

s a s k a t c h e w a n

INDIAN

Summer 2004



**Circle of Honour
and 2004 Graduates**

Lisa Ewack

Gathering Our Artists

**The National Aboriginal
Hockey Championships**

PLUS MORE...

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40008626



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Happy Powwow season and welcome to summer!! It makes me happy every time I drive home to the reserve and get to see summer in full bloom!

This edition has a number of articles and I hope that you will enjoy the magazine. A number of events and issues have happened since the last edition and we have done our best to make sure we include events in and around Saskatchewan and at each community level. In order to include your community events, we encourage our readers to send in stories about their community, family friends and events or issues affecting First Nation people.

I know the North was busy in the month of April after holding another successful Saskatchewan First Nation Winter Games. The event was a success and a true demonstration of

partnership as Shoal Lake Cree Nation, Red Earth First Nation and Cumberland House Cree Nation in conjunction with the towns of Carrot River, Nipawin and White Fox all worked together to put on some fantastic games!

In other communities, the FSIN hosted a Youth Assembly in May and there was an excellent turnout by the youth, represented from each First Nation. As well, the Circle of Honour Awards were presented in June in Yorkton and it was a wonderful evening full of laughter and fun. This is truly a time to recognize those people who have made achievements and dedicated their lives to or for First Nations.

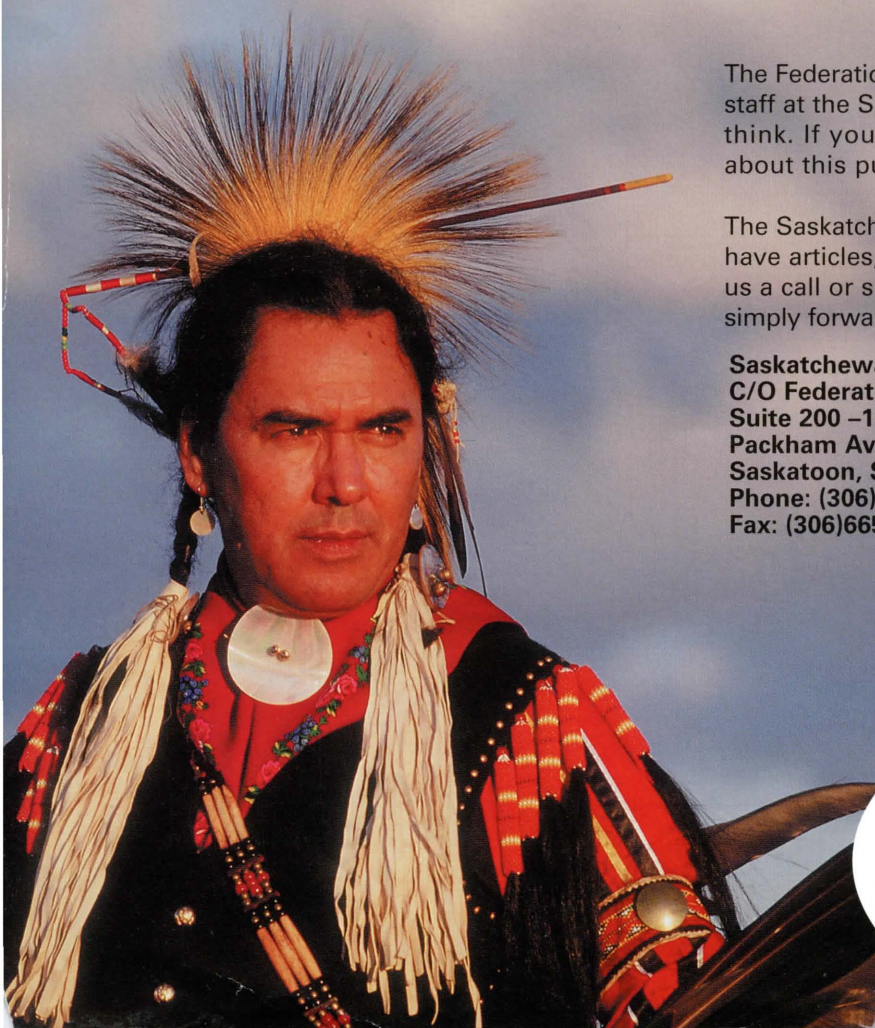
With summer comes graduation season, so included in the magazine is a partial list of post secondary graduates. An inclusive list is near

impossible, therefore if there are names you would like mentioned please forward them. We wish to acknowledge those students graduating from kindergarten and grade twelve and good luck to all those students continuing on in their education. Good luck to all.

Thank you to all those who have contributed and assisted with editing. We also welcome any comments on our previous issues.

Thank you and stay safe on the Powwow Trail!

Bonnie Leask
Managing Editor



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 200 -103 A
Packham Avenue
Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 4K4
Phone: (306)665-1215
Fax: (306)665-0115**

WE VALUE
YOUR
OPINION!



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.

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Saskatchewan Indian
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
Suite #200 – 103A Packham Ave
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4K4
Tel: (306) 665-1215
Fax: (306) 665-0115

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Email: bonnie.leask@fsin.com

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Bonnie Leask, Managing Editor, FSIN (306) 956-1014,
email: bonnie.leask@fsin.com

Layout and Design: Natasha Pidhaychuk

Contributors: Bonnie Leask, Shirley G. MacDonald,
Lorraine Delorme, Patricia Schuster, Murray Long, Martin
Paul, Melissa Cote, Paula Acoose, Mrytle Morin, Terrina
Bellegarde, J.J. Johnston, Bev Lafond, Bobby Kayseas,
Kevin Roberts, Carla Nokusis, Tricia Watson.

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INDIAN OUTLOOK

Saskatchewan's First Nations Calendar of Events

July 17 - 18, 2004

Chariot & Chuckwagon Races 1st Annual Demolition Derby

Mistawasis First Nation, SK
Les 'Chip' Pechawis
(306) 466 - 4800 / 4420 / 7654
Lester (306) 466 - 4800 / 4421 / 747 - 7941
Norma (306) 466 - 2235 / 4800
Jean or Carl (306) 466 - 2127 / 4800

July 17 & 18, 2004

(Entries open July 12; 5-10pm)

Prairie Indian Rodeo Association 2 - 1 Day Rodeos

Muskowekwan First Nation
Lestock, SK
Central Entry Number
(306) 696 - 3540
Prairie Indian Rodeo Association
Sonya Taypotat
(306) 696 - 3540

July 20 - 22, 2004

AFN 25th Annual General Assembly

Charlottetown Civic Centre
45 Kensington Road
Charlottetown, PEI
Assembly of First Nations
(613) 241 - 6789

July 20 - 22, 2004

AFN Circle of Trade

Charlottetown Civic Centre
Charlottetown, PEI
Myrna Korbutiak
(204) 372 - 8848 / 8842 or
mkorb@mts.net

July 24 & 25, 2004

Ahtahkakoop Wellness Sports Day & Rodeo

Ahtahkakoop First Nation, SK
Rodeo - Algin (306) 468 - 2747
Co-ed Slowpitch -Tommy
(306) 468-2660 / 2701
Mens Soccer - Stanley
(306) 468-2898/2326
Womens Soccer - Lisa/Shelly
(306) 468-2326
10 & under Soccer - Warren
(306) 468-2326 / 2328
3 on 3 Basketball (Co-Ed) - Rhody
(306) 468-2747

July 25, 2004 10:00 am

Greg Gardipy Memorial Run - 10 km

Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation, SK
(8km west of Duck Lake on Highway #212)
Lianne Gamble
(306) 467-2444 (h) 467-2263 (w) or
Norma Antoine
(306) 467-2318 (h)

July 29, 2004 10:00 am

Shot gun Start Mistawasis Fundraising Golf Tournament for Youth, Minor Sports, and Recreation

Entry fee \$640/team includes all
specialties
Dakota Dunes Golf Links
Whitecap Dakota First Nation
Les 'Chip' Pechawis
(306) 466 - 4800 / 4420 / 7654
Lester (306) 466-4800 / 4421 / 747-7941

Aug. 2004

Prairie Indian Rodeo Association 3 - 1 Day Rodeos

Chief Kahkewistahaw Celebrations
Broadview, SK
Central Entry Number
(306) 696-3540
Prairie Indian Rodeo Association
Sonya Taypotat
(306) 696-3540

Aug. 2004

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businesses. Training solutions for MS
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Outlook, etc.
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ViaTech Solutions
(306) 956-0333 / 6133
Sylvia Gopher
sgopher@viatechsolutions.ca

Aug. 1 & 2, 2004

(Entries open July 26, 5-10pm) Prairie Indian Rodeo Association 2 - 1 Day Rodeos

Gordon's First Nation
Punnichy, SK
Central Entry Number
(306) 696-3540
Prairie Indian Rodeo Association
Sonya Taypotat
(306) 696-3540

Aug. 3 - 5, 2004

"Moving Beyond" National Residential School Gathering

George Gordon First Nation
Punnichy, SK
For more information :
(306) 987-0169 or
movingbeyond@netscape.net

Aug. 7 & 8, 2004

Muskoday First Nation Annual Traditional Pow-wow "Honoring Our Grandmothers"

Veterans' Memorial Park
Muskoday First Nation, SK
Margaret Bear
(306) 763-2753

Aug. 14 - 15, 2004

One Arrow Co-Ed Slo-Pitch Tournament

Rosthern Centennial Park, Highway #11
Rosthern, SK
Larry Daniels
(306) 227-4721

Aug. 21 - 22, 2004
One Arrow Rodeo

One Arrow First Nation, SK
Mervin Thomas
(306) 233-4430

Aug. 21-22, 2004
Treaty 2 Cultural Celebration
"Remembering and Preserving
Our Past"

Birds Hill Park - Group use 2, site 5 & 6
30kms North East of Winnipeg off
Highway 59
Dugald, MB
For more Information :
Rose Marsden
(204) 936-2627

Aug. 24 & 25, 2004
F.S.I.N. Treaty Governance
Exploratory Treaty Table

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

Aug. 28 & 29, 2004
(Entries open Aug 23, 5-10pm)
Prairie Indian Rodeo Association
2 - 1 Day Rodeos

LaPlante Ranch Rodeo & Hoop Dancer
Invitational Basketball Tournament
Moosomin First Nation, SK
Central Entry Number
(306) 696-3540
Prairie Indian Rodeo Association
Sonya Taypotat
(306) 696-3540

Sept. 2004
Prairie Indian Rodeo Association
3 - 1 Day Rodeos

PIRA Regional Finals Rodeo
Location: TBA
Central Entry Number
(306) 696-3540
Prairie Indian Rodeo Association
Sonya Taypotat
(306) 696-3540

Sept. 2004
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(306) 956-0333 / 6133
Sylvia Gopher
sgopher@viatechsolutions.ca

Sept. 21 - 23, 2004
"Our Homes...Our Future" a Prairie
First Nations Housing Symposium

Travelodge Hotel
Saskatoon, SK
For more information:
(306) 651-3118 or
eofd@sasktel

Sept. 27 - 29, 2004
Aboriginal Literacy Gathering

Echo Valley Conference Center
Fort San, SK
SK Aboriginal Literacy Network
(306) 934-2632

Sept. 28 & 29, 2004
F.S.I.N. Treaty Governance
Exploratory Treaty Table

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

Oct. 2004
Microsoft Certified Systems
Administrator (MCSA) Training
Program

Suite 112 - 335 Packham Ave
Saskatoon, SK
ViaTech Solutions
(306) 956-0333 / 6133
Sylvia Gopher
sgopher@viatechsolutions.ca

Oct. 2004
Customized Computer Training

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Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, and
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ViaTech Solutions
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Sylvia Gopher
sgopher@viatechsolutions.ca

INDIAN OUTLOOK

Saskatchewan's First Nations
Calendar of Events

Oct. 14 & 15, 2004
F.S.I.N. Cultural Celebration

Location: TBA
Shirley Greyeyes MacDonald
(306) 956-1034

Oct. 16 & 17, 2004
F.S.I.N. Pow-wow

Location: TBA
Saskatoon, SK
Shirley Greyeyes MacDonald
(306) 956-1034

Oct. 19 - 21, 2004
Chiefs Winter Legislative
Assembly

Location : Swift Current
Legislative Assembly Office
(306) 665-1215

Oct. 21 - 23, 2004
5th Annual National Aboriginal
Women in Leadership Training
Conference

Radisson Hotel Burnaby
Vancouver, BC
First Nations Training & Consulting
Services
(250) 652 - 7097

Oct. 27 - 28, 2004
Journey into Tomorrow Conference

Location : TBA
Peggy Rubillard
(306) 956 - 1018

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

Summering at the FSIN

Article & Photo by Murray Long

*Tumble outta bed
And stumble to the kitchen
Pour myself a cup of ambition
Yawnin' and stretchin'
and try to come to life*

*Jump in the shower
And the blood starts pumpin'
Out on the streets the traffic starts jumpin'
With folks like me on the job from 9 to 5
(Well 8:30 to 5:00 actually...)*

OR:

*Woke up, fell out of bed
Dragged a comb across my head
Found my way downstairs and drank a cup,
And looking up I noticed I was late.
Found my coat and grabbed my hat
Made the bus in seconds flat...*

To get a better idea of their day-to-day working life, Saskatchewan Indian asked the students what they like most and least about working at the FSIN. Here are some of their responses:

Like Most:

- "working in a friendly environment with a great staff"
- "the chance to work with Elders"
- "finding new sources of information" (also helps with future school work)
- "exposure to the First Nations political system"

Like Least:

- "the Saskatoon office's air conditioning" (OK, so it's definitely not a sweat shop)
- "not having your own scissors" (Editors note: It is FSIN policy to not provide regular scissors to summer students. Safety scissors may be provided but only with close supervision)
- "coming straight to work from the pow-wow on Monday morning"

Yes, it can be tough: moving from the school life to the "cool life" of working at the FSIN as a summer student. Especially, having the willpower to get up early every morning. But, no doubt, being paid for it helps.

So, just what is it like working at the FSIN over the summer months? Is it all fun and games, or is it a sweatshop for summer students? Saskatchewan Indian decided to go straight to the source and see what our summer students had to say.

This summer, 16 students have joined the FSIN offices in Saskatoon, Regina and Fort Qu'appelle to help on a number of different projects. They come from schools such as the First Nations University of Canada, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology, Athabasca University and the University of Saskatchewan. They are pursuing degrees in the areas of Law, Business, Education, Psychology, Drug Abuse Counseling, Social Work, and Indigenous Studies.

Students have been assigned to each of the FSIN's five executive portfolios. Most of their funding comes out of the FSIN's core and project-related budgets. A few students are also supported by Human Resource Development Canada's summer student wage program. What do they make for wages? Well, you'd have to ask them yourself; but like all of us, they'd probably say "not enough".

These young women and men are taking the opportunity at the FSIN to get involved in a number of projects that give them great experiences that will help advance

their careers. At the same time, they help out the Chief, Vice-Chiefs and their staff, and certainly add to the enthusiasm in the office. Their projects include:

- FSIN Youth Legislative Assembly (May 2004)
- Agricultural bursary development
- Working with Elders on documenting and confirming oral history
- Briefs on significant court rulings
- First Nations tree planting pilot project
- Firearms legislation (Bill C-68)
- Support to First Nations Addiction and Rehabilitation Fund (FNARF)
- Residential School files
- Organizing and hosting a delegation of Maori from New Zealand

Of course, along with these important projects, every summer student needs to pay their dues as the "office gopher". They have an intimate relationship with the photocopier, learn proper phone reception techniques, and practice their "a-b-c's" in doing office filing.

So, all in all, it looks like most of our students are getting past the early mornings and cold offices and having a great time so far this summer. The FSIN Executive and all of the staff wish all the best to our summer students in their future studies. And, we hope that some of you might consider coming back to make the FSIN part of your career. And, yes, we promise you your own scissors. ✂



FSIN's Summer Students: Waverly Wahobin, Evan Taypotat, Lionel Kayseas, Lori Worme, Stacey Lerat, Sylvia McAdam, Deanna Ledoux, Roxanne Nighthtraveller,

Missing: Jason Agecoutay, Joseph Atimoyoo, Darcy Coulineur, Tessa Desnomie, Leeanne Fiddler, Myrtle Morin, Donna Quewezance, Kim Stonechild, Yvonne Wolverine

United Nations Greet a New Kind of Warrior

by Martin Paul

"Every person is born to be a warrior, to safeguard the people, to protect the territory and to provide the necessities of life." Elder - Kahn-Tineta Horn, Grandmother, Mother - Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake

There are Corporate Warriors, Political Warriors, Justice Warriors, Eco-Warriors, Urban Warriors and Word Warriors to name a few. The United Nations has recently welcomed the latest addition to the society of warriors – Data Warriors.

These warriors have assumed the duty of protecting First Nations' information and they are changing the way research is done in First Nations communities. The First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey (RHS) has been the catalyst for that change.

In the past, First Nations involvement in research was primarily to be studied. Researchers would enter a community with a pre-conceived agenda, collect the information to meet the agenda and then leave with the community's information. Frequently, the community would never receive the results of the research or it would be irrelevant to the community's needs. The studies that did collect information relevant to First Nations needs specifically excluded First Nations communities. This left First Nations mistrustful and frustrated with research projects.

In 1995, planning for a First Nations community based survey began with funding from the Medical Services Branch of Health Canada (now the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch). Each regional First Nations political organization contributed to the development of the survey. By 1997, First Nations were out in their communities collecting data for the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey. This was the first national survey under the complete ownership and control of First Nations. More importantly, it produced timely, accurate and relevant information to be used in planning, policy development and advocacy – a necessity as we move towards self-government.

The RHS is mandated to carry out the survey every four years; however, funding will dictate when the fieldwork can be performed. The second wave of the survey was conducted in 2002/2003 and the statistical reports will be finalized this summer. The survey questions were designed to determine the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of First Nations. The topics cover much more than just health and include:

- Basic Demographics
- Language and Education
- Employment and Income

- Housing
- Community Development
- Diabetes and Medical Conditions
- Physical Injuries
- Dental Care
- Food and Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Disability and Limitation
- Health Services
- Community Wellness
- Traditional Culture
- Tobacco
- Alcohol and Drugs
- Gender Based Health Issues
- Personal Wellness and Mental Health
- Residential Schools and
- Lifestyles

Over 60 interviewers and 10 interviewer managers were trained and employed for the data collection stage of the RHS in Saskatchewan with one regional project manager overseeing the survey. The RHS has come a long way since the first wave in 1997. The questionnaire has improved; capacity building activities have increased; most of the technical tasks are accomplished "in house"; the survey was administered entirely on laptops and Saskatchewan First Nations increased their collective sample size from approximately 1000 to 5455 surveys. The Saskatoon Tribal Council went even further and managed to survey every household within their communities by contributing some of their own resources to the survey.

The success of the survey is largely attributed to the principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP). These principles articulate that First Nations communities own and control their collective data, that they must have access to their data and that they are the stewards of their data. Brian Schnarch, researcher for the RHS, describes the principles as "self-determination applied to research."

The United Nations (UN) has identified data collection as an urgent priority. The UN Economic and Social Council invited three representatives of the RHS, Ceal Tournier, Valerie Gideon and Jane Gray, to take part in a workshop on Data Collection and Disaggregation for Indigenous Peoples held January 19-21, 2004. The overwhelming response to the RHS presentation led to another invitation for the RHS team - this time to present a 2 hour workshop at the Third Session of the UN Permanent Forum on

Indigenous Issues in New York on May 18, 2004.

The panel of presenters were Chief Shirley Clarke, Glooscap First Nation; Ceal Tournier, Saskatoon Tribal Council; Martin Paul, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations; and, Jane Gray and Brian Schnarch, First Nations Centre at the National Aboriginal Health Organization.

The presentation provided an overview of the RHS process with each presenter relaying their experience and the role in the RHS. Although the presentation itself was not well attended due to a lack of promotion, delegates gathered in the halls where RHS materials and promotional items were distributed. The materials were provided in English, French and Spanish and the promotional items were imprinted with the RHS logo and "Data Warrior". All items were gone in less than 15 minutes. There was tremendous interest in the RHS as a best practices model. The RHS has broken new ground for indigenous peoples of the world.

With the infrastructure and the process established to date, the opportunities for the RHS are numerous. A national survey measuring community knowledge of the West Nile Virus was handled by the RHS team in record time. There is a potential for many more spinoff surveys and with each survey, more First Nations researchers can be created. If the communities approve it and with the right data sharing protocols, the RHS could feed into the "report card" that Prime Minister Paul Martin stated would measure the Federal Government's progress in solving First Nations issues.

Through the RHS, First Nations have proven that Indigenous peoples can perform research that meets the information needs of the community while meeting established scientific methodological standards and it is gaining international attention.

For More information contact Martin Paul at 306-956-6924, email: martin.paul@fsin.com or visit the RHS website at www.naho.ca/fnc/rhs

CIRCLE OF HONOUR



The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations hosted its 6th Annual Saskatchewan First Nations Circle of Honour Awards on June 8, 2004 in Yorkton. The gala evening was held in conjunction with the Spring Legislative Chiefs Assembly also held in Yorkton. The Circle of Honour Awards recognize First Nations people who have demonstrated tremendous achievements, discipline, vision and excellence.

The awards ceremony was held at the Anne Portnuff Theatre at the Yorkton Regional High School. Darren Okemaysim, a professor at the First Nations University of Canada served as the evenings Master of Ceremonies and ensured all in attendance were in a welcome environment. Throughout the evening there were music performances by Rory Allen, Terri Anne Strongarm and Coty Roulette. Especially entertaining was Rory Allen, an Elvis impersonator who made certain there were a number of belly laughs from the crowd.

Credit must be given to the Circle of Honours Awards Committee and Coordinators Lorraine Delorme and Jeannie Pewapisconias, for another successful, entertaining evening honouring First Nation people for their achievements and contributions.

The following is a list of the nomination categories and the recipients. In the Education and Training area the categories were: Academic/Scholastic Achievement – Male and Female, Teacher / Instructor / Para-Professionals / Support, Staff / Administrator and Post-Secondary.

Myles Little, Ahtahkakoop First Nation – Academic/Scholastic Achievement – Male Myles is 14 years old and currently enrolled in Grade Eight at the Ahtahkakoop School. Myles is an honour student and maintains a 100% attendance record. Myles has also demonstrated exceptional skills in hockey and was named Assistant Captain of his bantam hockey team. He is environmentally conscious and participates in school and community clean ups.



Myles Little

Desiree Haineault, Clearwater River Dene Nation – Academic/Scholastic Achievement – Female Desiree is 16 years old and a Grade Eleven student at the Clearwater River Dene School. She is an "A" student, maintaining a 94% average and an impeccable attendance record. Desiree is fluent in Dene and has learned many aspects of her culture including trapping, fishing and square dancing. Desiree has won numerous awards including the Ruby Haineault Award for work effort and the Lieutenant Governor's Award of Excellence. She plans to pursue a career in Engineering, Business or Marketing.



Desiree Haineault

Lena Young, Shoal Lake Cree Nation – Teacher/Instructor/Para-Professionals Lena Young is the Grade Ten high school teacher at Wacihk Education Complex located on Shoal Lake Cree Nation. She has been a teacher for 17 years and has taught every grade from Grade One to Junior High. With a family of eight children, she went back to University to successfully obtain her Education degree. Lena lends her support through volunteering with the Prince Albert Grand Council Fine Arts Festival, the Wacihk graduation committee and the cultural activities weekend and student volunteer program. Lena is well respected in the community and has been a role model to people for her dedication to education.



Lena Young

Melba Desjarlais, Fishing Lake First Nation - Support Staff/Administrator Melba is the Education Coordinator for Fishing Lake First Nation. With twenty years experience, Melba has shown her commitment, leadership and dedication to education. Melba is also a trustee on the Wadena Board of Education and has always focused on the well being of the whole child including the importance of First Nations culture. Melba's interest in and promotion of education has had a great effect on the decisions many family and community members have made to strive for a higher education.



Melba Desjarlais



Tony Sparvier

Tony Sparvier, Ochapowace First Nation – Post Secondary Tony is in his third year in the faculty of Engineering at the University of Regina. Tony graduated from Whitewood High School with a 94% average and has continued to maintain high marks in his post secondary endeavours. Tony is also involved with sports including hockey and fastball. He attended the Canadian Junior Fastball Championships as a member of the only First Nation team, as well he was on the winning team of the Western Canadian Junior B Hockey Championships for 2004. Tony is a well-respected member of his community and a role model for youth.



Beardy's Girls Hockey Team

The nominations for Sport, Culture, Youth and Recreation were in the categories of: Team, Athlete-Amateur, Coach, Founder/Builder, Volunteer, Youth Role Model and Art/Culture/Music.

Beardy's Girls Hockey Team – Sport, Culture, Youth & Recreation – Team

The Beardy's Girls Hockey Team is comprised of First Nation youth from Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation, Mistawasis First Nation, Whitecap Dakota Nation and Duck Lake. The team plays in the Saskatchewan Valley Minor Hockey League and has players under the age of 10 years old. Over the course of the last season, the team has seen major improvement. Each player established themselves in their positions and began to work together as a team. Many times the team has lost a game

by one or two goals but have never given up and always come back to learn more and make improvements. The Beardy's Girls Hockey Team provides valuable lessons in true sportsmanship.



Krista Mae Gardypie

Krista Mae Gardypie, Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation – Sport, Culture, Youth & Recreation

– Amateur Athlete Krista has been involved in sports for several years and has excelled in all sports but her passion and strength lie with soccer. Since 1996, Krista has been winning awards in sports including gold medals at the First Nation Summer Games and Winter Games and the Saskatoon Soccer League. Krista plays the position of centre forward and has been named top scorer on many occasions.



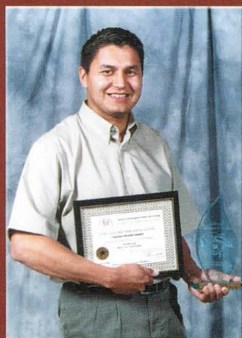
Walter Assoon

Walter Assoon, Kawacatoose First Nation – Sport, Culture, Youth & Recreation – Coach

Over the course of his life, Walter has always been involved with coaching in his community. He has and still does coach various school teams and community sports teams. He has a passion for planning various functions for youth that will help them become future leaders. To all the youth he helped nurture and coach, he is a role model. Walter maintains a healthy and traditional lifestyle.

Mel Mercredi, Black Lake First Nation – Sport, Culture, Youth & Recreation – Founder/Builder

Mel is currently the Director of Sport, Culture and Recreation at the Prince Albert Grand Council. He was the 2004 Saskatchewan First Nation Winter Games Manager with the Eastern Sector First Nations. Mel is a certified coach, faclitator, and swimming, basketball and volleyball official. Mel works hard to connect and work with youth and ensures inclusion of youth that reside in urban settings.



Mel Mercredi

Laurie Peyachew, Red Pheasant First Nation Health – Healing and Policy Initiative – Individual

Laurie is currently the Home Care Nursing Supervisor for the Battlefords Tribal Council Indian Health Services. Through her career in health care Laurie has served as a role model for success, dedication and love of the people she serves. Laurie's natural leadership skills allow her to lead and build the confidence and capacity in her colleagues. She currently oversees a team of 17 home care staff and is essential to the success and development of the BTC Home Care Program. (no picture available)

Melinda Whitecloud, Standing Buffalo First Nation – Sport, Culture, Youth & Recreation – Founder/Builder Melinda is the 2003 winner in this category and deserves Honourable Mention for her leadership and kindness to First Nation youth. Melinda is a teacher/First Nation Liaison Worker at Archbishop M.C. O’Neil High School. She created the Aboriginal Leadership Team at the high school, which was developed from an Aboriginal perspective, and in the beginning only had six members but has grown to over eighty. The program assists Aboriginal youth to develop skills for the future and increases their awareness on issues from within the Aboriginal community. She is not only a teacher but is considered a friend by many of her students.



Melinda Whitecloud

Brunella Whitehawk, Cote Saulteaux Nation – Sport, Culture, Youth & Recreation – Volunteer Brunella is active in coaching youth in various sporting events such as broomball, fastball, softball, baseball and hockey. She has natural coaching abilities and has often enrolled in training to ensure she is up to date on all new rules and techniques. Brunella has coached a provincial champion fastball team and a major hockey league novice champion team. Brunella is more than a coach, she sews team uniforms and participates as a driver and chaperone. She also teaches square dancing and does cooking for organizations to raise money for the children’s dancing shoes.



Brunella Whitehawk

Shannon Gatrell, Ochapowace First Nation – Sport, Culture, Youth & Recreation – Youth Role Model Shannon is currently enrolled at the Pacific University of Oregon, USA and is working towards her Doctor of Optometry. She has completed a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Chemistry. Shannon has received numerous awards to advance her studies including an Aboriginal health careers bursary and scholarship, Denny Scholarship and a Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists Award. Shannon has made the choice to live an alcohol and drug free lifestyle in order to make a clear path to her success.

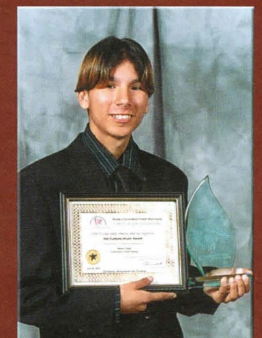


Mother Linda on behalf of Shannon Gatrell

James Sand, Cowessess First Nation – Sport, Culture, Youth & Recreation – Art/Culture/Music James is only 15 years old but has already shown an advanced talent in Art. He is very disciplined in his work and practices every day. James’ interest in drawing and art makes him an excellent role model for other students at the Cowessess Community Educational Centre.

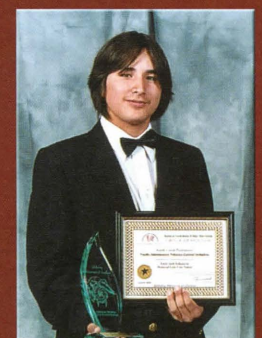
In the area of Health and Social Development, awards were given out in the categories of: Healing and Policy Initiative-Individual, Healing and Policy Initiative-Community, Youth/Adolescent Tobacco Control Initiative, Child/Youth Leadership, Adult Leadership and Elder Leadership.

Wahpeton Dakota Nation – Health – Healing and Policy Initiative – Community With support from Stephanie Bird, Health Director and Beverly Waditaka, Education Coordinator, the students and staff of Wahpeton School and members of the Wahpeton community have demonstrated exemplary efforts and commitment to the PAGC Health and Social Development Tobacco Control Initiative “Youth in the Know: Get the Facts – Make the Choice”. The students and staff displayed their knowledge about tobacco use in their school and community. The Wahpeton Dakota Nation deserves recognition in making their community a healthier place to live.



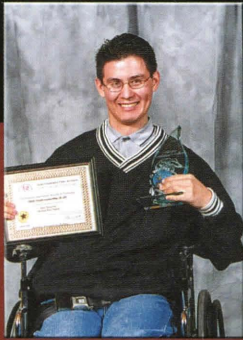
James Sand

Eddie Jack Ballantyne, Montreal Lake Cree Nation – Health – Youth/Adolescent Tobacco Control Initiative Eddie lives and attends school at Little Red. During the Prince Albert Grand Council youth tobacco workshops, “Youth in the Know: Get the Facts – Make the Choice”, Eddie demonstrated leadership, integrity and a professed personal commitment to abstaining from tobacco, drug and alcohol use. Eddie exemplifies strong character traits and personal commitment to a healthy lifestyle.



Eddie Jack Ballantyne

Chief Cameron Watson, Chacachas First Nation – Health – Youth/Adolescent Tobacco Control Chief Watson is the 2003 award winner in this category and deserves Honourable Mention. He is current spokesperson of Chacachas First Nation and former Chief of Ochapowace First Nation. Chief Watson has a strong interest in promoting First Nations youth issues, especially education



Dion Tawpism

and has encouraged First Nations youth to complete their education. Chief Watson developed and put forward a controversial resolution in February 2003 to ban smoking at all FSIN Legislative Assemblies and meetings. With this new policy the FSIN staff, members of the FSIN and visitors now have the benefit of a safe and healthy environment to conduct business. (no picture available)

Dion Tawpism, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation – Health – Child/Youth Leadership Dion is a strong advocate against drinking and driving due to an accident he was involved in when he was 18 years of age. He was in a coma for one and half years and is now confined to a wheelchair. Before his accident, he was an exceptional athlete; he loved to play all kinds of sports – baseball, football, badminton and particularly hockey. He played for Marcelin, Shellbrook and Notre Dame. He was scouted by the Prince Albert Raiders but due to injuries could not make the camp. He was invited to the Saskatoon Blades but did not make it due to his accident. With the encouragement from family and friends, Dion gives many talks to various audiences about drinking and driving.



Wesley Paul McKay

Wesley Paul McKay, Muscowpetung First Nation – Health – Adult Leadership Wes is employed by Human Resources Development Canada processing employment insurance applications where he started as a student in November 2001. Wes is very instrumental in the unit as he works diligently to meet the national program target. Wes has shown exceptional leadership skills and excellent work ethics when needed and often takes on additional work when he is finished his own workload.



Agnes Cyr

Agnes Cyr, Pasqua First Nation – Health – Elder Leadership Agnes is 91 years old and has been a widow for about twenty years. She was a caregiver to her husband when he was alive, and also a caregiver to her mother who was blind. Agnes also worked at the Fort Qu'Appelle Indian Hospital for a number of years. Agnes has been the Elder for the Saskatchewan First Nations Network on Disabilities (SFNND) since 1992. She has never missed a meeting of the SFNND. Her means of transportation is that she will never refuse a ride from a good looking Indian man. Agnes' lifetime commitment to her family and community has made a positive difference for generations of First Nations people.

For the area of Economic and Community Development, recipients were recognized for their contributions in the categories of: Housing Innovative Initiative and First Nation Business.



Lyle Whitefish

Lyle Whitefish, Big River First Nation - Economic Development – Housing Innovative Initiative Tribal representative Lyle Whitefish and his staff at Agency Chiefs Tribal Council were instrumental in taking an aggressive approach to dealing with critical issues surrounding First Nations housing. As a result, an innovative design for homes was established that addressed both the short term and long term maintenance issues that have been a problem in the past. His intellectual abilities and determination has ensured the community members have a safe environment to live in.



Councillor William Tanner
on behalf of Cowessess
Gas & Grocery II

Cowessess Gas & Grocery II – Economic Development – First Nation Business Cowessess First Nation is signatory to Treaty Four. Through aggressiveness of its leadership, the Cowessess First Nation negotiated its Treaty Land Entitlement Claim and signed its settlement agreement in 1996 receiving \$46.6 million. Cowesses has approximately 102,000 acres of land with a current population 3087. With their TLE claim, Cowessess business ventures include Last Oak Golf & Country Club, the Marieval Enterprise Centre, Cowessess Sports Ground and the Cowessess Shopping Mall which houses a laundromat, post office, restaurant, CIBC Bank and the Cowessess Gas & Grocery I and finally the Cowessess Gas and Grocery II located southeast of Regina. These ventures enforce Cowessess First Nation leadership and its membership in taking a lead role in bridging the gap between on and off reserve membership by creating employment and providing a service accessible to all First Nations.

Prince Albert Development Corporation – Economic Development – First Nation Business

Prince Albert Development Corporation (PADC) is within the Prince Albert Grand Council. PADC has recently purchased the Super Eight and Best Western Hotels in Saskatoon. PADC is known for their excellence in business development promoting wealth creation, ownership and job creation. Participation in First Nation partnerships and making investments outside of PAGC geographic area are PADC's main focus. Pooling of resources and investments resulted in the promotion of employment opportunities for the benefit of all First Nations.

The area of Justice has two categories in which recognition was given. Those categories are: First Nation Justice Initiative-Individual and First Nation Justice Initiative-Community.

Daryl Angus, Thunderchild First Nation – First Nation Justice Initiative – Individual Daryl is the Community Justice Coordinator for Thunderchild First Nation. Daryl possesses excellent communication skills and uses them with his work with clients, the community and interagency partners. Daryl is highly respected by outside agencies and is an excellent liaison, ambassador and relationship builder with neighbouring communities.

Moosomin Justice Department – First Nation Justice Initiative – Community The Moosomin Justice Department was started in 1998 in response to band members' concern about justice issues facing the community. The department helps develop sentencing circles, mediation processes and address youth issues. The department in cooperation with Kanawayimak Child and Family Services Inc. has hired a full-time youth worker to keep youth active in sports, crafts and cultural situations. The Justice Committee at Moosomin consists of six band councilors and includes various volunteers who work endlessly to maintain justice in the community.

Recognition was given to those people who have dedicated themselves to the well being of others and contributed to or on behalf of First Nations. The categories in this area are: Citizen of the Year, Life Time Achievement and Posthumous Recognition.

Chief Norman Whitehawk, Cote Saulteaux Nation – Indian Government – Citizen of the Year

Chief Whitehawk is in his second term as Chief of Cote Saulteaux Nation. Chief Whitehawk is a very compassionate and caring man. His great understanding of spirituality is an important asset in his position. He was instrumental in negotiations in building the new Cote Saulteaux Health Clinic which opened June 3, 2004. He also assisted in the negotiations for the Cote RecPlex. Chief Whitehawk has proven to be a true leader in his community.

Chief Louis Taypotat, Kahkewistahaw First Nation - Indian Government – Lifetime Achievement

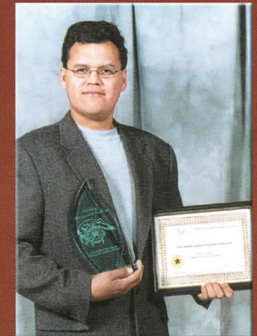
Born on the Kahkewistahaw First Nation, Chief Taypotat has made many significant contributions to the betterment of his people and the First Nations of Saskatchewan. He is a great promoter of the Prairie Indian Rodeo Association. Chief Taypotat led the charge in pursuit of land claims with the federal government and started negotiations for land that was taken from his people in 1907. His perseverance led to a negotiated settlement providing Kahkewistahaw with close to \$95 million in compensation. He is truly an advocator promoting the rights of First Nations people in Saskatchewan.

Late Charles (Aschapoy) Fiddler, Waterhen First Nation – Indian Government – Posthumous Award – May 30, 1953 – April 1, 2004

The late Charles Fiddler was a champion of First Nation education within the Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC). As a teacher, he taught the children the importance of education based on the First Nation perspective and provided a positive role model for First Nation children to learn from. As well as encouraging First Nation youth to further their education, Charles did so himself and received his Masters in Education at the University of Saskatchewan. He was the Director of the Beauval Student Residence, he transformed the old Church/Indian Affairs operated school into a First Nation/MLTC controlled school. This was



Chief Marcel Head & Chief Miller Nawakayas on behalf of PADC



Daryl Angus



Ivor Swiftwolfe on behalf of Moosomin Justice Department



Chief Norman Whitehawk



Chief Louis Taypotat



Accepting for the Late Charles (Aschapoy) Fiddler

one of the major turning points of Indian Control of Indian Education in Northern Saskatchewan. The late Charles Fiddler was a modern day leader in the area of First Nations education and has laid the foundation for First Nation education systems.

The Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association has designated an award called the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association Humanity Award. Recognition is given to those who have dedicated their life to assisting others through innovative ways.



Wilfred Whitehawk

Wilfred Whitehawk, Cote Saulteaux Nation – Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association – Humanity Award Wilfred is known for his ability to share from his heart and tell it like it is. Wilfred has had many tears and pain in his life. He has taken one day at a time with respect to his addictions. He is a certified facilitator of grief and loss with the Grief and Loss Recovery Institute. He is a member of the Saskatchewan Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee that makes recommendations to the Minister of Health. Wilfred has assisted many people in dealing with issues of sadness, anger and fear.

The Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Council has designated categories for Youth Leadership, Woman's Leadership and Honouring Our Mothers.



Jenna Tanner

Jenna Tanner, Cowessess First Nation – Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Council – Youth Leadership Jenna was the recipient in this category in 2003. Jenna is 15 years old, a grade 9 student at Martin Collegiate Institute in Regina. She is dedicated and committed to her studies and participates actively in sports. Jenna is a grade "A" student and often receives 100% in her exams. She has received three Terrific Kid Awards and has read 1000 books in one school term and received twenty Readers Certificates. Since the age of 10, she has been actively involved in the Regina Minor Softball Association as a pitcher. In her spare time, she has a part-time job cleaning offices with her parents. She is grateful to her parents, Ruby & Debbie and to her teachers at Rosemont for their support and guidance. Jenna is truly an outstanding young person and is very much deserving of this award.



Kim McKay

Kim McKay, Sakimay First Nation – Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Council – Women's Leadership Kim is a candidate for a Master's of Arts in Clinical Psychology and has received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the University of Regina. Her research projects are extensive and deal with the wellness of First Nations people including Life Experiences of Aboriginal Women and HIV/AIDS, End of Life Health Care Delivery, Completing the Circle in Aboriginal and Conventional Medicines and Strengthening and Building Sexual Health of Aboriginal Youth and Young Adults. She has been a teaching assistant and tutor for the last five years. She has done numerous presentation on health issues concerning First Nations people. Because of her success in academia, the gifts she gives First Nation youth, her beautiful spirit and her many accomplishments, she is deserving recipient of this award.



Emma Panipekeesick

Emma Panipekeesick, Sakimay First Nation – Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Council – Honouring Our Mothers Emma is an Elder on the Sakimay First Nation. She has raised over 20 children during her life and is commended for her diligence and commitment to her extended family and for dedication to the community of Sakimay. Her ability to provide a stable and nurturing home is evident in the successes of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Emma is a pillar in the foundation of her community, she participates and promotes her cultural values and traditions while encouraging her family to remain committed to cultural values and traditions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Tansi! I would like to extend congratulations to all students who have graduated over the course of this year. For those students who are continuing with their studies, good luck and wishes of continued success are extended to you.

A strong educational foundation is important for our future. It is well known the demographics of Saskatchewan are shifting with an increase in First Nations, Metis and Inuit people. In addition, the workforce is also changing with a large number of the workforce expected to retire. Partnerships between First Nations, governments and the private sector are being pursued creating unique opportunities for First Nations people. A good education is crucial to achieving these opportunities.

Also remember that in attaining your goal you have become a role model to your family and to your community. Again, congratulations to all graduating students. Your achievements are remarkable and I wish you success in the future.

Chief Alphonse Bird
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations



As Chair of the Lands and Resources and Justice Commissions, the Indigenous Gaming Regulators Board, Treasury Board, as well as the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans' Association, Residential School, and Lakota/Dakota Treaty adhesion files, I am pleased to offer congratulations to all First Nations graduates of 2004.

With rapid technological advances making the world seem smaller everyday, I encourage all graduates to look beyond their horizons and venture out into the world where even small changes can have immeasurable positive effects.

The efforts that each and every one of you have made to get where you are today must be recognized, applauded, and held up as an example to all those who will come after you. As a leader, and more importantly as a grandfather, I am grateful for your dedication, your example and your accomplishments.

Once again, congratulations and best wishes in all your future endeavours.

Fourth Vice Chief Lawrence Joseph



I am very pleased and honored to offer congratulations to all our First Nation graduates.

In unprecedented ways, First Nation people are entering into the economy, creating new social and economic institutions and are rebuilding our governments. In order to accomplish this we need a qualified and trained workforce. It is very reassuring to me and to all of our First Nation communities to trust in the hopes and potential of our greatest resources, our youth. We trust you to follow the opportunities and challenges of the future.

You've attained the qualifications needed to make change for those who are not as privileged. The wisdom you have gained will allow you to ask the right questions, make the right choices, and to make change in our First Nation communities!

I personally have every confidence in the power of youth empowerment through education. Therefore, I would encourage all of you to take full advantage of and benefit from the education you have received. I have no doubt that, in the not-too-distant future, many of you will emerge as role models and leaders.

Congratulations again on your great achievement. I wish all of you the best of luck in your future. I hope that you all find the key to your own success and happiness.

Second Vice Chief Guy Lonechild



Over the last month I have been honoured to attend graduation exercises at various schools, as well as the recent convocation at the First Nation University of Canada and SIIT. At each of these events, it has been a privilege to see our people receiving their high school diploma and completing their post school education. There is a great sense of achievement and pride, along with optimism in the future, in the attitude of the students I met. I believe that, along with our students, we must all celebrate our achievements.

In just over 30 years, First Nation people have accomplished a great deal. Not only through the hard work of establishing our own schools, but in the creation of our post secondary institutions. In our own way, each of us has contributed to the growth and development of our education system. Whether it is through graduating from high school or a post-secondary school, by sitting as a member of an education board, or by being a role model for our youth. We can all be very proud that we have schools in our communities that are graduating students, despite not having an extensive support structure such as that provided to provincial schools.

We must also celebrate the accomplishments and recognize the hard work being undertaken in the urban centres by First Nations and Tribal Councils. They are entering into creative partnerships with school divisions in order to provide much needed educational support to our students. These types of developments are expanding the range of possibilities in the future for our off-reserve youth.

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Indian Education and Training Commission, I wish to congratulate all the high school and post school graduates of 2004, and to extend my best wishes to the community members who supported their students, and the leadership who are working hard on the ongoing development of First Nation education.

Third Vice Chief Delbert Wapass



On behalf of the FSIN Health & Social Development Commission, the FSIN Chiefs Authority on Housing, portfolio staff and myself I would like to commend all the graduates of 2004.

You have shown great determination and commitment in your accomplishment and we wish you success in your future endeavours. You have great days ahead of you and may there be many.

First Vice Chief Morley Watson





SASKATCHEWAN
INDIAN
INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGIES

Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies Graduates

FORT QU'APPELLE CAMPUS

Accounting - Diploma

Melissa J. Bellegarde
Christopher Bellegarde
Nicole Bellegarde-Cote
Shelley Bratuchesky
Candace Cappo
Elroy Carrier
Norinne Cote
Ronald Cyr
Dale Desnomie
Richard Ironquill
Holly Jack
Cynthia Jack
Leroy Keewatin
Chasity Nahnepowisk
Fenton Paquachan
Jason Poitras
John Starr

Management Studies - Diploma

Brandi Bear
Andrea Bellegarde
Ovide Bighetty
Claudine Cyr
Denise Desjarlais
Juanita Gordon
Mervin Missens
Sybil Poitras
Misty Poitras
Francine Stocken
Jocelyne Sugar
Harriet Walker

PRINCE ALBERT CAMPUS

Accountancy - Diploma

Benjamin Ballantyne
Georgina Ballantyne
Robert Barks
Olive Cook

Gina Daniels
Sheldon Head
Corinne Isbister
Eugene McKay
Myrna Sanderson
**Life Skills Coach Training -
Certificate**

Judy Arcand
Thelma Cameron
Marcel Carriere
Karen Night
Deborah Norton
Milton Paquachan
Claude Petit
Gerald Whitehead
Garnet Wolfe

Management Studies - Diploma

Stephanie Charlette
Delores Cook
Iris Daniels
Vivian Dieter
Amanda Fennell
Marie Merasty
Marilyn Mecredi
Adele Natomagan
Valerie Painchaud
Donna Ross
Ryan Sanderson
Pearl Sutherland
Glenna Thomas
Paula Wenzel

SASKATOON CAMPUS

Community Services Addictions - Certificate

Elizabeth Ahenakew
Darcy Coulineur
Gwen Fineday
Melissa Janzen-Markham
Owen Matechuk
Roberta McIntyre
Michelle Wuttunee
**Information Technology -
Diploma**

Lanny Ahenakew
John Aramenko

Cather Charpentier
Donna Crookedneck
Debra Kinequon
Roy Lavallee
Kariah Lerat
Roy McKenzie
Darcy Murphy
Gerri Piro
Renita Starr
Ryan Thomas
Nicole Ward

Management Studies - Diploma

Becky Ahenakew
Gwen Cameron
Natasha Isaac
Adrienne Kayseas
Lynn Kayseas
May Leibel
Curtis Littlechild
Sheila Mike
Albert Musqua
Vernelle Swiftwolfe
Angela Sylvester
Darcy Thunderchild
Charlene Tony
Sherisse Tootosis
Maynard Whitehead

Workplace Management - Certificate

Nancy Demarais
Rita Janvier
Sheila Lambert
Gina Opekokew

YORKTON CAMPUS

Management Studies - Diploma

Delores Badger
Rodney Belanger
Antoine Cote
Matilda Cote
Amaryllis Kennedy
Wendy Lerat
Gaye Sparvier

MEADOW LAKE CAMPUS

Process Operations Technician - Diploma

Glenn Forde
June Gagnon
Jayme George-Eaglechild
Cory McCallum
Curtis Mooney
Shawn Opekokew
Russell Pedersen
Daryl Peters
Renee Twidale
Brent Verreau



University of Saskatchewan - Saskatoon Campus

SUNTEP

Kari Arcand
Kristen Chenier
Carla Fitch-Bernier
Pamela Fosseneuve
Nicole Gardiner
LeeAnn Gervais
Cory Gratton
Cosette Green
Kariann Gusikoski
Renee Hammersmith
Terri Huntley
Tracy Laverty
Darren McDougall
Tannis Meyers-Blanchard
Jason Murfin
Danelle Van Steelandt
Nicole Pocha
Roxan Prafke
Rhoda Yakubowski
**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND
SCIENCE**

Bachelor of Arts 3 Year

Michelle Bear
Raelyn Blondeau
Noreen Chaboyer
Krista Clarke

Sunshine Delorme
 Violet Erasmus
 Lisa Fahl
 Alicia Johnson
 Tara King
 Margaret Klien
 Kimberly Kutz
 Candice Lafaver
 Eileen Lines
 Jennifer Ly
 Loretta Markowskit
 Deidre McCloskey
 Bruce McKenzie
 Wendy McKenzie
 Shirley Anne Merasty
 Curtis Morin
 Barbara Morrow
 Chantel Nast
 Genevieve Prevost
 Sharon Ross
 Scott Stonechild
 Christine Tatt
 Candace Ulrich
 Lena Zoretich
Bachelor of Arts 4 Year
 Ryan Atimoyo
 Jodie Blomme
 Nathan Jacobs
 Jeffery Johnston
 April Morris
 Drew Pearson
 Paula Reban
 Dale St. Pierre
 Shannon Sunley
**COLLEGE OF GRADUATE
 STUDIES AND RESEARCH**
 Betty Abigosis
 Sandra Brown
 Donald Danskin
 Karyn Drane
 Nathan Dyck
 Grace Felix
 Anna-Leah Kind
 Wendy Lerat
 Lori McAuley

Ralph Morin
 Velma Myo-Stanley
 Cathy Nilson
 Cary Primeau
 Charlotte Ross
COLLEGE OF COMMERCE
**Certificate of Indigenous
 Business Administration**
 Ernie Alphonse
 Kevin Bell
 Tyson Goulet
 Brenda Nicotine
Bachelor of Commerce
 Cecilia Baptiste
 Miranda Bear
 Alison Demeria
 Peter Dorion
 Shane Gauthier
 Wilma Isbister
 Dolores Maurice
 Tyler Spagrud
College of Kinesiology
 Courage Norbeck-Bear
NORTEP
Bachelor of Education Degree
 Joan Charles
 Matt Collier
 Morris Cook
 Edna Daigneault
 Kathleen Desautels
 Rhoda Fiddler
 Janet Hansen
 Lisa Larson
 Milene Malboeuf
 Elizabeth McKay
 Marlene McKenzie
 Alexis McLeod
 Gertie Merasty
 Jeannie Murray
 Jody Nagy
 Lisa Pederson
 Misty Penner
 Trudy Roy
 David Ruelling
 Janelle Senga

Allanna Skogstad
**NORPAC Science, 2nd Year
 Recognition**
 Jennifer Wilkins
**NORPAC Arts 2nd Year
 Recognition**
 Robin McLeod
**NORPAC Science 1st Year
 Recognition**
 Myra Daigneault
 Jinger Halkett
 Kara Schnieder_Ross
 Marla Vancoughnett
Arts & Science
 Kim Burnouf
 Adam Gardiner
 Tina Gardiner
 Allan Morrow
 Barb Morrow
 Lisa O' Brien



FNUC – Regina Campus

Sheila Jean Acoose-Gould
 Jason V. Ahenakew
 Kerrie Lynn Ahenakew
 Kimberly Renee Ahenakew
 Sonja Ahenakew
 Charissa Amyotte
 Lindsey Marie Archer
 Dorothy Mary Asapace
 Georgette Connie Audy
 Diane Rose Balfour
 Brian A. Ballantyne
 David Lyle Benjoe
 Serena Jay Bien
 Kerry Bignell
 Isilda Doris Bird
 Lori Ann Bird

Dean Robert Booth
 Josephine Brass
 Joyce Glenda Budd-Crowe
 Denise Mary Cameron
 Virginia Susan Campbell
 Alison Carlson
 Marianne Wilma Charles
 Pauline Georgina Charles
 Soloman Gilbert Charles
 Raven R. M.Chilton
 Emily Kate Colli
 Linda Marie Constant
 Emma Annie Cook
 Margaret Debora Cook
 Lloyd Joseph Allen Daniels
 Mary Eva Daniels
 Melinda Cecilia Daniels
 Rick J. Daniels
 Russell Cecil Joseph Daniels
 Noreen Gail Deegan
 Memorie Lynn Delorme
 Darren Wayne Deschambeault
 Wayne Douglas Desjarlais
 Tanya Rae Dienes
 Jennifer Lee Donison
 Agnes Dawn Dustyhorn
 Gordon Leonard Ermine
 Marlene Fiddler
 John Henry Fineday
 Lucille A. Fisher
 Melvin Roy Fosseneuve
 Dustin Kane George
 Carrie Jayne Gorchynski
 Sherri Hilda Grey
 Michelle Arlene Guimont
 Frank G.A. Halkett
 Margaret B. Halkett
 Kelly Donald Harle
 Naomi Rose Hergott
 Rayven Murielle Itittakoose
 Mabel Lottie Isbister
 Gordon Alexander Keewatin
 Tracy Yvonne Kingfisher
 Dalles Margaret Iris Kracher
 McGowan

Farrah L.H. Langan
 Angela Mae Leas
 Irene B. Linklater
 Trina Fayth Little
 Clarence Christopher Logan
 Stacy Noel Martin
 Clayton Warren Maxie
 Tanja Lynn Maxie
 June Crystal McCallum
 Lindsay Sarah Rae McDougald
 Marcella Marie McFawn
 Fiona Sara McKenzie
 Dorothy Flora McLeod
 Kim V. McNabb
 Marlene Lillian Mirasty
 Paul Josiah Mirasty
 Sherwin Baptiste Moore
 Billy Ralph Myette
 Cynthia Michelle Nanaquewitung
 Flora Elna Nasikapow
 Tina Anne Pelletier
 Theresa M. Pinay
 Evelyn Rose Poitras
 Marcella Rose Poitras
 Christine Milli Ratt
 Fawn Marie Redwood
 Holley Rae Rope
 Kari Jean Roussel
 Lisa Marie Sakebow
 Sharon Helen Samatte
 Claudia Francina Sinclair-Dick
 Nora S. Stevens
 Kara Lee Stonechild
 Katherine Leanne Stricker
 Lianda D. Tanner
 Leanne Kristine Taypayosatum
 Carrie Lynn Taypotat
 Vance Scott Thomson
 Robert Samuel Turtle
 Shelley Nicole Walker
 Karen Rose Whitehawk
 Valerie Diane Williams
 Edith R. Young
 Flora Jane Young

Denial of Social Assistance to First Nation Students

Submitted by FSIN Education & Training Secretariat

Since 2002, there has been an ongoing jurisdictional dispute between the Province of Saskatchewan and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). This has centred on which government is responsible for providing social assistance to First Nation post secondary students who are attending an institution off-reserve, do not return to their home community and are unable to secure summer employment.

Due to a policy change, INAC terminated the reimbursement to First Nations who were providing social assistance to their post secondary students living in urban centres and who were normally resident on reserve. According to INAC "normally resident on reserve" are those who resided on reserve prior to beginning their post secondary programs off-reserve. If a student returned to their community during the summer months, and were still unable to secure summer employment, they would then be eligible for social assistance.

The Provincial Government also denied social assistance to First Nation students based on their policy. According to the Province of Saskatchewan Social Assistance Policy Manual, persons who are not eligible include:

"Registered Indians and their Registered dependants who normally reside on a Saskatchewan reserve or whose primary reason for residing off the reserve is:
 ...attending full-time education with the following conditions:

Post-Secondary Education – University
 Students approved for post-secondary education programs are provided a living allowance through the Band Education Program for up to 8 months of the academic year.

This allowance is intended to meet the needs of students and their dependants. These students are not eligible for social assistance from the Band or from the department.

Students remaining off-reserve during a school break not exceeding 4 months

are expected to seek work. Those who require financial assistance are referred to their band. Those who exceed the break period of 4 months or who graduate may apply for social assistance and are assessed as any other applicant."

This issue is affecting those students who have either not obtained summer employment or have an extended lapse of time between the end of classes and the start of their summer employment period. In either case, these students did not have an income source, which made it especially difficult for students with dependants.

At the end of this post secondary winter semester, the FSIN Education and Training Secretariat received calls from post secondary students informing the Secretariat that they were being denied social assistance from both their Band and from the Province.

In order to obtain accurate information on the number of students who were unable to secure summer employment, and were being denied social assistance, a request was made to the First Nation post secondary personnel to provide information by May 11, 2004 on the number of their students that were affected. The information provided by 22 First Nations indicated that there were 393 students impacted. Information was still expected from the remaining 52 First Nations.

On May 12th, a meeting was held between the provincial Minister of Community Resources and Employment, Joanne Crofford and Vice Chief Wapass to discuss this problem. The Minister agreed to undertake discussions with her Deputy Minister and her colleagues from other ministries that would be affected by this situation.

Two meetings were also held among the technical staff to discuss the policy issues and establish a short-term resolution. The first meeting was held between FSIN Education and Training staff and INAC officials on June 3rd. A conference call involving the FSIN Education and Training staff, INAC officials and Provincial Government representatives was held. On June 8,9.

During this conference call the Provincial Government representatives informed the FSIN and INAC that they had clarified with their staff the difference between students who are normally resident and those not normally resident on reserve. Staff at the provincial Contact Centres were informed that students not normally resident on reserve qualify for social assistance, as long as they meet the other program requirements.

The discussions undertaken by the FSIN, INAC and the Provincial Government have been to ensure that there are no students without employment income or social assistance support. Students are urged to continue to seek summer employment and information on the various provincial and other employment centres will be forwarded to the First Nations, students, and post secondary coordinators.

As a forward plan of action, this issue is to be brought forward to the Saskatchewan Indian Education and Training Commission to determine whether this issue should be brought forward to the broader FSIN and AFN political arena. The jurisdictional issues surrounding this issue are not education specific, but must be examined from a legal, constitutional and human rights perspective, particularly since it is not limited or focused to the denial of social assistance for post secondary students, but continues to occur in a number of areas.

It illustrates a situation whereby First Nation students are placed in a constitutional and jurisdictional vacuum. Both governments still do not have a policy that includes students normally resident on reserve, but who do not return to their community during the summer months. Constitutionally, under Section 91 the Federal Government is responsible for "Indians and lands reserved for Indians". It has limited this interpretation to Indians on-reserve and therefore students who remain off-reserve during the summer months are not eligible for social assistance from either INAC or their Band. The provincial government, on the other hand has responsibilities for the provincial social welfare system under Section 92 of the Constitution. However, it takes the position that students normally resident on reserve are the responsibility of the Federal Government. From the Federal Government perspective, this issue is "jurisdictional realignment" and according to the Province, it is "federal offloading".

It also encompasses the fact that the Federal Government continues to refuse to recognize the portability of Treaty rights and the extension of First Nations jurisdiction to citizens who live off-reserve; the denial of funding by the Provincial Government, although it receives payments from the Federal Government through the social transfer system and taxes from First Nation citizens; and it is a human rights issue since both governments are denying a group of students basic social assistance to cover food and shelter.

The FSIN is committed to seeking long term resolution to these matters. 🐾

Linking The Past To The Present Through Science Festivals

By Myrtle Morin and Terrina Bellegarde

Each year, the FSIN Summer Science Festival science team travels throughout Saskatchewan to nine First Nation sites, one urban site, and a stopover at the First Nations University of Canada Science Camp in Regina, in hopes of demystifying math and science for First Nations youth. Although the target is First Nation youth, the participation of the whole community adds to the appeal and success of each festival.

Direct parental involvement brings a sense of kinship and encourages youth from all age groups to participate. The benefit of having parents attend the festivals is having them explore and support the many opportunities science education can offer their children. Part of the focus is to circulate information about science and encourage youth to pursue science as a career. This opens a doorway into a fascinating world, based on the premise that First Nation people were and continue to be the first environmentalists of this land. In following this long-standing tradition, we highlight our credible knowledge base, our responsibility as stewards, and educate our youth to promote science as a profession.

The year of 2004 has been deemed "Traditional Science, Everyday Science". We highlight our Traditional Knowledge Keepers, targeting and utilizing their incredible knowledge base, which allows for a more conducive learning environment. The FSIN Sciences Program realizes the importance of the Traditional Knowledge Keepers' role as both educators and scientists. Each site will focus on an array of Traditional Knowledge Keepers, with the Science Festival Team explaining the parallel between Western science and Traditional Knowledge. Once a connection is established, we then bridge the polarity that seems quite significant between the groups and continue following a path that benefits all. In keeping with a time honored tradition, our focus remains within our culture, honoring both our Elders and an oral tradition of knowledge sharing. The following is the Summer Science Festivals 2004 Agenda:

Ochapowace First Nation, July 5

Kawacatoose First Nation, July 7

Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation, July 12

Witchehan First Nation, July 13

Sweetgrass First Nation, July 14

Prince Albert Urban Reserve, July 19

Big Island Lake First Nation, July 21

First Nations University of Canada – Math & Science Health Careers Camp, July 23

Cumberland House Cree Nation, July 27

Clearwater River Dene Nation, August 2

Pelican Narrows First Nation, August 5

In 2003, the FSIN Sciences Program received international recognition by United Nations Educational Scientific and Culture Organization (UNESCO). UNESCO is an international group of intergovernmental members, which focuses on bringing educational development to all nations in a peaceful manner. Each year also brings a new theme and 2004 is the "International Year of Rice". The FSIN Summer Science Festivals will again incorporate the United Nations theme as part of their festival agenda. Incorporation of this theme is an important link educating First Nation youth on our world and other important issues that concern us all.

An estimated 3,000 million people rely daily on rice as a mainstay in their diet. However, rice production produces negative impacts on the environment such as contributing to global warming. Break down of the ozone layer is not a new subject, but the enormity of such an issue makes scientists extremely apprehensive. If allowed to continue on a course of destruction, the earth will not be successful in sustaining life.

The merging of both themes, rice and traditional knowledge, allows a basic understanding of how rice is grown, produced and used throughout the globe. Global warming will be included in this display, which will allow youth to become more conscientious of external factors outside of their normal surroundings, and more importantly, how it affects their environment. As First Nation environmentalists, we owe it to ourselves to not only be aware of what is happening globally to the land, but to also encourage youth to reach outside of their boundaries and embrace education. Part of this embrace comes from being educated on global issues that tie in with the role of stewardship. Hence, not only are we promoting education, but we also build a confidence in youth because of the direct connection with the land.

The Pe-Sa-Ka-Stew: Dawning of a New Day Science Strategy Partnership was formed by the FSIN Sciences Program in 2003 to engage Crown corporations and other organizations to assist in the promotion of math and science. Through this partnership, various Crown corporations donate graciously and travel throughout the summer with informational displays that promote science related careers and encourage youth to partake in all festivities. More and more organizations and corporations are seeking to employ First Nation people with a background in science and technology, and the science festivals assist in meeting this need.

For more information, call Terrina Bellegarde or Myrtle Morin at 1.866.442.7444. 🐾



PRINCESS ALEXANDRA:

school profile by Carla Nokusis

Schools serving the needs of Aboriginal students have far more complex roles than those schools serving mainstream student populations. They must build bridges between the cultures, languages of the home and school while recognizing and validating the student's own worldview. These roles take on more complexity when the school is situated in an urban center. One such school that has been tackling and conquering those complexities is the Princess Alexandra Community School.

Princess Alexandra Community School is a public school located in the Riversdale district of Saskatoon that provides pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8 programs for students in the community. Having received its official designation as a community school in 1980, Princess Alexandra facilitates the principles of community education through the utilization of a full time community school coordinator. The coordinator incorporates the principles of community education which includes self-determination, self-help, leadership development, maximum use of resources, decentralization, integrated services, inclusiveness, responsiveness and life long learning. The

coordinator not only provides information on programs and workshops benefiting both school and community members such as adult upgrading, information meetings, blanket making, moccasin and Metis sash making, and native crafts, they also facilitate after school programs like soccer, basketball, floor hockey, drumming, dance troupe and tae kwan do.

Princess Alexandra is an inner-city community school. With enrollment at 200 students, the school is unique in that its student body is 98% Aboriginal. With a rapidly increasing Aboriginal population within the province of Saskatchewan and the staggering statistic of Aboriginal poverty (according to The Report Card on Child Poverty, 2000, 64% of Aboriginal people in Saskatoon live in poverty), the role that the school engages in is more than just building bridges. It takes on the role of community where students, parents and staff feel at home.

Chosen and honored by their school, posters of role models are proudly displayed throughout the school. These role models are Elders, students, teachers, parents and community members of Princess Alexandra.

Reminiscent of home and belonging, more pictures of students with their families line the hallway, a treasure for many students who at the end of the school year are able to take them home.

Princess Alexandra has worked hard in establishing successful parent and community relationships. For school events and community association meetings, parental attendance and participation peaks at 100 to 120. The home-school connection has been captured by the following comment made by a parent as reported in *Sharing Our Success, Ten Case Studies in Aboriginal Schooling* (2004), "It's a 24-hour deal. We bring school to our house and we bring our home to the school. Half of the circle is at our home and the other half is at the school. That is how it is working, or has to be in order to work."

The presence and guidance of the Elders is also of critical importance. Elder Ina Ahenakew, known affectionately as "Kokum" to the many students and staff she adopted, is at Princess Alexandra on a daily basis. Kokum's presence is felt in the classrooms and at after school community programs where she is often visiting with students, their families and



Photo by Bonnie Leask

staff and humbly offering guidance to all. Another invaluable resource to the school is the Cree Language and Culture Teacher, Sheila Kennedy. Along with Kokum and other Elders, she is a support to the teachers who rely on her for knowledge on First Nations people, culture and traditions to assist them to understand their students and families.

A message continuously conveyed to students and staff of Princess Alexandra is that in order to be successful in life you have to be interactive with all other cultures. You need to be proud of who you are but at the same time be able to work in our multi-cultural world. Therefore, all who are a part of the school not only celebrate Aboriginal culture, but all people.

The Saskatoon public school board and the community have recognized Princess Alexandra as having a notable improvement in school climate, student achievement, violence reduction and parental involvement. The Canadian Achievement Test (CAT) scores indicate a 48% improvement in student achievement over the last four years. A factor that has been attributed to the improvement of student achievement has been the implementation of the Restitution Program.

The Restitution program has been embraced and implemented by administration and staff. The principles of restitution have been transferred from teachers to the students and many parents, and is based on the following principles: (1) each individual's view of the world is respected; (2) conditions of safety and space for reflection are created for the purpose of evaluating information to create moral meaning; (3) both rewards and consequences are reduced in order to produce self-discipline; (4) bottom lines are upheld consistently and publicly so people feel safe; (5) internal moral sense is developed rather than forcing conformity. In this context, students are encouraged to practice self-management and to become problem solvers; whereas, teachers are encouraged to emphasize internal over external rewards.

Another factor that can be attributed to the improvement of student achievement has been the implementation of differentiated instruction. Princess Alexandra attempts to individualize learning as much as possible for all students. Although school and classroom rules on behavior are made

clear to students and are firmly enforced, methods of instruction and classroom organization vary throughout the school.

As a result of the research undertaken, key factors to Princess Alexandra's success have been identified by the Society for the Advancement of Excellence in Education. Those factors are as follows: (1) Leadership – the principal has been described as a transformational leader with a personal vision of empowering those around them. Through invitations to staff, parents, students and community members to become involved in their own learning and growth, they have instilled personal and organizational empowerment; (2) Restitution – the program has fostered trust and problem solving skills, reduced discipline incidents and increased the focus on teaching and learning; (3) Community and Parental Engagement – by engaging parents in becoming actively involved in the school; (4) Professional Development and Teacher Commitment – there has been an intentional recruitment of teachers who are Aboriginal, but, more importantly, teachers who will support the school philosophy and culture; and (5) Aboriginal Content – students in every grade are required to take 150 minutes per week learning to speak the Cree language and about the various First Nations cultures, their history, arts and crafts. Importantly, pride in First Nations culture is not limited to the Cree classroom, but it can be found throughout the school.

In summary, the Princess Alexandra Community School has answered the challenge in improving Aboriginal success in school. Their story of how they became a community is inspiring to all and their success can be a tool for educators and/or community leaders to follow.

*SAEE is an independent non-profit Canadian research agency founded in 1996. The mission of the society is to encourage excellence in public education through the provision of research on school change and quality issues. The profile on the Princess Alexandra Community School has been compiled with the information found in *Sharing Our Success, Ten Case Studies in Aboriginal Schooling, 2004* and with the great on site assistance by school principal Yves Bousquet, Elder Ina Ahenakew, Parent David Fineday, Cree Teacher Sheila Kennedy and other staff generous with their time.

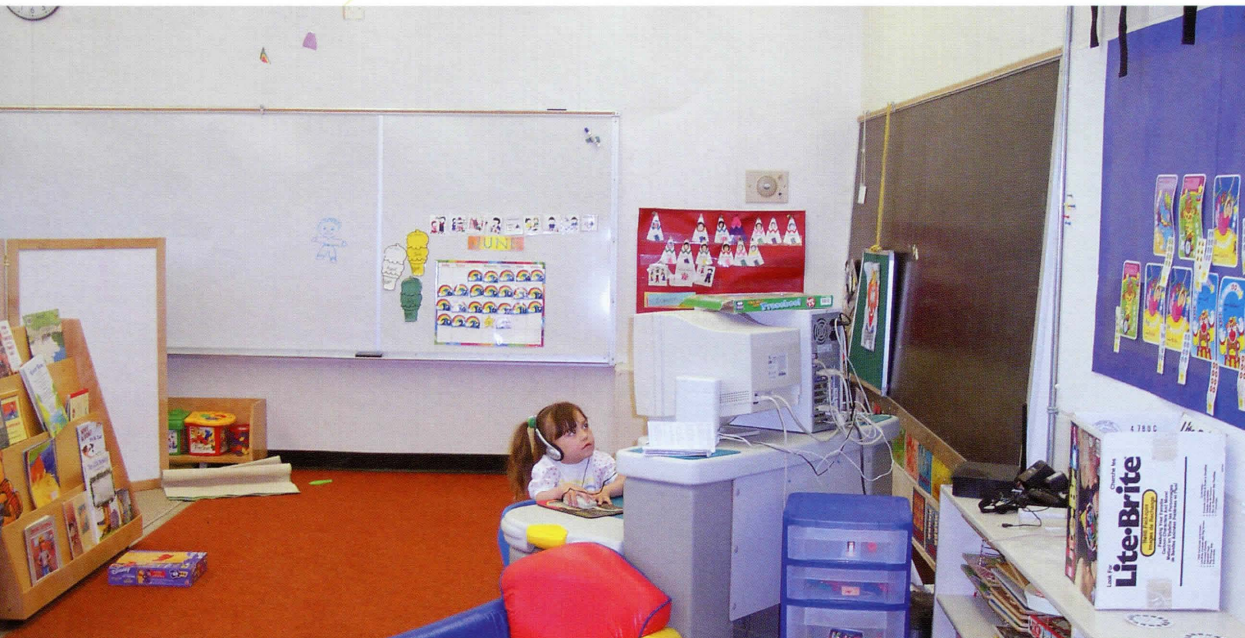


Photo by Bonnie Leask

Lisa Ewack

When Lisa Ewack was small, her kokum gave her the name Northern Dancer. At 17 years old she was given another name, Miss Indian World. By Patricia Schuster

Known for her motivating fancy shawl dancing and traditional lifestyle, Lisa impressed the judges with her lightweight costumes, to be the first Canadian to bring home the honor. That was in 1986.

Lisa hasn't stopped there though. Currently she is the 2003 International Champion for Fancy Shawl Dance, a title she has held four years in a row. Impressive as it is, Lisa has also obtained a Bachelor's degree in Indian Education from the University of Regina. She is also the mother of 16 year old Amber Rose, 13 year old Nyomi, 8 year old Courage Bear and 3 year old Keanu.

Lisa Ewack was born in Arcola, Saskatchewan. She was a member of the White Bear First Nation until she later transferred to the re-established Ocean Man First Nation. She is the daughter of Robert Sunkawaste and Della Ewack. Her grandparents are the late Joe Ewack and Rose Ewack. Lisa credits her mother and grandparents for raising her in a traditional way.

Lisa began dancing at the age of six. She was initiated into the Nakoda Oyade Wacibi Circle as a Fancy Shawl Dancer. Though Lisa doesn't remember actually starting to dance she knows how she was introduced to her culture. "All I know is my grandparents lived that life, attending powwows during the summer and we always went. My dancing is a gift that my grandpa passed onto me. He was always a dancer and became a soldier and went to war. When he came back alive and safe he made sure his dancing was something he passed on to me," recalls Lisa.

Her Mom and Aunt Marion had the gift of dance within them but because of residential school they weren't allowed to dance in a powwow. Though it didn't stop her mom from leaping and twirling around at the school, as if the dancing wanted to get out.

At a young age, it was obvious Lisa had incredible talent and was motivated to lead a traditional life. As people recognized her strength as a dancer, the titles soon came to her. She was named Princess for the Year of the Child in 1979, Miss White Bear 1982, Miss Hobbema 1982 and of course Miss Indian World 1986. Lisa has also won numerous fancy shawl dance titles around the world from Connecticut to Bismarck. She has won three All Around World Championships and currently holds the title. But for Lisa, dancing isn't just about the titles and championships, it's more than that. "When I dance I feel a sense of pride and high self esteem that I have now. My grandpa used to say it was a celebration of life and I am proud of where I am today and I express it my dancing."



Pictures courtesy of
Lisa Ewack

To her credit Lisa can dance the northern and southern traditional fancy shawl dance and original and contemporary style jingle dress. She is also well known for a type of dancing called the original fancy shawl dance. Lisa says her experience is different from the young girls now. "I have experienced the transition that has evolved throughout powwow. I started in buckskin and my dancing evolved today with the beads and the shawls. Culture is always changing too, but now girls are stepping right to where I am, never experiencing the growth process of learning a tradition." Still, when Lisa dances many young girls are watching and learning from her trendsetting and unique fancy shawl dance style. She is definitely a role model.

Tradition is emulated within her dancing and she lives her life the same way. Her choice to abstain from alcohol, drugs and tobacco help her maintain a balanced and holistic outlook on life. Lisa says by taking care of herself and respecting herself she is very healthy in every aspect including mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. "It's really important to me to live that way based on my family values and

upbringing. By living this way I am respecting what my grandparents taught me," Lisa says. "I am continuing to live the good way of life they chose for me. Everything is a choice and smoking, drinking and gambling are all choices." Lisa believes everyone is born with a gift and it is up to family and one's self to nurture that gift. "My gift was dancing. I have learned so much from dancing in all areas of my life. I need to give back to my community and give back the life teachings to the youth."

Many times in her life, Lisa has relied on her dancing to bring her through adversities. The divorce of her first marriage was a great loss and when her children went to live with her former partner she had trouble coping. Lisa turned her back on powwow and dancing. But soon she realized the great loss of her children and life was difficult and by dancing, she found a way to cope. Lisa takes her role as mother to her children seriously. As with most of her goals she has set out for herself, Lisa wants to make sure her children follow a strong traditional path. "My oldest daughter is 16 and has emerged as a champion fancy shawl dancer, she is right in my tracks. I only hope she can

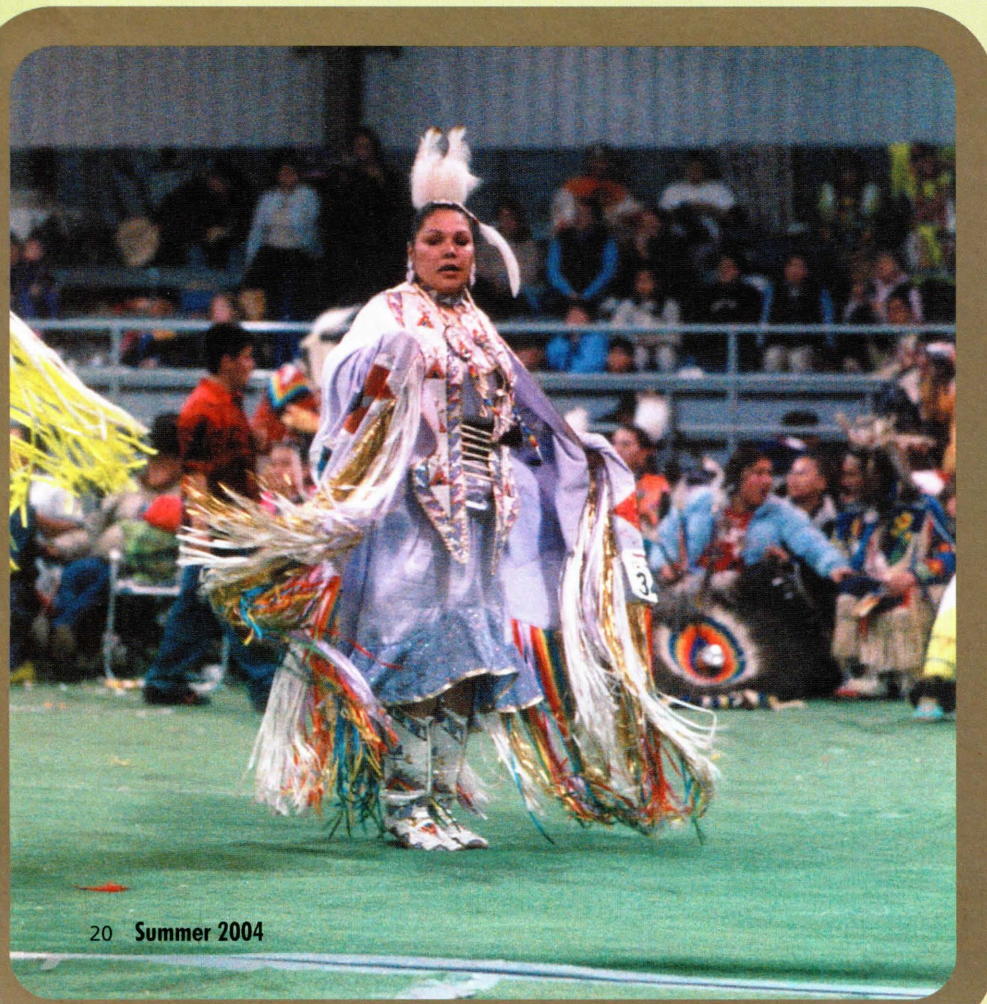
make the right choices not to drink or smoke. I hope that by being a positive role model, they are on the same route. I want to pass it on and keep the gift going." Lisa has one child at home with her husband Ted Noon. Her three children from her first marriage live their father in the United States but spend summers with Lisa on the powwow trail.

After finishing her Bachelor of Indian Education, she returned to her community and became a recognized cultural leader. Currently she is the Program Coordinator for the Ocean Man Enhanced Outreach Program. Being a survivor of the Qu'appelle Indian Residential School, and an intergenerational child and grandchild of survivors who attended the same school, Lisa knows the importance of healing. Through her work she is able to help people find their own path to healing. "By providing them with healing events and activities to help them regain skills such as parenting, I offer them parenting programs such as Nobodies Perfect which helps to facilitate them towards healing resources."

It is said the shawl represents the transition from a cocoon to a beautiful butterfly.

When asked which is her favorite outfit, Lisa doesn't hesitate. "My favorite Fancy Shawl outfit is my newest outfit. It is white and it tells the story of the loss of my grandfather. It has on it the eagle and a warrior on a horse and represents heaven and the happy hunting ground where I know my grandfather is now. It is white because when he passed away, it was cold and the snow was glistening white just like my outfit. Everybody loves that one." Beadwork and the shawl accentuate the fancy footwork of the dancer. Lisa's intricate dancing inspires all who watch her, as well as her continued success and respect of traditional ways. 🦋

Pictures courtesy of
Lisa Ewack





Gathering Our Artists

By Patricia Schuster

The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company (SNTC) took Louis Riel words "my people will sleep for 100 years but when they awaken, it will be the artists who bring their spirits back" and developed them into present day reality. ● ● ●

The first annual "Gathering our Artists" Aboriginal Performing Arts Symposium 2004, held May 25-27th in Saskatoon, included workshops, daily showcases and performances. The Symposium's finale - a gala dinner and art auction - brought together some of Canada's most renowned artists to celebrate Aboriginal performing arts and culture.

The development of the SNTC was based on the belief that a healthy, strong and vibrant community can be developed through arts. By putting on a symposium, the SNTC was able to raise funds for a permanent performing arts facility and brought together significant talent under one roof and offer a wide range of artistry at its finest. Artists in attendance included Lorne Cardinal, Tantoo Cardinal, Tomson Highway, Drew Hayden Taylor, and George Leach. Each brought together a unique and rich evening of true star quality.

The symposium itself offered a wide range of workshops. Jennifer Podemski, owner of the production company, Big Soul Productions, held a workshop called "Rescuing the Hollywood Indian". In this workshop, discussions were held about the image of Aboriginal people in film and television. Podemski was able to incorporate her experience as an actor and producer into the workshop to teach the delegates about the positives and negatives of Aboriginal characters in mainstream entertainment.

A relative newcomer to the professional scene, DerRic Starlight, does professional puppetry and uses comedy to entertain people. DerRic is a 26 year old from the Tsuu T'ina Nation in Alberta. Starlight's workshop was a lesson in developing a puppet and working with the camera.

One of the most well received workshops involved two of the most recognized First Nation actors. Tantoo Cardinal and Gordon Tootoosis, both of whom have acting credentials that range from plays, television series and blockbuster movies. Together they worked to bring a bird's eye view of the inner workings of being involved in the performance industry as First Nations people.

As the workshops wound down, it was time to get ready for an evening of pure talent. The gala event started with a reception and dinner and then it was time to be star struck.

Master of Ceremonies Michael Greyeyes opened the evening by debunking the myths of being famous. Greyeyes told the crowd, "It's not all about Jacuzzi's and autographs."

Greyeyes introduced the crowd to Juno Award winning singer and guitarist George Leech. As the image of Leech, projected on two large screens enveloped the crowd, camera's flashed and hands clapped to his blues inspired song. After Leech finished his song and disappeared into the black curtains backstage, out came Drew Hayden Taylor. A well-known playwright and self-described nervous live act, he began to read from one of his plays. Much to the enjoyment of the crowd, Hayden Taylor told the story of a young woman, an anthropologist, who had discovered in her roots that she was 1/64th Indian. As Hayden Taylor took his bow and exited the stage, Greyeyes introduced Tomson Highway.

Highway's performance put into perspective the whole ideology of Aboriginal artistry. Known for his dramatic and often comical plays, Highway chose to entertain the audience by playing a baby grand piano on stage. As the auditorium darkened with just a spotlight shining on him, Highway performed as a concert pianist. Highway dedicated the song to his deceased brother, Renee Highway, considered by many a pioneer in the Aboriginal performances. Highway captivated the crowd with his haunting rendition, and as he finished his last note, it took the crowd a minute to absorb the incredible dynamics of the performance and finally applaud him. Comedy, culture, music and pure talent combined together to make the evening an incredible experience.

As the evening wound down, people were introduced to more Aboriginal talent in the form of a silent and live auction of art donated by various artists. The money raised from the auction will be used to start the monetary push towards completing a new complex to expand the SNTC.

The First Annual "Gathering Our Artists" Aboriginal Performing Arts Symposium was an invaluable experience for all who participated. People who took in the three day workshops were given a chance to learn from the best of Aboriginal artists. The Gala evening was entertaining and exciting.





THE FIRST NATION WINTER GAMES 2004

By Shirley G. MacDonald

The opportunity to showcase Saskatchewan First Nations youth talents and abilities in athletics was done in remarkable style at the Saskatchewan First Nation Winter Games. This year the Eastern Sector Bands, Cumberland House Cree Nation, Red Earth First Nation and the Shoal Lake Cree Nation, hosted the Winter Games from April 9 – 16, 2004. These First Nations, in partnership with the towns of Nipawin, Carrot River and White Fox, put on a week long spectacular event that welcomed over 4000 athletes, coaches, chaperones and spectators. With this partnership, the theme of the Games, "Communities in Partnership," was truly applied.

The Games began with the official opening ceremonies. A number of dignitaries attended, including the Shoal Lake Chief Marcel Head, Red Earth Chief Miller Nawakayas and Cumberland House Chief Peter Laliberte, FSIN Chief Alphonse Bird, FSIN Vice Chief Delbert Wapass, PAGC Grand Chief Gary Merasty, PAGC Vice Chief Elmer Ballantyne, Premier Lorne Calvert, Minister Joan Beatty, Nipawin Mayor Glen Day, Carrot River Mayor Jim Doherty and White Fox Mayor Brian Harrison. And of course, athletes from all across Saskatchewan. Each leader that addressed the crowd spoke about the importance of cooperation and using this time to meet other youth and compete in a fair and respectful manner.

This kicked off a week of sports that included hockey, volleyball, badminton and broomball. The competition was intense and exciting and provided an excellent opportunity for coaches and scouts to recruit athletes to their teams at all levels.

As well as the sporting aspect, the week also included cultural aspects of First Nations with various singing and drumming performances. Other musical entertainment was provided by Voices of the North and the popular band Rez Boyz. The week was jam packed with an opportunity



for all to enjoy a taste of First Nations culture and excellent sporting events. A treat for everyone was the traditional foods prepared by the members of the host First Nations.

At the end of the 2004 Saskatchewan First Nation Games, Prince Albert Grand Council walked away with the title of Champion with a slight advantage over the Meadow Lake Tribal Council. The Saskatoon Tribal Council finished in third place. The Tony Cote Award was presented to the Saskatoon Tribal Council for their overall improvement from seventh place to third place as well as winning the competition in the sport of badminton. The Prince Albert Grand Council won the competition in the sport of hockey, the Meadow Lake Tribal Council won the competition in the sport of volleyball and the Agency Chiefs Tribal Council won the competition in the sport of broomball.

Once again, First Nations of Saskatchewan showed their ability to host a multi-sport provincial event at a first class level. The commitment to provide a forum to showcase the talents of First Nations is unquestionable and we look forward to the First Nation Summer Games in 2005 to be hosted by the Kawacatoose First Nation. 🦄



Tribal Council	Points	Placing
Prince Albert Grand Council	155.5	1
Meadow Lake Tribal Council	151.5	2
Saskatoon Tribal Council	141	3
Agency Chiefs Tribal Council	134	4
Onion Lake Tribal Council	123.25	5
Battlefords Tribal Council	112	6
Yorkton Tribal Council	85	7
Touchwood Agency Tribal Council	62.5	8
Southeast Treaty 4 Tribal Council	53.25	9
File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council	51.5	10

Building Future Champions Program

By Jason (J.J.) Johnston

The Canada-Saskatchewan General Agreement to Advance the Canadian Sport Policy in Saskatchewan was signed on behalf of the Federal Government by the Secretary of State for Sport and Physical Activity, and on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan by the Minister of Saskatchewan Culture, Youth and Recreation on November 17, 2003.

The agreement committed \$1.2 million in funding for the Building Future Champions Program to help young people benefit from sport and physical activity. The expected benefits for the people of Saskatchewan, especially those of Aboriginal ancestry, are numerous. Partnership initiatives such as this will effect positive change for Aboriginal people through the means of unique sport opportunities. The work resulting from the Building Future Champions Program will establish a base on which to continue the initiative well into the 21st Century.

Building Future Champions is comprised of four distinct, but progressively linked pilot sport components – Canada Games Days program; Saskatchewan Sport Match program; Aboriginal Games Management Mentoring, and Aboriginal Excellence. Let's take a closer look...

Canada Games Days:

The Canada Games Days program is available to any community or school that would like to participate in special sport activities designed for fun while experiencing the Canada Games. Teachers and youth group leaders are provided with sport activity cards with complete instructions to host your very own Canada Games Day – with a twist. Children ages 4-14 are inspired to participate in unique activities and fun trivia with creative rewards. This program is available to any community or school in Canada that applies however, there is a cost for the Canada Games Kit (\$20). For further information please visit the website: www.canadagames.ca.

Saskatchewan Sport Match:

The Saskatchewan Sport Match program provides students aged 12-plus with the opportunity to discover sports in which they can achieve participation or developmental success. Saskatchewan Sport Match will provide junior and senior high school students, with an emphasis on Aboriginal youth, the opportunity to identify new sports that they can participate in or develop success in. The program will foster self-esteem and life-long enjoyment of sport and physical activity as well as a healthy, active lifestyle.

An easy to follow package of instructions is supplied to teachers, which incorporates various basic fitness and skill evaluation tests. Results will be forwarded to a centralized Sport Match database. All students will receive feedback on their results and receive information on sports they are

interested in or have demonstrated an athletic 'gift' or talent for. From these tests, potential athletes will be identified for more specialized skill development training and development with specific sport organizations.

The Saskatchewan Sport Match program will be available to identified schools through consultations with both the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the MNS. If your school would like to be involved in Sport Match this fall, please contact the Sport Medicine and Science Council representative at 975-0869.

Games Management Mentoring:

The Aboriginal Games Management Mentoring component of the Building Future Champions involves a collaboration of the 2005 Canada Summer Games Host Committee and FSIN.

The FSIN, in the midst of preparing a bid to host the 2008 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) in Regina, needs to have Aboriginal people trained and working in multi-sport games management as staff and volunteers to build on their own capacity to successfully manage major events.

The 2005 Canada Summer Games Host Committee is providing a unique mentoring opportunity that will lay the groundwork for a successful transition of knowledge and experience in regards to organizational structures, administration and finance policies, athlete services, venue management, and business and volunteer networking for the 2008 NAIG Host Committee.

A goal for this project is to have over 600 designated Aboriginal volunteers available for the Canada Games. This is a huge endeavor and if you would like to have more information about the mentoring program please contact:

Delephine Musqua, Aboriginal Coordinator, 2005 Canada Summer Games (306) 780-9838 or
Email: dmusqua2005csg@sasktel.net
Website: www.2005jeuxducanadagames.ca

Aboriginal Excellence:

Aboriginal Excellence is a commitment to focus on Aboriginal and Métis high performance sport development as a result of the significant needs and interest expressed by the First Nations and Métis communities as well as from various sectors of the sport community. At the provincial level, the Saskatchewan sport community acknowledges that First Nations and Métis people face economic and social barriers hindering program access and skill development, and there is a need to broaden the participation base, and increase the quality and diversity of sport opportunities for Aboriginal people. This calls for increased support of technical services and programs in order for Saskatchewan's athletes and coaches of First Nations and Métis ancestry to achieve optimum performance. 

If you have questions about the program or would like more information please call Jason (J.J.) Johnston – Aboriginal Excellence at FSIN (306) 956-1028 or jason.johnston@fsin.com.

The National Aboriginal Hockey Championships

By Shirley G. MacDonald

2004 NATIONAL ABORIGINAL HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS
PRINCE GEORGE, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA - APRIL 18-24, 2004



Team Saskatchewan

N.A.H.C.



2004 NATIONAL ABORIGINAL HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS
PRINCE GEORGE, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA - APRIL 18-24, 2004



Team Saskatchewan

N.A.H.C.



The National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC) provide a forum for elite bantam/midget aged Aboriginal hockey players in Canada to showcase their talents at a national level. The NAHC were established by the Aboriginal Sport Circle to support the holistic development of Aboriginal athletes and coaches in Canada.

The 2004 NAHC were held in Prince George, British Columbia from April 18 - 24, 2004. A male and female team that consisted of Aboriginal youth from across the province represented Saskatchewan. Numerous identification and training camps were used in the selection of the teams.

The boys team played three games and finished fourth in their pool. They continued on to the medal rounds and faced off against Ontario South and were defeated in a close game. Following this they played a relegation round to determine seeding for the 2005 NAHC and defeated British Columbia to place 7th overall. The gold medal went to Ontario North.

The girls team played in a round robin format and placed 4th. They played Eastern Door and the North and were defeated 8-3 in a game, a game in which three of our top players were injured. The final placement for the female team was 4th overall in the tournament. Ontario South defeated Eastern Door and the North for the gold medal.

The all-star team selections for the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships included six players from Saskatchewan. There were two females selected, Tiffany Starchief and Dayna King and one alternate, Reena Peekeekoot, and one male selected, Cody Pederson, and two alternates, Dwight King and Keldon Sanderson. Tiffany Starchief was ranked #1 overall of all the female participants in the tournament. The three individuals selected to the team are invited to attend a National Training Camp in Ottawa from July 12 - 19, 2004 at no cost. The alternates are also invited, but all costs are to be their own or respective governing bodies.

This all-star training camp is an elite national forum for top players to participate in. It promotes a philosophy of personal excellence through sport and supports the holistic development of all the participants. This training provides on and off-ice training as well as sport science workshops and cultural teachings from local elders who participated in the development of the curriculum for the one-week training program.

The 2005 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships will be held in New Brunswick. Evaluation camps will be scheduled for the fall of 2004. Please contact the Sport, Culture, Youth & Recreation Department at 956-1034 to obtain further information on 2005 Saskatchewan teams.

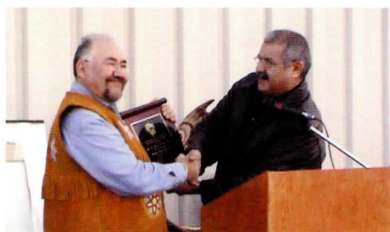
Lac La Ronge Expands Links to Keethanow Business Chain

Written and Photographed by Kevin Roberts

Keethanow Food Supermarket

Finally, the vision of opening a grocery store to be owned and operated by First Nations became a reality.

On March 31, 2004 the Lac La Ronge Indian Band celebrated the official grand opening of its latest business venture, Keethanow Food Supermarket. ('Keethanow' means 'ours' in Cree). The retail grocery store is situated on-reserve in La Ronge between the band's central office and bingo hall/gas bar outlet. The approximate cost of the building was \$1.1 million with the majority of funds coming from the band.



The ceremony took place in front the store with a gathered crowd of nearly one hundred and fifty people including band staff, store employees, band leadership, and several representatives from store suppliers and political organizations. The band's executive director, Douglas McLeod, played the role of master of ceremonies.

Senator Myles Venne provided a historical glimpse back into the past with his version that pointed to the beginnings of the retail goods industry in the local and surrounding area. This industry was started during the fur trade, with Hudson's Bay Co. (HBC) and its competitors such as Revillon Freres. "It was always the white guys running the store," commented Venne. "At last, we have a store after 300 years."

Chief Harry Cook, noted for well-spoken and long speeches, was the first of many dignitaries to speak at the podium. Cook commented on the growth of the band and the need for the organization to adapt to that change. He also touched on a common theme that early afternoon, the need to work together with the larger community. "I'm very proud that First Nations are partnering with the dominant society on many fronts," he stated.

The band also gave recognition in the form of plaques and gifts to some of the major contributors involved with the project, namely Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Northern Lights Community Development Corporation (NLDC), Dura Construction Ltd. and Alsort Fixtures.

One of the big highlights of the day, however, came when Northern Lights CDC, when its

manager Eddie Head, presented the band with a cheque for \$100,000 as part of their contribution. For the band this was a fitting gift to begin 'Indian Christmas', the new fiscal year.

Keethanow Food Supermarket was built by Dura Construction of Regina. Majority of the subtrade work was completed by local La Ronge electrical, mechanical and carpentry businesses.

Keethanow Lumber and Furniture

The concept of capitalizing on its own purchasing power was the main principle behind the Lac La Ronge Indian Band's decision to purchase Boreal Furniture, a local on-reserve furniture store.

Upon purchasing the business, which primarily sold household appliances, bedding and giftware in addition to furniture, the plan was to gradually expand it to include lumber and hardware supplies. The new store opened on August 1, 2003 and is now under the name of Keethanow Lumber and Furniture, yet another member of the growing chain of Band-owned businesses under the 'Keethanow' banner.

Locally referred to just as 'Boreal', the furniture store (which first opened its doors in 1996) was under the distinct status of being one of only a handful of furniture stores located on-reserve in all of Canada. Gladys Christiansen, a member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, was the previous owner prior to the takeover, while her husband Gerald (Gerry) served as the manager. The furniture store was valued at \$400,000 'as is', meaning the building, equipment and inventory altogether.

To keep operations running smooth during the changeover of ownership and subsequent expansion, the existing management will follow up with plans to train a band member as an assistant, one who would eventually take over the managerial duties as part of the switch in ownership between the band and Boreal.



In the last few years it became quite evident that the band needed to seriously consider starting their own lumber yard based on the fact that it was spending a yearly average of \$1.3 million on lumber and building supplies that is geared towards new housing and renovations alone. These fiscal resources were

essentially going to outside businesses, whether it was locally in La Ronge or regionally, say for example, in Prince Albert.

It has been often noted that there was a lack of any real competition of lumber and hardware stores in La Ronge, which has effectively led to a slow increase in prices. Now Keethanow Lumber and Furniture will force the competition to closely monitor and control its prices, something retailers may not have had to worry about in the previous while.

As one can imagine, the band's strategy is to key in on its own buying power, while also building on its plan to provide First Nation and northern customers with an alternative to the local and regional lumber and furniture outlets, thereby providing consumers with confidence that they are obtaining value for money. According to the number crunchers, the buying power of the band alone would generate guaranteed sales and a reasonable profit margin in the early stages. Once the retail lumber and furniture outlet is functioning yearly sales are estimated to be around \$2 million per year, with roughly \$1.4 million from the lumber sales and \$600,000 from furniture sales, minus business expenditures of course.

Much of any visible construction in the area is being done by the First Nations community. And when one takes into consideration current initiatives just in La Ronge alone that are either in the planning stage or near construction phase, such as the on-reserve 'Home Ownership' initiative, arena project, health clinic, and Elders home, as well as ongoing yearly plans for new housing and renovations to existing houses, it seemed that the next logical step for the band was to become a player in the lumber and building supplies market. Bonus when one also takes into consideration Lac La Ronge Indian Band's multi-community nature consisting of six established communities.

Since the expansion, management has invested in a forklift, a couple of flatbed trucks, some essential inventory and equipment. The making of the lumber yard required additional land development and steel mesh fencing. Some of these big ticket items have been covered through grant money that the band successfully applied for.

Along with the potential profits, the employment factor though minimal still made this a very appealing venture for the leadership to invest. Currently there are five employees: a manager, an assistant manager, a bookkeeper, driver/yard man, and an appliance maintenance person, with a few more workers to come once the expansion is completed.

FEDERATION OF SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN NATIONS YOUTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MAY 12-14 2004 PRINCE ALBERT, SASKATCHEWAN

Getting youth to be involved in politics has been an issue at all levels. However, this was not the case when the FSIN hosted a Youth Assembly. The Youth Assembly was in Prince Albert from May 12-14, 2004 at the Prince Albert Grand Council Child Care and Education Centre.

Students from First Nations across Saskatchewan participated in an Assembly modeled after the FSIN Chiefs-in-Assembly, which introduced youth to the systems of FSIN governance. Each First Nation was asked to identify two youth (one male, one female) to take part in the Assembly. However enthusiasm about the Assembly was evident as in some cases, First Nations sent more than two youth. In the end, there were 112 youth delegates, 123 youth observers and 55 chaperones that participated in the Assembly as well as a number of FSIN staff.

FSIN Executive members reported on their portfolio area. Following their reports, the opportunity for questions by the youth was available. The youth capitalized on this occasion and asked some really tough questions. Questions on education, gaming, housing and economic development were put to the Executive.

As well, presentations were made to the youth on a variety of topics. Some of those topics include Treaty Governance, economic development, education, drinking and driving, gangs, drug use and the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company.

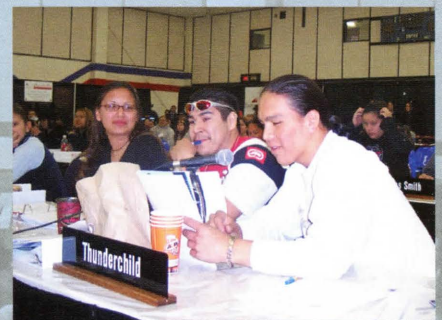
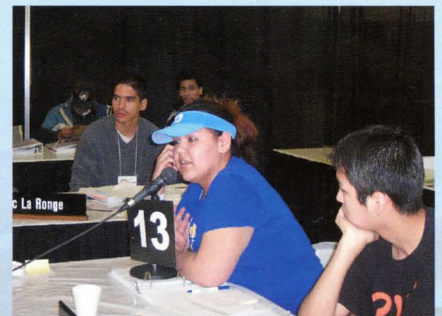
On the final day, Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Phil Fontaine made a presentation about issues happening at the AFN level. Following his presentation, he graciously took pictures with all delegates in attendance.

The youth also brought forward resolutions on a number of critical issues. It became clearly evident that a concern among youth is the lack of recreation on reserves. 'Homework assignments' were given to the youth asking them to indicate what was a major concern for them. Close to half of those returned noted that at the reserve level some kind of youth centre or recreation centre is needed.

The event ended with a number of youth returning to their communities with a sense of responsibility and an understanding of FSIN governance processes, not to mention new friendships.

Prior to this Assembly the previous Youth Assembly was held in 1998. However, there will not be another six-year lapse between Assemblies. The FSIN Spring Chiefs-in-Assembly passed a resolution calling for the FSIN Youth Assembly to become an annual event.

Recognition must be extended to 2nd Vice Chief Guy Lonechild and the coordinators of the Assembly for providing this type of necessary forum to First Nations youth.



Photos by Bonnie Leask

FSIN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Shirley G. MacDonald

The FSIN Youth Championships begin this summer in the sports of softball, soccer, athletics and golf. These championships are modeled after the Saskatchewan First Nations Games Program and the FSIN Adult Championships. The championships are intended to provide a forum for individual First Nations to develop youth at the grassroots level.

In 2003, the Sport, Culture, Youth & Recreation Board began to develop a strategy for further development in each First Nation. The reasoning for a new strategy is due to the staggering of the Saskatchewan First Nation Games Program. It was recognized there was a lapse in programming for our youth at the community level. To address this issue, the development of the FSIN championships for youth in sports was proposed. Upon approval, the plan was implemented.

The Youth Championships will now take place on the alternating years the Games are not taking place. Therefore, in 2004, sports for the summer games will be held this year and in 2005, sports for the winter games will be held. All sports will continue to follow the rules and guidelines established for the Games Program.

For further information, contact the Sport, Culture, Youth & Recreation office at 665-1215.



Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

drinking water

By Patricia Schuster

It is hard to imagine living without a safe source of drinking water for a day, week or even years, however in many First Nation communities it is a reality. For most people it would be an inconvenience but could be fixed with a few cases of bottled water. However cases such as Walkerton in Ontario and North Battleford here in Saskatchewan have brought attention to this serious issue. In these situations over 9000 people became ill and in the case of Walkerton seven people died from their drinking water. These cases signified the severity of communities not having safe drinking water and brought forth this issue on the agendas of First Nation, municipal, provincial and federal governments.

On June 6th, the Indigenous Peoples Program from the University of Saskatchewan invited four experts to Joe Duquette High School in Saskatoon to discuss how to bring safe drinking water to local communities cooperatively.

Debbie Roper is a water technician on the Yellow Quill First Nation. Roper explained why members of Yellow Quill First Nation lived with a boil water advisory since 1995. The community's drinking water was pumped from the Pipestone Creek during its spring flow. At the same time, the nearby town of Kelvington discharged their sewage lagoon water near the Pipestone Creek which resulted in the Creek becoming contaminated. Roper was brought into the community to develop a new water treatment system. Roper was part of Yellow Quill's Water Project team that brought in new wells that pump 200 litres per minute. Roper spoke to the crowd in attendance about how the Yellow Quill First Nation went from having unsafe and contaminated drinking water to having safe and clean water.

Howard Master works with the Prince Albert Grand Council Environmental Health Department and presented on the issue of unsafe water. Not only does it come from poor water sites, but testing and

inspections are inadequate. There is a lack of regulatory systems for reserves, which makes water safety standards unobtainable. Master stressed throughout his presentation a drinking water safety program could be implemented to improve water by increasing various factors, similar to the Yellow Quill First Nation. The need for a proper treatment plant was essential to develop safe water, as well it was necessary to develop procedures and maintenance standards to ensure the operation meet proper standards.

Other speakers included Bill Marion Jones who worked on the James Smith Cree Nation as part of the First Nations Water Association and Priscilla Settee, Director of the Indigenous Peoples Program at the University of Saskatchewan. Settee discussed the issue of safe water as an international situation. Settee reminded the audience just how fragile water is for the world. It is important to take steps from a local situation and then move to a global environment. During the Third World Water Forum held in Kyoto Japan in 2003, it was agreed Indigenous peoples would reaffirm a relationship with Mother Earth and take responsibility to protect the world's water source for future generations.

It is obvious a community without safe drinking water can have detrimental effects. Positive reinforcements such as technical support, research, and education can and will improve the quality of water. Jurisdictional issues and funding can be a deterrent in providing safe water and it was the consensus of the panel members that safe water programs needs to be developed. It is imperative the province utilize the experience of Yellow Quill First Nation success and develop a possible template which can be expanded and followed by all communities to meet and exceed safe drinking water guidelines.

POWOW LISTINGS 2004



July 16-18

Onion Lake Powwow
Onion Lake First Nation, SK
contact 306.847.2200

July 16-18

Wahcinca Dakota Powwow
Popular, Montana, U.S.A.
contact 406.768.5186

July 16-18

Standing Arrow Powwow & Horse Games
Elmo, Montana, U.S.A.
contact 406.675.0160

July 22-25

Back to Batoche 2004 – Metis Cultural Celebration
contact 306.343.8285

July 22-25

Hays Powwow
Hays, Montana, U.S.A.
contact 406.353.2205

July 23-25

Sturgeon Lake Powwow
Sturgeon Lake Nation, SK
contact 306.764.1872

July 23-25

Carry the Kettle Powwow
Carry the Kettle First Nation, SK
contact 306.727.2135

July 23-25

Milk River Indian Days
Fort Belknap, Montana, U.S.A.
contact 406.353.2901

July 23-25

Driftpile Powwow
Driftpile, Alberta
contact 780.355.3931

July 30-August 1

Touchwood Agency Tribal Council Powwow
Raymore, SK
contact 306.835.2125

July 30 - August 2

Lac La Biche Powwow & Fish Derby,
Lac La Biche, Alberta
contact 780.623.4255

August 5-7

Wadapona Traditional Powwow
Wolf Point, Montana, U.S.A.
contact 406.768.7463

August 5-8

Oglala Lakota Powwow & Rodeo
Pine Ridge, South Dakota, U.S.A.
contact 605.867.6121

August 6-8

Muskoday Traditional Powwow,
Muskoday First Nation, SK
contact 306.764.1282

August 9-11

Siksika Nation Powwow & Fair
Siksika, Alberta
contact 403.734.5100

August 13-15

Heart Lake Powwow & Treaty Days
Lac La Biche, Alberta
contact 780.623.4255

August 13-15

Ermineskin Annual Powwow
Hobbema, Alberta
contact 780.585.3741

August 13-15

Thunderchild Powwow
Thunderchild First Nation, SK
contact 306.845.4300

August 13-15

Standing Buffalo Powwow
Standing Buffalo First Nation, SK
contact 306.332.4685

August 17-19

Cowessess Traditional Powwow,
Cowessess First Nation, SK
contact 306.696.3121

August 17-20

NorthWest Territorial Days
North Battleford, SK
contact 306.445.2024

August 19-24

Crow Fair & Rodeo
Crow Agency, Montana, U.S.A.
contact 406.638.3793

August 20-22

Kehewin Cree Nation Powwow
Kehewin Reserve, Alberta
contact 780.826.3333

August 20-22

Saulteaux Powwow
Saulteaux First Nation, SK
contact 306.386.2424

August 20-22

Mistawasis Competition Powwow
Mistawasis First Nation, SK
contact 306.466.4800

August 20-22

Kahkewistahaw Powwow
Kahkewistahaw First Nation, SK
contact 306.696.3291

August 20-22

Crooked Lake Agency Powwow
Ochapowace First Nation, SK
contact 306.696.3160

August 30-September 1

Nakota Powwow & Rodeo
Nakota, Alberta
contact 403.881.3770

September 8

Tawow Powwow
First Nation University of Canada
Saskatoon Campus
contact 306.546.8400

October 14-17

FSIN Cultural Celebration & Powwow
Saskatoon, SK
contact 306.956.1034

Compiled by Dennis & Jean Fisher





PRAIRIE VOICES: ABORIGINAL TALENT SEARCH AND SHOWCASE

By Lorraine Delorme

Prairie Voices SC Inc. was generated from the Scott Collegiate SaskTel Partners in Education Aboriginal Talent Night held at Scott Collegiate on January 29, 2004. Twenty-three Acts were showcased and MC'd by CTV's Indigenous Circle host, Nelson Bird. The acts featured a 6-year-old girl's rendition of the Dixie Chicks' and a 65-year-old grandmother singing Elvis song "All Shook Up" in the Cree language. As a result of the success of the show the folks involved decided to continue on when approached by the Canada Games 2005 Committee.

The Prairie Voices: Aboriginal Talent Search and Showcase has been initiated to have young Aboriginals showcase their artistic talents at the Canada Games scheduled in Regina on August 6th – 20th, 2004. Successful recipients will be performing 10 nights, with 2 to 4 acts per night.

Talent Search Dates:

September 16 – 17, 2004 – Treaty Four Days – Lebret Eagle Dome

February 19, 2005 – Yorkton Tribal Council – Convention & Agriplex Yorkton

May 26, 2005 – Casino Regina – Showcase Winners from North & South

June 2005 – TBA – Showcase Winners at the 7th Annual Circle of Honour

August 6 – 20, 2005 – Performance at the Canada Games Aboriginal Showcase of Talent at the Canada Games, Regina, Saskatchewan

As community leaders we believe in building the community through our youth for a better tomorrow: our future leaders.

Many of the successful youth will have the opportunity to contribute to the success of the Canada Games Culture Division.

Contacts:

Albert Agecoutay
Mentor, Prairie Voices Project
Box 1882, Fort Qu'Appelle, SK
S0G 1S0
Home: (306) 332-3792
Office (306) 332-5697
Cellular: (306) 331-7897

Lorraine Delorme
Assistant Project Manager
Box 1882, Fort Qu'Appelle, SK
S0G 1S0
Home: (306) 584-0411
Office: (306) 790-4105
Cellular: (306) 535-4762

NAIG 2008

By Shirley G. MacDonald

2008 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG)

With respect to the 2008 NAIG, the FSIN has submitted a bid to host the 2008 NAIG. If awarded the games, they will be held in Regina, Saskatchewan. The FSIN bid was presented to the NAIG Council on May 15, 2004 in Denver, Colorado. In July 2004, a site evaluation by the NAIG Site Evaluation Team will take place to guide decision-makers with their ruling.

Also competing for hosting rights of the 2008 NAIG is Cowichan First Nation of British Columbia. The NAIG Council will award the Games in October 2004.



NAIG 2005

By Shirley G. MacDonald

The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) scheduled for 2005 will not be held in Buffalo, New York, U.S.A. On Friday, March 26, 2004 the NAIG Council retracted the hosting rights for the 2005 Games from the Buffalo Sports Society, Inc. based upon lack of documentation regarding the Buffalo Sports Society's progress in delivering the games.

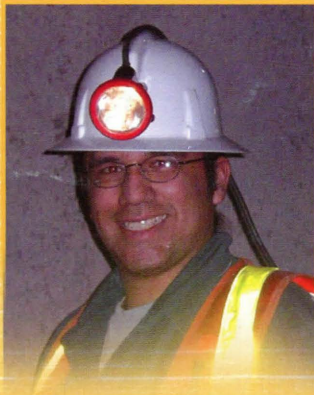
The 2005 Games have been rescheduled to 2006 with a host to be determined in October 2004. The Games have been re-opened to a bid process with a deadline of June 30, 2004.

The NAIG Council is currently reviewing the future options and is committed to ensure that the Games move forward in an expedited and timely manner.

The NAIG Council is the international governing body of the NAIG and is made of 26 representatives from all over Canada and the United States (13 American and 13 Canadian). The first Games were held in 1990 in Edmonton, Alberta; in 1993, Prince Albert Saskatchewan; in 1995, Blaine, Minnesota; in 1997, Victoria, British Columbia; and most recently in 2002, Winnipeg, Manitoba. The NAIG Council is responsible for determining the site of future Games through a bid process.

Team Saskatchewan training camps will be scheduled for the summer and fall of 2004 as we are committed to providing excellence in sports for the athletes in Saskatchewan. For further information contact Shirley G. MacDonald @ 306.956-1034.

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.



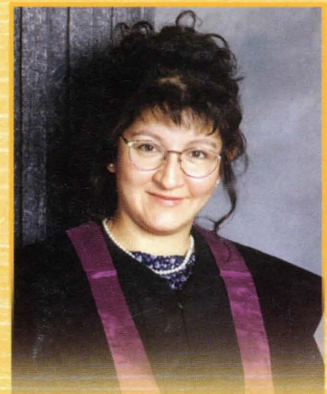
Johnny Walker

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.

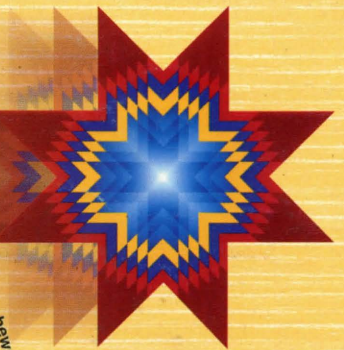


Charlotte Ross

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.

Working together for a better Saskatchewan.

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