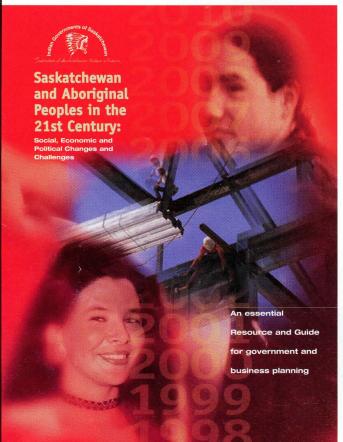


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The tradition of the Saskatchewan Indian magazine was to provide coverage of people, issues and events both entertaining and informative throughout First Nation communities. In order to keep with the tradition of the magazine we invite submissions.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

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SASKATCHEWAN Vol. 27 #3

October 1997

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Equivalent combinations of experience and education will be considered, including those that compensate directly related experience in lieu of completion of formal academic qualifications.

Competition Number: RG002351997

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LOCATION: SASKATOON \$49,972 - \$62,452

Reporting to the Manager, Assisted Housing Centre Calgary, you will play a key role as the critical link between the Assisted Housing Team in the Province of Saskatchewan (which delivers and administers the housing programs) and the aboriginal organizations, Tribal Councils and representatives who are the clients/stakeholders.

You will ensure that effective business relations are established and maintained, and you will work closely with clients and stakeholders to seek out opportunities to finance housing needs and facilitate problem solving between the Assisted Housing Team and the clients/stakeholders. You will also provide a high level of CMHC representation with First Nations and their representatives in the province.

A university degree in Social Sciences, Business Administration or a related field, or a relevant professional designation, is required. Demonstrated experience in the delivery and administration of Assisted Housing Programs is also required. Equivalent combinations of experience and education will be considered, including those that compensate directly related experience in lieu of completion of formal academic qualifications. Consulting skills, tact, sensitivity and the ability to work within a team-oriented environment, including a self-managed team, are essential attributes. The ability to develop and maintain high levels of credibility with aboriginal organizations, Tribal Councils and their representatives is critical.

Competition Number: RG002411997

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GREETING FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Readers,

Greetings on behalf of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Executive, Senate and Staff to First Nations Chiefs, Councils and membership.

As this current issue of Saskatchewan Indian reflects,
Saskatchewan First Nations have been part of a number of significant
accomplishments in recent months. First, Saskatchewan Chiefs united in support of the candidacy of Phil Fontaine for the position of Grand
Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. The strength of our commitment led to the election of Phil Fontaine to this esteemed position in Vancouver at the end of July. We welcomed Grand
Chief Fontaine to Saskatchewan, days after his election, for his first official appearance. We are looking forward to a productive working relationship with Grand Chief Phil Fontaine.

British Columbia was also the site of Team Saskatchewan's most recent success. For the fourth consecutive time, the pride of Saskatchewan First Nations, Team Saskatchewan, brought home the Overall Championship title from the North American Indigenous Games. Over 800 Aboriginal athletes, our future leaders, competed throughout the week in Victoria. Congratulations to all of the athletes who participated in the Games; your dedication to excellence is a true inspiration.

In the spirit of excellence, the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre is celebrating their 25th Anniversary this year. The Cultural College, as it was once known, was initiated in 1972 to provide a means of "Indian control over Indian education". From its modest beginnings have evolved the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College and the Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP). First Nations education in Saskatchewan has progressed significantly in 25 years and a large portion of the credit belongs to SICC.

Saskatchewan First Nations are about to witness another historic moment. On September 23, 1997, the Grand Opening of the First Nations Bank of Canada was held at its permanent downtown Saskatoon location. Although this event has taken some time in coming, it will provide Saskatchewan First Nations with economic viability far into the future.

The economic situation of our people will also be impacted by the signing of the Fiscal Relations Table on August 5, 1997. The new Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Jane Stewart, made her first official appearance in Saskatchewan to attend the signing, held at Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

The Table creates a forum at which we will negotiate fiscal relations with the federal and provincial governments. This is significant in that it is the first time that either government has agreed to discuss the way in which fiscal arrangements are made with First Nations people.

More recently, Yorkton was the site of a Special Session of the FSIN Legislative Assembly. Saskatchewan Chiefs gathered for another productive sitting. Of special note were the appearances of Grand Chief Fontaine and the Treaty Commissioner, Judge David Arnot.

In closing, as we reflect on this, the FSIN's 51st year of work for recognition of our treaty rights, we must acknowledge the work that has been successfully completed by our past leaders. With the commitment of Saskatchewan First Nations, a brighter, more prosperous future lies ahead.

Chief Blaine C. Favel

FSIN LAUNCHES LANDMARK DEMOGRAPHICS STUDY

Saskatchewan government and business leaders gathered at the Sheraton Cavalier in Saskatoon on September 8, 1997 for the launch of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) demographics publication. Jim Durocher, President of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan and Barry Wiens, Saskatchewan Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs joined the FSIN in hosting this launch. Among the invited guests were Ron Clark, President of SaskEnergy; Betty Anne Latrace-Henderson, President of the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce; FSIN Senator Fred Martel; and Treaty Commissioner David Arnot.

Saskatchewan and Aboriginal Peoples in the 21st Century: Social, Economic and Political Changes and Challenges reports the findings from two studies concerning the future of Aboriginal peoples in the province. The first study, authored by University of Saskatchewan Professor David Smith, examines the projected demographic changes in the Aboriginal populations for the next 50 years. The study also looks at the potential impact these changes could have on the provincial elections. The second study was authored by a team of experts from the University of Saskatchewan College of Commerce. Kelly Lendsay, Marv Painter and Eric Howe studied the impact of Aboriginally owned business and the potential impact of the Treaty Land Entitlement money on the provincial economy.

The FSIN commissioned both studies after internal discussion. The Metis Nation of Saskatchewan (MNS) partnered with the FSIN in undertaking the economic impact study. These organizations commissioned the studies for use as a tool in planning for the future. There is presently insufficient resource material on these topics. "As elected leaders in the Aboriginal community we are often faced with questions as to how much of an impact the changes in population will affect the province," said FSIN Chief Blaine Favel. "This information will assist us in planning with our partners throughout the province to take advantage of the potential opportunity that is ahead of us."

The first study revealed that the Aboriginal population is expected to triple in number over the next 50 years. Saskatchewan's Aboriginal population made up only 13.3 percent of the total population in 1995 but is projected to increase to 32.5 percent by 2045 if the current growth rates are maintained.

The College of Commerce team used these findings to create scenarios for future development in the province. Of course, these scenarios are predictions, not statements of fact.

The status quo scenario outlines the future should no changes be made to the current education and employment context for Aboriginal peoples. This scenario projects that there will be a decrease in Aboriginal employment rates from 31 percent in 1995 to 11 percent in 2045. A declining employment rate coupled by a rising population rate will result in greater demand on the resources necessary for health care, schools and the justice system, to name but three. Chief Favel calls this "the cost of doing nothing".

In making sure that this scenario does not come to pass, "[Saskatchewan businesses and Aboriginal peoples] must work together to create opportunities now that will build a better future," said Chief Favel. Minister Wiens expressed support for this by saying, "Our future depends on working together."

The study then went on to examine the structure, profitability and growth patterns of Aboriginal business. In a survey of Aboriginal businesses in Saskatchewan, the College of Commerce team found that these businesses demonstrated profitability profiles that were consistent with non-Aboriginal businesses from across Canada.

The study also showed that many Aboriginal businesses are creating employment and business opportunities for the non-Aboriginal community. A number of Aboriginal businesses reported partnerships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. In addition, Aboriginal businesses reported that 21 percent of their management positions and 23 percent of their non-management positions were staffed by non-Aboriginal employees. These findings stress the fact that Aboriginal business creates opportunity for the whole of Saskatchewan.

Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) was also found to have the potential for significant positive impact on the Saskatchewan

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economy. Twenty-eight Saskatchewan First Nations are part of a 1992 agreement that will settle existing treaty land claims. These settlements could bring about a \$516 million impact with approximately half of this amount having the potential for direct growth of the Saskatchewan economy.

In evaluating the importance of creating a positive future for Aboriginal peoples, Chief Favel has issued challenges to the corporate, government, organized labour and education and training sectors of this province. He places emphasis on the value of creating employment for and business opportunities with Aboriginal people. He also challenges these sectors to develop the training and educational programs that will allow Aboriginal people to move into the skilled workforce.

Betty Anne Latrace-Henderson, President of Saskatoon's Chamber of Commerce, was optimistic that change is forthcoming. She believes that through these challenges will come opportunities for growth. Jim Durocher of the MNS believes that, especially with the commitment of the training and education sector, "The possibilities are great."

"The projections of this study represent a significant change for the province," says Chief Favel. "Leadership in every sector of Saskatchewan needs to focus on these changes and the challenge is out there to seize the potential opportunity."

Copies of the study are available for sale at 1-800-236-6438 or 525-2304 in Regina.

Challenges — Corporate Sector

- develop and implement Aboriginal Policy
- increase employment and training opportunities
- create opportunities for joint ventures, strategic alliances and other partnerships

Challenges — Government Partners

- set realistic targets and policies for employment, procurement and business enhancement
- offer tax incentives for non-Aboriginal business sector to invest in or joint venture with Aboriginal peoples.

Challenges — Organized Labour

- become more active in creating Aboriginal employment and training opportunities
- establish an Advisory Body consisting of major Saskatchewan unions and the FSIN and MNS
- identify barriers and create mechanisms for Aboriginal people to enter the skilled trades

Challenges — Training and Education

- strategic training for skilled jobs in the workforce of the future
- develop strategic Aboriginal training policies at all post-secondary level training and education institutions in Saskatchewan.



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CHIEFS-IN-ASSEMBLY RATIFY NEW FSIN STRUCTURE

The main topic of discussion at the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Chiefs' Assembly in June 1997 was the plan to re-structure the organization. The Chiefs ratified five resolutions that will streamline the FSIN.

The most visible changes in the new arrangement are reductions in the number

of Executive members and Boards and Commissions. Effective October 1997, the Executive will be composed of a Chief and four Vice-Chiefs. The Boards and Commissions will be reduced in number to five.

"We have talked about [re-organization] at great length," said FSIN Chief Blaine Favel. "We are now moving forward."

The process of the FSIN re-organization has been discussed over several years. The last major renewal of the structure occurred in 1982. Since then, Saskatchewan Chiefs have determined that additional changes were required. They viewed the

FSIN as being too "top-heavy" with regard to the current Executive structure and the number of Boards and Commissions.

As a result, the Chiefs-in-Assembly passed a resolution in September 1995 mandating the FSIN Executive Council and the Indian Government Commission to establish a Steering Committee and direct the development of a comprehensive re-organization plan. This plan was to be based on accountability, treaty rights protection, treaty implementation and self-government implementation, the separation of political functions from the administrative functions and equity of representation of FSIN Boards and Commissions.

Three steps were taken to ensure that the FSIN downsized in such a way as to not diminish the organization's effectiveness. First, the look of an organizational chart was agreed upon. Second, the structure was developed from this chart. This structure was given content through the establishment of terms of reference. And, third, the Tribal Councils and First Nations were consulted and given the opportunity for feedback.

The resulting plan, in the form of five resolutions, was brought forward to the Chiefs at the Legislative Assembly. The

Auditor
General

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
Chiefs in Legislative Assembly

IGC/
Exec. Council

Chief
FS I N

Treasury
Board

Vice-Chief

Vice-Chief

Vice-Chief

first resolution creates an Executive consisting of a Chief and four Vice-Chiefs. This reduces the size from the current Chief, seven Vice-Chiefs and an Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Regional Vice-Chief. The Vice-Chiefs will be elected on a regional basis, meaning that there will be no designation of linguistic group or Treaty area.

The election in October 1997 will see the Chief, First Vice-Chief and Third Vice-Chief elected for three-year terms. The Second Vice-Chief and Fourth Vice-Chief will be elected for two-year terms. All terms will subsequently be three years. This system will ultimately stagger the election years of the Executive. The goal, says Chief Favel, is to ensure that there is "always continuity" in the Executive structure.

The responsibility of AFN representation will be returned to the Office of the Chief along with the Saskatchewan Indian Veterans Association and Veterans issues. The Office of the Chief is also responsible for the assignment of portfolios to the Vice-Chiefs.

While the structure of the Executive has changed, the voting procedure remains the same. Therefore, each First Nation receives five votes for the first 400 members. One additional vote is

granted for each additional 200 members or part thereof. And, each Executive member must be elected by a clear majority, that is, 50 percent plus one.

The second re-organization resolution deals with the reduction of the number of Boards and Commissions. There are currently 22 FSIN Boards and Commissions. The new structure will see these amalgamated to five Commissions with supporting The secretariats. Commissions are: Lands and Resources, Economic and Community Development, Education and Training, Health and Social Development and Justice.

The new Lands and Resources Commission takes

over from Hunting, Fishing, Trapping and Gathering. The Commission is to take a lead role with First Nations in protecting and implementing the treaty right to lands and resources and create policies and legislation in this area. The Treaty Land Entitlement Advisory Group, Northern Resources Committee, Sustainable Development Committee and Land Claims Negotiation Committee will all receive direction from this Commission.

The Economic and Community Development Commission is an amalgamation of the existing Economic Development Commission, the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Commission and the Saskatchewan Indian Housing and Roads Commission. The new mandate is to protect and implement the treaty right to economic and community development. The Housing and Roads Committee will be established under this commission.

The Education and Training Commission combines the current Education and Sports, Culture and Recreation Commissions. Its mandate is to protect, promote and implement the inherent right to self-government as it relates to the treatyright to education and training. The First Nations Education Authority Association and Sports, Culture and Recreation will fall under this commission's jurisdiction.

The mandate of the Health and Social Development Commission (HSDC) is to protect and implement the treaty right to

health and social development. The Commission will continue to support and facilitate community healing activities, programs and services. It will also develop partnerships with preventative treatments and aftercare services in regard to gambling addictions. The Senior Technical Advisory Group, Home Care Working Group, Brighter Futures, Indian and Child Family Services, Resi-Schools dential NNADAP all remain under the HSDC's jurisdiction.

The Justice Commission amalgamates the Young Offenders, Policing, Courts/Tribunals and Corrections Commissions. This Commission is mandated to assist First

Nations with lobbying for sufficient resources to allow the success of justice initiatives. It will also provide support in developing community strategies to deal with specific justice issues.

The third resolution adopts new terms of reference for the Executive Council and the Indian Government Commission (IGC). The Executive Council consists of the FSIN Executive members, Tribal Council representatives, one elected member from each independent First Nation, the FSIN Chief of Staff, two

FSIN Senate members and an appointee from the Saskatchewan Treaty Women's Secretariat.

Under the new terms of reference, the Executive Council is responsible for strategic planning and overseeing the political functions of FSIN in between sittings of the Legislative Assembly. The Council also facilitates political decision-making and policy development.

The IGC will be an amalgamation with the Saskatchewan Indian Taxation Commission. Under these new terms of

ment of the FSIN. The Auditor General will verify the accuracy of the FSIN's accounts and records and the effectiveness of its programs. Chief Favel calls the Auditor General FSIN's "safety mechanism".

The final resolution dealing with reorganization establishes a Northern Affairs Committee. This Committee falls under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Chief. The Committee replaces the role of the Seventh Vice-Chief in representing the unique issues of the Dene people.

Typically, these northern communities have language and remoteness issues that are not shared by the majority of Saskatchewan's First Nations.

The Northern Affairs Committee will grant northern First Nation communities the opportunity to deal with these issues and move them forward.

The ratification of all five resolutions dealing with re-organization means that the new structure will be implemented. In October 1997, an election of FSIN Executive members will be held under the new structure. Following the elec-

tion, the new structure of the FSIN will be adopted in its entirety.

Vice-Chief Bellegarde stated at the June Assembly, "The organization will adapt to meet these new changes." It is the FSIN's ability to effect change that has kept it viable over the course of its 51 years. This current restructuring is simply a means of further streamlining the organization to make it more responsive and accountable to Saskatchewan's First Nations people.

New Commission Structure

Lands & Resources Commission

TLE Directorate
F. M. & W. Resources
Specific Claims Research
Hunting, Fishing & Trapping
Land Use Management
Secretariat Office

Economic & Community Development Commission

Housing & Roads SILCO SIGA NIFC SIEF Gaming Secretariat Office

SIAP

Education & Training Commission

SIFC
SIIT
SICC
SITAG
FNEAA
Sports, Youth, Culture &
Recreation
Secretariat Office

Health & Social Development Commission

Addictions
Treaty Women's Secretariat
Disabilities
Home Care
Child Care
Brighter Futures
ICFS
Residential Schools
NNADAP
Secretariat Office

Justice Commission

Young Offenders
Policing
Courts/Tribunals
Corrections
Secretariat Office

reference, the IGC is responsible for Indian government, taxation, treaty policy and any matters that arise between sittings of the Legislative Assembly.

The fourth resolution restructures the Treasury Board and the role of the Auditor General. The Treasury Board will enforce the management of FSIN's financial functions. This includes the expenditures and financial aspects of personnel and administration.

The Auditor General will have new powers to review the financial manage-

YORKTON HOSTS SPECIAL SESSION OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Saskatchewan Chiefs met in Yorkton, from August 26 to 27, 1997 for a Special Session of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Legislative Assembly. This session was held to allow the Chiefs to ratify changes to FSIN legislation concerning reorganization.

Chief Blaine Favel addressed the Assembly following the Opening Ceremonies. He spoke of the vision of the Saskatchewan Chiefs in keeping the organization unified and how the reorganization would assist the FSIN in operating more efficiently. He also reflected on some of the many accomplishments of the Chiefs, in conjunction with the FSIN, and how this has put Saskatchewan on the forefront of new developments across Canada.

The reorganization process was the first item on the agenda. Resolutions that significantly altered the structure of the FSIN were ratified at the Chiefs' Assembly held in June. At the August session, the Chiefs ratified amendments to the FSIN *Convention Act* and the FSIN *Elections Act*.

Fiscal relations was another significant topic of discussion. The process involved with creating fiscal equity for Saskatchewan First Nations officially began with the signing of the Fiscal Relations Table on August 5, 1997. The Memorandum of Understanding establishes a workplan to address various fiscal relationships between the FSIN, the Crown and the Saskatchewan Government. At present, a task force is amassing information that details government expenditures. This process will continue for several months.

Vice-Chief Eugene Arcand provided the Chiefs with an update of Gaming. The 1995 Gaming Agreement is currently being reviewed by the provincial government and the FSIN. A number of issues have resulted from the agreement that require additional consideration as a result of on-going experience in the gaming industry. These issues include the elimination of the flip in revenue sharing so that First Nations casinos are not penalized for better revenues than Casino Regina; the extension of the gaming agreement to include a long-term operating agreement; and verification of First Nations control over expansion in the industry. Details of the agreement should be available in October 1997.

Tripartite policing agreements, reported Vice-Chief Ernie Cameron, have now been implemented in 23 communities, providing services to 35 bands. There are currently seven additional agreements under discussion and Vice-Chief Cameron expects that one or two of these will be finalized during this fiscal year.

The policing agreements establish Police Management Boards in the communities. These boards function to identify and report policing issues to RCMP representatives. The boards then work with the RCMP in resolving the issues. The purpose of the boards is to facilitate cooperation between the RCMP and the community.

Vice-Chief Allan Adam reported that progress has been made on trapping issues. The implementation of the Euro-

pean Union's ban on the import of Canadian fur has been extended for three years. However, this delay is contingent upon an agreement on humane trapping standards that is expected in October 1997.

The Assembly was honoured by the presence of newly elected Assembly of First Nations Grand Chief Phil Fontaine. Chief Fontaine thanked the Saskatchewan Chiefs for their support in electing him as the National Chief. In his new position, he is looking forward to working closely with the Chiefs of Saskatchewan and ensuring that the AFN is on track with new developments. He also congratulated the FSIN for their approach to sound fiscal management and the development of many new initiatives to benefit First Nations people.

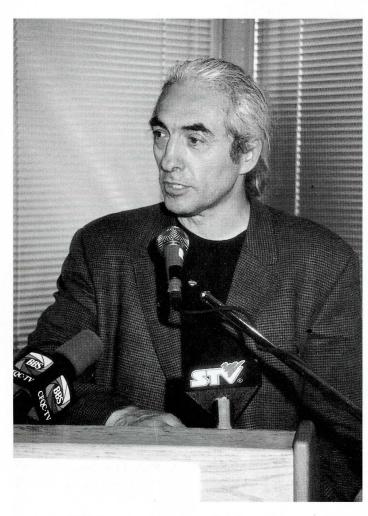
In his closing comments, Chief Favel acknowledged the Yorkton Tribal Council for their accomplishments and thanked them for hosting the Legislative Assembly in their territory.

The next FSIN Legislative Assembly will be held October 15-16, 1997 in Saskatoon.



FSIN Chief Blaine Favel addressing the chiefs of the special session of the legislative assembly in Yorkton.

AFN ELECTS NEW CHIEF



Phil Fontaine at his first official appearance as AFN Grand Chief.

Nearly 18 hours after voting began on July 30, 1997, Manitoba leader Phil Fontaine emerged as Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Grand Chief. His victory came as the result of four hard-fought ballots.

Early in the day, the first ballot saw Ovide Mercredi with 127 votes, a one-vote lead over Fontaine who had 126 votes and a four-vote lead over Wendy Grant-John who had 123 votes. Larry Sault and Joe Dion trailed the three and Bob Manuel was forced to drop out, being the sixth-place finisher.

The second ballot saw Fontaine take the lead with Grant-John a close second place. Mercredi's support was falling, but he remained on the ballot. Following a substantial decrease in votes on the third ballot, Mercredi placed his remaining support behind Grant-John.

Late in the night, a fourth ballot gave Fontaine a commanding lead, but he lacked the 60 percent support that he needed for a clear victory. In attempt to prevent fifth ballot. Grant-John and Fontaine met behind closed doors. Upon their emergence from this meeting, Grant-John conceded, based on Fontaine's pledge honour the ongoing treaty process in British Columbia.

Wearing a traditional headdress and wrapped in a Coast Salish blanket, Phil Fontaine was sworn in as the Grand Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. Fontaine addressed the chiefs, saying, "When we demonstrate solidarity and unity, we're speaking not just to each other but to the nation—to the world."

Fontaine was born on September 20, 1944 to Jean Baptiste and Agnes Fontaine at the Fort Alexander Reserve, now the Sagkeeng Anichinabe First Nation, located 80 miles north of Winnipeg, Manitoba. While Chief of his community, Fontaine was one of the first leaders to bring public attention to the issue of abuse in residential schools. He

also worked to establish local control of education and a treatment centre for alcoholism in his community.

More recently, Fontaine has served three terms as the Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC). The AMC is composed of 60 Manitoba First Nations and represents 90,000 people. As Grand Chief of the AMC, Fontaine was instrumental in producing an agreement implementing the inherent right to self-government in 1994. The agreement provides for the dismantling of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and recognizes First Nation government.

Fontaine has two children and two grandchildren and lives in Winnipeg with his wife. He played hockey for the Sagkeeng Old Timers for many years and remains physically fit by jogging on a daily basis.

In his first official appearance as Grand Chief, at the signing of the Fiscal Relations Table at Wanuskewin, Fontaine reiterated his pledge for national unity. "I believe in working together to find good solutions to the problems we, as First Nations people, face," he said.

It was fitting that his first official appearance was in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan chiefs had remained unanimous in their support of Fontaine during the AFN elections, voting in a block. Following Fontaine's victory, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Blaine Favel reaffirmed Saskatchewan's support of Fontaine.

"I think that Phil, with his broad breadth of support across Canada has the ability to unify the Chiefs, to have them stand firm on some policy issues, and go united to the Government of Canada," said Chief Favel. "So, I think it will be a fresh beginning for us and we look forward to working with Grand Chief Phil Fontaine."

FSIN SIGNS FISCAL RELATIONS TABLE



Chief Favel, Di and Minister Jane Stewart and Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs minister Berny Wiens signing agreement.

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) has taken another step forward on the road to self-government. On August 5, 1997, the FSIN, the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to develop fiscal relations and funding mechanisms to support First Nations government.

The MOU was signed by FSIN Chief Blaine Favel, Jane Stewart, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and Berny Wiens, Saskatchewan Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, at a ceremony held at Wanuskewin Heritage Park. The signing was significant in that it was the first official representation for both Stewart and Wiens in their new capacities as Ministers.

Also making debut appearances were Assembly of First Nations Grand Chief Phil Fontaine and Roy Bird, the Saskatchewan Regional Director General for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. These dignitaries were joined by many of Saskatchewan's chiefs and other distinguished guests.

The MOU creates a forum for discussion of fiscal relations. It has developed from the tripartite Protocol Agreement signed on October 31, 1996. This agree-

ment establishes tables at which the FSIN, federal and provincial governments discuss issues of mutual concern. Fiscal relations has been identified as being key to the discussions.

"This agreement is the beginning of a process to improve the fiscal health of First Nations in Saskatchewan," said Chief Favel. "It is long overdue but a welcome step in addressing treaty and self-govern-

ment issues."

Minister Stewart agreed saying, "It is but a beginning." She also stated that by continuing to work in a cooperative manner, progress in other areas would follow.

Minister Wiens stressed, "Our goal was to create an agreement that will result in stronger communities and stronger families."

The terms of the MOU establish a

workplan on the development the integration and coordination federal, provincial and First Nation jurisdiction over fiscal relations. The workplan will address fiscal equity, treaty relations between the Crown and Saskatchewan First Nations and the establishment of intergovernmental fiscal relationships that are consistent with the inherent right to self-government.

Topics that are slated for discussion for the three parties include: First Nations government financing and treaty relations; transparency and stability in the exercise of fiscal responsibilities; resource revenue-sharing; and taxation. Many of these topics have never previously had a forum for discussion. The MOU not only provides this opportunity, but ties these related issues together into a single forum from which the three parties may move towards resolution.

The terms of reference and a workplan are anticipated in three months. A detailed workplan outlining the topics will require an additional three months.

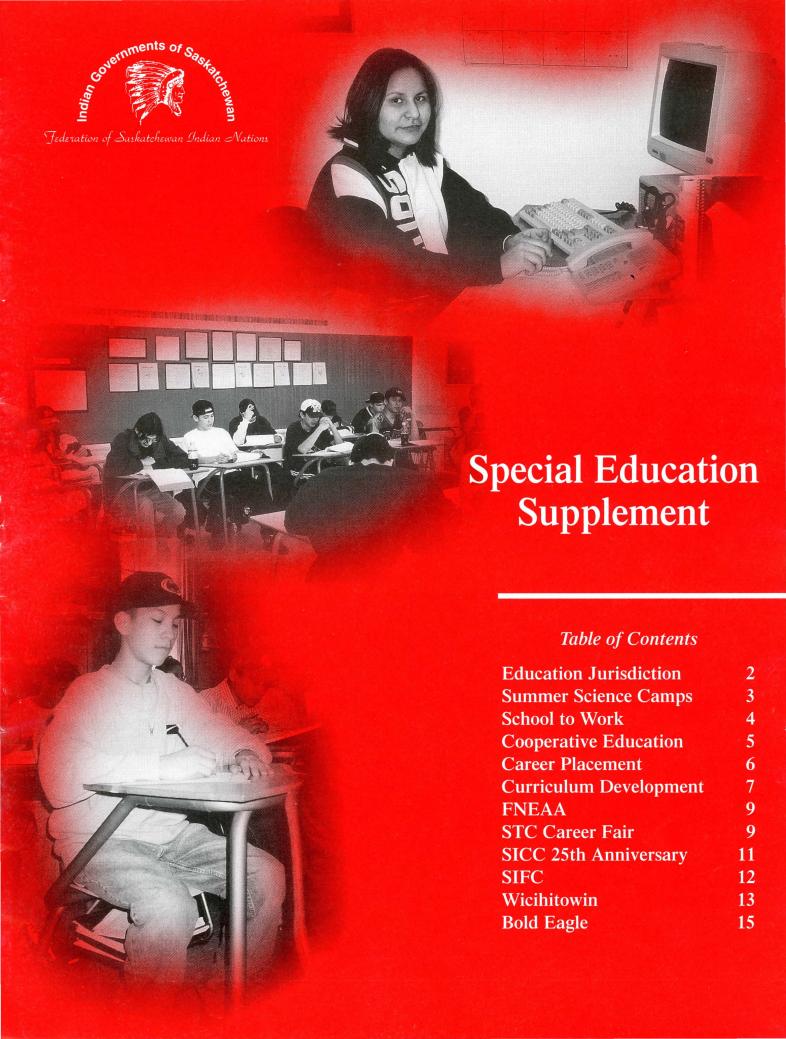
During this same time frame, a task force is collecting and reporting on data concerning current First Nation expenditures to compare to the expenditures of non-First Nation citizens.

Ministers Stewart and Wiens did express caution as to the resolution of the fairly controversial fiscal relations issues such as taxation and resource revenuesharing. However, they remain optimistic that a solution will be found that is beneficial to all.

Chief Favel summarized the significance of the signing saying, "I think we are on the way to solving many, many



Chief Favel, Minister Stewart, Minister Wiens and Grand Chief Phil Fontaine.



EDUCATION JURISDICTION PART OF OTC DISCUSSIONS

That Saskatchewan First Nations have treaty rights to education is a given. However, it is the scope of the treaty rights to education that have long-remained unaddressed.

Up until relatively recently, residential schools were used by the federal government as the means by which First Nations youth were educated. But this system had very obvious flaws and an alternative was required.

In 1970, Saskatchewan Chiefs mandated a study of First Nations education in an attempt to address the educational needs of their people at the time. The task force had identified the need for "Indian control of Indian education" by 1972. Today, the majority of Saskatchewan First Nations now control their own schools, and residential schools run by religious orders are a thing of the past.

The trend toward "Indian control of Indian education" continues at present with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC) process. In October 1996, the OTC was renewed with Judge David Arnot appointed to the Treaty Commissioner position. At that time, education was identified as being a priority in the discussions dealing with the treaty right to, or jurisdiction over, a wide-range of issues.

The discussions concerning education are intended to focus on: the nature and scope of the treaty right to education and the federal government's obligation therein; the recognition of First Nation jurisdiction over First Nation education in its entirety, both on and off-reserve; and the development of appropriate interjurisdictional and fiscal arrangements with respect to treaty rights.

Under the current education structure, the federal government holds responsibility for First Nation education under the treaties. However, the federal role is now contained largely to transfers of funding to the provincial government and, to a lesser degree, to the First Nations for First Nation education and training. The provincial government holds jurisdiction over most aspects of education, including early childhood education, nursery/kindergarten, and elementary, secondary and post-secondary education. The province also has specific control over curriculum accreditation, teacher accreditation and certification, the establishment of school divisions and educational standards, policies and methodologies.

The eventual goal of the OTC discussions is to establish new relationships (continued on page 15)

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CAMPS INTRODUCE YOUTH TO INTERACTIVE SCIENCE

Summer camps offer young people the opportunity to meet new people and try out new activities. For the past seven years, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) has provided a unique opportunity to Saskatchewan First Nations youth. The FSIN Summer Science Camps introduce students to hands-on science.

Science and technology are areas of study that are frequently ignored by Aboriginal students. As a result, Aboriginal peoples are under-represented in many meaningful careers such as engineering and medicine.

Tim Hopkins, Science Camp Coordinator, knows this from personal experience. Once he had completed his degree, he found that, being Aboriginal, his skills were in great demand. He ended up teaching science courses from an Aboriginal point of view. "Indigenous science is about family and community," says Hopkins. "It's a way of thinking." His goal is to pass on that way of thinking to a new generation of Aboriginal youth.

Over the course of its existence, the science camp has moved from being tour-oriented to containing more learning and hands-on activities says Hopkins. The programs offered by the camps now also accommodate junior (grades six to eight) and senior (grades nine to 12) students. The revised structure allows the students to successfully complete projects at their own levels. "It's important that they all feel like they can complete the work," says Hopkins.

This year's camps, in Regina and Saskatoon, focused on related topics such as structure and design, and force and motion. Projects included a competition to see who could build the highest structure that would support the weight of a ball, using only drinking straws and string.

The Saskatoon camp also worked on a land reclamation project. Hop-

kins says that the students reintroduced Indigenous plants to a plot of land at the FSIN Saskatoon Office. "It something that hasn't been done before," says Hopkins. "It's a way of reclaiming the land."

The students were impressed by the

end of the camps. Many had come only because their parents had signed them up, but were leaving with the revelation that science can be fun.

In addition to the summer science camps, Hopkins has a mobile program that visits schools throughout the province and introduces classrooms of stu-



Land reclamation project. 1997 Summer Science camp.

dents to the wonders of science. Hopkins is enthusiastic about the success and continuation of both aspects of the program. "It's a neat way of approaching education," he says.

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Summer science camp — 1996



SCHOOL TO WORK PROGRAM

The School to Work (STW) program is a four-year pilot program initiated by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Office of Education that is now beginning its third year of operation. The program was started as a means of addressing high school completion rates, post-secondary continuation rates and labour force participation rates of First Nations students.

Because First Nations students onreserve have different lifestyles than urban students, the project was incorporated into three schools. Scott Collegiate was chosen in Regina due to its large Aboriginal population. Waterhen Lake and Buffalo Rivers were selected as the on-reserve test sites.

Curriculum development for the STW program incorporates First Nations curriculum into the present Saskatchewan Education curriculum and project curriculum that is aimed at smoothing the transition from the academic world to that of employment. Judy Pelly, STW Project Coordinator, says of the program, "It's a learning path linking the school to employment."

In the first year, grade nine, students are familiarized with the objectives of the program. During this time, students are introduced to a variety of career options by job shadowing the work settings of professionals. Pelly says that they also go on a number of tours of job sites and professional buildings throughout the course.

Grade 10 students are introduced to the skills required to investigate career options. Based on this knowledge, the students begin to develop personal career plans. Through industry partners, the students enter the workforce via summer employment.

Students in grade eleven are able to incorporate an on-site, out of school

c o m p o n e n t. These brief employment placements provide further guidance to students on a p p r o p r i a t e career paths.

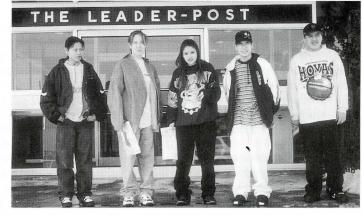
By grade 12, the final year of the four-year program, students will have knowledge of workplace protocol, a CPR and First Aid course and the

ability to assess their own career plans. "By the time they are finished grade 12," says Pelly, "they have a good idea of the direction they want to take."

Pelly says that partnerships with industry in recruiting students have been key to success of the program. She says

that employers are taking an active role with the students. "We've been getting a lot of positive feedback from industry," she says. In many cases, industry leaders are encouraging students to get their certification or education by guaranteeing employment after graduation.

Another positive aspect of the program has been the increase in levels of maturity, self-esteem and responsibility of



School to work program.

the students. The students now want to finish school and have goals for further education or employment beyond graduation. The program, says Pelly, has proven to be "a growing experience" for both students and educators.



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Classroom work.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM NEW INITIATIVE

The Cooperative Education Program is a regional initiative that is based on the School-to-Work model. Basically, says Alice Wuttunee, Cooperative Education Coordinator, "We are taking the curriculum developed by the School to Work program and implementing it on a broader scale." The three-year project is funded through the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and is available throughout the country.

The program itself offers First Nations students activities, experiences and opportunities that prepare them for the world of work. The program works within the context of First Nations culture, school and community.

In incorporating the First Nations cultural component, a five-day cultural camp is scheduled for late in September. The 1996-97 program participants, approximately 300 students, will attend the camp. Wuttunee believes that the experience will empower the youth by strengthening their knowledge of their heritage, language, traditions and culture.

During the course of the school year, the program offers students an in-school

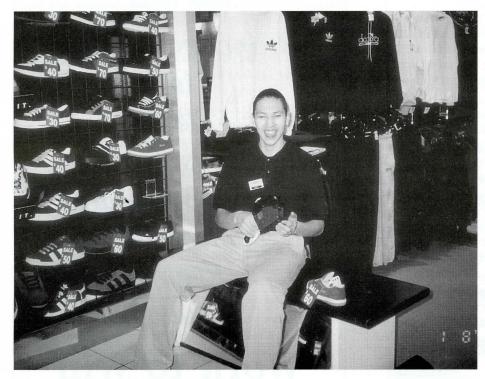


curriculum component, followed by a three-week job placement within the community. Working at these businesses provides students with tangible proof of their abilities. "The great value of the Cooperative Education Program is giving our youth a sense of pride and accomplishment," says Orvin Thomas, Kinistin Site Coordinator.

The Cooperative Education program was initially offered in ten First Nations school sites throughout the province. This year, the number of school sites has been increased by five for a total of fifteen First Nations schools. Each of the nine Tribal Councils is represented along with the independent Onion Lake First Nation. The goal, says Wuttunee, is to implement the program into band-controlled schools as opposed to urban settings. However, the sites were chosen for their proximity to major centres to allow for a wider range of opportunities and preferences of job placements.

In addition to educating the students, the program educates the mainstream employers on the value of hiring Aboriginal youth. Sylvia Nagy, Site Coordinator for the Kawacatoose First Nation agrees, "By working toward a common goal — that of an educated workforce — Cooperative Education breaks down barriers between students and business people, Indians and non-Indians and between teenagers and adults.

"Implemented in August of 1996, the Cooperative Education Program continues this year. Wuttunee anticipates the participation of approximately 600 students in the program.



Jason Pelletier. School to work program.

CAREER PLACEMENT/ SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Every spring, students across the province scour the help wanted ads looking for summer jobs. For First Nations youth on-reserve, First Nations government is frequently the main source for potential employment. Due to cut-backs and undesirable fiscal realities, positions are often difficult to find.

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) has been actively addressing this situation since 1992 when the Summer Student Employment Program began. The program subsidizes the costs of hiring First Nations students for summer positions. Funding for this program now comes from the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada First Nations Youth Initiative. The FSIN is currently the only Aboriginal organization to self-administer the funds.

Brian Attig, the Coordinator of the Career Placement/Summer Student Program, who worked as an FSIN summer student himself, says that the program is directed towards First Nations non-profit businesses, governments and organizations. Early in the year, band offices submit their applications for funding. The program currently divides funding according to the population base of the band.

The positions created to hire summer students are varied. A number of bands establish positions that will contribute to the community. The only restriction, says Attig, is that the students receive "a positive job experience that will contribute to their education".

Most of the summer jobs that are created begin on May 1 and will last for a maximum of 16 weeks. The program is flexible to allow the employer to hire four students for four weeks each, for example, instead of a single student for the sixteen-week duration. This allows a greater number of students to benefit from the program.

Attig says that the number of applications is increasing steadily every year. He attributes this to an increase in funding and an increase in awareness about the program. He estimates that over 1,000 students were hired under the program this year.

Following the completion of the work terms, employers will complete their funding requests along with an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program. Attig says he is looking for feedback on the types of jobs for which students were hired, the quality of their work and the fairness of the administration process.

The summer students will also be completing evaluation forms. The results will demonstrate how well the program is working for First Nations youth and how it might be improved to better meet their needs. "It is one thing to meet the needs of the employer," says Attig, "but, it is also necessary to meet the needs of the students since they're the ones doing the jobs."



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FIRST NATION RELEVANT CURRICULUM UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Approximately one year ago, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) entered into a partner-ship with the Government of Saskatchewan that concerned curriculum development. The goal was to produce curriculum for kindergarten through Grade 12 students that contained significant First Nations content. The curriculum is intended for use in both mainstream and on-reserve schools.

The partnership came as a result of concerns at that time from FSIN Chief Blaine Favel and Education Minister Pat Atkinson on addressing the inadequacies of the existing curriculum. At the time, Chief Favel stated, "The curriculum development partnership is designed to correct the historical record as it pertains to First Nations people in Saskatchewan and, the outcome of this initiative should foster greater social harmony in the province."

The agreement came as a result of the Protocol Agreement between the FSIN, the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan that establishes a Common Table for the three parties to address a number of issues. However, because of the importance of the issue, work on the partnership began before the official signing of the agreement in October 1996. The Memorandum of Agreement between the Office of Education and Saskatchewan Education, Employment and Training addresses educational concerns, among them, the curriculum issue.

Current work involves critical analysis of existing Saskatchewan Education curriculum. The analysis is intended to establish the needs of First Nations students while representing the eight linguistic groups in the province.

The goal is to address the negative aspects of the curriculum that are perpetuating stereotypes. Where positive aspects of the curriculum are identified, the technicians are identifying who was involved in the development of the curriculum, where it was developed and whether Elders contributed.

The process will also compile accurate First Nations information. This will then be added to the current curriculum, filling in the gaps.

Of course, the process is ongoing. And, while it might take some time to come up with curriculum that satisfies the needs of First Nations students, those involved with the project believe that it is worth the wait.

Ultimately, curriculum that positively reflects First Nations people will lead to the empowerment and education of First Nation youth. This, in turn, bodes well for Saskatchewan as a whole.



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FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION AUTHORITIES ASSOCIATION

An association made up of First Nation education authorities was created in November 1994 at the First Nation Education Authorities symposium held in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Here, delegates passed a resolution establishing the First Nations Education Authorities Association (FNEAA).

In February 1995, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Legislative Assembly passed a resolution mandating the Office of Education to facilitate the formation of the FNEAA. As a result, a Steering Committee was established to develop its structure and constitution. Authorization from Saskatchewan Chiefs is required on the final terms of reference and the organizational approach.

The FNEAA was established to fill the role of advocacy and leadership on educational issues of common interest to educational authorities with respect to the education of First Nations children. Among its many purposes, the organization deals collectively with issues and challenges presently facing First Nations education; makes recommendations on common educational positions and initiatives to the FSIN Legislative Assembly; and creates a research and development process to study important issues in First Nations education.

Since its inception, the Executive Council of the FNEAA has met on a semimonthly basis to deal with specific developmental issues. In September 1996, a Draft Charter was approved, in principle, at the FNEAA Symposium in Saskatoon. Since then, the FNEAA Executive Council has participated in information sessions with Saskatchewan First Nations, Tribal Councils, the Saskatchewan Indian Education Commission (SIEC) and the Director of Education to provide updates on the development of the Association. These information sessions have also proven effective in maintaining open communication among the groups.

The Charter of the FNEAA will be redrafted following the elections of the FSIN. The revised Charter will incorporate the voting, election and representation changes of the FSIN's reorganization. The FNEAA remains committed to its responsibility of: recognizing and providing technical assistance in the development of legislation and policy; research

and development; networking; and remaining educational experts on community needs.

STC SPONSORS YOUTH CAREER FAIR

The Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC) demonstrated their commitment to youth by hosting a Career Fair. The event was intended to help First Nation youth but did not exclude any young people who were interested.

The seven member Bands of the STC brought students in from their communities. Several Saskatoon high schools also participated.

Peggy Vermette, Career Fair organizer, says that, in total, approximately 325 students attended. In addition, a large number of students attended as volunteers. They participated in the steering committee for the event, at the registration table and as general help.

Vermette states that the Career Fair was intended to "give the students as many opportunities as possible". She says that the event brought students together with a cross-section of potential employers and post-secondary representatives. In all, 24 companies and educational institutions, among them SaskTel, SIEF, SIAST and the Native Access Program to Nursing, set up booths and interacted with the students.

The representatives offered the students advice beyond information about their programs or companies. Vermette says that they provided students with the answers to questions such as: "What type of education would I need?" and "How much can I make in this position?"

The potential income is a serious consideration for a number of students says Vermette. Many of the students are single parents, particularly single mothers. They must consider, she says, a career that will ultimately provide well for both themselves and their children.

Vermette states that many of these young women are today being steered into

careers that may be considered to be "traditionally male". These include a number of trades such as welding or mechanics. The advantage is that these careers generally pay better than those considered to be "traditionally female" careers.

In determining an appropriate career path, the students learned that they must ask themselves, "What do I need to be successful." The Career Fair provided the students with workshops on resume writing and interview techniques that will aid them in the search for a suitable career. Vermette says, "Every student left the workshops with a current, usable resume."

Guest speakers Barry Bear, Joyce Whitebear Reid, Chester Knight, Lillian Dyck and David Peeace also offered advice to the participants. These speakers offered information on careers related to the arts, math and sciences and medicine. Vermette stresses the importance of these presentations since First Nation youth do not always consider careers in these areas.

Current statistics suggest that by 2010, an estimated 50 percent of Saskatchewan's workforce will be Aboriginal. As a result, says Vermette, "We need to support our youth."

STC is using the Career Fair as a means to that goal. They are adopting a preventative rather than remedial approach. "Self-sufficiency is the ultimate goal for training and employment," says Vermette.

Vermette encourages Saskatchewan's First Nation youth to take advantage of programs and existing opportunities. She stresses that finding a career and employment itself should really be an exciting process. "It can change your life."

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Bill Gaynor, Vice President and General Manager of Weyerhaeuser's Saskatchewan Division congratulates this year's bursary winners.

Top L to R: Kari Lentowicz, Bill Gaynor, Elaine Fowler, Erin Powell. Bottom L to R: Barb McKay, Marie-France Roy, Thane Hamborg, Rob Martell, Dawn Bear.

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This year's honour roll includes:

Dawn Bear, Saskatoon – Bachelor of Science computer program, University of Saskatchewan.

Elaine Fowler, Prince Albert – Engineering, University of Saskatchewan.

Thane Hamborg, Prince Albert – Computer system technologist, Kelsey Campus of SIAST.

Kari Lentowicz*, Denare Beach – Environmental studies, University of Saskatchewan.

Rob Martell, Saskatoon – Mechanical engineering, University of Saskatchewan.

Barb McKay*, La Ronge – Bachelor of Administration studies at NORPAC in La Ronge.

Erin Powell*, Saskatoon – Bioresource/biochemical engineering, University of Saskatchewan.

Marie-France Roy*, Prince Albert – Electrical engineering, University of Saskatchewan.

* Repeat bursary recipients.



Bursary application deadline is June 30, 1998 for the 1998 – 99 academic year.

For more information, please contact: Bursary Program Co-ordinator • Weyerhaeuser Canada, P.O. Box 1900 Prince Albert, Saskatchewan S6V 6J9 • Telephone: (306) 763-0655

SICC CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY



The Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre (SICC) is currently celebrating its 25th year of supporting education and cultural awareness for First Nation people. In recognition of this event, the SICC Board of Governors, President Linda Pelly-Landrie and SICC staff are hosting a huge schedule of events beginning on September 25, 1997 and lasting for three days.

The concept of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural College, as it was known at its inception, was envisioned in 1970. Recognizing the need for a resurgence in First Nation cultural identity following the residential school regime, the FSIN initiated a Task Force on First Nation education in 1970.

"Indian control of Indian education" became the goal. In 1972, SICC was established. The mandate was to provide quality and professional service to First Nation people. While this mandate has remained constant over the years, the structure of the SICC has changed dramatically.

SICC began as a teaching institution offering students courses ranging from social work to art to the trades. As the demand for these courses grew, SICC splintered and self-sustaining institutions

Saskatchewan The Indian Federated College (SIFC), the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology (SIIT) and the Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP) all had their origins with the SICC.

Although the original structure had splintered, SICC adapted and grew. The focus of SICC changed from instruction to cultural education. The SICC staff works, in part, to preserve Saskatchewan First Nation heritage. Projects of this nature have included establishing an Elders' webpage on the Internet and the transfer of audio files to compact disk. This transfer allows the Elders' words to be catalogued to facilitate access to their wisdom.

The bulk of the work at SICC is in developing resource materials that reflect the cultural diversity of Saskatchewan's First Nations. Among these projects was the creation of curriculum that addresses environment-related topics. The materials, entitled Practising the Law of Circular Interaction: First Nation Environment and Conservation Principles, have received international recognition. The curriculum is used frequently in Canada.

Staff at SICC have also developed multi-media teaching resources, computer fonts for Aboriginal languages and audio-visual resources. The Centre also holds annual language workshops with First Nation language instructors and educators who have the opportunity to network and share their ideas.

Currently, the SICC is doing the groundwork to establish the First Nation Keeping House. The project will be a museum that is entirely First Nation-controlled and operated.

All of these accomplishments will be honoured during the up-coming celebrations. The schedule begins on September 25 with an Aboriginal Talent Search at the Centennial Auditorium. Ten semifinalists will perform for a trophy and recording session. Tom Jackson and Gordon Tootoosis will be the Masters of Ceremonies and Litefoot is the featured performer.

On September 26, the SICC Anniversary Corporate Banquet and Art Auction will be held. Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Chief Blaine Favel, Saskatchewan Indian Veterans Association Grand Chief Howard Anderson and Assembly of First Nations Grand Chief Phil Fontaine are scheduled to address the more than 500 guests.

September 27 begins with a pancake breakfast in downtown Saskatoon. The day continues with the SICC 25th Anniversary Celebration Traditional Powwow. Grand Entry is at 1:00 p.m. with day pay for all dancers and singers. A trade show and juried art show are also scheduled on this day.

The highlight of the celebration is the First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres (FNCCEC) National Conference. The three-day event features the election of the National President and serves as the General Assembly. It will be held at the Sands Hotel in Saskatoon. For more information on the events schedule contact Janet Ahenakew at 244-

SIFC — FIELD OF DREAMS

by Jocelyne Wasacase

The Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC) has been in existence for 20 years. Although it began with only 7 students, it now has over 1,500 registered in full-time studies. It is projected that by 1998, enrolment will surpass 2,000 students. By offering undergraduate and graduate programs, SIFC meets all the criteria to be recognized as a university. Last year, SIFC was granted full membership in the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

"It will be a monumental building — the first Indian university in Canada."

Orenda Yuzicapi
 SIFC Student

The college is dramatically evolving, not only with regard to its status, but also in physical terms. SIFC needs a permanent home that meets the needs of its growing faculty and student body.

SIFC has been pursuing construction of a new building that would house the new, university-level educational facility. The college has plans to build a new facility, designed by world-renowned architect Douglas Cardinal.

To date, several official ceremonies have taken place: the blessing of the site, a feast and recently a sod-turning ceremony. These official ceremonies have been carried out under the guidance of Elders.

"There is a lot to be said about incorporating traditional blessing/preparation of a site, especially with a large and important project such as the new SIFC building," said Ray Gosselin, SIFC project co-ordinator.

The question is: When will this building become reality?

"First Nations people should have their own school," said Willie Peigan, an Elder on staff at the Regina campus of SIFC. "I prayed to the Creator at the ground-breaking ceremonies — not to say that it is because of my prayer the building will be built. But dreams come true. It's coming!

"We have to finish what was started; we want to finish. The government will have to help. It is the way of the treaties," Elder Peigan added.

The project has been broken into three phases. The first phase is to house the existing SIFC as soon as possible. The latter two phases are based around the future growth of the new university, extending classroom space to accommodate the ever-growing student population. The second and third phases are estimated to cost \$40 million.

No actual construction has started yet at the site. All the activity is still based around the need to raise \$18 million to complete the first phase of construction. SIFC has raised \$3 million through a University of Regina campaign called Vision 20/20. SIFC is now looking for the federal and povincial governments to fulfill their funding commitments.

SIFC currently has two main campuses—one in Regina and one in Saskatoon—with several extensions, mostly in northern communities. Classroom space is usually rented.

SIFC students generally feel good about the new building. Some say the new building will not only house the stu-

dent body, but also create a relaxed environment.

"I think this is a good thing. It will be bring Indian people together," said Trina Knight, an SIFC student, who added, "I grew up in Saskatoon, and I like how the Saskatoon SIFC campus is all Indians in one building, but I came [to Regina] for a change."

Like most students, Knight is eager to see construction get under way, but "I have patience," she said. "I can wait, because I waited this long, and when it happens it will be on Indian Time!"

Another SIFC student, Orenda Yuzicapi, said, "I think they projected being finished by the year 2000. I will be done school way before that! But, once it gets done, it will be a monumental building-the first Indian university in Canada. I think it is great!"

Activity on the site may begin soon. Gosselin said SIFC is in the process of beginning site preparation. The project task force has also begun to develop a strategy to create employment in various positions.

So this building will soon become more of a reality than a dream. When it is completed, it will certainly be an accomplishment that all involved can say was worth the wait.



Site of the future SIFC building.

WICIHITOWIN LOGO CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED



left to right: Chief Favel with first place winner, Clyde Young of Shoal Lake and Grand Chief Howard Anderson



The results of the Wicihitowin Foundation Logo Contest were recently announced. The artwork of Clyde Young won the \$1000 first-place prize, donated by SaskTel. Charles Williams won the second-place prize of \$750, donated by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), and the \$500 third-place prize, donated by Wicihitowin, went to Tim Ahenakew.

The Wicihitowin Foundation is a notfor-profit, Saskatchewan organization that was established in 1995. It was proposed as a living legacy to honour and remember First Nations Veterans who served their country with distinction.

The goal of Wicihitowin is to empower Aboriginal youth for future leadership. The Foundation strives to help Aboriginal youth develop strength, self-discipline and self-confidence. This goal is reflected in the translation of the Cree word wicihitowin 'helping each other'.

The logo contest was one such way of empowering youth to develop self-confidence in their talents. The contest was open to all Aboriginal youth in Saskatchewan who met the eligibility requirements of the North American Indigenous Games. The entries were judged on the basis of creativity, originality and simplicity.

The top prize was awarded to Clyde Young of Shoal Lake. He has been drawing since he was a small child and loves art. He has two brothers and three sisters and lives with his parents, Harry and Dora Young. The 19-year-old attended the Wachik Indian School in Shoal Lake. He is planning a career in the RCMP.

Clyde Young describes his logo, saying, "The adult's hand represents the Wicihitowin Foundation and the youth's hand represents the Indigenous youth. The eagle feather speaks for itself because it's sacred to the Indigenous people; the eagle is the vision and guidance, coming to the aid of the Wicihitowin Foundation and helping all the Indigenous youth of Saskatchewan. The red also represents the sacrifices made by our veterans and the colour of life that runs through every one of us. The circle represents the circle of life."

Second-prize winner Charles Williams is a 14-year-old student at Ahtahkakoop School in Sandy Lake. He, too, has been drawing since he was small. He says that his logo submission illustrates "a man [helping] his child to a good life."

The third-prize winner, Tim Ahenakew, is also a 14-year-old student at Ahtahkakoop School in Sandy Lake. He enjoys drawing and says that it took him about a day to come up with his logo. His art represents the stages of life of a bird from an egg to adulthood.

All three winners were honoured for their achievements at the FSIN Chiefs'

Assembly in Prince Albert on June 25, 1997. At that time, Saskatchewan Indian Veterans Association Grand Chief Howard Ahenakew, along with FSIN Chief Blaine Favel, presented the young artists with their awards.

The Wicihitowin Logo Selection Committee wishes to thank all those who submitted their work for consideration.



2nd place artwork by Charles Williams



3rd place artwork by Tim Ahenakew

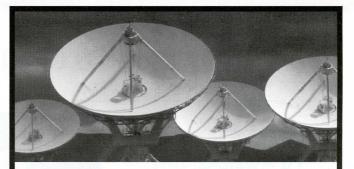
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BOLD EAGLE GRADUATES STAND TALL

For the eighth consecutive year, First Nations youth from across western Canada have successfully completed the Bold Eagle Militia Training Program. This year, 30 recruits between the ages of 17 and 24 graduated from the 6-week course. The recruits were all from First Nations in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The program is a joint venture between the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) and the Canadian Armed Forces. The recruits are required to go through the standard applica-

tion and selection process that is required for all militia recruits.

While introducing the standard militia training offered in summer militia camps, the Bold Eagle program incorporates components relevant to First Nations youth. "The Canadian Armed Forces see the Bold Eagle program as an important bridge to cultural relations within the forces," said Captain Kitely of Canadian Forces Base Dundurn. "This is the opportunity for First Nations and the Armed Forces to share in a program that we can both benefit from."

Each year, Elders and cultural advisors participate with the recruits, instructors and some non-Aboriginal recruits in a four-day cultural camp. This is seen as an important aspect of the overall training for recruits and instructors alike.

In addition to the cultural camp, Aboriginal instructors are used whenever possible to provide the recruits with role models they can identify with from a cultural perspective. The instructors also act as contacts within the Armed Forces for the youth and provide a means for them



Bold Eagle Graduates — 1997.

to see themselves and their people as an integral part of the Canadian military.

"The military training helps our young people to prepare themselves for the future and gain the kinds of skills that are required to enter into a career," said FSIN Vice-Chief Lindsay Cyr. "The successful graduates of the Bold Eagles program can benefit from this experience when looking at future participation in the Canadian Armed Forces or as useful experience for work in the policing or security profession."

Education Jurisdiction (continued from page 2)

between the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Office of Education, the federal government and the provincial government. Ultimately, First Nations will share a bi-lateral relationship with the federal government and a bi-lateral relationship with the provincial government. Funding transfers will be made exclusively to the First Nations for the purposes of education and training.

First Nations governments will hold jurisdiction over on and off-reserve education under federally and provincially recognized legislation. First Nations will also hold jurisdiction over all areas currently held by the provincial government.

The Office of Education has developed a workplan that encompasses the work entailed in proceeding with discussions involving the federal and provincial governments. This workplan was started in April 1997 and is ongoing. It is now being discussed in First Nation forums.

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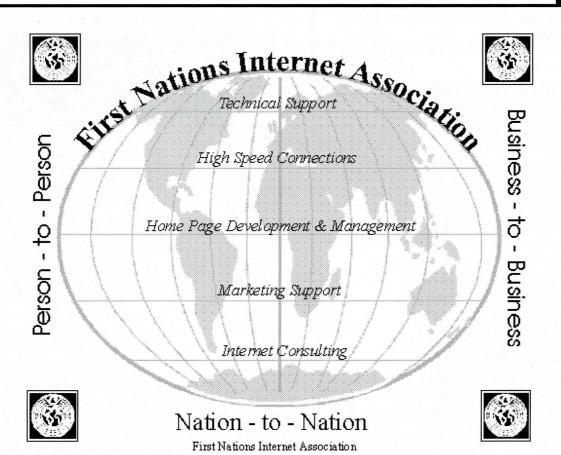
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TEAM SASKATCHEWAN WINS FOURTH NAIG TITLE



For the fourth time, Team Saskatchewan has brought home the Overall Championship title from the North American Indigenous Games. Saskatchewan athletes captured 101 gold medals, 105 silver medals and 92 bronze medals for a total point count of 2977. Their closest competitors, Team British Columbia, finished second with 119 gold, 68 silver and 56 bronze and a total of 2507 points.

The Games were held this year from August 3 to 10 in Victoria, British Columbia. Twenty-six teams from across North America travelled to compete in the eight-day event. Hailed as this year's largest gathering of Aboriginal youth in North America, the Games attracted nearly 5,000 athletes between the ages of 12 and 21. Team Saskatchewan contributed a contingent of over 800 athletes.

A total of 16 different sporting events were held over the week of competition; archery, athletics (track and field), badminton, baseball, basketball, boxing, canoeing, golf, lacrosse, rifle shooting, soccer, softball, swimming, tae kwon do,

vollevball wrestling were featured with free admission spectators and enthusiasts.

Venues were located around the greater Victoria region. An efficient bus transportation system was used to link the sporting venues with accommodation sites and meal Lorna centres.

Arcand, chef de mission for Team Saskatchewan, praised organizers, saying that the event was well-organized.

Over 2,000 volunteers worked to make sure that things were kept moving smoothly. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal volunteers worked as medical and security personnel, cultural village and ceremonies staff and general support staff. Coordinators and technical officials also volunteered their services. These volunteers were honoured for their contribution during the closing ceremonies of the Games.

Volunteers earned this honour, each day handling thousands of spectators. Arcand estimates that between 3,000 and 5,000 people travelled from Saskatchewan alone to cheer on the athletes. In addition to parents and family, she says, "It was really nice to see some of the communities take

> younger children to see what the Games are about." Once these young spectators reach 12 years of age, they will be able to compete themselves.

> Arcand stresses the appreciation that she and her mission staff have for the support received thev from Saskatchewan First Nations, Tribal Councils,

Friendship Centres and parents. She realizes that the Games create a financial burden for some families and communities but says, "The long-range benefits of providing positive alternative activities for youth" go a long way in combatting negative lifestyles.

Creating healthy alternative activities for youth is one of the main focuses of the Saskatchewan Indian Sport, Culture and Recreation Commission. Arcand believes that the strong sports program, including the annual Saskatchewan Indian Summer and Winter Games, is part of the reason why Saskatchewan has won every Overall Championship at NAIG since its inception in 1990.

Another large part of Saskatchewan's success, says Arcand, is that they continue to raise the standards for the athletes. And, because coaching and mission staff are "all part of the same team", the standards for coaches are being raised as well. For the next Games, coaches will be required to have Level II certification. And, while these Games are two years away, planning is already under way.

Athletes will have a long journey to the 1999 Games in Fargo, North Dakota. Try-outs for the Games will be held on a regional basis. The top athletes at these first try-outs will move on to provincial finals. After the selection of Team Saskatchewan, training camps will be held on a regular basis until the Games arrive.

Try-outs ensure that Team Saskatchewan represents the elite of Sask-

(continued next page)





atchewan's Aboriginal athletes. Among this year's elite athletes competing at the Games were a number of shining stars.

Jesse Laframboise of Regina won a gold medal in the Intermediate Open Boxing competition. Laframboise has competed in and won mainstream boxing competitions around the world.

Janna Pratt of Gordon's First Nation won a gold medal in Juvenile Female Wrestling. This high-calibre athlete recently won the Canadian Women's title. Arcand says that Pratt's longest match at the Games lasted 24 seconds.

Robert Laroque of Saskatoon took home four gold medals in the bantam division of athletics competition. Laroque has competed previously, but his dedication and focus clearly showed this year.

Tom Charles was another impressive gold medalist. He won six canoeing competitions at the Junior level, mostly on an individual basis.

While these four are shining examples of Aboriginal athletes, Arcand stresses that all of the athletes deserve recognition for their hard work and commitment. "They were all great," she says. "They made me proud."

The athletes' dedication was rewarded with the presentation of the top prize, the Ceremonial Paddle, at the Closing Ceremonies. Arcand says that she regretted that many of Saskatchewan's athletes had already left Victoria to return home and did not get to share in that crowning moment. She was reassured, however, when she overheard a young Saskatchewan athlete say that it did not matter that many of the athletes had gone early, "What matters," he said, "is that we did what we came here to do."

North American	Indigenous	Games	Results
0	11 M - J - 1 C		

Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total Points	Total Points
Saskatchewan	101	105	92	298	2977
British Columbia	119	68	56	243	2507
Alberta	73	85	73	231	2299
Ontario	67	33	50	150	1471
Manitoba	33	57	43	133	1419
Kahnawake	47	30	34	111	1005
Yukon	25	34	21	80	747
Connecticut	25	9	10	44	433
Colorado	13	13	7	33	326
Northwest					
Territories	11	6	8	25	275
Minnesota	8	9	2	19	224
Oregon	7	9	2	18	202
Maine	5	6	10	21	193
Wisconsin	5	4	5	14	192
NewYork	3	3	1	7	125
Oklahoma	4 3	4	1	9	114
Iowa	3	4	1	8	94
Florida	1	2	2	5	89
Washington	0	3	1	4	50
Montana	1	11	0	2	35
NewBrunswick	1	1	0	2	22
California	2	0	0	2	20
South Dakota	0	1	0	1	18



TOM CHARLES: A TRUE CHAMPION

by Joan Beatty

Referred to "as truly one of the best role models Saskatchewan had to offer" at the North American Indigenous Games, 20-year-old Tom Charles of Stanley Mission captured six gold medals, winning every canoeing event he entered.

But it was not only winning the gold medals which made Charles emerge as a true champion. He acted as chaperone, coach and cheerleader to many of the northern athletes at the canoeing events.

Winston Mckay, co-ordinator of Team Saskatchewan canoeing events said, "Tom was a tremendous help and a real role model to the rest of the team. He led by example." Charles lent his \$200 racing paddle to those without one, shouted encouragement and set the standard for enthusiam. Despite being exhausted from competing in six events, he was still ready to go each day.

Raised by his grandmother, Jeannie Roberts, the Lac La Ronge Cree Nation member says that he gets great inspiration and a lot of support from her. However, his interest in canoeing began as a result of four-time World Marathon Canoe Champion Sol Carrier of Cumberland House. When Charles was in Grade 8, Carrier visited Stanley Mission and took the children out on a canoe trip. "We did short sprints for chips or pop," he recalls.

He had always enjoyed canoeing, but had not realized it could be a competitive sport. Ever since then, Charles competes every chance he gets. He trains on the Churchill River by himself, paddling about 12 kilometres daily. During the winter, he stays in shape by lifting weights, jogging and playing volleyball and basketball.

His dedication seems even more remarkable when one considers that he does not have a coach to work with, he does not always have the proper equipment to train with and he comes from a community which was known to have one of the highest teen suicide rates in Canada. He says that canoeing gives him discipline, keeps him motivated and gives him a positive outlook on life.

Charles'is goal is to be a world marathon canoe champion like Carrier. until then, he looks forward to competing in the 1999 North American Indigenous Games. In the meantime, he wants to help encourage other kids to get involved in canoe racing by holding clinics in northern communities. Anyone interested can leave a message for Tom Charles at the Band Office.

Whitecap Hosts Largest Ever Summer Games



The 1997 Saskatchewan Indian Summer Games were held at Whitecap Dakota/Sioux First Nation, marking the first time that a Dakota/Sioux Nation has hosted the event. The 23rd Annual event featured the athletic prowess of Saskatchewan's First Nation youth.

Opening ceremonies for the Games were held on July 7. The event began with the entry of the Lance carried by Derrick Sasakamoose, one of 26 athletes known as the Keepers of the Lance. These athletes carried the Lance the 180 kilometers from the Ahtahkakoop First Nation, the site of last year's Summer Games.

Sasakamoose and the Lance Runners were joined in the Grand Entry by Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Princesses Stephanie Redman and Carla Omani, FSIN Chief Blaine Favel, FSIN Vice-Chief Eugene Arcand, Whitecap Dakota/Sioux First Nation Chief Darcy Bear, MLA Keith Goulet, Saskatoon Mayor Henry Dayday and distinguished Elders and Veterans.

The dignitaries were followed by the parade of athletes representing the nine Saskatchewan Tribal Councils and Onion Lake First Nation.

In his remarks during the ceremonies, Chief Favel stated that the 3,200 registered athletes made the 1997 Games the largest ever. He wished the athletes speed and strength during the competition.

(continued on next page)



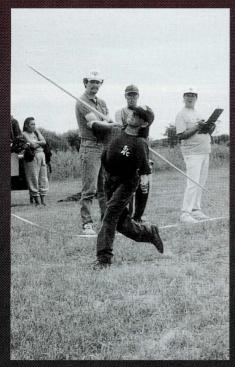


"I think that the 1997
Saskatchewan Indian Summer
Games represented the true
meaning of working together and
cooperation."

- Chief Darcy Bear Whitecap Dakota/Sioux First Nation Whitecap Hosts Largest Ever Summer Games (continued from page 15)

Vice-Chief Arcand told the athletes, "Whatever happens here in the next three or four days, you will all leave here winners."

The Games give First Nations youth the opportunity to showcase their athletic skills. They also create a forum that promotes harmony and community spirit through sport, culture and recreation. The Games also contribute to building self-esteem and leadership skills. Chief Bear reminded the athletes of this, saying, "Remember many of you will become leaders. Be proud of who you are."



The Saskatchewan Indian Summer Games were first held in 1975 on the Cote First Nation. They were created to address the exclusion of First Nations athletes in mainstream competition. Tony Cote, Chief of Cote at the time, says that only 500 athletes attended that first event.

And, as the number of athletes has increased over the years, so to has the caliber of competition. Today, many First Nations athletes excel in mainstream city and provincial sporting events. 10-year-old sprint champion Ashley Greyeyes is one of the better-known examples.



However, many of the athletes still consider the Saskatchewan Indian Summer Games the athletic highlight of the summer. "Many are elite athletes in the mainstream," said Chief Favel, "But here, they are with family."

Athletes may participate in track and field, soccer or softball competitions. However, each athlete is allowed to compete in only one sport. Vice-Chief Arcand says that this system limits the number of events that elite athletes may compete in and allows more youth to participate.



The Games also feature two demonstration sports each year. This year, boxing and archery were featured, in part, as preparation for the up-coming North American Indigenous Games.

Competition at the Games took place over four days. The event was blessed with good weather and few delays. In closing ceremonies, Chief Favel declared the 1997 Saskatchewan Indian Summer Games "one of the best Games ever".

The success of the Games was a coup for Whitecap, as it has one of the smallest Band memberships in Saskatchewan. Preparation and organization were key said Chief Bear. "I think that the 1997 Saskatchewan Indian Summer Games represented the true meaning of working together and cooperation."

A large contingent of volunteers, including 14 co-ordinators, worked tirelessly to keep the event running smoothly and on time. Robert Merasty, Games Coordinator, congratulated the volunteers on their efforts and said, "Thank you all very much."

The 1998 Saskatchewan Indian Summer Games will be hosted by the Cowessess First Nation.

LANCE RUN IMPORTANT PART OF SUMMER GAMES

One of the highlights of the 1997 Saskatchewan Indian Summer Games was the arrival of the Lance at the Whitecap Dakota/Sioux First Nation from the Ahtahkakoop First Nation, near Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan.

"This is a powerful gift," said Lance Runner Derrick Sasakamoose at the Opening Ceremonies of the Games. "It brings in unity, peace, harmony, balance and love."

These qualities reflect the sacred nature of the Lance. Historically, the Lance was used in warfare and hunting. It was considered to embody the spirit and story of the people who used it.

The Lance was also used to carry messages from one village to another. Young warriors would make the journey and present the Lance to Elders. The Elders would read the message indicated by the leather, fur, beads and feathers included on it.

Today, the Lance is used as a valued component of the Games. "The Lance is sacred," says Whitecap Dakota/Sioux

First Nation Chief Darcy Bear. "It basically represents carrying the spirit of our youth."

The Lance is made of a wood shaft that is decorated with deer fur and hide, ribbons, beads and eagle feathers. The ribbons and beads are red, white, green, blue and yellow and represent the

Great Spirit and the Four Directions. "The Lance holds within it the message of all our First Nation people, our long history on this earth, our life in the present and all our hopes for the future," said Chief Bear.

Because of the sacred nature of the Lance, those chosen to handle it must be worthy of the honour. Known as the 'Keepers of the Lance', the runners must

> lead clean lives and abstain from drugs or alcohol. They must also have a spiritual commitment and attend sweats. Once selected, these athletes must be prepared to dedicate one year of their life to the Lance.

This year, 26 runners made the arduous two-day marathon from Ahtahkakoop First Nation, the site of last year's Games. The Ahtahkakoop Lance runners were met halfway along the 180 kilometerroute by members of the Whitecap Dakota/Sioux First Nation who completed the journey. Along the route,

the runners made special stops at the Mistawasis First Nation, Muskeg Lake First Nation and Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

The Lance is now entrusted to the Whitecap Dakota/Sioux First Nation for the next year. In July 1998, the Keepers of the Lance will travel the awesome distance to Cowessess First Nation, the site of the 1998 Saskatchewan Indian Summer Games.



Total Point Standings

MLTC	601
YTC	534
TFHQ	531
STC	501
PAGC	476
OLFN	369
Athabasca	328
BTC	275
ACTC	181
FCTC	142
SET	435



Keeper of Lance enroute to the '97 Saskatchewan Indian Summer Games

YELLOWQUILL ACQUIRES SASKATOON BUILDING

The Yellowquill First Nation recently acquired a new piece of real estate. The Band purchased an office complex located in downtown Saskatoon.

Yellowquill First Nation Chief Henry Neapetung stated that the Band has finalized the deal that gives them ownership of Canterbury Towers. The nine-storey, 6,390 square foot building is located at 224 Fourth Avenue South.

The building, constructed in 1980, features private and government offices. Current tenants include Cigar Lake Mining Corporation and Family Law Division Services. It also contains a parking garage.

The Band purchased the complex for \$4 million. The money came from the Yellowquill Treaty Land Entitlement Trust and through mortgages with Peace Hills Trust and the Royal Bank.

The acquisition is significant as it is expected to become the second urban reserve in Saskatoon. Muskeg Lake First Nation produced Saskatoon's first urban reserve when the Band constructed an office complex in the Sutherland area. Muskeg Lake negotiated with the City of Saskatoon for a servicing agreement that provides the equivalent of property taxes.

Chief Neapetung says that Yellowquill is anticipating a similar arrangement. "We've contacted City Council in regard to the precedent," he said. "They're very receptive."

The Chief believes that being an urban reserve will bring in business. "We think this will attract various businesses because it is Indian-owned."

In fact, the Band has already attracted the First Nations Bank of Canada. The Bank recently signed a lease and renovations have been completed. It has movedinto the space that was formerly occupied by the Hongkong Bank of Canada. The Grand Opening of the First Nations Bank of Canada will be held September 23, 1997.

While significant, the acquisition of Canterbury Towers is only one of several economic activities that Yellowquill currently has underway. The Band recently increased the size of the reserve by purchasing land near Wadena. This land is intended for agricultural use. They also

plan further economic development both on and off the reserve.

The Yellowquill First Nation is located approximately 250 kilometers east of

Saskatoon. The First Nation has a membership of about 2,000 members. An estimated one-third of the members live on-reserve.

"We think this will attract various businesses because it is Indian-owned."

- Chief Henry Neapetung Yellowquill First Nation



FILE HILLS INTERNET OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

At a May 1997 press conference in Regina, Saskatchewan, File Hills Internet was officially launched. The company is currently the largest, non-government Internet provider in Saskatchewan.

File Hills Internet is owned by five Saskatchewan First Nations:

File Hills is also working to make Internet and intranet a staple for all small, medium and large businesses. "It is definitely the direction every business in Saskatchewan will have to go and we are poised to be a leader in this province in helping business embrace the most revolutionary new technology we've seen this century," says Chief Poitras.

And, to make sure that they remain on the forefront of technological advancement, File Hills Internet has partnered with some of the most powerful technology companies in North America. The company has formalized partnerships with grouptelecom, Silicon Graphics Inc. and Netscape Corporation. These organiCommunications system using Internet and intranet technology. FSIN Chief Blaine Favel says, "This partnership will help the Federation make a technology leap into the 21st century. With this technology, our children will have new and exciting education and job opportunities."

"What these partnerships mean is that few organizations in Western Canada can offer the expertise and experience we now offer to anyone who is wanting Internet and intranet to become the backbone of their everyday business environment," says Chief Poitras.

File Hills **Telecommunications** Corporation, a sister company, is now

Peepeekisis First Nation, Okanese First Nation, Carry the Kettle First Nation, Little Black Bear First Nation and the Starblanket First Nation. The company was initiated in 1995 by the Peepeekisis First Nation. It was started to serve the Internet needs of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN).

Since those humble beginnings, the company has evolved significantly. File Hills now provides Internet access to a variety of large customers. Cable Regina, DLC West and MicroCity are among their clients who then pass on the service to their own customers, typically home users and small businesses. In addition, File Hills provides direct access to a number of large businesses and corporations.

"Whenever someone at home goes on to the Internet and they are not buying a service from SaskTel, they are going through our system," said File Hills spokesman Chief Eugene Poitras.

zations will work with File Hills to facilitate its anticipated provincewide expansion.

*"The partnership between grouptelecom and File Hills Internet Inc. is representative of the positive and rapid changes the Internet is having on the marketplace," says Mike Patterson, Vice-President, Operations for grouptelecom. "This alliance provides clients more reliable and fast access onto the Internet."

While the company is on the verge of major success in the province, its founders have not forgotten their roots. Chief Poitras says, "We have been working for two years ensuring that the First Nations in this province are taking advantage of this powerful new technology and that experience will be an asset to others in Saskatchewan."

File Hills is also continuing its relationship with the FSIN. The partnership involves implementation of an extensive

developing major telecommunications hub for Western Canada. By building on this service, it is only a matter of time before File Hills Internet reaches its next goal expanding its services to include all of Western Canada.

Internet Inc.

HARVEY GARDIPY: IN REMEMBRANCE

A loyal supporter of First Nations community, Harvey Gardipy passed away recently at the age of 74. The quiet, family man from Beardy's & Okemasis First Nations, had struggled valiantly with cancer for three years.

At the time of his death, Harvey Gardipy was a Senator with the Beardy's & Okemasis Senate and a Trustee on the Treaty Land Entitlement Process. He was also a member of the Saskatchewan Indian Veterans Association (SIVA). George Mike, a close friend of Mr. Gardipy, says, "He was a great supporter of SIVA." He was a champion of Aboriginal Veterans rights, encouraging many to pursue compensation packages for benefits they should have received upon their return from action.

Harvey Gardipy served with the Canadian military during World War II. He saw action throughout Europe and participated in the D-Day invasion. And while he received medals for his action, he never spoke of the time he spent overseas.

Bertha Acoose, one of Mr. Gardipy's five daughters, says that he was proud of having served. But, she also believes his

service affected him profoundly. He once told her, "I saw so many people die right beside me. I don't want to talk about it."

Upon his return from Europe, Harvey Gardipy met and married Marie Louise Dumont. The couple had nine children over the years. In 1994, Louise passed away. Despite having been separated for some time, Bertha believes that her mother remained the love of his life.

Harvey Gardipy lived on-reserve at Beardy's & Okemasis First Nations for most of his life. He served as a member of the Band Council for approximately 25 years, says George Mike. "He was always active in community development," says Mike, "In any way he could help."

Education was another of his priorities, says Bertha. Harvey attended St. Michael's Residential School in Duck Lake, Saskatchewan as a youth. And, while he did not enjoy the experience, he remained in school as long as he could because he recognized the value of education. One of his crowning achievements as a Band Councillor, says Bertha,

was the completion of the first on-reserve school.

Always a knowledgeable man, she says, "He taught me how to think on my own."

Kindness and generosity are two of the traits for which Harvey Gardipy will be remembered. Over the years, he quietly helped many Band members in times of need. He preferred to stay out of the limelight, working quietly behind the scenes to effect positive change. "I think he did a lot for the Band," says Bertha.

She says that she will remember her father most for his consistency and quiet strength. He was always there when needed. And, he was not concerned with material goods, choosing instead to live a simple life. He had a healthy routine and had given up smoking many years ago. Bertha says that had it not been for the cancer, her father would have lived for many, many more years.

Harvey Gardipy earned the respect of those around him by always respecting others. This quiet man will be sadly missed by all who knew him.



SENATOR ARCHIE WADITAKA

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations recently lost a valued and respected member of Senate. On the morning of August 1, 1997, First Nations Veteran and Senator, Archie Waditaka, passed away.

Senator Waditaka, a member of the Wahpeton Dakota Nation, was the son of the late John and Maggie Waditaka. He was pre-deceased by his first wife, the late Edith Waditaka, and is survived by his wife Helen Waditaka. Senator Waditaka is also survived by 18 of his 22 children, 78 grandchildren and 30 greatgrandchildren.

Senator Waditaka was a veteran of World War II. He enlisted at the age of 18 and served with the South Saskatchewan Regiment and, for a brief period, the West Nova Regiment. He was a Lance Corporal which is the front line pointer, also known as a scout.

Senator Waditaka saw action in France, England, Germany and Holland. He fought in the Dieppe raid on August 25, 1942. He was on the first wave that jumped into the water from the plane. On June 6, 1944, Senator Waditaka was one of the many members of the allied troops that landed on the shores of Normandy on D-Day.

A spiritual man, Senator Waditaka had received an eagle feather from his family before his departure. This eagle feather was to protect him and bring him back alive. His faith kept him alive during his service, however, he was wounded in the foot during a recon mission in northern France.

Senator Waditaka received five medals for his service overseas. He most cherished the 1939-1945 Normandy Campaign Medal for shooting down two German planes.

In the time since the war, Senator Waditaka has maintained strong ties to the community. He served as Band Councillor for two terms and Chief for two terms. He was involved in the Band Farm and was instrumental in the development of the school and education programs. He was also a Dakota language instructor for five years.

An active member of the First Nations community and an Elder, he was appointed to the Senate of the FSIN in October 1996.

Senator Waditaka was a spiritual leader and a believer in Dakota culture, tradition and language. He will be greatly missed by his wife, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sisters, relatives, FSIN Executive, Senate and staff and his friends.

ABORIGINAL SUICIDE RATES NEED TO BE ADDRESSED

"Take the time to listen, take the time to respect each other"

— Vice-Chief Albert Scott FSIN

Current statistics on Aboriginal suicide are grim. According to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Special Report: Choosing Life, Aboriginal suicide rates are two to three times higher than the Canadian average. Youth rates are even worse. The report states that suicide rates are five to six times higher among Aboriginal youth than their mainstream counterparts.

"Most concerning of all," state the Commissioners, "We identified a strong possibility that the number of suicides among Aboriginal youth will rise in the next 10 to 15 years." This is largely due to the expected bulge in Aboriginal youth populations. In the next few years, the large number of young people who are now younger than 15 will be entering young adulthood, a highly traumatic time for even the best prepared youths.

The report also refers to the impact of the "ripple effect" through interconnected families and communities. The aftermath of a suicide may include destructive behaviour or copycat suicides. This is something for which community leaders are often not prepared.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Chief Blaine Favel agrees. "We en-

countered some suicides when I was Chief of Poundmaker, and the sense of powerlessness and the sense of failure that a community has, and the leadership has, is something we should talk about," he said.

Talking about the issue was the purpose of "The Washing of Tears Conference" held in Saskatoon. The conference was organized by the Health and Social Development Commission of the FSIN to address suicide and its impact. "It's an issue that none of us have not been touched by in the 72 First Nations of Saskatchewan," said Chief Favel.

The goal of the conference was to develop strategies for communities to anticipate and prevent suicide and learn to deal with the aftermath when a suicide does occur.

More than 1,000 people attended the conference, with approximately 200 coming from out of province. Most of them recognized that the answers are not simply in improving crisis services. Many of the

answers lie in addressing the underlying factors. "High unemployment, poverty, the effects of residential schools, a lot of them are tied together," said Chief Favel.

These issues, and more, were addressed throughout the conference in workshops. The findings expressed in the delegates' final reports reflected those of the Royal Commission, in part: prevention through community action.

A variety of ways are suggested for communities to become more involved. Cultural activities such as sweats, storytelling and language camps were frequently suggested.

The overwhelming recommendations, however, were for youth programs and youth involvement. As one participant stated, "Youth need a say in how their communities are run." The delegates listed positive role models and sport and recreation opportunities as being important. Courses in parenting skills, life skills, anger management and goal setting were also suggested.

The conference delegates took home the workshop findings and will begin the process of implementing them in their own communities.

The "Washing of Tears Conference" was the first step in addressing this issue that has gone on for too long. The next step will require the support of entire communities if change is to occur. As FSIN Vice-Chief Albert Scott stated, "Nothing is impossible if we work together."

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SCULPTOR LLOYD PINAY

For nearly 20 years, Lloyd Pinay has received critical acclaim for his artwork. He believes that his devotion to art is the driving force behind his success.

"I've done sculpture all my life," Pinay says. His talent was realized while he was taking a biology course in university. Soon, he was pursuing his art full-time. He says that in the beginning, "My work was different enough that there was a market for it."

Pinay attributes a great deal of the originality of his work to his heritage. A member of the Peepeekisis First Nation, he spent a great deal of his childhood in exploration of the wild.

He believes that art can contribute to the preservation of nature through awareness of the people and wildlife of the land. As a result, the relationship between man and his environment is frequently reflected in his work.

At the beginning of his career, the self-taught artist experimented with a

number of different materials. He has worked with marble. steatite. limestone, alabaster, silver and bronze. Pinay says that he has favourite medium, but states, "Stonework has its limitations." These limitations include its

susceptibility to permanent damage from vandalism and erosion. These mediums are also fragile and frequently create difficulties when working with intricate detailing, he says.

Thus, over the years, Pinay has leaned towards creating with bronze. Despite being thin, bronze is very durable. This is a feature that is especially desirable when he creates works that are required to withstand extreme weather conditions. The monument featured in front of Wanuskewin Heritage Park is one such example, being exposed to both winter and summer extremes in Saskatchewan.

While working with bronze, Pinay has developed a number of his own techniques, many of which are time-saving processes. In order to remain on top of his work, he says, "I've gotten involved in every stage of the foundry process." By doing so, he ensures the quality of his work.

Pinay is currently working on a number of projects. He has been commissioned by the Muskowekwan First Nation to create a memorial monument. The work, which he expects to complete by this fall, features two children in traditional dress with a golden eagle representing the spiritual connection.

He is also working on the National Aboriginal War monument that is featured on this month's cover of *Saskatchewan Indian*. The monument is intended to be a tribute to the contributions of Canada's Aboriginal people in war and peace.

The sculpture will recognize four eras—World War I, World War II, the Korean conflict and the present, peace-keeping role. The monument is meant to address the strength of Aboriginal people's beliefs drawn from the natural world around them. Pinay has also incorporated both the number four and the circle into the design of the monument.

The monument is expected to take about two years to complete and will stand approximately 30 feet. It will be located in Ottawa, Ontario.

Lloyd Pinay's artwork has been featured in exhibitions in major cities throughout Canada and the United States. He has made presentations of his work to the Queen Mother in Great Britain and to the Republic of China.

His work can also be seen throughout Saskatchewan, including the Wanuskewin Heritage Park, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and monuments in Fort Qu'Appelle.

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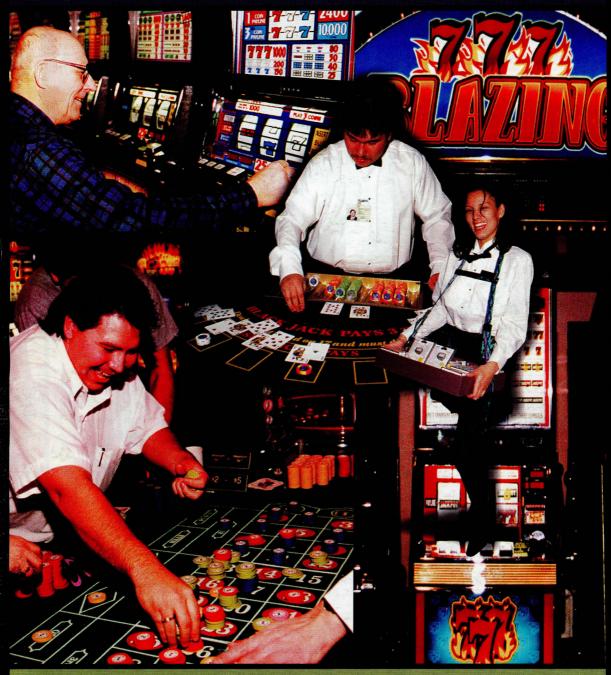
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