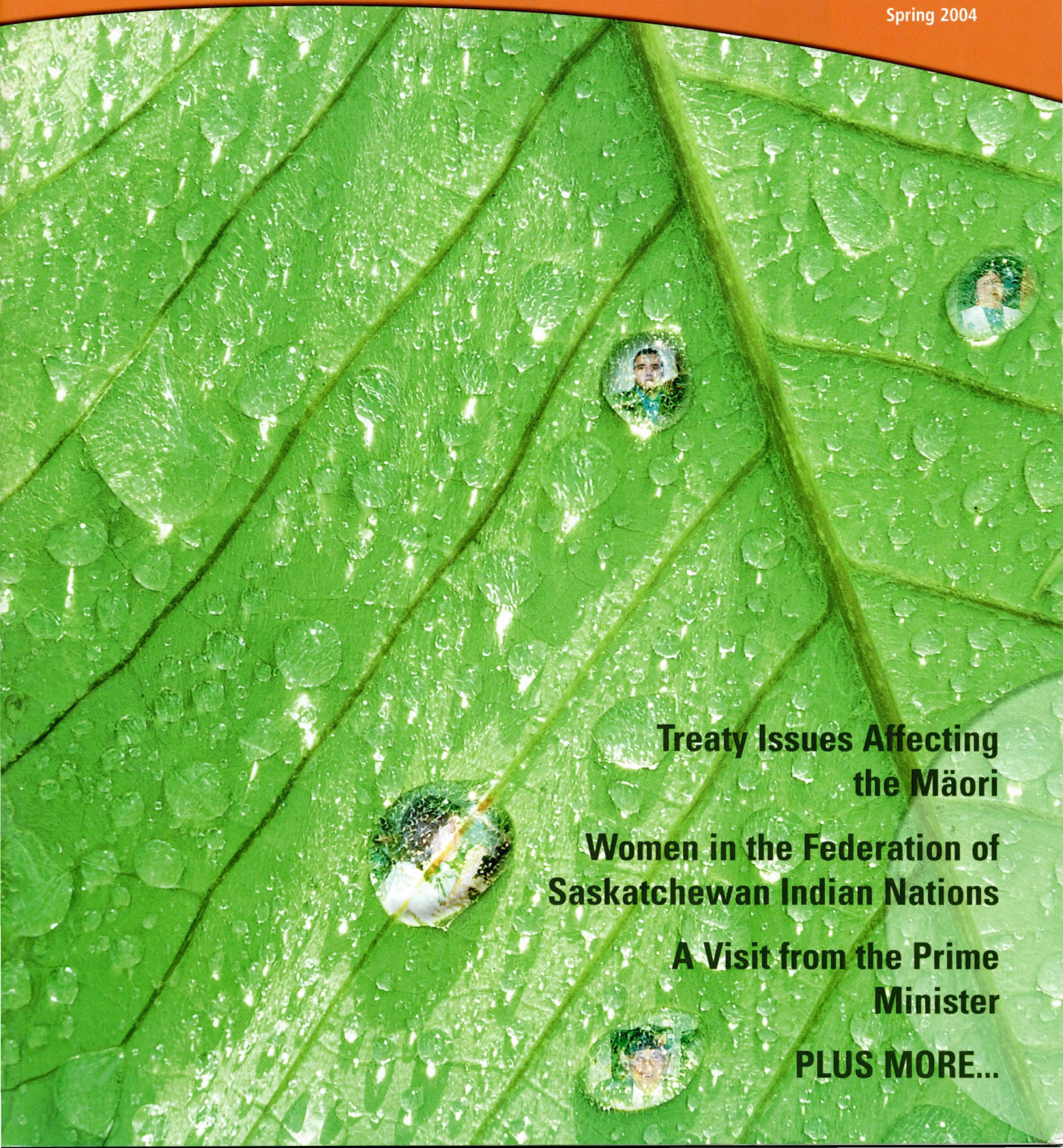


# INDIAN

Spring 2004

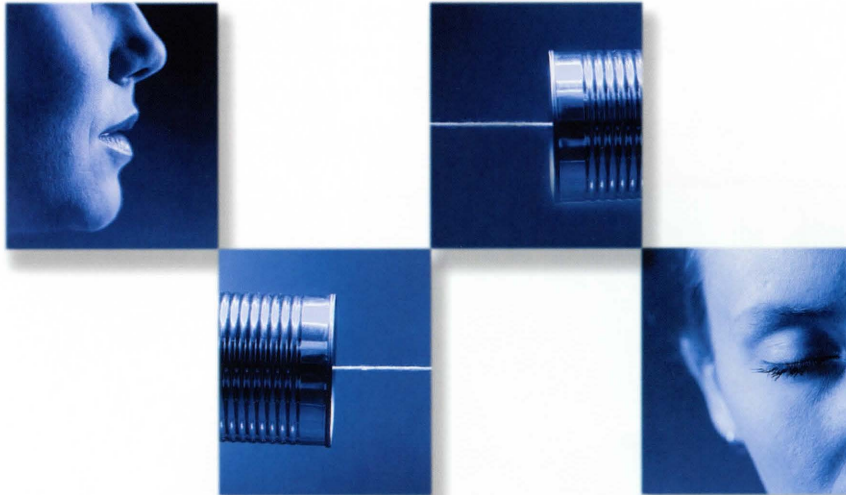


**Treaty Issues Affecting  
the Māori**

**Women in the Federation of  
Saskatchewan Indian Nations**

**A Visit from the Prime  
Minister**

**PLUS MORE...**



## MAKING VISUAL COMMUNICATION SIMPLE

Since 1986, Dark Horse Studio has pushed the boundaries of traditional communications. We offer an integrated approach that includes strategic planning, advertising & graphic arts, photography, media placement, multimedia & web design, pre-press & colour management and consumer & market research.

It's all here, in-house. Because the whole point of a full service communications firm is to provide full, seamless service. That's how you save clients time and money . . .without sacrificing quality.

To build your business, market your services, heighten your profile - talk to us. We'll make the most of your communications dollars.

**DHS**  
COMMUNICATIONS

Ph: 1-306-652-5086 • Fax: 1-306-652-7666

112-112 Research Drive • Saskatoon, SK • Canada • S7N 3R3

[www.dhscommunications.com](http://www.dhscommunications.com)



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

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

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

Saskatchewan Indian  
 Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations  
 Suite #200 – 103A Packham Ave  
 Saskatoon, SK S7N 4K4

Telephone: (306) 665-1215  
 Fax: (306) 665-0115

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

Saskatchewan Indian is published by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

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

For advertising information: Bonnie Leask (306) 956-1014 or DHS Publishing (306) 652-5086

Layout and Design: Natasha Pidhaychuk

Contributors: Bonnie Leask, Dorothy Myo, Melissa Cote, Patrick Johnston, Wilma Ibbister, Paul Favel, Brenda Manitoken, Richard Missens, Tracy Lavalee, Marlene Lumberjack, Erica Beaudin, Patricia Dieter, Bev Lafond

Printed in Saskatchewan by Four Directions Printing Inc. (306) 721-1874

Produced by DHS Publishing Inc. (306) 652-5086

©Copyright 2003. All rights reserved. ISSN 0048-9204.

**2 Indian Outlook**

*Saskatchewan's First Nations Calendar of Events*

**4 Letter from the Editor**

**5 Treaty Issues Affecting the Māori**

**8 All Nations Travel**

**9 Young Scouts**

**11 William Herb Parks**

**14 Women in the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations**

**16 Senate**

**17 Milestone Reached for First Nations Women**

**18 A Visit from the Prime Minister**

**20 There is Something About Spring**

**21 Introducing the Indigenous Gaming Regulators**

**23 Upcoming First Nations Winter Games 2004**

**24 Youth Assembly**

**25 The Chiefs Committee on Health**

**26 Health Consent Update**

**28 Announcements**

SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN CULTURAL CENTRE  
 LIBRARY DEPARTMENT  
 120-33rd STREET EAST  
 SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN  
 S7K 0S2

# INDIAN OUTLOOK

## Saskatchewan's First Nations Calendar of Events

**April 1, 2004**

### **Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region Addictions Services Community Education Course – Session D**

Wascana Rehabilitation Centre – Hostel  
Classrooms, Regina, SK, Mental Health  
& Addictions Services - Roger Ives  
(306) 766 – 7923

**April 3 & 4, 2004**

### **26th Annual First Nation University of Canada Powwow**

Entry fee \$3.00/da; \$5.00 for weekend  
Agridome – Regina Exhibition Park  
Regina, SK  
(306) 790 – 5950  
info@firstnationsuniversity.ca

**April 3-4, 2004**

### **All Nations Midget Hockey Classic**

Christopher & Desmond Memorial  
Arena, Montreal Lake, SK  
\$300 entry fee  
Roger Bird (306) 663 – 5349 or  
(306) 961 – 5328

**April 6 – 8, 2004**

### **GoodSpirit Wellness 7th Annual Residential School Wellness Conference**

Holiday Inn  
Yorkton, SK  
Contact: Leonard  
(306) 542-7314

**April 9 – 16, 2004**

### **Saskatchewan First Nation Winter Games**

hosted by Eastern Sector Chiefs - Red  
Earth, Shoal Lake, Cumberland House  
Nipawin, SK  
Mel Mercredi (306) 956 – 7234  
Elton Head (306) 768 – 3640

**April 14 & 15, 2004**

### **Men & Healing Relationships Workshop**

Ramada Hotel & Conference Centre  
Edmonton, AB  
Native Wellness Institute  
(604) 961 – 6542  
alice@nativewellness.com or  
www.nativewellness.com

**April 14 – 16, 2004**

### **Women's Self Care & Spirituality Workshop**

Ramada Hotel & Conference Centre  
Edmonton, AB  
Native Wellness Institute  
(604) 961 – 6542  
alice@nativewellness.com or  
www.nativewellness.com

**April 18 – 24, 2004**

### **National Aboriginal Hockey Championships**

Prince George, British Columbia  
Shirley Greyeyes MacDonald  
(306) 956 – 1034

**April 19-Nov 30, 2004 On-going**

### **Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator (MCSA) Training Program – continuous intakes**

Saskatoon, SK  
ViaTech Solutions  
Sylvia Gopher  
(306) 956 – 0333  
sgopher@viatechsolutions.ca

**April 20 – 22, 2004**

### **Leading By Example**

Regina, SK  
Dispute Resolution Office  
(306) 787 – 5376

**April 20 – 21, 2004 8:30 am**

### **Thunderplains Consulting presents Ensuring Aboriginal Voices in Policy and Program**

Saskatoon Travelodge  
Saskatoon, SK  
Thunderplains Consulting  
(306) 933 – 1929  
ThunderPlains@shaw.ca

**April 21, 2004**

### **Stepping Stones to the Future 2004: A Career Gathering for Aboriginal Youth – The Youth Rally**

Scott Collegiate  
Regina, SK  
Terrina Bellegarde  
(306) 359 – 5275  
terrinas@fsin.com

**April 27 – 29, 2004**

### **Introduction to Mediation**

Regina, SK  
Dispute Resolution Office  
(306) 787 – 5376

**April 28, 2004**

### **AWASIS Conference 2004**

Saskatoon Inn  
Saskatoon, SK  
Register on-line to win prizes  
www.scs.sk.ca/jdh/home.asp  
Kevin Pilon  
(306) 343-5999

**April 30, 2004 Nominations  
Deadline March 31, 2004**

### **6th Annual SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards of Excellence**

Saskatoon Inn  
Saskatoon, SK  
Colleen Cameron (306) 931 – 6205  
Shawn Albert (306) 931 – 6286

**May 5 & 6, 2004**

### **Investment Future Forum**

Delta Regina Convention Centre  
Regina, SK  
Debbie Nelson  
(306) 787 – 7200  
fforum@cicorp.sk.ca

**May 12 – 14, 2004**

### **FSIN Youth Assembly**

FSIN Youth Assembly  
Prince Albert, Sk  
Richard Missens  
(306)665.1215

**May 14 – 16, 2004**

**Javelin / Archery Clinic & Competitions**

Javelin / Archery Clinic & Competitions  
Montreal Lake, SK  
Cliff Bird  
(306) 960 – 7008

**May 19 – 21, 2004**

**First Nation Community Curriculum Workshop: Module Two: Language Retention through Fine Arts, Literature and Language Arts**

Saskatoon Inn  
Saskatoon SK  
ThunderPlains Consulting  
(306) 933 – 1929  
ThunderPlains@shaw.ca

**May 19, 2004**

**Thunder Plains First Nation Silent Auction, Drama and Dance Performance**

Saskatoon Inn – Ballroom A  
Saskatoon, SK  
ThunderPlains Consulting  
(306) 933 – 1929  
ThunderPlains@shaw.ca

**May 20, 2004**

**Thunder Plains First Nation presents 4th Anniversary Wedding Roundance of Darrell & Michelle Poorman**

Saskatoon Inn – Ballroom A  
Saskatoon, SK  
Darrell Poorman  
(306) 251 - 2224

**May 21 – 23, 2004**

**Painted Hand Casino's 4th Annual Pow-wow**

Agriplex  
Yorkton, SK  
Kimberley Lavallee  
(306) 786 – 6777 or  
kimberley.lavallee@siga.sk.ca

**June 5 – 8, 2004**

**2004 National Social Work Conference**

Centennial Auditorium  
Saskatoon, SK  
For more information:  
(306) 545 - 1895

**June 8 – 10, 2004**

**FSIN Chiefs Spring Legislative Assembly**

Yorkton, SK  
Legislative Assembly Office  
(306) 665 - 1215

**June 9, 2004**

**Circle of Honour Awards 2004**

Yorkton, Sk.  
www.fsin.com  
Lorraine Delorme  
(306) 790-4105  
Jeannie Pewapisconias  
(306) 956-6938

**June 9 – 12, 2004**

**National Indian and Inuit Community Health Representatives Organization Presents the First National Aboriginal Injury Prevention Conference: Towards Community Action on Aboriginal Injuries**

registration fee \$395  
Winnipeg Convention Centre  
Winnipeg, MB  
For more information  
www.aipc2004.ca  
info@aipc2004.ca  
(450) 632-0892 ext 24

**June 17 – 18, 2004**

**10th Biennial Violence & Aggression Symposium**

Sponsored by Regional Psychiatric Centre Correctional Service of Canada and The University of Saskatchewan Extension Division  
Delta Bessborough Hotel  
Saskatoon, SK  
Fees and details:  
www.extension.usask.ca/go/VA  
For more information:  
(306) 966 – 5575 or  
VA.symposium@usask.ca

# INDIAN OUTLOOK

Saskatchewan's First Nations  
Calendar of Events

**July 6 – 8, 2004**

**F.S.I.N. 1st Annual Urban Development Conference "Journey into Tomorrow"**

Centennial Auditorium  
Saskatoon, SK  
Peggy Robillard  
(306) 956 – 1018  
(306) 260 – 0870

**Oct 19-21, 2004**

**Chiefs Winter Legislative Assembly**

Location: TBA  
Legislative Assembly Office  
(306) 665 - 1215

If you would like your meeting notice or special event to be included in the Summary Listing of First Nations Calendar of Events, Please forward a copy of the information to:

calendar.info@fsin.com

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations  
- Saskatoon Office  
Tel: (306) 665-1215  
Fax: (306) 244 - 4413

# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Tansi! Welcome to the 2004 Spring Saskatchewan Indian. We, the Executive and staff of the FSIN, hope that many of our readers have managed to make it through the colder months of January and some of February and are enjoying the beautiful weather of late February and so far of March.

March 8 was International Women's Day; therefore we have highlighted articles recognizing First Nations women and their contributions to our communities, urban and reserve. The February FSIN Legislative Assembly recognized a new commission in the FSIN Convention Act. The recognition of the Women's Commission is a significant event in for the FSIN and we look forward to the development of the secretariat.

In terms of policy and development in our communities, much has

happened. The controversial health consent issue has been put to rest, marking a new era in First Nation and government relations. We also enjoyed a visit from Prime Minister Paul Martin in February. The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology (SIIT) Saskatoon campus welcomed the Prime Minister on his tour and it was the first time a Prime Minister has visited SIIT.

There are two exciting events coming up. Firstly the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC), Shoal Lake Cree Nation, Red Earth Cree Nation and Cumberland House are hosting the much-anticipated 2004 First Nation Winter Games. The theme of the Games is "Communities in Partnership". This is fitting theme considering that there is a lot of commentary in our communities about working together. I wish all

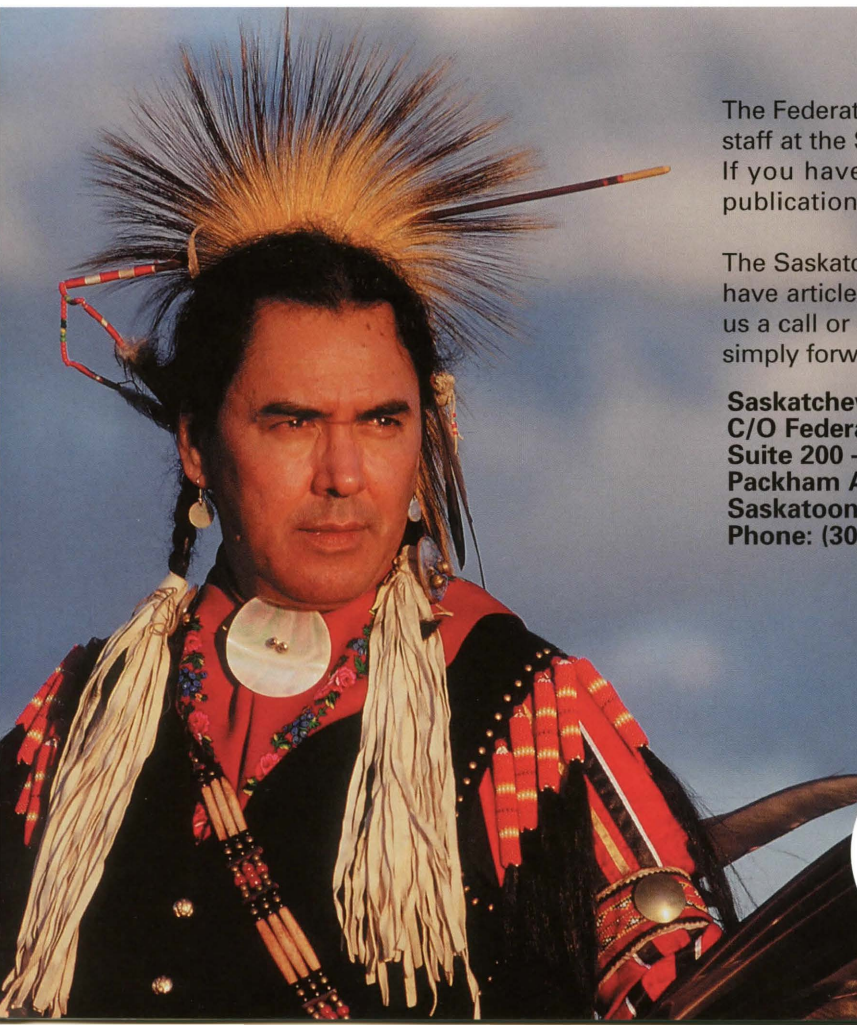
the athletes luck and good games. Secondly the FSIN Youth Assembly scheduled for May of 2004.

Also featured is (Elder) Herb Parks, a respected member of the Muskoday First Nation, who has led an exciting life and continues to learn new activities, and is an inspiration to all. We also have an article from one of our Saskatchewan First Nation youth who traveled to New Zealand.

Thank you to all those who have contributed and assisted with editing. We encourage people or communities to contact us with any ideas or writing for future publications. We also welcome any comments on our previous issues.

Thank you and all the best in the Indian New Year.

**Bonnie Leask**  
Managing Editor




The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the editorial staff at the Saskatchewan Indian want to know what you think. If you have any comments, questions or concerns about this publication please don't hesitate to contact us.

The Saskatchewan Indian also invites your submissions. If you have articles, photographs, artwork or letters to the editor give us a call or simply visit our web site at [www.fsin.com](http://www.fsin.com). Or simply forward your submissions to:

**Saskatchewan Indian**  
C/O Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations  
Suite 200 -103 A  
Packham Avenue  
Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 4K4  
Phone: (306)665-1215 Fax: (306)665-0115

WE VALUE  
*YOUR*  
OPINION!



# Treaty Issues Affecting the Māori

## Indigenous peoples of New Zealand

Article & Photos by Bev Lafond

Huka Falls

*The Native Law Centre at the University of Saskatchewan, in cooperation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, offers international internships for youth of Canada to work with organizations that serve the needs of Indigenous peoples all over the world. The focus of these internships is learning about empowerment strategies in cross-cultural settings.*

*The Native Law Centre assigned Bev Lafond of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation to the Mira Szászy Research Centre at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. She was seconded to many different organizations, including the Human Rights Commission (Te Kāhui Tika Tangata). She was aware of issues affecting First Nations people in Canada, and wanted to see what new initiatives or developments were occurring internationally that could work for her own community. She was responsible for research*

*on many Treaty issues affecting Māori, the Indigenous peoples of New Zealand, and specifically whether human rights legislation could represent the interests of whanau (family) and hapu (clans), the centre of Māori life.*

*Bev currently is working as Legal Counsel for the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations in Saskatoon. The following is a description of some of the knowledge she gained while in New Zealand.*

I decided to do an internship with the Native Law Centre because I wanted to learn more about international Indigenous issues and specifically what successful initiatives other Indigenous groups were advancing. I understood the issues affecting Canadian First Nation people through my life and throughout my university career, I wanted to see what new initiatives or developments were occurring internationally that could work

here for my own community, Muskeg Lake. I chose to go to New Zealand, or Aotearoa the Māori name for the land, because I had heard that there was a similarity between the issues facing Māori people and the First Nations of Saskatchewan.

I have a degree in Native Studies and a law degree. At the time I applied for the internship, I had just completed my articles with the firm, MacPherson Leslie & Tyerman LLP. The criteria for these types of internships were to have post secondary training or were going to be completing some training. The focus of the internship was to provide people with international experience that they may in any other setting might not be able to achieve on their own.

I made contact with different people and organizations in New Zealand. Through the kumara vine (akin to the moccasin telegraph

here), my name and details were given to Manuka Henare, the Director, Mira Szászy Research Centre for Māori and Pacific Economic Development (the "Centre"). The Centre is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for Māori, Pacific Islanders and other Indigenous peoples, their communities, small-medium enterprises and nations. The Centre brings together experienced and skilled practitioners and scholars dedicated to high quality outcomes.

Manuka Henare, my mentor while in Aotearoa, also advised that there would be an opportunity for me to work with the Human Rights Commission and the Treaty of Waitangi and Indigenous Peoples Human Rights. Being at a university base offered me the freedom to do research, to write, and be involved with a diverse range of Māori organizations. I was also very fortunate to meet with Arthur Harawira, who was employed with the Crown Forestry Rental Trust and Donna Hall, a lawyer who works on treaty issues.

I gained invaluable knowledge of Māori norms and cultural values, the ability to network with contacts in multinational settings, adaptability, mobility, patience, tolerance, respect for differences, the ability to communicate with foreigners effectively and productively, the ability to seek the positive and the humour in any situation, and an enhanced understanding of my own Cree values and identity.

I took a particular interest in issues surrounding the Treaty of Waitangi, signed by the Māori and the Pakeha (non-Māori people) in 1840. Specifically I was interested in the function of the Waitangi Tribunal. It is interesting to note that there are two treaties made up, one in English and one in Māori.

Members of the Crown and several English residents, and approximately 45 Māori leaders signed the Treaty of Waitangi at Waitangi in the Bay of Islands. The Māori text of the Treaty was then taken around the north island to obtain additional Māori signatures and copies were sent around the

rest of the country for signing. The English text was signed by only 39 Māori leaders, likely because it was the only text of the Treaty available to them. By the end of 1840, over 500 Māori had signed on to the Treaty.

However, it was not until the passing of the Treaty of Waitangi Act in 1975, which established the Waitangi Tribunal, that a forum was created with the sole purpose of investigating Treaty grievances held by Māori against the Crown. Prior to 1975, many Māori petitions and protests relating to the Treaty fell on deaf ears. In fact, the Treaty was declared a nullity by one judge in 1877.

The Waitangi Tribunal was set up to inquire into claims by Māori against any Crown act, policy, action, or omission that prejudicially affects Māori. If it is determined the Tribunal has jurisdiction, the claim is then registered, heard, and reported on to the Minister of Māori Affairs. If it sees fit, the Tribunal may make recommendations about the claim to the Government.





The Office of Treaty Settlements, not the Waitangi Tribunal, is responsible for settling claims, such as land claims. The Office of Treaty Settlement is the body that can best report on how claims are resolved. However, the Tribunal has completed almost 70 reports on claims covering a range of issues - from te reo Māori and the radio spectrum to the environment, geothermal resources, and fisheries - and the Government has implemented many of the recommendations contained in those reports. The reports have also played a very important role in kick-starting many initiatives and institutions, including Māori radio (reo irirangi), the Māori Language Commission (Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori), and the Māori Broadcasting Funding Agency (Te Māngai Pāho).



Culture North Treaty of Waitangi Sound & Light Show

While there are still fundamental disagreements between the New Zealand government and the Māori people, the Waitangi Tribunal has worked towards trying to revisit the wrongs of the past and build a better future by building a better understanding between Māori and Pakeha.

While the Tribunal is not a perfect model and does have some negative aspects, for example, its decisions in most instances are non-binding, it does allow for more effective communication between the Māori and Pakeha.

I was also able to provide general information on Canada's policy and legislation with regard to First Nation and provided information on Canadian First Nation initiatives and development. For example, initiatives occurring in Muskeg Lake regarding education and early childhood development, were reviewed and researched to determine if it could benefit Māori educators.

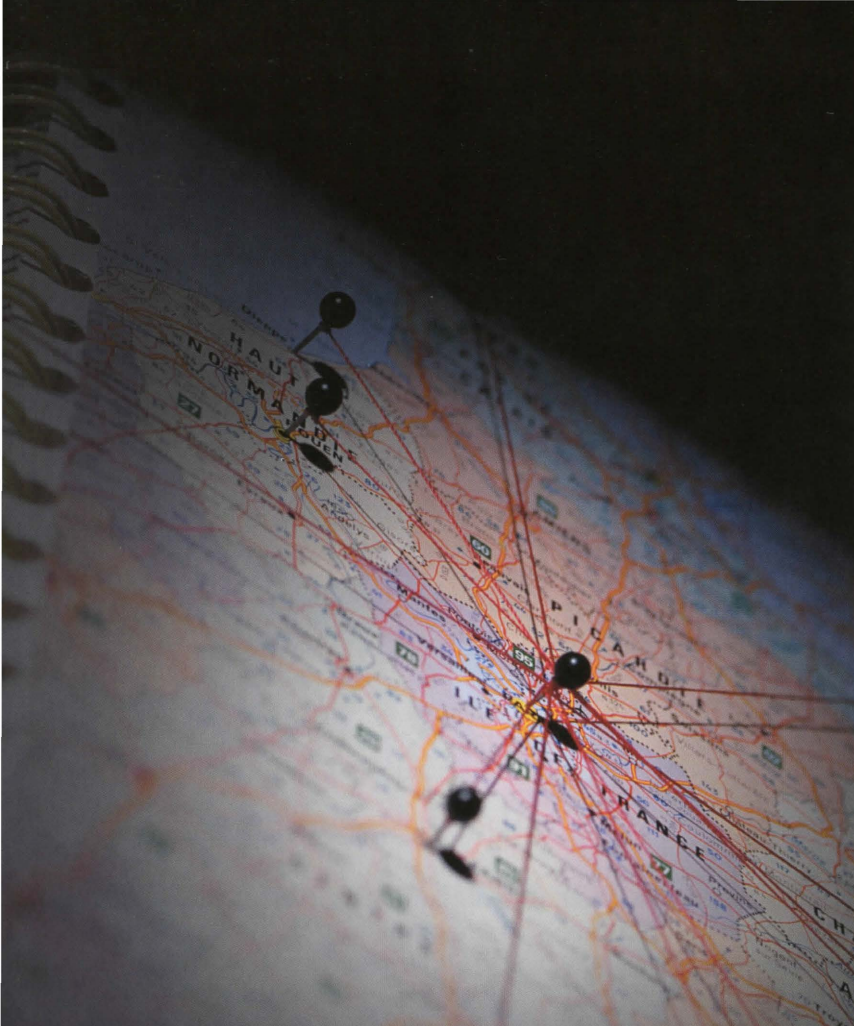
I am grateful for the experience and the networks that were developed. I still keep in touch with many of the people I met and am able to keep up-to-date on many international Indigenous issues and the affect it could have on Saskatchewan's First Nation communities. 🍏

*For more information on internships, please visit <http://www.usask.ca/nativelaw/programs/internship/index.html> or contact Wanda McCaslin, Young Professionals International Coordinator. More information is also available at <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/yipi-jpi/menu-en.asp>.*

*For more information on the Centre, please visit <http://www.business.auckland.ac.nz/comwebContent/1/8/37/181/3824.html>*



Waitangi Treaty Grounds Marae



## All Nations Travel

By Bonnie Leask

Another innovative area that First Nations are participating in is the travel industry. On February 20, 2004 the Beardy's & Okemasis First Nations had their grand opening of their new travel agency – All Nations Travel.

Chief Garnet Eyahpaize, and councilors, Harris Sutherland, Harvey Cameron, Arthur Thomas, Shirley Gamble and Remi Mike were on hand to introduce the new agency, which is housed on the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Urban Reserve in Saskatoon. FSIN Executive members Vice Chief Morley Watson and Vice Chief Delbert Wapass were in attendance to offer congratulatory messages to Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation Chief and Council. Saskatoon City Councilor Bev Dubois also brought congratulatory greetings on behalf of the City of Saskatoon.

"There is a lot to be excited about in terms of First Nations and

economic development in the province of Saskatchewan. More and more First Nations are taking advantage of opportunities that are outside of the so-called 'traditional' economic development ventures associated with lands and resources. The impacts of such diversified ventures, such as All Nations Travel, are tremendous for the people of Saskatchewan, both First Nations and non-First Nations alike", explained Vice Chief Watson.

General Manager Glen Strumborg, noted that it is the only agency in Canada on First Nations land. Currently, there are two staff, however there are ongoing interviews taking place to fill positions, many of which will be staffed by First Nations people.

The idea of opening a First Nations owned travel agency has been in the works for quite sometime. Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation seized upon the opportunity and

began working on developing the business concept in September 2003. With the travel agency located on the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, registered First Nations with a status number will be exempt from paying the goods and service tax.

All Nations Travel is a full service travel agency, which offers reservations for airlines, hotels and car rental agencies and assisting with planning vacations. As well, the team at All Nations is able to assist with conference planning. All Nations is a member of a travel consortium called Travelsavers within North America. The friendly and expert travel agents will be able to serve all your travel needs. ✍

For more information or to make travel arrangements, please contact All Nations Travel at 1.866.933.8181 or (306) 933.8181 or log on to their website at [www.allnationstravel.ca](http://www.allnationstravel.ca).

# Young Scouts

Article & Photos by Patrick Johnston

A group of round dance singers group recently held a recording session at Audio Art Recording Studios, for Sweet Grass Records, in Saskatoon for their second album, "Plan 2 Round Dance".

The group called Young Scouts, are made up of First Nation members from various drum groups, from all over Indian Country in Canada and the U.S.A. At the time of the recording session, there were 15 singers/drummers. The group is comprised of singer/drummers who represent various powwow groups on the powwow trail.

Young Scout member Lyle Tootoosis of Poundmaker First Nation mentioned, "most of these guys were my friends over the years. I had seen them in past performances and enjoyed what they were doing, so I decided to join the group this winter."

To wrap up the recording session, Darrell Paskemin of Sweetgrass First Nation played a solo flute session. This flute music will be added to the album. Darrell learned to play the flute on the powwow trail.

Their first album is titled "Meet Ya at the Round Dance" which was released in 2003 produced by Ted Whitecalf of Sweet Grass Records. Featured on their first release was the late Percy Dreaver of Big River First Nation. Percy was a member of the Whitefish Juniors Powwow group. As well, he composed many powwow and round dance songs in his lifetime. Percy will always be remembered as an inspiration to the guys in the group as well on the powwow trail.

In November 2003, Young Scouts won a Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards for "Best Hand Drum Album" for their work on "Meet Ya at the Round Dance". The awards were held in Toronto and producer Ted Whitecalf accepted the award on behalf of the group.

Though they were aware of the nomination, the win came as a good surprise for the group. Recognizing that this kind of award does not come without assistance, Young Scout member Marc Longjohn of the Sturgeon Lake First Nation said, "We want to give Ted Whitecalf and Sweet Grass Records a big thank you for taking a chance with us and for all the support and kindness. Ted is an excellent promoter and his passion for First Nations music shows in the quality of music he produces."



Brad Crain - Muskoday First Nation



Henry "Boss" Gardypie - Beady's & Okemasis First Nation



Audio Art Recording Studio



Darrell Paskemin - Sweetgrass First Nation

In addition, the group is very thankful to their families for their support, as well as to Clayton Chief of Ministikwin, Mervin Dreaver of Big River First Nation, Eugene Cardinal from Kihiwini, Alberta, Edward Runningaround of Waterhen First Nation, Gordon McGilvery of Saddle Lake, Alberta, Norman Yellowbird of Hobbema, Alberta, the Whitefish Juniors drum group, Blackstone drum group, the Logan Alexis Singers and the late Art Moosomin for everyone's encouragement and guidance.

On their second album there were a number of honoured guests singers who contributed to the album. These guests include: Sidrick "Mister" Baker of New Town, North Dakota, U.S.A., Henry "Boss" Gardipie of the Wildhorse Singers, Dale Morin and Sheldon Rainy of Whitefish Junior Singers, Troy Tootoosis, Quinton "Magwa" Tootoosis and Brad Morin of Enoch First Nation, Alberta, Earl McLeod of James Smith Cree Nation and Wendy Singer of Joseph Bighead First Nation.

Young Scouts was formed to pay respect to the Elder lead singers and song makers who have paved the road for the youth to follow. Often with many First Nation youth, there is a need for role models in various aspects. The

foundation of which Young Scouts began, was to encourage lead singers to continue carrying the tradition of round dance music. One of the requirements Young Scouts like to keep within the parameters of the songs are "as long as kokum and mushroom can dance to it".

Round dances are generally held in the winter for a range of reasons, including memorials, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Round dances are great for all ages and a good place to socialize. Often overlooked is the ceremony which is the most important part of the round dance. There are different reasons for having the ceremony and it is best discussed with an Elder.

Members of the Young Scouts include: Marc Longjohn, Brad Crain of Muskoday First Nation, Jeffery Crookedneck of Ministikwin, Randy Paskemin of Sweetgrass First Nation, Wavell Starr of Starblanket First Nation, Lyle "Sweet Pea" Tootoosis, Allan Bonaise of Little Pine First Nation, Terrance Littlelent of Kawacatoose First Nation, Randy "Sliver" Pooyak of Sweetgrass First Nation, Darrell Paskimin, Clifton "Cheetah" Chakita of Mosquito First Nation, Delia Waskewitch of Little Pine First Nation, Devere Tsatoke of Apachee Okalahoma and Brian Waskewitch of Onion Lake First Nation. ✍

Young Scouts second album "Plan 2 Round Dance" will be available to pick up for your next car ride to the powwow in late spring. More information can be found on their website, [www.youngscouts.com](http://www.youngscouts.com) or [www.sweetgrassrecords.com](http://www.sweetgrassrecords.com)

# William Herb Parks



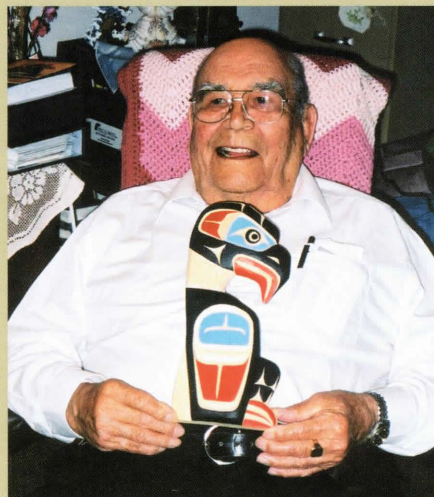
Photos Courtesy Wilma Isbister

Many children are proud of their parents and the love they bestow upon them and Wilma Isbister is no exception. I had the opportunity to sit down and talk with Wilma about her father, William Herb Parks, better known as "Herb." *By Bonnie Leask*

Herb was born on August 3, 1912 and is from the Muskoday First Nation. He is the oldest of five siblings. Herb grew up on and near the reserve. He attended day school, however at seven years of age his mother passed away and his father told him he could not attend school anymore because being the oldest he had to look after his siblings. Though his formal schooling was put on hold, that did not mean his education ended. Like many people who

grew up during this time, Herb was taught the meaning of hard work and giving back to his family.

He worked for farmers around the Muskoday area; as well he would go to Harper Lake north of Smeaton. When he was at Harper Lake, he would go out on the trapline. Herb would often pass on to his family how he was taught to use all the parts of the animals, for food, for clothing and other useful survival tools. He was taught



about the medicinal uses of various plants and has many stories about this period of his life. He always keeps in mind that it was because of his parents, Elders like Edward and Caroline Bear and other mentors in his life that he gained his knowledge and values which served as a strong foundation throughout his life.

With many men and women, both First Nations and non-First Nations, signing up for the war, Herb decided that he too should sign up and offer his services to his country. Herb served as a sergeant in the 67<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Battery. This was with the air defense of Great Britain. Herb was an instructor who provided basic and advance training to soldiers in Aldershot, England, to prepare them for conflict. He also participated in commando training with the Norwegians for a special mission that was cancelled. Herb was discharged on September 28, 1945 and still remembers vividly



Herb & Jessie  
on their  
Wedding day.

the landscape and countryside he saw and would like to take his family to Scotland and England to share with them some of the beautiful things he saw.

Following the war, Herb returned to Muskoday and married Jessie Bear. He and Jessie have two daughters, Laurette and Wilma. Herb worked in Prince Albert and through the years gained the appropriate training to become a journeyman machinist. Herb found work in many places in Canada such as northern Saskatchewan, the Arctic, northern Ontario and eventually moved to British Columbia. He worked in Texada Island, New Westminster and in 1965 settled in Powell River, B.C. Herb worked building many machines and engines for pulp and paper mills, mining companies, ship builders and a variety of other industries.

In 1965, he and Jessie purchased a 30-bed home. The home was originally an old folks home,

however Jessie was trained as a psychiatric nurse. With the new home, they opened a home for mentally challenged individuals. Herb continued to work as a machinist, often away from home for long periods of time leaving Jessie running the business on her own.

In 1972, Herb and Jessie, both semi-retired, decided to move back to Saskatchewan to settle on his father's old homestead near Muskoday. He continued to work occasionally as a machinist, did some farm work for neighbors and relatives and worked as a commissionaire. He instilled the importance of family, working hard and standing up for what you believe in.

Herb and Jessie have three grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren who are spoiled very much by their grandpa. He shares with his family his excellent ability to tell stories. Wilma tells me that Herb has a story for just about every

occasion and he tells stories with great emotion. Some of his family members have a great time recalling his stories, some far fetched, but most true lessons of life.

One of Wilma's memories of one of her father's stories demonstrates his dedication to ensuring his children learned to appreciate and work for themselves. When he was a young boy, he had a black dog that helped him chase gophers all summer long one year. He got 100 gopher tails and his Dad took him to Birch Hills to sell them. They went to the municipal office and the person there took the gopher tails and asked how many he had. He told him, 100! He thought the man was going to count them, but he turned around and threw them into the fire. He paid Herb \$1.00 and that was the first dollar he ever made.

In 2000, after 54 years of married life, Jessie passed away. Herb, though lonely for his wife, decided to return to Powell River to live with his daughter Laurette. There

he picked up once again the activities he enjoyed while living on the coast; fishing, digging for clams and oyster picking. He has since decided to take up carving at 90 years of age. The work of the Coast Salish with cedar is world-renowned and Herb has become quite the carver himself. He has been taught by a master carver from the Sliammon First Nation and has taught Wilma how to carve. Currently he and some carvers from Sliammon First Nation are working on a 30-foot totem pole that has been commissioned by Powell River to stand in the town site.

Herb has been sober for many years and is always there to lend his support to those battling alcohol addictions. He loves people and loves telling stories, which he has many. Tales from when he was young, going through the dirty 30's, the flu epidemic in the 20's, stories from his experiences on the trap line, hunting, fishing and making snowshoes.

Through his storytelling he always communicates the message that it is important to be independent, strong and go where ever there is work. It's the only way to get experience and gain knowledge. It is important in life to accept lessons learned from other people. Work hard, be determined and finish what you do. Stay with it. That's how achievements are made in life.

In June he is going on his first Alaskan cruise with his family and a close friend. Never too old to go on your first cruise! He has demonstrated to his family and friends that life doesn't end at age 65 and it is never too late to learn new things and you should never stop learning. Even at 91 years old Herb continues to learn something new everyday.



# Women in the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

By Patricia Dieter - Peepeeksis First Nation

First Nations' women have become a stronger political voice at the Chief and council level in Saskatchewan, however, there is still no woman executive member at the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN). This should be a concern to all First Nations' membership as key members of our First Nations society are missing. Women played a pivotal role in the establishment of the FSIN in the past. Past FSIN executive members, such as Eleanor Brass (1944), Gladys Dreaver (1946) and Cathy Merasty (1973), should be acknowledged and celebrated for their efforts to actively participate in shaping the policies and vision of the FSIN. Their contributions should be a reminder that First Nations' women have a place within the FSIN executive.

Eleanor Brass, from Peepeeksis, was the first Indian woman executive to serve in 1944 as the Secretary-treasurer, of the Association of Indians of Saskatchewan, a fore-runner of the FSIN, with Dan Kennedy as president. Gladys Dreaver from Mistawasis, in 1946 served as the secretary-treasurer under the

Union of Saskatchewan Indians with John Tootoosis as president. Cathy Merasty, from Pelican Narrows, also served as secretary for the Federation in 1973. These women were well educated for their time and willingly offered their education and skills to serve their people. Eleanor Brass was a journalist who regularly wrote articles for the Regina Leader Post and Melville Advance, using her writing as a means to educate the general public about the social and political conditions of First Nations. Gladys Dreaver was a war veteran, serving in the Canadian Air Force. Cathy Merasty was educated as a Catholic sister. Since Merasty's election in 1973, there has not been another woman able to make successful bid to the FSIN executive.

The lack of women's presence at the FSIN has contributed to a myth that First Nations women do not participate in political affairs because of tribal beliefs. This notion has no basis in historical fact. In the past, it was true that Chiefs and headmen were men. However, women's voices were heard through societies. There were among the Plains Cree,

"worthy men" societies and "worthy women" societies. The women societies, like the men were composed of women who through their conduct, skills, and abilities were highly esteemed within their communities.

These societies were by invitation and therefore membership was considered to have high status within the community. The women in these societies would be allowed to instruct other women on proper behavior; chide the men into proper conduct; and organize the women into collective efforts, such as tipi making for the betterment of their communities. These women had a vested interest in the security and prosperity of their families and communities. A good woman was a hard worker; skilled in the female areas, such as tanning, sewing, beading or other productions; and one who displayed qualities of humility, generosity, and kindness. Vanity, stinginess and laziness were qualities greatly frowned upon for women.

It has been a long time since these women societies existed, and yet, the voices of women are needed





Eleanor Brass



Gladys Dreaver

more than ever. Contemporary data on First Nation's women in Saskatchewan suggest that we may be the most vulnerable women in Canada. One-quarter of all Aboriginal women in Canadian prisons are from Saskatchewan; our women make up the highest number of urban migrants and are raising over fifty percent of First Nation's children as single mothers. Our young First Nation's women are particularly vulnerable as in the case heard in Tisdale where a 12 year-old girl was referred to by the judge as being sexually aggressive and therefore somehow inviting her aggressors to assault her. We need strong Indian Women to speak out on these issues.

We need a voice to speak out on band membership codes and the Indian status regulations that will see our grandchildren losing their rights to Indian status and Band membership. We need a voice to support cultural programming in urban areas to ensure that children will not lose ties to their culture and communities. We need a voice to ensure that our women have access to employment at all levels of society to reduce the crimes of

poverty that has driven the high incarceration rates for women. We need a voice to ensure that the quality of life for women and children is at least at parity with the rest of society.

The FSIN has established a Women's Commission to provide a forum for women at the provincial level. However, what is lacking is women who are willing to serve as executive members. The problem is not one of tradition but a problem of lack of resources and encouragement. Candidates for the FSIN invest an enormous amount of time, effort and money to run a successful campaign. In addition, candidates require the skill and knowledge of First Nations' issues and concerns and must be able to articulate them in an effective way. These are enormous challenges for First Nations' women who are often at the fringe of society economically and are busy raising children and caring for families. Perhaps contemporary women require encouragement to seek leadership positions. This may be the time to create a designated woman's position on the FSIN executive. I was a candidate and I

recognize that there are enormous challenges for women including funds to run a successful campaign; time away from family; experience; and a commitment. I don't know if I will ever run again-but I want to encourage other women. This one woman executive could serve as a sister to all of us that need to have issues addressed that affect women directly. There is a saying in First Nations' land: A nation will not die until the hearts of its women are on the ground.

Our women carry a heavy burden and we as a nation can help to lighten the load. The timing is right to reestablish a place for women to serve in a leadership position within the FSIN executive. This action may be a fitting tribute to recognize the contributions of Brass, Dreaver and Merasty. ✍



# SENATE

By Marlene Lumberjack

## SENATOR THERESA STEVENSON

Theresa Stevenson was born and raised on the Cowessess First Nation. She attended Marieval Indian Residential School. In 1953 she married Robert J. Stevenson. Together they raised three sons.



After living in the United States for 16 years, the Stevenson's returned home in 1970. Theresa is known for her dedication to her people, mainly children. She is the founder of Chili for Children, a program started in 1985 feeding children in the low-income areas of north central Regina.

Along with being a Senator, Theresa is involved in several organizations and currently holds portfolio responsibilities in the Health and Social Development Commission and the FSIN Women's Commission. Theresa has many issues close to her heart and in particular, has made many presentations on urban, children, and women's issues within Senate meetings. Theresa contributes much to the FSIN Senate and to bringing attention to serious issues facing First Nations.

## SENATOR MARGARET KEEWATIN

Margaret Keewatin is from the Okanese First Nation. She was born in Kehewin, Alberta and is the eldest of 13 brothers and sisters. She married Ivan Keewatin, who passed on four years ago. When Ivan passed on, Margaret returned to Okanese.

Margaret began getting involved in goings on in and around the Okanese First Nation. Last year, she was approached by Chief Maryanne Daywalker-Pelletier last year and was asked if she would consider being an FSIN Senate representative for the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council. Margaret agreed without appreciating what that would entail.

Today, Margaret is involved in the FSIN Senate and is very proud of that. She speaks Cree and practices traditional customs. Margaret currently holds the responsibility for the Women's Commission portfolio, along with Senator Theresa Stevenson.



Margaret is the newest member of the Senate and has proved to be an active Senate member. Margaret is very happy to be involved in the Senate and extends her appreciation and thanks to everyone who supported her appointment. ✍️

# Milestone Reached For First Nations Women

By Erica Beaudin

The winter of 2003-04 brought about an early spring for First Nations women when the FSIN Chiefs in Assembly voted to include the Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Council as the 7<sup>th</sup> commission in the FSIN Convention Act. This brought to fruition over 30 years of dedication and hard work of many women who lobbied and advocated for recognition at the FSIN level.

The Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Council (SFNWC) was formed in 2000 after four years of consultations and organizing. The women's leadership at the time decided the Women's Council would consist of the elected women Chiefs. At a Women's Leadership Assembly held on April 3-5, 2001, a group of women were elected by their tribal councils/agencies/and independent First Nations and were mandated to construct a FSIN Women's Act. This would be the governing document of women's leadership in Saskatchewan. The technical working group eventually evolved in the SFNWC Advisory Circle.

The Advisory Circle is an integral part of the Women's Council. Since the number of elected women Chiefs varies, the consistency of a strong women's voice was an issue. The Advisory Circle, apart from their role as the artisans of the Women's Act, have taken on the role of the "guiders of the women's governance ship". This means that they sit as equals at their table and decide which issues need to be advocated and supported by the Chiefs in Assembly vis a vis, the women Chiefs. Further, if the number of women Chiefs fall below seven, the Advisory Circle then chooses one of their own to sit with the women Chiefs. This way, until a region is represented at the Chief's table, they are represented by the Advisory Circle.

Organized First Nations women's governance is not a new concept. As early as the 1960's, women have created various organizations to gain the recognition that is needed to address community issues. Names familiar to women in the struggle are the Saskatchewan Native Women's Association

(1966), the Indian Women of Saskatchewan (1971), the Saskatchewan Indian Women's Association (1973), the Saskatchewan Treaty Indian Women's Council (1988), and the Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Secretariat (1997).

Some issues that the women's organizations have concentrated on have been community level organizing, addictions, youth justice, education, and teen pregnancy. These issues are still very important to the women in our communities and in fact with the new Women's Council, these issues will be prioritized.

Current plans of the Women's Council is to expand its mandate to include more youth issues as well as women's governance at the community and Tribal Council/Agency level.

The Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Act has passed second reading and is expected to go for the third reading in June 2004 at the FSIN Spring Legislative Assembly. For more information please contact Erica Beaudin or Rebecca Pelletier at (306)721-2822. ✍

# A Visit from the Prime Minister

By Bonnie Leask  
Photos Courtesy of Ted Whitecalf

On February 20, 2004, Canada's 21<sup>ST</sup> Prime Minister, Paul Martin Jr. visited the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) Career Village in Saskatoon. The Career Village is located at SIIT's Saskatoon Campus. This is the first time any Canadian Prime Minister has visited a SIIT campus.

The Career Village is aimed at assisting individuals who are seeking education and career support services. The Career Village brings together a number of organizations who focus on career development and employment services under one roof. The Career Village has a



Available board members meeting with Prime Minister Paul Martin.

L to R: Chief Darcy Bear, Chief Wallace Fox, Senator Roland Crowe, 3rd Vice Chief/Vice Chair Delbert Wapass, Senator Eugene Arcand, Tribal Chief Richard Gladue, Prime Minister Paul Martin, PAGC Grand Chief/Board Chair Gary Merasty, File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Rep Dean Bellegarde Front L to R: Petra Belanger, SIIT President Joan Greyeyes

central street front location which showcases opportunities and services of various organizations and employers, making it easier for individuals seeking assistance to enter into the workforce

The visit of the Prime Minister generated much excitement in both First Nations and non-First Nations circles. There were many dignitaries on hand to welcome Prime Minister Martin, including FSIN 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-Chief and Vice-Chairman of SIIT Board of Governors Delbert Wapass, Prince Albert Grand Council Chief and SIIT Board of Governor Chair Gary Merasty, Whitecap Dakota/Sioux First Nation Chief Darcy Bear, Onion Lake Chief and SIIT Board Member Wallace Fox, Meadow Lake Tribal Council Chief and SIIT Board Member Richard Gladue, File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council

Representative and SIIT Board Member Dean Bellegarde, SIIT Board Member Petra Belanger, SIIT Board Member Jeff Ahenakew, Senators Roland Crowe and Eugene Arcand, SIIT President Joan Greyeyes and SIIT management, staff and students. As well, there were many non-First Nations guests invited to greet the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Martin was greeted on the main foyer of the Career Village by the First Nation dignitaries and walked through the crowd where he was graciously greeted by the many people on hand. Immediately following his meet and greet, Vice-Chief Wapass, Grand Chief Merasty, SIIT Board Members and SIIT President, Joan Greyeyes, took Prime Minister Martin on a tour of the SIIT Campus. Prime Minister Martin was taken to the SIIT First

Connection Call Centre where he conversed with staff about the Call Centre's uniqueness and objectives. He was very interested in the services offered in First Nations' languages.

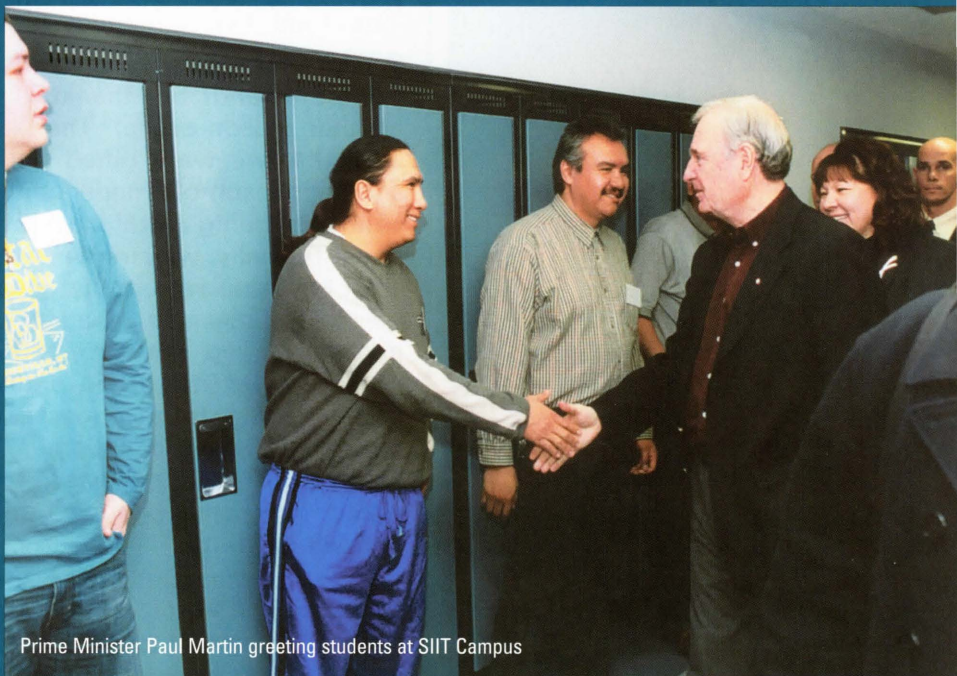
After the Call Centre, Prime Minister Martin was taken to three classrooms, the Addictions classroom, the Adult Basic Education 12 Program, where the students put on a demonstration of *Hamlet* and the Practical Nursing Program where he observed students in a laboratory environment.

Prime Minister Martin has been very vocal since coming into office in December 2003 about working with First Nations to resolve issues that impact First Nations. In the Throne Speech on February 2, 2004, one of the focuses was expanding on education and skills training for First Nations. It was a positive sign to see the Prime Minister visiting one of our educational institutions that is a leader in educational and training skills for First Nations people. The Prime Ministers visit to the SIIT Career Village was also an opportunity to showcase to non-First Nation people the advances that First Nation people are making in education and training.

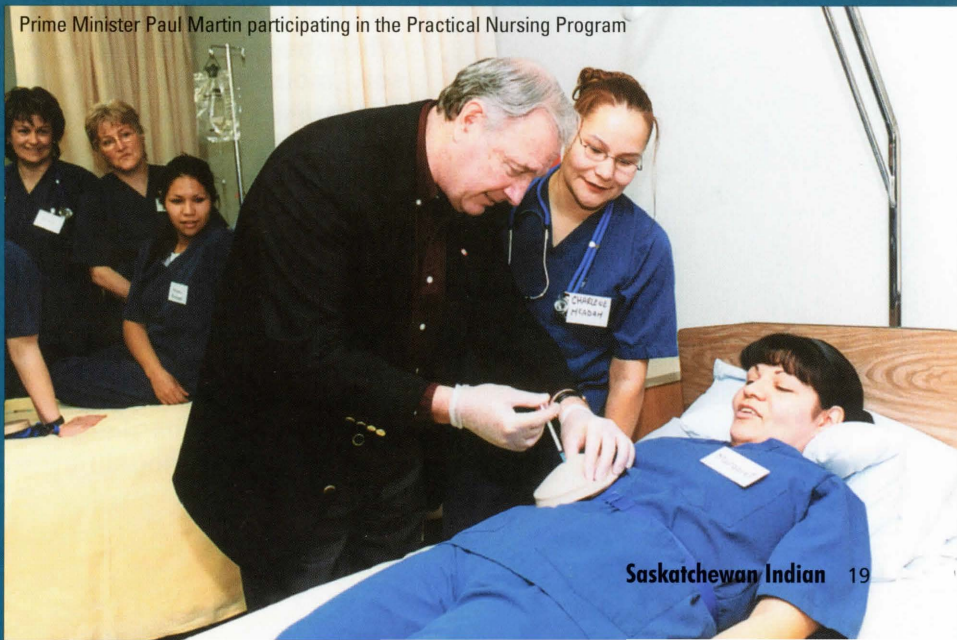
SIIT President Joan Greyeyes said about the visit, "This visit reflected the Prime Minister's recognition of the benefits of education and training for the development of First Nations people. Prime Minister Paul Martin is a man who honours his commitments. As Minister of Finance he was interested in the advancement of SIIT and had promised to visit the institution, and this event fulfilled that commitment. We were excited, honoured and humbled to host the Prime Minister of Canada at the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies. ✍️"



Prime Minister Paul Martin, SIIT President Joan Greyeyes & SIIT Board Chair & PAGC Grand Chief/Board Chair Gary Merasty



Prime Minister Paul Martin greeting students at SIIT Campus



Prime Minister Paul Martin participating in the Practical Nursing Program



# There is Something About 'Spring'

by Dorothy Myo

The first signs of spring bring happiness to most people. Spring is regarded highly by First Nations people for it symbolizes the renewal of life on Mother Earth. The earth re-awakens to continue with the cycle of life.

In historical times, it was a time to celebrate and be thankful for another season of life. The belief was, that we were gifted to see another season of wonders and to continue being with our loved ones. Typically, winters were hard even for those who prepared well for it. Food reserves were low and people looked forward to the availability of new food sources and traveling to reconnect with other relatives and nations. So therefore, spring was truly welcoming and positive on a number of fronts.

Some of us watch for the first arrival of ducks & geese from the south, others look for gophers to re-emerge from hibernation and all of us see the snow melt away! While the snow is absorbed by the soil, moisture gives new life to things like crocuses and grasses. While both the crocuses and grass add color to the earth, the grass is food to many animals. Hunters will tell us that deer and other herbivores enjoy this new food source long before we notice it. By the time we see it, these animals have already begun to increase their body mass and fat with this new food. At this time, hunters will take care to not kill pregnant

animals because of the respect and traditional conservation practices that are followed.

For those who enjoy duck soup, the arrival of the first ducks is indeed a welcome sight. The meat is used for nourishment and the feathers and down is used to replenish worn out quilts and pillows after a long cold winter.

Our relationship with our environment and all of creation was built on respect and harmony. Our First Nations' worldview is one of interconnectedness and balance among all elements and creatures. As human beings we played a small but important role in the overall scheme of the earth. Spirituality plays a pivotal part of our daily lives. Different ceremonies are practiced by First Nations to give thanks with the arrival of spring and celebrate the many gifts of the Creator.

Today, everyone lives a hectic pace of life but there is always opportunity to take a moment to enjoy the world around us. Remember not everyone gets to enjoy this time. We have all experienced losses in our lives and this is also a time to heal, reflect and move forward.

Look forward to a good season and enjoy the many different celebrations that are available to us as First Nation peoples whether we be Cree, Saulteaux, Dene, Dakota, Nakota and Lakota. ✍

# Introducing the Indigenous Gaming Regulators

By Tracy Lavallee

**If perception is reality...then image is everything!**

In the January 2004 issue of the *Gaming Rules Newsletter*, readers were informed about efforts to achieve a new and exciting corporate image for what was once Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Licensing (SIGL). These efforts have included the selection of a new name and logo for the First Nations' gaming licensing and regulation corporation. The Board of Director's, with the FSIN Chiefs in Assembly approval, recently announced that SIGL is now known as the **Indigenous Gaming Regulators!** To mark the occasion during the February FSIN Chiefs' Assembly held in Prince Albert, the audience was treated to a viewing of IGR's promotional video introducing the new name, new logo and slide show chronology of the many developments to date at the IGR offices.

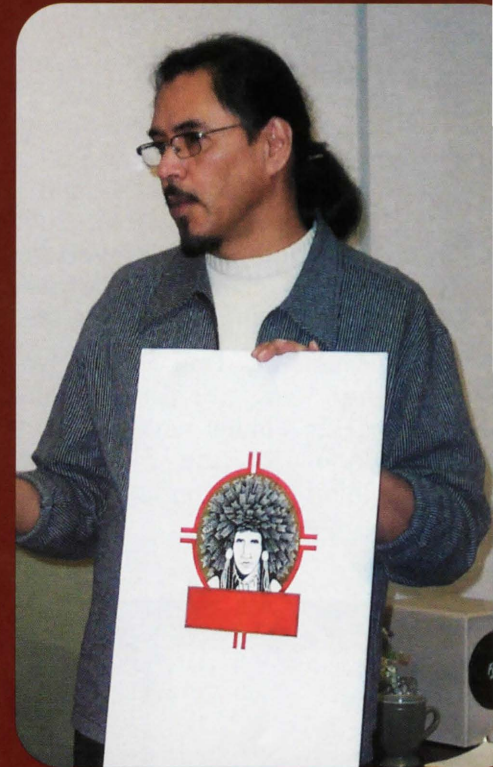
Along with a new name, *Indigenous Gaming Regulators* is now also sporting a new corporate logo. The process in determining a new name and logo that was fitting of IGR's role and function

was extensive. In the search for the most suitable and appropriate name, IGR had FSIN staff, FSIN institution staff, First Nations school students, IGR staff and citizens participate in a name change contest. In the end, IGR's Office Manager and Human Resource Officer, Sally Moccasin, won the contest with her submission of *Indigenous Gaming Regulators*.

In making the selections, IGR officials spent considerable time discussing the pros and cons of the suggested names. Of significance in determining the most suitable name, the following principles guided the discussion. The new name needed to:

- reflect the nature and role of the corporation
- reflect the fact that this is a First Nations corporation
- reflect or be fitting of the vision and mandate as the First Nations gaming regulators under First Nations full jurisdiction
- be reflective of the important and global gaming regulating responsibilities the corporation is to undertake
- and, have a "catchy" and not long acronym.

*Indigenous Gaming Regulators* reflects each of these guiding principles and the important work ahead for the First Nations' gaming licensor and regulator.



Ray McCallum with IGR's new logo

Another significant part of IGR's corporate revitalization over the last year has involved extensive consideration and work on the logo change. Renowned First Nations artist, Ray McCallum, was commissioned to create a new logo for consideration by the IGR Board. The logo presented to the IGR's Board of Directors was McCallum's rendition of a Dog Soldier.

According to First Nation's history the Dog Soldier was a warrior and keeper of the peace within the tribe. The Dog Soldiers were highly respected in the First Nations community, they were not only warriors, but they were also considered a last line of defense in battle. Over time and as a result of European influences and the changes brought by them, the role of the Dog Soldiers evolved. A primary function became policing and regulating tribal/camp life.

Because the Dog Soldier was a camp "regulator", it was felt that the Dog Soldier would be a fitting symbol for the First Nation's gaming regulating body.

According to McCallum, the new Dog Soldier logo is not only an appropriate symbol for IGR, it is unique. "When I was asked to develop a new logo for IGR it not only had to be unique, it had to reflect what IGR was all about. Because the Dog Soldier's role in the First Nation's community was that of regulation and authority, I felt it was very fitting as the new icon or image for IGR".

**To show respect for the Dog Soldier and for the Creator and First Nation spirits, McCallum also incorporated the medicine wheel into the logo due to the significance of the medicine wheel as it represents the four directions and the circle of life.**

Over the past year, IGR has undergone many positive developments in preparation to fulfill the duties associated with on reserve gaming licensing and regulation. Corporate restructuring is evolving, policy/regulation

development is underway, discussions on delegation authorities are progressing with the province, capacity assessments are occurring to ensure there are no deficiencies for operations and public education and awareness continues. These are but a few overall IGR activities moving full ahead toward complete on reserve licensing and regulatory duties which is set to begin in the next few months.

The Board of Directors of IGR and Chairman of the Board, Vice Chief Lawrence Joseph, are extremely pleased with the significant movement at *Indigenous Gaming Regulators*. Of the role and function of IGR, Vice Chief Joseph stated that, "It is an essential step toward First Nations self-government by providing gaming regulatory services for First Nations people by First Nations people."

For more information regarding the *Indigenous Gaming Regulators*, please visit the website at [www.ig-regulators.com](http://www.ig-regulators.com).



Chief Alphonse Bird and Vice Chief Lawrence Joseph at the IGR official name change





# UPCOMING FIRST NATION WINTER GAMES 2004

By Bonnie Leask



Cumberland House, Red Earth and Shoal Lake Cree Nations along with the Prince Albert Grand Council are hosting the 2004 Saskatchewan First Nation Winter Games from April 9-16, 2004. The events will take place in the communities of Nipawin, Carrot River and White Fox. The theme for the games this year is Communities in Partnership. Games Manager, Mel Mecredi said, "The theme for this year's Winter Games is appropriate as we have more than seven communities coming together to ensure that the event is a success."

In July 2003, the Flying Dust First Nation hosted the Summer Games and had an excellent turnout. At these Winter Games an expected 3000 athletes, chaperones and volunteers will be in attendance. The events for the games will include broomball, badminton, hockey and volleyball. The games are divided in two halves: the first half will be the younger groups, which expect to number around 1500 athletes; while the second half will be for the older athletes of about 1500. The athletes, chaperones and volunteers will be housed at six schools throughout the communities, hotels in Nipawin, Tisdale and Melfort. In addition, approximately 3000 to 4000 spectators will be watching various events and participating some of the evening events.

For the games, a mascot was selected. PAGC asked member bands to submit ideas on mascots, and a youth from Shoal Lake First Nation was successful. "Mamakacap, big eyes in Cree, is from the Red Earth and Shoal Lake wooded areas; he sees everything and will find out

all the information for the games and will bring the information back to his relatives all over the province, from Moose Lake to Moose Jaw," Mel Mecredi stated.

The history of the First Nation games began in 1974 when Cote First Nation Chief Tony Cote, Council and their membership initiated the Saskatchewan First Nation Summer Games. They determined that the majority of First Nation youth under the age of twenty (20) were excluded by mainstream sport systems in Saskatchewan. The inception of the Summer Games was to coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the entering into of Treaty 4.

During winter months, the sport of hockey dominated with many First Nations hosting weekend tournaments. From these competitions, the Winter Games were created. In 1980, the Cote First Nation proudly hosted the first First Nation Winter Games.

The athletes that participated in the First Nation events were remarkable athletes, but were reluctant to participate in mainstream sports on a regular basis. Although the "circuit" of events circled around adult involvement and participation, there was a need to address and promote youth

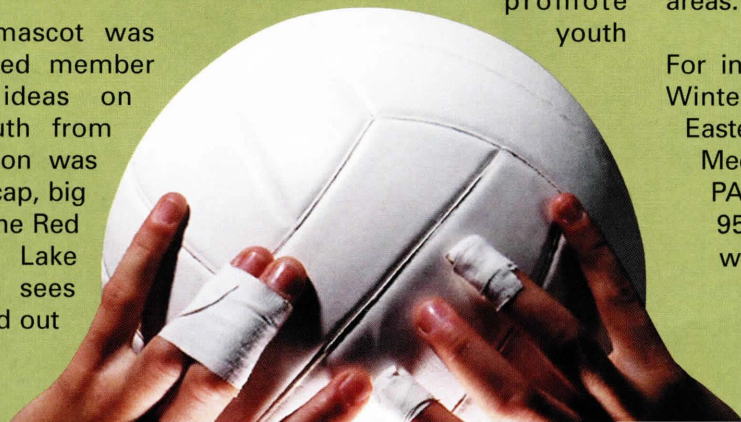
involvement in sport, culture and recreation.

Originally, the First Nations competed against one another in the Summer Games. They then began to compete in the District format, of which there were seven at that time. The original sports in the Winter Games were hockey, basketball, volleyball, curling and boxing.

In 2001, a Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Legislative Assembly resolution changed the format of the Saskatchewan First Nation Winter and Summer Games to the Tribal Council format. The teams participating in the Saskatchewan First Nation Games were made up of First Nations within a Tribal/Grand Council or Agency. For those independent bands, they participate through their own teams.

In 2002, the Saskatchewan Indian Sports, Culture, Recreation and Youth Board, upon consultation with their Chiefs, recommended that the First Nation Winter/Summer Games be staggered. The staggering of the Games has enabled the Tribal Council Coordinators to focus their attention on grassroots development of the youth within their Tribal Council/First Nation areas.

For information on the upcoming Winter Games hosted by the Eastern Sector Bands, contact Mel Mecredi or Elton Head at the PAGC Office, (306) 953-7234 or log on at [www.firstnationgames.com](http://www.firstnationgames.com)



FEDERATION OF SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN NATIONS

# YOUTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MAY 12-14 2004 PRINCE ALBERT, SASKATCHEWAN



Photos from the previous Youth Assembly

The office of 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chief Guy Lonechild has been mandated to host the FSIN Youth Legislative Assembly being held in May 12 - 14, 2004 at the Prince Albert Student Education Centre, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. For more information please contact the Director of Education within in your Tribal Council or First Nation.

Since the last FSIN Youth Assembly in 1998 many societal changes and challenges have confronted First Nations youth. The Executive of the FSIN is excited to rekindle this forum for our youth to re-introduce our young people to the systems of



FSIN governance processes. The assembly will also provide delegates an opportunity to discuss contemporary issues and provide opinions and directions to the leadership of today.

Through the involvement of Tribal Council Directors of Education, each First Nation will be contacted to select two grade 11 & 12 youth delegates to participate. Each First Nation is encouraged to select one male/one female to represent them at the table. Those First

Nations that may want to send additional youth as observers they are encouraged to do so at their own cost. Other options are being explored to involve youth in urban areas or special needs areas.

The FSIN Youth Legislative Assembly will be modeled after the FSIN Chiefs-in-Assembly. Each day will begin with a pipe ceremony that will include the delegates who wish to participate. Rules of Order to be followed and will be sent out to each delegate prior to the assembly.

All relevant logistical aspects of the FSIN Youth Legislative Assembly will be explored to make this an unforgettable experience for our future leaders. ✍



# The Chiefs Committee On Health

The Prince Albert Grand Council played host to a National committee of Chiefs in late February of 2004. The Chiefs Committee On Health (CCOH) held a strategy session in Prince Albert on February 24-26, 2004. Participants came from all across Canada from the Atlantic provinces to Victoria Island in British Columbia and as far north as Fort McPherson, North West Territories.

The CCOH is a committee of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and reports to the Annual General Assembly, which is comprised of all First Nations community Chiefs in Canada. The next AFN – Annual General Assembly is set to take place in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island July 20-22, 2004.

The sessions revolved around four themes for the three days:

- Relationships with Governments
- Health Finances
- Health Priorities
- Treaties and Aboriginal Rights to Health

The gathering was Chaired by Chief Bill Erasmus, AFN Regional CCOH Chief for the North West Territories and Co-Chaired by FSIN Vice Chief Morley Watson, AFN Regional CCOH Executive member for Saskatchewan and host region.

Facilitating the group and keeping them in focus were James Ross of Fort McPherson, North West Territories and Harvey Tootoosis of the Poundmaker Cree Nation. As

well, Harvey works with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations in the Health and Social Development Secretariat.

Prince Albert Grand Council Vice Chief Don Deranger gave a welcoming address to the group.

As far as anyone could recall this is the first time this group has met in Saskatchewan. In the past the CCOH met mostly in the Ontario region. Chief Erasmus said, "We would like to start having more of these national meetings out in the regions."

Each of the four themes began with presentations. Presenters included Richard Jock, AFN CEO; Keith Conn, Chief Executive Advisor FNIHB Health Canada; Elaine Johnston, AFN Health Director; and a panel made up of Chief Erasmus, Vice Chief Watson, Chief Allan Claxton (BC) and Don Worme (Saskatoon), Legal Council.

As Chief Erasmus mentioned, "Health Canada is well aware that we are holding these sessions and are very interested in seeing the outcome". He went on to say, "They are interested in holding similar sessions within their own organization and for having joint sessions with groups like CCOH".

After each theme presentation the attendees broke off into different groups. Each group had different levels of interest to approach the themes, from leadership, directors

and program coordination. All the issues came from each of the group members during the breakout sessions. Some of the major issues that came up around the 4 themes were:

- Nursing levels
- NIHB
- Jurisdiction
- Capacity building
- Accountability
- Housing and Mould
- High cost of addressing and resolving issues
- Traditional and Western lifestyles and treatments
- FASD
- Diabetes
- Suicide prevention
- Water quality
- First Nations driven health programs
- Role of First Nations decision making
- Role of Federal, Provincial & Territorial committees in First Nations health
- Various reports and studies on First Nations health.

The gathering began in Saskatoon, Monday February 23, 2004, as the guests began arriving in Saskatchewan. Vice Chief Watson not only played host, but also drove the bus that got the group to various events throughout the three days.

# Health Consent Update

By Bonnie Leask

The group got its start on Monday with the bus going to Prince Albert, where after checking into the hotel, they were driven to an evening welcome supper at the Northern Lights Casino.

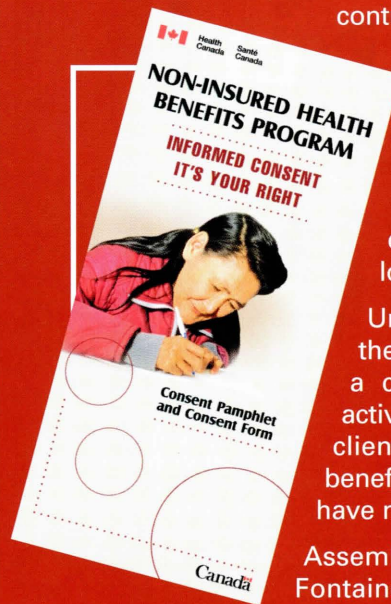
After the first day of sessions, on Tuesday, the group was taken out to Muskoday First Nation for an evening of Supper and entertainment and back to Prince Albert.

The following day the group was taken to the boardroom of the Prince Albert Grand Council for a Fish Fry supper provided by a women's group from the Montreal Lake Cree Nation.

On the final day, the group finished early and boarded the bus back to Saskatoon with a stop at Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation, where they were provided with a soup and bannock lunch and a tour of the Willow Cree Healing Lodge. The group was quite impressed with the facilities and the programs at the lodge.

That evening, back in Saskatoon, the group was treated to a supper at the Wanuskewin Heritage Park provided by the Wanuskewin restaurant. The park kept their gift shop and exhibits open for the group. As well, the Wanuskewin Dancers gave a performance to the group too end the evening and their stay in Saskatchewan.

For many of the group it was their first time in Saskatchewan and they were quite impressed with what Saskatchewan and First Nation communities had to offer. As well, they mentioned after seeing how Saskatchewan treated their guests, gave them quite a learning experience. The guest treatment and events gave them a number of new ideas they could take back to their home regions and communities. ✍



The Government of Canada announced the end of the controversial health consent form issue. On February 2, 2004, Health Minister Pierre Pettigrew announced a new approach to the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program's Consent Initiative. The new approach means that the March 1st, 2004, deadline for the submission of consent forms by First Nations clients no longer applies.

Under the new approach, people accessing the NIHB Program will not be required to sign a consent form for day-to-day processing activities and program administration. NIHB clients will therefore continue to receive benefits for which they are eligible even if they have not signed a consent form.

Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chief Phil Fontaine stated, "Since Health Canada's announcement of the Client Consent Forms Initiative in 2000, the AFN, under the direction of First Nations, has been diligent in pursuing and advocating for a better, more constructive process that is respectful of our Treaty rights, of our right to privacy and respectful of Health Canada's concerns about patient safety. Our approach has been to engage in a cooperative and constructive process that balances all of our mutual interests and we applaud Health Canada's commitment to continue to work with us. This shows that partnership can work and is the best way to resolve these issues."

FSIN Vice Chief Morley Watson stated, "The issue is not completely over as there is concern for those people who have already signed health consent forms. Though a high percentage of First Nations people in Saskatchewan did not sign the health consent form, we need to ensure that those people who did sign are protected. We will direct Health Canada to immediately return all signed consent forms to the First Nation people."

The Health Consent Form was unilateral policy from the federal government and was a direct violation of the Treaty Six "medicine chest" clause. The federal government has claimed that there are a high proportion of First Nation people who are abusing the medical system by over-use and abuse of pharmaceuticals; therefore according to government officials, a new tracking and monitoring system needed to be established and implemented as soon as possible to stop this apparent misuse and abuse of pharmaceuticals.

However, it has been estimated that only about 2% to 3% were abusing the system, and it was pointed out that the health consent form punished everyone through threatening their right to privacy because of action by few. This new system now being contemplated will address those abuses at the same time protecting the privacy of all First Nations. In addition, the pharmaceutical industries have been informed about these changes and they are to remove the health consent forms from the pharmacy.

**SPONSORS:**



Northern Lights Community Development Corporation



Youth Legislative



**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:**

- Saskatchewan First Nation Students
- Grade 10, 11, 12
- One Male & One Female from each First Nation

**REGISTRATION:**

- No Fee
- Accommodations & Meals provided
- **MUST PROVIDE OWN TRAVEL & CHAPERONE**

TODAY'S YOUTH, TOMORROW'S FUTURE LEADERS



Place: Prince Albert Student Residence  
Date: May, 12, 13, 14, 2004

For More Information Contact:  
LuWayne Tanner (306) 230-5188  
Senator Eugene Arcand (306) 221-2617

## Champion Traditional Dancer and Family Recovering from Serious Car Accident

submitted by Wilma Isbister

Jason Daniels of the Sturgeon Lake First Nation his wife Carrie Isbister of the Muskoday First Nation and their son Jason Daniels Jr. were in a serious car accident on November 5, 2003. Fortunately, their daughter Taylor was at home waiting for them to return from a trip to Prince Albert. A head-on collision, five minutes from home, changed their lives. Jason, Carrie and baby "J" suffered multiple injuries and are now back at home at recovering in Sturgeon Lake. Jason Jr. has had a miraculous recovery, however Jason and Carrie have a lengthy journey to fully recover from the accident.

A benefit is being organized to assist Jason and Carrie and their family.

Where: Muskoday Band Hall  
When: Sunday, April 4, 2004  
Time: 3:00 p.m.

For More Information:  
Call Wilma at  
384.6058 or 222.3556

*Please come out and visit with family and friends. We look forward to seeing you there!*

## The AWPI Job Centre

is now available at  
[www.awpi.ca](http://www.awpi.ca) (English)

Corporations please input your  
employment opportunities, create  
accounts and post Aboriginal  
employment opportunities  
free of charge.

Aboriginal people drop in and find  
employment on the web page.

*"A Journey Into Tomorrow"*

# AN URBAN DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



## *Break Out Session Topics*

First Nations Youth Restorative  
Justice & Healing Project

Youth Gang Awareness

Aboriginal People & Disabilities

Non-Insured Health  
Benefits/Consent Forms and  
Payer of Last Resort

Sports, Recreation and Youth

Elders & Youth

FNARE, First Nations Addiction  
Rehabilitation Foundation

Employment & Careers

Community Action Plan for  
Children

Aboriginal Healing  
Foundation/Residential Schools

Urban Education Issues

Treaty Governance Processes

## GUEST SPEAKERS

## FIRST NATIONS URBAN ISSUES

## PLANNING SESSIONS

## RECEPTIONS

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Office of Urban Development proudly presents the "Journey Into Tomorrow" Conference & Tradeshow. The concept behind hosting this event is the immediate need to address urban First Nation issues. Three days of information gathering, sharing, networking and entertainment.

## *Key Note Speakers*

Chief Alphonse Bird  
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

Tribal Chief Glen Johnstone  
Saskatoon Tribal Council

Third Vice Chief Delbert Wapass  
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

Honourable Joan Beatty  
Minister Sport, Culture and Youth

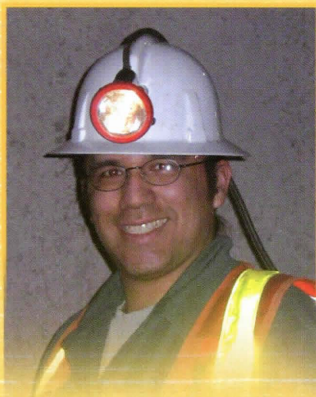
FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Peggy Robillard, Conference Coordinator  
"A Journey Into Tomorrow"  
An Urban Development Conference & Trade Show

Suite 200-103A Packham Avenue Saskatoon, SK S7N 4K4  
Direct: 306-956-1018 Fax: 306-244-4413 Mobile: 306-260-0870  
Email: peggy.robillard@fsin.com



*Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations*

# Celebrating First Nation Achievement in Saskatchewan



## Tayven Roberts

As a youth growing up in Northern Saskatchewan, Tayven knew there would be unlimited opportunities for him. Upon graduating from University, Cameco recruited him to work at their McArthur River Operations in his current role as Mine Engineer. As for Tayven's future, he wants to own and operate a business that promotes and advances economic development in Northern Saskatchewan.



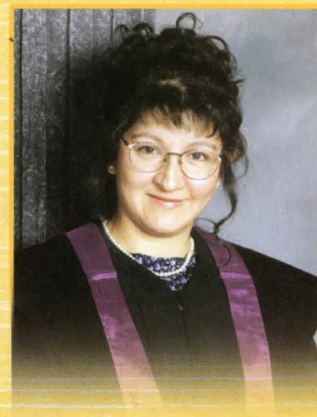
## Johnny Walker

Johnny is always on the go. He's not only the Director of Post Secondary for Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, he's also a successful entrepreneur, recently opening Walking Smoke Confectionary on the Prince Albert Urban Reserve. When he's not in the office or at the store, Johnny volunteers his time for sports and recreational activities.



## Community Radio

A small radio station with big dreams, 95.3 FM "The Creek", a community initiative of the Okanese First Nation, has hit the airwaves with a First Nation flavour. On the dial they feature Powwow music, stories and educational teachings by Elders, compositions by Aboriginal artists and much more. "The Creek" should continue flooding the airwaves for years to come.



## Charlotte Ross

Charlotte is the Coordinator of Academic Programs for Aboriginal students in the College of Arts and Science at the University of Saskatchewan. In addition to her administrative duties, Charlotte also dedicates countless hours talking to hundreds of Aboriginal students seeking advice. Most importantly, she provides support on issues specific to Aboriginal students requiring her unique sensitivity, care, and attention.

*Working together for a better Saskatchewan.*

# SEEDS OF SUCCESS



Proudly sponsored by **Canada**



*Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations*

Listen for Seeds of Success  
Vignettes on

