

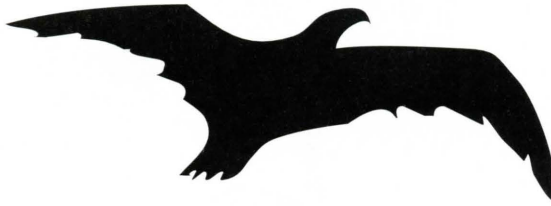
S A S K A T C H E W A N



Winter 1999/2000



THEME:
YOUTH & EDUCATION



Soaring to new heights

SaskTel's scholarship program encourages Aboriginal students to pursue post-secondary education in fields related to the telecommunications industry. In 1999, four Aboriginal students received a SaskTel scholarship.

As well SaskTel, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT), has established scholarships for students studying in areas relevant to SaskTel. Five students recently received scholarships to help them complete their programs.



Robert Barks, from Prince Albert, received a \$500 entrance scholarship. He took the SIIT Basic Electronics Course and now intends to study Business Administration at SIAT Woodland Campus in Prince Albert.



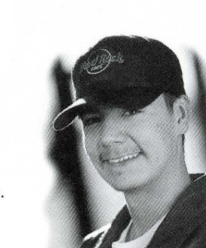
Carey Pillar, a First Nations student from Montreal Lake Band, was awarded a \$1,500 continuing scholarship to further his studies. This fall he will enter the Computer Information Systems Program at SIIT Saskatoon Campus.



Alain Fafard, from Rocanville, received a \$3,000 undergraduate scholarship. He attends the University of Saskatchewan, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts and Science degree, majoring in Computer Science.



Carma-Lynn Abenakew, from the Ahtahkakoop First Nation, was awarded a \$1,500 continuing scholarship for her studies in Administration at the SIIT Saskatoon Campus.



Travis Laliberte, from Beauval, received a \$3,000 undergraduate scholarship to attend Northlands College in La Ronge in a program working toward a Bachelor of Engineering Degree.



Sandy Klyne, a First Nations student, was awarded a \$1,500 continuing scholarship. She completed the Public Administration Certificate Program and will be entering the Computer Information Systems Program this fall at SIIT Saskatoon Campus.



Dieter Braun, a Metis student from Saskatoon, received a \$3,000 entrance scholarship. He is a Business Administration student in the Post Graduate Diploma Program at the University of Saskatchewan.



Cynthia Quill, from the Sapotaweyak Cree Nation, was awarded a \$1,500 continuing scholarship. She completed first year Public Administration at the SIIT Saskatoon Campus and will enter the Business Administration Program in September.



Christa Gould is a member of the Black Lake Band, and is taking the Computer Information Systems Diploma Course at Palliser Institute, SIAT, in Moose Jaw. She received a \$3,000 scholarship to pursue her studies.

We honour these well deserving students, and wish them all the best!

SaskTel



Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

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

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

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

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Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
Suite 200-103 A Packham Ave.
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Fax: (306) 244-4413

The views and opinions expressed by contributors to Saskatchewan Indian are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of Saskatchewan Indian or the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations



ON THE COVER:

YOUTH FUTURE

ARTIST: DARREN SUGAR

SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN

Vol. 30 #1

Winter 1999/2000



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Indian Outlook

Nov. 18, 1999
Banquet & Awards Night for the Black Lake
Volunteer Fire Fighters
Black Lake, SK.
Band Office (306) 284-2044

Nov 19, 20 & 21, 1999
Moosomin Warm-up Hockey Tournament
Moosomin First Nation Hockey Arena
Gabriel Mooswa (306) 386-1198 or Wilma
Swiftwolfe (306) 386-2206

Nov. 19, 1999
Treaty 4 Education Conference 2000 Meeting
FHQ Bay Street Office, Fort Qu'Appelle SK.
FHQ (306) 332-8200

Nov. 19, 1999
Yorkton Tribal Council's 1999 Sports Awards
Dinner
Ukrainian Orthodox Auditorium, 38
Bradbrooke Dr. North, Yorkton, SK.
Danny, Kelly or Monica (306) 782-3644

Nov. 19, 1999
Crowe Singers Dance & Box Social-Midnite
Mist
Keeseekoos Band Hall
Bev (306) 542-5029 or Cheryl (306) 542-4456

Nov. 19, 1999
Workshop & Play "I AM ALCOHOL"
Norquay Communiplex, Norquay, SK.
Karen (306) 594-2291

Nov. 22, 1999
Traditional Feast & Round Dance
710 Duke Street, Saskatoon, SK.
FSIN Gil Ledoux (306) 665-1215 or Lorna
Arcand (306) 667- 1876

Nov. 23 - 25, 1999
OH-PE-KI Conference II
Landmark Inn, Regina SK.
Margaret Bear (306) 586-5363
Nov. 22 - 23, 1999

FSIN Special Session of the Legislative
Assembly
Centennial Auditorium, Saskatoon, SK.
FSIN Shelley Mike (306) 956-6947

Nov. 24, 1999
Aboriginal Healing Foundation-Research
Project Open House
Cottage #4, CCEC Campus, Prince Albert, SK
Lorraine Vandale (306) 765-5310

Nov. 27, 1999
Mens Floor Hockey Tournament
Almighty Voice Education Centre, One Arrow
First Nation SK.
Larry Richard Daniels (306) 423-5482

SASKATCHEWAN'S FIRST NATIONS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 27, 1999
Memorial Rounddance for Hector Gamble &
Sons
Beardy's First Nation

Dec. 1 & 2, 1999
First Nations Post Secondary Education
Training Symposium
Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, SK.
FSIN Education & Training Secretariat (306)
721 - 3600

Dec. 1 & 2, 1999
Opportunities Workshop '99 (for Aboriginal
Women)
Radisson Hotel. Saskatoon, SK.
Twana (306) 934-4706

Dec. 1 -3, 1999
Treaty Six Chiefs' Summit
Location - TBA, North Battleford, SK.
Fletcher Greyeyes (306) 922-5600

Dec. 7, 1999
PAGC 3rd Annual First Nations Language
Festival
P.A. Child Care Educational Centre, Prince
Albert, SK.
Mary Bighead (306) 953-7234

Dec. 17, 1999
YTC Christmas Dinner
Heritage Ball-Holiday Inn, Yorkton, SK.

Dec. 18, 1999
Badger Children Memorial Rounddance
Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation
Frank & Barb Badger (780) 891-3448

Dec. 18, 1999
Rounddance for Chief Wallace Fox
Onion Lake First Nation, SK.
Anita or Rita (780) 847-2200

Jan. 18, 19 & 20, 2000
Legislative Assembly (Winter Session)
Centennial Auditorium, Saskatoon, SK.
FSIN Shelley Mike (306) 956-6947

Feb. 25 - 27, 2000
Y.T.C. WinterFest 2000
Yorkton, SK.
Danny Whitehawk (306) 782-3644

Mar 2000 - Dates TBA
FSIN Corporate Circle Gathering
Saskatoon, SK.
FSIN Robert Merasty (306) 665-1215

April 23 - 27, 2000
2000 Saskatchewan Indian Winter Games
Hosted by Saskatoon Tribal Council,
Saskatoon, SK.
STC (306) 956-6100

April 2000 - Dates TBA
FSIN Business Forum
Saskatoon, SK.
FSIN (306) 665-1215

May 30, 31 & June 1, 2000
Legislative Assembly (Spring Session)
Centennial Auditorium, Saskatoon, SK.
FSIN Shelley Mike (306) 956-6947

October 18 & 19, 2000
Legislative Assembly (Election Assembly)
Centennial Auditorium, Saskatoon, SK.
FSIN Shelley Mike (306) 956-6947

LOOKING AHEAD

SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN PUBLICATION THEMES FOR 2000 (tentative):

Special -Millennium Special. Indian
Government in Saskatchewan - the
past to the future

Winter -Women & Health.

Spring - Business & Resource Guide.
Summer - Saskatchewan Indian 30th
Anniversary Issue

Fall - Youth & Education

Winter (TBA)

SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN

Is invitng articles, photographs, artwork
and letters from our readers. If you are inter-
ested, please call or forward your submission
to:

SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN

c/o Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
Suite 200 -103 A Packham Avenue
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

S7N 4K4

Phone (306) 665-1215

Fax (306) 244-4413

Photo of 1999 Saskatchewan Indian Winter Games Opening Ceremony



Greetings *Saskatchewan Indian* readership. It gives me great pleasure to once again provide some comments and provide a bit of an update on some of the issues and initiatives affecting all of us as First Nation people.

First, I would like to acknowledge and welcome back Vice-Chief Lawrence Joseph who was re-elected and given the mandate to continue his exceptional work. I would also like to acknowledge and bid welcome to our new, young and energetic Vice-Chief Guy Lonechild, in this short time he has clearly demonstrated his commitment to his work and our people.

An issue of utmost concern for all First Nations is the implications of the recent Corbiere decision of the Supreme Court of Canada. Essentially, this decision requires that the First Nations allow off-reserve residents to vote for Band leadership effective November 2000. To assist the First Nations in dealing with the impacts of the decision, the FSIN has submitted a proposal to undertake consultation and implementation processes with and for the First Nations within the FSIN. We have heard from Indian Affairs, Saskatchewan region that proposals will not be considered until decisions are made at the federal level. However, on recently received direction of the FSIN Executive Council and Indian Government Commission, we will begin the process of developing a strategy/plan for First Nation consultations and the implementation of the Corbiere decision. A majority of our First Nation leaders feel that this issue is of utmost importance and we must act as quickly as possible within the time frame that we do have. We maintain our assertion that this work is necessary to ensure that all First Nations are prepared and ready to implement Corbiere. Continued work and lobbying is planned to ensure the preparation is completed by November 2000.

Also on Corbiere, although we recognize that the impacts may not be favored by all First Nations, the decision will definitely

prove to support our efforts and objectives within the FSIN Treaty Governance Processes. As part of our Treaty Implementation efforts under new fiscal arrangements, we seek and are working toward total population funding for the First Nations. This is consistent with our jurisdictional position that under Treaty, we do indeed have the Inherent and Treaty jurisdiction over our citizens both on and off the reserve.

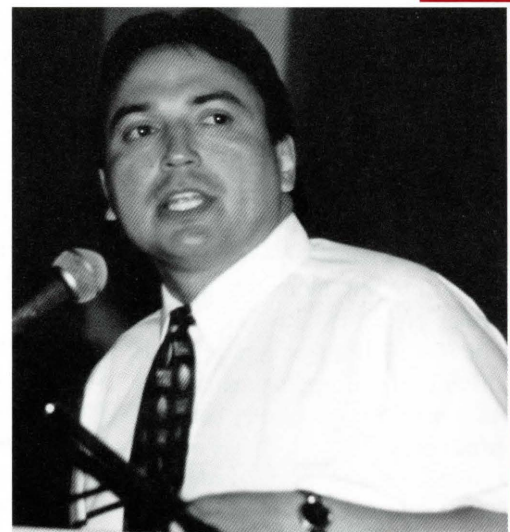
On the FSIN Treaty Governance Processes, with the guidance and assistance of Elders and Chiefs, discussions regarding the interpretation and implementation of our Inherent and Treaty Rights continue. Given the recent public announcement by Minister Robert Nault of his commitment to proper Treaty Implementation at Fort Qu'Appelle, and in light of the positive Supreme Court cases such as Sundown and Marshall, we are confident that we will ultimately achieve the goal of Treaty interpretation, in its Spirit and Intent, and proper Treaty Implementation. It is our hope that, with the support and guidance with our Elders and Chiefs, we will be moving the Processes on to their second mandate to continue to move toward a new legal framework that will give full legal effect to our Treaties. (*for more on Treaty Governance Processes, see page 22*)

With regard to the Treaty First Nation Veterans, we did have a successful first Gathering of the National Veterans in Winnipeg this past August. At the Gathering many other Veterans from across the country expressed some interest in becoming involved in our Veterans' court action. FSIN legal counsel did outline some options for them as they too have experienced the same inequities and discriminatory practices of government upon their return from war-time service. A follow-up National First Nation Veterans' Gathering was held on November 11th & 12th in Ottawa. The Veterans' action continues, however, we also persist in our efforts to have the Veterans' matters dealt with out of court and in a formalized negotiation process. With this, we have received some indication that government is open to discussing compensation for our Treaty First Nation Veterans and

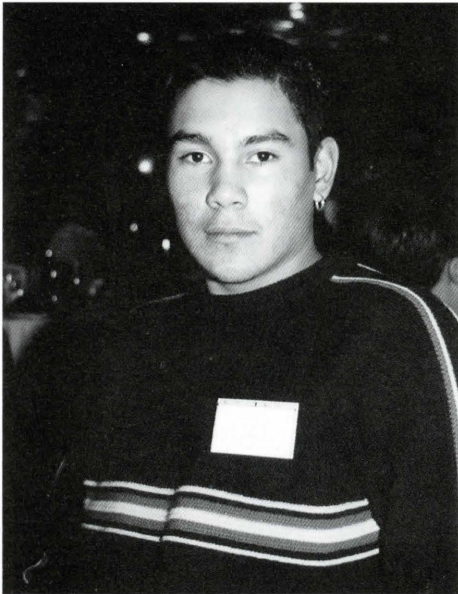
their families. However, continued work and lobbying is necessary to ensure full commitment and agreement from Canada to deal with the issues to the satisfaction of the Veterans and the FSIN. We recognize that it is always difficult for government to take responsibility for the mistreatment of our people, however, this is clearly another case where the discrimination and wrongs are indisputable.

On the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (NRTA), the court actions undertaken by the First Nations in Alberta continue. The FSIN does intend to intervene in the action, however, our primary efforts are being concentrated within our Treaty Governance Processes as we have directed that the matter of lands and resources be given priority in terms of discussions surrounding resource benefit sharing for the First Nations. We are confident that this matter can be effectively dealt with through discussions, however, in the

(continued on page 26)



BY DONNA BREWER



Dana Laframboise is a champion boxer and a formidable opponent in the ring. But, he has been criticized by coaches, managers and technical directors for not being aggressive enough and not vocal enough. Those who know him realize that these qualities, in fact, show a maturity far beyond his 19 years.

When friends and family describe Laframboise they use words like humble, quiet, sensitive, laid-back and content. He has an amazing capacity to take his accomplishments in stride, yet appreciate that he's been blessed with a unique gift of skill inside the boxing ring. As a result, those within the international boxing world refer to him as the "Gentleman of the Ring".

Laframboise's list of accomplishments is impressive. He is a nine-time provincial champion, a Canadian national gold medalist at the junior, intermediate and senior levels and has won many international titles to name but a few. His record stands at 124 bouts, with 106 wins and 18 losses.

Achieving such a remarkable record takes true commitment. But more than this, it takes setting priorities. In May 1999, Laframboise had 23 days to complete Grade 12 after having missed approximately two months of school due to boxing commitments. He was presented with a huge opportunity to go to Liverpool, England to represent Canada at an elite tournament. Instead,

he chose to finish out his 23 days. His decision upset the Canadian Amateur Boxing Association, but made his mother proud.

This young boxer is quick to give credit for his success to his strong family ties. His dad, Les Laframboise; his mom, Tina Larose; his three sisters and one brother are his greatest supporters. Les spent many evenings coaching Laframboise in the basement of their home. This encouragement and support of his son has helped shape him into the champion he is today. Tina provided Laframboise with the emotional and spiritual support that complemented the strengthening of his body. "I can hear my mom yelling in a crowd of 3,000," he says.

"I want my people to be proud of who they are because I'm proud that I'm First Nation,"

The highlight of Laframboise's boxing career came during the Pan Am Games in Winnipeg in August 1999. Forty-two countries were in attendance and Laframboise took the silver medal after being defeated in the final match by the Cuban contender. Laframboise's grace and dignity shone through at this time. During the ceremonies that followed the fight, Laframboise took the hand of the Cuban winner and together they raised the Cuban flag. In his other hand, he proudly raised an eagle feather.

"I want my people to be proud of who they are because I'm proud that I'm First Nation," said Laframboise after the ceremonies. He is the only person from western Canada on the Canadian National Team and the only First Nation person.

Laframboise is currently searching out his spiritual roots. His Great-grandmother gave him his Indian name of "Leader" when he was still a baby. His deceased Uncle Lawrence Lavallee was also a powerful influence on him. After winning the silver medal in Winnipeg he said, "I want to give this medal to my Uncle for encouraging me and many others in our traditional ways. I will

keep this medal forever as a reminder that the only way I can keep my own strength is to share it with others."

Laframboise is indeed sharing his strength. He acts as a positive role model for many young people, both First Nation and non-First Nation, and does not hesitate to share his story to inspire others to live out their dreams.

The goal for Laframboise now is to box in the Summer Olympics at Sydney, Australia in September 2000. After that he will retire his amateur gloves and turn professional. His career goal is to attend the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College and earn a degree in Social Work.

In the future, Dana Laframboise will continue to act as a "Leader". It is certain that he will always remain "A Gentleman in the Ring" regardless of the ring he chooses.



BOXING ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ❖ 9-time provincial champion various Western Canada Golden Gloves awards
- ❖ 1993 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) gold medalist
- ❖ 1994 Diamond Belt champion
- ❖ 1994 Canadian junior champion gold medalist
- ❖ 1995 Canada Games gold medalist
- ❖ 1995 Junior national bronze medalist
- ❖ 1995 NAIG gold medalist
- ❖ 1996 Canadian junior gold medalist
- ❖ 1996 Junior World Champion Olympics bronze medalist
- ❖ 1996 Gaelic International gold medalist
- ❖ 1997 NAIG gold medalist
- ❖ 1998 Canadian Intermediate champion
- ❖ 1998 gold medalist, Pan Am under 19, Mexico
- ❖ 1998 1/4 finalist World junior champion under 19, Argentina
- ❖ 1999 senior national champion gold medalist
- ❖ 1999 Grand Prix, Czech Republic

SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN EDUCATION & TRAINING COMMISSION MEMBERS

Chair: FSIN Vice-Chief Morley Watson

Co-Chair: Chief Wallace Fox,
Onion Lake First Nation

Senator Paul Stone,
Mosquito First Nation, FSIN Senate

Senator Mel Joseph,
Big River First Nation, FSIN Senate

Chief Terrance Pelletier,
Cowessess First Nation, YTC

Chief Ted Quewezance,
Keeseekoose First Nation, YTC

Chief Harry Lafond,
Muskeg Lake First Nation, STC

Chief Elmer Campbell,
Buffalo River First Nation, MLTC

Chief Walter Sewap,
Cumberland House First Nation,
PAGC

Chief Gary Standing,
Wahpeton Dakota/Sioux First Nation,
PAGC

Vice-Chief Leonard Hardlotte,
Prince Albert Grand Council

Chief Ken Thomas,
Witcheekan First Nation, BTC

Chief Maryanne Stoney,
Little Pine First Nation, BTC

Jeff Ahenakew,
Ahtahkakoop First Nation, FCTC

Chief Denton George,
Ochapowace First Nation, SET#4TC

Chief Walter McNabb,
Peepeekisis First Nation, FHQTC

Chief Melvin Isnana,
Standing Buffalo First Nation,
FHQTC

Chief Lloyd Kinequon,
Day Star First Nation, TAC

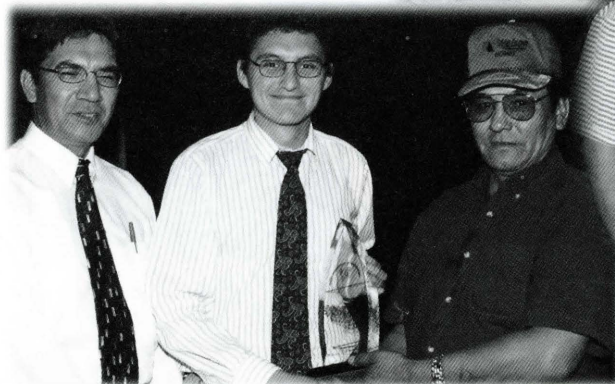
Chief Ernest Sundown,
Joseph Bighead First Nation, IND

Chief Delbert Wapass,
Thunderchild First Nation, IND

Chief Fred Gopher,
Saulteaux First Nation, IND

A/Chief Dale Gamble,
Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation,
IND

Chief Richard McArthur,
Pheasant Rump Nakota First Nation,
IND



FEDERATION OF SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN NATIONS

Education & Training

SECRETARIAT OVERVIEW

FSIN Education and Training Secretariat

EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIO:

1ST VICE-CHIEF MORLEY WATSON

The primary role of the Education and Training Secretariat is to provide technical assistance and support to the Saskatchewan Indian Education and Training Commission (SIETC) and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Executive member with the education and training portfolio. Under the overall direction of the SIETC and Executive member, the secretariat is also responsible for duties related to the on-going regional development of the First Nation education system.

In addition to the Education and Training Secretariat staff, the Saskatchewan Indian Culture Centre, the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College and the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies provide technical support and advice to the SIETC and the Executive member.

It should be noted that the secretariat is also responsible for sports, culture, recreation and youth initiatives.

The FSIN Education and Training Secretariat continually strives to improve all areas in education and training. Opportunities and efforts are geared towards all First Nation people both on and off-reserve. The secretariat currently supports the following programs and on-going initiatives:

- Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative
- Bold Eagle Program
- Curriculum Projects
- First Nations Computers for Schools Program
- Saskatchewan First Nation Circle of Honour
- Schoolnet Project

Education Reform Initiatives

- Training for First Nations School Boards
- Development & Expansion of First Nations Education Administrators Shortcourse
- Development of First Nations Special Education Policy
- Community Based Projects
- Research on activities on Post Secondary Funding, Feasibility study on a Clearing House, Accreditation and Certification and Computer Technology strategy.

Sports, Culture, Youth & Recreation
Saskatchewan Indian Summer/ Winter Games
Honouring our Youth Powwow
Youth Rodeo

Youth Strategy Initiatives

- First Nations Career Placement Summer Student Employment Program
- First Nations Cooperative Education Program
- First Nations Science & Technology Program
- First Nations Work Experience Program

The subsequent summaries are excellent examples of the secretariat's response to satisfy the needs and developments of its membership:



Bold Eagle X 1999

The Bold Eagle program is a joint venture between the Canadian Armed Forces and the FSIN. It is a militia training program

handled by Land Forces Western Area element.



Bold Eagle X 1999 was the most successful program to-date. This year's Bold Eagle had a very large enrolment. Fifty-eight applicants qualified for the program, of whom 37 were from Saskatchewan.

The Bold Eagle program began June 27th. The successful candidates spent seven weeks at the Western Area Training Centre in Wainwright, Alberta. One week was dedicated for a cultural camp that was hosted by First Nation Elders. Elders were also on-site 24 hours for the duration of the course. Elders have provided the cultural component and counselling since the inauguration of the program.

The Bold Eagle X graduation was held on August 12, 1999. All candidates completed the program successfully.

Saskatchewan First Nations Circle of Honour Awards

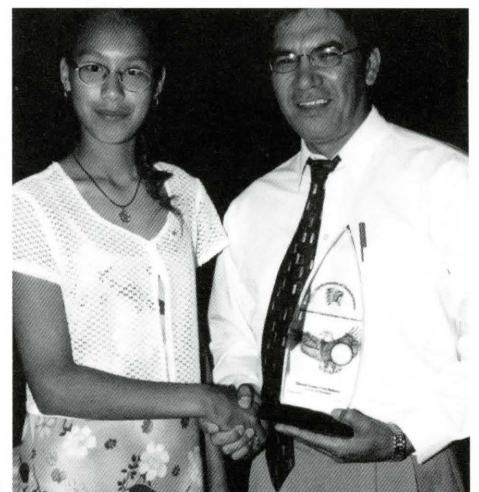
Saskatchewan First Nations Circle of Honour Awards provides a valuable opportunity for the Saskatchewan First Nation community to showcase their accomplishments and achievements. The awards and banquet are hosted in partnership with the FSIN Health and Social Development Commission. The awards recognize outstanding achievements among all ages in two categories: Education and Youth; and Health and Social Development.

The second annual Saskatchewan First Nations Circle of Honour Awards were held on June 2, 1999 in Saskatoon. Presentations were made to educators, health program staff, students, youth and team groups. A special presentation was made to the Senate for their lifelong dedication to the betterment of the First Nation community.

Recipients for the second annual Saskatchewan First Nations Circle of Honour Awards were:

EDUCATION & YOUTH CATEGORY

Agency Chiefs Tribal Council
Martina Whitehead Grade 8 Pelican Lake First Nation Scholastic
Ian Thomas Grade 12 Pelican Lake First Nation Community Group Involvement
Rez Cafe Big River First Nation Business Venture
Battlefords Tribal Council
Teri Favel Grade 12 Poundmaker Cree Nation Community
Falynn Baptiste Grade 10 Red Pheasant First Nation Culture/ Music
Meadow Lake Tribal Council
Lauren Boucher Grade 11 Clearwater River Dene Nation Scholastic
Yvette Iron Canoe Lake Cree Nation Teacher
Jeff McCallum Post-Secondary Flying Dust First Nation Scholastic



Photos supplied by FSIN Education & Training Secretariat

Sacha R. Paul Post-Secondary English River First Nation Professional
 Saskatoon Tribal Council
 Roseline Daniels teacher Mistawasis First Nation K-12
 Mika Lafond Grade 12 Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Athletic
 Joi Arcand Grade 10 Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Community
 Southeast Treaty 4 Tribal Council
 Justin Rae Bear Grade 11 Ochapowace First Nation Community
 Yorkton Tribal Council
 Madeline Whitehawk Teacher Cote First Nation K-12
 Nora Cadotte Grade 10 Cote First Nation Scholastic
 Independent
 Willow Cree Education Complex Group
 Category Beardy's & Okemasis
 Beardy's Girls Soccer Team Group Category
 Beardy's & Okemasis
 Andrea Michael Post-Secondary Science University of Manitoba Beardy's & Okemasis
 Naomi Eyahpaise Grade 9 Beardy's & Okemasis Scholastic
 Ashley Lawrence Cameron Grade 12 Beardy's & Okemasis Athletics
 Lawrence Eyahpaise Teacher Beardy's & Okemasis K-12

HEALTH & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY (PORTFOLIO: VICE-CHIEF LINDSAY CYR)
 Ms. Alma Favel-King, Lucky Man, Janice Kennedy, Battleford Tribal Council Indian Health Services
 Meadow Lake First Nation Annual Family Gathering Community Wellness
 Yorkton Tribal Council Health & Social Development Program Staff Community Wellness Margaret Ermine, CHR, Sturgeon Lake: Mavis Bird CHD, Montreal Lake Lillian Turner, Sturgeon Lake, Community Wellness
 Dwight Merasty, Prince Albert Grand Council
 Heather Bear, Ochapowace First Nation, Community Wellness

First Nations Science Camp

The First Nations Science Camp was initiated to bring an increased awareness and interest about science and technology to First Nation elementary and secondary school students. The Summer Science Camp provides opportunities to explore the many aspects of scientific and technological occupations and careers. At the same time, the traditional knowledge and values of First Nation people are incorporated into the educational experience whenever possible.

One-week camps were held in three locations throughout the summer. The Saskatoon camp was held at the University of Saskatchewan campus; Regina's camp at the University of Regina and the Prince Albert camp at the PAGC Child Care and Education Centre. The total number of participants was 171, which meant a 43 percent increase from last year's camps.

These camps are largely funded by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. The First Nations Science Camps are also sponsored through various means by the University of Saskatchewan and its departments. Additional support for the camps are provided by corporations such as SaskEnergy, SaskWater, Weyerhaeuser Forestry Products, Innovation Place, SaskPower and Cogema Resources. The

involvement of First Nations, tribal councils and school administrators in promoting the camps and sponsoring the students ensure the successful participation of the camps.

First Nations Schools Cooperative Education Program

The First Nations Schools Cooperative Education Program combines in-class learning with industry-based training. This facilitates the goals of FSIN in providing First Nation education systems with the necessary means to develop and enhance the skills and experience of First Nation youth regarding their education and employment development.

The program's goals and objectives are: increase the number of First Nations Schools Co-operative Education Programs in schools on-reserve; and provide opportunities for students in grades 7-12 to combine school-based learning with workplace/ community experience.

Programs are designed locally to: reflect individual community circumstances and requirements; increase the rate of high school graduation and employment among First Nation youth; facilitate the transition from school to work; foster partnerships between schools and public and private sector employers for First Nations Schools Co-operative Education work experience

placements; and, to successfully maintain 15 established First Nations Schools Co-operative Education Programs sites within the region of Saskatchewan.

The work placements include small town businesses, such as service stations, grocery stores, restaurants and pool halls. They also include First Nation community placements in health clinics, band offices and other band-operated businesses. There are also



placements with RCMP, banks, hospitals, SGI and other professional fields to provide the students with a varied array of work experience.

For the current 1999/ 2000 school year, there are a few changes that evolved in the program. First, a new site at Peeyasiw-Awasis School on Thunderchild First Nation has been approved for funding. Second, the Lac La Ronge Indian Band has implemented the program at Senator Miles Venne School instead of Mikisiw School. Third, the FSIN criteria reflects the National Program Guidelines to include students from grade 7-12. This program is currently delivered at 15 on-reserve school sites in Saskatchewan. There were 900 First Nation students participating in this year's program.

Sports, Culture, Youth & Recreation

SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN SUMMER/WINTER GAMES

Over the past 25 years the FSIN has supported the Indian Summer and Winter Games. These games are awarded to various Saskatchewan First Nation communities, tribal councils or agencies. Athlete participation has grown to more than 5,000 youth annually.

The 1999 Saskatchewan Indian Summer Games marked the 25th Anniversary of the games. The Big River First Nation hosted the 1999 games with attendance around 3,000.

The Overall standing are as follows:

- 1st place**
Meadow Lake Tribal Council 513 points
- 2nd place**
Prince Albert Grand Council 464 points
- 3rd place**
File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council 463 points
- 4th place**
Saskatoon Tribal Council 444 points
- 5th place**
Onion Lake Tribal Council 341 points
- 6th place**
Battlefords Tribal Council 330 points
- 7th place**
Agency Chiefs Tribal Council 319 points
- 8th place**
Yorkton Tribal Council 310 points
- 9th place**
Touchwood Agency Tribal Council 247 points
- 10th place**
Southeast Treaty 4 Tribal Council 128 points

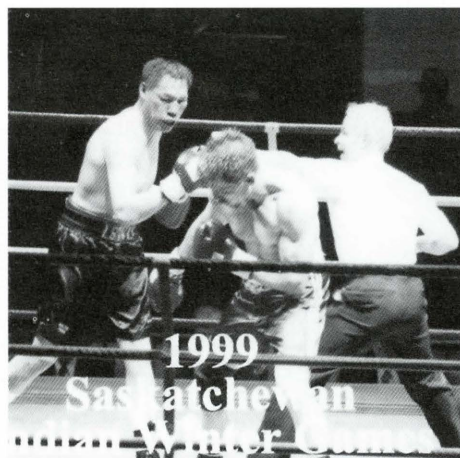
The 2000 Saskatchewan Indian Winter Games will be hosted by the Saskatoon Tribal Council. The games will be held during April 23- 27, 2000 in Saskatoon.

HONOURING OUR YOUTH POWWOW

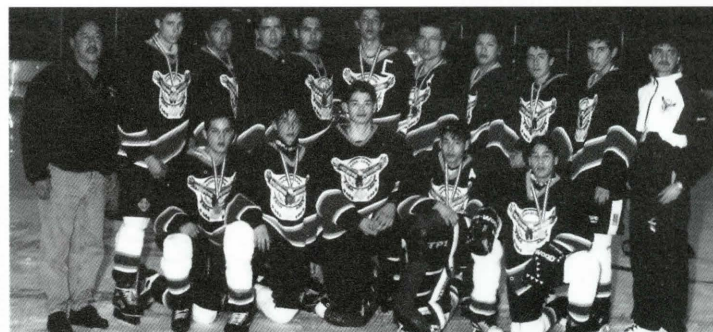
The FSIN and the Montreal Lake (Little Red) First Nation hosted the 1999 Honouring Our Youth Powwow on August 24-26, 1999 at Little Red. The competition was open to dancers under the age of 21 and in the Golden Age category. The total prize money awarded was \$73,350.

There were over 260 dancers and 15 drums in attendance. The winner of the FSIN Warrior competition was Preston Littletent, who was representing Touchwood Agency. The winner of the 1999 FSIN Princess pageant was Keisha Laroque, representing the Meadow Lake Tribal Council. The winner was selected on the basis of cultural awareness, dancing ability, community dedication, personal development and determination.

The FSIN's goal is to make the powwow an annual event



Photos supplied by FSIN Education & Training Secretariat



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BUILDING PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

by John Bauchop Wells

Mention Indian education in North America and you have to talk about the unique leadership of the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC). The only First Nation-controlled university-college in Canada, SIFC is dedicated to preserving and expanding Aboriginal heritage in college teaching and research.

This year, more than 1,600 students are enrolled in courses such as science, history and literature, all of which are taught from a First Nation perspective. There are many other courses in Indian languages, First Nation studies, Indian communication arts and Indian education. Social work, business, nursing and dentistry programs all prepare graduates for work in First Nation and mainstream society.

"Our mandate is to supply a Western education, plus traditional knowledge," says Jo Ann Thom, the new Dean of Academics for SIFC. "And that's good, I think our students deserve to be in a top-notch university."

Thom, former acting dean and head of the English department, says when the College began in 1976, traditional values and ceremonies were very strong and she is dedicated to maintaining those values at SIFC today. "There's nothing comparable to us, we're Indian-controlled."

While the focus is strongly on students receiving academic and traditional education, Thom also points out the importance of research at SIFC. "I'm really concerned that, if we're not doing original research, whose stuff are we teaching? Some mainstream person who has no knowledge of our students or communities? Our faculty are evaluated on research and scholarship useful to First Nations- this is exactly where we're at."

She points out that SIFC is an officially recognized research university. "Aboriginal people have had research done on them forever, but not done with them, for them."

SIFC's stature among mainstream universities is important, but, says Thom, "I think

it's really, really equally important for someone who can really relate to our students and not just the middle-class ones, someone who can go out to the reserve or the community and talk to people on their level."

Thom's views are echoed throughout SIFC. "As First Nations exercise increasing jurisdiction over curriculum and other operations, First Nation students will gain the tools to live wisely on the earth," says Dr. Eber Hampton, president of SIFC.

Dr. Hampton says an SIFC education is one way to prepare young people to exercise self-determination. "Realistically, Canadian universities have not and cannot fulfill this role. Indian control of Indian education is not just for elementary and secondary education. It is even more important that we seize our responsibility for university education as an expression of self-government.

"We have the responsibilities to articulate the knowledge, philosophies and the ideals of our living cultures."

(continued on page 18)



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Hon. Maynard Sonntag
Minister

THE 2ND ANNUAL SASKTEL ABORIGINAL YOUTH AWARDS

The SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards of Excellence celebrate the outstanding achievements and contributions made by Saskatchewan Aboriginal youth.

This year's gala event was held in Saskatoon at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel on October 1st. The awards and banquet are hosted by the SaskTel Corporation and the Wicihitowin Foundation. The awards feature seven categories but the growing caliber of nominees required the addition of one extra category this year.

Twenty-six young people were nominated for recognition in the areas of Recreation, Innovation/ Entrepreneurial, Sports, Culture, Community Service, Education, Arts & Entertainment and Overall Achievement. Each of the nominees demonstrated impressive qualifications with the following eight award recipients leading the way.

OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT- MICHAEL LINKLATER, 15, THUNDERCHILD FIRST NATION

Michael is a leader both on and off the basketball court. Raised by his grandparents, he shows pride in his culture through his actions. Michael strongly opposes drugs, alcohol and smoking. He actively participates in the family's cultural ceremonies. Michael's competitive nature has helped him achieve all of his goals.

RECREATION- BRAD STONE, 18, WHITECAP DAKOTA/ SIOUX FIRST NATION

Brad remembers some advice an Elder once gave to him: "Give the world your best, and the best will come back to you." He has taken this advice to heart, creating a positive life from the many negative experiences he faced early in his teen years. Brad is active in his community and school. He is a volunteer for the Whitecap fire department; a committee member of the Sport and Recreation Board; and is also involved with several youth initiatives.

INNOVATION/ENTREPRENEURIAL- JOHN THOMAS DORIN, 18, PRINCE ALBERT

John is a straight A student who has developed an expertise with computers. He has found innovative ways of using his keen knowledge with technology to improve his life and the lives of people around him. John tutors at the University of Saskatchewan and is a columnist in the Churchill River Sun. He plans to continue his studies in Computer Science.

SPORTS- DANA LAFRAMBOISE, 18, MUSCOWPETUNG FIRST NATION

Dana is up and coming in the world of boxing. He was a silver medal winner at the Pan American Games and has competition at the 2000 Olympics within his grasp. Dana has an impressive list of bouts to his credit and plans to someday become a social worker. In the meantime he continues to represent his community, province, country, family and First Nation people with his grueling boxing schedule.

CULTURE- ADAM JOBB, 15, PETER BALLANTYNE CREE NATION

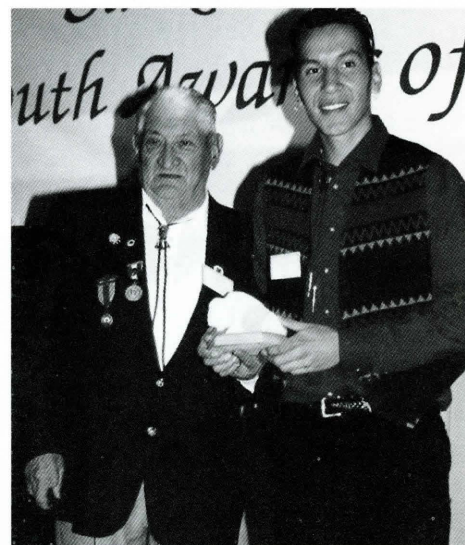
Adam is a believer of retaining culture though lifestyle. Bilingual and bicultural, Adam's first language is Cree and second is English and he participates in many traditional activities. Adam encourages others to become involved in their native languages and cultures. This dedicated youth is a double award winner this year as he is a member

of the Southend Youth Council, the Community Service Award recipients.

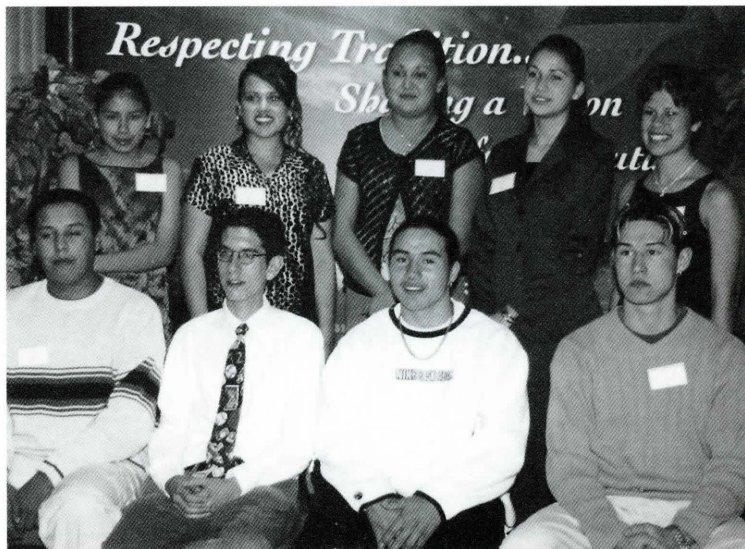
COMMUNITY SERVICE- SOUTHEND YOUTH COUNCIL: CARMEN JOBB, RACHEL JOBB, ADAM JOBB, JENNY CLARKE, HOWARD JOBB, RUBY ELDERKIN AND TANYA DUMAIS; PETER BALLANTYNE CREE NATION

The Southend Youth Council was formed in 1998 by several youth, on the advice of Chief Ron Michel. As representatives of Southend youth, they have made a difference in their community. These remarkable

(continued on page 20)

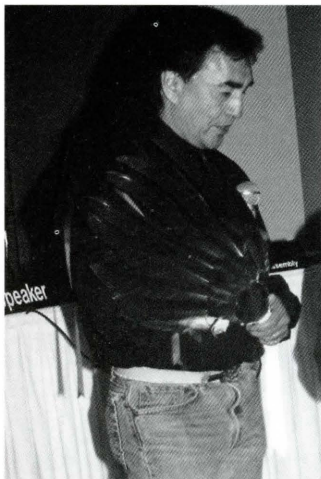


Top: Grand Chief Howard Anderson, with Brad Stone.



*Bottom L-R:
Nelson Burns,
John Thomas Dorin,
Michael Linklater,
Matthew Dunn,
Top: Jessica Laplante,
Falynn Baptiste, Natasha
Kay, Lacy Albert,
Krystle Pederson,*

FSIN ELECTIONS RESULT IN STRONG LEADERSHIP FOR FIRST NATIONS



Delegates to the recent Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Legislative Assembly elected two vice-chiefs who will join the leadership team taking Saskatchewan First Nation people into the new millennium.

"Now that the elections are completed and our leadership team is in place, we can now concentrate on the many initiatives and issues that face First Nations people as we enter the 21st century," Chief Perry Bellegarde said.

There are five executive positions within the FSIN: Chief, First Vice-Chief, Second Vice-Chief, Third Vice-Chief and Fourth Vice-Chief. To ensure continuity of leadership, the election of executive positions is held on a staggered basis. As a result, elections were held for Second and Fourth Vice-Chiefs at the Legislative Assembly in Saskatoon. The elections for Chief, First Vice-Chief and Third Vice-Chief will be held in October 2000.

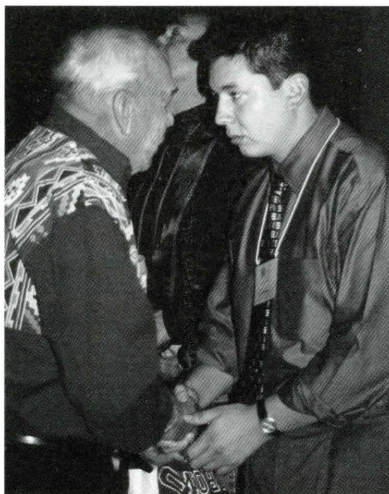
After a hard-fought race by all of the candidates, Guy Lonechild of the White Bear First Nation won the position of Second Vice-Chief, while Lawrence Joseph of the Big River First Nation held onto the position of Fourth Vice-Chief. The vice-chiefs assume their respective responsibilities immediately.

"I am extremely pleased with the Executive team that has been chosen to lead our people into the new century. Our objective is to further enhance our people's quality of life and standard of living as we continue to work towards the full recognition and implementation of our inherent treaty rights," Bellegarde said.



Top Photo: 4th Vice-Chief Lawrence Joseph sworn in for his second term as FSIN Vice-Chief.

Right Photo: Newly Elected 2nd Vice-Chief Guy Lonechild shake hand with Senator Allan Bird



CHIEF PERRY BELLEGARDE
Tribal Council Assignment Independent First Nations
Saskatoon Tribal Council

Portfolio Assignments:
Assembly of First Nations (AFN)
Canada First Nations Transfer Agreement (CFNTA)
Constitution Review
FSIN Corporate Circle
FSIN Executive
Gaming
Independent Bands
Inter-Governmental Affairs
Joint Executive Council/ Indian Government Commission (IGC)
Legal Counsel
Media, Communications, Data & Information
Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (NRTA)
Northern Affairs Committee
Off-Reserve Urban
Office of the Legislative Assembly
Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC)
Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP)
Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association (SFNVA)
Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA)
Senate
Taxation
Treaty Protocols, Treaty Government Processes
Commission & Boards:
Joint Executive Council/ Indian Government Commission
SIGA

FIRST VICE-CHIEF MORLEY WATSON
Tribal Council Assignments File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council
Touchwood Agency Tribal Council
Battleford Tribal Council

Portfolio Assignments:
Education & Training Commission
Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC)
Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies & SITAG
Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre (SICC)
First Nations Education Authorities Association (FNEAA)
Sports, Youth, Culture & Recreation
Bold Eagle Program
Commission & Boards:
Education & Training Commission
Bold Eagle Management Committee

SECOND VICE-CHIEF GUY LONECHILD
Tribal Council Assignment Agency Chiefs Tribal Council
Yorkton Tribal Council

Portfolio Assignments:
Economic & Community Development Commission
Housing
Jackfish Lodge - LTD Partnership
First Nations Bank
Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation (SIEF)
Saskatchewan Indian Loan Company (SILCO)
Grey Owl Marketing
INPRO Wet Investment
Wholesale Project
Women's Secretariat
Commission & Boards:
Economic & Community Development Commission

THIRD VICE-CHIEF LINDSAY CYR
Tribal Council Assignment Southeast Treaty #4 Tribal Council
Prince Albert Grand Council

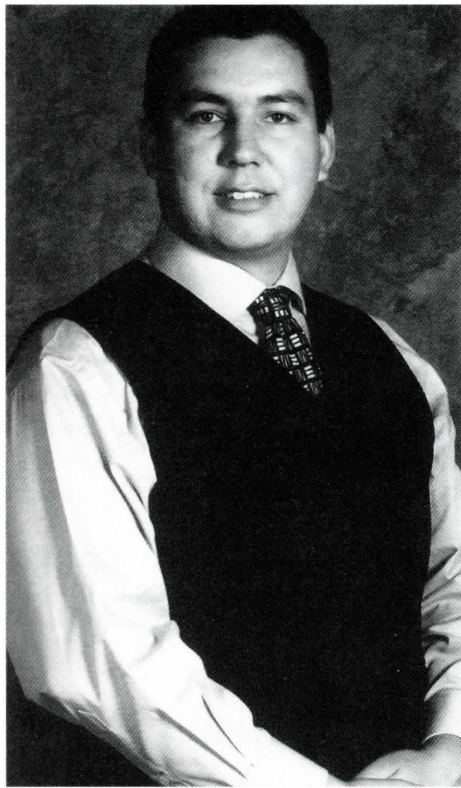
Portfolio Assignments:
Health & Social Development Commission
Indian Child & Family Services (ICFS)
National Aboriginal Clearing/Connecting House on Disabilities Issues
National Child Tax Benefit
First Nations Addiction Rehabilitation Fund
Saskatchewan First Nations Network on Disabilities
National NNADAP Role Review
Social Security Reform
Healing Fund
Treasury Board
Commission & Boards:
Health & Social Development Commission
Treasury Board Commission

FOURTH VICE-CHIEF LAWRENCE JOSEPH
Tribal Council Assignments Fort Carlton Tribal Council
Meadow Lake Tribal Council

Portfolio Assignments:
Justice Commission
Corrections
Courts/ Tribunals
Policing
Young Offenders
Lands & Resources Commission
TLE Directorate
Forestry, Mining & Water Resources
Hunting, Fishing & Gathering
Specific Claims Research
Lands Use Management
Dakota/ Lakota/ Nakota Affairs
SARM/ SUMA
Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Licensing (SIGL)
Commission & Boards:
Justice Commission
Lands & Resources Commission
SIGL Board

NEW FSIN EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Biography- Guy Lonechild, Second Vice-Chief



Economic & Community Development, which includes; Tourism, Agriculture, Mining & Minerals, Retail/Wholesale, Forestry, Job Integration & Job Development and the Women's Secretariat Portfolio.

Second Vice-Chief Guy Lonechild's office is located at:

*Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
Suite 200 - 103 A Packham Avenue,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 4K4.*



ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION STAFF MEMBERS

NAME	TITLE	PHONE	CELL	FAX
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Lyle Daniels	Executive Assistant	665-1215	229-0133	244-4413
Byron Langan	Director - Housing	956-6913	214-4028	244-4413
Gary Atimoyoo	Director - Ec/Dev	955-4712	221-6899	244-4413
Linda Lavalle	Policy Dev. Officer	665-1215	none	244-4413
LuWayne Bitternose	Coordinator - Ec/Dev	665-1215	539-3481	244-4413
Cathy Poundmaker	Admin. Assistant	665-1215	none	244-4413

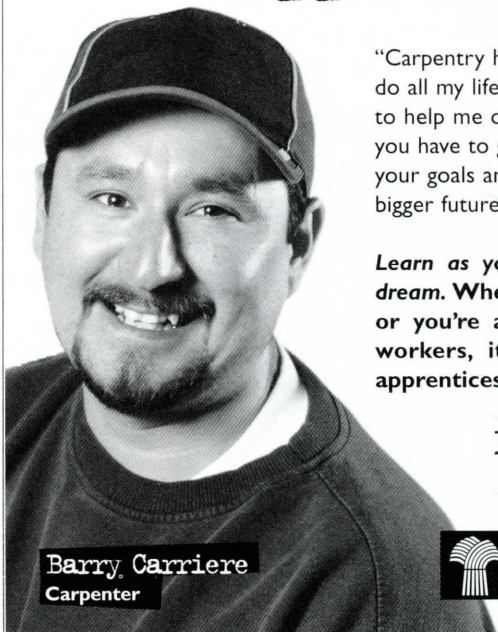
A member of the White Bear First Nation, Vice-Chief Guy Lonechild is a dedicated family man. He and his wife Leah have one daughter. Guy is Cree and Assiniboine and is the proud son of Ivan & Collen Lonechild.

Guy received his elementary school education at the White Bear/Carlyle schools. He graduated grade twelve at the Melville/Carlyle High School prior to attending Brandon University, Faculty of Arts, Brandon, Manitoba in 1992. Guy later received an Associate of Business degree at San Diego, California in 1994.

Prior to being elected Second Vice-Chief for the FSIN, Guy served as Band Manager for the White Bear First Nation and acted as a consultant for Myers & Norris & Penny, Chartered Accountants, First Nations Services. His previous experience also includes Technical Advisor to First Nations Education & Training, Indian Resource Council of Canada, a consultant for the White Bear First Nation Oil & Gas Management Initiative, Indian Oil & Gas Canada.

As Second Vice-Chief, Guy has numerous responsibilities within his portfolio of

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has been a big
opportunity for me."**



Barry Carriere
Carpenter

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TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE FOCUS OF CAMP

BY JOHN BAUCHOP WELLS

It is a sunny, crisp morning in late September. Terry Lavalle is standing beside his 1966 Ford flatbed truck at the Indian Outdoor Education camp in the Qu'Appelle Valley near Regina. "Okay, let's unload the teepee poles," he says to the dozen students gathered around him, all training to be teachers in the Department of Indian Education at Saskatchewan Indian Federated College.

Rhonda, 20, springs forward and lifts one of the fifteen, 15-foot pine poles from the rear of the truck. She hefts it over to a clearing where she places it on the grassy ground. Soon the other students join in, heaving the poles to the clearing and laying them down. "We always use pine for the teepee poles," says Lavalle. "They grow straight and dry straight. You don't get poplar like that."

Next, he directs students to select three poles and lay them together. He ties the three together about two feet from what will be the top of the teepee. Rhonda and two other students each take one of the three poles tied at the top and stand them up. Each student steps backwards with a pole in hand and there it is— the three-pronged triangle that will become a teepee in the style of Plains Cree.

"Now you must decide which direction is the east because the opening of the teepee is always made to face the east," says Lavalle. People are figuring out which direction is east when Elder Willie Peigan raises his arm and points towards the sun. "There is east," he says.

One by one most of the other poles are lifted until the ribs of the teepee are in place. Lavalle explains that, properly installed, the pole-ends at the top will form the shape of a water-bird. The water-bird seems to be hiding itself a little bit today. The last two poles are inserted in the flaps of the canvas that will cover the air opening at the top of the teepee. Students unfold the canvas and smooth it.

It is time to stitch together the two ends of canvas where they meet at the front of the teepee above the entrance. Lavalle makes an Indian ladder out of rope and says, "Okay, now, who's the lightest one here?" Irene, 20, is volunteered by her companions. With their help she climbs the teepee ladder and

begins to stitch up the 16 neighbouring holes with 16 small sticks. Lavalle calls this the teepee zipper.

The students step back to look at their handiwork and Lavalle says, "When they designed the teepee, they really knew what they were doing. Teepees can withstand the wind more than any other shape."

He goes on to explain that there are several types of teepees. In Crow-Blackfoot country, where it is windy, the back of the teepee is made longer for more protection. Teepees can be three times as high as this one and can be strung together with halls in-between. They can even have backrests installed around the inside. "You've got to use your 'Indian-uity,'" Lavalle smiles. "An Indian is always resourceful."

Lavalle points out that the students have raised the teepee by working cooperatively, a traditional value in Indian education. The individual is always seeking to serve the community. He also comments that students learned to raise the teepee through observation and hands-on participation, the traditional method of instruction.

Earlier that morning, a campfire, ringed by rocks, was built and students walked in a clockwise circle around the fire, depositing pieces of tobacco into it. The fire marks the ceremonial beginning of the students' four-day outdoor education experience at Camp Monahan. The camp is located on the shore of Pasqua Lake in the valley formed by the autumn-coloured Qu'Appelle hills. The camp is down-valley from the Treaty 4 grounds and is on Pasqua reserve lands.

The Indian education students will travel to another Saskatchewan location for an outdoor winter camp next term. Over the next four days they will participate in a pipe ceremony in the teepee with Elder Willie Peigan and listen to him pray to the Creator in Cree. "It is important to seek guidance in prayer every morning," the Elder says.

The students will also learn from Linda Goulet, SIFC education professor and outdoor education instructor. They will make berry soup (meat, potatoes, berries and water); crush chokecherries using clean rocks to remove the arsenic in the pits ("Indians knew that arsenic in small amounts is good for the heart," notes Goulet); make campfire

bannock and bannock on a stick (wrap the bannock dough around the point of a green stick and toast it in the fire); and learn to thinly slice meat and smoke it in strips hanging from a wooden rack over the fire.

Christa, 20, stirs a pot of crushed chokecherries with the end of a branch, adding sugar as instructed by Florence. ("Christa's making witch's brew," jokes a friend.) And Rhonda blends cranberries and blueberries into jam for bannock. Jacquie Hookimaw will make Labrador tea for everyone. New Education Department head, Dr. Norbert Witt, will break away from on-campus meetings to join students later around the evening campfire for a little fellowship.

At night, Irene Flett demonstrates handgames and math/ science professor Dr. Christina Mader talks about the moon and the stars and other night science. There are sharing circles, a nature walk with Clara Pasqua, traditional singing and drumming with Rick Favel and Elder Peigan, a writers' workshop with Angelina Weenie and playing of traditional games led by Ray Petracek. Students also write thoughts in a journal.

"The theme of the class is learning from the land and the Elders," says Goulet. "And how you can use it in your teachings and how Elders teach in a traditional setting."

"It's not modelling, it's far more complex than modelling," she continues. "It involves a relationship and behaviour in small groups. It's teaching students an awareness of what the learning style is— they're doing it experientially."

Goulet says there is a lot to be learned from observation of nature and lessons of life from watching the animals; a lot to be learned by reconnecting with nature. "It's a different pace outdoors, where you slow down and have time to think."

While traditional life cannot be completely reproduced in a four-day camp, it can be introduced to students and awareness and understanding of traditions can be created.

"The whole focus of the program is integration of Indian content, such as ceremonies. When we go out to the outdoor

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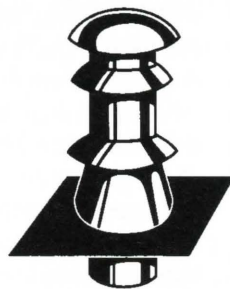
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ABORIGINAL STUDENTS' SUPPORT SYSTEMS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

BY ELIZABETH MAIER

This time of year, high school student advisors are encouraging youth on reserves and in the cities to attend the University of Saskatchewan. But, joining the ranks of the over 30,000 students, faculty and support staff inhabiting the campus can be very intimidating. Students need to know that no matter what they choose to study at the University of Saskatchewan, there are some very special people and helpful services that make the whole process easier. Kathleen Makela, Charlotte Ross and Darlene Okemasis are working to make sure that Aboriginal students do not become isolated within the mainstream student population.

Kathleen Makela, director of the Aboriginal Students Centre (ASC), is a Metis woman originally from Edmonton, Alberta. Makela received a Bachelor of Arts Interdisciplinary Honours degree in Human Rights. Later she became the first Aboriginal woman to graduate from the University of

New Brunswick with a Bachelor of Laws degree.

Makela understands the struggles and barriers facing Aboriginal students within a university setting. She says, "It is very important to strike a balance between work, school and family life. We need all this balance to feel good about who we are and what we do. The ASC is set up to help you with these issues. Please come in for help or even just for a visit. You will find that there are systems in place to help you through."

The ASC was established to provide support services recognizing the spiritual, physical, emotional and mental well-being of Aboriginal students. The ASC ensures the cultural components to support programs, offering sweats, healing and talking circles. Elders are available for spiritual guidance and counselling. The ASC also offers orientation programs for Aboriginal students,

tutoring information, career counselling and cross-cultural workshops.

Charlotte Ross, is the Coordinator of Academic Programs for Aboriginal students in the college of Arts and Science. Ross helps students understand the registration system, plan academic schedules and fill out the forms and paperwork needed to satisfy the system. She offers academic and personal counselling and has a list of resources to fill the gaps that she, herself, cannot cover.

Ross grew up in small northern communities and understands the difficulties students face in making the transition from similar communities to the University of Saskatchewan. For Ross, advising on time management, marital/ family problems, single parenting issues, essay writing and exam preparation is all in a day's work. She reminds students to come in and talk before problems become overwhelming. "Don't

(continued on next page)

"It is very important to strike a balance between work, school and family life. We need all this balance to feel good about who we are and what we do."

- Kathleen Makela, Director of the
Aboriginal Students Centre

ever give up, you are not alone. Many of us have been where you are, and we are all working to make your experience worthwhile. Please just come in. Tawaw!"

Darlene Okemasis is the secretary in the Department of Native Studies. With a degree in Sociology from the University of Saskatchewan, Okemasis knows what it is like to go through the mainstream system. As a student Okemasis became a member of the Indigenous Student Council and valued the support system provided through getting to know other Aboriginal students on campus.

Well aware of the barriers that Aboriginal students face, Okemasis stresses that one of the most important things is the availability of spiritual advising. She pointed out that students enrolled in mainstream courses may go for days without contact with another Aboriginal student and feelings of isolation can easily become overwhelming. Okemasis recommends involvement with the Students Indigenous Council for social activities and get-togethers for Aboriginal students. She advises students to believe in themselves. "Everybody is going through the same things and you are not isolated at this university," she says. "There are signs everywhere pointing out how to get help. As you recognize the signs soon you will become stronger and happier and have great experiences here."

There are plans underway to have all the services for Aboriginal students and staff in one building. Presently contact can be made

through Kathleen Makela and the Aboriginal Students Centre in Lower Place Riel, Charlotte Ross in Room 228 of the College of Arts and Science and Darlene Okemasis in the Department of Native Studies, Maclean Hall.



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education camp, we're moving toward a traditional structure," says Goulet.

SIFC's education students become elementary teachers at band schools and take on administrative positions. Some also teach in urban schools. "The demand for Indian language and curriculum and materials development is very high," says Goulet. SIFC needs a Masters program in education to prepare students in special education, language/ curriculum, counselling and healing.

Teasing, laughter and jokes are very important. At the conclusion of the camp, students perform skits and participate in a round dance. "We had so much fun doing it last year," says Goulet. "We laughed and laughed."

She says it is important to create a safe environment for students to feel free to play and have fun and pretend as part of their outdoor education. This was sadly missing from the residential education experience. Says Goulet, "it's important for them to be able to have fun and act silly without using alcohol. I want them to experience natural highs. They need to let loose and be who they want to be, open up in a responsible way and express themselves in a positive way."

It is nearing lunchtime and there is a burst of laughter from inside the teepee. Vince, 20, Rhonda and several other students are inside, joking with one another. Vince is the only male education student there and he acts a bit like a big brother, cajoling the others, mock-scolding them and inviting jokes directed at himself. There's another burst of laughter inside the teepee. Vince comes running out, a big grin on his face.

"Come back here, Darren," calls a female voice, laughing. "We want to make a Cree man out of you."

Darren throws his arms into the air. "But I am a Cree man," he shouts to the sky. And everybody, teachers included, is laughing.



SASKATCHEWAN YOUTH - KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Saskatoon- Rachel Jobb, of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation was the Guest Speaker at this years 2nd Annual SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards. Jobb, who was recipient of last year's award for Community Service, delivers an exceptional speech. Jobb, is a fine example of Saskatchewan

Aboriginal youths who are achieving excellence, treading new paths and instilling immense pride throughout this province.

Respected Elders, Members of the Wichitowin Foundation, Representatives from SaskTel, Nominees, Parents, Friends, and Event Organizers.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to speak to you this evening. Thank you for inviting me. It is exciting for me to be here in the company of all these talented youth and concerned and interested adults.

We are part of a movement toward the empowerment of our people, and especially of the youth. The young people of our lands are no longer a silent group waiting on the sidelines to see what decisions the adults have made for them. We are being recognized as intelligent partners in the development of our culture.

There are many problems in our communities. Everyone knows what they are. Everyone knows the damage that drugs, alcohol and abuse has dumped on our communities and the struggles people have fought trying to overcome these effects. Tonight I do not want to dwell on this side of life, but rather I would like to look at the bright side where we want to go.

In our community there have been many strides taken to improve conditions for the youth. All the problems are not gone, but certainly things are getting better. Most of the parents do not drink. Many of them have jobs in the school, clinic, band office and stores. Several parents serve on committees and are involved in church groups.

Elders are respected and serve on committees. There is a sense of stability amongst our adult population. This sets a pattern for the youth. It gives us an example to follow. Our lives have order and meaning. We are free to express our ideas at school and learn how to make our concerns heard.

We have an elected Youth Council which has representation on the Treaty Land Entitlement, Education, Housing, Police Management and Interagency Committees. On these committees we are taken seriously by the adults. Our ideas are respected. This has given the youth of Southend (Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation) a sense of purpose and power. We can make a difference in our lives.

The young people in Southend can be very busy if they choose to be. Although it is a small community there is lots to do. In the summer many of the youths find jobs at various places such as tourist camps, commercial fishing, firefighting or summer employment jobs with the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

In the winter many youth are involved in activities such as ice fishing, dog mushing, wood cutting, snaring, trapping and hunting. Other recreational activities include snowmobiling, skiing, skating and extra-curricular sports and activities at school.

During all seasons we have started having organized cultural camp experiences. Here elders and other interested adults teach

youth the traditional ways and stories. This knowledge is very important for us. We have to know our history and know how deep our roots go. This knowledge and wisdom gives us the strength and support we need to withstand life's storms and crisis. It gives us direction, purpose and the ability to face the challenges ahead. It guides us in making decision in our lives. These camps were started by the school as part of the programming. Now they are being held during the summer months also.

On every day of our lives we can choose the way we want to react to the situations around us. We have to realize the power we have as individuals to control our own lives. No day in the future is more important than the one we are living right now. It is up to us to make the opportunities that we have. Every community has capable young people and caring adults. Here we are in this room tonight. And there are more at home. We can lead our communities into the new millennium with a promise of a better future.

Our youth council started a year ago after an invitation from Chief Ron Michel for the school youth group to have an official elected voice. In this past year we have started the process to develop a youth centre with programming; organized summer recreational activities, co-sponsored a youth conference, organized community gym events, bought and delivered gifts for elders at Christmas and represented the youth and community at several meeting in Saskatoon and Prince Albert. At those meeting we have notices that there is a general movement for empowerment of the youth. This means that if the adults are ready to let us be involved in determining our future, then we have to show we are ready to take on that responsibility.

Chief Phil Fontaine of the Assembly of First Nations visited our community this week. At an assembly for the youth he told us how things have changed from residential school days until now. Our culture is steadily changing. Chief Perry Bellegarde told us that we no longer have the buffalo to feed us. Today it is education that will feed us. In this message we see that we have to move into the technological world to live in the new millennium. We need education to take

(continued on next page)



Season's Greetings and Happy New Year

from

the Executive and staff of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

This is a special time of year for First Nation families and communities. Our family and friends come together to not only celebrate Christmas, but to share and experience the essence of our rich culture and traditions. On behalf of our Executive team and staff, I want to wish you and your family happiness and prosperity throughout the holiday season.

I also want to take this opportunity to extend to you and your families all the best in the new millenium. The year 2000 promises to be challenging and rewarding for all First Nations. Happy New Year!

From all of us at the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, have a safe and happy holiday season!

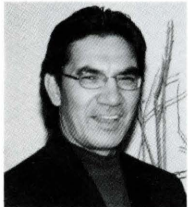
Chief Perry Bellgarde



Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations



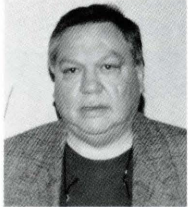
Chief Perry Bellgarde



First Vice-Chief Morley Watson



Second Vice-Chief Guy Lonechild



Third Vice-Chief Lindsay Cyr



Fourth Vice-Chief Lawrence Joseph

Saskatchewan Youth - Keynote Address (continue from previous page)

us down the roads of success. It is important to know and value our past, our elders will teach us the ways that will give us the self confidence we need to develop new lifestyles for the future. There is so much knowledge and wisdom that they have been entrusted with to share with us when we are interested and ready. we have to ask for this help.

If we are to be successful we have to emphasize the positives in life. Things will never be perfect. Only God is perfect. We have to do the best we can. There will be bad days. It is easy to be negative, give and sick in self pity. It takes a lot of courage to keep going when things seem hopeless. As one of my friends said "If things get in your way, you have to go around them. You don't have to crash." It takes strong character to keep on trying to stay on the right path

when there are so many opportunities to go elsewhere.

We do need strong adults to set good examples for us. I am thankful for my family, including my parents, brothers, grandparent, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. They have been a lot of support and encouragement for me. I am thankful for the strong leadership that the Chief Ron Michel and councillors William Dumais and Ernest Cook have given our community and I am thankful for the staff at Reindeer Lake School who have helped us so much with life's problems and who have been there to share our successes also. We need people to believe in our ability to succeed. Thank you to everyone who is working for our benefit and our future and especially to the Wichitowin Foundation and SaskTel who

cared enough to organize this event to honour the youth

Remember:

The youth are the future

The future starts now

Ekosi, Kinanaskomitinawaw c-nitotwik



Dr. Norbert Witt, new head of the Department of Indian Education, says, "We have to get away from the Western model and use it only as a resource. It's important, especially in this department where we train teachers to have a different attitude. This is the only institution that is Native. We have to have our own standards as a College."

Preserving Indian culture is not all that is unique at SIFC. The College has five campuses in Regina, including the University of Regina, with which it is federated, plus Saskatoon and the Northern Campus, Prince Albert. Liaison offices at Regina, Meadow Lake and La Ronge serve 22 Aboriginal communities in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario. In addition, SIFC delivers practical education to the needs of remote, fly-in communities through its Distance Education programs.

Land has been set aside near the University of Regina for a new building to house all SIFC Regina departments. Funding negotiations are still underway. And, the Indigenous Centre for International Development, under the direction of Del Anaquod, professor of Indian Studies, wants to meet the education needs of Indigenous people world-wide. Since 1983, SIFC has had 27 agreements with Indigenous peoples' institutions in Canada, South and Central America, Asia, the Caribbean, China, Mongolia, Tanzania and other countries. Many SIFC students have worked in these countries to fulfill their internships.

What else is unique or new about SIFC in the 1999-2000 academic year?

An SIFC education includes the presence of Elders, who offer wisdom and counsel to students and the College as a whole. Many Elders have gained their knowledge of ceremonies from traditional teachers who desire to serve their people. Their knowledge of First Nations' traditions, culture and spirituality creates a unique support service.

-SIFC fosters a genuine friendly atmosphere and collegiality, which can be difficult to achieve in larger universities. This friendliness and openness in turn provides self-confidence for students and helps the learning process.

-Students can get a Masters degree in Business Administration, with a focus on Indigenous management, a Bachelor of

Accept No Limits



Front row, from left: Collette Mansuy, Christa Gould, Dennis Lammers, Amanda Dessureault. Back row, from left: Mike Haner - Weyerhaeuser Saskatchewan Vice President and General Manager, Tymoor McKay, Corry Sinclair, Allan Bradshaw - Prince Albert Pulp & Paper Human Resources Manager. Missing from photo is Kari Lentowicz.

The Weyerhaeuser Saskatchewan bursary program rewards people who push boundaries and pursue dreams. We offer bursaries annually to Saskatchewan students for post high school studies that relate to our industry. We'd like to introduce this year's recipients and commend them for their initiative.



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Commerce with an Indian banking component and SIFC is proceeding with plans for a Masters degree in First Nation social work.

-In the Department of Indian Languages, Literature and Linguistics, courses are available in Cree, Ojibway, Dene, Nakota and Dakota languages. Department head Solomon Ratt and Professor Anok Wolvengrey are about to publish a Cree-English dictionary.

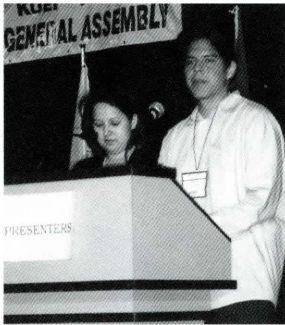
-In all, there are 15 departments at SIFC, with about 60 faculty members. Learn more about SIFC at website <http://www.sifc.edu>.

Building partnerships for the new millennium? Yes, with students, educators, business, First Nations, other Aboriginal peoples and, making the circle complete, with each other.



THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS ATTEND THE AFN-NCAI ASSEMBLY

Photo Credit: Tasha Hubbard



BY TASHA HUBBARD

First Nation youth of Canada increased their profile during the joint assembly of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) held in Vancouver. Featured entertainers, sponsored youth delegates and organized youth movements all made their

presence felt at the gathering during the week of July 18 to 23, 1999.

Saskatchewan's Fifth Generation entertained AFN Chief Phil Fontaine, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Chief Perry Bellegarde, hockey great Ted Nolan and other guests of the Peter Gzowski Invitational golf tournament for literacy held prior to joint assembly. Vocalist Alika Lafontaine, 17, described the experience as "an honour" for the popular family group.

Lafontaine and his siblings are well known for their contributions to the community. He stressed how important it is for leaders and the community to listen to the ideas of youth. "You see youth being involved with politics and community service and youth set-

ting up programs for other youth and you see how much youth can actually accomplish— leaders should take notice."

Later in the week, the AFN chiefs seemed to be doing just that. Mindful of the 200 youth delegates attending the assembly, a draft resolution pertaining to youth political involvement was presented. The existing National Youth Steering Committee was the driving force behind the resolution, which called for the establishment of a National Youth Council.

The National Youth Council would "provide support, advice, and recommendations to the AFN Executive Committee from a youth perspective". The current Steering Committee is made up of representatives from the different regions and two of these representatives were chosen to speak to the assembly to include the voice of the youth.

Brennan Manoakesick and Shannon Nicholas spoke about their initiatives, challenges and the need for leaders to involve youth in their decisions. The next youth speakers were not necessarily asked to be involved, but they definitely demanded to be heard. The Native Youth Movement (NYM), after approaching Elder Fred Kelly, were given time to voice their concerns to the assembly. They reminded the chiefs and other leaders that they must remember who it is they are representing.

The group has made it their mandate to represent the grassroots, "those who did not have a platform at the AFN Nexus," says Nitanis Desjarlais, one of the speakers and leaders of the NYM. She and the group want it to be clear that leaders often do not represent all the people they claim to. "They don't go to common people, grassroots-women and especially youth."

The group is active in community protests, rallies and conferences. However, they also take direct action. Desjarlais and several other NYM members are currently residing in the community of Cheam, B.C., supporting the local community in their fishing dispute with the Department of Oceans and Fisheries and holding workshops on colonization and decolonization, with the full support of the local chief.


The NYM is based in Vancouver, with satellites in Winnipeg, the Okanagan Valley and Alberta. As for their involvement with the AFN assembly, Desjarlais was pleased with the outcome: "It was good getting recognition from our own leadership." This was especially important in light of previous British Columbia press coverage which has often branded the group as "angry young natives".

They effectively debunked that stereotype with their eloquent and passionate speeches made at the assembly. David Dennis, speaking on behalf of NYM, asked the Elders to stand, then the educators, then the drug and alcohol workers and then the health workers. He then told the chiefs to "look at these people and remember they are on the front lines" and to consult them when it comes time to make decisions.

The response from the National Chief was positive, not only publicly acknowledging the group, but requesting financial support for them from those who heard their message. Furthermore, Chief Perry Bellegarde ended the day's speeches by telling the youth they had reminded him of a saying: "When you go into a room, try to leave that room with hope for the future."

The Lafontaines, the AFN Youth Steering Committee and the Native Youth Movement are attempting to maintain that hope.





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young people all lead alcohol- and drug-free lives and are excellent role models for their peers.



Southend Youth Council

EDUCATION- MATTHEW DUNN, 17, WATROUS

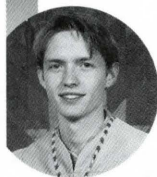
Matthew graduated from high school with a 94 percent average and is now working towards a degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan. He has received numerous scholarships and bursaries throughout his academic career. While he is an impressive scholar, Matthew is also an accomplished athlete. He participates mainly in volleyball, track and field, badminton and baseball.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT- KRYSTLE PEDERSON, 16, MARTENSVILLE

Krystle is a singer and pianist who credits her mother's encouragement and support for her success. At 16 years of age, she has completed three Royal Conservatory piano exams achieving a Grade 12 Fine Arts credit. Krystle practises everyday and enjoys her talents. Her goal is to become an entertainer.



Second Annual Casino Regina Post-Secondary Education Scholarships



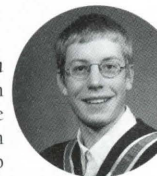
Matthew Nelson
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from Hudson Bay
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University of Saskatchewan
\$1,000 Scholarship

Sol Bergren
from Saskatoon
2nd Year Computer Science
University of Saskatchewan
\$1,000 Scholarship



Debbie Kahnpace
from Regina
1st Year Electronic Communications
SIAST, Wascana Campus
\$500 Scholarship

Arlette Alcock
from Meacham
2nd Year Library Information
Technology
SIAST, Kelsey Campus
\$500 Scholarship



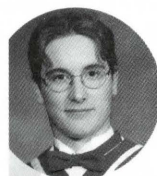
Scott Grindle
from Creighton
2nd Year Business Administration
SIAST, Palliser Campus
\$500 Scholarship

Michelle Sparvier
from Regina
2nd Year Business Administration
Saskatchewan Indian Institute
of Technologies, Saskatoon
\$500 Scholarship



Mia Frankovic
from Saskatoon
1st Year Industrial Electronics
SIAST, Kelsey Campus
\$500 Scholarship

Ceilidh Anderson
from Moose Jaw
1st Year Business Administration
SIAST, Palliser Campus
\$500 Scholarship



Dale Sather
from Regina
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BILINGUAL EDUCATION: THE NEXT GENERATION IN ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

BY HARVEY KNIGHT

Do you often wonder why our First Nation schools don't have all or most of their subjects taught in First Nation languages from kindergarten to grade twelve? I do. I found out this summer that the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC) recently began producing teachers trained in bilingual education and they are beginning to work in the communities.

On several occasions Dan Musqua has told me an ancient and timeless teaching: "Our purpose for existence is to learn." That statement guided my approach to teaching EINL 225, an Indian language arts class, to a large group of Cree-speaking students at the SIFC, Northern Extensions in Prince Albert this summer.

When Cathy Nelson, the program coordinator, first approached me, I pondered the immensity of the job of teaching an oral and written communications course in a two-week period. I reviewed my learning experience in co-teaching it with Anne Cook in Red Earth last year. I remembered the teachings of Dan Musqua, Alex Wolfe, Bill Ermine and other Elders who have tutored me, and who are among the many great thinkers and keepers of traditional knowledge of our times. I thought about my friends (the few that I have) Willie Ermine and D.W. Deschambault, who have studied and written about our age-old traditions of teaching and learning. And, of course, I knew Dr. Dan Musqua, who is also among the SIFC faculty, would come and give me a hand in class. With all this help I could do it, I concluded.

It all happened very fast. After days of extensive reading and course planning, I entered the first class with course outline, books and readings in hand. Cathy introduced me to the class and we were off and running. As it turned out the students became my teachers just as much as I was

theirs. That two-week period was literally an intellectual boot camp for us. I lectured and toiled over reading and marking their papers. They struggled, I'm sure, to make sense of me and the work that was before them, and read and wrote deep into the night to complete their assignment projects. They came to class each day to sit for six hours of lectures and participate in seminars. And

mer months when they could be taking it easy and enjoying the leisures of summer life.

I quickly realized from our discussions that these students are coming to the call of a greater work that they have to do in their communities- to help save the Cree language and culture! It's like we're all realizing this at the same time. First we realized that we were all hoodwinked into believing that our First

Nation languages were obsolete and a hindrance to our success in the modern world. Then we were told that our culture was no good. To top it off we were told that we had no history and that our storytellers were unreliable sources of knowledge. Our minds were getting really colonized there for awhile.

Fortunately in the last few years, First Nations and institutions such as SIFC have taken massive action to address the effects of colonization and have set up teacher training programs to rescue and restore our languages and cultures. The two-year First Nations Language

Instructor Certificate Program is one such discipline that SIFC and the Prince Albert Grand Council have established for students to learn Cree language arts. Besides being offered in Prince Albert in the summer, certificate programs are also underway in Cree and Dene communities such as Red Earth and Black Lake in the winter.

The program in Prince Albert is quickly gaining popularity as it is attracting students from other northern First Nation communities in which Cree is still widely spoken among the young and old. Even though the program is being offered here only in the summer months, it does not seem to deter these students.

So what is the big attraction, really? I believe that the mission of this certificate program and of its students is to prepare for



Photo supplied by Harvey Knight

through all that, their attendance was perfect.

Everyday the students dealt with subject matter to which they could directly relate. First we explored the historical effects of colonialism on languages and cultures. Then we examined the nature of knowledge from an Aboriginal perspective and the methods used for learning and teaching that knowledge (tough one). We struggled to see how these were all connected, and how language is connected to thinking, knowledge and culture. Meanwhile, outside the sun shone brightly and the green trees and grass danced in the wind.

Cathy, Willie and Esther Sanderson, the Dean of SIFC Northern Campus, and I marveled at their conviction. We wondered together what drove these students to commit to such intensive learning in hot sum-

(continued on page 25)

TREATY GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

IN 1996 THE CHIEFS OF SASKATCHEWAN MANDATED THE FEDERATION OF SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN NATIONS (FSIN) TO ENSURE THAT APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS WERE IN PLACE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TREATIES AND THE RECOGNITION OF FIRST NATIONS' JURISDICTION.

EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIO: CHIEF PERRY BELLEGARDE

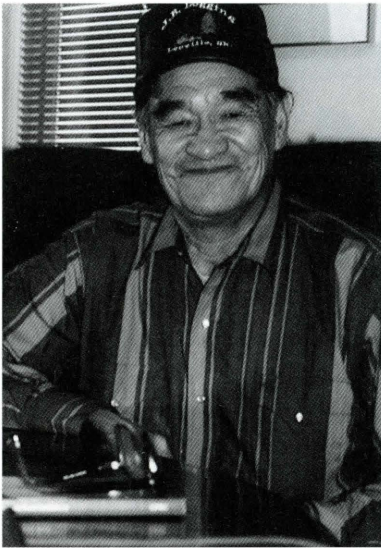


Photo Credit: Marian Dinwoodie

"...It was the will of the Creator that the whiteman would come here and live with us, among us, to share our lives together with him, and also both of us collectively to benefit from the bounty of Mother Earth for all time to come...that is the value and the true nature, and spirit and intent of treaty on both sides, and it's for both to benefit..."

Senator Jacob Bill
Pelican Lake First Nation, 1997



TREATY TABLE

Beginning in July 1996, the FSIN and the Government of Canada initiated a workplan to establish the Treaty Table, a forum for the discussion of treaty rights and/or jurisdictions.

The Treaty Table is a bilateral process involving Treaty First Nations and the federal government. The provincial government observes the proceedings. Based on discussions at the Treaty Table, the FSIN and the Government of Canada signed a Memorandum of Agreement in October of 1996. This agreement laid the groundwork for technical and political discussions about treaty rights and/or jurisdictions to begin.

The Treaty Table talks are intended to discuss, but not to renegotiate the treaties or to change the nation-to-nation relationship that exists between the parties to treaty. The parties agreed that through these talks, they would try to gain a better understanding of each others' views of treaty and try to reach a common understanding.

When the Treaty Table talks began, the FSIN and the Crown agreed to explore and discuss treaty rights and/or jurisdictions in seven areas: education, child welfare, justice, health, hunting, fishing, trapping & gathering, annuities and shelter. In 1999 they added an eighth topic: lands and resources. The FSIN relies extensively on Elders for assistance in preparing their presentations on these topics at the Treaty Table. The teachings and testimony of the Elders are the basis for the FSIN's contribution to the Treaty Table discussions.

In order to facilitate the Treaty Table talks, two Working Groups have been established, one on Treaty and Related Historic Sites and another on Acts of Renewal. These working groups were created to develop options to help inform and show public respect for the treaties and the treaty relationship.

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC) facilitates meetings of the Treaty Table and its working groups. Originally established in 1989, the OTC was renewed by the FSIN and the Government of Canada in 1996 for another five years and its mandate was expanded. The OTC also participates in public education and awareness of the treaty relationship and treaty history.

After the first phase of Treaty Table discussions, the *Statement of Treaty Issues* was published. During Phase 2, as each of the eight treaty areas is completed, the Treaty Table will report the results to the Common Table. The Treaty Table will guide and inform the work of the Governance Table and Fiscal Relations Table as they move forward to treaty-based government.

COMMON TABLE

The Common Table was created by a Protocol Agreement on October 31, 1996. The Common Table provides a forum for the FSIN Chief, the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and the provincial Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs to:

Discuss treaty matters of mutual concern and priority that affect all three governments,

- ◆ Identify and help with the processes for negotiating and implementing a new framework, defining the intergovernmental relationship with Treaty First Nations,
- ◆ Discuss how jurisdiction and financial matters are linked in First Nation government.
- ◆ Discussions at the Common Table led to the creation of two other tripartite tables: the Governance Table and the Fiscal Relations Table.

GOVERNANCE TABLE

The Governance Table was established to assist in defining the roles and responsibilities of First Nations, Saskatchewan and Canada on a range of governance, jurisdictional and programming matters. It is intended to facilitate the recognition and implementation of First Nations governance.

It was specifically agreed that the Governance Table would work to establish a new relationship that is consistent with and builds on the treaty relationship, and is consistent with the implementation of the inherent right of First Nations to govern themselves. Central to the work of this Table is the recognition by Canada and Saskatchewan of First Nation jurisdiction and authority to make laws and provide effective and efficient governance.

In August 1998, the Governance Table workplan was agreed to by Canada, Saskatchewan and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations at the Common Table. During Phase 1 of the Governance Table talks, the Table focused on exploring the groundwork for recognizing and reaffirming First Nations jurisdiction, based on Treaty. Phase 2 will negotiate the terms and intergovernmental relationships required to re-establish First Nations governance. Governance capacity will also be discussed and developed.

As the work of the Governance Table proceeds, it will remain consistent with the established treaty relationship, while simultaneously building on this relationship and implementing the inherent right of self-government. The jurisdiction and authority of the parties and their relationship to each other will be recognized through this work and will provide for effective and efficient governance.

FISCAL RELATIONS TABLE

The FSIN, Canada and Saskatchewan established the Fiscal Relations Table in August 1997 through a Memorandum of Understanding. The Fiscal Relations Table works on financial or money-related issues of a Treaty-based government relationship. This government-to-government fiscal framework must be more than an annual financial funding agreement. It must enable the long-term delivery of First Nation's governance in a stable and predictable fiscal relationship with Canada and Saskatchewan.

In developing a fiscal framework, the Fiscal Relations Table maintains a number of priorities for the intended effect of a new fiscal relationship, including:

- ◆ Creating the fiscal means for First Nations to improve the overall well-being of their citizens to equal the opportunity and successes available to others in Saskatchewan and Canada
- ◆ Ensuring First Nations access to programs and services is comparable to the rest of the Saskatchewan population
- ◆ Creating more self-reliant First Nations government and citizens
- ◆ Establishing stable and predictable fiscal relationships for First Nations Government
- ◆ Ensuring accountability and transparency of the fiscal relationships for all governments to their people and to each other
- ◆ Establishing administrative efficiencies, including a clear and precise definition of each government's responsibilities
- ◆ Ensuring the fiscal relationship builds upon the Treaty relationship and supports the rights of First Nations

In developing a framework to enable healthier fiscal relationships for First Nation's government, the Fiscal Relations Table has researched and developed options in many areas of fiscal interaction. The issues being discussed and which will have to be negotiated in a fiscal framework include:

- ◆ resource revenue and benefit sharing
- ◆ the collection, maintenance and sharing of population data and statistics including, both on and off reserve members
- ◆ the development and maintenance of financial transfer mechanisms
- ◆ the exercise and jurisdiction of taxation powers
- ◆ the treatment and effect of own source generated revenues on a fiscal relationship
- ◆ methods to establish the fiscal equity that addresses the fair access to the resources needed by communities
- ◆ the maintenance of the relationship, including dispute resolution and processes for change
- ◆ the mechanisms for accountability in the fiscal relationship

These fiscal priorities and mechanisms form a fiscal toolkit or framework that can be used to build a fiscal agreement to enable a newly developed governance relationship.

SOME COMMON UNDERSTANDINGS FROM THE TREATY TABLE

THE NATURE OF THE TREATY RELATIONSHIP

- ◆ Treaty-making included the customs of First Nations and the Crown (both parties to Treaty) and created a fundamental political relationship between Treaty First Nations and the Crown.
- ◆ Treaties gave shape to this relationship, creating obligations and expectations on both sides.
- ◆ The treaty-making process involved the exchange of solemn promises, based on mutual respect for the spiritual and traditional values of the other. The Crown and First Nations entered into the agreements freely and of their own accord as the best possible means of advancing their respective interests.
- ◆ In entering these agreements, the Crown and First Nations recognized each others' authority and capacity to enter into treaties on behalf of their own peoples.
- ◆ The treaty parties acknowledged the solemnity of the treaties.
- ◆ The treaty-making process includes the principle of maintaining the honour of the Crown and the honour of Treaty First Nations in maintaining the treaty relationship. Equally important was the conduct and behaviour of the parties to honour and respect the commitments made in the treaties.

Photo Credit: Ted Whitecall



"If we follow the teachings of our grandfathers, we will go a long way. But we are the teachers of our children. We have to tell them, and we have lost a great deal of practice..."

Elder Gordon Oakes
Nekaneet First Nation, 1997

PURPOSE OF TREATY-MAKING

- ◆ Treaties were to provide for peace and good order between the parties and amongst the First Nations.
- ◆ Treaty-making was a way to build lasting and meaningful alliances between the Crown and First Nations that would foster the future well-being of the people they represented.
- ◆ Treaties were foundational agreements entered into for the purposes of providing the parties with the means to achieve survival and stability, anchored on the principle of mutual benefit.
- ◆ The relationship between the First Nations and the Crown is one in which both parties receive benefits from and create responsibilities to each other. The treaties created mutual obligations that were to be respected by the parties.

TREATY RELATIONSHIP IN THE FUTURE

- ◆ The treaty relationship is one in which the parties expect to resolve differences through mutual discussion and decision.
- ◆ The parties share a common commitment to reinvigorate the treaty relationship and to address the well-being of both parties in a respectful and supportive way.
- ◆ Treaty First Nations and Canada can enter into arrangements that build on their existing treaty relationship so Treaty First Nations will be able to exercise jurisdiction and governance over their lands and peoples. These agreements are not to alter treaties, they are to implement the treaty partnership in a contemporary way while respecting the principles of treaty-making.
- ◆ The parties recognize the Government of Saskatchewan has to participate to make progress in implementing Treaty First Nations' jurisdiction and governance in Saskatchewan. The parties believe the principles of the treaty relationship are beneficial for all people in Saskatchewan.

TREATY GOVERNANCE PROCESSES IN SASKATCHEWAN

In the Treaty Governance Processes there are two kinds of tables or forums: bilateral and trilateral.

Treaty Table bilateral talks are held between the two parties to Treaty- Canada and First Nations. Meetings are held once a month. Other talks are trilateral or tripartite. These discussions occur at the Common Table, the Governance Table and the Fiscal Relations Table.

The Common Table includes the Chief of the FSIN, the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and the provincial Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs. The Common Table serves to discuss treaty and governance matters that affect all three parties. The Common Table created two other tripartite tables: the Governance Table and the Fiscal Relations Table. The Governance Table explores issues directly related to implementing the Treaties such as jurisdiction. The Fiscal Relations Table is developing a government-to-government fiscal relationship with new funding arrangements to support First Nation governments.



Treaty Governance Processes

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ART: A WAY TO COPE WITH PEER PRESSURE

BY DARREN DESCHAMBEAULT

This issue features youth artist Darren Sugar. Sugar, age 16, is a member of the Piapot First Nation who currently attends high school in Prince Albert. The drawing on this edition of *Saskatchewan Indian* was one that Sugar submitted for a contest held about a year ago for the Youth Futures Program in Prince Albert. It was selected to be the official logo for the program.

Sugar says that the logo represents the Earth, sun, spirit, skies, birds and youth. It was designed with youth in mind. "I see youth continuing on their path in life. Also not to give up hope," he says.


For Sugar, art has provided an outlet for coping with peer pressure. "Some youth follow a path of destruction with their problems and there is no one out there to help them. There are many ways that the youth can deal with their problems, for example through sport and art. Art can touch the hurt inside an individual. Depending on the person, maybe they can play music to forget their problems. Or many youths use dancing powwow as a good way in getting in touch with their culture," he says.

This up and coming young artist began his artistic efforts at a young age. "I was a very creative child with many happy

thoughts," he remembers. "Once I tried it [drawing] out, I put all my imagination on the pictures," comments Sugar on his beginnings.

And while his natural creativity got him started in art, it is his cultural background that drives his work now. "The Indian culture is what got me interested in my art work," he explains. "Culture is so important for the youth. I sometimes go to sweats, when I'm invited."


At such a young age, Sugar looks to other, more experienced artists for guidance. He is fascinated with the works of many different First Nation painters. Their dedication and talent has motivated him. "My inspiration's to become an artist," say Sugar. A career in painting is his ultimate goal.

For more information about Darren Sugar or the Youth Futures Program, contact the Youth Futures Program in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan at #21-11th Street East, or phone their main office at (306) 953-4770 or toll free at 1-888-275-9372 

Bilingual Education: The Next Generation in Aboriginal Education (continued from page 21)

the near-future establishment of true bilingual school systems in our First Nation communities. This means First Nation children will study and learn about the world in their own first languages from nursery through to grade twelve (as well as English, of course) under the tutelage of qualified bilingual teachers.

This also means that the Elders- the keepers of the classical Cree language- will again assume their role as teachers and advisors in our oral traditions of learning. It's a massive undertaking, but the beauty of it is

that it is not just the pipe dream of a few anymore. This program is the first real move into the area of bilingual education, the next generation 'pentium' in First Nation education. These students are on the cutting edge of this movement. 



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event we are blocked by government non-cooperation, we maintain the right to seek redress through the court system. Given the current political and legal climate, I believe that we will succeed in our efforts to ensure a share in the resources and the subsidiary benefits. The FSIN will be hosting the next Gathering of the Prairie Treaty First Nations to further discuss and update on NRTA initiatives in either early December or January 2000.

The issue of fuel and tobacco taxation for on-reserve purchases has consistently been on the agendas of our Economic Development Commission as well as Executive Council & Indian Government Commission. As a number of First Nations have been directly involved in this matter, presentations and discussion have happened within the Commissions to determine the best approach to deal with the issue. Our position continues to be that the provincial tax laws do not apply on our First Nations in our opinion, this is an indisputable right guaranteed under Treaty. In discussions with provincial government officials, they are clearly aware of and respectful of our Treaty position. On behalf of the province, Minister Eric Cline is prepared to receive a proposed arrangement from the Ahtahkakoop First Nation that will address the issue of fuel and tobacco taxation on-reserve. With this, there is also the potential that a framework arrangement can be delivered that will apply to all First Nations and their respective vendors. Given our Treaty stance on this matter, the province has also agreed that any arrangement will indeed respect our Treaty position and will also recognize that any arrangement reached will be interim pending the outcome of taxation jurisdictional talks within the Treaty Governance Processes.

With respect to the recent announcement/recommendation by a Taxation Review Committee that First Nations pay the PST for off-reserve purchases, we will again maintain that Treaty First Nations have a guaranteed right to tax immunity. Secondly, any policy change that will affect or infringe on any Treaty Right must first be put to the First Nations in the form of consultations, this has not been done and such a unilateral change will not be accepted. In the event that Saskatchewan does decide to

unilaterally change their policy to require First Nations to pay PST for off-reserve purchases, FSIN legal counsel has prepared for submission, our legal argument/Statement of Claim that is based on Treaty. (The Supreme Court of Canada decision, Tomah, that subjected First Nations to provincial taxes was argued on the Indian Act and not Treaty).

With respect to the FSIN Corporate Circle, the September 21st gathering entitled "First Nations Economies and Opportunities" in Prince Albert proved a success. Our Corporate partners continue to support our efforts and we continue to strengthen our partnerships. One of the primary objectives of this initiative is to ensure First Nation participation and representation within the mainstream business economy and job market. It is the will of the Corporate partners to put every effort into ensuring comparable First Nation numbers within their respective organizations from introductory employment to middle and senior management positions. In support of this on-going initiative, strategic planning is underway for the development of a recruitment, employment and retention strategy that would facilitate the development of a First Nation human resource pool and support services to ensure job procurement and job retention for our First Nation citizens.

A Technical Advisory Committee has been established to facilitate the development of a long term strategic plan to meet the expectations of the Corporations and First Nations alike. Work is currently being undertaken on the development of business profiles of each of the Corporate Partners to determine how to maximize the partnership(s) and with First Nations and with First Nation businesses. On-going work and preparation for the March 2000 meeting of the Corporate Circle.

Also known as the Dene Table, the Northern Affairs Committee is made up of the Denesuline Chiefs and Tribal Vice-Chiefs from the Prince Albert Grand Council and the Meadow Lake Tribal Council. The Dene Table was established to ensure that the Denesuline First Nations' issues and concerns are brought to the attention of the FSIN and the Chiefs' Office. Regular meetings are convened to ensure that we are made aware of issues affecting the

First Nations and when requested, assistance is provided in addressing any specific concerns. This Table is necessary as there are circumstances relative to isolation factors, traditional land use, environment and lands and resource matters that require particular attention.

As many of you know, the 1995 Gaming Agreement is due to expire in February 2000. Negotiations for the new Gaming Agreement have been underway and it is expected that the First Nations will derive greater benefits from the new agreement. One very important matter under discussion is that of jurisdiction. As allowed for in the 1995 Agreement, work is underway for the First Nations' assumption of jurisdiction for on-reserve gaming. This will ultimately increase our economic base for the First Nations as well the derivative benefits. In addition to our regional gaming activities, the FSIN is assisting in a political and legal effort to bring about the jurisdictional changes for First Nation/Indian gaming nationally. Given our successful and well known SIGA Casinos, it was determined at the AFN level, that the FSIN should be involved in this national endeavour. A National Gaming Conference to formalize this effort is planned for August 2000 to be held in Prince Albert.

The FSIN is also undertaking efforts in the establishment of a "Treaty First Nations Governance Institute". A proposal was submitted some time ago and is currently under review. It is our opinion that such an Institute is necessary as we undergo forward movement on Treaty Implementation and First Nation jurisdictional assumption. The primary objective of the Institute is the development of First Nation capacity and training to assist in the operation of our First Nations and organizations. It is a national effort and we submitted based on the establishment and operation of our existing FSIN institutions as well as our already existing expertise and training capacities. Given our track record with our successful and internationally recognized institutions, I believe that it will be difficult to say no to our proposal and we look forward to expanding our institutional base that will serve not only our regional First Nations, but others across the country as well.

(continued on next page)

Meeting with National Chief is planned to determine relationship between AFN and FSIN proposals for Governance Institute. Meeting with federal lead, Catherine Macquarrie, is set for December 1st to discuss the FSIN proposal.

Communications is a vital department within the FSIN not only to ensure consistent and positive relations with media, but also to ensure that the public is provided with proper and accurate education with respect to our Treaties and the multitude of issues that we face daily as First Nations. In addition to the day to day communications/media relations, the department will undertake to develop public education strategies utilizing various mediums to ensure greater public awareness and understanding about our First Nation cultures, history and governance matters. Much of the negative reaction in the media to the First Nations and our efforts are due to lack of proper knowledge and understanding. Once we begin to enhance this awareness and education in the public, it is our hope that more positive reaction will ensue from the public and attacks that we have seen recently will not be so frequent. All negative public opinion of our First Nations and efforts will never disappear, however, we can do something to ensure that proper education and awareness is made available.

On the international front, I recently traveled to Geneva to participate in the submissions and discussions related to the "United Nations Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples". The struggles that we face in Canada as Indigenous First Nations are also felt by those Indigenous people from around the world. As many of you know, Canada recently received a negative report from the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the continued mistreatment of the Indigenous Peoples in Canada. Needless to say, Canada was greatly embarrassed by this. It is important to ensure continued participation in the international forum as matters relative to social, cultural, political, economic and most important for us, Treaties and Treaty Rights, are deliberated. I will note that over the years, Indigenous Peoples and Treaties have gained support, strength and credibility internationally. As a highly regarded par-

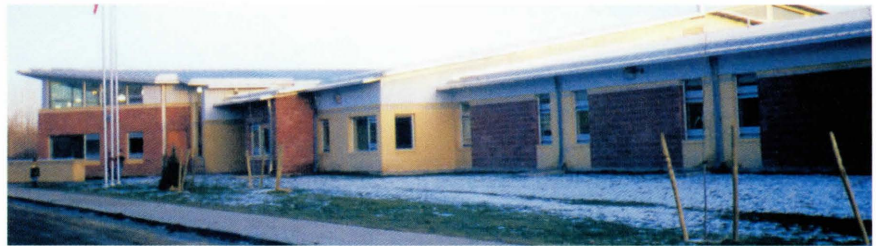
NEW SCHOOL IN CUMBERLAND HOUSE

by Darren Deschambeault

This year, students of the Cumberland Cree Nation have relocated to their new school. The facility is popular with the students, many of whom are impressed with the modern furnishings of the building and the fact that the structure resembles an eagle from the air. Its name,

in-coming student body. While student enrolment initially had low projections he says, "This facility was built to accommodate 250 students and is almost at full capacity."

Approximately half of the teachers at Nisto-Awasisak School are Aboriginal.



Nisto-Awasisak, meaning 'three children' in Cree, was chosen through a contest and reflects the nature of the building.

For many of the members of the Cumberland Cree Nation, Nisto-Awasisak carries special meaning. In 1994, three children tragically lost their lives while playing on the ice of the majestic north Saskatchewan River, located beside the First Nation. The name of the school preserves the memory of these young lives cut short.

"My wife has been working at the school for 15 years," says Angus Sewap. "I feel real good when I come inside this new school it reminds me of my late grandchildren that are named after this new school."

The new school is a fitting tribute, producing a positive learning environment for future generations of children. Principal Harold Flett is enthusiastic about the

Several teachers are from the south and they bring their own First Nation cultures to the students. These teachers provide positive role models for the students, many of whom are eager to learn about cultures other than their own. And while the cultural component is extremely important, "The academics have full control within the Cumberland Band school system," says Flett.

First Nation students who are living in the region have expressed an interested in enrolling in this new facility. Flett encourages this, saying, "We have an open door policy for any treaty students who want to come and enroll."

The grand opening of the Nisto-Awasisak School is slated for November 24, 1999.



participant in the United Nations, Canada's actions must conform to the international standard, and our presence must be continuous to ensure that Canada does maintain an appropriate standard with respect to our Treaties and Treaty Rights. It is our hope that the "Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" will be adopted in its present text, as it wholly supports our Inherent and Treaty Rights to self-determination, before the deadline year of 2004.

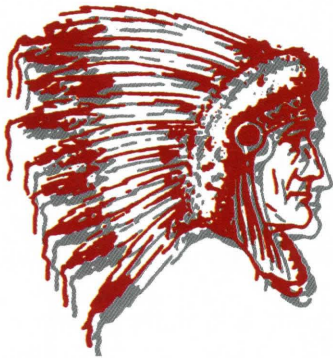
In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Executive and staff of the FSIN as well as the First Nation Chiefs, Council, Tribal Councils

and staff for their continued commitment and efforts in the very important work that is done for and with our people and communities. Thank you *Saskatchewan Indian* readership I wish you all well and take care.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

Chief Perry Bellegarde





Your Voice in

SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN

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Here I am

*Here I am just me and my mind
always thinking of things to do.
But the right thought is so hard to find.
Listening to people around me
so loud and unkind
I wish someone would just talk to me
So I won't have so much on my mind.*

by Mouse
Asiniw-kisik Education Campus
Kawacatoose First Nation

Wildflowers

*Life is like a wildflower
you never know when its going to bloom.
Like it's strong with no power
waiting to die real soon.
Not knowing which petal will fall next
or when the snow falls and nothing will be left.
Then the rain comes pouring down
Giving the plants and trees their showers.
Everything is dead now
that's why life is like a wildflower.*

by Mouse Asiniw-kisik Education Campus
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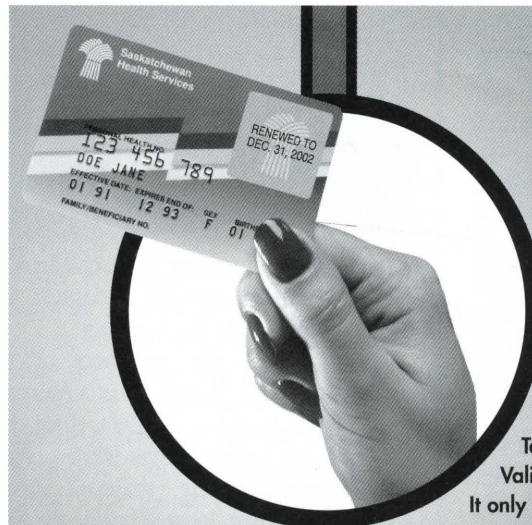
Fall

*Yellow leaves and
bright orange afternoons.
Mornings
that carry the bite of fall
and air
so clean and clear*

Readers' Submissions

*that we leap into the day.
A friendship time
such a beautiful day.*

by Danielle Desjarlais
Grade Nine Asiniw-kisik Education Campus
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