Joy Pike of the Apache Tribe of Arizona representing the Southwest Indian Rodeo Association;

Perrie Brett Whidden of the Brighton Seminole Tribe of Florida representing the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association; and

Crissy Jo White Wolf of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of South Dakota representing the Great Plains Indian Rodeo Association.

Miss Perrie Brett Whidden was crowned Miss Indian Rodeo America 1996-1997 on Saturday, November 2, 1996 during the Indian National Finals Rodeo competitions at Saskatchewan Place. 



The five Miss Indian Rodeo America contestants with the reigning Queen Valerie Key.

POWWOW MEMORIES

I am Indian
I am proud to be
I am the heartbeat of the nation
and
the blood of Mother Earth

Im
the



I am Indian
I am proud to be
though for centuries
you have surrounded me
in mediocrity



I am Indian
Mother Earth created me
For her I shall be
Me, standing tall
you will see.

Sue Deranger



I am Indian
nursed in spirituality
and
knowledge you have
imparted on me



FSIN Celebrates 50th Anniversary with Powwow



The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) 50th Anniversary Powwow was held November 1-2, 1996 at Titan Place in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The event attracted competitors from across North America.

The Masters of Ceremonies for the two-day powwow were Gordon Tootoosis and Russell Standingrock. The host drums were the Whitefish Juniors from Big River, Saskatchewan and Eagle Claw from Kawacatoose, Saskatchewan. The Drumkeeper was Todd Seeseequasis.

Powwow Coordinator Janet Ahenakew-Dodwell reports that they had 678 registered dancers and 17 drum groups. Drum judges were Jason Goodstriker, Garnet Eyaphaise, Ron McNab, Clifford Rabbitskin, John Waditaka, Ervin

Whitehawk, James Thunderchild, Robert Gopher, Dennis Emusso and Troy Shepherd.

These judges selected Wild Horse from North Battleford, Saskatchewan for the first place \$1,500 prize in the Singing category, sponsored by the FSIN Executive Council. Pipestone Creek won \$1,200 for second place and Star Blanket Jr. won the \$900 third place prize.

Grand Entry was held each day at 1:00 and 7:00 and was followed by consistently high-calibre competitions. Among these were the Specials in honour of the past Presidents of the FSIN. The Hand Drum Special was sponsored by the Tootoosis family in honour of John Tootoosis, the first president of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians. The Little Island Cree, World Champion Drummers, won the Special and its top prize of \$350. Chitek Lake placed second and Battle Creek placed third.

The Men's Traditional Special was sponsored by the Deiter family on behalf of Walter Deiter, the fourth president of the FSIN who held office from 1966-68. Darcy Anaquod of Regina, Saskatchewan placed first in the Special, winning the top prize. Tom Christian placed second and Conrad





\$700 cash prize. She was also given a trophy and a Frances Paul painting valued at \$300. This was the first time that a Ladies Grass Dance Special was held at a Saskatchewan Powwow.


An estimated five to six thousand spectators attended the Powwow on a daily basis. One observer said that it was the largest Powwow held in conjunction with the Indian National Finals Rodeo that he had ever seen.

Rope placed third. \$1,900 was divided amongst the winners.

The Teen Girls' Jingle Special was sponsored by the Ahenakew family in honour of the fifth FSIN president, David Ahenakew who served from 1968 until 1978. Jenifer Jones of Rolling River, Manitoba won the top prize.

The Ladies Grass Dance Special was sponsored by the Thunderchild and Carriere families in honour of Delores Thunderchild. Delores is described as a caring and patient person who has dedicated herself to honouring Elders. "The family wanted to honour her in a special way," said Doreen Carriere. Jolene Standing Rock of the Rocky Boy Cree Nation in Montana won the Special and its

Spectators were drawn largely to the quality of the dancing. In fact, Ahenakew-Dodwell reports that many competitions required tie-breakers and occasionally even second tie-breakers because of the level of excellence being judged.

The FSIN 50th Anniversary Powwow ended on Saturday, November 2. "On behalf of Vice-Chief Cameron and myself," said Ahenakew-Dodwell, "I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all committee members and volunteers who worked so diligently in making the 50th Anniversary Powwow such a huge success." 



FSIN 50th Anniversary Powwow Results

Junior Girl's Fancy

1st	Adonius Benson	Red Pheasant First Nation, Saskatchewan
2nd	Shianne Bull	Red Pheasant First Nation, Saskatchewan
3rd	Jaime Gadwa	Kehewin Cree Nation, Alberta
4th	Angel Faith	Ocean Man Nakota Nation, Saskatchewan
5th	Kristen McAdam	Big River First Nation, Saskatchewan

Junior Girl's Jingle

1st	Charity Dawn Kakakaway	Regina, Saskatchewan
2nd	Wenonah Daniels	Kawacatoose First Nation Saskatchewan
3rd	Larissa Gopher	Saulteaux First Nation, Saskatchewan
4th	Lacy Albert	Gallivan, Saskatchewan
5th	Angelin Gadwa	Kehewin Cree Nation, Saskatchewan

Junior Girl's Traditional

1st	Justine McArthur	Regina, Saskatchewan
2nd	Chelsa Bull	Little Pine First Nation, Saskatchewan
3rd	Junita Little Tent	Regina, Saskatchewan
4th	Whitney Yuzzicappi	Standing Buffalo First Nation, Saskatchewan
5th	Tara Sandy	Oak Lake Sioux First Nation, Manitoba



Junior Boy's Fancy

1st	Preston Little Tent	Kawacatoose First Nation, Saskatchewan
2nd	Rylan Baker	Three Affiliated Tribes, North Dakota
3rd	Dickie Lee Baptiste	Red Pheasant First Nation, Saskatchewan
4th	Dustin Strong Ann	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
5th	Adrian Alexson	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Junior Boy's Grass

1st	Nathan Mitsuing	Loon Lake, Saskatchewan
2nd	Rylan Thomas	Spiritwood, Saskatchewan
3rd	Noble Drags Wolf	Three Affiliated Tribes, North Dakota
4th	Tiny Tootoosis	Poundmaker Cree Nation, Saskatchewan
5th	Ryan Standing	White Bear First Nation, Saskatchewan

Junior Boy's Traditional

1st	Jessie Standing Rock	Rocky Boy Cree Nation, Montana
2nd	Darrel Charging Moyah Hawk	Mistawasis First Nation, Saskatchewan
3rd	Brando Okanee Moyah	Thunderchild First Nation, Saskatchewan
4th	Curtis Albert	Poundmaker Cree Nation, Saskatchewan
5th	Dwight Eagle	Chitek Lake First Nation, Saskatchewan

Teen Girl's Fancy

1st	Nita McAdam	Big River First Nation, Saskatchewan
2nd	Kanani Nahanee	North Vancouver, British Columbia
3rd	Marci Eashappie	Hays, Montana
4th	Toni Running Rabbit	Siksika/Blood First Nation, Alberta
5th	Raelynn Carriere	Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan

Teen Girl's Jingle

1st	Jenifer Jones	Rolling River, Manitoba
2nd	Cyrina Bull	Red Pheasant First Nation, Saskatchewan
3rd	Kristy Yuzzicappi	Standing Buffalo First Nation, Saskatchewan
4th	Tara Thompson	Carry The Kettle First Nation, Saskatchewan
5th	Rachel McArthur	Pheasant Rump Nakota Nation, Saskatchewan

Teen Girl's Traditional

1st	Sherisse McKay	Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Manitoba
2nd	Stephanie Wutunee	Red Pheasant First Nation, Saskatchewan
3rd	Leanne Bonaise	North Battleford, Saskatchewan
4th	Ashley Bear	Muskoday First Nation, Saskatchewan
5th	Cheryl Bonaise	North Battleford, Saskatchewan

Teen Boy's Fancy

1st	Waylon Little Tent	Kawacatoose First Nation, Saskatchewan
2nd	Lance Alexson	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
3rd	Lawrence Piche	Dillon, Saskatchewan
4th	Cree Go Forth	Regina, Saskatchewan
5th	Travis Thunderchild	Thunderchild First Nation, Saskatchewan

Teen Boy's Grass

1st	Jon Olney	White Swan, Washington
2nd	Terrance McNab	Gordon First Nation, Saskatchewan
3rd	Ryan McNab	Gordon First Nation, Saskatchewan
4th	Blair Rain	Wabamun Lake Nakota Nation, Alberta
5th	Shane Onedsoo	Hobbema, Alberta



Teen Boy's Traditional

1st	Stacy Spence	Spruce Home, Saskatchewan
2nd	Nikki Kam	Sweet Grass First Nation, Saskatchewan
3rd	Anthony Standing Rock	Rocky Boy Cree Nation, Montana
4th	Beamer Morrison	Ochapawace First Nation, Saskatchewan
5th	Brandon One Feather	Oglala Sioux Tribe, South Dakota

Women's Golden Age

1st	Vera Kingbird	Redby, Minnesota
2nd	Maggie Black Kettle	Calgary, Alberta
3rd	Irene Yuzzicappi	Standing Buffalo First Nation, Saskatchewan
4th	Georgina Thunderchild	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
5th	Tonia Ackerman Guardipee	Browning, Montana

Men's Golden Age

1st	Walter Bull	Little Pine First Nation, Saskatchewan
2nd	Harvey Yuzzicappi	Standing Buffalo First Nation, Saskatchewan
3rd	Larry Anaquod	Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation, Saskatchewan
4th	George Ceepeekous	Kawacatoose First Nation, Saskatchewan
5th	Dave Spence	Duck Lake, Saskatchewan

Women's Fancy

1st	Donetta Ewak	Ocean Man First Nation, Saskatchewan
2nd	Lisa Cleveland	Regina, Saskatchewan
3rd	Georgina Jones	Rolling River, Manitoba
4th	Sarah Milward	Calgary, Alberta
5th	DYanni Smith	Albuquerque, New Mexico

Women's Jingle

1st	Yvette Iron Star	Ocean Man First Nation, Saskatchewan
2nd	Nellie Goodwill	Standing Buffalo First Nation, Saskatchewan
3rd	Lillian Gadwa	Kehewin Cree Nation, Alberta
4th	Jennifer Young Bear	Three Affiliated Tribes, North Dakota
5th	Jolene Redman	Standing Buffalo First Nation, Saskatchewan

Women's Traditional

1st	Linda Standing	White Bear First Nation, Saskatchewan
2nd	Ruby McArthur	Regina, Saskatchewan

3rd	Hazel Ahenakew	Ahtahkakoop First Nation, Saskatchewan
4th	Mary Lou Olson	Brokenhead First Nation, Manitoba
5th	Gaye Sparvier	Cowessess First Nation, Saskatchewan

Men's Fancy

1st	Amos Yazzie	Navajo Nation, New Mexico
2nd	Jerry Cleveland	Regina, Saskatchewan
3rd	Landing Eagle Go Forth	Regina, Saskatchewan
4th	Lazz Roan	Pigeon Lake First Nation, Alberta
5th	Craig Lewis	Onion Lake First Nation, Saskatchewan

Men's Grass

1st	Delbert Wapass	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
2nd	Darrell Goodwill	Standing Buffalo First Nation, Saskatchewan
3rd	Byron Goodwill	Standing Buffalo First Nation, Saskatchewan
4th	Ron McNab	Gordon First Nation, Saskatchewan
5th	Gerald Baptiste	Red Pheasant First Nation, Saskatchewan

Men's Traditional

1st	Tom Christian	Fort Peck Sioux/Assiniboine Tribe, Montana
2nd	Darwin Daniels	Sturgeon Lake First Nation, Saskatchewan
3rd	Darcy Anaquod	Regina, Saskatchewan
4th	Rod Atcheynum	Sweet Grass First Nation, Saskatchewan
5th	Keith Shade	Lethbridge, Alberta

Singing Contest Results

1st	Wild Horse	North Battleford, Saskatchewan
2nd	Pipestone Creek	Onion Lake First Nation, Saskatchewan
3rd	Star Blanket Jr.	Star Blanket First Nation, Saskatchewan
4th	Crooked Lake Agency	Cowessess First Nation, Saskatchewan
5th	Fly in Eagle	Poundmaker Cree Nation, Saskatchewan
6th	Little Island Cree	Ministikwan First Nation, Saskatchewan
7th	Mandaree	Three Affiliated Tribes, North Dakota
8th	Inyan He Nakota	Stoney Nakota Nation, Alberta
9th	Battle Creek	Red Pheasant First Nation, Saskatchewan
10th	Young Eagle Creek	Sturgeon Lake First Nation, Saskatchewan




Web of Dreams IV Features Aboriginal Designers

Web of Dreams IV was held at the Ramada Inn in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on November 1, 1996 and featured talented designers from British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

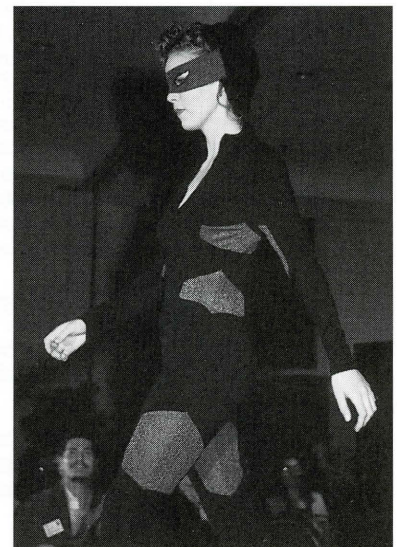
The concept behind the Web of Dreams Fashion Show was developed four years ago by the wives of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Executive members to recognize youth and designers from the Aboriginal community. It was first showcased at the 1993 North American Indigenous Games.

In its four years, the Web of Dreams has featured the talents of many Aboriginal designers and models and has launched some of them onto the national scene.

The Master of Ceremonies for this year's event was Earl Magnuson. Dorothy Thomas provided the fashion commentary. 33 attractive young Aboriginal men and women served as models for the clothing which ranged from the traditional to the avante garde.

The fashions were provided by Leroy Lachance of the Big River First Nation, Bruce Omeasoo of Hobbema, Alberta, Jeff Chief of the Onion Lake First Nation, Collene Charette of the Peter Ballantyne First Nation, Eva Lizotie of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Gary Oker of Dawson Creek, British Columbia, Hillary Harper of Cochran, Alberta, Rosebud Manufacturing of Balcarres, Saskatchewan, Irene Andreas of the Cowessess First Nation, Pat Pitche of Bon Accord, Alberta and Karen and Blanche Little of the Ahtakakoop First Nation. 

Photos by Kevin Voinorosky



ATTENTION YOUNG ARTISTS

WICIHITOWIN LOGO CONTEST

The Wicihitowin Foundation was unveiled at the Saskatchewan Indian Veterans Association Dinner of Honour in 1995. The Foundation acts as a living legacy to honour and remember First Nations Veterans who served their country with distinction in both World Wars and international conflicts.

Wicihitowin focuses on building bridges between cultures and empowering Indigenous youth for future leadership by helping to develop individual strength, self-discipline and self-confidence.

Wicihitowin's motto can be found in the English translation of its Cree name, *Wicihitowin*, which means 'helping each other'.

Wicihitowin is a not-for-profit Saskatchewan organization and was recently registered as a Canadian charity.

Wicihitowin's finances are managed by professional investment fund managers at Greystone Capital Management Inc., a Regina-based, Saskatchewan-owned, private investment counselling firm and one of the top investment managers in Canada.

Wicihitowin needs a logo and is sponsoring a contest to find one that visually reflects its motto, its legacy and its focus.

First Prize, sponsored by SaskTel	\$1,000.00
Second Prize, sponsored by the FSIN	\$ 750.00
Third Prize, sponsored by Wicihitowin	\$ 500.00

ELIGIBILITY

All Indigenous youth in the Province of Saskatchewan who are eligible to try out for the 1997 North American Indigenous Games.

REQUIREMENTS

Draw or design a visual image that explains Wicihitowin's motto, legacy and focus, as described above

Use a clean sheet of unlined, white paper, 8 1/2" x 11"

Three colours or fewer are preferred

Describe, in writing, the meaning of the various components of your artistic drawing

Mail your entry, postmarked not later than January 30, 1997, to:

Wicihitowin Logo Contest
Selections Committee
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
Suite 200-103A Packham Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4K4
Attention: Rick Gamble

A panel of Judges will select three winners based on **Creativity, Originality** and **Simplicity**.

All submissions become the property of the Wicihitowin Foundation.

Only the three winners will be notified personally.

The results of the contest will be published in the *Saskatchewan Indian*.

Community-Based Initiatives at Heart of FSIN Justice

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Strategic Plan for Indian Justice was developed by the Indian Justice Commission with Tribal Council representatives and technicians over the course of two months. It was presented and ratified at the FSIN Legislative Assembly on May 1, 1996. "Our people at the community level strongly believe the treaties are the key to the future of our children, and that is what our strategic plan is based on," said FSIN Chief Blaine Favel.

The Strategic Plan was developed to clarify the function that the FSIN plays in supporting the justice initiatives of Saskatchewan Tribal Councils and First Nations and to assist in their implementation. In developing the Plan, the Commission attempted to create a system that would restore traditional First Nations values, culture and spirituality. In addition, the participation of Elders, women and children was encouraged. As a result, a system that involves community-driven justice was produced.

Community-Based Justice Initiatives (CBJI) are one such example. For a number of months now, trainers have been going out to the First Nations to provide them with information on justice alternatives. The FSIN is now preparing to turn the program over to the Tribal Councils in the new year, following one more session.

Darren Winegarden, the Director of Justice for the FSIN, says that the FSIN will remain somewhat active in the process after the transition to ensure that their curriculum on training is being followed. The Tribal


Councils and First Nations will have the ability to modify the training to suit their particular needs.

Many First Nations are now turning to sentencing circles as an alternative to the court system. Winegarden says, "We want to do a protocol on sentencing circles" in an attempt to establish some guidelines. While there are a number of First Nations now using sentencing circles, there are currently no standard formats on which to base them. The goal is to establish a traditional basis and incorporate that into a format for use in the future.

The attraction of sentencing circles, says Winegarden, "is Indians providing solutions for Indians" as opposed to the court system in which non-Aboriginal people impose judgement on Aboriginals.

As recipients of a portion of the \$1.6 million allocated by the federal and provincial governments to Aboriginal groups undertaking community justice programs, the FSIN is currently developing a new initiative. They are now working to establish the Community Justice Committee of Saskatoon in conjunction with the Saskatoon Police Service and a number of other groups.

In addition, FSIN Justice is becoming active with young offenders. Winegarden states, "We're really active in trying to create a presence [in the courts]." He believes that judges are responding favourably to the interest that the FSIN is taking in Aboriginal youths.

"I think we're doing good things for Indian people," says Winegarden. "[This work] needs to be done." 



First Nations Bank of Canada

Clearing Final Hurdles

Canada will soon have its first bank with First Nations involvement and ownership. The First Nations Bank of Canada has cleared the initial approval stages and has received its letter of patent from the Canadian Deposit Insurance Corporation (CDIC). Following the licence to commence business, also from CDIC, in December, the First Nations Bank of Canada will be legally ready for clients. "It will be a milestone for our people," said Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Chief Blaine Favel.

The First Nations Bank of Canada, a proposed Schedule II bank, has involvement from the FSIN, the Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation (SIEF) and the Toronto-Dominion Bank. The Toronto-Dominion Bank, which currently has the highest securities ranking of any Canadian Bank, has committed to an \$8 million investment for start-up capital for the First Nations Bank of Canada with SIEF contributing an additional \$2 million.

Under the terms of the agreement, three-quarters of the operating profits will be returned to SIEF for reinvestment. It is expected that the First Nations Bank of Canada will be fully Aboriginally-owned and controlled within ten years. As such, all of the profits will be returned to First Nations in Saskatchewan. "The Bank is a structure that ensures financial self-sufficiency," says Keith Martell, FSIN Chief Financial Officer.


The First Nations Bank of Canada is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors.

Four appointments were made by the Toronto-Dominion Bank, four by the FSIN and SIEF and two by the Toronto-Dominion Bank based on recommendations by the FSIN.

Barry Menary has been appointed to the position of President. Menary has spent the past 11 years in Aboriginal banking and investment. He served as Manager of Aboriginal Financial Services for Toronto-Dominion Bank for the past four years. "This is a tremendous opportunity for Canadian Aboriginal peoples," stated Menary. "As the bank expands, it will introduce new jobs and career opportunities for people who want to serve their communities through banking."

Clients of the First Nations Bank of Canada, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal individuals and businesses, will have access to a full array of services. These include chequing and savings accounts, VISAs, personal loans and lines of credit.

Expanding the services of the First Nations Bank of Canada to a national level will be a priority once it has opened its doors. The Toronto-Dominion Bank will serve as an agent for the First Nations Bank of Canada. Clients will be able to access their accounts through any of the 949 branches of the Toronto-Dominion Bank throughout Canada. "That's how national expansion will be achieved quite quickly," says Chief Favel.

The main branch of the First Nations Bank of Canada, located in Saskatoon, is expected to open in January 1997. 

Casino Employment on Track

When the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA) opened its first two casinos in North Battleford and Prince Albert, they were paving the road to a new industry. Many Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan had never held a job in the hospitality industry and, as a result, the workforce from which SIGA officials had to draw was relatively unskilled.


SIGA began the daunting task of training casino staff in November of 1995 to prepare for the openings of the North Battleford Gold Eagle Casino and the Prince Albert Northern Lights Casino in early March, 1996. This tradition continues as staff is now being trained for Yorkton's Painted Hand Casino and training was recently completed for White Bear First Nation's Bear Claw Casino.

Milton Tootoosis, Chief of Human Resources, estimates the current number of employees within SIGA at over 400. Of these approximately 70 per cent are Aboriginal. In addition, SIGA believes that it supports sev-

SIGA has worked with the Saskatchewan Tourism Education Council (STEC) to develop the hospitality training required for most casino positions. Most employees receive about 30 hours of training in hospitality and an additional two weeks of job-readiness training, bringing the total to approximately 90 hours.

"The extensive training helps overcome the barriers caused by hiring people who are basically inexperienced," he says. "It comes with kick-starting a new industry."

SIGA is striving to be a proactive employer. As part of the Human Resources Program, employees have access to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The EAP gives employees the opportunity to receive counselling, should they require it. Ben Weenie, the sole program coordinator, helps employees address basic issues that are affecting them and their work. He is currently working out of the SIGA Head Office.

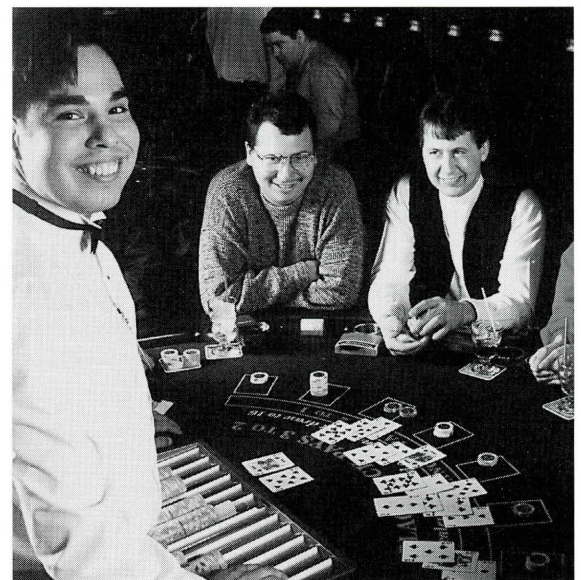
The allure of Aboriginal employment with SIGA is largely due to pride in ownership. Aboriginal people may again take pride in the opening of the Bear Claw Casino on the White Bear First Nation Reserve on Tuesday, November 12, 1996. The Painted Hand Casino in Yorkton is slated to open its doors on December 14, 1996. 



PA Casino

eral hundred employees in the spin-off industries such as contractors and suppliers.

In cases where SIGA has hired non-Aboriginal people because of experience, they generally have Aboriginal assistants in a type of informal mentorship program. Tootoosis says that the casinos have been "about giving people a chance."



North Battleford Casino

Photos by Kevin Voinorosky

Uranium Royalties Subject of Controversy in Northern Saskatchewan

For quite some time now, northern Saskatchewan has been the scene of controversy concerning uranium mining. First Nations, Metis and municipal organizations are all concerned about the sharing of royalties and the effect that mining is having on the environment, in the north.

In 1991, a joint federal/provincial panel was established to review the effects of five proposed mines in northern Saskatchewan. In 1993, the panel made a number of recommendations to the provincial government. Sharing the royalties from uranium mining was one of the recommendations made.


However, the provincial government rejected this recommendation, claiming that it was proceeding with training and health care initiatives in lieu of the royalty-sharing.

In the three years since that time, very little has changed. In an attempt to demonstrate the flaws in the system, John Dantouze, Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) Vice-Chief and the only Aboriginal member of the panel, resigned his position on October 1, 1996. His resignation was provoked by the lack of attention given to the panel's recommendations by the federal and provincial governments and by deficiencies in

the Environmental Impact Assessments from the mining companies.

Since Dantouze's resignation, the northern municipalities of La Loche, Sandy Bay, Stony Rapids and Beauval have demonstrated a display of solidarity and joined with three Dene First Nations in cancelling their participation in panel discussions. The northern communities are requesting an audience with the federal and provincial governments to express their concerns and come to a joint resolution on uranium mining.

PAGC Grand Chief Alphonse Bird states that they want to see a bilateral agreement or Memorandum of Understanding with the province. Bird equates the situation with that of potash mining in southern Saskatchewan. "We have a share in the natural resources," he says. He sees no reason why revenue-sharing on that scale would not work for the northern communities.

However, the governments are refusing to come to the table until the panel process has been completed. Until then, northern communities may have no other choice but to settle for the status quo. 



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Partnership on First Nations Curriculum

On July 22, 1996, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Chief Blaine Favel and Provincial Minister of Education Pat Atkinson announced a partnership to develop new curriculum with significant First Nations content and to begin introducing it in provincial schools.

Chief Favel and Minister Atkinson have discussed issues relating to education, in particular the absence of First Nations involvement in curriculum development. Both leaders have expressed their concern over deficiencies in the current Saskatchewan K-12 curriculum. They decided that a concerted and immediate effort had to be made to address the issue.

The FSIN Office of Education will work with Saskatchewan Education to ensure that the K-12 provincial curriculum contains accurate information and input from First Nations educators. This involvement will contribute to curbing the existence of what Minister Atkinson calls "systematic racism".

Chief Favel stated, "The curriculum development partnership is designed to correct the historical record as it pertains to First Nations people in Saskatchewan and, the outcome of this initiative should foster greater social harmony in the province."


Changing demographics in Saskatchewan have necessitated changes to the provincial curriculum. The increase in the First Nations population must be reflected in educational

reform. In addition, better understanding of First Nations people in the province is required because they represent a key component in the future labour force.

In the end, First Nations children, both in band-controlled schools and in the public system, will learn their history as part of the regular curriculum. As well, non-Aboriginal students will, for the first time, learn

about First Nations history, culture, traditions and the significant contributions made by First Nations people to both the province and the country.

"The curriculum development partnership is designed to correct the historical record as it pertains to First Nations people in Saskatchewan..."

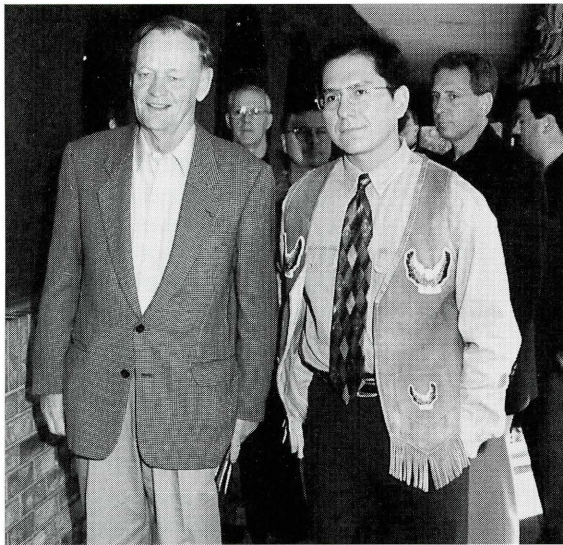
The final draft of the contractual agreement was completed in June 1996. Writers are currently reviewing the Saskatchewan Education curriculum policies with the assistance of a Curriculum Committee made up of members from both Saskatchewan Education and the FSIN Office of Education. Regular meetings are planned to identify solutions for educational issues affecting First Nations students. 



Chief Blaine C. Favel; Pat Atkinson, Minister of Education discussing curriculum development partnership.

Photo by Sean St. George

Prime Minister Chretien Welcomed by FSIN Chiefs



Prime Minister Chretien and Chief Favel

On August 18, 1996, Prime Minister Jean Chretien made an appearance at the Prince Albert Inn to meet with Chiefs of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) in honour of the FSIN's 50th Anniversary.

Fred Starblanket, Speaker of the FSIN Legislative Assembly, made opening comments and Senator Hilliard Ermine offered a prayer. Chretien was escorted into the room by FSIN Chief Blaine Favel, Prince Albert Grand Council Grand Chief Alphonse Bird, drummer and singer Jerry Fineday and Winston WalkingBear.


Chretien congratulated the FSIN on its 50th Anniversary and expressed his pleasure at meeting with the Chiefs. He went on to say that, being French, he understands the importance of preserving language and culture.

The Prime Minister commended the FSIN on the work it is doing to protect and promote First Nations language, heritage and culture. He also stated that one of the reasons for his visit was to make note of the initiatives and cooperation between the FSIN and the federal government.

Following his speech, the Chiefs had the opportunity to meet and speak with the

Prime Minister. Many of them gave the Prime Minister gifts reflecting their heritage.

In completing the visit, Chief Favel, on behalf of the FSIN, presented the Prime Minister with a smoke-tanned jacket with CHRETIEN and Canadian flags beaded on the back.

While the reception remained free of political agendas, Chief Favel, Grand Chief Bird and the Prime Minister met to discuss several key issues in private talks preceding the reception. Described by Chief Favel as straightforward in nature, the talks covered the renewal of the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, regional health budget disparities, FSIN justice initiatives, First Nations housing issues, FSIN banking initiatives and the unresolved Dene claims in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. 



Jacket presentation

Lebret Eagles Begin Fourth Season in SJHL

The success of the Lebret Eagles began when they made it to the playoffs in their first season in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League (SJHL). In their second year, they outdid the previous record, advancing to the second round of the playoffs. Last year, the team finished first in the league but was defeated in the sixth of seven games in the semi-finals.

Eagles President Noel Starblanket says this year will be even better. "In the four years, this is the best talent we've seen."

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Eagles President Noel Starblanket says this year will be even better. "In the four years, this is the best talent we've seen."

Starblanket and two of his friends, Morley Watson and Vern Bellegarde, started the team in 1992. Starblanket says that they had been travelling around the province the year before supporting other hockey teams when they began to notice "a sprinkling of native hockey players in the league." They reasoned that if Aboriginal hockey players could attain Junior 'A' hockey excellence, then putting them together on a single team would give Aboriginal people something to be proud of.


In their first year, the Eagles had players from across Canada and North America. First

Nations, Metis and Inuit hockey players have all been features of the Eagles. This trend to multiculturalism has continued, and the team now has players from Sweden and Russia as well.

Because the age requirement is 16-20 years, many of the players attend classes at White Calf Collegiate. Starblanket says the situation is ideal because of its proximity to the arena, The Eagledome. However, he stresses that while hockey is important, education does come first. Players must have good grades to go along with their talent. This appears to be the case since between seven and eight Eagle players have received full scholarships to play hockey in the United States.

Starblanket and the Eagles also believe in giving back to the community. "We believe that the success of the program comes from us getting involved in the community and the community getting involved with us." The players visit schools and talk to the youths about a variety of topics including drug and alcohol abuse and how to achieve excellence.

All of the community programs are encouraged by Director of Hockey Operations and Eagles Head Coach Doug Hedley. Hedley, whose background is in education, knows how to relate to youth and motivates the players to achieve their full potential.

The Lebret Eagles are already off to a great start this season. Fans can catch their games in person at the Eagledome, on the local Yorkton radio station or via satellite with TV Northern Canada. 



Back Row: Coach Doug Hedley, Jason Bird, John Hewitt, Shane Campbell, Franz Arildsson, Bill Cameron, Tobias Svensson, Tom Johnston, Mike Moran, Assist. Coach Don Chesney. Middle Row: Cory Bast, Earl Keewatin, Christian Schroder, Davy Caldwell, Jerry Cunningham, Brian Tucker, Robert Cardinal, Morris Elderkin, Vinny Jonasson. Front Row: Jarrod Bull, Aaron Sparvier, Jeff Peddigrew, Shane Watson, Charles Keshane, Scotty Lewis, Adam Piri.

Regina's Landmark Inn Owned and Operated by Ochapowace

The Ochapowace First Nation surveyed the Band membership fairly recently to determine the direction that their economic development should be taking. What the Chief and Council discovered was that a large number of their urban Band members in Regina were interested in pursuing careers related to the hotel industry, including cooking, restaurant work and housemaid positions.

According to Dennis Bear, the Landmark Inn's Co-Manager and Human Resources Coordinator, they considered their options and when the Landmark Inn became available in Regina, the Ochapowace First Nation "took a shot at it." They became the official owners in May of 1996 and retained the existing staff.


Since becoming hoteliers, the Ochapowace First Nation has begun renovating the facility. Bear reports that the first order of business was to repair the roof at a cost of \$100,000. They are currently upgrading the guests' rooms and the banquet and meeting rooms. In addition, they are working on the general appearance of the exterior.

The Landmark Inn features 186 rooms, a whirlpool, sauna, waterslide and pool, conference rooms, a shuttle service for guests and banquet and catering facilities. There are a number of peripheral businesses located in the hotel including Checkers, a popular nightclub, the Wheat Sheaf restaurant, Shades Hair Design and the Digital Print Centre.



Bear says that after acquiring possession of the business, "We realized that the hospitality industry is basically customer service and the people must be trained before they are put in those demanding positions." As a result, the Ochapowace First Nation Human Resource Corporation and the Landmark Inn have entered into a partnership with a number of agencies and organizations to offer Aboriginal people training in the hospitality industry.

There are currently 50 people receiving training at the Landmark Inn with respect to the hospitality industry and personal development. Upon completion of the program, 40 of these trainees will become employed with the Landmark Inn. The remaining ten will begin work in other establishments.

The Landmark Inn is located at 4150 Albert Street in Regina. They offer sports packages and special rates for First Nations customers. For reservations, call 1-800-667-9811. 

Regina's Rainbow Youth Centre




Rainbow's Peer Helper Aids Awareness Group.

The Regina Rainbow Youth Centre's Peer Helper AIDS Awareness Project has been selected as one of five Canadian entries in the 1996 Royal Commonwealth Youth Service Award Competition and the only one from Western Canada.

The project description has been sent to London, England to compete with finalists from the 52 other countries. The winner of the competition receives a grant of 1,000 pounds sterling (\$2,000 Canadian).

The peer helpers were also invited to Ottawa to present their project at the Laurier Youth Forum, part of this year's Canada Day activities. The audience included the 1996 recipients of the Order of Canada. Co-ordinator Keitha Kennedy and three members of the group made the trip to Ottawa courtesy of event-sponsors, Heritage Canada.

The on-going program has trained youth in peer-helping and assertiveness skills, as well as increased their knowledge of problems related to HIV/AIDS, suicide and racism. Program participants have done substantial community outreach, and have been presenters at conferences in San Diego, California as well as various communities in Saskatchewan. 

Citizen of the Year Nominations

The Citizen of the Year Award acknowledges the efforts and accomplishments of First Nations people in Saskatchewan and recognizes their strengths as individuals, their contribution to the well-being of others and their distinguished service to the community.

The candidate must be a member of a First Nation signatory to the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations convention. He or she must also have made significant contributions at the community, provincial, national or international level and demonstrated outstanding achievement in times of adversity.


To nominate a Citizen of the Year:

- State the nominee's name, address and phone number
- State the nominator's name, address and phone number
- Briefly describe the nominee's life history from childhood to present, including places of residence, schooling and family

- Describe the nominee's formal education
- List the nominee's accomplishments in his or her profession
- List the nominee's civic involvements and interests such as clubs, associations or volunteer organizations
- State the nominee's personal accomplishments and interests
- Give other pertinent information such as awards, publications or newspaper articles

Forward the nominations to

Mr. Rick Gamble
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
Suite 200-103A Packham Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4K4

All nominations must be in writing.
The deadline for nominations is Monday, January 6, 1996. 

S.I.V.A. Attempting to Locate First Nations Veterans

The Saskatchewan Indian Veterans Association (SIVA) is working to gain recognition for the many First Nations youth who fought in various wars throughout the past century. Because there appears to be very few records that clearly demonstrate First Nations involvement in international conflicts, SIVA is attempting to establish its own records.

SIVA Grand Chief Howard Anderson believes that there are many First Nations veterans who remain unaccounted for and who are not receiving benefits they deserve. These veterans are encouraged to contact SIVA to establish their entitlements.

INTERVIEW WITH GRAND CHIEF HOWARD ANDERSON

How many veterans belong to SIVA?

"That's a real problem, we are trying to figure that out right now. We have contacted all the reserves but have not received responses from all of them. We know there are many veterans out there who have been missed. I have a feeling most of them don't know who all the veterans are. I want to begin calling to see if we can locate everyone."

What is the structure of SIVA?

"SIVA has a Grand Chief and area presidents and vice-presidents. The province is divided into three areas. There is a president and vice-president of each area. The three areas are the South, the North Battleford area and the Prince Albert and Saskatoon area. I am currently working out of Regina."

In which wars and conflicts have the veterans been involved in?

"From the turn of the century, the Boer War in South Africa, through WWI and II and Korea. We have some Vietnam veterans and Canadian Forces Peacekeepers. We have some members who took part in Desert Storm just a few years ago."



S.I.V.A. Grand Chief Howard Anderson

What do you see as the important issues facing SIVA over the next year?

"Getting more recognition by the federal government, mostly Indian Affairs. We need to insist on more being done for the veterans. I would like to see the formal recognition of all Native veterans."

Do you feel that SIVA has been given enough support and recognition within the FSIN?

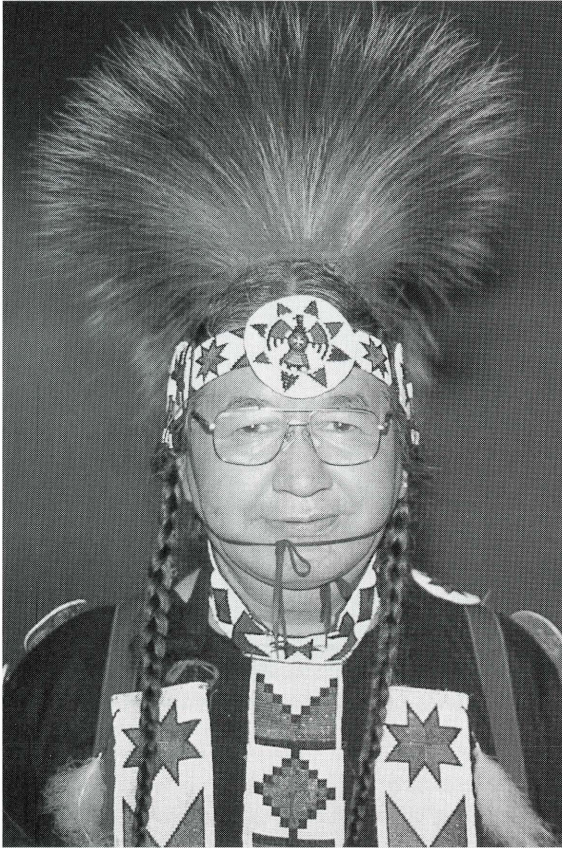
"Oh yes, they have been supportive and continue to support our efforts. When we ask for help they make every effort to assist us. For example, when we needed a lawyer for some work, the Chief made one available right away."

What would you like to accomplish as Grand Chief of SIVA?

"I want to establish a more regular schedule of meetings. We don't have the money to meet as often as we would like to, but, with the support of FSIN we will look at ways that we can meet more often and strengthen the organization. We will keep working towards formal recognition and the betterment of the veterans and fair compensation for their contributions to the country."



Artist Allen Sapp



Allen Sapp, a member of the Red Pheasant First Nation, demonstrated a talent for painting at an early age. He grew up with his grandmother who always encouraged him to continue his painting. She believed that one day he would become a fine artist.

Despite discouragement from some people who felt that he was wasting his time, Sapp has gone on to become just that. Today, the 67-year old is internationally acclaimed for his paintings.

Unlike many other First Nation artists who prescribe to symbolism in their artwork, Sapp uses a realistic style that depicts a traditional way of life on the prairies. He draws on his own memories from early childhood to create his art. His paintings demonstrate his love for life, family and his people.

These feelings are apparent in the painting featured on the cover of this issue of Saskatchewan Indian, entitled "Playing

Hockey at Sundown." After supper and when the sun was going down was a good time to play outside. A little bit of ice behind the house would be all that was needed for a few children to play hockey.

In another of his paintings, "Lots of Wood for Everyone", Sapp recalls an earlier time, before he was a full-time artist, when he gathered wood to sell. He describes the feeling of cutting down poplar trees and gathering them together. He explains how to feather them to start a fire and the smell of the logs once they are burning.

In an era of technology and changing times, Sapp strives to capture and preserve these forgotten scenes of Saskatchewan First Nations heritage for generations to come. He says that he values the past and wants to share it with others. His ability to recall early memories and his attention to detail combine to create the vivid imagery of his paintings.

His talent and dedication to his work have brought him many honours. Allen Sapp has received the Saskatchewan Award of Merit and the Saskatchewan Arts Board's Lifetime Award for Excellence in the Arts. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada and a Member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts.

Allen Sapp was honoured by First Nations people in August 1996 at the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Legislative Assembly for his recent induction into the Saskatchewan Art Hall of Fame. Saskatchewan's Chiefs formally recognized Sapp's contributions and achievements.


Sapp believes that his success comes from hard work, perseverance and respect for who he is and where he came from. He continues to contribute to his community and culture. Sapp is a traditional dancer and takes pride in remaining active in Pow wows.

The artwork of Allen Sapp is available in galleries throughout Canada and in two books he has published entitled *Two Spirits Soar* and *I Heard the Drums*.



FSIN 50TH ANNIVERSARY POWWOW





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