

s a s k a t c h e w a n

iNDIAN

Fall 2004



Mary Claire Ledoux

**FSIN Special
Investigations Unit**

Whitefish Jrs.

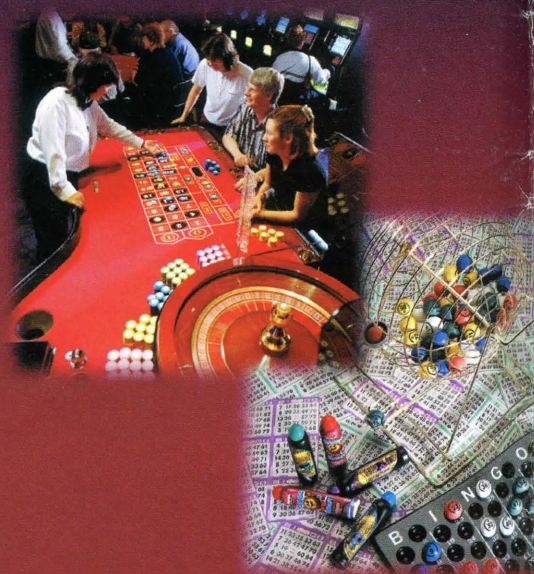
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INDIAN

Volume 34 #4

Fall 2004

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:

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SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN CULTURAL CENTRE
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INDIAN OUTLOOK

Saskatchewan's First Nations Calendar of Events

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Quality Hotel
Saskatoon, SK
www.bridgesandfoundations.usask.ca/
conferences/ Mini Symposium
www.cmhc.ca

Nov. 10, 2004

Diversity in the Workplace

College Building - 2201 College Avenue
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Cathy Wheaton
(306) 585 - 5853

Nov. 11 & 12, 2004

FSIN Offices Closed for Remembrance Day & First Nations Unity Day

Offices closed Nov. 10, 2004 at 5:00 pm
Offices re-open Nov. 15, 2004 at 8:30 am

Nov. 14 - 16, 2004

Connecting the Organic Community

from the producer to the consumer 1st Annual Conference
Centennial Auditorium
Saskatoon, SK
www.organicconnections.ca/index.html

Nov. 15, 2004

E-Recruitment

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Cathy Wheaton
(306) 585 - 5853

Nov. 17 - 18, 2004

First Nations Veterans Gathering and Informational Session

Saskatoon Travelodge
Saskatoon, SK
Reta Guilbault
(306) 220-9468
Josephine Williams
(306) 956 - 6937

Nov. 22 - 23, 2004

Aboriginal Recruitment & Retention Seminar

College Building - 2201 College Avenue
Regina, SK
Cathy Wheaton
(306) 585 - 5853

Nov. 22 - 24, 2004

Families of the Millennium 2004 Conference "Kids & Caregivers"

Civic Centre - 412 3rd St East
Meadow Lake, SK
The Northwest Friendship Center
(306) 236 - 3766

Nov. 23 & 24, 2004

F.S.I.N. Treaty Governance Exploratory Treaty Table

Office of the Treaty Commissioner
Saskatoon, SK
Brenda Manitoken
(306) 667 - 1876

Nov. 25 - 26, 2004

Interviewing Techniques for Supervisors

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Nov. 25 & 26, 2004

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INDIAN OUTLOOK

Saskatchewan's First Nations Calendar of Events

Dec. 23, 2004 – Jan. 2, 2005 FSIN & Institution Offices Closed For Christmas & New Years Day Holidays

Offices closed Dec. 23, 2004 at 5:00 pm
Offices re-open Jan. 3, 2005 at 8:30 am

Feb 19, 2005

Prairie Voices: Aboriginal Talent Search and Showcase – Yorkton Tribal Council

Yorkton Convention & Agriplex

Yorkton, SK

Morris Agecutay

(306) 332 – 3792

Lorraine Agecutay

(306) 584 –0411

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

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Saskatoon Office
Tel: (306) 665-1215
Fax: (306) 244 - 4413

In Our Next Issue

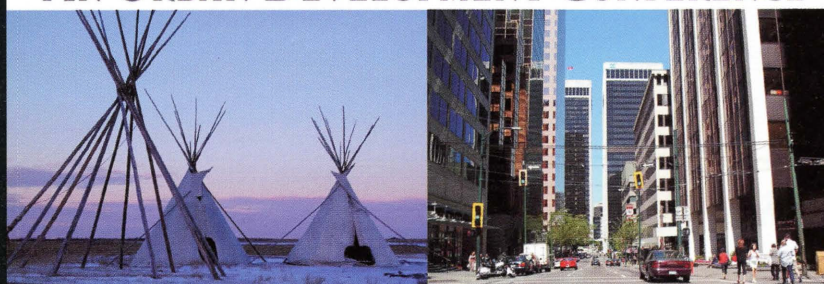
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Centennial Auditorium Saskatoon, SK October 27 - 28, 2004

GUEST SPEAKERS

FIRST NATIONS URBAN ISSUES

PLANNING SESSIONS

RECEPTIONS

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Tansi! Welcome to the 2004 Fall edition of the Saskatchewan Indian. I hope everyone had an awesome summer and enjoyed the weather (when possible) and got out to check some of the great events happening around Saskatchewan. For the students who are now busy back at school, best of luck in the new school year!

Lots of events happened over the summer and though we would like to get to all of them it is not always possible therefore we encourage readers to send in their stories or pictures for inclusion in the magazine. Sharing our stories and events in our communities link people together and gives a sense of what is going on, so send in those stories and pictures!

This is an interesting edition with a variety of articles. Amanda Chief, a young woman from the Onion Lake First Nation has submitted a poem for

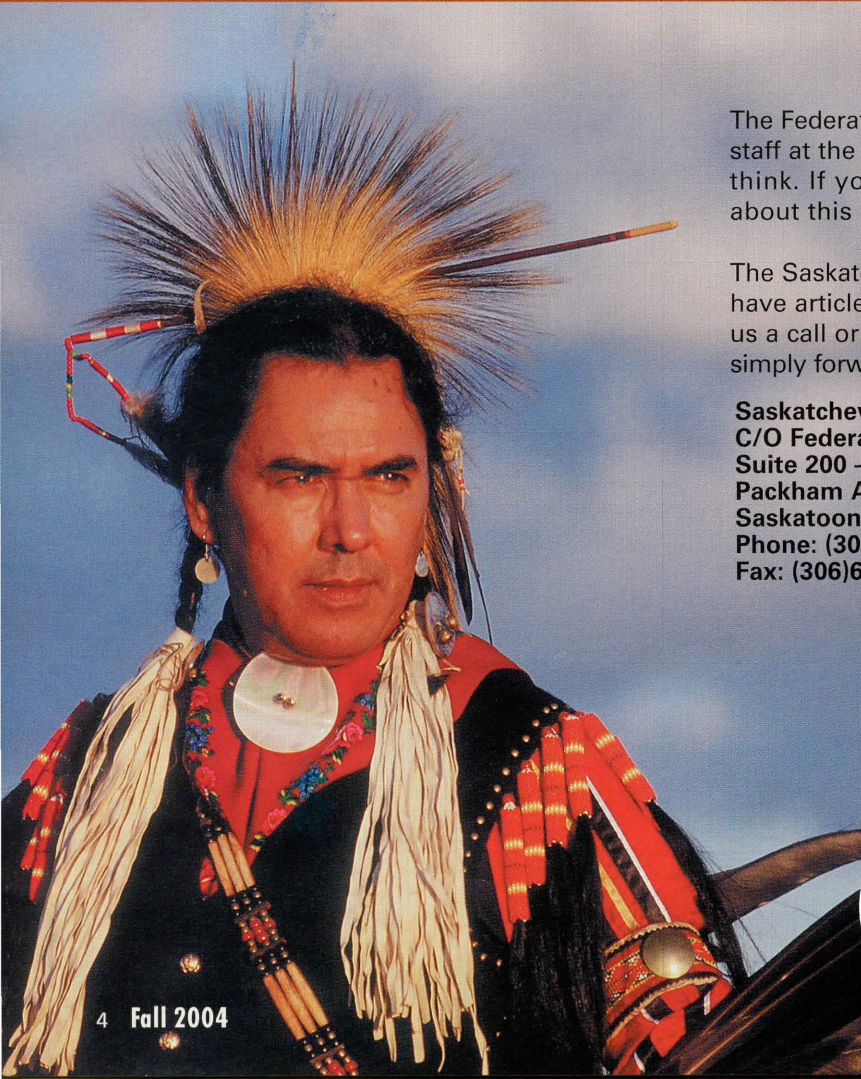
the magazine. Her poem was featured on poetry.com and will also be featured in a book entitled, "The Best Poems and Poets of 2004". Congratulations to this 15 year old and all the best to her in her future. I am sure we will be hearing a lot more from her in the future. Terry Ledoux has also provided a story about her mother, Mary Ledoux. Mary has dedicated her life to teaching and has taught in communities across Saskatchewan and Alberta. Her commitment to working with youth and sharing her knowledge is remarkable. This is Mary's final year of teaching and it is evident that her presence in the classroom will be missed. Thank you to both Terry, for the story, and to Mary for all her years of hard work with our youth.

In this edition, we profiled two young First Nations people from Saskatchewan who are contributing to

their communities and families in different ways. Tiffany Starchief, a young female athlete from Mosquito First Nation, demonstrates awesome talent on the ice. Robert McCoy Awasis, member of the Thunderchild First Nation, was at his community for the 125th Annual Commemorative pow wow in August and is a member of the Marine Corps in the United States. Robert has recently returned from an assignment in Iraq.

Thank you to all those who have contributed and assisted with editing, it is much appreciated. We also welcome any comments on our previous issues. Ekosi.

Bonnie Leask
Managing Editor



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

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

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C/O Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
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**WE VALUE
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Mary Claire Laurentia Ledoux Biography

By Terry Ledoux

Mary was born on August 10, 1942 in Ile a la Crosse, Saskatchewan to the late Emile and Ernestine Iron. She is a member of the Canoe Lake Cree Nation. Her father was an excellent hunter who would often find employment as a hunting guide to American hunters. Her 83-year old mother is a traditional Cree homemaker who currently resides at home.

At the age of 7, Mary attended boarding school – first at Beauval, then at Lebret where she graduated in 1962. During 1963-64, she enrolled in the Saskatoon Teachers' College where she successfully completed training which certified her to teach elementary school.

In the fall of 1964, the Roman Catholic School at the Big River First Nation needed a teacher – Mary accepted her first teaching assignment! She states that her first pay cheque was \$133.00.

In April 1965, she married Henry Ledoux, her husband of 39 years. They have 6 children – Ruth, Terry, Herb, Corrine, Maureen and Barb, plus 12 grandchildren. She has taught her children and a few of her grandchildren in the Nursery, Kindergarten and Cree classes that she taught over the years.

Throughout the next forty years, Mary taught at various First Nation and Metis schools in Saskatchewan and Alberta. These communities include Ahtakakoop, Beardy's & Okemasis, Big River, Canoe Lake, Ermineskin,

Mistawasis, O'Chiese, Patuanak, Pelican Lake, Pinehouse Lake, Samson and Smallboy Camp. Each community has offered new experiences, new friends and lasting memories. Mary is grateful to the Creator for all of the gifts He has blessed her with – family, friends and a long, rewarding career.

Mary continues to teach another generation of First Nations youth as she begins her final year of teaching. She feels that being an educator is a very important role. She would like to encourage people to keep learning, and to share the gift of learning with others. Mary looks forward to spending more time with her grandchildren and her hobbies – beading, gardening and traveling.

At the 2004 Mistawasis Pow Wow, a special was held to honour her dedication and commitment to educating First Nations youth. MC Howard Walker gave words of thanks on behalf of the children that she taught. The drum group, Southern Cree, sang the honour song while people approached to give Mary and her family hugs and kisses to express their gratitude. The family, along with Mistawasis Chief Daryl Watson and his wife Jeannette, provided supper for the Elders and visitors. If you are a former student of Mary's, please drop her a line at

Box 146
Leask, SK
S0J 1M0



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN UNVEILS 2003-07 INTEGRATED PLAN

After two years of extensive consultation, the University of Saskatchewan approved its first-ever Integrated Plan, a "framework for action". This plan will guide the University to achieve its goal of being among the most distinguished universities in Canada and the world.

The Integrated Plan is an attempt to engage the people of Saskatchewan with the University and the University with the people, to forecast how it can be of greatest service and provide the greatest benefit to Saskatchewan, to Canada, and to the world.

"The University will actively look to engage Aboriginal communities as we prepare to carry out initiatives outlined in this plan," said George Lafond, Special Advisor to the University President.

"Within this plan there are many exciting, new initiatives that we know will have a positive impact on both our Aboriginal students and our community partners. We want everyone who reads Saskatchewan Indian to know that we welcome your feedback on the Plan. We also plan to visit several communities throughout Saskatchewan to share the details and hear from you directly," added Lafond.

The Integrated Plan combines academic and fiscal planning and treats the entire campus as an organic unit, rather than as individual colleges and divisions functioning separately from one another. It emphasizes change, collaboration, and community as the hallmarks for the University's future, while recognizing the importance of current strengths.

Part of the planning process focused on establishing a set of strategic initiatives, which build upon the University's stated Strategic Directions. Six areas of concentration were identified: health; science, technology and society; environment; business and entrepreneurship, extending community; and public policy. Success in these initiatives will move the institution closer to the goal of establishing the University of Saskatchewan as one of Canada's top ten research universities, dedicated to international standards, known for areas of academic preeminence, and committed to the future of the Province of Saskatchewan.

The Integrated Plan also describes investment priorities and a series of academic and administrative practices that need to be optimized to ensure the University makes the best use of the resources available.

The Integrated Plan is exciting because it has a large Aboriginal component that will continue to foster Aboriginal programming that has been successful in the past while at the same time looks to grow in areas that the U of S is not currently considered to be a leader. (It is important to remember there are 1,800 students on campus this year who, through the University's self-identification process, have identified and consider themselves to be Aboriginal.)

The challenge for the coming year is to ensure that the initiatives described in the plan are developed and implemented so that the University continues to make a difference to its' constituents, both locally and globally.

For more information on integrated planning and the University of Saskatchewan's 2003-07 multi year operating budget framework, including the Foundational Documents used in the planning process, visit www.usask.ca/vpacademic/integrated-planning.



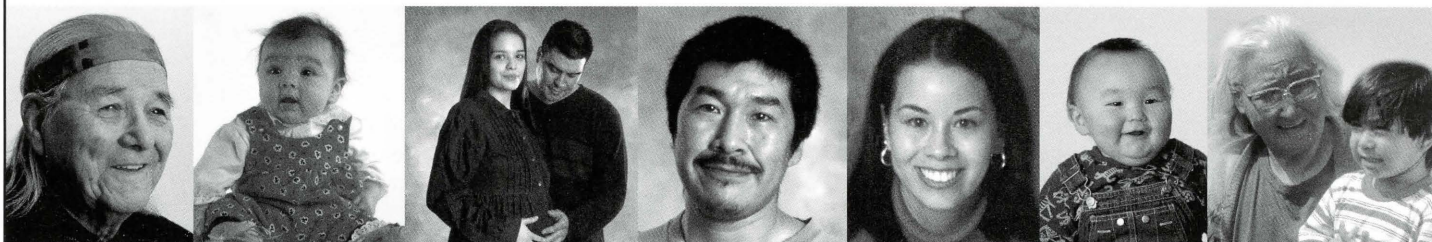


What Canada's New Health Care Investment Means to Aboriginal Peoples

The Government of Canada recently committed an additional \$700 million over 5 years to meet the health needs of Aboriginal people, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis, which brings the total investment to over \$10 billion. This additional money will be used to:

- Improve health services to better meet the needs of Aboriginal peoples
- Increase the number of Aboriginal doctors, nurses and other health professionals in Aboriginal communities
- Support health promotion and disease prevention programs that focus on
 - suicide prevention
 - diabetes
 - maternal and child health
 - early childhood development

In addition, the Prime Minister, Premiers and Aboriginal Leaders have agreed on the need to develop a blueprint to improve health services and improve the overall health of Aboriginal Peoples.



To obtain a copy of the "2004 Health Care 10-Year Action Plan at a Glance", call 1 800 0-Canada (1 800 622-6232) or, to see it on the web, click www.canada.gc.ca/healthplan



Tiffany Starchief

Meet Tiffany Starchief - the number one female Aboriginal hockey player in Canada!!! This young lady is 5'3" tall and weighs approximately 115 pounds is considered to be small for her sport but do not be fooled by her size. Tiffany's agility and finesse on the ice leaves her opponents behind and wondering what happened. By Shirley Greyeyes McDonald



Tiffany is from the Mosquito First Nation and began playing hockey at the age of 5. With the financial assistance of Mosquito First Nation, she played minor hockey in North Battleford. Although Tiffany's first choice was goalie, her skills as a forward were not to be denied. Her coaches encouraged Tiffany that forward was her forte and where she belonged on the ice. With her new position determined Tiffany began her hockey career. However, hockey equipment often is the costly aspect of hockey and Tiffany is especially thankful for her family's contribution and special "THANKS" to DAD!

Tiffany has 4 brothers and 1 sister. At 16 years old she attends John Paul Collegiate II in North Battleford. Tiffany recognizes the importance and value of an education and works hard to improve her marks to ensure she achieves her goals on and off the ice.

The position Tiffany plays on the ice is centre. When Tiffany entered the Atom division, the players and the coach awarded the position of captain to Tiffany, quite a feat among Atom boys. At the Pee Wee level, she tried out for the Barons AA Tier I in North Battleford and was selected for the team. Tiffany had played on both male and female teams throughout her hockey career and when

she was selected for the Tier 1 team, however it was requested she focus her attention on the male team.

Though Tiffany had only played on a Boys Team that year, she was invited to the Sask Can AAAS Female Pee Wee Hockey tryouts. Invitations to this are usually reserved for girls who play on a girl's team. Tiffany was selected for the team and participated in tournaments in Winnipeg, Calgary and Saskatoon. Tiffany was only 13 at this time and was advised not to try out for Team Saskatchewan female team heading to Akwesasne for the National Aboriginal Hockey. Athletes on this team were as old as 21. The realization that this young lady was gifted in her skills was not yet common knowledge.

The following year, Tiffany tried out for the team and was selected to return to Akwesasne with Team Saskatchewan for the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships. This Team was comprised of Aboriginal players from across Saskatchewan. Although Tiffany was the high scorer to Team Saskatchewan at this tournament, she did not feel her play was up to standard as she played wing for the tournament. Regardless of her own evaluation of her play, Tiffany was selected to attend the High Performance Camp

in Ottawa, Ontario in the summer of 2003. This camp is only for elite players across Canada.

Also in 2003, Tiffany played with the team Battleford Sharks Female AA in the Saskatoon league. In 40 games, Tiffany had 51 goals, 39 assists and 22 penalty minutes. Tiffany again tried out for Team Saskatchewan to attend the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships in Prince George, BC.

Tiffany was selected to the team and once proved herself as an elite hockey player. In eight games, she scored 14 goals, 8 assists with 8 penalty minutes. The chief scout of Team Canada – Wally Koziak – ranked Tiffany as the #1 female aboriginal player in Canada. She once again attended the High Performance Camp in Ottawa for elite aboriginal hockey players.

This year, Tiffany was on the Battleford Tribal Council team at the 2004 First Nation Winter Games in Prince Albert and finished with a silver medal in her category. Her skills and abilities captured the attention of the many there and as a result she was featured on the Star Phoenix sports page highlighting her accomplishments.

Although Tiffany was unavailable for the Sask Can AAA Summer Hockey program tryouts, she was once again selected to participate in this program again.

Tiffany continues to make sports an integral part of her life and enjoys other sports, including softball and soccer. She played with the Bantam girls softball team for Saskatchewan at the 2002 North American Indigenous Games and received a silver medal. She also plays softball in North Battleford for the provincial team. In soccer, Tiffany has participated in the First Nation Games Program and won a gold medal in 2003 and plays in many tournaments with the Little Pine First Nation.

Tiffany continues to participate in the sports she has a passion for and proves herself as a role model for all youth in Saskatchewan.

FSIN Youth Championships

By Shirley Greyeyes McDonald

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Sport, Culture, Youth and Recreation Department has been working with First Nations and Tribal Councils in Saskatchewan to host provincial sporting events designated as championships. The annual championships have been held for adult categories in the sports of hockey, soccer, softball, golf, slo-pitch with the sports of volleyball and basketball being introduced this year.

Part of the motive for introducing this is a result of alternating the Winter and Summer Games. The championships are held on the off year of the First Nation Games Program, for example, Summer Games sports are held during the year in which there are no First Nation Summer Games. This provides all First Nations an opportunity to further develop their skills, abilities in team in a competitive setting.

As well the implementation of the FSIN Youth Championships addresses the need to have more youth participate in sporting events. Traditionally, the Games program takes the "best" athletes from each First Nation however; the actual participation on a provincial basis is extremely low.

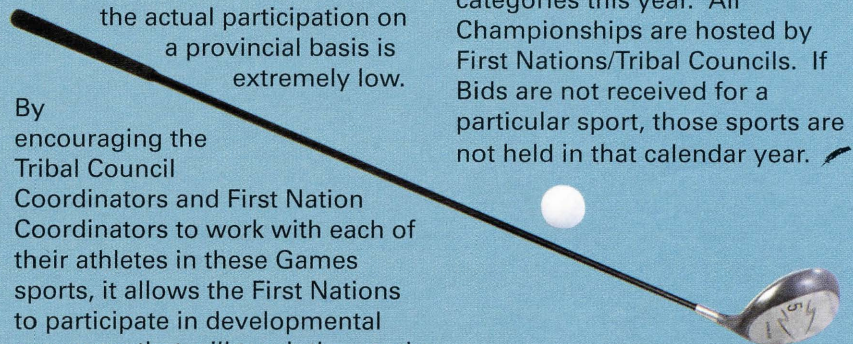
By encouraging the Tribal Council Coordinators and First Nation Coordinators to work with each of their athletes in these Games sports, it allows the First Nations to participate in developmental programs that will teach the youth the basics of each sport. By learning the basics of each sport

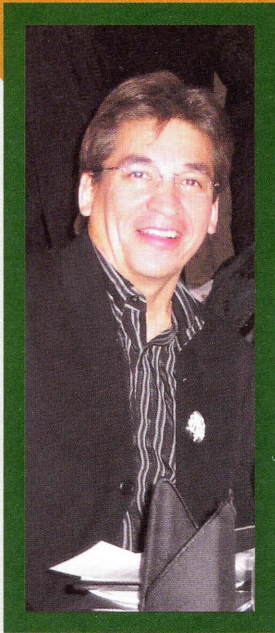
at this level, it allows the youth to develop their skills in a safe environment and provides the building blocks for further development and the opportunity to participate in the Games program.

Recognizing the need to look at sports not involved in the Games program, the FSIN youth championships have included the sport of basketball as it has shown a marked increase in participation. Inclusion of other sports in the FSIN Youth Championships will be reviewed annually. Reviewing the Championships provides the Sport, Culture, Youth & Recreation Board the necessary information required on assessing programs within their First Nations.

As in the First Nation Games Program, education is a key component for participation. The rules and guidelines following for participants in the Games Program are also followed for all FSIN Youth Championships. This includes full time attendance in school, fair play, following rules and guidelines as set out by the FSIN Sports, Culture, Youth & Recreation Board.

The FSIN Championships have been held for the sports of hockey, softball, slo-pitch, golf and soccer in the adult category and in softball for the youth categories this year. All Championships are hosted by First Nations/Tribal Councils. If Bids are not received for a particular sport, those sports are not held in that calendar year.





By Patricia Schuster

Sweet Grass

RECORDS

Ted Whitecalf

When Ted Whitecalf was small, he remembers always being surrounded by the sounds of drumming and singing and it always stayed with him. However, he realized that singing wasn't in the cards for him; he did the next best thing and opened up a recording studio to begin producing the very music he loved. And thus Sweet Grass Records was born. ● ● ●

In May of 1993 Whitecalf, member of the Sweetgrass First Nation, officially opened the doors and began recording music normally heard at pow wows and rounddances. Ted recalls his motives, "Where I was working at the time they weren't interested in taking music to a further level. So we developed Sweet Grass Records to help fill a void and did a proper job. We are a hotbed for talent in Saskatchewan especially when it comes to music. We have more world champions than anywhere else and for that reason we wanted to continue working with the drum groups."

Whitecalf ensures he follows proper protocol when recording any type of cultural components within any songs or performances. "I respect that and it is not hard for me to follow the boundaries and it has always been told to me that is the natural law and I don't want to break that law. I want things to be right in terms of cultural protocol."

Ted Whitecalf has developed close relationships with the singers and performers of Sweetgrass Records. When asked if he could name a few up and comers, he didn't just stop at one or two, the names just kept coming, each said with a sound of pride in his voice. Whitecalf says the music that Sweet Grass develops is crucial. "I think that part is coming from the heart and I want to help them out as much as I can. It is so new to the groups and Sweet Grass has

been there for the groups who have been nominated to make it happen for them."

And happen it has. Right now, Sweet Grass is just coming off the success of the Whitefish Jrs. who won countrywide acclaim when they took the stage with superstar Nelly Fertado at the 2004 Juno Awards in Edmonton, Alberta. Whitecalf says it was a huge event for the Drummers and for himself. "I was so proud of the group and it was such a success for them. I think it really gave me a 'don't stop here' mentality and I realized I have so much to do. It is a big achievement. I mean if they are successful, then we are successful."

Two other groups he works with, the Young Scouts and Delia and the Waskewitch Boys have both been nominated for an award at the Sixth Annual Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards in Toronto in late November. However for Whitecalf it is not the awards and accolades that keeps him in this business. Whitecalf believes the recordings will be important for the future. "I guess really what we are doing here is we are recording these to preserve the language and the music. There is going to be a big demand in the future and I think we should see how far we can go in terms of preserving our language and music."

Back in the first year of Sweet Grass Records, three records were released. Since this time, approximately 200 albums have been released. Requests for the music came from within Canada but internationally as well, countries such as France, Australia, Iraq. The recordings include studio quality and live recordings. The work equals about 50 percent for one and 50 percent for the other type. Whitecalf does prefer working in the studio just because as a producer he has more control over the whole situation and how the recording will sound.

Right now as a recording producer he definitely has a favorite part. "Finishing off the final product, once your done the whole thing and you see the finished product in it's case and you see how happy the group is with what they receive."

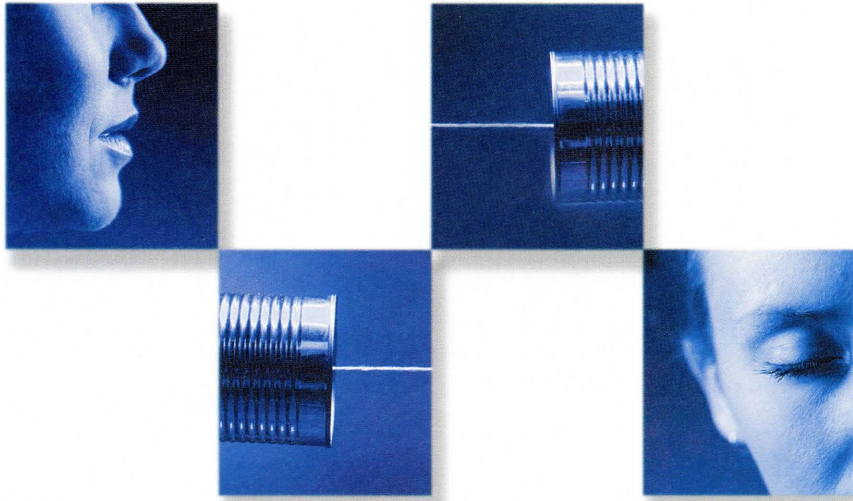
Part of the success of the finished products includes the CD covers and it's incredible artistry. Much of the CD covers have been designed and produced by Pamela Whitecalf, daughter of Ted, who has won numerous awards for her awe inspiring CD covers. A move Whitecalf says is necessary to make the recordings marketable. "In our way of doing things we need a good product with good quality. If I go to the store to buy a CD and I am not



sure of the artist, having a nice cover can help me make a choice. The cover is beautiful as is the music inside."

Ted Whitecalf first got his training in communications in Toronto and has expanded on what he learned back then. Whitecalf is taking his communications training to the next level with Sweet Grass Records. It has become a multi-media business with the productions of books, photography, and graphic designing. And for Whitecalf it is a natural progression. "It was just a hobby I was going to do, but then it took a turn and became a full time job and it has turned out to be a big thing. Sweet Grass is branching out into print media and producing books for the community and we have made the company versatile in the area of communications."

Sweet Grass Records has a clear future panned out. Whitecalf says they want to expand into other types of music including a more contemporary scene. "We want to continue working and promoting with some major companies in the music scene especially with a young population coming up. We would like to go into the open market. Yes, hip hop too, right now we are having meetings going on and we are not about to shut anything out." Sound impossible? With Ted Whitecalf of Sweet Grass Records at the buttons, anything is possible. ✍



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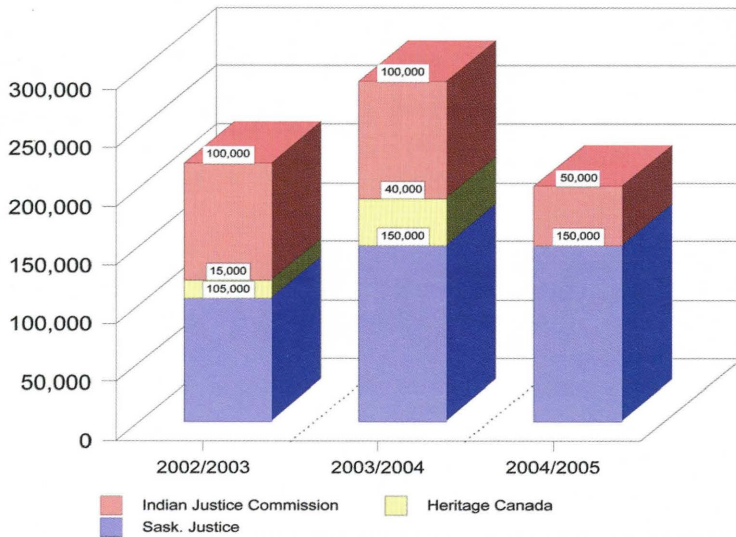
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Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

FSIN Special Investigations Unit

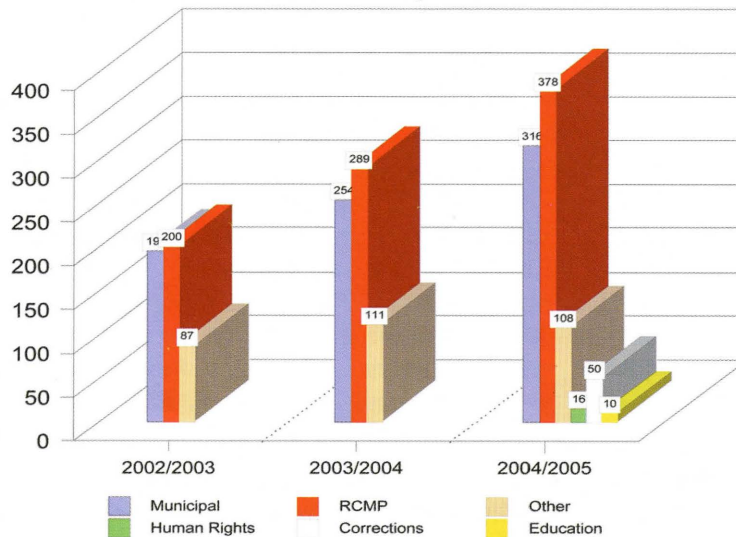
FSIN SIU Financial Contributions



Many people are aware of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations - Special Investigations Unit (SIU). Its mandate is to offer a First Nation focused complaints process as an alternative to the current mainstream complaints processes in Saskatchewan. However, people may not be aware of how much the SIU achieves within the very limited amount of financial resources it receives.

Since its inception in 2000, the SIU has received over 3,500 calls and has opened more than 900 files. This has been accomplished with two dedicated and hardworking full-time staff as well as one part time administrative staff. In comparison the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP, in 2002-2003 received a budget of \$ 4.8 million dollars, was staffed by 44 employees and received 22 complaints from Saskatchewan with none of those being First Nation.

FSIN SIU Files as per Fiscal Year



The chart provides an overview of what the SIU accomplishes in comparison to the funds received over the past three fiscal years. Note that the contributions received by SIU have been largely supplemented by First Nations themselves. There is a significant increase in the number of files and a general decrease in SIU operational funding. This unique investigative body continues to gain local, regional, national and international acclaim for its commitment to excellence and dedication.



Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies Introduction

SIIT Overview

The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) has been designing, developing and delivering training and education programs to First Nations people in Saskatchewan since 1976. SIIT is a provincial post-secondary institution governed by a Board of Governors representative of the provincial First Nation political organization, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN).

SIIT is Canada's largest Aboriginal post-secondary institution. Both First Nations and non-First Nations governments recognize the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies. On July 1, 2000, the Province of Saskatchewan recognized SIIT as a post-secondary institution by way of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies Act (2000). This new legislation has assisted First Nations students to transfer credits to other post-secondary institutions and to have their certificates and diplomas recognized by both First Nations and non-First Nations employers.

SIIT delivers programming at nine permanent campuses located throughout the province as well as community-based training as requested.

Growth and Opportunity

SIIT maintains its competitive advantage delivering programs to aboriginal people over other academic and training institutions through its close links with a youthful Aboriginal community. It is well known that the Aboriginal population represents the largest untapped labour force in the country. In each of the western Canadian provinces, the Aboriginal population is younger than the general population and is employed or actively seeking employment at near equal or greater rates than the general population.

SIIT is on a dynamic growth curve. The institute must gear up in response to the "boom bust and echo" demographic that profiles a retiring baby boomer population and an emergent First Nation population soon ready to enter academic institutions in large numbers.

SIIT has been training First Nation people in the province of Saskatchewan for the past 28 years. Since 1986 we have graduated in excess of 7,000 students. However, the emerging demographic of aboriginal youth could accelerate this growth by 50% in the immediate future and closer to 100% over the next five to ten year segment.

Total enrollment figures for all of our programs since the 1996-97 to the 2000-01 Academic year has gone from 1,200 to 2,100 students. This represents an annual growth of approximately 10% each year. Presently, we see the percentage rate of growth for the current academic year to remain the same.



Success

As a result of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies Act (2000), the institution's academic credibility has strengthened with both First Nations and non-First Nations organizations and has resulted in partnership alliances and opportunities. Such partnerships include CISCO Systems Canada, a leading technology organization, partnering with SIIT in the establishment of a two-year Information Technology Program; the Saskatchewan Construction Association partnering with SIIT which has provided opportunities for First Nations trades people to obtain journeyman status; SaskTel, Saskatchewan's largest telecommunications carrier, has partnered with SIIT to establish the first and only First Nations Call Centre in North America; the University of Victoria has partnered with SIIT in the development and delivery of a First Nations Child Care Program.

The SIIT industry partnerships ensure that the institute responds to market demand, such as in 2002, SIIT established the Process Operation Technician- 4th Class Power Engineering Program. The goal was to meet the pressing need for processors in Canada's oilfields and the natural resource sector. The program, complete with an industry-standard lab, has been strategically located in the northern hub of industrial activity. The partnership encompasses numerous large-scale industry partners and a department of the Federal Government, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Other opportunities that have enhanced the credibility of SIIT have been the transferability of credits and programs to other Colleges and Universities throughout Canada. SIIT's Management Program has established transferability to 46 Schools of Business in Canada.

In order to strategically mobilize Canada's Aboriginal youth into the labour force, SIIT will continue to focus on developing collaborative corporate, industry and academic partnerships that will help SIIT continue to strive to new heights of success. ✍



Whitefish Jrs.

By Lorna Arcand and Patricia Schuster

It may well be the performance of their lives. The drum group from Big River First Nation whose fame once rode only the pow wow trail, soon became Canadian superstars after being nominated and also performing live at the 2004 Juno Awards with Canadian superstar Nelly Furtado. A group of young men, the Whitefish Jrs, found a whole new audience of fans as they performed in front of a live crowd of thousands at the Rexal Place in Edmonton, Alberta along with millions watching on television across Canada.

Upon entering the building, whispers had already started about who the group was as they walked the red carpet. Soon they would become known nationally. The awards show began and then it came time for "the performance". Standing around wearing matching black leather jackets, the group began drumming and singing to Nelly Furtado's song "Powerless". As the men wound down their part of the performance and took a back beat to Nelly Fortado's performance, the camera continued to pan the men as they stood proud.

The group was nominated in the category of Aboriginal Recording of the Year. Though they didn't win the award, Inuit Singer Susan Aglukark won; they won the hearts of fans across Canada and gave all First Nations as sense of pride for injecting into the awards show with a touch of a Cree cultural beat.

The Whitefish Jrs. is a Cree drumming group who have been together since 1983. Under the direction of Harvey Dreaver, he and his brothers began their pow wow singing journey at local round dances and pow wows. The Prince Albert Friendship Center asked the Dreaver boys to assist in teaching local children traditional songs. Over the next few years the Whitefish Jrs became the host drum for the Prince Albert Pow Wow and many other celebrations in the area. The group went on the road in 1985 to attend the Gathering of Nations and in 1994, the Whitefish Jrs. were declared World Class Singing Champions at the All Nations Gathering in New Mexico.

In 1993, Whitefish Jrs. approached Ted Whitecalf and his production company Sweet Grass Records and to produce a recording, this was the first recording and has gone on to produce 10 more records. Whitefish Jrs. have become world-wide recording artists with website information appearing even in German. The most profound round dance release may be "In Memory of Percy Dreaver" a tribute to one of the original members who they lost in a tragic accident.

Some of the other releases include 'Live at Schemitzen', 'In Honour of the Late Chief and his Wife John Keenatch', 'Traditions', and 'Forever Dancing' among others. Whitefish Jrs. are able to sing all types of songs including intertribals, traditional Fancy Dance, Sneak Up, and the Crow Hop. Some of the Round Dance song titles include 'The Whole Night Through', 'Snagging Blanket', 'Here to Sing', 'Ocean Shore' and 'Missing You'.

The Whitefish Jrs. will always have the memory of performing with Nelly Furtado at the 2004 Junos. The limo ride to the hotel, the stars surrounding them and being in the spotlight for a few precious moments. Those First Nations people that watched Whitefish Jrs. on T.V. will also remember the pride when the boys came on - few goose bumps and a big smile listening and watching them! It truly was a performance of an awesome performance and a unique experience for Whitefish Jrs. 🏹



Day of Mourning

By Patricia Schuster

"It's time to take back our streets." That was the main message at the 5th annual Day of Mourning held Saturday August 14, 2004 at Pleasant Hill Park in Saskatoon.

As the evening started, children ran and played around the park with new white bears handed out by Shaw Cable. Parents congregated atop a small hill holding small purple candles, pinning on purple ribbons they received as they entered the park. Some people grabbed a bookmark with a painted butterfly on the front, which some say the colorful depiction is meant to represent the beauty in life. The weather was warm making it the perfect evening out. A sharp contrast to the heavy heart many people carried with them as they remembered victims of the sex trade. Some in the crowd had family members or friends on the street, others were there to support and remember the fallen.

The Day of Mourning started with speeches by local Elders, activists and politicians. Each had a specific message meant to encourage people to take a stand against the horrors of the streets including abuse, prostitution and addictions. Each speaker was introduced by courageous young women who took the initiative to place themselves in the public eye and be a part of a coming together of people working towards justice in the streets. At times the young women struggled with their words but the look of courage in their eyes was undeniable, they were taking part in a gathering meant ensure the plights of their fellow community members are known.

Honorable David Forbes, Saskatchewan's Minister of Environment, was one of the noted speakers. He addressed the crowd and called on all people to develop a sense of understanding of what happens on the streets. He expressed his concern and was appalled by the abuse that goes on in areas within the community. He asked all people to work together to stop the horrible cycle.

2nd annual Day of Mourning

Remembering Victims of the Sex Trade

Tuesday, August 14th, 2001
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Pleasant Hill Park (21st Street and Avenue U South
or Pleasant Hill School if raining)

Proudly Supported by



The Saskatoon
Downtown Youth
Centre Inc.

Working Group to Stop
the Sexual Exploitation
of Children



Saskatoon Communities
for Children



Provincial Government
Department of Social Services

Thanks to the many volunteer youth who have worked hard to make this day happen!



Artwork by Loretta

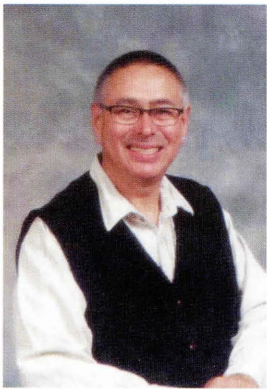
As the speeches wound down, the crowd gathered together, children ran to their parents, and as a group they made their way into the streets, led by a drum group and a police escort, the group made their way through the inner streets where so much struggle and heartache exists. Once back at the park, the candles were lit and placed on a table surrounded by sand, each representing a light of hope meant to remember the lost victims to the streets. Purple balloons were released into the sky perhaps to represent the freedom from the streets.

Some of the sponsors for the event included EGADZ, The Saskatoon Downtown Youth Center, Working Group to Stop the Exploitation of Children, Saskatoon Communities for Children and the Provincial Government, Department of Community Resources and Employment.

The message from the Day of Mourning is strong. Take back the streets. It was encouraging to see the youth who were involved with the day from the planning to the MC duties, to handing out the ribbons, candles and bookmarks. It is obvious their hard work and dedication to make known the plight of a sometimes forgotten segment of society stems from a larger place in themselves. Something that many people may not ever have the chance to understand. With youth who are willing to spend a Saturday night volunteering their time to plan an evening intended to bring light to individuals lost to the streets, it is obvious that they are taking the future in the right direction. 🦋

REMEMBERING OUR FRIEND BOB BOYER

By Gaylene Anaquod



First Nations University of Canada said goodbye to long time friend and faculty member Bob Boyer. Bob was a Professor of Indian Art, and

Head of the Department of Indian Fine Arts at the First Nations University of Canada when he passed away on Monday, August 30, 2004.

Bob is recognized around the world as an established curator, an internationally acclaimed painter and installation artist. He was a virtual renaissance man in his efforts within the Aboriginal community using a variety of media in his art to tell his stories; stories from personal experiences, reflections of social issues, and symbols of spiritualism. He was best known for his 80's works known as the Blanket Statements, where he used blankets as a painting surface upon which he presented critical views of the effects of non-Indian influences on Indian people, the land and the spirit world.

In an interview with Bob in early 2003, Bob was asked how he came to SIFC, now known as the First Nations University of Canada. He answered, "It was a matter of being in the right place at the right time." In 1978 the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural College was responsible for the Indian Art program. However, in 1976 when the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College was established the Indian Art program came with it.

Bob shared his commitment to the university and to Indigenous peoples. Bob explained that he could not, in all previous jobs, come to fully accept his role within these organizations. "My personal commitments and values were not in sync with that of my employers," he shared.

He then told the story of a time when he was having coffee with some friends and during coffee they discussed sovereignty over education and self-determination. Little did he and his companions know that they had an audience and not long into the discussion she approached the table. She explained she overheard the discussion and liked the passion in the discussion surrounding a desire to have "Indian control of Indian Education." She introduced herself as Ida Wasacase and offered Bob the opportunity to come and work for the newly created Saskatchewan Indian Federated College. Bob moved to Regina to develop and deliver the Indian Fine Arts Program and remained with the University since. When SIFC became First Nations University of Canada in 2003, Bob was a Professor of Indian Fine Art and Head of the Indian Fine Arts Department and at the end of that year was the university's first employee to achieve 25 years (continuous/no break) of service.

Bob Boyer maintained and made known his cultural and spiritual beliefs throughout his life – his personal life, his work, his paintings, his teachings, even within his pow wow outfits. His spirituality and faith is evident in his art.

Bob was also an accomplished pow wow dancer and performer. His artistic talents expanded to the designing, sewing and beading of his own pow wow costumes (and that of his sons) which he wore when he travelled around the world performing and dancing. He had been a member of the University's pow wow since the early days, held annually each April in Regina. Bob was respected and considered a very valuable member of the pow wow committee. Bob loved to dance and travel to pow wows. Each summer he travelled weekends with family and friends to pow wows throughout Canada and the United States.

Bob and his wife Ann were married for 34 and 1/2 years and have two sons, Bob Boyer (Margaret) Jr. and Jonah Boyer and two grandchildren, Alice and Isidore, who were a great joy in his life. ✍

FIRST NATIONS
UNIVERSITY
OF CANADA



Moving Beyond

By Bonnie Leask

Residential schools have had a permanent impact on First Nations people since their creation. Though residential schools are not in existence anymore, their legacy still continues to be a dark shadow for many First Nations people. Many First Nation people that attended residential schools were forced to disregard their traditions, values, beliefs and language. In addition, many of those that attended residential schools suffered physical, mental and sexual abuse.

The effect of residential schools has also affected those who did not attend. Intergenerational trauma from residential schools has impacted families and communities. Alcohol and drug abuse, trust issues, suicide, depression are but a few symptoms of the effects of residential schools. Coping and overcoming the residential experience is now the task First Nation people and communities are working towards.

On August 3-5, 2004, the George Gordon First Nation hosted a national residential school gathering aptly titled, "Moving Beyond". The objective of the conference was "to share, network, empower, understand and make informed decisions with respect to the process many survivors are embarking on". The gathering was open to all people who have been affected by the residential school experience either personally or professionally.

The conference was opened with remarks from gathering organizer and George Gordon councillor Eddie Bitternose, George Gordon Chief Glen Pratt, FSIN Chief Alphonse Bird and co-chairs of the gathering George Gordon members Ivan McNabb and Connie Gordon.

Following their remarks an honorary eagle staff was brought into the gathering. The eagle staff had seven feathers to recognize the bravery of the seven Gordon's residential school survivors who brought out their



experiences through a lawsuit. The honorary eagle staff was placed in the main area of the gathering and remained there for the entirety of the gathering.

More than 400 delegates came to participate in the gathering. Workshops and plenary sessions included a variety of topics including discussions about future generations, protection of First Nation languages, managing emotions and the present role of the Anglican Church.

The topic of residential schools often brings up a number of emotions, many of them negative. To ensure the participants felt safe, therapists were on hand for any counseling required. However the mood was not always somber, true to First Nation spirit there was lots of laughter, visiting and sharing.

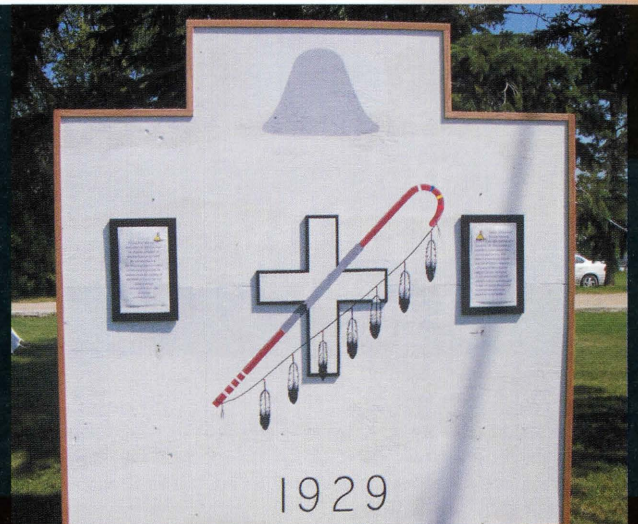
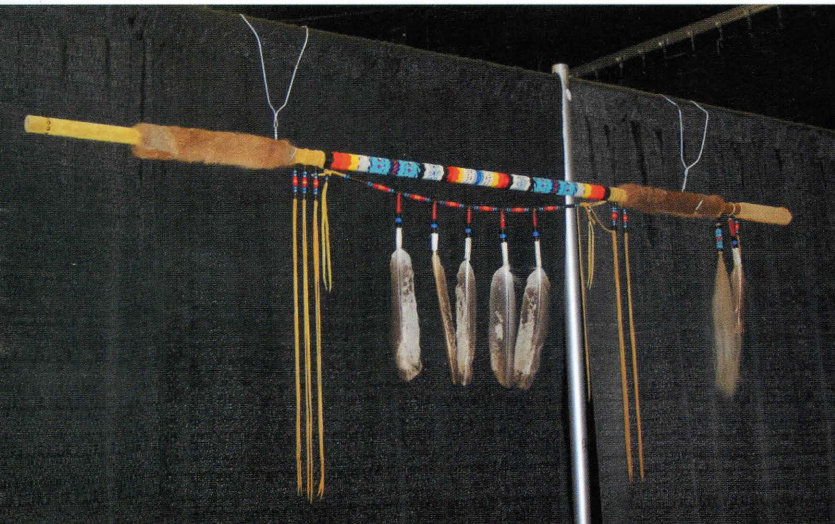
On the first night of the gathering a silent auction was held with the proceeds to go to the Moving Beyond Foundation. The Moving Beyond Foundation is a newly established foundation that assists people in healing and recovering from their residential school experiences and offers a wellness program.

The gathering closed with comments by Chief Glen Pratt, Gathering Coordinator George Gordon and Councillor Eddie Bitternose. Each spoke about the

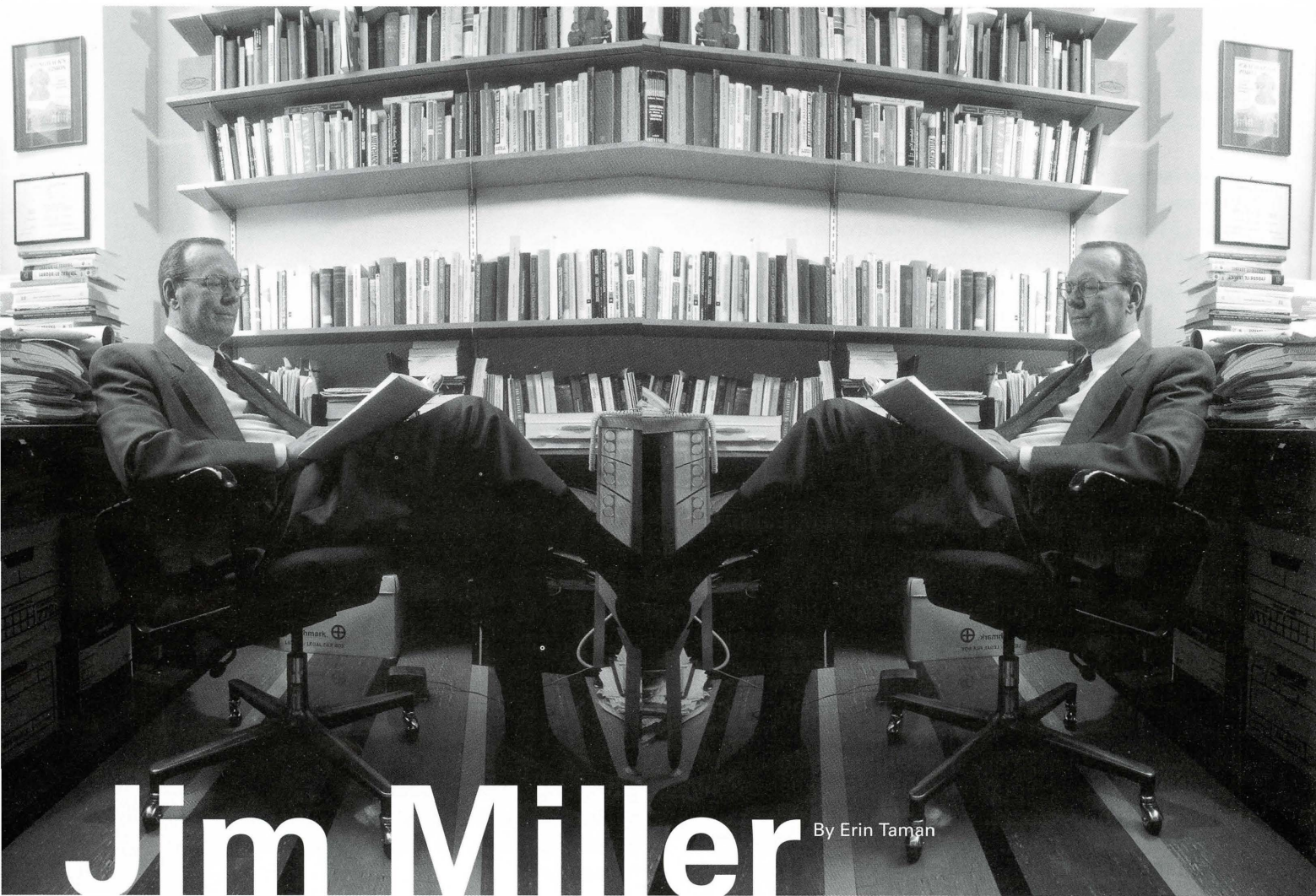


strength of people and in turn a community to move beyond the negative experiences and being able to provide for a brighter future for First Nations generations to come.

To conclude, a human bridge was formed by all in attendance to pass through as a symbol of moving beyond. The commitment to move beyond was demonstrated by those who participated and those who sponsored this well-timed and well-planned gathering. The impact of residential school will be always be part of First Nations history, but through gatherings such as this it is evident that healing has begun. ✍



Photos by Bonnie Leask



PROFILE: Jim Miller, Canada Research Chair in Native-Newcomer Relations at the University of Saskatchewan.

When it was first published in 1989, *Skyscrapers Hide the Heavens* was acclaimed as the first comprehensive account of Indian-white relations in Canada. Now in its third edition, the book by University of Saskatchewan history professor Jim Miller addresses a question that continues to haunt us, "how did relations get to this point?"

"I started research in the field of Native-newcomer relations because I was perplexed by what I saw around me," Miller says. "Like most Canadians who think about the matter today, I wondered why things were so messed up, why were relations so bad between us, why do Aboriginal communities very often have such serious socio-economic and health problems? How did it get like this?"

That was when Miller moved away from the study of French-English relations, which had been his field since university, and into the complex world of Native-newcomer history. In the 21 years since, he has redefined the field. His appointment as Canada Research Chair is the latest proof of his international reputation as one of the area's leading scholars.

"I probably would not have chosen this field if I hadn't lived in Saskatchewan since 1970, and if I hadn't spent a year in Japan in 1982-83."

Oddly, it is the year in Japan that is key.

"I was trying to figure out the culture, so I read some books on Japanese sociology. More and more, I noticed the importance of schooling and socialization in shaping the younger generation. It made me wonder. I'd seen lots of references in Canadian historical literature about residential schools, but nothing in any depth. That's where I started, with the history of residential schooling."

It took Miller more than 10 years to research and write the book, but when it was published in 1996, *Shingwauk's Vision: A History of Native Residential Schools* met with critical success. It continues to be cited by the media in articles on residential school issues, and has established Miller as a respected consultant on residential school issues.

While *Shingwauk's Vision* was a work-in-progress, Miller researched and wrote *Skyscrapers Hide the Heavens* and the companion volume, *Sweet Promises: A Reader on Indian-White Relations in Canada*. Both have been adopted as required books for History and Native Studies courses at several Canadian universities.

In 2000, *Bounty and Benevolence: A History of Saskatchewan Treaties* appeared. This work, co-authored with Arthur J. Ray of the University of British Columbia and Frank Tough of the University of Alberta, was originally commissioned by the Hon. David Arnot, Treaty Commissioner for Saskatchewan. Initially it appeared as a report for the Commissioner, who incorporated its findings into his *Statement of Treaty Issues: Treaties as a Bridge to the Future* in 1998. After revision, it appeared as a book.

In the last year, Miller has written two more books. *Lethal Legacy: Current Native Controversies in Canada* attempts to give the historical background to difficult contemporary issues such as Aboriginal identity, self-government, treaties, land claims, and assimilation policies and their impact.

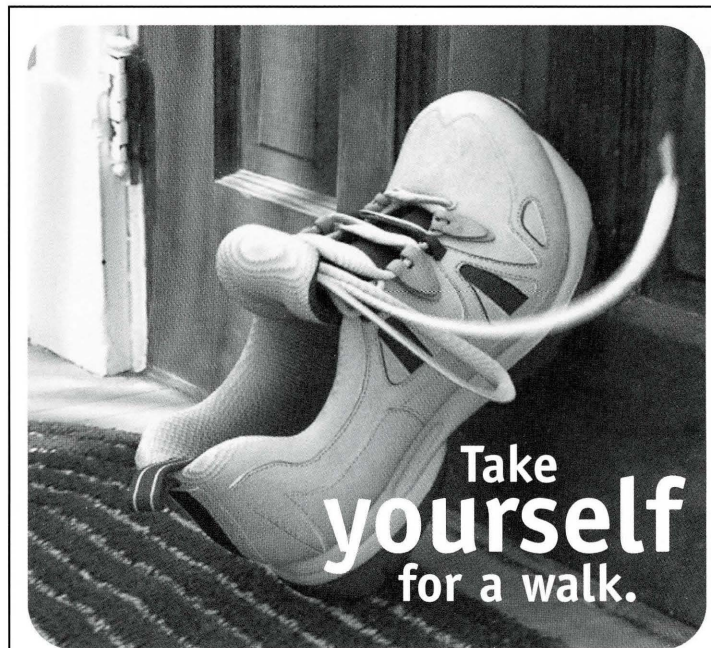
"I wrote *Lethal Legacy* because I was tired of reading books in which people proposed solutions without, apparently,

understanding how the problems or challenges got to be as they are," Miller says.

His second book in 2004, *Reflections on Native-Newcomer Relations: Selected Essays*, is a collection of some of his finest essays on Native people in Canada. Early reviews confirm that these essays "embody both careful attention to sources as well as great historical imagination." Some have been widely cited by scholars for years, others will find the wider audience they deserve for the first time.

"My research on residential schooling and, most significantly, on the Saskatchewan treaties made it clear to me how much ignorance and misunderstanding exists, at both the scholarly and general levels, on the critically important topic of treaty-making in Canada," Miller says. "The Canada Research Chair gives me an opportunity to continue to explore that theme by researching and writing a comprehensive history of treaties between Indians and the Crown in Canada."

To date, the U of S has been awarded \$18.5 million to support 19 Canada Research Chairs which cover a broad range of areas.



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Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indians established a task force on First Nations education in 1969. This task force identified the need to establish a First Nations controlled Cultural Education Centre in Saskatchewan. Three years later, in 1972, the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre came into being.

The mission of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre (SICC) is to strengthen and support the overall First Nations education and cultural awareness of First Nations people. The SICC serves as a centralized education and cultural resource centre for the First Nations of Saskatchewan. However, while the focus of the Centre is on First Nations of Saskatchewan, many of our activities and programs benefit non-First Nation people. An example of this is our cross-cultural program, which has provided workshops and training materials to the general public.

The Centre has many objectives. We assist in the development of traditional and contemporary cultural skills of First Nations people. The Centre promotes cross-cultural awareness of First Nations peoples' historic and current role in Canadian society. We provide a First Nations resource base for Bands and school systems to draw upon so that First Nations children may accurately inherit the values and traditions of their heritage. The Centre conducts and facilitates research on First Nations' heritage and cultures; and above all, we work under the principle of respect, and promote the inherent sovereignty of First Nations and their Governments as recognized by the Royal Proclamation (1763) and confirmed by the Treaties and Constitutional relationships.

Our Mandate

In the area of language and culture, the Centre's principle mandate is to serve as a centralized cultural resource centre for the Dene, Woodland Cree, Swampy Cree, Plains Cree, Nakawe, Dakota, Nakota, and Lakota First Nations of Saskatchewan and to facilitate cross cultural understanding. The Centre's objectives include:

- Preservation of Saskatchewan First Nations languages, cultures, arts, artifacts, and histories.
- To promote the retention and revitalization of Saskatchewan First Nations languages, cultures, and traditional arts.

- To serve as a central repository for information and objects pertaining to the languages, cultures, arts, history, and current affairs of Saskatchewan First Nations.

- To serve as a centralized Saskatchewan First Nations information source for educators, students, and citizens in general and to facilitate research on Saskatchewan First Nations topics.

- To facilitate the advancement of cross-cultural awareness and communications between Saskatchewan's First Nations and society in general.

- Fostering the development of Saskatchewan First Nations Bilingual/Bicultural Education programs and assisting education authorities in building their capacity to deliver such programs.

- Research, develop, produce, and distribute Saskatchewan First Nations content instructional and resource materials in print, audio, video, and multi-media formats, which are pedagogically sound and linguistically, culturally and historically accurate.

- To advocate the preservation First Nations languages, cultures, arts, artifacts, and history, First Nations cultural resource management, development of First Nations community education systems, the advancement of First Nations Arts and Cultural Industries, First Nations access to information and library services and building the capacity of First Nations cultural institutions.

In addition to our mandate responsibilities, the SICC has undertaken numerous initiatives that have expanded its range of services. These include the SICC label, which is well known in the recording and film industries. The Centre is fully recognized as a publishing house. A storefront, catalog, the internet and displays are used to market the more than 1100 products the Centre has produced. Storefront hours are from 8:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday.

One of the largest First Nations content libraries in Canada is maintained by the Centre. The public may access the Centre's library and information services Monday through

Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Information services and the library catalogue can also be accessed through the Centre's website sicc.sk.ca.

The Centre's website is designed to serve as a resource for compiling and sharing information related to the language, culture, arts, history, and current affairs Saskatchewan First Nations.

Through workshops and cultural events the Centre strives to enhance cultural awareness and advance cross-cultural understanding among First Nations and non-First Nations citizens. The Centre also entertains contracts pertaining to cultural services, resource materials development, instructional services, translation and interpretation and other technical assistance.

The Centre has a fairly extensive collection of First Nations artifacts and works of art. A substantial display, representative of the collection, is maintained in the Centre's permanent exhibits gallery. Work of various artists and artisans are featured in the Centre's temporary exhibits gallery. The gallery is open for public viewing, during regular working hours. There is no admission fee charged and tours of the Centre are given on request.

The Future

The Centre has been mandated by the Legislative Assembly of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations to establish a Museum to house the Centre's collections and artifacts. This is a major initiative that will allow the Centre to more effectively showcase the art, culture and history of Saskatchewan's First Nations.

The future also holds many challenges and issues for the Centre. With our Elders taking the lead role, the Centre will continue to develop meaningful programs and services that are required by our First Nations. In moving forward and in consultation with our communities, the Centre will continue to adapt and enhance current programs, services, and educational resource materials to the First Nations of Saskatchewan. We continue to update both our technological and Internet capacity. This will enable the Centre to provide cultural and educational information more cost effectively and efficiently. Current plans include a permanent home for our institution including our artwork and artifact collection and we are also working toward becoming more visible in First Nations communities and to the public, in general.

Finally, we welcome all to come and visit with us. We offer tours of our gallery and facilities. Come and share our future 🦋



Photos by Bonnie Leask

ROBERT MCCOY AWASIS A SOLDIER

By Bonnie Leask

Thunderchild First Nation hosted its 125th Commemorative Pow wow on August 14-15, 2004. Many people on the pow wow trail came out and took part in the Pow wow while enjoying nice weather. Dignitaries in attendance included Thunderchild's Acting Chief Norman Moyah and its Council members, FSIN 1st Vice Chief Morley Watson and 3rd Vice Chief Delbert Wapass, a member of the Thunderchild First Nation.

At the Saturday evening grand entry, Thunderchild First Nation recognized and honoured the many First Nation veterans. Many First Nation veterans were on hand, as well as the Bold Eagle Troupe from Wainwright, Alberta were on hand to provide a demonstration.

Robert McCoy Awasis, member of the the Thunderchild First Nation and the Marine Corps of the United States Military participated in the Saturday evening grand entry. Robert is great grandson to George Horse, the oldest

living veteran of the Thunderchild First Nation. George Horse served in World War II and was one of the first to land in France on D-Day. Robert and his great grandfather were both on hand and recognized for their respective roles in the military.

*You have to have goals.
When you set a goal, stick
with it 100% and strive high!*

Robert was born in South Texas and spent most of his youth living in various cities in both America and Canada. He enlisted in the Canadian Army when he was 17 years old however desired change. Therefore he headed back to Texas and enlisted in the United States Military Marine Corps.

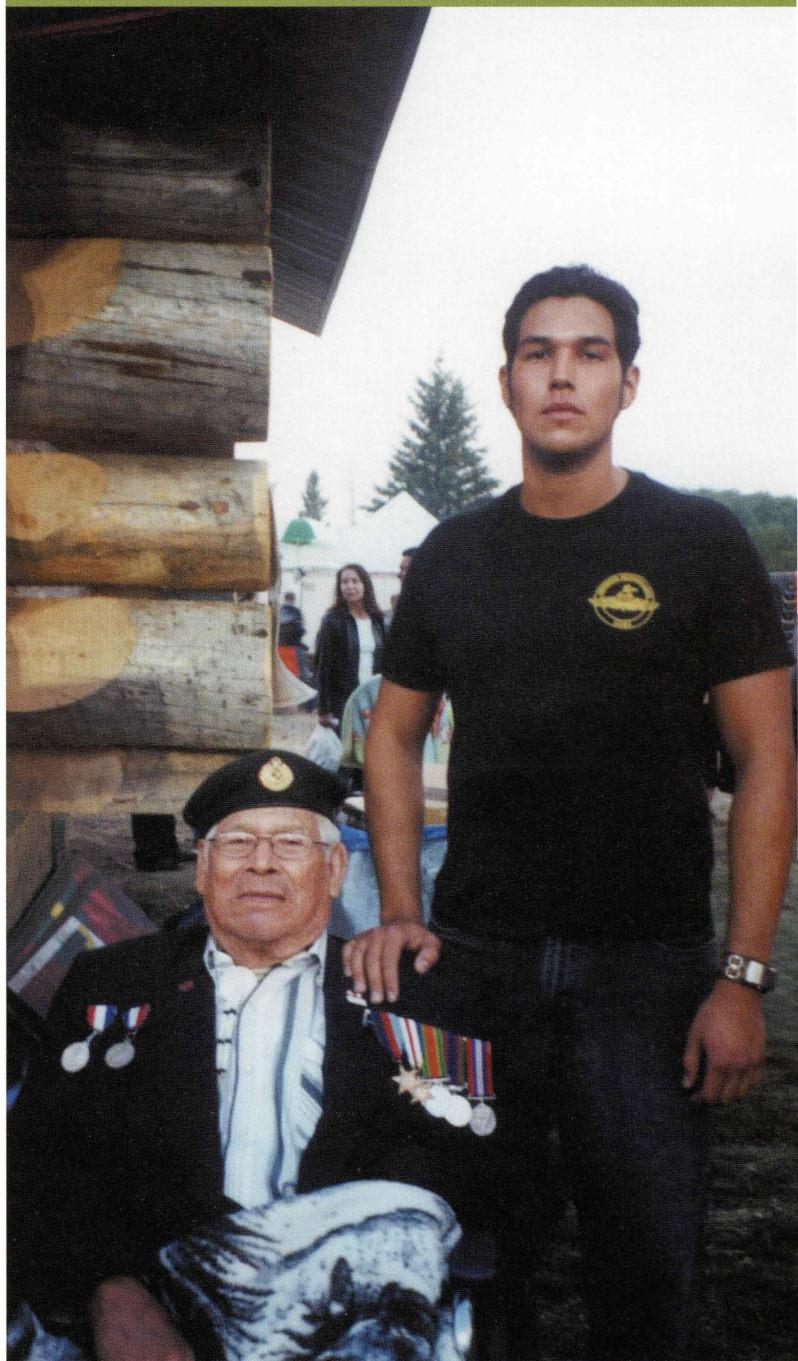
Through his training, Robert has learned many skills, abilities and lessons. His deployments have included countries such as Malta, Tunisia, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Croatia and Turkey. During his overseas assignments, Robert speaks about the excitement of visiting and seeing new countries.

With equal excitement, Robert speaks highly of his family and his close connection with them. During the interview, a number of times Robert's cousins would approach for some good old teasing. Robert said, "Family is very important, especially when you have to travel. In my travels, I would see families together and would feel lonely and miss my family. I value the opportunity to spend time with them when I can."

For members of the United States Military, particularly in the past three years, the chance of being assigned to Iraq is expected. Like many other military members, Robert was sent to Kuwait in January 2003 for the possible invasion of Iraq. In Iraq, Robert belonged to the 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion and his (mission) training included gathering intelligence about specific areas and forwarding it to fellow marine units in preparation of the anticipated conflict.

He explains that his time in Iraq was difficult however he completed his mission. In July 2003, Robert returned stateside and undertook another role with the Marine Corps, training other troops for assignment in Iraq. Robert is still active with the Marine Corps and received a medal for good conduct for his Iraq assignment and currently holds the post of Sergeant.

When asked if he had any message he wanted to pass on, he had a simple and straightforward message, "You have to have goals. When you set a goal, stick with it 100% and strive high!"



Robert McCoy Awasis and Grandfather George Horse

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When I hear your soft cry.

Slowly I am dealing,
with the loss of my only boy.
For I remember when I saw your face,
I was filled with so much joy.

Amanda Nicole Chief

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MEETING GROUND

with Mervin Brass & David Kirton



Saskatchewan's Only First Nations & Metis Current Affairs Program

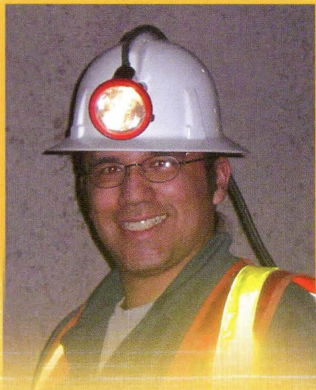
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Celebrating First Nation Achievement in Saskatchewan



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.



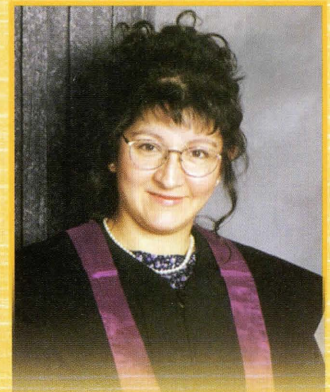
Johnny Walker

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.

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