

# SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN

MAGAZINE



Saskatchewan Indian  
Spring Edition  
Vol 1. Issue 3. 2011

## FIRST NATIONS UNIVERSITY OF CANADA BACHELOR OF HEALTH STUDIES

**First Nations Developing  
Tobacco Strategy**

**First Nations  
Investment Fund**

**First Nations Justice:  
Moving Forward**

**2011 World Indigenous  
Youth Summit on the  
Environment**

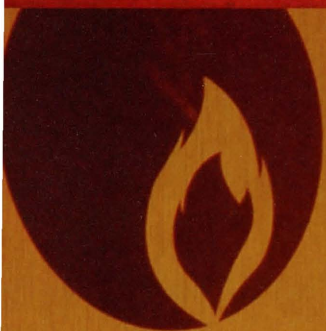
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### NEXT ADVERTISING & MATERIAL DEADLINE

Advertising Deadline is Thursday, May 26, 2011

Material Deadline is Friday, May 27, 2011

Since 1970, the Saskatchewan Indian Magazine has been the official communication vehicle for First Nation communities and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN).

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

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# Editorial Message

By Eldon Henderson

Spring is finally around the corner and we are looking forward to the summer days of 2011. I would like to thank all our contributors and advertising clients for this issue. There were many events and stories that have captivated our interests in 2010 and *Sask Indian* will cover more headline news for our readership in 2011 as well.

*Sask Indian* would like to acknowledge and congratulate the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations for their 65th Anniversary and thank the FSIN for protecting, promoting and strengthening our Inherent and Treaty Rights since 1946.

In other Treaty related news, the Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LRRIB) received compensation from the Government of Canada for failing to provide the twine and ammunition to the Band when it was promised in 1889 when Adhesion to Treaty 6 was signed.

The Living Sky Casino is now officially on urban reserve land in the City of Swift Current marking Canada's latest urban reserve and congratulations to Chief Alice Pahtayken and Council of the Nekaneet First Nation.

There will be additional coverage on these Treaty based stories along with various FSIN 65th Anniversary Celebrations taking place across the province and *Sask Indian* will be there to follow those events.

I also look forward to the Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation (SIEF) 25th Anniversary and the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards (SAYA), Awasis Conference, FSIN Hockey Championships and other stories that will be covered in the next issue of *Sask Indian*.

Ekosi Pitama

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*The following is the viewpoint of Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Vice Chief Morley Watson.*

Greetings to all Chiefs, Councils, Elders, Senate, Veterans, Women and Youth our office looks forward to providing you with updates in my respective portfolio areas in this edition of the *Saskatchewan Indian Magazine*. Please know that I take pride in the positions we hold and are committed to working in the best interests of our First Nations.

I offer special congratulations to the Chiefs and Councils who have been recently elected and re-elected in our First Nations communities we serve. As leaders we are determined to succeed in all regions of Saskatchewan, and to do so we are drawing on the cooperation that binds us together as Treaty peoples.

It is my honour and pleasure to report the progress in the areas of: Tobacco Tax, Exemption Statement of Claim, First Nations Legislation Tobacco Control, First Nations Tribal Council Investment Group, Justice Secretariat and Human Rights Codes. We will continue to update our First Nations as we work together in these areas and expand to other sectors if requested.

Through my office we have been focusing on a First Nations Youth Employment Initiative. I have met with both Federal and Provincial Governments on this issue with much encouragement. As you are aware some progress has been made with industry by First Nations and business organizations with increasing and ongoing success.

This progress needs to be strategically accelerated in order to have a significant impact on creating jobs for our First Nation people across the province. The key human resource issue for the Saskatchewan economy is the current labor force cannot meet the business and industry demand and the need to seek increased participation by First Nation communities in the overall economy.

A proposal that focuses on effectively integrating First Nations people into the workforce has been presented to both Governments. We are proposing an agency at the Tribal Council responsible for developing plans in the area of job integration and job opportunity development. This agency will develop relationships and action plans with business and industry in identifying current and future employment needs. It is important that the opportunities are linked with education and training programs to successfully fill the demands.

This proposal developed with the tribal councils will indeed support the long standing need for identifying an employment and training component that will assist all of us in better fulfilling our responsibilities as we expand on our successes in the Province.

An MOU has been signed with Petroleum Human Resource of Canada to streamline the process for our First Nations young people to get in to workforce in the area of oil and gas. I will continue to update our First Nations as we work together in this area and expand to other areas and sectors if requested.

Vice Chief Morley Watson





**Chief Guy Lonechild**  
**Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations**

Tansi, Edlanete, Ahneen & Hau Koda

I am pleased to provide greetings on behalf of the 74 Chiefs, Senate, Veterans, FSIN Executive and Staff.

This is an exciting year for the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations as we celebrate 65 years of protecting Inherent and Treaty Rights for First Nations. Throughout the year, the FSIN will host celebratory events across the province commemorating the Federation's rich history.

The celebrations officially kicked-off this past February with a Pipe Ceremony, Feast and Round Dance at Wanuskewin Heritage Park. The inaugural event was to honour the First Nations from across Saskatchewan who gathered in Saskatoon on February 24, 1946 – who were dedicated and united to form the Union of Saskatchewan Indians - the precursor to the present Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN).

Our founders recognized the importance of standing together in unity to protect, promote and implement our Treaty Rights, as well as advance the social and health, educational,

economic and cultural development of all our First Nations.

Today, as a collective, we can all look back with pride on our strong and unified foundation and unwavering commitment to bettering the lives of our children, families and communities.

For many of our Elders, *now* is truly *our time* to realize the vision of our Treaties and share the pride in our identity, languages and heritage.

We have a great responsibility to continue working together in the best interests of First Nations people in our Treaty territories, guided by our Elders and governed by the democratic laws, customs and policies of our institution.

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations has been actively carrying out the mandate of the Chiefs-in-Assembly to revitalize our organization. This revitalization process will strengthen the organization's governance processes and institutions. The Office of the Chief and the FSIN Treaty Governance Office have been tasked with taking the lead on this initiative and are meeting with First Nation leadership and their communities to gather input on revitalization.

The *Saskatchewan Indian* will play an important role in communicating every step we take forward in the revitalization process. In addition, this magazine will continue documenting the progress of our people as we build healthier First Nations communities, allowing each one of us to share in the success stories across our territories.

I want to thank the team at the *Saskatchewan Indian* for taking on the challenge to produce the most popular First Nation magazine ever published in Saskatchewan.

Please enjoy reading this edition.

FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild



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# Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans' Association (SFNVA) Grand Chief Emile Highway Message

On behalf of the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans' Association (SFNVA) members, executive and staff, I would like to bring greetings to all the Elders, Youth, Women, Chiefs, Councillors, Veterans, Senators and FSIN Executive.

Over the past year, the SFNVA has made real progress in improving the lives of Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans and their families. In 2010, we launched both the Speakers' Bureau and the Grave Marker Program.

The Grave Marker Program will allow the SFNVA to identify Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans who currently lie in unmarked graves, locate those graves, and begin the process of providing a headstone.

This is an enormous undertaking, and will take several years to complete as many of our First Nations cemeteries are unmapped. We are very pleased to announce that the SFNVA received funding from INAC to begin this work, and research is already underway to identify the soldiers and their gravesites.

Our work has brought in calls and positive comments from all over North America, including eastern Canada, Alberta and the United States. If you know of a First Nation's Veteran who served in the Canadian or Allied Forces and has an unmarked grave, you can assist the SFNVA by contacting our office at the FSIN.

We launched the SFNVA Speakers' Bureau in 2010 and it is designed to raise public awareness of Saskatchewan First Nation's contribution to Canada's freedom and democracy. Over the past several months, our First Nation Veterans have addressed over 3,500 children and youth, sharing their stories and raising awareness of their issues.

Another change in 2010 was the move to a portfolio system among the SFNVA Executive. This system allows us to identify an individual Executive member responsible for progress in important areas, and allows the Executive member to focus on addressing issues such as youth, public relations and historical redress.







This change has also allowed us to identify the enormous amount of work that needs to be completed in various areas, and to identify funding sources for specific programs.

In addition, the SFNVA continues to produce and mail out "The Bugle" newsletter which provides SFNVA Executive updates and reports to our members on a quarterly basis.

As you may know, every year we fundraise in order to pursue our SFNVA goals and objectives. We hold raffles, annual golf tournament, sell calendars and host an Annual SFNVA Fundraising Banquet. We depend greatly on these activities that act as a supplement to the funding we receive and we plan to have discussions with INAC to advocate for greater funding.

The SFNVA held its 7th Annual Fundraising Dinner and General Assembly on November 17-18, 2010 at the Dakota Dunes Casino. The dinner

was a huge success with sold out corporate tables and providing an opportunity for us to honour our Veterans' widows. We appreciate all those who travelled to attend the event and thank you for your kind support.

In addition, our First Nation Veterans participated in numerous Remembrance Day services and ceremonies in 2010. There was a ceremony hosted by the Prince Albert Grand Council, the Gold Eagle Casino, the unveiling of a Veterans' monument at Gordon First Nation, and other events hosted by First Nations communities across Saskatchewan.

In closing, I would like to thank the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans for this opportunity to serve them as the Grand Chief, and I look very forward to continuing to grow and develop our organization together in 2011.

**SFNVA Grand Chief Emile Highway**

*This is an enormous undertaking, and will take several years to complete as many of our First Nations cemeteries are unmapped.*



# First Nations Veteran Profile

Virginia Pechawis, Mistawasis First Nation

By Eldon Henderson

Virginia Pechawis grew up on the Mistawasis First Nation and was born on February 5, 1926. "I was with Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWAC) in 1944. I was there for thirteen months mainly in Quebec City said Virginia Pechawis. "I would like to see youngsters go into the services because it will be a good experience for them."

On November 8, 2010, Virginia received the SFNVA Silver Star Mother for 2010 at the 6th Annual Prince Albert Grand Council Remembrance Service held at the Senator Allen Bird Memorial Centre and was presented with a star blanket from the Prince Albert Grand Council.



Left to Right: SFNVA Philip Ledoux, PACG Grand Chief Ron Michel and First Nation Veteran Virginia Pechawis and PACG Vice Chief Brian Hardlotte. Emile Highway in the background.



Photos By Conrad Naytowhow





# A Proud Generation

The Proud Generation Calendar Committee  
presents the

## A Proud Generation 2011 Calendar Youth



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English River First Nation



**Cassandra Opikokew**  
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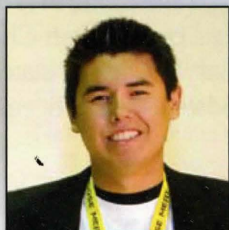
**Neanna Sasakamoose**  
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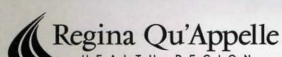


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# FIRST NATIONS DEVELOPING TO

By Office of First Vice Chief Morley Watson

## Background Information on Tobacco Issue

**O**n March 24, 2010, the provincial budget was announced and that budget included items which directly affected the First Nation Treaty Right to be Tax Exempt. In particular the budget proposed reducing the quotas on the amount of tobacco purchased by First Nations citizens on reserve under their tax exempt status. Under current agreement appendices - First Nations people are allowed to purchase three cartons of cigarettes per week without paying provincial sales tax.

Meetings were held with First Nations and First Nations store owners at which time lengthy discussion had taken place. From those meetings it was decided that a legal team be developed to address the issues of Duty to Consult and Tax Exemption status of First Nations based on the agreements. In addition to this direction was given to meet with the Province and put forward the First Nations concerns raised at the two meetings.

A meeting was held on April 19, 2010 with Ministers Gantefer and Hutchinson in attendance. At that time both Minister agreed to address their colleagues and request that the proposed legislation be held in abeyance until such time that the legal advisors on both sides have a chance to meet and discuss the current Fuel & Tobacco Tax agreements.

On May 11, 2010 a request was made once again to Premier Wall to hold in abeyance the proposed legislation until proper consultation and accommodation had taken place with the First Nations of Saskatchewan. Premier Wall stated that he will not hold it abeyance and will move forward with the legislation.

## Current Action

Initial action was taken on October 8, 2010 and eighteen (18) Statement of Claims were filed with the courts by legal counsel Ron Cherkewich. The court has decided to proceed with Chief Wallace Fox statement that will cover all claims. We will continue to update as this proceeds through the courts.

- The Provincial Governments attempt to asserting their jurisdiction on federal Indian reserves is in direct contravention to legislation, Section 35(1) of the Constitution Act (1982), which recognizes and acknowledges existing Aboriginal, Inherent and Treaty Rights and outlines the obligation of Canada and their provinces to consult Aboriginal people on matters which might interfere and infringe upon their ability to exercise those rights.
- The recent update from the lawyer March 10th is provided. The approach will put the issue of Saskatchewan's changes, with respect to the allowable quotas of non-taxable tobacco products sold to First Nation members on reserves squarely before the court. The test case will seek to address the primary issues at stake in this case, which are the validity of



# BACCO STRATEGY

the Tobacco and Gasoline Agreements and s. 87 of the *Indian Act*. As well to this we have legal counsel exploring the issue of discrimination as it pertains to seeking permits for cultural purposes.

- In addition to the court case to address the Provincial intrusion we as First Nations must "occupy the field" and develop our own Acts, Regulations and Policies. We continue to develop our own First Nations Tobacco Control Act and related documents, which will address the areas of Tobacco use, ceremonial use, and economic benefits. We are aware that there a number of concerns about the way these new changes have affected the

Ceremonial Use of tobacco that we have exercised for centuries and are concentrating on a strategy to address this area.

There are a number of First Nations interested in proceeding with exercising their Aboriginal, Inherent and Treaty Rights as it relates to the Fuel and Tobacco issue. The FSIN is currently meeting with these First Nations to develop their strategy.

The Economic and Community Development Secretariat is now developing Draft legislation for First Nation to "occupy the field" in the area of Tobacco Control on First Nations lands and these documents are near completion.

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# IGR Communication Focus on First Nations

By Winnie Eagle

**Indigenous Gaming Regulators (IGR) is honoured and pleased to play a role in First Nations communities through the licensing of on-reserve charitable gaming. Most First Nations communities have fundraising committees that mean the difference between children, youth and elders having meaningful recreation activities or none at all. These committees work tirelessly for the benefit of the communities.**

Often the operations that are licensed by IGR provide much needed recreation in themselves. By licensing with IGR the committees have assistance with maximizing their profits, streamlining their record keeping and reporting processes and access to additional funds through a charitable gaming grant that is equal to 25% of net proceeds.

As the IGR's fiscal year draws to a close we reflect on a very busy year for IGR and a new year that promises to be the same. IGR is moving closer to the implementation of Phase II (Employee Registration).

The IGR Board continues to provide sound direction to IGR management and staff. One of the important focuses of IGR continues to be community consultations for training and information sharing. The past fiscal year saw the Licensing and Communications Department attend 129 such visits. The Compliance Department conducted 505 inspections of charitable gaming operations and SIGA Table Games.

One of the projects IGR conducts each year is to host an annual Christmas card contest. Schools that are on-reserve or in urban areas with high concentrations of First Nation students are chosen to submit artwork to be used for our Christmas Card. In turn the students and school receive gifts from IGR. This past year we partnered with St. John Elementary School in Saskatoon.

We had several entries to choose from and our selection committee chose art work that best depicts the First Nations Christmas. Four young artists received recognition through the publishing of their artwork and the school received assistance with Christmas projects. IGR is looking forward to our next Christmas card contest. IGR hosted a successful Bingo Symposium in January 2011. The cold weather did not discourage the charity groups from attending. Participants included bingo managers, Band Council members and bingo volunteers.

The symposium covered a wide range of topics that are crucial to the licensees, and also gave the attendees the opportunity to ask questions and dispel any confusion or misinterpretation on the Terms and Conditions of holding an IGR license. The highlight of the Symposium was a panel of experts from various IGR licensed operations.



# ns & Licensing Staff n Communities

The IGR Annual General Membership Meeting was held February in Saskatoon to update the member First Nations of the corporation and receive their input on decisions regarding IGR's operations. This year the meeting was exceptionally well attended with well over the number of voters required for quorum. The next IGR Annual General Membership meeting will be held February of 2012.

Typically the busiest time of year for fundraising activities on-reserve is during the winter months as funds

need to be in place for Christmas, graduations and year-end school trips. However, some committees operate year-round for summer activities such as recreation purposes, pow wows and summer camps.

This keeps IGR staff on the road at a steady pace. IGR Staff members are looking forward to the travel, meetings and dialogue with First Nation leadership, volunteers and community members over the next few months. We are prepared to provide updates and assistance to First Nation communities regarding licensing of on-reserve charitable gaming.



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**Contact: Don Ross, Director of First Nations Business Development, One Earth Farms  
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Address: #325-2555 Grasswoods Road East, Saskatoon, SK S7T 0K1**



# FIRST NATIONS INVESTMENT FUND

By Office of First Vice Chief Morley Watson

## First Nations Investment Fund

FSIN has designed a new program for the consideration of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. The new First Nations Investment Fund will be dedicated to providing First Nations, Tribal Councils, and Corporations access to investment sources currently difficult to access for First Nations Economic Development projects.

This investment pool will be used to support viable ventures where the First Nations community lacks the financial resources to pursue economic opportunities. The goal is to support strategic investments in key sectors of the

Saskatchewan economy and will be used to facilitate First Nations participation in infrastructure developments. It will also be used to support the acquisition of the large number of business opportunities that will become available as current owners retire.

The investment fund will be a revolving capital fund (repayable) and will be secured through share capital or other marketable securities. The corporation will develop exit strategies and work with the businesses to grow the businesses that receive support. The fund will negotiate a reasonable profit for the capital support based on the particulars of the business and the risks undertaken.

The approach would be to develop a long-term investment strategy (5 to 10 years) that would initially focus on growing the capital pool to a sufficient size where it could invest in larger projects and be sustainable over the longer term. Dividends would flow directly to the First Nations.

The fund would invest in opportunities where there is a significant benefit to First Nations commercial interests measured by way of employment and procurement opportunities including both direct and downstream indirect benefits. The fund could also invest in strategic areas where the strategic investment could be foreseeable to lead to greater First Nations involvement in industrial or occupational sector of the Saskatchewan economy.

The Tribal Council Economic Development directors will be meeting collectively on April 19/11 to



# IONS ENT FUND

review the first draft prepared by Meyer Norris Penny. During these meeting the Tribal Council will be providing feedback and recommendations on the Investment Model being presented.

- When the Investment Fund Business Plan is completed, the next step is to secure Financial Resources for this fund. One of those areas to be explored will come by way of a proposed Trade Mission to China. The Native Investment and Trade Association,

Canada China Resource Development Foundation and Eden Investments Ltd. are collaborating to organize this trade mission.

- The "2011 Team Aboriginal Canada-China Trade Mission and Friendship Tour" will travel to China from May 18-31, 2011.

The tour will provide those communities with an opportunity to speak directly with potential investors and generate new business partnerships.

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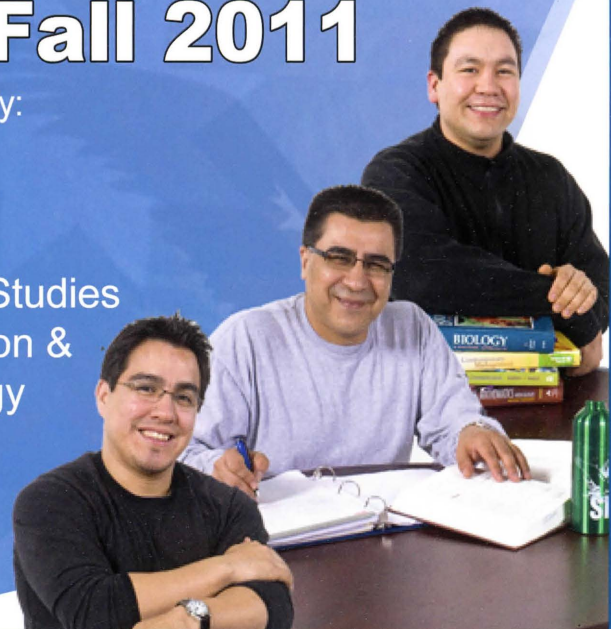
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# Sask Indian Role Models

By Eldon Henderson

**Name:** Jodi McNabb

**Date of Birth:** April 12, 1986

**First Nation:** Fond du Lac  
Denesuline First Nation

**High School:** Shellbrook  
Composite High School

**Education:** Bachelor of  
Science in Physiology  
with Distinction and  
2nd Year Medical  
Student

**Favorite  
Restaurant:** Souleio  
Bistro and Yip Hong's  
Restaurant

**First Language:** English

**Background:** My name is Jodi McNabb and I'm 24 years old and a band member of the Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation. I am half Caucasian and First Nation. I had the best of both worlds growing up with dual backgrounds. I had the cultural practices and meanings that I could apply to my daily life plus, the drive to achieve anything that I put my mind to.

I grew up in a small farming community, Parkside Saskatchewan

and went to high school in Shellbrook. I graduated in 2004 from high school and went to the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

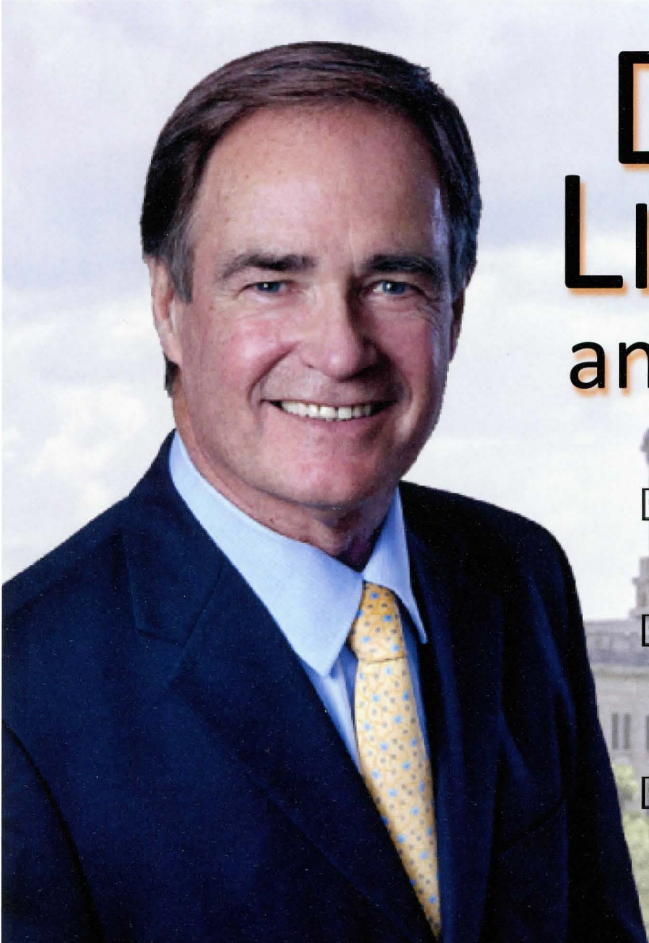
**Advice:** Never give up on what your heart is set on. You can achieve anything you want, and don't let anyone tell you that those stars are ever out of reach, they are closer then you think!

Even if you are on a path that is different then the one you want to be on, it is never too late to cross over to the path you were meant to be on. Find a role model. If you can find someone who can help you through those hard times and to keep you moving forward on your path, that is the best thing you can do.

**Hobbies:** I enjoy cross country skiing in the winter time. In the summer time I love going for day hikes, canoeing, rowing, camping and going for picnics with my family. In my spare time, I enjoy painting.







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Buckley Belanger  
Athabasca

Cam Broten  
Saskatoon Massey Place

Danielle Chartier  
Saskatoon Riversdale

David Forbes  
Saskatoon Centre

Darcy Furber  
Prince Albert Northcote

Ron Harper  
Regina Northeast

Andy Iwanchuk  
Saskatoon Fairview

Judy Junor  
Saskatoon Eastview

Warren McCall  
Regina Elphinstone Centre

Sandra Morin  
Regina Walsh Acres

John Nilson  
Regina Lakeview

Frank Quennell  
Saskatoon Meewasin

Len Taylor  
The Battlefords

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Regina Coronation Park

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Trent Wotherspoon  
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Rm 265 - Legislative Bldg Regina S4S 0B3  
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# First Nations University Bachelor of Health Studies

**By Dr. Carrie Bourassa**

The Bachelor of Health Studies (BHS) degree is a partnership between the First Nations University of Canada and the Faculties of Kinesiology and Health Studies and Arts at the University of Regina.

It aims to provide students with an integrated understanding of the ways in which social, economic and cultural determinants of health shape individual beliefs, attitudes and practices, and how these affect how individuals function. As health issues continue to dominate public policy choices, this program prepares students to meet many of the health care needs facing Saskatchewan and Canada.

This degree program is interdisciplinary in nature, drawing on both the social sciences and the biological sciences. Students take a range of courses offered by the First Nations University of Canada, Faculties of Kinesiology and Health Studies, Arts, and Science, with optional courses available from other faculties.

A unique feature of this program is its emphasis on understanding Indigenous health needs. A core requirement is that all students must take five Indigenous health courses. There are also applied fieldwork experience opportunities.

The BHS is a second year entry program with a pre-health studies year (completion of 30 credit hours).

Currently, students can enrol through the First Nations University of Canada and the Faculties of Kinesiology and Health Studies and Arts at the University of Regina. In addition, students can now take their pre-health studies year at

the First Nations University of Canada's Northern Campus in Prince Albert. Examples of some of the courses offered in the pre-health studies program are: English, Biology, Indigenous Studies, Psychology, Sociology, English, Indigenous Health Studies, Statistics, and Kinesiology.


The program began in 2007 and has since produced graduates who now work as policy analysts, infection control/surveillance officers, health

data analysts, project managers, employee wellness coordinators, health research and evaluation coordinators, health promotion educators, fitness educators, program coordinators and several of gone to medical school, graduate school or pursued nursing careers. This is a degree that provides diverse career opportunities and opens doors to new careers for our students.



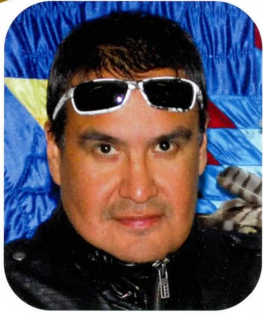


# ity of Canada (FNUIC) udies



Dr. Carrie Bourassa is an Associate Professor of Indigenous Health Studies, Inter-Professional Programs, First Nations University of Canada and a member of the Bachelor of Health Studies Advisory Committee





By Darryl Chamakese

# A Cree Perspective on Parenting ohpikināwasowin (the act of nurturing a child)

It is said by our kihtē-ayak (Elders) that ohpikināwasowin (the act of nurturing a child) is a sacred duty that was given by the Creator. Children are called awāsisak which is a Cree word translated as “clear and pure beings.” They are born clear and pure and it is the task of parents to insure that they remain as such. Instilling positive values, morals and beliefs into our children is part of the sacred duty. They are lent to us by the Creator, who is referred to in Cree as māmawi-ohtāwīmāw (the father of all). Raising a child comes with traditional laws and protocols that require strict adherence.

With a new era upon us, technology tends to overshadow our cultural practises. Our youth have embraced the use of technology and social media. Like young people in other cultures, they text, facebook and twitter. It would be to our advantage to harness these new technologies as a way to combat language and cultural loss by going back to basics and teaching our First Nations’ fundamental values to our youth.

As conveyed by our Elders, one of the most important things to teach a child is manātisiwin (living with respect). More specifically, manātisiwin means being cognizant of your actions in regards to self, family and community. It also entails taking great care of all Creation and adhering to the teachings of kihtē-ayak (the Great beings or Elders). Watching your words and choosing your actions carefully towards others and following wahkohtowin (kinship laws) provides the base for stable families and ultimately healthier communities and stronger Nations.

The importance of language cannot be stressed enough in traditional parenting. Embedded in our sacred languages are culture and spiritual ceremonies. Ceremonies provide us with our laws, values and ideologies. Like lifelines they keep us tethered to our Ancestors and that special knowledge that has sustained us since we were placed on this earth.

In this critical time, if our youth do not speak our sacred languages they cannot communicate with our kihtē-ayak. Our kihtē-ayak are the knowledge keepers. If that vital link is severed then we are not performing our duty and robbing our children of our sacred ways. The solution is evident and clear. The future lies in our youth and by empowering them with their rightful languages will allow our Nations to survive well into the future.

## Glossary of Cree Words

awāsisak = Clear and pure beings (Children)  
māmawi-ohtāwīmāw = The father of all (Creator)  
ohpikināwasowin = Child nurturing  
kihtē-ayak = Great beings or Elders  
manātisiwin = Living with respect and being cogni-  
others and all of Creation  
wahkohtowin = Kinship and familial relations



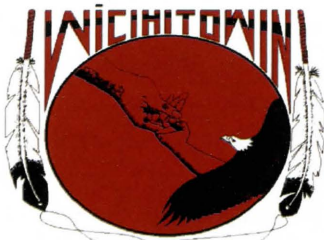
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# FIRST NATIONS JUSTICE: MOVING FORWARD

By FSIN Justice Secretariat

The role of the FSIN Justice Secretariat is to advance the governance agenda directed by the Indian Justice Commission. The Secretariat focuses on legislative, policy, framework and justice institutional development, while supporting First Nations in fulfilling their goals of building governance capacity within their respective territories. The following Justice Secretariat activity report outlines the priorities of each office.

## INDIAN JUSTICE COMMISSION

The Indian Justice Commission ensures that First Nations' Inherent and Treaty Rights with respect to First Nations legislative and governance processes are recognized and acknowledged by governments. The Commission promotes the authority of First Nations to design their own governance structures and processes that meet their identified needs.

The Commission is adamant that the community safety agenda must be strengthened through institutional and governance capacity. Community safety includes peace-keeping, law enforcement, effective prevention, intervention and reintegration processes, complemented by an independent oversight body that is currently called the Special Investigations Unit.

The Commission oversees the implementation progress of the justice resolutions passed during the Chiefs-in-Assembly forums and provides assistance as required. This fiscal year, discussions relating to a governance policy framework that will complement the First Nation RCMP Policing Framework Agreement began with Canada, Saskatchewan and the RCMP.

## SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN JUSTICE COUNCIL (SIJC)

The SIJC is the senior technical working group of the Indian Justice Commission that provides information on community-based justice initiatives and makes recommendations for the Commission's consideration. The SIJC is comprised of senior level representatives from Tribal Councils and Independent First Nations.

The SIJC meets a minimum of six times a year to discuss capacity development for their respective territories, governance processes that would provide more efficient and effective second level service delivery, and training curriculum development.

This year, the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council Justice Unit launched a very important governance initiative, their Community Justice Guidebook that was developed with the assistance of Elders, community people and staff. In 2001, the Justice Secretariat developed a Community Justice Training manual that was taken by the FHQ Tribal Council and transformed into a living document and governance tool. The Guidebook now represents the relationship teachings of the Dakota, Nakota, Cree and Saulteaux as well as criminal justice concepts.

## POLICY & PLANNING

This office implements the governance agenda directed by the Indian Justice Commission by providing support for legislative developments and justice institution building. The SIU regulations were adopted by the Indian Justice Commission in August 2008, and amended in May 2009. In February, the Chiefs-in-Assembly approved the First Nation Complaints Tribunal Act for first reading.



In 2005, First Nations identified their priorities for the justice reform initiative. FSIN is responsible to ensure that these priorities are implemented in a timely manner. The First Nation justice priorities identified were:

- Resources for one justice position in each First Nation to address their priorities;
- Resources to develop governance capacity within First Nations' structures;
- Expansion of the FSIN Special Investigations Unit;
- Development of First Nation youth strategies and capacity at the community level; and
- Improvements to the Court Worker and Legal Aid programs.

The First Nation priorities have not been implemented to the degree anticipated by the First Nations and FSIN. Further meetings will be scheduled with Saskatchewan Justice to thoroughly discuss this matter.

In January 2011, the FSIN hosted a First Nations Forum on the Repeal of Section 67, Canadian Human Rights Act and its impact on First Nations. A total of 155 First Nation people attended the Forum held in Saskatoon. A summary of the Forum Proceedings are available from the Justice Secretariat.

## POLICING

FSIN is signatory to the Framework Agreement for First Nations Community Policing Service. The Framework Agreement sets the parameters for the thirty-four community tripartite agreements (CTA's), many of which require further discussion on more effective policing in First Nation territories. The Vice Chief responsible for the Justice Portfolio has been directed by the Chiefs-in-Assembly to re-negotiate the Framework Agreement with the intent of developing the structures and processes that govern community policing.

An Intergovernmental Table consisting of Canada, Saskatchewan and the FSIN was established in October 2008 to discuss re-negotiation of the Policing Framework Agreement. The Table discussions are slow moving and negotiations have not begun.

## PEACEKEEPING INITIATIVE

In June 2009, the Chiefs-in-Assembly directed the FSIN to negotiate a First Nation Peacekeeping Initiative that would include infrastructure and protocol development, funding, quality training and capacity development. This negotiation process is also part of the Intergovernmental Table.

In July 2009, the FSIN facilitated the establishment of a partnership between First Nations University and the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIASST) to design and deliver an Indigenous Peacekeeping Program that would meet the unique needs of First Nation communities. Curriculum was designed by SIASST and First Nations University, and presented to the Indian Justice Commission and the Chiefs who are signatory to the CTA's for their approval.

At the November 10, 2009 Intergovernmental Table meeting, Canada and Saskatchewan committed to fund the Indigenous Peacekeeping Pilot Training Project. FSIN, in collaboration with First Nations University, has contracted SIASST to design and deliver the training pilot in four areas across the province: North Battleford, Yorkton, Prince Albert and La Ronge. Training began in February 2010 and was completed in July 2010.

The pilot training project was supported by mentors in each area with a Peacekeeping Coordinator located at FSIN. A graduation ceremony took place on June 18, 2010. Several peacekeepers are currently employed with their respective First Nation.

Currently the FSIN is in discussions with the Provincial and Federal Governments to have Peacekeeping functions properly funded at First Nations. A meeting with these parties will be held in May of 2011 for further discussions with the First Nations that are actively involved in Peacekeeping on their respective First Nations.

## JUST RELATIONS

The Saskatchewan government established a provincial funding strategy to combat organized criminal activities related to youth gangs. To date, the funding strategy is to increase police officers in urban centers, create a gang member database, and crack down on drugs and gangs in the correctional system.



Most young people involved with gangs and the criminal justice system are First Nations, and the challenge was to look at the provincial funding strategy as an opportunity to create an innovative solution in which First Nations can take ownership of the gang issue. Research on the issue of youth gangs is ongoing.

## RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

This office provides research, administrative and technical support for community capacity building efforts and maintenance of the Indigenous training database. The office also acts as the liaison for the Saskatchewan Indian Justice Council. Ongoing activity includes:

- FSIN Justice Quarterly Newsletters that are available electronically on the FSIN website; the latest edition is the February 2011 which is available online at: <http://www.fsin.com/index.php/justice-newsletters.html>
- Developmental work on setting standards for First Nation facilitation and mediation certification processes which will be implemented through the "Indigenous Association for Just Relations"; and
- Research and support at the request of First Nations and/or Tribal Council.

## SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) continues to receive calls from Saskatchewan First Nation citizens who register complaints relating to law enforcement, human rights, social services and health institutions. For the period March 2000 to January 2011 (inclusive) there have been 2241 files opened.

Operational, governance and jurisdictional challenges continue to be addressed with the appropriate body. The Indian Justice Commission has directed the SIU to maintain its governance and jurisdictional position while working cooperatively with the existing oversight entities.

The SIU has undergone an internal reorganization to better serve the needs of First Nation citizens. More effective governance and operational processes have been implemented and the intake process has been streamlined to ensure that all concerns are quickly addressed. The SIU is maintaining its commitment to respond to all calls within a 48 hour time period.

The first report to the Chiefs-in-Assembly was presented at the June 2009 Legislative Assembly. The report included the history of SIU, its evolution, funding sources, complaints statistics, its mandate and responsibilities. Future priorities of the SIU continue to be: updating the SIU database for more effective and accurate reporting and creating an educational strategy regarding public complaints. Current priorities include the research and development of protocols with the various public complaints institutions.

## SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT – HUMAN RIGHTS

Many of the calls received by the Special Investigations Unit's Legal Navigator are from First Nation citizens who believe that their human rights have been violated. A total of 20 files of this nature have been generated during the period of December 1, 2008 to January 31, 2011 (inclusive). Without becoming involved in issues that concern internal First Nation politics, labour unions and/or court orders dealing with any and all family matters, the objective of the Legal Navigator is to first, gather as much background information as possible from First Nation citizens concerning their issues.

Secondly, the Legal Navigator strives to provide First Nation citizens with as much education as necessary for them to make an informed decision with respect to how they are going to proceed. In essence, education functions as a tool of empowerment that allows citizens to assert their own rights and responsibilities.

For example, in Saskatchewan, it is against the law to be discriminated against because of one's religion, creed, marital status, family status, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, colour, ancestry, nationality, place of origin, race or perceived race and/or receipt of public assistance. These "prohibited grounds" for discrimination are contained within Section 2 (1)(m.01) of The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code and according to The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission website, [www.shrc.gov.sk.ca](http://www.shrc.gov.sk.ca), these grounds apply to contracts, education, employment, housing, professional trades and associations, public services, publications, purchase of property, occupations and trade unions. The Code, however, is silent with respect to criminal history. This means that it is not against the law for potential employers in the public sector to ask questions that relate to one's criminal history. This is not to be confused with The Canadian Human Rights Act where, in all areas of employment under federal jurisdiction, "pardoned conviction" is a prohibited ground for discrimination.



If a First Nation citizen believes that he/she has experienced an act of discrimination, they may contact an intake consultant with The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission to make an official complaint within two (2) years of the occurrence of the incident. Once the complaint has been determined to be valid on its face and official, it is then submitted to the Commission. The other party will then be contacted so that their response can be obtained and at this point, the Commission will either: (a) attempt to mediate and settle the complaint; (b) investigate it; (c) send it to The Saskatchewan Human Rights Tribunal for a hearing and a decision; or (d) simply dismiss it.

The Legal Navigator with the Special Investigations Unit is available to assist First Nation citizens as they proceed through the above mentioned process to ensure that their complaints have been properly and thoroughly investigated by The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission. However, the determination to see it through must be displayed by that of the First Nation complainant, as ultimately, the experience belongs to them.

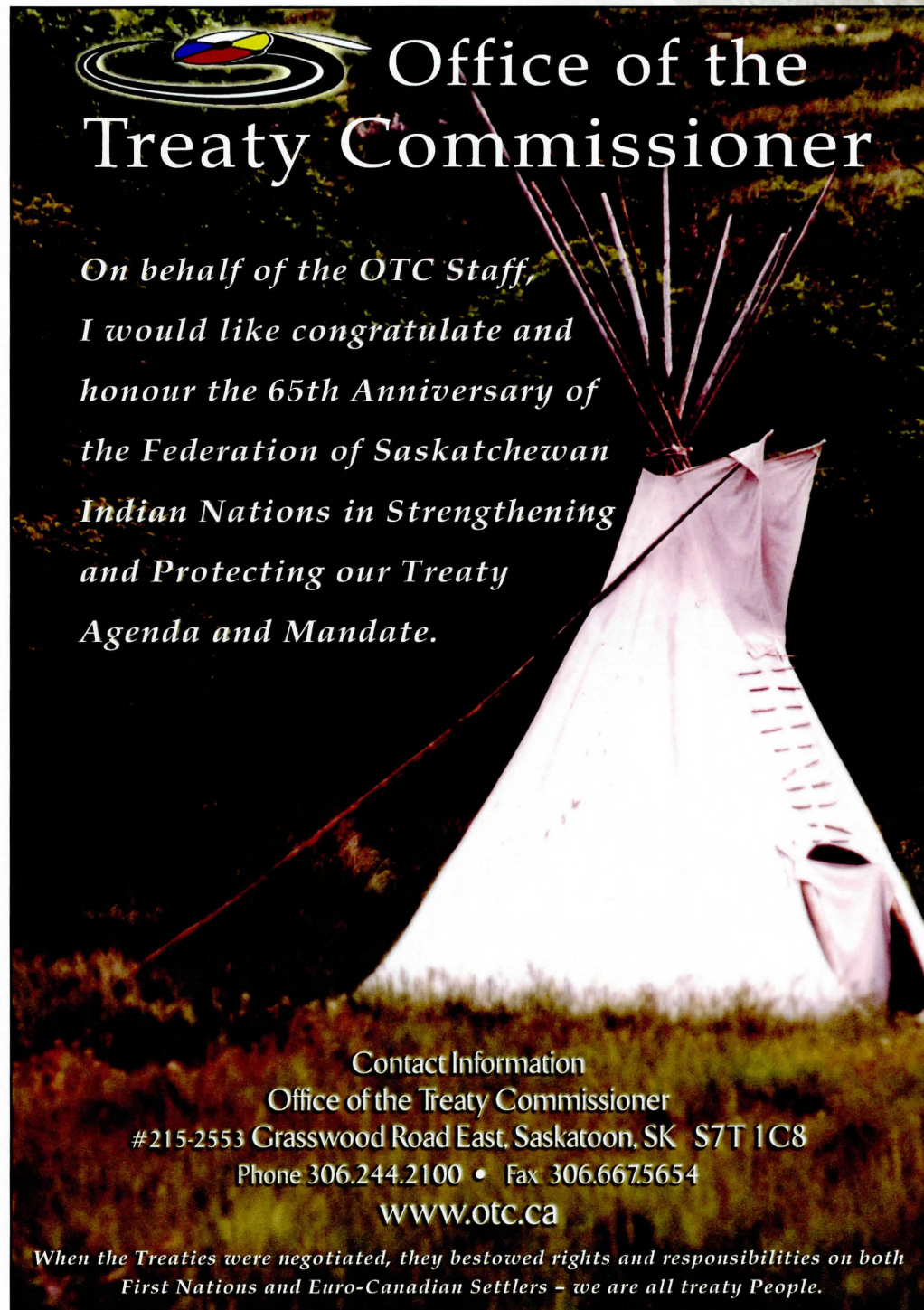
## FSIN Justice Gathering

On March 21, 2011, FSIN Vice Chief Morley Watson addressed the FSIN Justice Gathering at the Saskatoon Inn. Day one of the gathering featured a panel of circuit court judges, the negotiator for the Yukon Administration of Justice Agreement and an Indigenous law consultant. Day two was a dialogue session with First Nation community personnel that included: community based law making, prevention and intervention strategies, community based processes to resolve conflict and the First Nation

complaints tribunal. The Gathering summary report will be available by April 30, 2011.

## ADMINISTRATION

The administrative office coordinates the work of the Indian Justice Commission and the Secretariat. All year end deliverables and reports up to today are available from Christine Joseph at (306) 956-1021.



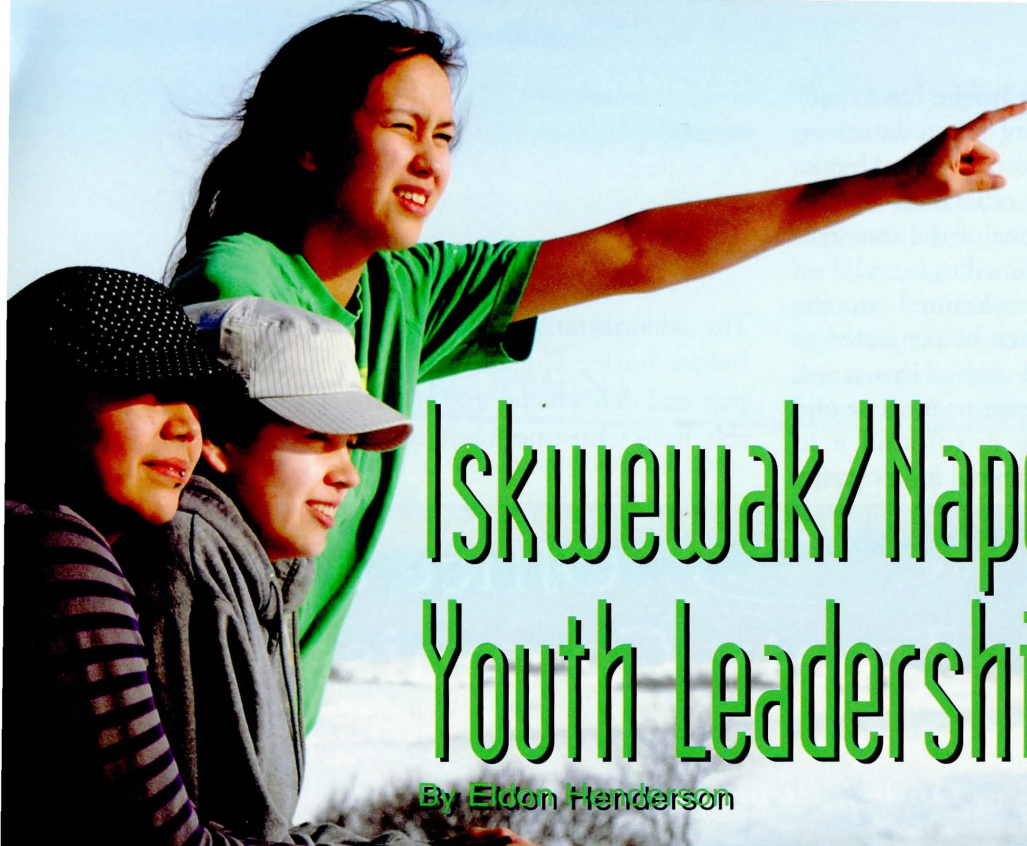
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Indian Nations in Strengthening  
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Agenda and Mandate.*

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*When the Treaties were negotiated, they bestowed rights and responsibilities on both  
First Nations and Euro-Canadian Settlers – we are all treaty People.*





# Iskwewak/Napewak Youth Leadership Program

By Eldon Henderson



The Indigenous Peoples Program (IPP) was established in 1988 and currently operates under the Centre for Continuing and Distance Education (CCDE) at the University of Saskatchewan. As an educational organization, the IPP operates 8 programs throughout the year. One of the long-standing initiatives that IPP delivers every year is the Iskwewak/Napewak Aboriginal Youth Leadership Program.

"The youth leadership program is a grassroots project which started in May 2001 in collaboration with Osâkyak High School (formerly Joe Duquette High School) and there have been over 800 male and female youth participants who have completed the retreat program over the last 11 years," said Rachel Fiddler, Osâkyak Community School Coordinator. She further adds, "Osâkyak, means 'young people' in Cree and the initiative provides academic and developmental programs as well as a safe and healthy learning environment with a focus on Cree culture."



"The collaboration grew out of the need and vision to have more youth involved in their community and to counter the negative aspects of gang related activity, family violence, drugs and alcohol addiction and loss of cultural practices and lifestyles."

Alex Munoz, IPP Program Manager explained, "The project consists of a 3-day retreat facilitated by an Elder, 5 youth leaders and 3 chaperones which provide direction and leadership on areas of culture, traditions, self-confidence, self-esteem and community participation."

The retreats take place at the Ancient Spirals Retreat Centre, 20 minutes south of Saskatoon overlooking the South Saskatchewan River. There are 4 retreats each year attended by 20 youth per retreat and separated by gender (*Iskwewak/Napewak: Cree for women and men*) respectively.

The retreats take the model from the Medicine Wheel which supports holistic work on the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual self. "Following the retreats, a mentorship group is created consisting of the retreat facilitators, members of the community and youth participants. The mentorship group provides positive insight, advice and direction. The goal is to have youth become more actively involved as leaders in their community as well as to take an active role in their culture," said Alex Munoz.

At the end of each retreat, the youth participants are encouraged by their facilitators to complete an *artistic autobiography* about themselves, their family, community or culture demonstrated through visual art, music, dance or written text.

For more information on the Iskwewak/Napewak Youth Leadership Program go to [www.ccde.usask.ca/go/ipp](http://www.ccde.usask.ca/go/ipp) or contact Alex at: [alex.munoz@usask.ca](mailto:alex.munoz@usask.ca).

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- Aboriginal First Year Experience Program (AFYEP)
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# FSIN and City of Regina Bid for the 2014 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG)



By Courage Bear

The 2014 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) Evaluation Committee arrived in Regina on Wednesday, March 8, 2011. The four members of the NAIG Evaluation Committee spent the next few days exploring the City of Regina and its many world class facilities and attractions.

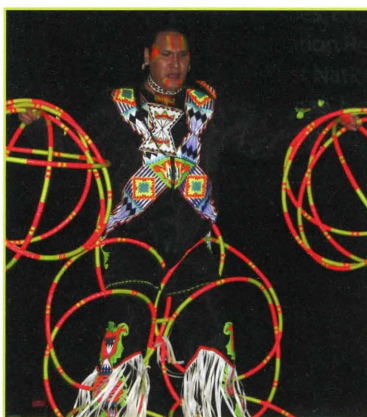
The FSIN in partnership with the City of Regina is bidding to host the 2014 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG). The last time Saskatchewan hosted the games was in 1993 in the City of Prince Albert.

Other cities competing to host the 2014 North American Indigenous Games are London, Ontario and Halifax, Nova Scotia with the successful bid being announced in May 2011. The North American Indigenous Games is an international event that attracts close to 10,000 Indigenous athletes, coaches, chaperones, parents and fans.

"Hosting the North American Indigenous Games would be a great opportunity to showcase the Province of Saskatchewan and play host to Indigenous youth from across Canada and the United States," says Team Saskatchewan Chef de Mission Courage Bear. "Saskatchewan has a strong bid committee and has been working closely with the City of Regina. Plus, the facilities being offered are phenomenal and ready for such a large event."

The NAIG Evaluation Committee toured various venue sites in the city during their four day stay in Regina. On Thursday, March 10, the committee attended a banquet hosted at the Casino Regina's Show Lounge where they were showcased to First Nations culture and entertainment throughout the evening.

On Friday, March 11, the committee toured the University of Regina (U of R) and the First Nations University of Canada (FNUC) and met with representatives from both institutions.



"The City of Regina and the Province of Saskatchewan are well known for hosting world class sporting events and it's largely due to the great volunteers in the province," said FSIN Vice Chief Morey Watson. "The economic spinoffs will be in the millions. The last North American Indigenous Games in Cowichan B.C. in 2008 brought in over 35 million dollars to the local economy."

Vice Chief Watson further explained, "Partnerships and sponsorship with the business and corporate community of Saskatchewan and Canada will be key to the success of hosting such an event as the 2014 NAIG."



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# FIRST NATIONS NEWS

By Eldon Henderson

## Northern Lights Casino Expansion

On January 14, 2011, a special and exciting leather cutting ceremony took place at the opening for the Northern Lights Casino Expansion in Prince Albert to help celebrate and unveil phase one of the casino's renovation and expansion plans.

Today, there is an additional 4,500 square foot addition to the south side of the casino which now holds 203 slot machines. At the present time, major renovations of the existing casino are still in progress which include painting the exterior of the building, new carpet, new interior wall finishes and upgrades to the Starlight Lounge.

The existing gaming floor will eventually be smoke free once the expansion is completed and open. Smoking will only be allowed in the Starlight Lounge and new enclosed section of the casino. The remaining part of the gaming floor will have enhanced ventilation systems by providing a clean environment for all patron and staff to enjoy their entertainment experience.

We are making significant investment to meet the needs of our customers and staff to support the continued growth at Northern Lights Casino," said Richard Ahenakew, Northern Lights Casino General Manager. "I am happy to be opening the new smoking room, and I look forward to completing the interior renovations in the spring."

Currently, SIGA operates and owns six casinos in the Province of Saskatchewan located in White Bear First Nation, Swift Current, Yorkton, Saskatoon, North Battleford and Prince Albert. SIGA returns 100% of the profits to its beneficiaries from its gaming operations.

## Promoting Aboriginal Youth Role Models

Since 2004, the Proud Generation Calendars have been a great promotional vehicle for Saskatchewan's Aboriginal youth. There are 14 Aboriginal youth featured in the 2011 Calendar. "The calendar is a tool that showcases the talents and achievements of First Nations, Metis and Inuit youth aged 15 to 30 in areas such as leadership, academics, career, arts, sports, community and cultural involvement," said Kristin Francis, Chair, Proud Generation Committee (PGC).

"Each youth featured in the calendar will receive a cash bursary on behalf of the Proud Generation Committee and SaskEnergy," explained Francis. "All the profits generated from the sales go towards the Proud Generation Bursary Program and to future initiatives like the following year's calendar and a brand new website will be launched in 2011."

Francis stated, "The Proud Generation Calendar is generously supported by our sponsors and without their support this project would not have been possible. It is an important project that helps young Aboriginal leaders plants the seeds for success and makes way for younger generations."

- Major Sponsors - SaskEnergy, Casinos Regina & Moose Jaw and the Leader-Post
- Supporting Sponsors - Farm Credit Canada, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, SGI, United Way of Regina, Regina Police Service and Dub Photographs





*Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations*

*Office of the Third Vice Chief E. Dutch Lerat  
Health & Social Development Commission*

# 2011 FSIN “Children and Families First” Conference

The FSIN Health and Social Development Secretariat hosted this year’s “Children and Families First” Conference at the Queensbury Convention Centre/Evraz Place in Regina, Saskatchewan on March 3-6, 2011.

For this year’s event, there were over 1100 registered attendees from all over the province observing a wide range of presentations on Healing, Parenting, and the usage of Traditional Medicines and Foods to more family friendly activities such as Traditional Hand Games and Moccasin Making.

With such a diverse range of topics, guests were also treated to special evening activities such as a comedic performance by Don Burnstick, a musical extravaganza by Voices of the North, as well as a Traditional Feast and Round-Dance.

The FSIN Health and Social Development Secretariat would like to thank all those who participated in the different capacities and made this year’s “Children and Families First” conference a success!





# FIRST NATIONS IGNORED IN ELECTION PLATFORMS

By Doug Cuthand, The Star Phoenix, Friday, April 1, 2011

The election is underway, and for the next month we will be assaulted with promises, advertising, name-calling and mudslinging. A wise man once said that if you throw dirt you lose ground, but you'd never realize it when it comes to the Conservatives' attack ads. I doubt that aboriginal issues will be part of the campaign. The only mention of aboriginal issues in the last televised debate came from Elizabeth May of the Green Party. This time she won't be taking part in the debate, so we can expect even less.

Generally, elections in Indian country are much different from those in the rest of Canada. Issues such as treaty rights, land claims and quality of life on reserves have dominated in the past. But the issues have changed over the years. Demands for increased social programs are taking a back seat to the role government can play in economic development, job creation and resource revenue sharing.

Assembly of First Nations Chief Shawn Atleo is on record stating he wants to see an end to the Indian Act in five years. This could be a minefield, given that scrapping the Indian Act is only the first step. It has to be replaced with other legislation, and getting a national consensus is difficult, if not impossible.

First Nations today are more proactive and our leaders are searching for solutions. Treaty land entitlement has created urban reserves, as well as reserves within a short commute to urban areas and the urban job market. This will change the face of band councils and the reserve economy. Independent, self-reliant people are more likely to adopt new approaches to old problems.

But our people need the tools to move forward. Post-secondary education, skills training and access to the job market all require input from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

The ministry also maintains a cap of First Nations funding that is strangling development on reserves. The resulting migration to the cities has created a special set of problems. Urban poverty is much different from rural poverty.

The Conservative government's crime legislation will have a serious impact on our people. The crime rate in Canada has been falling over the past two decades. It's largely attributable to the aging demographic across Canada. If one eliminates white-collar crime and aging Mafioso, it is generally people within the ages of 15 to 30 who commit most of the crime.

In Indian Country, the population is much younger. Half of our people are under the age of 20 years. This places our people in a vulnerable spot when it comes to crime and jails. Our young people need a helping hand, not a jail cell. Chief Atleo has pointed out that schools are cheaper than jails, and that is the direction we need to be headed.

But we can't count on change. If the Conservatives remain in power, we will see tougher courts, more jails and less government intervention. Stephen Harper is not a conservative in the mould of John Diefenbaker, Robert Stanfield or Brian Mulroney. He is a libertarian who sees a very limited role for government. He sees the protection of the state as the most important role of government. That's why he is fixed on an agenda of jets and jails.

Harper has spent liberally on defence, and Canada has leaped into wars in Afghanistan and Libya. Harper's desire to purchase 65 fighter jets, according to parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page, will cost Canadians \$30 billion over the expected 30-year life span of these fighter aircraft.

The reason we're in this election is because the opposition parties found the government in contempt of Parliament over its refusal to provide an accurate price tag on such things as the proposed prison expansion. The government said it would spend \$2 billion over five years on prison expansion, but the opposition estimates were much higher. The estimated cost of prison construction, combined with increased staffing and prisoner's living expenses, could run into the tens of billions.

However, the cost to society could be even greater. The tough-on-crime agenda in the United States has not decreased crime but has released dangerous prisoners into society after serving long terms, with little or no rehabilitation. Even American right-wingers are looking at their failed system and demanding something better. That could be our future -one with over-incarceration and too few funds left over for rehabilitation.

On the one hand, aboriginal issues are not part of the election campaign as political parties fight over the urban middle class vote where the action is. On the other hand, we will find ourselves victims of the collateral damage from the militarization of our country and the focus on the crime agenda.

*Special credit and thanks to Doug Cuthand and to The Star Phoenix for allowing Saskatchewan Indian to publish this article.*



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# New Tribal Council Model on First Nations Education: Historic MOU Signing

By Eldon Henderson

On October 14, 2010 the Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC), Government of Saskatchewan and Government of Canada signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Agreement on First Nations Education at the Whitecap Dakota First Nation community school.

The MOU is a unique and new “Tribal Council Model on First Nations Education” that will advance and enhance education opportunities and benefits for First Nation students attending school within the Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC) region and nearby provincial school divisions.

The MOU will also add value to existing and future partnerships between the STC First Nation Education System and Provincial School System to improve First Nation student’s overall needs and capacities. This will allow for non-First Nation students, teachers and administration in these schools to have a better understanding of First Nation people, communities, culture, traditions and history.

## MOU Agreement Objectives:

- Development of joint education action plans;
- Providing support for student transitions between grade levels and school systems;
- Ongoing assessment of student learning and skills;
- Enhanced data management and collection;
- Engagement of families and communities to improve students' education outcomes; and
- Shared professional development and curricular resources.

Tribal Chief Felix Thomas, Saskatoon Tribal Council, the Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and Federal Interlocutor for Metis and Non Status Indians and the Honourable Donna Harpauer, Minister of Education, Province of Saskatchewan signed the new MOU in front of numerous students, teachers, Elders, band members, Chiefs and government officials and guests.

Education is the key to success for our First Nation learners,” said Minister Duncan. “By preparing them now for tomorrow’s workforce, the social and economic benefits will be felt within their communities, in this province, and right across Canada.”

Empowering our children with an education that not only transfers practical knowledge but also instills pride in culture and history is essential to our society,” said Tribal Chief Thomas. “This agreement recognizes the need to work together as leaders and educators, both on and off reserve, to develop and refine the learning environments, tools and systems this promising group of young people needs to succeed.”

“The signing of this MOU marks an era of inter-jurisdictional co-operation focused on improving outcomes for First Nations students,” said Minister Harpauer. “Today, the Government of Saskatchewan is signalling our commitment to work collaboratively with the Saskatoon Tribal Council First Nations to improve First Nations student achievement, for the benefit of students, their communities and the province.”

This MOU has been considered the first ever “Tribal Council Education Model” for the Province of Saskatchewan and the



potential educational spin-offs of this new MOU for the seven STC First Nation communities is largely the scope of new opportunities to be rolled out in the coming months and years.

"Improving First Nations education is a priority for the Government of Saskatchewan. We will work together to ensure all of Saskatchewan's young people have every opportunity to succeed. We are committed to closing the achievement gaps between First Nations and non- First Nations students," stated "Minister Harpauer. "We know that this can best be accomplished by building partnerships with First Nations education authorities such as the Saskatoon Tribal Council."

"This MOU is a symbol of our commitment to the children and youth of our province," explained Minister Harpauer. "It confirms our commitment to working together with the Saskatoon Tribal Council, and with Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada on improving outcomes for First Nations students."

A special and symbolic education bundle was part of the signing ceremony and represented all the parties involved. "Each MOU partner provided a special gift for the signing ceremony. STC Tribal Chief Felix brought a Treaty document, Minister Duncan provided a Canadian flag and Minister Harpauer gave a brass bell," said John Barton, Acting Director of STC Education. "The concept came from the Cree, Saulteaux, Sioux and Dakota Elders who met on the importance of education and partnership building for their people. Louise Smokeyday and Albert Scott from the Kinistin First Nation helped put the bundle together. The bundle will be utilized as a teaching tool and each community and school can contribute to it as the MOU process moves forward."

"For the Government of Saskatchewan, the signing of the education bundle symbolizes the bringing together of the First Nations ideal of education with the province and the federal government," said Minister Harpauer. "The education bundle is reflective of the child that we are all entrusted with caring for, in nurturing to help them meet their potential. The province's contribution to the bundle was a traditional school bell. The bell is a symbol of calling us to come together to educate our young."

"Education unlocks many opportunities for the children in these communities," added the Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State (Western Economic Diversification) and Member of Parliament for Blackstrap. "This MOU will help them to achieve their fullest potential."

Approximately a 1,000 students from the Saskatoon Tribal Council band-operated schools and another 10,000 First Nation students in the STC region attending other bordering provincial school divisions will benefit from this new agreement. In 1995, the Whitecap Dakota First Nation partnered with the Saskatoon Public School Division and the new MOU also compliments previous partnerships between the Saskatoon Tribal Council and the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools and Saskatoon Public School Division.

The Government of Canada is looking at the establishing a more "broader tripartite agreement" with the Government of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan First Nations in 2011 to benefit First Nation students.





# 2011 World Indigenous Youth Summit on the Environment

By FSIN Lands and Resources Secretariat

In conjunction with the United Nations Declarations of the Year of the Youth and International Year of the Forests, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Lands and Resources Secretariat is planning the World Indigenous Youth Summit on the Environment.

The Summit will be held July 24-29, 2011 at the Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Planning for the summit is underway and the FSIN has extended interest in hosting this event with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the United Nations.

The seven Summit themes include: Water, Environmental Protection, Forestry, Treaties and Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Energy, Sustainable Economic Development and the Environment. The last day of the forum will focus on the United Nations and International Work which will include the creation of a World Indigenous Youth Declaration on Environmental Protection.

The summit will also empower and build solidarity between Indigenous Youth from around the globe. Many Indigenous people's way of life and dependence on the land is in turmoil due to climate change, energy and resource development, and the loss of culture and language.

Today's Indigenous Youth are addressing issues that affect their environment and traditional lands. Environmental Youth Council

member Shane Keepness is part of summit committee. He believes the World Indigenous Youth Summit is a good opportunity for Indigenous Nations from around the world to gather and share their experience with colonialism and assimilation and its impacts on Indigenous people.

"We live in a Western World that is based on Eurocentric ideas and philosophy, I believe this youth summit will shed light on the diverse perspectives out there, and strengthen Indigenous unity worldwide. We hope to provide a clear message that Indigenous youth throughout the world are on the rise," stated Keepness.

Based on the success of the "2010 Only a Matter of Time: Youth and Elder Summit" the utilization of existing partnerships will be a fundamental component to the success of the 2011 World Indigenous Youth Summit on Environment.

Partnerships bring together human, technological and information resources while allowing for new networking opportunities and experiences. The summit committee is expecting approximately 1,000 delegates from around the globe.

Early registration is \$250 which includes the reception, 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, the banquet and the health breaks. The Saskatoon Inn has set aside a block of rooms for the Summit participants, to be booked and paid by the participants. The Secretariat will forward the registration form to all First Nations and Tribal Councils and "A Call for Youth Volunteers" to work at the conference will be issued in the new fiscal year and the registration fee will be waived.

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