

INDIAN

Winter 2003

Strengthening our Community
through Cultural Awareness

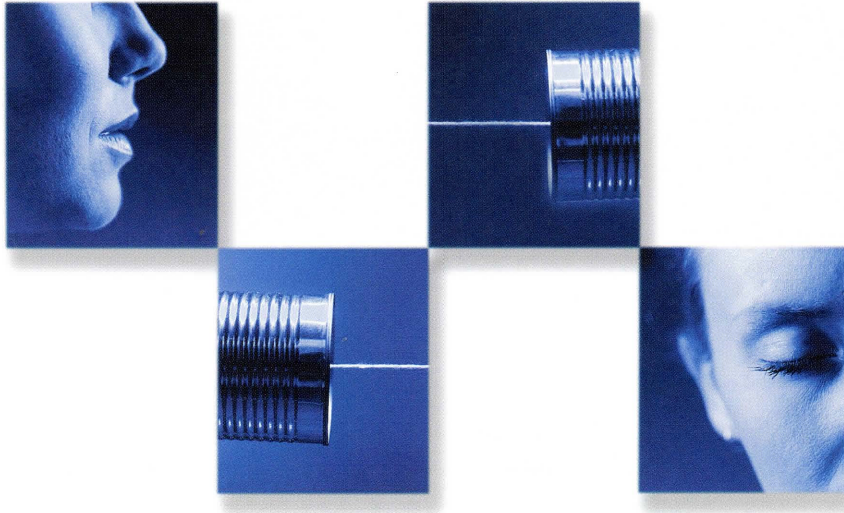


2003 FSIN Cultural Celebration and Powwow
Another Success

2003 Summer Games Results
Flying Dust First Nations

New FSIN Executive Members
At the Election

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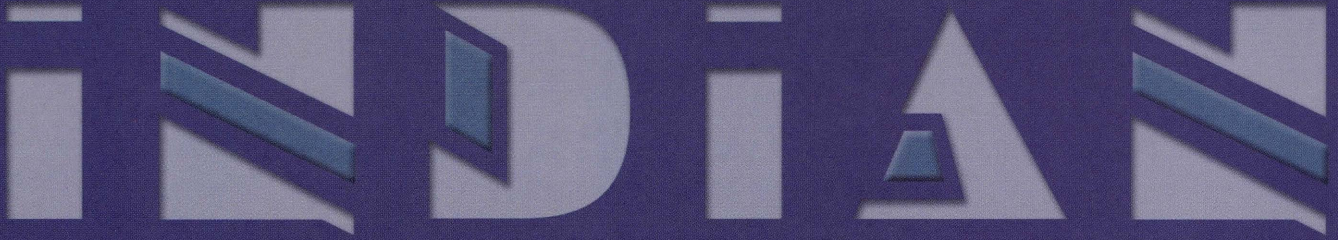
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Saskatchewan Indian is the official publication of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and is intended to serve as an effective communication vehicle for First Nations in the province of Saskatchewan.

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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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the Saskatchewan Indian is dedicated to strengthening our communities through cultural awareness. There have been a number of important issues and events taking place in First Nations communities since the last issue that have contributed to the theme of cultural awareness. We try to ensure that we capture much of what is going on around the province and nationally, however that is not always possible. Therefore, we strongly encourage contributions sent in for inclusion in the magazine.

Stories in this issue range from the Summer Games that were held in Flying Dust in July. There were over 3000 athletes, coaches, chaperones and volunteers in attendance. This was a great event for the youth as the games allow

them to participate in sporting events as well as getting to know youth from other areas. As well, Tyrone Roper from the Yellowquill First Nation, a member of the United States of America military, was on hand at the Opening Ceremonies and spoke about his experiences in Iraq. Tyrone gave perspective and inspiration about events happening in the world.

The past five months have seen elections both nationally and provincially. We have covered the AFN and FSIN elections and have included articles on both Election Assemblies.

Finally, the FSIN Cultural Celebration and Powwow was held from October 16 - 19 at Saskatchewan Place in Saskatoon. The event was a huge success and enjoyed by First Nations and non-

First Nations people. The cultural portion of the event reached out to over 3000 students and teachers from schools within Saskatchewan. During the two days of the powwow dancers from across Canada and United States of America were in attendance which gave the audience a spectacular powwow.

Enjoy the magazine and we welcome comments, letters and stories from our readership.

Thank you.

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:

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Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 4K4
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WE VALUE
your
OPINION!

Nov. 29 – Dec. 12, 2003

**Sask Native Theatre Company
“Ms Purdy Parsimonias: A Rez
Christmas Story II”**

SNTC Black Box Theatre
228 – 20 St W
Saskatoon, SK
(306) 931 - 7682

Dec. 10 – 11, 2003

**Thunderplains Consulting
presents “First Nations
Community Curriculum
Workshop”**

Saskatoon Inn
Manitoba Room
Saskatoon, SK
(306) 933 – 1929

Dec. 10 – 11, 2003

**First Nation Community
Curriculum Workshop (module
one)**

Saskatoon Inn – Manitoba Room
Saskatoon, SK
(306) 242 – 1842 or
Michelle McKay-Poorman
(306) 933 – 1929

Dec. 12, 2003

**Prince Albert Grand Council First
Nations Language Festival**

A.J. Rawlinson Centre for the Arts
Prince Albert, SK
Minnie McKenzie
(306) 425 – 4938 / 8343 or
Barbara McLeod
(306) 953 – 7234

Dec. 19, 2003

**Feast 5:00 pm Memorial Round
Dance for the
Late Mr & Mrs Rabbitskin**

Pelican Lake Band Hall
For More Information
Mervin Dreaver
(306) 984 – 4629

Dec. 23, 2003

**Christmas Holidays & New
Years Day F.S.I.N. Offices**

Closed 5:00 pm Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2003
Re-open 8:30 am Monday, Jan. 5, 2004
For Information, 0
(306) 665-1215

Feb. 5 – 7, 2004

**The Native Plant Society of SK
presents “Working Together:
Native Plants and the Living
World” Workshop and Annual
General Meeting**

Days Inn
Swift Current, SK
Garth Wruck, coordinator
(306) 668 – 3940

Feb. 10-12, 2004

FSIN Legislative Assembly

Prince Albert
Joanne Cardinal
(306) 956-6947 or
Carol Burns
(306) 956-6912

March 11, 2004

**NCLRC Cree Language Festival
Nursery to Grade 12**

Jonas Roberts Memorial Centre
La Ronge, SK
Minnie McKenzie
(306) 425 – 4938 / 8343 or
Barbara McLeod
(306) 953 – 7234

March 11, 2004 6:00 pm

**La Ronge Trapper’s Festival
Talent of the North Show for
Adults (Cree, Dene, English)**

Jonas Roberts Memorial Centre
La Ronge, SK
Minnie McKenzie
(306) 425 – 4938 / 8343 or
Barbara McLeod
(306) 953 – 7234

March 26 – 28, 2004

**Lawrence Weenie Cup IV
“Western Canadian Aboriginal
Oldtimers Hockey Classic”**

North Battleford, SK
Milton Tootoosis
(306) 771 – 4787
milttootoosis@sasktel.net

March 28 – 30, 2004

**9th National Congress on Rural
Education**

Centennial Auditorium
Saskatoon, SK
SK Educational Leadership Unit, Dept.
Of Educational Administration, U of S
(306) 966 – 7634

INDIAN OUTLOOK

*Saskatchewan's First Nations
Calendar of Events*

April 9 – 16, 2004

**Saskatchewan First Nation
Winter Games hosted by Eastern
Sector Chiefs**

Nipawin, SK
Mel Mercredi
(306) 956 – 7234
Elton Head
(306) 768 – 3640

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 the attention of:

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& / Or Jeannie Pewapisconias
(Office Manager)
E-Mail: jeannie.pewapisconias@fsin.com

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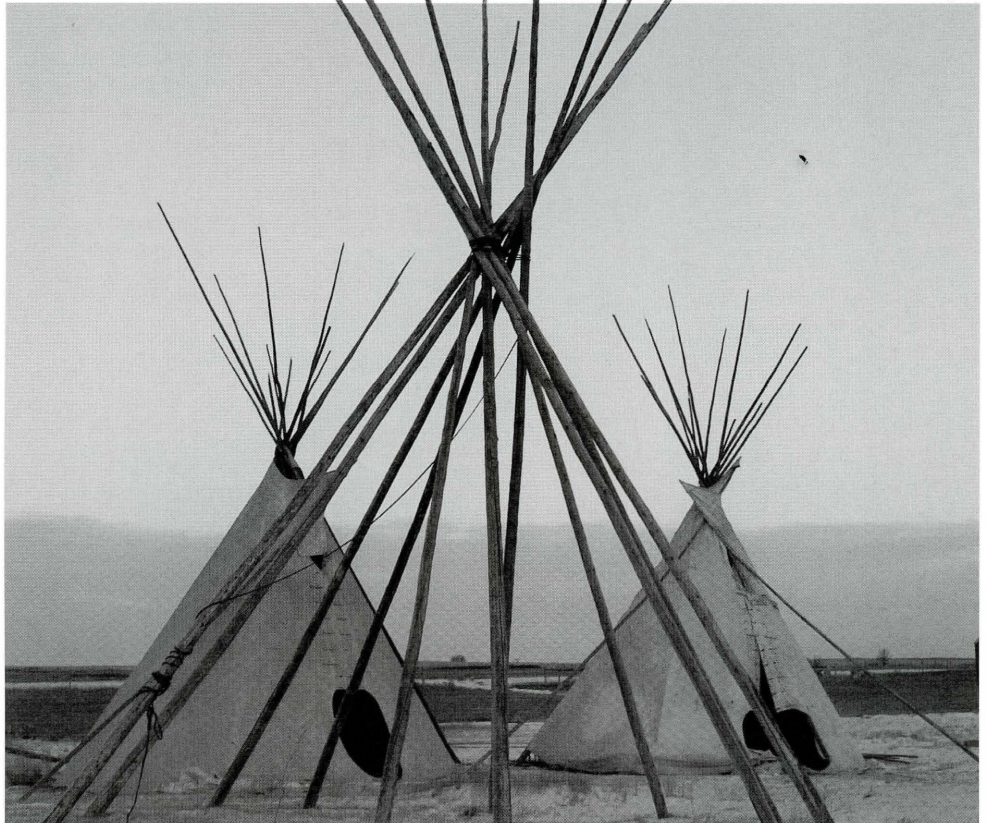
4th Annual International

Traditional

By Debbie Delorme

... everything on the earth has a purpose, every disease an herb to cure it, and every person a mission...

*Mourning Dove
(Salish)*



The fourth International Traditional Healing and Medicines Gathering was held at Nekaneet First Nation from August 18-21, 2003. Nekaneet by most standards can be considered a remote community due to its location in the very southwest corner of the province. It is located amongst the rare lodge pole pines in the Cypress Hills, the beauty of which is unique to the rest of the prairies.

Attendance at this fourth and final Gathering at Nekaneet was approximately 5,000 people. They came as participants or observers from all regions of the country. They pitched tents, set up tent-trailers, drove in RVs, or made use

of the tipis that were set up for visitors, some even opted for the comfort of a bus!

The fact that approximately 20,000 participants attended this gathering over the past four years shows the interest in continuing and reviving our ancient ceremonies. These ceremonies are the heart of our culture and define us as First Nations people, they distinguish us from all other cultures on earth.

This was the final hosting of this International Gathering by the Nekaneet First Nation community. For four years, these gatherings were an annual highlight of their community activities. They planned, organized and facilitated it

in association with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Health and Social Development Commission of the FSIN. Organizations that realize that in order to proceed forward with any vision of wellness, communities need to get back to the fundamentals of sacred knowledge. The mandate of the Gathering was to provide a forum for enhancing First Nations' capacity to develop, design and implement ancient healing strategies into programs based on the fundamental practices of our own beliefs.

This International Gathering was highly influenced by the vision of this community's greatly respected

Healing & Medicines Gathering



former leader, the late Elder Gordon Oakes. His son Chief, Larry Oakes has carried it forward. The people of Nekaneet still adhere to their traditional and spiritual beliefs and so appropriately they have set this process in motion. The Gathering was their opportunity to reinforce and cultivate those beliefs so that they may be maintained and preserved for generations to come.

Those sacred practices were observed during the Gathering. Each dawn was greeted with prayer, a pipe ceremony and a sweat lodge ceremony. Upon awaking campers made their way down to breakfast and then over to the Interpretive Tent to listen to special guest speakers.

The Interpretive Tent was established for enlightening participants and observers about spiritual practices and the significance of the ceremonies performed: the Ghost Dance, Rattle Dance, Chicken Dance and Horse Dance. The overall objective was to bring people together to re-establish traditional family and

community ties. But also, it provided cultural awareness and the establishment of groundwork for an in-depth knowledge base created from shared memories and history. In a circle of tipis adjacent to the Interpretive Tent, healing ceremonies were offered to people who sought help physically, emotionally or spiritually.

The International Healing Gathering conveyed the message that there is more to the art of healing than basic scientific reasoning. For First Nations' people, it includes drawing on spiritual beliefs that requires the exercise of both mind and heart. That concept was lost when First Nations' people suffered great spiritual deprivation when sacred ceremonies were prohibited. The enforcement of an alien value system altered the very meaning of life for First Nations' people and destroyed their identity that was closely connected to the Creator.

The revival of cultural practices will re-establish that identity. New insights gained at this Gathering will assist First Nations people in

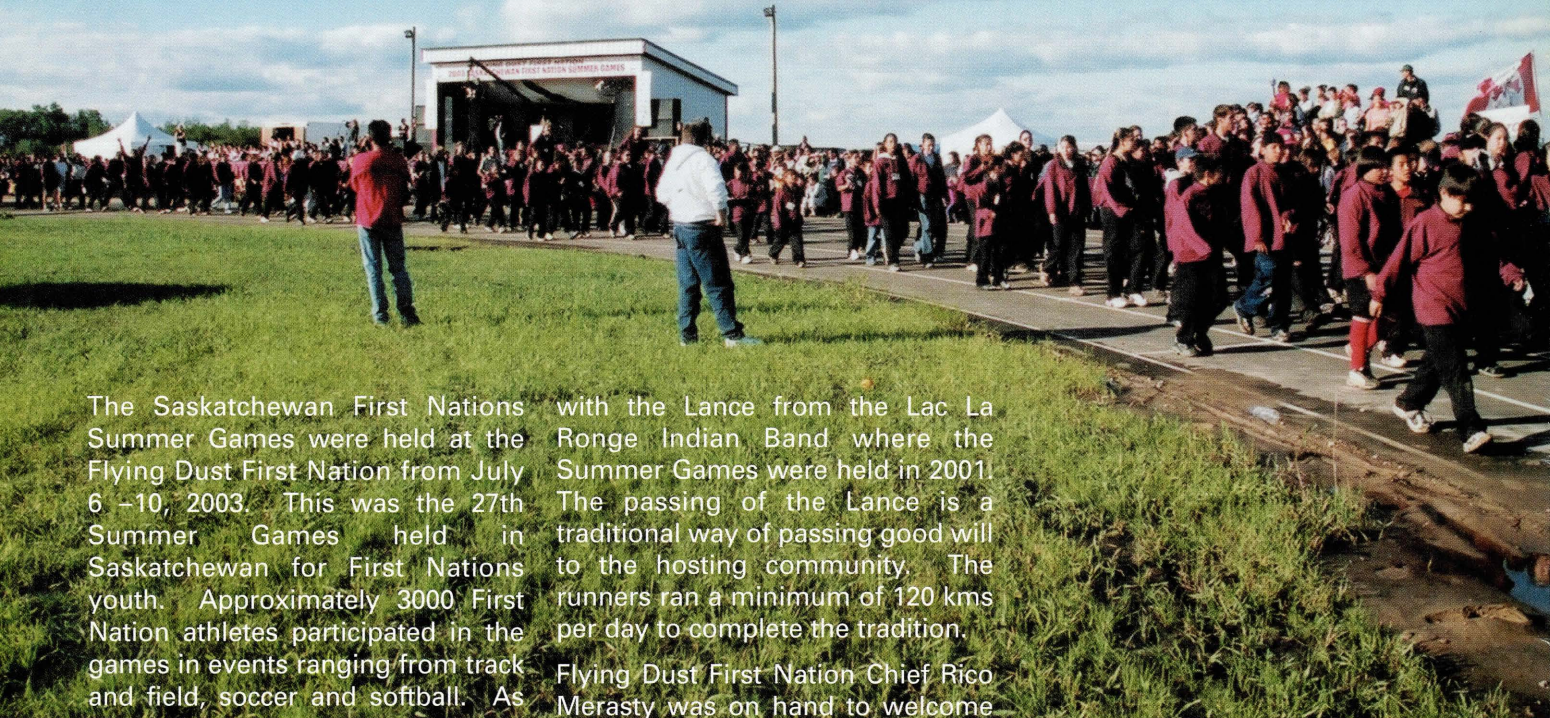
developing programs based on traditional concepts that will benefit them more than those based on foreign principles, that never served their interests. It will also restore healthy community environments and re-establish the bond with the Creator that once gave balance to their lives.

One positive aspect of this Gathering is that an ongoing commitment was established to provide the best possible opportunities for traditional healing initiatives. Through financial resources and the recognition that the most effective healing principles for First Nations' people come from the knowledge and wisdom of their own.

The Gathering culminated with a successful round dance and powwow that had the largest attendance in its four year history.

THE SASKATCHEWAN FIRST NATIONS SUMMER GAMES

By Bonnie Leask & Patrick Johnson
Photos By Bonnie Leask



The Saskatchewan First Nations Summer Games were held at the Flying Dust First Nation from July 6 -10, 2003. This was the 27th Summer Games held in Saskatchewan for First Nations youth. Approximately 3000 First Nation athletes participated in the games in events ranging from track and field, soccer and softball. As well, this year's games featured two demonstration events of cross-country cycling and golf. The games are often referred to as a symbol of the FSIN because of the unity it provides to bring youth from the West, East, South and North parts of the province.

The opening ceremonies of the games were held on Flying Dust at the track and field sports grounds. A grand entry of Elders, Veterans, Senators and Chiefs opened the ceremonies. Special guest Private Tyrone Roper was in attendance following his injury sustained while serving with the American military in Iraq. This was followed by the athlete's procession. Each team of athletes walked around the track as loud cheering filled the air from the youth while banging on hand held drums. Introducing the participating teams was Member of Parliament Rick Laliberte.

After all the athletes had entered the area, the Lance Runners arrived

with the Lance from the Lac La Ronge Indian Band where the Summer Games were held in 2001. The passing of the Lance is a traditional way of passing good will to the hosting community. The runners ran a minimum of 120 kms per day to complete the tradition.

Flying Dust First Nation Chief Rico Merasty was on hand to welcome the athletes and encouraged the youth to "embrace peace, unity and friendship in the spirit of the games and promote this as a healthy competition based on friendships." As well, Saskatchewan Premier Lorne Calvert was on hand to extend his well wishes to the athletes.

Participating athletes represented First Nations across Saskatchewan, which included both on-reserve and off-reserve membership. The majority of the athletes were representing Agency/Grand/Tribal Councils, however, Onion Lake First Nation entered a team of athletes to participate in these games.

In addition to the athletes there were over 2000 coaches, volunteers and chaperones. Without their assistance events such as this would not be possible. A thank you goes out to them with much appreciation for their generous contribution of time and energy

Information and pictures of the event can be seen at the www.firstnationgames2003.com website.

The eastern sector bands of Shoal Lake Cree Nation, Cumberland House Cree Nation and Red Earth First Nation will host the next Saskatchewan First Nation Winter Games. These games will be held in Nipawin, Saskatchewan from April 9 - 16, 2004. Kawacatoose First Nation will host the next Summer Games in the Summer of 2005.



Major event totals were as follows:

Representing	Track	Softball	Soccer
Agency Chiefs Tribal Council	150.5	33	61
Battlefords Tribal Council	230.5	14	70
File Hills / Qu'Appelle Tribal Council	160.5	52	16
Meadow Lake Tribal Council	454	56	46
Onion Lake First Nation	149	36	18
Prince Albert Grand Council	487	44	34
Saskatoon Tribal Council	246.5	51	43
South East Treaty #4 Tribal Council	59.5	50	1
Touchwood Agency Tribal Council	114	46	12
Yorkton Tribal Council	32.5	59	10



The final all around totals were:

Prince Albert Grand Council	565
Meadow Lake Tribal Council	556
Saskatoon Tribal Council	340.5
Battlefords Tribal Council	314.5
Agency Chiefs Tribal Council	244.5
File Hills/Qu'Appelle Tribal Council	228.5
Onion Lake First Nation	203
Touchwood Agency Tribal Council	172
South East Treaty #4 Tribal Council	110.5
Yorkton Tribal Council	101.5



Welcome

New FSIN Executive Members

Story & Photos By
Bonnie Leask



The campaigning for Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Executive offices officially began on September 15th and continued until the day of elections. On October 15th and 16th, First Nations leaders and delegates gathered in Saskatoon to vote for three FSIN Executive offices. Up for election were the Office of the Chief, the Office of the 1st Vice-Chief and

the Office of the 3rd Vice-Chief.

The Election Assembly was held at the Saskatoon Centennial Auditorium. Due to the nature of the Assembly there was only six resolutions passed at this Assembly while the rest of the time was devoted to the elections. During the afternoon and part of the evening on October 15th, candidates and their nominators had the opportunity to address the voters through a forum of speeches. The nominators for each candidate had a maximum of five minutes to speak, while the candidates had ten minutes to address the large crowd that was on hand.

The form of election followed by the FSIN is a runoff system, therefore to be declared elected to a position, the candidate must secure 50% + 1 of the total of votes cast. In the event that the number is not met,

the candidate with the lowest number of votes is automatically removed from the next ballot. Another ballot is then cast with the remaining candidates on the ballot. This continues until the 50+1 number is received.

The number of eligible voters for this Election Assembly was 825. Ballots cast in the first round of voting were 792. Therefore, the number of votes required for 50% + 1 was 397. The voting began on October 16 at 9:00 in the morning. The tally method utilized by the FSIN for the elections was electronic; therefore the results were announced within 30 minutes of the polls closing.

Three people sought election to the Office of the Chief, incumbent Perry Bellegarde of Little Black Bear First Nation, Alphonse Bird of Montreal Lake Cree Nation and Wes George of the Ochapowace First Nation.

The Office of the Chief ballot resulted in one ballot with Alphonse Bird from Montreal Lake Cree Nation garnering 442 votes. However, the Office of the 1st Vice-Chief and the Office of the 3rd Vice-Chief each required second ballots. The number of eligible voters remained the same, however the ballots cast number changed from 792 to 732, with the number of ballots required to secure the position being 367.

The Office of 1st Vice-Chief had four contenders, incumbent Greg Ahenakew of Ahtakakoop First Nation, Joseph (Ernie) Cameron of Beady's & Okemasis First Nation,



Earl Magnuson of Kawacatoose First Nation and Morley Watson of Ochapowace/Chacachas First Nation.

The Office of the 3rd Vice-Chief had six candidates to consider, including Frank Asapass of Kawacatoose First Nation, incumbent Lindsay Cyr of Pasqua First Nation, Orrin Greyeyes of Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, Ken (Tom) Iron of Canoe Lake First Nation, Walter McNabb of Peepeksis First Nation and Delbert Wapass of Thunderchild First Nation.

The successful candidate for the Office of 1st Vice-Chief was Morley Watson of Ochapowace/Chacachas First Nation, and the successful candidate for the Office of 3rd Vice-Chief is Delbert Wapass of Thunderchild First Nation.

Following the second ballot announcements, the incumbent

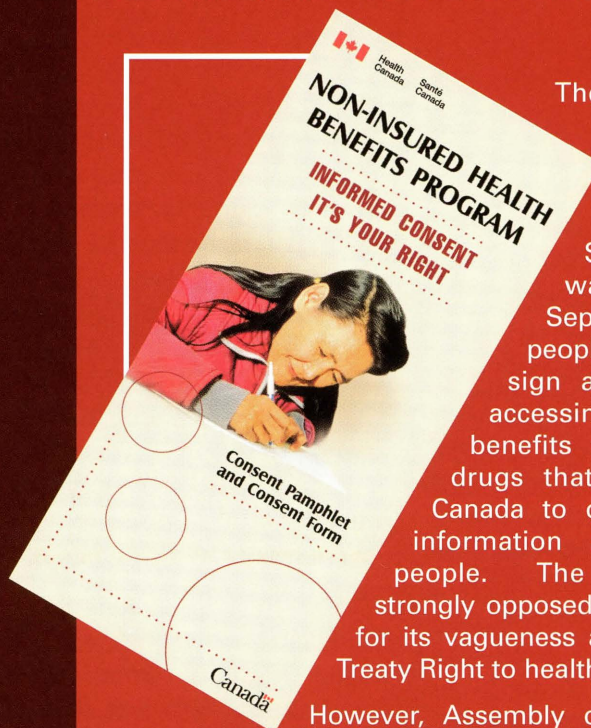
candidates were invited to address the crowd. Perry Bellegarde, Greg Ahenakew and Lindsay Cyr welcomed the opportunity and thanked the crowd for the support in the past years and encouraged the new Executive to continue to fight for First Nations people and rights.

Following the comments from the incumbents, members of the FSIN Senate and Elders conducted the Oaths of Office for the successful candidates, after which each candidate made a brief speech.

The new Executive members took office immediately on October 16th.

Health Consent Update

By Bonnie Leask



There have been new developments in the consent issue that was raised in our last edition of Saskatchewan Indian. It was expected that on

September 1, First Nations people would be required to sign a consent form when accessing non-insured health benefits acquiring prescription drugs that would allow Health Canada to obtain personal health information about First Nations people. The proposed idea was strongly opposed by many First Nations for its vagueness and its violation of the Treaty Right to health.

However, Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Phil Fontaine and the Honourable Anne A. McLellan, Minister of Health announced jointly on July 25, 2003 that the deadline for implementation of the non-Insured Health Benefits Client Consent Program will be extended from September 1, 2003 to March 1, 2004.

During the next six months, the AFN will be working on the development of a national framework for the consent. The FSIN has rejected the negotiation process as a result of Health Canada's refusal to share information and to provide the legal requirements for consent.

Health Canada had initially intended to establish the Health Care Consent Program, a program which Treaty Status First Nations would be required to fill out a consent form. This form would allow Health Canada to track and monitor the amount of prescriptions filled. Health Canada has indicated that there are a high proportion of First Nation people who are abusing the medical system by overuse and abuse of pharmaceuticals.



1st Vice-Chief Morley Watson



3rd Vice-Chief Delbert Wapass

It was another successful year for the Sciences Program. There are many milestones to celebrate and report for summer of 2003. First on the list is that

3489 participants took part in the FSIN Sciences Program.

Secondly, a dynamic FSIN – Science Resource team was assembled including a impressive list of presenters who help to deliver the 10 festivals. Last but not least Elders/Traditional Knowledge Keepers displayed their finesse and cultural knowledge to deserving youth and communities.

and shared their knowledge with the youth and in essence they were teaching the art of Traditional Science. The Sciences Program was fortunate to have a expert birch bark canoe maker, birch bark biter, quillwork designer, stone tools and implements historians and many other skilled Traditional Scientists. The reason the Elders/Traditional Knowledge Keepers were included was to validate First Nations cultural knowledge of tooling raw materials into material cultural objects used for everyday survival. This ingenuity took great skill honed over the generations and this wisdom is the foundation of science and new found technology. The challenged faced by the Sciences

difference was the 'Pe-sa-ka-stew (Dawning of a New Day) Science Strategy network which saw the formation of partnerships between corporation, industry, and educational institutions come together to work in unison towards a common goal: the youth. The partner's commitment made the difference for they enriched the program including most notably the Sciences Program received UNESCO patronage for work in promoting environmental stewardship. Indeed, 2003 was a great year for the Sciences Program and now planning is well under way for the academic year to visit classrooms around the province.

The Art of Science

By Barb Frazer

A festival is only successful if the host community is directly involved in all stages of planning and organizing the upcoming event. Communities such as Okanese First Nation had their local radio station broadcast live the events taking place and each community had enthusiastic volunteers ready to assist in all areas. Onion Lake First Nation invited the Sciences Program to help them celebrate Canada Day by hosting a festival next to the rodeo grounds. Perhaps the biggest difference this summer is that a Community Liaison was identified earlier on in the season to help coordinate the festival activities.

It was great to see grandparents bring their grandchildren and together they did experiments including all the activities. One of the most important factor of the festival was the inclusion of the Elders/Traditional Knowledge Keepers into its format. They brought their particular skilled craft

Program was to show the parallel nature between Western and Traditional Science. That one needs to master both in order to succeed and contribute to the vitality of their families and communities.

The Sciences Program was proud of the FSIN Summer Sciences Resource team that was assembled to help deliver and demonstrate the series of science modules. They were positive role models for the youth and encouragement to enter into higher place of learning more importantly to think of future career in science and technology. Another project soon to be completed are two videos entitled 'Traditional Science, Everyday Science' and 'The Sciences Program'. These video will be used as a teaching resource much like the poster 'Traditional Science, Everyday Science' that was developed this summer to accompany the video.

The festivals were bigger than in previous years with more presenters involved. The major



(left ot right) Clayton Maxie, Terrina Bellegarde, Chris Scribe, Amanda Thomas, Barb Frazer, and Mrytle Morin.

AFN Election

Story & Photos By Bonnie Leask

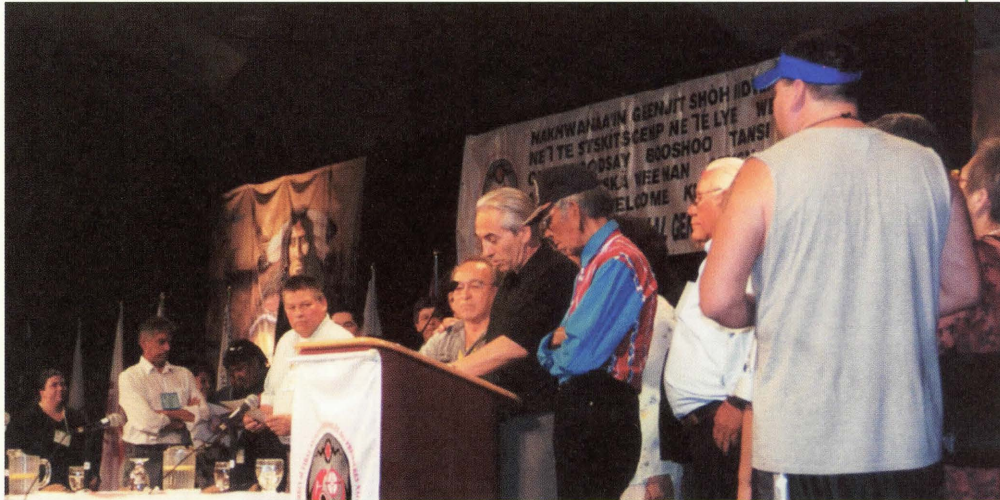
From July 15th to July 17th, Chiefs from all across Canada came together in Edmonton Alberta for the 25th Annual General Assembly of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). This Assembly was also the stage for the election of the Chief of the AFN. The campaigning that led up to the Assembly indicated that the race was hard fought between incumbent Matthew Coon Come, former Chief Phil Fontaine and Six Nations Chief Roberta Jamieson.

The Assembly began through various First Nations traditions. Treaty Six territory covers the Edmonton area and Grand Chief Lorne Morin welcomed everyone to the Treaty Six territory. The day proceeded immediately into the issues that are facing First Nations people.



Issues that have serious impacts on the lives of First Nations people were discussed and vetted by Chiefs. On the first day, much discussion occurred on the unilateral imposition by Health Canada of the Health Consent Form. Many of the Chiefs were concerned that their basic human rights are being violated while non-First Nations people are not subjected to this invasion of privacy.

Chief Wallace Fox of the Onion Lake First Nation spoke passionately about our Treaties and the lack of respect government is according to First Nations as evidenced by their actions on the Consent Form issue, and other issues adversely



impacting First Nations.

With the election on everyone's minds, the afternoon of the first day was devoted to a forum with the candidates for National Chief where each candidate spoke and answered questions posed to them from the floor. Following the candidates' forum, the three candidates attended a supper hosted by the leadership from Saskatchewan.

The election was held on the second day of the Assembly. The polls opened at 9.00 a.m. and by 1:45 p.m. the first results were returned. Incumbant, Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come received only 18% of the votes, and as he received the lowest amount of votes, his name was dropped from ballot. Phil Fontaine and Roberta Jamieson then advanced to the final round of voting.

The second round of voting began immediately following the announcement of numbers. The winner after the second round of voting was Phil Fontaine. Chief Fontaine is from the Sagkeeng First Nation and held the position of AFN Chief from 1997 to 2000.

For myself, a first time attendee to the AFN Annual General Assembly it was an amazing experience to see

so many First Nations activists who have brought attention to First Nation issues. In addition, the atmosphere in the room was electric while waiting for the results to be announced. People were talking quietly and shifting in their seats and when the Chief Electoral Officer came on, a slow hush fell over the room and erupted immediately when the results were announced in both cases.

Chief Fontaine went to the podium to accept his new position and gave a speech acknowledging the other candidates and his vision for a new AFN.

The final day of the Assembly was to resolve the outstanding resolutions from the first day, however only a handful of Chiefs turned out to continue discussion. It was difficult to bring forth any resolutions with so few people there; however, those that stayed were determined to voice their concerns.

Early in the afternoon, the AGA was formally closed. It had been a crazy few days however, change had been elected by the Chiefs of Canada. **Best wishes to Chief Fontaine in his position.**

IPHRC Developing Capacity for Aboriginal Health

By Elaine Kinequon

- 4 theme areas:**
- 1. Chronic diseases, nutrition and life style**
 - 2. Indigenous healing: addiction (includes FAS), mental health, and the judicial system**
 - 3. Health delivery and control (includes ethics, community development and governance)**
 - 4. Prevention and environmental health.**

Aboriginal people will finally have a role to play in finding solutions to their own health needs. After considerable consultation, the First Nations University of Canada (formerly SIFC), the University of Regina (U of R) and the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the creation of the Indigenous Peoples Health Research Centre (IPHRC). The goal of this centre is to foster community-generated Aboriginal research throughout Saskatchewan.

The IPHRC is supported by the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples Health (IAPH), which is one of the institutes of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF).

Funding provided to IPHRC is primarily focused on building capacity in health research among Aboriginal people through trainee support and promoting research into areas of Aboriginal health for which four theme areas have been identified:

"We know that economic status, family supports, individual behaviour and other factors outside the traditional health sector have a major effect on our health," IPHRC Interim Director Dr. Ralph Nilson said. "Aboriginal peoples both inside and outside Saskatchewan will benefit from research that focuses directly on their unique health needs."

To date, networking sessions have been held and two rounds of summer undergraduate research awards have been distributed for summer research. Graduate studentships have also been adjudicated and funding distributed for the second consecutive year. A Partnership/Network Development Grant program has been initiated, and two rounds have been adjudicated and funded; a third deadline intake recently passed in September 2003. Further intakes of

these developmental grant proposals have been scheduled for January 15, 2004 and May 1, 2004.

Fifteen students were awarded the 2003 Summer Undergraduate Research Award that provided the students an opportunity to gain valuable experience by participating in supervised research during the summer months. The experience was aimed at increasing research capacity within the Aboriginal community, and Aboriginal research in general. IPHRC hosted a Student Gathering at the First Nations University of Canada on August 7th where the students showcased their projects and met their peers. A group of these students were competitively selected to present their research at the Canadian Aboriginal Science and Technology conference in September.

Nine students were awarded the 2003 IPHRC Graduate Studentship Awards. Part of the IPHRC mandate involves the support of graduate students registered in graduate degree programs in which a research thesis is a major component. The IPHRC Graduate Studentship promotes capacity building among Aboriginal people through trainee support, as well as the promotion of research into areas of Aboriginal health under one of the four themed areas identified by IPHRC. Studentships are awarded annually; renewals are considered and judged on the basis



IPHRC Staff (left to right): Dr. Ralph Nilson, Interim Director; Robin Smith, Community Facilitator (PA Site); Nicole Stevenson, Community Facilitator (Regina Site), Cecilia Fiddler, Board Member; Elaine Kinequon, Administrative Coordinator; Raven Sinclair, Community Facilitator (Saskatoon Site).

Research, the new Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) or other national or provincial funding agency within eighteen months.

Health Boards.

The IPHRC Board has a majority comprised of Indigenous nominees. Staffing includes: Interim Director, Administrative Coordinator, 3 Community Facilitators, Ethicist/Grant writer and in the process of seeking 3 intramural research PI's. It is also intended that First Nations University of Canada, U of R and the U of S will affiliate faculty/researchers that will enhance capacity. The IPHRC Board encourages the appointment of Indigenous researchers and core staff.

of satisfactory performance. Masters level students receiving two years of support in total: Ph.D. students may receive an additional two years of support in for a total of four years. All applications are reviewed by a Peer Review Committee and adjudicated according to IHPRC and CIHR criteria.

Ten Partnership/Network Developmental Grants were also awarded this past year. IPHRC supports the development of networks and collaborations for Aboriginal Health Research in Saskatchewan. The intent of these funds is to support the establishment of working relationships between Aboriginal communities and health researchers and to foster the development of a health research initiative, which will be submitted to the Canadian Institutes for Health

The Partnership / Network Developmental Grant program is open to communities, health regions and health researchers in Saskatchewan. Partnership grant applications must be documented with Aboriginal capacity building and Aboriginal decision-making clearly demonstrated in the application materials. Applicants are strongly encouraged to establish partnerships / collaborations, which include active participation from one of the three partners in IPHRC (First Nations University of Canada, U of R, U of S) and actively involve students in the research program as part of the capacity building strategy.

The IPHRC will establish a research environment to increase Indigenous health research capacity and participate with other such centres to facilitate the development of Indigenous health research. As a cooperative venture between the Indigenous-controlled First Nations University of Canada; and the two provincial universities: the U of R and the U of S, the IPHRC has also received broad support from various First Nations organizations including the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), the Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority, Northern Health Boards with a majority Indigenous or Metis clients or control as well as urban

The community facilitators are a key element to bridge communities with researchers, both for the initiation and design of research with, and dissemination of the results to the communities. The three community facilitators are situated in the IPHRC offices located in Regina, Prince Albert and Saskatoon.

All projects undertaken by the IPHRC shall be in communities and will emphasize capacity building in the indigenous community and health education, and will require strict ethical provisions derived in consultation with the communities.

With the ever-growing Aboriginal community, the IPHRC hopes to increase the collaboration between academic researchers and aboriginal communities and foster capacity development of individuals, communities and institutions in aboriginal health research.

For more information on the IPHRC, visit the website at www.iphrc.ca or contact one of the community facilitators: 306 337-2510 (Regina), 306 966-1655 (Saskatoon) or 306 765-3287 (Prince Albert).



TYRONE ROPER

Home Again

Story & Photos By
Bonnie Leask



Tyrone his wife April and their two children, Passion and Deja

It is well known throughout First Nations country that veterans are part of the foundation in which are political change began in our communities. The courageous First Nation men and women who fought in WWI, WWII and the Korean Conflict were there for many reasons and today First Nations men and women are still part of the military both in Canada and the United States.

The United States military has been in the news lately due to the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. The events that are taking place in the Middle East seem far and disconnected from First Nations however, for some First Nations families in Saskatchewan the reality is closer to home than many realize.

Currently, there are eleven saskatchewan First Nations men and women who have served or are presently serving duties in the Middle East. They are from all over the province and have seen various scales of conflict. Some are serving with the Canadian military and

some are serving with the American military. However, the certainty is that the danger they face in the war is real.

Tyrone Roper of Yellowquill First Nation is a member of the United States of America military, 101st Airborne Division, 3rd Battalion of the 327 Infantry Regiment. Presently, he is stationed in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Tyrone was in attendance and honoured at the opening ceremonies of the 2003 First Nations Summer Games held at Flying Dust First Nation on July 6.

Tyrone was accompanied to the ceremonies by his wife April and his two children, Passion and Deja. Tyrone was thrilled to be part of the ceremonies and humble about the attention he had received as a result of his placement. There were times during his stint in Iraq that he wondered if he would ever see his family again, let alone attend a ceremony in his honour.

Tyrone grew up in many urban centers across Western Canada,

however he always maintained links to Yellow Quill. His mother traveled across the border many times and finally moved there. Visiting his mother sparked an interest in the United States.

Realizing that he enjoyed the American way of life, Tyrone enlisted in October 2001 in the army as a private and began fifteen weeks of basic training. The events of September 11 were not far from Roper's mind as it was only three weeks following the attacks. He says,

"9-11 was three weeks before I shipped out to basic training, so I expected some kind conflict but I didn't expect Iraq."

On March 1, 2003, after fifteen moths in the army Roper was sent with his division to Kuwait and awaited orders to enter Iraq. The

troops were not deployed to Iraq until March 20 allowing for some time for his division to prepare for battle.

The climate and the terrain are much different in the Middle East than the United States and Canada. It took some time for Roper to adjust to all the changes he was experiencing. The food was certainly different and sometimes some homemade bannock was something he missed. As well, the culture and religions of the Middle East are different from those in the Canada and the United States and ensuring that Tyrone and his division followed certain customs and traditions was a conscious effort. Tyrone states, "When I got off the plane in Kuwait it was so hot the sweat dried as soon as it came out of your pores, it was strange in Kuwait and it seemed everyone was rich, everyone drove Mercedes, BMW's and Porsches. Then we drove to the first camp and had to pull security out the windows the whole way because of possible ambushes."

Tyrone saw much of Iraq as he trekked through communities such

as Najaf, Babylon, Baghdad and finally Mosul. The Iraqi people for the most part were welcoming and kind Roper found.

A constant thought that was on Roper's mind at all times during his stint was that he was scared that he would not to see his family again. He credits his beautiful wife with being a rock for him while he was there. He worried daily about his safety as his children are young and he did not want them to grow up without a father. However, he realized that there was something much larger at stake.

Roper's fears about not seeing his family were close to being realized when the building Tyrone was on in the city of Mosul was shot with a RPG (rocket-propelled grenade). The building immediately fell to the ground with many injuries to all that were on it. Tyrone sustained injuries to his upper body, and was taken to the medics immediately. He stated that "he was lucky that he did not die in the incident." The wounds that Roper suffered were serious enough that he was sent back to an air force in Germany to begin recovery, and then back to the

United States for full recovery.

Upon his return, Tyrone was awarded the Bronze Star with a V-device, valor which can only be awarded in combat, for his injuries sustained in Iraq.

He has come back to Saskatchewan and was honoured by the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association for his courage and determination in the Iraq war.

During the opening ceremonies, the youth from all over Saskatchewan marched in and when asked what advice Roper would give to them about the future he said "Live all your dreams." Tyrone Roper is one such individual. He has challenged himself and has become a better person for it. Roper says that the experience has left him a changed man, some for the better and some for the worst, in the end though Roper has decided not to reenlist.

The following is a list of the eleven men and women who have served in the Middle East

Lori Asiacan	Canadian Military	Cowesses First Nation
Carmen Bear	Canadian Military	Muskoday First Nation
Darcy Bear	Canadian Military	Muskoday First Nation
Rob Brown	Canadian Military	Mistawasis First Nation
Alexis Dustyhorn	United States Military	Kawacatoose First Nation
Cory Heffernan	United States Military	Muskoday First Nation
Amber McArthur	United States Military	Pheasant Rump First Nation
Bruce Munrow Jr.	United States Military	Muskoday First Nation
Ryan Redwood	Canadian Military	Cowesses First Nation
Tyrone Roper	United States Military	Yellow Quill First Nation

Treaty Governance

By Bonnie Leask, Murray Long & Dorothy Myo

A new beginning for First Nations has commenced. On July 17th, negotiators initialed an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) between the FSIN and the federal government and a Tripartite-Agreement-in-Principle (TAIP) between the FSIN, the federal government and the Saskatchewan government.

What does this mean for you and your community? Well, representatives from the FSIN Treaty Governance Office, the federal government and the Saskatchewan government will be coming to all First Nation communities and urban centers in Saskatchewan this fall to discuss and review the agreements with leadership, Elders and members.

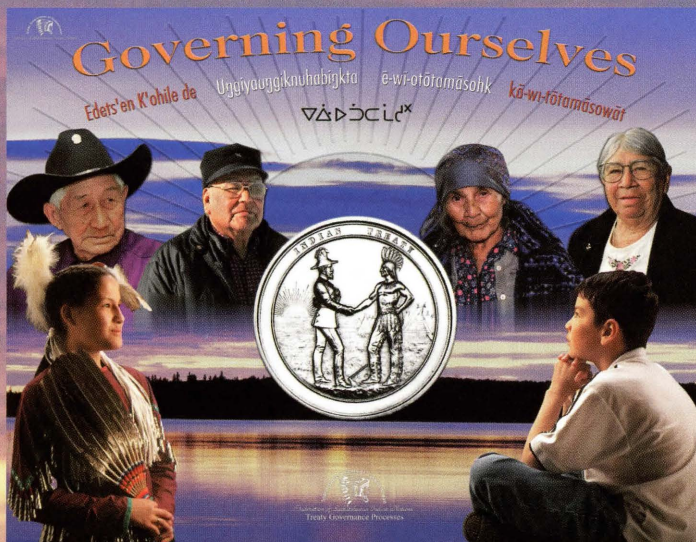
This agreement will allow Saskatchewan First Nations to get out from under the Indian Act and govern themselves as the Treaties intended. The agreements began seven years ago in Canada and it is a process that is being dubbed "Made in Saskatchewan". During that time there have been many people involved with the process and it has been without doubt, Elders of Saskatchewan that have assisted greatly in understanding Treaty.

It is important to remember that these agreements are not legally binding and are only meant to be a framework for the formal Governance Agreement. Also, the agreements do not determine what Treaty signifies, rather, Treaty is the basis for which these agreements are negotiated on.

Also out in the communities this fall will be presentations on the First Nations Governance Act (FNGA). This is the latest proposed legislation from the federal government based on the *Indian Act* regarding governance for First Nations. The FNGA and the FSIN's agreements-in-principle are easy to confuse however. While the FNGA is designed to improve band governance under the *Indian Act* as an interim measure, the agreements-in-principle set out a blueprint for First Nations to govern themselves outside the *Indian Act*.

It is important to participate in the process of governance. There are many ways in which to do so. Look for the signs around your community to find out more about agreements or contact the FSIN Treaty Governance office at 306.667.1876 or go online for a detailed schedule of the community reviews at www.fsin.com/treaty

THIS WILL CHANGE OUR FUTURE FOR THE BETTER.



10 YEAR

Battlefords Tribal Council (BTC) Human Services Corp and Indian Child and Family Services recently celebrated their ten year anniversary throughout a span of four days from Sunday, September 7 through to Wednesday, September 10, 2003. The major event planned was the Tenth Anniversary Trail-ride and Run that started from the First Nations of Mosquito Grizzly Bears Head Lean Man to Sweetgrass to Poundmaker and ended in Little Pine including the participation of Lucky Man Band members.

The B.T.C. Human Services Corp. celebrated Ten Years of Indian Child and Family Service to the Member First Nations of Little Pine, Lucky Man, Mosquito Grizzly Bears Head Lean Man, Poundmaker and Sweetgrass Bands. The Thunderchild Cree Nation was also part of the agency for three years within that span of time.

There were a number of accomplishments to celebrate which are outlined in the Tenth Anniversary Special Report 1993 – 2003 – "Looking to the Past to Establish the Future". This report is available for interested parties at the BTC Human Services Corp. office in North Battleford – telephone: (306) 445-4149 or email: btchs@sasktel.net.

Anniversary for Battlefords Tribal Council (BTC)

By Linda Standing

Some of these accomplishments are:

August 1991

The Battlefords Tribal Council established a human services commission.

September 10, 1993

As a condition of funding from INAC, the Agency signed the first agreement with Saskatchewan to give recognition to the authority of the Agency, under section 59, to protect children.

September 15, 1993

As a condition of the agreement, Saskatchewan entered into an agreement with INAC for the provision of child and family services off reserve.

December 1993

First Director was hired.

January 1994

Agency Staffs are hired.

April 1994

Agency begins operation.

October 8, 1998

First evaluation is completed.

June 30, 2000

The final report of the National Policy Review which included 17 recommendations to improve the support to First Nations child and family services agencies was completed.

August 17, 2000

The Agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding and a revised bilateral agreement with Saskatchewan under section 61.

February 2002

Community Development/Liaison program begins.

September 2003

Celebrate our Ten Year Anniversary with a Anniversary Trail-ride and Run to involve the First Nations the Agency serves.

The philosophy of the Battlefords Tribal Council Human Services Corp. is to provide for the support, strengthening and unity of children and families living within the Member First Nations and connected to the region, by providing community based and locally controlled services and programs that emphasize:

- the primacy of the best interests of the child;
- support to whole families and to communities;
- overall control of the agency by the Members;
- effective delivery of child and family services in a manner appropriate to Aboriginal culture and traditions;
- a preventative approach, which seeks to keep children within their family units;
- professionalism and accountability of staff and of the agency; and
- the development of new resources and policies where required;

There were celebration activities held throughout the four days at each respective community to commemorate the ten years of service the BTC Human Services Corp. has been involved with protecting children and delivering the mandate of the organization.

The major event was successful. There were a total of 45 riders, 10 runners, 2 horse drawn wagons, many Elders, veterans and a whole lot of community supporters that followed the ride and run. The preventative activity of the ride and run brought together communities to help and support each other, new friendships were made, and everyone involved displayed exceptional comradeship for one another. Traditional cultural activity

and protocol was followed from the advise of Elders and helpers. Each community provided activities such as food for meals, a safe place to camp for each evening, mini Round Dances were held and a mini Powwow at Little Pine First Nation turned out successful to complete the celebration. There were also two special feasts provided for at the beginning and at the end of the Trail-ride and run. The feast at Mosquito Band was for the purpose of a safe and successful event. At Little Pine Band Hall, Lucky Man First Nation hosted the feast. This feast was to respectfully commemorate the late Andrew "King" Okemow. This man was instrumental in getting the BTC Human Services Corp. Agency started in the early 1990's. He was the first liaison Chief for the Agency. His deep respect and understanding of the Treaties guided the development of the Agency.

Sponsorship for the events came from Chiefs and Council of the Agency, Gold Eagle Casino for Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Association and B.T.C. Human Services Corp.

Happy
Anniversary
BTC



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN:

By Eldon Henderson

The University of Saskatchewan Aboriginal Students' Centre (ASC) was first established in 1991 due to the increasing enrollment of Aboriginal students. By 2000-01 semester year, there was approximately 2,270 Aboriginal students attending the U of S.

Since the summer of 1991, Kathleen Makela LL.B (Bachelor of Laws) has been the ASC Manager. She makes for an excellent role-model for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. Kathleen is originally from Alberta and a descendant of Old Man Beaulieu, Fort Resolution NWT, but has made Saskatoon her home.

At this time, Kathleen goes, "there are two permanent staff: manager (myself) and an administrative assistant Leslie Paul and one additional term position - a

resource coordinator Lori Delorme. On a very part-time basis we have two Elders, Walter and Maria Linklater."

Every September, the ASC and several hard working volunteers put on a pow-wow at the U of S Bowl. She adds, "We had the 13th Annual Powwow. It was a special year for us as we received \$15,000 from the U of S Academic Priorities Fund. Usually we have to raise the money ourselves as it is not part of our regular budget. It was a huge event - we had 13 drum groups, 173 registered dancers, 155 school children and 54 dignitaries. With the help of the Micisotan Restaurant, 500 people were fed a traditional meal of soup and bannock; we also supplied 250 bag lunches to the children. We set up 500 chairs, two tipis which were supplied by SICC. The entire Powwow cost over \$22,000 with financial and in-kind donations totaling over \$9,000. This was the first year that the ASC actually received a grant prior to the event to host the pow-wow. We were very fortunate this year as the new Director of Student Support Services, Carin Holroyd was able to secure money from the Academic Priorities Fund."

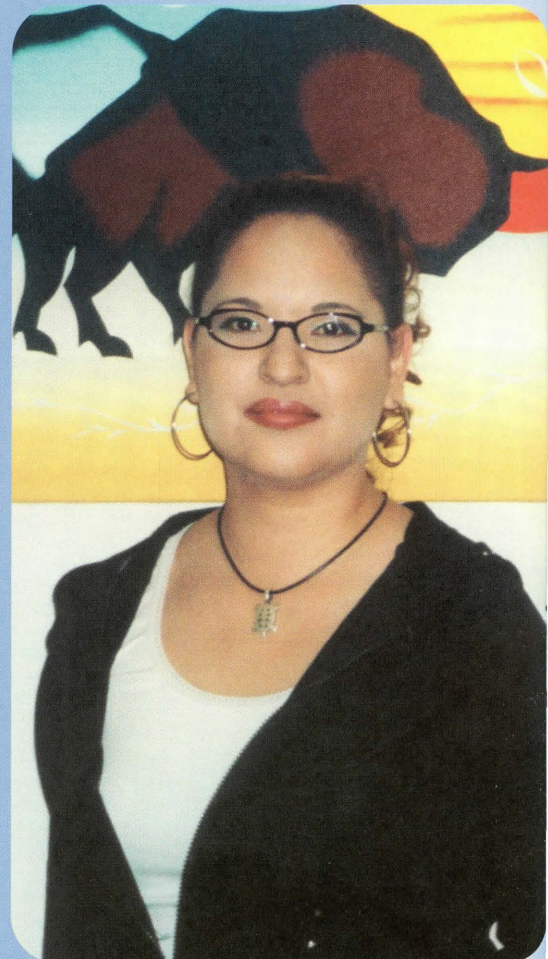
Kathleen mentions another positive move, "We are also working with the Student Development & Academic Success Unit which is a part of Student and Enrolment Services to pilot the Aboriginal First Year Experience Program. As well, this year we are working on implementing the Student Mentoring Program which will match 10 upper year students in Arts & Science with 30-50 first year students from the Aboriginal First Year Experience Program. As the

ASC Manager, I'm involved in promoting Indigenous Student Exchanges. I also participate in internal/external committees in liaison with different university departments and Aboriginal Student Funding Agencies. "

By having Elders present at the university, many of the Aboriginal students can stop by the ASC and visit with the Elders. Kathleen knows the importance of the Elder's role in the Aboriginal community as she points to here, "We desperately need space so that we can have permanent offices for our Elders - to include a space for females to



LORI DELORME



LESLIE PAUL

"Building the Aboriginal Student Community"

meet with female Elders and a place for the men to meet with male Elders. We would also like to have appropriate space for ceremonial purposes, including smudging, preparing of foods for traditional feasts, round dances, etc. It would be appropriate for us to have a meeting room that could be used not only for the ASC but for visiting guests including funding agencies which do come onto campus throughout the year to meet with students they are sponsoring. At the moment, there is no designated space for such meetings."

Here are some of the University of Saskatchewan Aboriginal Student Centre's (ASC) services:

- ELDERS' SERVICE
- ORIENTATION FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS
- STUDENT HANDBOOK
- LIAISON WITH ABORIGINAL STUDENT FUNDING
- ASC NEWSLETTER
- ABORIGINAL FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE PROGRAM
- TD AMBASSADOR PROGRAM
- DROP-IN STUDENT ADVISING AND REFERRAL
- ASC FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY
- WELCOME WEEK COMPETITION POWWOW
- PROMOTING CROSS-CULTURAL RELATIONS

For the last 6 years, Lori Delorme has worked at the ASC and has seen a lot of students come and go. Lori continues to enjoy working at the university, "I have met many students with different nationalities and it has been a great experience and opportunity for me. There are a lot of dedicated and motivated students that attend classes here and the ASC welcomes all Aboriginal students year round. This is part of what makes my job worth coming to as well."

At the same time Lori says, "I think the busiest times of the year for us are the first couple weeks of September, which is Orientation and the Welcome Week Powwow. Secondly, would be the month of March, this is our Aboriginal Awareness Week. For the orientation, we try to provide as much information for our students as possible. That takes us most of the summer to create and apply the material. We try to expand our information as best we can as well as try to have guest speakers that might have some type of influence for our 1st year students. We have different activities and cultural events."

Another energetic and out going Aboriginal ASC employee is Leslie Paul who also dances powwow and acknowledges the presence of the Elders, "To have the Elders on campus means that the students have a connection with their cultural and spirituality at a more personal level. For those who haven't had the opportunity to grow up knowing their culture, this program is the perfect opportunity for the students and faculty to learn from the Elder's teachings. I hope to see many Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students drop by to visit and wish them a good year of studies."



KATHLEEN MAKELA THE ASC MANAGER

Lac La Ronge Engages in a Flurry of Activity

By Kevin Roberts

The Saskatchewan Indian recently spoke to bandleaders and officials of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band regarding some of their up-coming projects and initiatives. These projects include communications enhancement project, hockey arena, grocery store, subdivision expansion, lumber/furniture store, elder homes, and latest updates on their economic development division.

It's been referred to as the communication enhancement project, and its mandate is pretty simple: make a concerted effort to be more accountable, transparent and open to band membership.

According to Douglas Mcleod, Executive Director of Lac La Ronge Indian Band, the first step was to allocate band funds to get the project off the ground. "Ideas can only become a reality with adequate financial backing", stated Mcleod. Soon after the band began publishing its own newspaper, called the Cree Communicator. As stated in masthead, the mandate of the newspaper is to "provide effective and positive communication between Chief and Council, band management and staff, and the general band membership".

The band is also interested in developing a website featuring the Band history, calendar of events, job postings, program/department summaries, staff listings, photos, and e-mail addresses. "We are examining the possibility of

including band documents, which is essentially public information, such as the LLRIB Election Act, FTA-Financial Transfer Agreement, and annual LLRIB Audits, where band members can access the information using a password and username", said Mcleod. He further added, "An on-line version of the Cree Communicator will be posted so readers on the Internet can have access to current news and affairs of the Band".

"Another project we also proud to highlight is the planning of our new arena", stated Harry Cook, chief of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. "We are close to securing the majority of funds required to build a new indoor hockey arena in La Ronge and in addition to the band's own investment, the arena project has received a couple of grants to cover costs". Chief Cook also indicated that some of the profits from the fuel and tobacco rebate program from their on-reserve stores will also be directed towards the rink fund. He added, "the project management team has recently selected a project manager and we are examining two possible locations for site development for the new arena, then from there the project management team, among other things, will assist with the overall design of the building"

Irwin Hennie, one of four councillors in La Ronge, stated that the band has two new capital works projects have been approved. "In La Ronge, the Bell's Point Subdivision

(Stage II) will have 60 new lots developed for future housing", commented Hennie. "As well this project will see an additional 24 lot will be upgraded and a servicing options study will be completed as part of the overall plan". He noted that in the community of Stanley Mission, 52 new lots would also be developed. These projects will consist of the full construction and development of water, sewer, power, street lighting, telephone services, fire hydrants, roads, drainages and legal surveys of the lots.

Another councillor of La Ronge, Jimmy Roberts, spoke of the new grocery store being build next to the LLRIB band office. "The grocery store will be 8,000 sq. feet and it is currently in the construction phase," said Roberts. He added, "The idea of a grocery store on our reserve land is something we (chief and council) have talked about for sometime now, only this time around we are putting those ideas into action". The store will offer groceries and will also have a bakery and butcher shop. Ten full-time jobs should be created. The Band had advertised the positions of general manager of store operation and store administrator, with the hiring recently completed. Roberts stated, "the store will provide several benefits to our band members- pride in community ownership, employment opportunities, quality products at affordable prices, and regenerating money back into the band system

that will go to subsidizing recreation programs along with youth and Elder services". The store is expected to open around mid-November.

Recently the Lac La Ronge Indian Band officially took over the ownership of the business formerly known as Boreal Furniture. Henry Mckenzie, councillor for La Ronge, mentioned, "for practical purposes the new store will keep the existing management but over a period of time, new management, who will be a band member, will be trained to eventually take over the day-to-day operations". "However", added Mckenzie, "the store will continue to sell furniture, bedding and other appliances, while work is presently being done in the back of the building for an expanded lumberyard".

The fourth councillor of La Ronge, Tammy Cook-Searson, noted that in the past year, the communities of



Stanley Mission and Grandmother's Bay have opened Elders homes for community residents. "These homes have been beneficial to the Elders in that they do not have to leave the community for long-term care services. Now the Elder can remain in their home community which is a familiar environment to them." The Stanley Mission Elder's home has 10 residents, while the Grandmother's Bay home has four residents. "In La Ronge", stated Cook-Searson, "we've been looking to build another Elder home care facility, which is currently in the planning stages. We have tentatively selected a piece of land

by the lake, and we will look towards both the Elders and health care professionals in the designing of the building. It will be their home and place of work, respectively, so they should have some input."

Ray Mckay, Chief executive Officer of Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership, the economic development arm of the band, stated his organization concentrated much of its efforts during the course of the past year on expanding the organic foods division of Kitsaki Meats. Buying stations were set up across Northern Saskatchewan to purchase wild rice to be exported to Europe and United States of America. "We also became involved for the first time purchasing and exporting three different varieties of wild mushrooms, said Mckay. "The three varieties that we are buying are morels, chanterelles and pine mushrooms".

Over the past year, some of businesses have gone through some changes, while other have remained stable. For example, the La Ronge Motor Hotel continues to emphasis training of band members and increasing the standards offered in the hospitality industry, Northern Resource Trucking expanded into wood harvesting in cooperation with the Woodland Cree, Athabasca Catering Limited Partnership became 100% Aboriginal owned as the non-aboriginal partner was bought out by Kitsaki and four other (Denesuline) First Nations partners, and the development of the Dakota Dunes Golf Links is progressing well with the clubhouse under construction with course set to open for play in 2004. This investment may prove to be a greater investment with possible expansion of a casino and resort on the Whitecap Dakota Sioux Nation.



"While we have progressed in some areas, we have been faced with challenges along the way"

Mckay said. "The efforts to expand in the softwood lumber industry have been hampered by the problems associated with the trade dispute between Canada and the United States. In addition, the lack of international exports of Canadian beef products due to Mad Cow Disease and SARS has had a negative impact on the meat snacks division of Kitsaki Meats."

Such challenges have forced Kitsaki to keep a keener eye on the trends of local, national, and worldly markets, says Mckay. What Kitsaki officials always knew was that when markets hit a slump, it had to remain both patient and creative within existing business climate. And that is just what they are doing.





The 2003 FSIN Cultural Celebration & Powwow

By Debbie Delorme & Shirley Greyeyes-MacDonald
Photos By Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations hosted its Cultural Celebration and Powwow on October 16 – 19, 2003 at Saskatchewan Place in Saskatoon. The theme for this year's event was "Strengthening our Communities Through Cultural Awareness". The FSIN is pleased to announce that this year's Celebration was a tremendous success.

The first two days were dedicated to the raising cultural awareness through education. On October 16 & 17, 2003, the Cultural Celebration was kicked off by the attendance of more than 3000 students attending 37 different workshops. The students and teachers in attendance were from the Catholic School Board and Public School Boards in Saskatoon, provincial schools and First Nation schools across Saskatchewan. The workshops focused on First Nations culture, beliefs, traditions and values. These workshops provided the opportunity for non-First Nation and First Nation students to learn about First Nations in a non-traditional setting. The setup at Saskatchewan Place allowed for the opportunity of children of different backgrounds to come together and learn about aspects of First Nations as well as from each other. The workshops ranged from Treaty awareness, tipi raising, traditional games, information on First Nation institutions to the diversity about First Nation groups in Saskatchewan.

After the workshops were

completed, the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre and the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company performed an exciting and innovative theatrical show. The Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre's performance "Kiksuye" paid homage to Creation through a theatrical rendition of First Nations song and dance. This performance heightened the understanding of traditional First Nations beliefs and cultural practices while augmenting appreciation of contemporary First Nations arts. The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company's show, "Askiy – The Land", takes the audience on a journey that narrates the stories and legends of creation and the history of First Nations people of this region.

Overall, the cultural celebration component of this event provided an opportunity for First Nations and non-First Nations people to enjoy and educate themselves on the rich cultural heritage of First Nations people in Saskatchewan.

The powwow was held during October 18 & 19 at Saskatchewan Place. There were approximately 600 registered dancers who came from across North America, 27 Drums and an estimated 30 to 35 thousand people that walked through the doors during this four-day event as reported by Scott Ford, the Marketing and Events Manager at Saskatchewan Place.

This year several dance categories were added to the competition that



featured the original style of dance along with the contemporary. To the delight of the audience specialty dance performances showcasing other First Nations were highlighted during the powwow. Some of the specialty dances that were performed were the Eagle Dance, the Smoke Dance, the Hoop Dance and Buffalo Dance. The performers were world-renowned and gave spectacular presentations.

The 2002 FSIN Powwow Princess, Miranda Thomson, handed her title over to her to Alisa Ewack from Ocean Man First Nation. Alisa will represent the FSIN in the upcoming powwow season.

On hand to support the Cultural Celebration and Powwow through their presence were FSIN Senators and Veterans, Tribal Council Representatives, Saskatchewan First Nations leadership. In addition, the new and old members of the FSIN executive, newly elected FSIN Chief Alphonse Bird, newly elected 1st Vice-Chief Morley Watson, 2nd Vice-Chief Guy Lonechild, newly elected 3rd Vice-Chief Delbert Wapass and 4th Vice-Chief Lawrence Joseph. As well support came from newly elected Assembly of First Nations Grand Chief Phil Fontaine; Premier Lorne Calvert; Saskatoon Mayor Jim Maddin; MLA Eldon Laulermilch,



and Judge David Arnot, Treaty Commissioner.

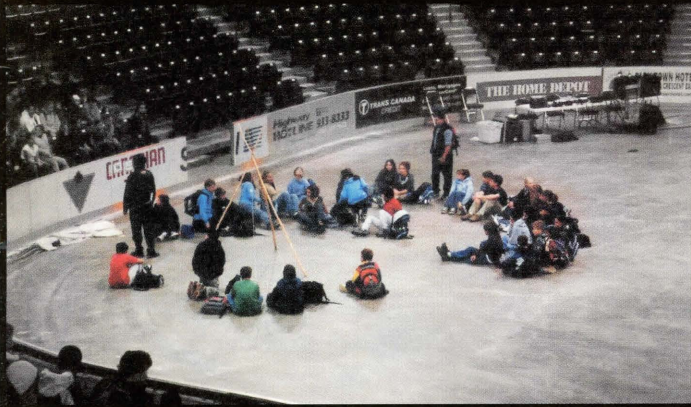
The FSIN Powwow Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the many sponsors who so generously contributed to the success of this year's event, in particular our major event sponsors, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies; Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority; Northern Lights Community Development Corporation / Prince Albert Grand Council; Muskeg Lake Cree Nation/Cree Way Gas Ltd.; Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre; Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and CHIP Hospitality. Without the support of our sponsors this event would not have been such a resounding success.

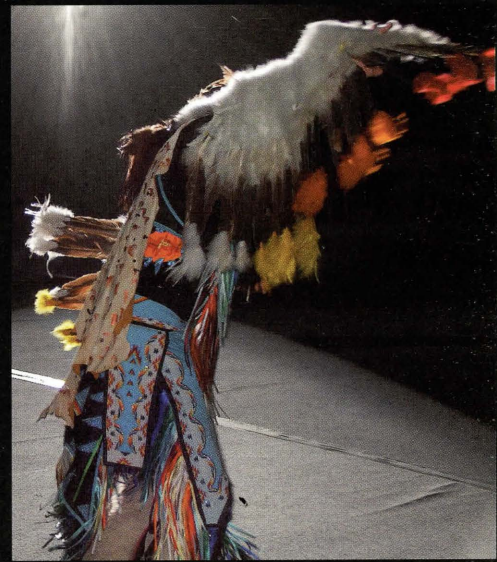
To the volunteers who generously donated their time, the FSIN Powwow Committee would like to extend a huge thank you for your commitment.

Finally, the FSIN Powwow Committee hopes to see everyone next year!



Strengthening our Communities Through Cultural Awareness





PAGC *Women's Commission* *Scholarship Banquet*

Story & Photos By
Bonnie Leask

The evening of October 15, 2003 was a special evening for recipients of the Prince Albert Grand Council Women's Commission Scholarships. This was the third annual banquet that has been hosted for recipients. The banquet was held at the Praireland Exhibition Centre in Saskatoon with delicious food and excellent entertainment. The Blue River Stompers Square Dancers put on an entertaining foot stomping show. For a group of children between the ages of 8 and 12, their square dancing skills are remarkable. As well Rebecca McKay from Shoal Lake did a solo jig and was incredible for being under the age of 13! Following the dancing show, singers Jason MacDonald and Joe Pacquette sang songs for the audience.

The entertainment did not end there. The PAGC Women's Commission invited Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) President Joan Greyeyes to be guest speaker for the event. Ms. Greyeyes is from the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and spoke about how education does not always come from formal institutions such as universities and technical schools, education is learned from family members and life. For instance, Joan's grandmother plays a very influential role for her. Her grandmother is 97 years old and the experiences of her life have allowed her to pass on knowledge to Joan and her siblings; knowledge that cannot be taught in a formal settings but is crucial to First Nations people.

As well, Joan spoke about the role of women in education. She acknowledged Carole Sanderson and deceased Ida McLeod. Both of these women have dedicated their lives to ensure that First Nations students receive an excellent quality education. There are many other women and men across Saskatchewan who are devoted to ensuring that First Nations people are part of the good quality education system, either at the primary, secondary and post-secondary level.

The special guest of the evening was singer Lorrie Church who has become

popular in First Nations communities and is gaining fame in mainstream country music. Lorrie shared some of her videos and experiences with the audience and ended with some songs.

Following the entertainment, the speeches and the special guest, the recipients were presented with their scholarship monies and plaques. The first award went to Charlene Charles from Lac La Ronge Indian Band. Charlene is in her 4th year of Indian Studies degree at the First Nations University of Canada. As with many First Nation students, in addition to being a student, she performs many other roles, including being a mother and grandmother. She is currently attending classes in Prince Albert that are not offered in La Ronge.

The second recipient was Jacqueline Benoanie from Hatchet Lake First Nation. Jacqueline is in the University Entrance Program that is being offered in Wollaston Lake through the First Nations University of Canada.

The third recipient for a scholarship was Marlene McKay from Cumberland House Cree Nation. Marlene is in her 1st year of the Indian and Northern Education Program. Marlene's career aspiration is to become an educator in an adult setting. The focus of her study is on the historical experiences of aboriginal women in post-colonial context.

The fourth and final recipient was Helen Generoux of the Sturgeon Lake First Nation. Helen is in her 4th year in the Indian Teacher Education Program at the University of Saskatchewan. She is a mother of 2 grown children and one adopted 7 year-old daughter. She went back into post secondary as a mature student at the age of 45 and maintains an 80 plus average.

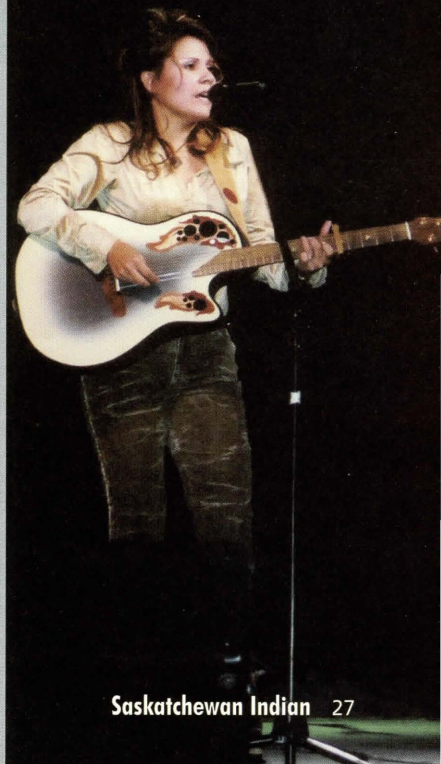
It was an excellent evening put on by the PAGC Women's Commission and an opportunity to recognize some of the hard working, intelligent First Nations women who are overcoming obstacles to fulfill their dreams. Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients.

Women...



Fulfilling...

their dreams...



JUSTICE

By Crystal Albert

This is the fourth year that the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations-Justice Training Branch, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Saskatchewan Justice – Dispute Resolution Branch (formerly known as Mediation Services) have joined as partners to deliver, implement and coordinate an effective Victim-Offender Mediation training package to community-based justice programs that provide alternative measures.

The main objective of the training program is to:

Provide new skill and knowledge at each of the five stages of training;

Improve skills in problem solving and conflict resolution;

Create an atmosphere that fosters growth and development in the area of mediation;

Provide on-going support for mediators; and

Bridge the gap that currently exists between theoretical training and mediator competency by providing opportunities to gain practical experience under the mentorship of an experienced mediator.

The overall goal is to provide effective, quality training to Community Based Justice Programs and to promote First Nation mediators to become coaches, facilitators and trainers in the Victim Mediation field.

There are several workshops that are going to be held. Following is an outline of what is being offered.

Restorative Justice Overview - The restorative justice Overview session is a one-day introductory course for the area of victim-offender

mediations. Intended for community based justice organizations, justice officials, R.C.M.P. members, Crown representatives, youth workers and anyone in justice related fields.

Skills Development – Part One – A prerequisite for our Skills Development-Part2 session and is designed for individuals who will become facilitators of the Victim-Offender Mediation process. Focuses on different definitions, processes and policies of the victim-offender mediation process.

Skills Development – Part Two – The second part of our 40-hour training sessions in which you'll receive your certification. Completes and delves into teachings from Part One.

Mentoring/Practicum – Available to individuals who have completed the Overview and Skills Development sessions; the practicum/mentoring allows an experienced First Nations coach to provide guidance and support to individuals preparing and conducting their first mediation in their community.

Train the Trainer Session – The peak of our Victim Offender mediation training; an intensive two-day invitation only workshop designed for experienced mediators who meet the trainer profile. This training will allow participants to teach and coach in the area of Victim-Offender mediation. New to the Training Branch's workshops is the Community Justice Forum – Train the Trainer, in partnership with the R.C.M.P. the Training Branch is introducing a class which will be an intensive six-day class which will be offered by invitation only to individuals with extensive knowledge of mediation who wish to expand their field of knowledge

to include coaching in community justice forums.

For explanations and clarification on the workshops offered by F.S.I.N.'s Training Branch please feel free to contact the Training Branch at 306-956-6931.

SESSIONS FOR 2003-2004*

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE OVERVIEW SESSIONS:

February 18th, 2004
Marlboro Inn – Prince Albert

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PART ONE

January 20th – 22nd, 2004
Marlboro Inn – Prince Albert

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT – PART TWO

February 24th – 26th, 2004
Marlboro Inn – Prince Albert

* All participants please be aware that there is no workshop fee for the above listed workshops but participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements and costs (i.e. mileage, meals and accommodations).



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CULTURAL CELEBRATION AND POWWOW

2003

"Strengthening Our Communities Through Cultural Awareness"

On behalf of the committee, we wish to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers, sponsors, dancers and drummers. With much hard work and generosity the 2003 FSIN Cultural Celebration and Powwow has been a success. With this in mind we look forward to next year's 2004 Cultural Celebration and Powwow.

2003 Cultural Celebration and Powwow Committee

Irene Oakes, Chair Shirley Greyeyes MacDonald, Co-Chair

Major Event Sponsor:

RAWLCO RADIO: The FSIN would like to specially thank the President of Rawlco Radio, Pam Leyland, and her staff for their dedication and enormous contributions toward the promotion and marketing of this event.

Eagle Sponsors:

- Muskeg Lake Cree Nation / Creeway Gas LTD
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- CHIP Hospitality (Saskatoon Inn, Regina Inn, Radisson, Howard Johnson)
- Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (Northern Lights, Gold Eagle, Painted Hand and Bear Claw Casinos)
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre

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- Lucky Man Cree Nation
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- One Arrow First Nation
- Nekaneet First Nation
- Saskatoon Tribal Council
- Kinistin First Nation
- Cote First Nation
- Cowessess First Nation
- Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation
- My Travel (Sinfonia)
- Saskatchewan Place
- Sask Culture
- Saskatchewan Arts Board
- Office of the Treaty Commissioner
- Enbridge Pipeline

Friends of the Celebration:

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- Sheila Gamble
- Centennial Auditorium
- Keith Martell
- Vice Chief Lawrence Joseph
- Terry Goodtrack
- Paula Acoose
- Melissa Cote

We would also like to thank the numerous **Friends of the Celebration** who are individual employees of FSIN and Institutions who have donated to the event.