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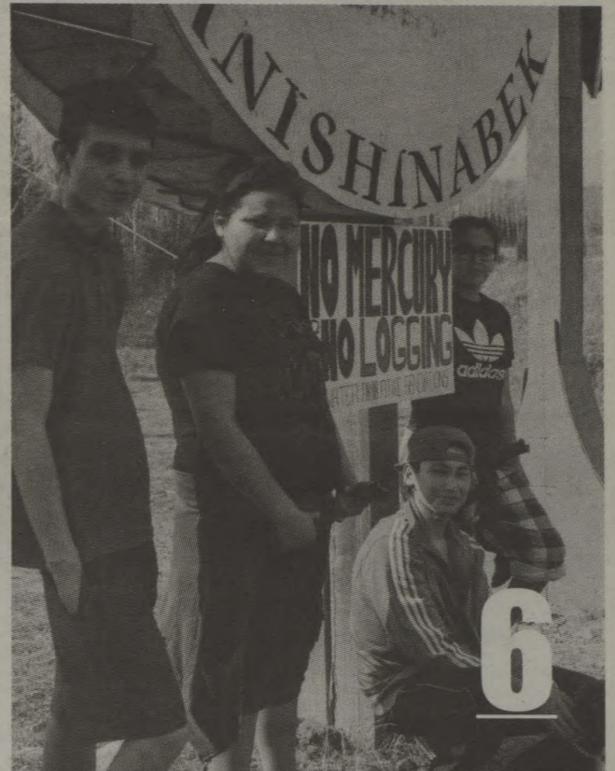
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Band proves that environment trumps money 9

The Lax Kw'alaams band has turned down a liquefied natural gas development that would have netted them \$1.15 billion in benefits. And in so doing lost out on Crown land the province had been offering. The band had valued the land at \$108 million. The province said the land was contingent on the band supporting Pacific NorthWest LNG's proposal.



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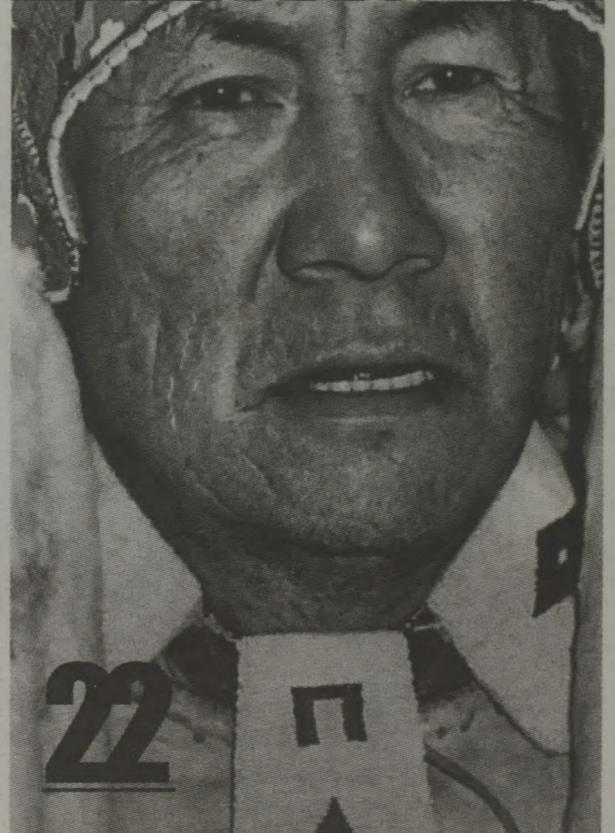
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He was an honoured leader who cared equally for each and every member of his Tsuu T'ina First Nation, and so the old-time Elders named Gordon Crowchild "Lifetime Chief."

"That's the way he was. He always felt responsible for those around him," said son Lee Crowchild.

"Even after he was no longer the official chief, he helped everyone and the old people considered him their forever chief. Even after he got sick they referred to him that way.



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Big carrot, but no bite from Lax Kw'alaams

It was a big test. When we heard about the \$1.15 billion offered by Petronas (Pacific NorthWest LNG) to Lax Kw'alaams First Nation to support an LNG terminal on its traditional land at Lelu Island in Prince Rupert it made us wonder. How does a small group turn that kind of money down?

This is where the principles that have been espoused are challenged at their core. Does the offer wobble the knees? Make the stomach flip? Can the money compromise the group's stated values?

No. After three community votes, the people were unmoved. The offer rejected. "This is not a money issue: this is environmental and cultural," read the nation's statement after their last vote May 12.

The location of the proposed site, at the head of the important fish-bearing Skeena River, was the sticking point. Not the LNG industry itself. It was the place; Flora Bank, an underwater area adjacent to the island, is vital habitat to salmon and not to be exposed to threat or danger of development. Lax Kw'alaams was adamant. That area is closed. Full stop.

But the Lax Kw'alaams vote was not the book closed. There's another chapter. Only a week after the Lax Kw'alaams people said they would not consent, British Columbia's Premier Christy Clark has announced the province is providing guarantees through legislation to sweeten the deal for Petronas to proceed on its \$36 billion investment in northern B.C.

On May 20, a project development agreement signed by Pacific NorthWest LNG and BC, will legislate "long-term cost certainty regarding certain provincial taxation and environmental laws and regulations applicable to LNG facilities." The government of B.C. intends to recall the legislature as soon as practicable to introduce legislation that enables the agreement.

The press release for the agreement states very clearly that Pacific NorthWest LNG hasn't changed its planned location for the terminal.

"Pacific NorthWest LNG plans to build an LNG facility on Lelu Island, located in the District of Port Edward on land administered by the Prince Rupert Port Authority. The first phase of the project would consist of two liquefaction trains, two LNG storage tanks, marine infrastructure with two berths for LNG carriers, a material offloading facility, as well as administration and auxiliary

buildings. The facility would liquefy and export natural gas produced by Progress Energy Canada Ltd. in Northeast B.C. for transport to Lelu Island by the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission project," the statement reads.

"The province continues to consult with Tsimshian Nations—Lax Kw'alaams, Metlakatla, Gitxaala, Kitsumkalum, Kitselas and Gitga'at First Nations—regarding the Pacific Northwest LNG project, reads the government press release on the proposed project agreement.

Now Lax Kw'alaams isn't rejecting LNG wholesale. It says it's open for business. But Lelu Island is a non-starter.

"Lax Kw'alaams is open to business, to development, and to LNG...It is not open to development proximate to Flora Bank."

When Lax Kw'alaams rejected Petronas' offer, its statement to the press was equally clear.

"Only Lax Kw'alaams have a valid claim to aboriginal title in the relevant area—their consent is required for this project to proceed. There are suggestions governments and the Proponent may try to proceed with the project without consent of the Lax Kw'alaams. That would be unfortunate," said Mayor Garry Reece in a statement released by the band.

So where is this headed now? To court, one might expect. Lax Kw'alaams told CBC there was no way they would approve Lelu for development. They would not sacrifice a sustainable resource for economic gain.

But Rich Coleman, deputy premier and minister of Natural Gas Development in the province, is optimistic an agreement can be reached with the nation before it reaches court. He didn't even want to discuss the possibility. The province's environmental experts are talking with Lax Kw'alaams' legal people and the project will be successful, he said. The environmental hurdle will be cleared.

Coleman said he wants to wait for the environmental assessment conditions to go back to the Lax Kw'alaams for a definitive answer on the terminal plan. So in the end, Lax Kw'alaams holds the key to the long-term success of the Premier's LNG dreams. Will they continue to stand firm? We're betting they will. They have remained true to their teachings as stewards of their territory. They deserve our respect for putting their responsibilities to the generations yet born over dollars for today.

Windspeaker

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COME SEPT. 30, THE FIRST NATIONS SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Society will have no federal funding to support on-reserve social assistance programs. The society is condemning a "unilateral decision" by Aboriginal Affairs, BC region to cut the support for Persons with Disability on Reserve adjudication service. The society further accuses the government of bad faith negotiations of a contract.

President Jamie Hill said the society's work meets the needs of some of the most vulnerable First Nations people in the province. "As of June 30, 2015, Person with Disability Adjudication will cease and be transferred to an unknown agency. Further to this, all support for on-reserve income assistance will cease on Sept. 30, 2015. Without consultation or a plan to support our communities, AANDC's decision clearly demonstrates a lack of awareness, sensitivity and priority for the well-being of our communities."

Hill said letters to Minister Bernard Valcourt have gone unanswered. "This further demonstrates AANDC's lack of respect and support for First Nations in Canada, and highlights the Harper Government's lack of priority for meeting its commitments to First Nations people."

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, president of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs said "This unilateral decision by AANDC demonstrates the government's continued lack of understanding of First Nations and the on-ground reality faced by our community members. Further to this, AANDC has not raised the rate of on-reserve welfare since 1994. A basic employable person on income assistance receives a basic living allowance of \$235/month, which is \$7.50 per day or \$.31/hour. This is not acceptable and perpetuates the vicious cycle of institutionalized poverty in our First Nation communities."

IT FEATURES STUNNING VIEWS OF CAPE BRETON, TALKS ABOUT

the island's rich culture, but a 30-second tourism video produced by Destination Cape Breton, doesn't mention First Nations and is being criticized for its lack of cultural diversity with nary a visible minority in sight. But destination Cape Breton said the video is meant to attract tourists from the Toronto market who visit the island for the Cabot Trail. "For the purpose of a 30-second spot — and we think about how short that is — it is about what are those things that can really impact," said Destination Cape Breton CEO Mary Tulle. The spot was shown in Toronto for about three weeks. There are plans for other promotional videos that will showcase the Gaelic, Acadian and Mi'kmaq communities, Tulle told CTV News Atlantic.

A SASKATOON JUDGE CALLED EUGENE WESLEY ARCAND AN

"exemplary" member of the community and decided he shouldn't have a criminal record for a dangerous driving conviction. Judge Byron Wright gave Arcand, 62, a former vice-chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, a nine-month conditional discharge. Arcand was convicted in December of dangerous driving for aiming his vehicle at a police officer who had testified against him at a traffic court trial. Arcand denies it happened, calling it a "trumped-up charge."

SAUGEEN FIRST NATION CHIEF VERNON ROOTE TOLD THE

North Bay Nugget that his community is opposed to a plan to bury nuclear waste near Lake Huron. "Of course we are opposed to it. In our community that I represent ... there are no members that are agreeable to the burial at the site at this time." Ontario Power Generation received approval in May from a federal review panel, but OPG said approval of the First Nation is necessary for the project to go ahead. Roote said contamination of the Great Lakes is a big concern. "If something were to happen with the disposal or the leakage of nuclear waste, I wouldn't want to be drinking the water downstream," he said. "That means the balance of Lake Huron, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and also anyone drinking from those lakes, even into the U.S.A." The plan is to bury low- and intermediate grade radioactive waste from the three nuclear plants in Ontario. It will be buried in a deep shaft at the Bruce nuclear site near Kincardine, Ont. on the traditional territory of the Saugeen Nation, which includes the Chippewas of Nawash First Nation.

LAKE BABINE HAS SIGNED A PIPELINE BENEFITS AGREEMENT

with British Columbia to take advantage of natural gas pipeline development and the emerging LNG industry. The nation's traditional territory is along the proposed route for TransCanada's Prince Rupert Gas Transmission (PRGT) natural gas pipeline project. They will receive about \$3.56 million in one-time payments from the Province as milestones are reached: \$324,000 when the agreement takes effect, \$1.62 million as construction begins, and \$1.62 million when the pipeline is operating. Lake Babine Nation is also entitled to a share of \$10 million a year in ongoing benefits for First Nations along the pipeline route. "This project meets Lake Babine Nation's conditions for consent: it can be built in a way that is safe for our territory and resources; it has been developed and will be built with our meaningful involvement; and it will bring significant economic benefits to our people," said Chief Wilf Adam. Located in several communities on Babine Lake and in and around Burns Lake, Lake Babine Nation has about 2,440 members.

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Grassy Narrows debates its future path

By David P. Ball
Windspeaker Contributor

Grassy Narrows, Ont.

Several dozen teenagers and young adults marched the length of Asubpeeschoseewagong (Grassy Narrows) First Nation on May 2 in sweltering 26 degree Celsius heat.

At a community barbecue to celebrate the end of their walk against logging, the teens lounged in the back of pickup trucks and under the branches of roadside trees. Veteran Elders of the northern Ontario Anishinabe community's 13-year-long land defence battle ate burgers beside the reserve's recently refurbished welcome sign.

Band councillor Randy Fobister welcomed Windspeaker to the barbecue and said the youth walkers represent a new generation stepping up to protect Grassy Narrows' traditional territories from industrial logging and pollution.

"The youth are starting to stand up on this issue again," he said. "When I see the youth getting more involved... I'm glad they will be at our community meetings to have a say in what happens on our territories."

"I met with them and heard their ideas about the forests. I'm amazed at the ideas they have."

But tensions continue to simmer over logging in the Whisky Jack Forest surrounding the northwest Ontario community. Despite the fact that Grassy Narrows' ongoing blockade has not ceased since 2002 — making it the longest such protest in the country's history — the province has initiated negotiations with members of the community, including the chief and several councillors, to negotiate restarting forestry in the area.

Grassy Narrows has entered into the provincial talks alongside two other nearby bands, Naotkamegwaning (Whitefish Bay) and Wabauskang first



PHOTO BY DAVID P. BALL

Pictured are just some of the youth who walked to raise attention to a long-standing battle over logging in Grassy Narrows territory.

nations. At stake is who will inherit the logging permits to the provincially issued Sustainable Forest License in the Whisky Jack.

Some community members, including some seasoned blockaders, told Windspeaker that divisions have emerged among band members and even within families over whether taking over logging of the territories is the right path forward for the community.

A change in leadership has raised the stakes for a band that has garnered global headlines and seen victory in the province's top courts over the issue.

In April 2014, the remote Anishinaabe community north of Kenora voted in a new chief, Roger Fobister Sr., after 12 years being headed by Simon Fobister, whose leadership coincided with Grassy Narrows' international anti-logging battle.

He acknowledged the tensions over which way to proceed.

"There is clearly a division within our own chief and council," he said. "I'm very pro-development myself. There are some councillors who are more

reserved or don't agree with any form of working with the [Ministry of Natural Resources] regarding cutting any more trees in our Aboriginal territories."

Reflecting on his first year in office, Fobister Sr. told Windspeaker he considers himself an "economic development chief" — one who supports harnessing logging for the benefit of the community, among other strategic goals to bring revenue and employment. He estimated that 80 per cent of Grassy Narrows residents, who comprise nearly two-thirds of the band's more than 1,500 members, are unemployed.

"After the last 10 years, there's been no jobs created," he lamented. "The whole focus was on the forestry issue with nothing on economic development."

"There's no jobs in my community other than the core funding we receive from governments to operate our band office and clinic. That's all the jobs that we have. There's nothing in tourism or forestry yet... I take it as my personal responsibility to create jobs in the community."

But Councillor Randy Fobister, who was first elected in 2008, worries that there wouldn't even be that many jobs from logging, because today's industry is highly mechanized and workers have been largely replaced by machines.

"They're not going to hire a bunch of people," he said. "Forestry is about making money for the companies, not about jobs."

"We want the legislation changed so there's no clear-cutting — then we could take over our own territories and what happens there. But for now, it's just the rules under the Ministry of Natural Resources."

The community's long-standing blockade was launched in 2002 by the local residents organized under the banner of the Grassy Narrows Environmental Group, who were outraged by the clear-cutting of their traditional territories by multinational corporations. They said it violated their Aboriginal and treaty rights to hunt, fish and trap on their territories.

By 2008, following an international boycott campaign,

one of those companies — timber giant AbitibiBowater — had announced an end to logging in the territories, as did Weyerhaeuser.

Three years later, Grassy Narrows won a case in the Ontario Superior Court when judges declared their Aboriginal rights had been violated by the province when it issued logging permits on Crown lands to the detriment of the Anishinabe traditional way of life as guaranteed in Treaty 3.

But high unemployment levels and so-far minimal economic development have some in the community hoping for a change of approach. According to a 2014 audited financial statement, required under the new federal First Nations Transparency and Accountability Act, Grassy Narrows receives more than 40 per cent of its annual revenues from Aboriginal Affairs and is therefore labeled in the audit as "dependent" on the federal government.

"Grassy Narrows First Nation is right in the middle of the Whisky Jack Forest," Chief Fobister Sr. said. "Surely, in our economic pie, one of the wedges is going to be forestry."

"But what kind of forestry are we going to do? We're not going to be big-time harvesters like these clear-cutters. We'll be harvesting selectively, for value-added stuff... Now we have the opportunity to manage the forest ourselves. We can control the rate of cutting of our forest."

For Fobister, the argument is moot because he says the band can already selectively harvest timber under its treaty for value-added and local uses.

"It feels instead like we're turning away from the treaty," he said. "I'm glad that, 13 years ago, people stood up. The grassroots people stopped [the logging]."

"After all the support we got around the world, not just in Canada, if there's clear-cutting starting again, that's a lot of hard work gone."

Truth and Reconciliation Commission winds down with final event

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

WINNIPEG

After six long, hard years of heading the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Justice Murray Sinclair is tired. But he is also hopeful.

"I believe in the process. What I tell people is you don't have to believe reconciliation will happen. You have to believe that reconciliation must happen. And I've always believed that. And I'm trying to get people to believe the same thing... and that we have an obligation to work to make it happen," he said.

Sinclair expects the message

repeated by the TRC — that reconciliation is a Canadian issue and not an Aboriginal issue — will be underscored by the numbers and make-up of the crowd that marches in Ottawa on May 31 when the TRC kicks off its closing ceremonies.

A similar walk in September 2013, ending the TRC's national event in Vancouver, attracted more than 7,000 people in the pouring rain. The majority of participants were non-Aboriginal.

"It's important that everybody understand they have a piece of this, that this is about them as well," said Sinclair. "So having non-Aboriginal people participate in public processes,

such as the walk for reconciliation, is very important and it's one way they can demonstrate their commitment and willingness to reconciliation."

The most difficult work undertaken by the TRC, says Sinclair, has been listening to survivors tell their stories. Whether through private statement gatherings or public sharing circles, survivors had to "rip their scars open each time they spoke."

The TRC provided a safe and secure environment for survivors to share, never challenged their stories, and ensured survivors knew they had been heard. The TRC also travelled to Labrador

and Newfoundland, whose five Indian residential schools were not included in the agreement, and listened to day scholars and those who attended Metis residential schools, who were also excluded from the residential school compensation agreement.

"We have made every reasonable effort that we could to get to the survivors and talk to them," said Sinclair. "I think we did that as well as we could in the time we were given and the resources we were given."

Survivors, along with their families and community members, will get one last opportunity to talk to commissioners at the closing ceremonies.

The commission has "brought to light" the more than 4,000 children who died at residential schools, said Sinclair, noting that this loss was not contemplated in the settlement agreement. Those children will be remembered on the last day of the closing ceremonies, June 3, with an honouring ceremony and the planting of a Garden of Hearts at Rideau Hall.

These Gardens of Hearts, organized by the First Nation Child and Family Caring Society, KAIROS and Project of Heart, are being created across the country as a legacy to the work of the TRC.

(See TRC on page 20.)

TRC chair says Canadians must continue the work

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

WINNIPEG

As the Truth and Reconciliation Commission draws to a close, it is in front of the courts again on one of the more contentious issues it has faced in its six years.

The TRC is asking the court to rule on what is to become of government and church documents that are not yet in the commission's possession.

"The biggest challenge we faced was to get the parties to provide us with the documents they were obligated to give us," said TRC Chair Justice Murray Sinclair.

The Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement, signed in 2006, calls for the Anglican, Presbyterian and United Churches, the Catholic entities, and the federal government to provide all residential school-related documents to the TRC. However, the time and resources it would take to collect the documents caused the Anglican Church and the Catholic entities to balk, delaying their collection of materials.

The federal government refused to hand over all its relevant documentation, saying TRC personnel could search the archives. But a number of court decisions sought by the TRC resulted in the parties being ordered to undertake the work themselves and provide the material.

Sinclair says the lack of cooperation was mostly due to the costs involved in going through archives, but also partially due to the desire to keep the documentation quiet. He anticipates there are millions of documents yet to be collected.

"The parties may be able to resolve it among themselves, and tell the courts. But we need to have a logical answer and the logical answer is to continue to deliver the documents directly to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation," said Sinclair.

The national centre, based at the University of Manitoba, is to house the documents collected by the TRC, as well as survivors' statements and the gifts laid in the Bentwood box at various events. The TRC is hoping to hand over its anticipated \$1 million surplus to the national centre, but that is another issue that needs to be dealt with. The TRC was created as a government department to allow funds and authority to flow, but that has presented a challenge in winding down its work.

"What we've learned is that nobody really knows how to close down a government department because they don't do that. They merge departments. They can't merge the commission with another government department because the commission was



PHOTO: SHARI NARINE

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Chair Justice Murray Sinclair (right) is joined by commissioners Marie Wilson (left) and Chief Wilton Littlechild at the national event held in Edmonton in March 2014. In front of them is the Bentwood box.

created by the settlement agreement," said Sinclair.

But perhaps the greatest test facing the commission has been to accomplish its goals in the tight timeline, even with an additional year on its mandate.

The TRC began its tumultuous ride in 2008 when the initial set of commissioners resigned within the first year. In 2009, Sinclair was appointed as new chair of the TRC and Chief Wilton Littlechild and Marie Wilson joined him. The trio had to spend valuable time building credibility with residential school survivors, says Sinclair.

"I think it proved to be a learning experience for everybody about how reconciliation could work. Because by the time we held our final national events, survivors themselves were not talking critically about the commission. They were speaking critically about the government, about the churches, about those members of Canadian society who continued to refuse to believe that what they say happened did happen," said Sinclair. "They came to sense and look to the commission to be their public voice and their mirror for Canada to look into. So it was, at the end of the day, a very beneficial process that we all engaged in."

The TRC was also tasked with making Canadians understand that the government and a number of churches had practised cultural genocide.

"It was a difficult conversation to accuse a nation of attempting to obliterate a race of people within their borders, particularly when Canada has such a generous view of itself and that generous view overlooks the way



Above flotilla of canoes and boats in support of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission national event held in Vancouver on September 2013.

that Aboriginal people have been treated in this country. And for Canada to be told that the generosity of their self-absorption was not merited, was a real slap in the face and a shock to many people," said Sinclair.

But once the stories started being told and the Prime Minister's apology in 2008 was taken into consideration, Canadians began to understand that a people's culture, language, and way of life had been deliberately targeted, he says.

In looking back on the settlement agreement and the years that have followed, Sinclair believes the parties to the agreement did not fully grasp how long it would take to build reconciliation.

"I think people had a basic misunderstanding of what reconciliation was about, what it entailed. There seemed to be a view that a process of reconciliation could be achieved within the lifetime of the commission and therefore once

the commission finished everything was going to be all good and well and things we're going to move forward," he said.

But residential schools were in place for seven generations and seven years of a commission will not resolve the issues. It is up to the Canadian public to continue the work started by the TRC.

"The question is, 'Are you committed enough to do something about it?' And that's what we want people to focus on," said Sinclair.

Enduring a di-squaw-iting complaint

The English language is replete with words used by one certain segment of the population aimed at a different segment of the population and that are now considered politically incorrect, and rightfully so.

How many people had grandparents that told a rather off colour version of the 'Eeny meeny miny moe' children's rhyme? Or used colorful (no pun intended) words to describe people of Italian, Irish, south Asian or African descent, just to name a few? It's the fall-out from less enlighten times, with which many HR departments are still struggling.

Recently, a small portion of this battle has landed in my own politically-correct lap. I am a playwright and have a children's play currently touring a good chunk of central and southern Ontario. The play is called Spirit Horse and is produced by Roseneath Theatre.

Essentially, the play is about two First Nation kids living in Calgary, who come into possession of a mysterious horse with powers to heal their depressed father. It's an adaptation and Indigenization of an Irish/Gypsy play called TIR NA N'OG and is being



THE URBANE INDIAN
Drew Hayden Taylor

promoted as a play that deals with the problem of racism. And as the old Aboriginal saying goes, 'You can't play golf without whacking a few balls.'

In a sequence where the children try to raise money to feed the horse by busking/begging for money on a street corner, several passersby refer to the kids as "dirty Indians" and "squaws". Those particular terms have elicited some negative response, particularly from one grandparent in southwestern Ontario, who sent a letter to the Windsor Star complaining of the language.

This woman also filed a complaint with the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario, who is responsible for arranging

the tour of Ontario schools, and with the Chiefs of Ontario. More importantly to me, as the writer, she has petitioned for the augmentation of the script and the removal of the offending words.

These are indeed offensive words. There is no way to argue otherwise. In my younger years my college roommate would occasionally refer to me as a 'wagonburner' jokingly, and one or two classmates in college would occasionally refer to me as "Chief", which they thought was a compliment.

Personally, I know a lot of people, especially the older generation, that still use the term 'Indian, though not so much with the 'dirty' prefix. And with

the success of Thomas King's amazing book, *The Inconvenient Indian*, it's almost reintroduced the word into polite, educated company. Still, in most ears, 'squaw' surpasses all those epithets several times over.

As a writer, obviously I understand the power of words. So I do not use them lightly. I did not wake up one morning thinking to myself 'Hey, I think I will use some sexually and racially derogatory monikers of Native women in my children's play today, just for the heck of it.' That is not how I work.

The sequence of the play where this exchange happens was orchestrated specifically to show the frequently thin veneer between a healthy society and a racist one. These things happen, and I agree, it is a tragedy that it has to appear in a play for young audiences.

It is one quick exchange, there and then over with in less than three seconds. This too is symbolic of how these things can happen in real life. I am loath to be critical of this woman, because for many, the term 'squaw' can bring back myriad unpleasant and emotionally damaging memories. My heart

breaks for them. The term should and does raise the hackles of most Native men who care anything about their culture and people.

I do not believe eliminating the words from my play, or any play, will solve the problem. In the context of Spirit Horse, the exchange is presented in such a flippant, and at the same time, unpleasant manner, it should be obvious to the children watching that this is not a practice to be emulated.

I used a misogynistic word because it is, indeed, misogynistic. Replacing it with something more politically correct like "those dirty rotten Native, Aboriginal, First Nations, Indigenous kids" loses something in the translation. Getting rid of the words, in hope of getting rid of the prejudice, very seldom is effective in getting rid of the racism. In fact, racism needs to be faced head on, looked directly in the eyes, and kicked in the groin.

There was a similar push to remove certain words, and indeed the novel itself, from *The Adventures Of Tom Sawyer* due to the excessive use of the 'N' word. That makes me shudder.

See *Enduring* on page 9.

Sudden termination of doctor's service curious

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

FORT McMURRAY, Alta.

The physician who had to fight against professional misconduct charges when he spoke out about high cancer rates in Fort Chipewyan, a community downstream from tar sands development in northern Alberta, has been let go -- by the community he advocated for.

John O'Connor, who signed an agreement with the Nunee Health Board Society seven years ago to deliver on-call medical assistance, received his termination letter via email May 8. No reason was given and his attempts to get an explanation have fallen on deaf ears.

He has gone from "stunned" to "angry."

"I have absolutely no idea what happened," he said.

O'Connor said he was given the "heads-up by a person who was aware of background discussions" that the Nunee board was looking for physicians to cover on-call for Fort Chipewyan.

On the morning of May 8, O'Connor, who has hospital privileges in Fort McMurray, was on a conference call with Alberta Health Services and asked about his position as one of Fort

Chipewyan's on-call physicians. He was told he could retain the position if he submitted a business plan.

He was surprised by the direction but submitted his business plan by noon. Shortly after, he received a text from staff in Fort Chipewyan making him aware of a trail of emails that outlined discussion between Alberta Health Services and Nunee about replacing him.

About three hours later he received the email signed by Roxanne Marcel, Nunee board chair. O'Connor was directed to submit outstanding invoices for compensation by April 30, 2015, a timeframe that had already lapsed.

Marcel will not comment on O'Connor's dismissal.

"We're just working on something," she said, but would not offer details.

Former Nunee society member Chief Steve Courtoreille of Mikisew Cree Nation says O'Connor was signed to an on-call agreement out of necessity.

"Because the doctors at the hospital in Fort McMurray weren't going on-call for Nunee, so, because the changes were made with Alberta Health Services to have that changed (now), we didn't need that service from Dr. O'Connor anymore," said Courtoreille.

Nunee is in charge of health care in Fort Chipewyan, a hamlet which is home to members of the Mikisew Cree Nation, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and the Metis Local Association. All three groups have representatives on the board.

Tim Wilson, spokesperson for Alberta Health Services, says his department was not involved in the decision, but is aware that a number of steps have been taken by Nunee to "cover-off" O'Connor's absence. From May 9 to May 20, 24/7 telehealth closed-circuit will be utilized, as will an on-call physician. After that date, there is to be a physician in Fort Chipewyan.

O'Connor said he has heard that Dr. Esther Tailfeathers will be resuming her monthly schedule of three or four days in Fort Chipewyan after leaving the community abruptly in April. Tailfeathers, who has a clinic on the Blood reserve in southern Alberta, had been making the trip to Fort Chipewyan for on-site appointments for the past three years. She also provided on-call services.

Staff at Tailfeathers' clinic on the Blood reserve said she would return to the southern clinic on May 22. Tailfeathers could not be reached for comment.

O'Connor said he has also heard that Nunee is hoping to

recruit a second in-community physician by September.

Courtoreille says, unlike Tailfeathers, O'Connor has not done clinical work in Fort Chipewyan for years.

O'Connor says it has been six years since he has been to the northern community as a treating physician but his contract was to provide on-call services for the nursing station, nurse practitioner, home care and paramedics.

His on-call duties ranged from prescription refills to organizing medivacs to liaising with physicians at the hospital in Fort McMurray to troubleshooting through telehealth. He says he was available almost 24/7 for the entire seven years.

Had he known he would be required to physically see patients, he says he would have "worked something out" with the health board.

O'Connor's contract with Nunee was ongoing to be renewed annually. He believes the last time he signed an agreement was in 2013. For termination, either party needed to give three months' notice. O'Connor's letter said his termination was effective immediately.

Courtoreille said Fort Chipewyan patients can see O'Connor in the hospital in Fort McMurray.

O'Connor says he has received numerous phone calls from Fort Chipewyan residents, both offering their support and asking for his medical advice, which he is continuing to give.

"These calls, the solidarity, that's what's getting me through," he said.

It was a solidarity he thought he had with the leaders in the Fort Chipewyan area as they banded together in 2007 to raise health concerns about living downstream of the oilsands.

"I've been standing on the platform with Fort Chip. I've travelled the world for Fort Chip on my own dime," said O'Connor. He noted that when his medical license was threatened by the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons, the community and its leaders supported him.

Courtoreille said releasing O'Connor from his agreement has "nothing whatsoever" to do with the cancer issue.

The letter of termination received by O'Connor said he had "no authority to speak to or represent the Nunee Health Board Society in any way..."

O'Connor presently spends three days each week in Fort McKay, where he serves as director of health and as a family doctor. The rest of the time he is on-call.

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Band proves that environment trumps money

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

LAX KW'ALAAMS, B.C.

The Lax Kw'alaams band has turned down a liquefied natural gas development that would have netted them \$1.15 billion in benefits.

And in so doing lost out on Crown land the province had been offering. The band had valued the land at \$108 million. The province said the land was contingent on the band supporting Pacific NorthWest LNG's proposal.

PNW had proposed to construct an LNG terminal facility on Lelu Island in the port of Prince Rupert. The pipeline that would run to the terminal would be owned by Prince Rupert Gas Transmission, a subsidiary of TransCanada.

"Hopefully, the public will recognize that unanimous consensus in communities ... against a project where those communities are offered in excess of a billion dollars, sends an unequivocal message this is not a money issue: this is environmental and cultural," said Lax Kw'alaams band Mayor Garry Reece in a written statement issued the day following the last of three community meetings in which the benefit deal for Pacific NorthWest LNG was presented.

PNW representatives made presentations at the meetings, as did band council. Council did not take a position on the project but offered information on the benefits package and the environmental risks. The meetings took place in Lax Kw'alaams, Prince Rupert and Vancouver from May 4 to 12. Membership voted on the benefits package through a show

of hands.

The benefit agreement included initial one-time payments of \$28 million; annual payments starting at \$13 million rising to \$51 million in year 40, the lifespan of the project; targeted funding for such areas as fisheries compensation, capacity funding, scholarships, and training programs; and employment guarantees for membership qualified and trained. There were no details as to how the money would be distributed by the band or if there would be individual payments.

Reece said the Skeena River, the estuary in which Lelu Island and Flora Bank are situated, was significant as a fisheries resource and that PNW had not addressed the band's environmental concerns.

"Lax Kw'alaams is bound by the traditional law of all Tsimshian and up-river communities to protect the fisheries resource – including the salmon and all other species – for future generations. This is a first line of defense in respect to the Aboriginal food fishery, a fishery which has sustained coastal and upriver First Nations through the millennia," he said.

Reece's position was that Lax Kw'alaams band council had been engaged with PNW since 2011 and PNW had made no attempt to adapt its environmental efforts to those followed by Lax Kw'alaams scientific personnel.

But Michael Cuthbert, president of PNW, disputes that claim.

"Ongoing 3D modeling submitted to (Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency) just last week using ... data from the Lax Kw'alaams Skeena Fisheries Commission has continued to conclude that

our project will not cause significant adverse effects to fish and fish habitat around Lelu Island," said Cuthbert in a written statement released May 13.

He pointed out that PNW had redesigned its marine infrastructure to eliminate the large dredge and trestle and to include a suspension bridge stretching from Lelu Island over Flora Bank into the deeper waters of Chatham Sound.

PNW's BC environmental review was completed and approved in late 2014. The CEAA review is expected to be completed in September.

Reece says his band is not opposed to economic development but would not allow such development near Flora Bank.

"The decision by Lax Kw'alaams First Nation ... means we need to get back to the table and continue working to address their environmental concerns and achieve a final agreement," said John Rustad, minister of Aboriginal relations and reconciliation, in a written statement released May 13.

Rustad added he was pleased that the band had acknowledged that such projects had positive economic impacts for all British Columbians.

"Moving forward, Pacific NorthWest LNG will continue to have open discussion with all Tsimshian leaders and community members," said Cuthbert.

Reece said it would be "unfortunate" if the government or PNW proceeded with the project without Lax Kw'alaams approval.

Cuthbert said PNW and its partners would "continue to assess the viability of the project from a fiscal and regulatory perspective."

Enduring a di-squaw-iting complaint

(Continued from page 8.)

As with Tom Sawyer, issues like this should be address and explored in class and in the support material, not eliminated from plays and literature in the vain hopes that by cleansing art, it will be eliminated from life. I think the cure would be worse than the disease.

In this day and age of political correctness, it's interesting to note how many words, once considered obscene, have now been reclaimed by the population the words so prominently tarred.

Several years ago I heard a discussion on CBC radio about

the term 'squaw'. Evidently there is a movement, however small, by some Native women attempting to re-appropriate the word. There is a school of thought that 'squaw' comes from the Ojibway/Algonquin word "kwe" meaning woman, and† over the years was bastardized to mean something derogatory. They wanted to retake the word.

Many geographical locations have been renamed. No more Squaw River or Squaw Mountain, and I think that is a great idea. And let's not forget the recent silliness when Canadian fashion designers Desquared2 released their new

line of clothing with strong Aboriginal influences. For some reason known only to those who are so cool and so hip it defies common sense and logic, they called the fashion line "Dsquaw". They are now de-squalified, de-serted and de-tested.

Still, in regards to Spirit Horse, it's a complex issue for sure. In the end, it's a play about two kids and a horse on an adventure. It will continue touring until the end of the school year. Hopefully.

Sometimes it's not easy being a First Nation—or Indian—writer.

Windspeaker News Briefs

AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF LEGAL WRANGLING TO BE GIVEN A PLACE at the table on the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation's board of directors, a First Nation group is insisting an appointment be made now. A ruling in April found that Ontario was in breach of its contractual obligations from a 2008 agreement, acting in bad faith, by not appointing a member of the Ontario First Nations Limited Partnership to the board. That agreement also saw the First Nations of Ontario get a 1.7 per cent share of gross revenues from gambling revenues in the province. Ontario, said the First Nations group, has refused them a seat on the board, rejecting a number of applicants saying they did not meet provincial requirements.

"I don't understand why," said Randy Sault, the First Nations group's general manager, reads a report by the Canadian Press. "It's quite offensive behavior that raises public policy questions about the ability of the government to break signed contracts."

Finance Minister Charles Sousa said the government will now respect the arbitrator's decision.

FATHER JIM HOLLAND, 72, THE PRIEST FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS

at Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples, a Catholic parish in Edmonton, has been told he'll be transferred out by September, and the move is hitting the community hard. They've circulated petitions to keep "Father Jim," in place for as long as two years to help his replacement take over his duties. Although not Native himself, Father Jim has dedicated himself to the inner-city church. Father Jim was ordained at the Aboriginal Lac Ste. Anne pilgrimage at age 51. Sacred Heart has been his only parish.

A MAN POSING AS A CHIEF COUNCILLOR OF A FIRST NATIONS

reserve on Vancouver Island has defrauded people of hundreds of dollars each. The man, posing as Tseshaht First Nation Chief Hugh Braker, said he was raising money for those suffering family tragedies. Robert Bennett Peters, 49, of no fixed address is facing two charges of fraud for his alleged role in soliciting funds over the phone using Braker's name. This individual was preying upon kind-hearted and generous citizens who were willing to help their fellow man deal with tragedy, said a spokesman with the Port Alberni RCMP. It was morally and criminally reprehensible, said Inspector Mac Richards.

THUNDER BAY POLICE WILL INVESTIGATE A FACEBOOK PAGE

that has been criticized as being racist and offensive to First Nations people. City officials took complaints to the police that show images of mostly aboriginal people on the street and posted it to a page called "Thunder Bay Dirty." Police are calling remarks on the page derogatory and extremely offensive. "As a community, we cannot tolerate the use of social media to express extreme racism."

THE CHIEF OF THE WEST MOBERLY FIRST NATION

in the Peace Valley has vowed to ensure work on Site C dam will not proceed. Chief Roland Willson said he's prepared to file an injunction seeking a stop-work order until a court challenge on the controversial hydroelectric dam is heard. His comments were made during an anti Site C dam event held in Vancouver in May.

BC Hydro has announced the contract that will see the south bank of the Peace River at the area of Site-C cleared of trees. The contract was awarded to a First Nations contractor, which prompted some to speculate on possible divide and conquer tactics being employed.

The proponent says the project will provide green energy, producing 1,100 megawatts of electricity, enough to power about 450,000 homes, but many speculate that Site C is being constructed to fuel fracking operations for natural gas extraction for the province's promised LNG industry. It will be the third dam on the Peace River.

Chief Willson also took his complaint to the B.C. legislature with 90 kilograms of bull trout packed in coolers. He said the fish was contaminated with mercury. A recent study commissioned by the nation concluded 98 per cent of fish samples contained mercury levels above provincial guidelines. The 57 fish studied were taken from the Crooked River, where fish migrate from the Williston Lake reservoir, created as part of the W.A.C. Bennett Dam. Willson said similar contamination could result from the \$9-billion Site C dam. He called approval of the dam a mistake. "It's a stupid idea," he said.

THE RCMP HAS APOLOGIZED FOIR COMPARING THE

Idle No More movement, and the people who participated in it, to "bacteria." APTN News had obtained an official report with the statement in it through Access to Information requests. "It is unfortunate that one of our employees has referred in an internal e-mail to the Idle No More movement in such a manner," said Staff-Sgt. Julie Gagnon in a statement. She said the words were "not reflective of the views and opinion" of the RCMP. "The RCMP apologizes to anyone who may have been offended by this unfortunate choice of words to describe the Idle No More movement," she said. On Dec. 24, 2012, Cpl. Wayne Russet wrote, "This Idle No More Movement is like bacteria, it has grown a life of its own across this nation," in a site report collected during Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's hunger strike.

First Nations optimistic with NDP at the helm

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

EDMONTON

Alberta's Indigenous leaders are praising Rachel Notley and the New Democratic Party as they form the next provincial government.

On May 5, the NDP won a majority government in the province, and in doing so decimated the Progressive Conservatives, who had ruled Alberta for 44 years. The PCs dropped from 70 seats to 10 and Premier Jim Prentice resigned both as party leader and MLA for the Calgary seat he managed to maintain.

In a night of overwhelming triumph, Notley acknowledged Aboriginal people in her acceptance speech.

"And to Alberta's Indigenous peoples, the trust that we have been given tonight is a call to be better neighbours and better

partners. And I am looking forward to consulting with you and learning from you," said Notley.

Her verbal gesture is fitting, said Treaty 8 Grand Chief Steve Courtoreille. He recalled the first time he saw Notley. It was a couple years ago at a press conference in Edmonton. She came into the room, unannounced, and sat down to listen.

"It tells me a lot about her character. She's interested," said Courtoreille. "I'm happy (about her election win) and I want to be part of it going forward."

Treaty 7 Grand Chief Charles Weaselhead said Notley's comments are a "step forward in the right direction at this early start."

In a congratulatory statement released by the Metis Nation of Alberta, President Audrey Poitras referred to the NDP win "as nothing short of a political game-changer."

The focus for all Indigenous leaders centres on Notley's promise to consult.

"There is recent legal cases that have been brought forward and they have indicated that a strong partnership needs to be developed between governments, so that consultation and interpretation of consultation ... is taken forward in the right way," said Weaselhead.

The NDP government needs to ensure Aboriginal leaders are consulted before policies are formed, said Courtoreille. And he goes a step further saying Notley must revisit policies and legislation put in place by her PC predecessor.

"Any of your policies, any of your legislations that were either developed or rammed through without proper consultation, you need to review them and come back to see what our concerns are," said Courtoreille.

Among the eight-point plan

for Aboriginal action outlined by the NDP in their campaign literature was the commitment to repeal Bill 22, the Alberta Consultation Levy act, which sets an industry levy for Aboriginal consultation on economic development. The levy fund is to be administered by the Aboriginal relations minister. Bill 22 was strongly opposed by First Nations leaders.

A priority for the MNA, said Poitras, is "working toward a sophisticated consultation policy that mandates the consultation of Métis communities in areas proposed for industrial development...."

Courtoreille said Notley could strengthen her commitment to Aboriginal people by taking on the Aboriginal relations portfolio, as Prentice did.

Weaselhead sees the value in this as well.

"When you're so close to the person directly responsible for

the reigning party I think it's a good opportunity ... one of the advantageous that we have is that we have the opportunity to meet with the premier on sort of a routine basis that is consistent," he said.

In its Indigenous agenda, the NDP also pledged to "work with the federal government" on jurisdictional conflicts, safe drinking water, resolving land claims, as well as to continue to push for a national inquiry into murdered and missing Indigenous women.

Weaselhead said First Nations will be pushing a number of other issues with the new government, including resource revenue sharing, economic development, and education.

In a written statement, Treaty 6 Grand Chief Bernice Martial said she was hopeful "Notley will get to work immediately to start fulfilling (the NDP's) election promises to Indigenous peoples."



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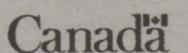
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Buffy Sainte-Marie wows 'em in London

By Shirley Honyust
Windspeaker Contributor

LONDON, Ont.

It was big talent for such a small stage in London when Buffy Sainte-Marie came to Aeolian Hall in early May. Originally from Piapot Cree First Nation in Qu'Appelle Valley, Sask., the singer/songwriter now resides in Hawaii when she is not on the road travelling and performing.

With her band, Kibwe Thomas on keyboards, Anthony King on guitar, Michel Bruyere on drums and Mark Olexson on bass, Sainte-Marie did a medley of her most popular hit songs, as well as a couple of singles from her new CD, *Power in the Blood*.

The band loves Buffy and she loves them back, that much was obvious, and the audience clamored for more of everything. Curtains opened and cheers began when Sainte-Marie's crew entered stage left.

Then, when the moment finally arrived, the star danced onto the centre of the stage, the audience responding by yelling, cheering, whooping and applauding the talented and



PHOTO: SHIRLEY HONYUST

Buffy Sainte-Marie visits London's Aeolian Hall to promote her new CD *Power in the Blood*

charismatic performer.

Sainte-Marie first bounded into the spotlight in the 1960s and one might expect today's

audiences to be made up of Boomers, but no such thing. Many in the audience were in their twenties and thirties, and

Sainte-Marie was movin' and groovin' with the best of them.

Her multicolored jacket was made for her by a designer in

France. Her black denims hugged her form, and she rocked in black leather boots.

She said her last two-year 'round the world tour is now into its sixth year!"

Each song was introduced with a story about the inspiration that led to its conception, and Sainte-Marie translated the title of her much played *No No Keshagesh* from its meaning in Cree to English. *No No Greedy Guts* was written to speak about corporate greed and the continued devastation of the environment in the name of economic development.

Power in the Blood, the single from her new CD of the same name, was well-received and appreciated with a thunderous ovation from her audience, as was a solo grass dance performed by her drummer, Michel Bruyere.

After the finale, when two-thirds of the audience members were heading to their vehicles, the others stayed put, awaiting the re-emergence of Sainte-Marie to do a meet-and-greet. She took photos with anyone who wished.

Long tables were joined together for Sainte-Marie and her band to do hellos, chit chat, and sign pictures and CDs.



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PHOTO: CANDACE WARD

Chief Jonathan Kruger accepts the award for the Economic Development Corporation of the Year on behalf of the Penticton Indian Band. From left to right: Barry Telford, president Sodexo Canada, JP Gladu, president and CEO CCAB, recipient Chief Jonathan Kruger, Penticton Indian Band, and Erwin Joosten, Senior VP Energy and Resources Sodexo Canada.

THE PENTICTON INDIAN BAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

is the winner of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business' Aboriginal Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) Award for 2015. The Penticton Indian Band Development Corporation is the principal economic development, marketing and promotional organization for the Penticton Indian Band. It pursues business joint ventures and investment opportunities on

behalf of the Penticton Indian Band community and stakeholders. Penticton Indian Band Reserve is the largest reserve in B.C with 46,000 acres and a population of 1,034 members.

"Congratulations to the Penticton Indian Band Development Corporation for demonstrating the vision and courage in the world of business essential for business success," said CCAB President and CEO JP Gladu. "The Aboriginal

Economic Development Corporation of the Year Award proudly gives all Canadians an opportunity to learn more about Aboriginal business success and its role in creating business certainty and sustainable prosperity."

THE COMPANY THAT RAISES SALMON ON LAND

celebrated its first year in business with the harvest of its 180,000th kilo of fish. A year ago KUTERRA, owned 100 per cent

by the 'Namgis First Nation and located in the Nimpkish Valley near Port McNeill, B.C., presented its first fish for sale to its exclusive western Canadian retailer, Safeway. Since that time, Safeway sales have expanded eastward to Manitoba, and the salmon is now in select stores and fine-dining restaurants across Canada and the U.S.

KUTERRA has dispelled many myths about land-based Atlantic salmon aquaculture, reads a press release. It has shown it is possible to produce a high-quality, sustainably farmed premium salmon using very little energy, water or land, without antibiotics or pesticides.

VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY

was honored in April for establishing the Youth in Care Tuition Waiver Program, the first of its kind in B.C. Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, BC's Representative for Children and Youth, made a special presentation to Dr. Ralph Nilson, VIU president, during a two-day conference in Nanaimo.

"The reason we're doing this recognition is because Dr. Nilson and Vancouver Island

University were the first in B.C. to adopt and champion tuition waivers for kids in care," said Turpel-Lafond, noting that VIU now has 41 students enrolled in the program.

Dr. Nilson was joined on stage by VIU faculty and staff, as well as students Jesse Anderson, Brittany Palmer and Beverly Planes, three former youth in care now studying at VIU. All three students spoke on how the Tuition Waiver program has changed their lives.

Planes, who entered foster care at the age of eight, said the impact of the Youth in Care Tuition Waiver on her life has been profound. The single mother of four said she made two previous attempts at starting post-secondary studies, but was unable to continue due to a lack of financial support and other challenges.

"I'm now 30 and a full-time student at VIU just finishing my first year towards my degree, a double major in First Nations Studies and Women's Studies," she said. "I'm grateful because I can now be a positive role model for my children. I'll graduate one year before my son graduates high school. My hope is that one day my children will attend university as well."



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- Complete the online Diversity Self Identification survey in your application
- Forward the email recruiter message you receive to aboriginal.employment@bchydro.com

Create and receive Job Alert emails

Check out Student & Grads and Scholarship opportunities

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jeannie Cranmer,
Aboriginal Education and Employment Strategy Manager
10th Floor—333 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5R3
Phone: 604 623 4401
Toll Free: 1 877 461 0161
Fax: 604 623 3799
jeannie.cranmer@bchydro.com

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Guide to Powwow Country

Windspeaker's Exclusive Guide for the 2015 Powwow Trail

**Inside...
Museum and Gallery
Exhibits**

**Cultural Heritage
Sites**

**Cultural
Celebrations**

**Plus...
Our 2015
Powwow Country
Calendar of Events**

Dancer at SIFN Powwow
Photo: Bert Crowfoot



PHOTO: UNBC

Fifteen students, including university students from UNBC and high school students from Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, enrolled in FNST 161, an experiential learning course. They built a traditional First Nations dwelling while learning about aboriginal culture and earning school credit.



Skwachàys Lodge

Owned and operated by the Vancouver Native Housing Society Vancouver

Skwachàys Lodge is an extraordinary boutique hotel and Canada's first Aboriginal arts hotel. It is located in the heart of Vancouver's historic downtown, at the crossroads of Gastown and Chinatown neighbourhoods.

Owned and operated by the Vancouver Native Housing Society, Skwachàys Lodge is an innovative approach to sustainable housing that combines cultural authenticity, business excellence and community economic development. The hotel's architect preserved the century-old brick facade and designed a traditional northern longhouse to sit atop the heritage building. The rooftop longhouse features the Dreamweaver, a 40.5-foot story pole. Six world-class Vancouver interior designers collaborated with six Aboriginal artists to create 18 distinctly themed rooms featuring original carvings, paintings, fabric, art, custom furniture and décor. Guests can purchase original art in the hotel's Urban Aboriginal Fair Trade or attend a workshop with one of the artists who envisioned their hotel room. They can also participate in traditional Aboriginal cultural experiences including a sweat lodge and smudge room, or observe artists at work in the artist workshop. All the profits from the hotel operation and the fair trade gallery subsidize the 24 Aboriginal artist live/work studios housed at Skwachàys and further the Vancouver Native Housing Society mandate to improve the lives of Vancouver's urban Aboriginal people.

For more information, check out <http://skwachays.com/>

Dakelh-style pit house

Forests for the World behind University of Northern British Columbia Prince George

Last summer, a handful of students enrolled as part of University of Northern British Columbia's Undergraduate Experiential Service Learning Program constructed a Dakelh-style pit house on traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh, in Forests for the World behind UNBC. Their work was helped along by two Lheidli T'enneh and one Gitxsan Elder, who shared their knowledge. The students dug four feet into the ground, transported and assembled logs, using ropes, rollers, muscles, and the occasional chainsaw, and covered the structure in dirt. Having the house extend into the ground helps to keep it cool during hot summer days, and warm during winter. A traditional winter dwelling used by many Indigenous people, the pit house was built in the Dakelh-style. Dakelh are Indigenous people from north-central British Columbia. People are invited to visit and build a fire inside as long as they don't disturb the cleanliness and peacefulness of the pit house.



Alberta



Saamis Archeological Site Medicine Hat

The Saamis Teepee stands sentinel over the Saamis archaeological site. The teepee, located along the Trans-Canada Highway, was originally constructed for the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics. It is entirely built of steel with a concrete foundation, and ringed with 10 large circular storyboards depicting various aspects of First Nations culture and history. It is the world's tallest teepee and at more than 20 stories high, it had more engineering challenges in its construction than the Eiffel Tower. The colours of the teepee are white for purity, red for the rising and setting sun, and blue for flowing waters. Below the teepee is the Seven Persons coulee and the Saamis archaeological site. This site has been interpreted as a winter/early spring campsite repeatedly used between AD 1390 and AD 1820. It covers two terraces that lie two and three metres of deposits above the modern floodplains. Experts believe over 83 million artifacts are buried here. A self-guided walking tour indicates the large-scale bison butchering and meat processing activities on the lower terrace, while the upper terrace shows numerous hearths, pits, concentrations of bones and fire broken rock. The Saamis archaeological site is one of the foremost important archaeological sites of the Northern Plains.

For more information, check out: www.city.medicine-hat.ab.ca/

Syncrude Gallery of Aboriginal Culture Royal Alberta Museum Edmonton

The Syncrude Gallery of Aboriginal Culture is one of three permanent exhibits in the Royal Alberta Museum. The gallery

is one of the largest explorations of First People's history on the continent, with stories spanning 11,000 years and 500 generations. More than 3,000 artifacts, recorded voices, film, dynamic lighting, interactive computer technology and Aboriginal interpreters all help to tell a story of triumph and survival. The story spans from the last Ice Age to the present day. The heart of the gallery is an immense teepee – a place of teaching and storytelling. Beyond it, sits the dark period of the last century when government sought to suppress the culture. Finally, through a narrow alleyway, the present day emerges where the message is of survival, healing and hope. The Royal Alberta Museum is one of Canada's most popular museums offering a wide range of exhibitions and activities for everyone.

For more information, check out: <http://royalalbertamuseum.ca/index.cfm>

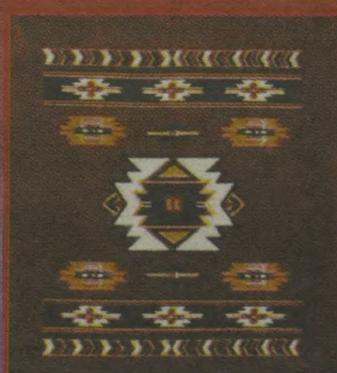
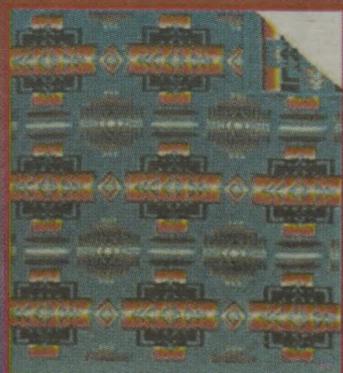


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CALENDAR OF POWWOW COUNTRIES

JUNE

June 5 - 6, 2015
47th Annual Alabama-Coushatta Powwow
 Indian Reservation Ballpark
 US Highway 190
 (16 miles east of Livingston)
 Livingston, Texas, USA
 Contact: Herbert Johnson Jr.
 Phone: 936-442-8706
 Contact: Tobine Alec / Phone: 936-563-1116
 Vendor Contact: Teresa Battise
 Phone: 936-563-1288
 www.alabama-coushatta.com

June 5 - 7, 2015

Tulalip Veterans Powwow
 Donald Hatch Gym / Greg Williams Court
 6700 Totem Beach Avenue
 Tulalip, Washington, USA
 Contact: Harold Joseph III
 Phone: 425-320-9526
 Vendors Contact: Lana Craig
 Phone: 425-870-6103

June 5 - 7, 2015

Red Earth Native American Cultural Festival
 Cox Convention Center
 1 Myriad Gardens
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA
 Contact: Eric Oesch
 Phone: 405-427-5228

June 5 - 7, 2015

Gateway to Nations
 Gateway to Nations
 American Heritage Celebration
 and Powwow
 Gateway National Park
 Floyd Bennett Field
 3159 Flatbush Ave.
 Brooklyn, New York, USA
 Contact: 718-686-9297
 Email: native@redhawkcouncil.org
 www.redhawkcouncil.org

June 5 - 7, 2015

Prairie Band Potawatomi Powwow
 Prairie Peoples Park
 150th & M Road
 Mayetta, Kansas USA
 Phone: 1-888-727-4946 ext. 7701
 www.pbpotawamitribe.com

June 6, 2015

Tule River Youth Powwow
 Tule River Gym
 308 North Reservation Road
 Porterville, California, USA
 Contact: Cricket McDarment
 Phone: 559-782-5554

June 13 - 14, 2015

Henvey Inlet First Nation 12th Annual
 Traditional Powwow
 Remembering Our Missing and Murdered
 Anishnawbe Sisters
 Approx. 40 mins south of Sudbury along Hwy
 69 at the Pickrel River Road turnoff
 French River Reserve #13, Ontario, Canada
 Contact: Kimberly McQuabbie
 Phone: 705-857-2331
 Email: kmcquabbie@gmail.com

June 13 - 14, 2015

20th Annual Aboriginal Gathering and 12th
 Annual Powwow
 Peace River Agricultural Grounds
 (East of Peace River)
 Peace River, Alberta, Canada
 Contact: Dennis Whitford
 Phone: 780-624-6367
 Email: dennis.whitford@gov.ab.ca
 www.peacerveraiaic.com

June 13 - 14, 2015

Nanticoke Lenape Tribe of New Jersey
 36th Annual Powwow
 Salem County Fairgrounds (across the street
 from Cowtown)
 735 Harding Highway
 Woodstown, New Jersey, USA
 Contact: Lia Gould
 Phone: 856-455-6910
 www.nanticoke-lenape-tribe.org

June 17 - 19, 2015

Treaty - Metis Days
 Athabasca Chipewyan First Nations, Mikisew
 Cree First Nation, and Fort Chipewyan Metis
 Local 125
 Fort Chipewyan, Alberta, Canada
 Contact: Margo
 Email: specialprojects@mikisewcree.ca

June 18, 2015

Igniting the Spirit Gala 2015
 A Celebration of the Strawberry Moon
 Time: 5:00 - 9:30 pm
 Ottawa Conference Centre
 200 Coventry Road
 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
 Contact: Shelagh Mills Phone: 613-612-5482
 Email: smills@wabano.com
 www.wabano.com

June 18, 2015

17th Annual Anishinabek Veterans Memorial
 Golf Tournament
 The Mark O'Meara Course at the Grandview
 Golf Club
 245 Grandview Drive North

West Point, Virginia, USA

Contact: Mark Custalow Phone: 804-769-8783
 Email: mcustalow@gcaservices.com

June 20 - 21, 2015

Wikwemikong First Nation Traditional Powwow
 Wikwemikong Thunderbird Park
 Murray Hill/Cape Smith, Ontario, Canada
 Phone (toll-free): 1-844-945-8687
 Email: inquiries@wikwemikong.ca
 www.wikwemikong.ca

June 20 - 21, 2015

Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi
 Annual Powwow
 Pine Creek Reservation
 1485 Mno-Bmadzewen Way
 Fulton, Michigan, USA
 Phone: 269-729-5151
 www.nhbpi.com

June 20 - 21, 2015

34th Annual Plains Indian Museum Powwow
 Center of the West's Robbie Powwow Garden
 720 Sheridan Avenue
 Cody, Wyoming, USA
 Contact: Nancy McClure Phone: 307-578-4102
 Email: nancymc@centerofthewest.org
 www.centerofthewest.org

June 20 - 21, 2015

54th Annual Aamjiwnaang First Nation
 Powwow
 Bear Park 1972 Virgil Avenue
 Sarnia, Ontario, Canada
 Contact: Tracy Williams
 Phone: 519-336-8410

June 21, 2015

St. Albert National Aboriginal Day Festival 2015
 Lions Park
 Sir Winston Churchill Avenue & Tache Street
 Grand Entry starts at 12:00 pm
 St. Albert, Alberta, Canada
 www.facebook.com/
 St.AlbertNationalAboriginalDayFest

June 24, 2015

6th Annual National Aboriginal History Month
 Celebration
 Yonge & Dundas Square
 Time: 12:00 - 8:00 pm
 Toronto, Ontario, Canada
 Phone: 416-964-9087

June 26 - 28, 2015

18th Annual Peoria Powwow
 Peoria Powwow Grounds
 60610 East 90 Road
 (at County Road 137 & E-90 Road)

Phone: 780-470-0359

July 10 - 12, 2015

Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Annual Powwow
 Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, Alberta, Canada
 Contact: Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation
 Administration Office Phone: 780-967-2225
 www.ansn.ca

July 10 - 12, 2015

31st Annual Great Mohican Powwow
 Mohican Reservation Campgrounds
 23270 Wally Road South (County Road 3175)
 Loudonville, Ohio, USA
 Phone: 1-800-766-2267
 Email: powwow@mohicanreservation.com
 www.mohicanpowwow.com

July 11 - 12, 2015

25th Annual Echoes of a Proud Nation Powwow
 Renewing our Spirits through the
 Power of the Drum
 Kahnawake Powwow Grounds
 (10 miles south of Montreal)
 Kahnawake Mohawk Territory, Quebec, Canada
 Phone: 450-632-8667
 Email: info@kahnawakepowwow.com
 www.kahnawakepowwow.com

July 16 - 19, 2015

Back to Batoche Festival Days
 At the Back to Batoche Site
 Batoche, Saskatchewan, Canada
 Phone:
 306-343-8385 / 306-715-8302
 Email: admin@backtobatoche.org
 www.backtobatoche.org

July 17 - 19, 2015

Kainai Powwow & Celebration
 Red Crow Park
 Standoff, Alberta, Canada
 Phone: 587-220-0046
 www.kainaipowwow.com

July 17 - 26, 2015

Great Northern Arts Festival
 Connected: Sharing Past and Present to Ensure
 an Inspired Future
 Midnight Sun Complex
 Northwest Territories, Canada
 Phone: 867-777-8638
 Email: gnaf@inuvik.ca
 www.gnaf.org

July 18, 2015

7th Annual Colorado Springs Native American
 Intertribal Powwow
 Freedom Financial Services EXPO Center
 3650 N. Nevada Avenue
 Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA

July 25 - 26, 2015

59th Annual O-Sa-Wan Powwow & Native
 American Marketplace
 Hosted by the Mascoutin Society of
 Chicagoland
 Francis Field Fairgrounds
 801 E. Francis Road
 New Lenox, Illinois, USA
 Contact: Linda Hayford
 Phone: 847-882-1644 / 847-721-6890
 www.mascoutin.com

July 27 - 29, 2015

Carry the Kettle First Nation Powwow
 Sintaluta, Saskatchewan, Canada
 Phone: 306-727-2135

July 29 - August 5, 2015

25th Annual Montreal First Peoples Festival
 Film & Video Showcase
 At multiple venues throughout Montreal
 Montreal, Quebec, Canada
 INFO-FESTIVAL line: 514-570-4774
 (valid from June 30th to August 10th)
 Phone: 514-278-4040
 Email: tev@nativelynx.qc.ca
 www.presenceautochtone.ca

July 30 - August 2, 2015

31st Annual Innu Nikamu Festival
 Aboriginal music & arts festival
 Mani-utenam, Québec, Canada
 Phone: 418-927-2476 / 418-927-2704
 Email: festival@innunikamu.ca
 www.innunikamu.ca

July 31 - August 2, 2015

53rd Annual Lac La Biche Powwow Days
 & Fish Derby
 Lac La Biche Recreation Grounds
 Lac La Biche, Alberta, Canada
 Contact: Colleen (780-623-2477)
 Email: LLBPowWow@gmail.com

July 31 - August 2, 2015

Kamloopa Powwow
 Secwepemc Powwow Grounds
 Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada
 Contact: Kamloopa Powwow Society
 Phone: 250-828-9782
 Email: powwow@kib.ca
 www.tkemlups.ca

AUGUST

August 1 - 2, 2015

Poundmaker's Lodge Annual Powwow
 25108 Poundmaker Road
 Sturgeon County, Alberta, Canada
 Phone: 1-866-458-1884 / 780-458-1884
 Email: info@poundmaker.org

Connected: Sharing Past and Present to Ensure an Inspired Future
Midnight Sun Complex
Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada
Phone: 867-777-8638
Email: gna@inuvik.ca
www.gnaf.org

June 24, 2015
6th Annual National Aboriginal History Month Celebration
Yonge & Dundas Square
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Phone: 416-964-9087

June 26 - 28, 2015
18th Annual Peoria Powwow
Peoria Powwow Grounds
60610 East 90 Road
Miami, Oklahoma, USA
Phone: 918-540-2535
Email: cstacy@peoriatribe.com
www.peoriatribe.com

June 18, 2015
17th Annual Anishinabek Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament
The Mark O'Meara Course at the Grandview Golf Club
245 Grandview Drive North
Huntsville, Ontario, Canada
Contact: Jason Restoule Phone: 705-497-9127
or toll-free: 1-877-702-5200
Email: an7gc@anishinabek.ca
www.an7gc.ca

June 6, 2015
Tule River Youth Powwow
Tule River Gym
308 North Reservation Road
Porterville, California, USA
Contact: Cricket McDarment
Phone: 559-782-5554

June 6, 2015
Celebrating Aboriginal Day
4 km Walk/Run along the banks of The Humber River
Starts at 10:00 am
Beginning and finishing at
St. Philip's Parish Hall
60 Dixon Road
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Contact: Stan Trudeau
Email: parkin.trudeau@gmail.com

June 6 - 7, 2015
Metis of Maine 12th Annual Gathering & Powwow
Yellow Feather Cultural Center
105 Gould Road
Dayton, Maine, USA
Phone: 207-793-4801
www.metisofmaine.org

June 12 - 14, 2015
10th Annual Spirit of the Peace Competition Powwow "Uniting Our Fires"
District Ice Centre
Taylor, British Columbia, Canada
Contact: Connie Greyeyes
Phone: 250-793-1468
Vendors Contact: Marlene Greyeyes
Phone: 250-785-0612 ext. 245

June 12 - 14, 2015
16th Annual Fort Robinson Intertribal Gathering
Fort Robinson State Park
3200 US HWY 20
Crawford, Nebraska, USA
Phone: 308-632-1311
www.panhandlercd.com

June 12 - 14, 2015
15th Annual Table Mountain Rancheria Powwow
Table Mountain Powwow Grounds
8184 Table Mountain Road
Friant, California, USA
Phone: 559-822-2890 / 559-284-4721

June 13 - 14, 2015
12th Annual NCGINAC Gathering of Great Lakes Nations
Tri-State Antique Gas Engine Association Grounds
1010 Morton Street
Portland, Indiana, USA
Contact: Kay Neumayr
Phone: 765-426-3022
Email: kay.neumayr@ncginac.com
www.ncginac.org

June 19 - 20, 2015
Kaw Nation Washing Days Intertribal Powwow
Allegawaho Heritage Memorial Park
Council Grove, Kansas, USA
Phone: 620-767-5413
www.washingdays.com

June 19 - 21, 2015
Honoring Our Ancestors 11th Annual Intertribal Powwow
Williamsfield (Wayne Township), Ohio, USA
Contact: Red Wolf
Phone: 440-319-4483 / 449-344-9845
Email: redwolf_0801@aol.com

June 19 - 21, 2015
Rainy River First Nations Powwow
Manitou Rapids, Ontario, Canada
Contact: Nicole Cochrane or Kiley Hanson
Phone: 807-482-2479

June 19 - 21, 2015
Summer Solstice Aboriginal Arts Festival & Competition Powwow
Vincent Massey Park
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
www.ottawasummersolstice.ca

June 20, 2015
APTN Aboriginal Day Live & Celebration
Louise McKinney Park
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Time: 12:00 - 10:30 pm
LIVE concert begins at 6:30 pm
Phone: 204-947-9331 ext. 358
Email: info@aptn.ca

June 20, 2015
APTN Aboriginal Day Live & Celebration (and Competition Powwow)
The Forks
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Time: 11:00 am - 11:30 pm
LIVE concert begins at 7:30 pm
Phone: 204-947-9331 ext. 358
Email: info@aptn.ca

June 20, 2015
20th Annual Mattaponi Powwow
Mattaponi Indian Reservation
1413 Mattaponi Reservation Circle
Enoch Cree Nation, Alberta, Canada

AUGUST
August 1 - 2, 2015
Poundmaker's Lodge Annual Powwow
25108 Poundmaker Road
Sturgeon County, Alberta, Canada
Phone: 1-866-458-1884 / 780-458-1884
Email: info@poundmaker.org
www.poundmakerslodge.com

August 1 - 2, 2015
Bear Mountain Powwow
Anthony Wayne Recreation Area
Harriman State Park
Palisades Interstate Parkway
Stony Point, New York, USA
Phone: 718-686-9297
Email: native@redhawkcouncil.org
www.redhawkcouncil.org

August 1 - 2, 2015
9th Annual Prophetstown Intertribal & Traditional Powwow
Prophetstown State Recreation Area
Prophetstown, Illinois, USA
Contact: Dan Eads Phone: 815-441-0148
Email: riverat2@yahoo.com
www.prophetstownpowwow.com

August 2 - 4, 2015
55th Annual Wikwemikong Cultural Festival
Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve
Manitoulin Island, Ontario, Canada
Contact: Wikwemikong Heritage Organization
Phone: 1-877-859-2385 / 705-859-2385
www.wikwemikongheritage.org

August 5, 2015
Cardston-Kainai Powwow Lions Park
Cardston, Alberta, Canada
Phone: 403-653-3366

August 7 - 9, 2015
Siksika Nation Fair
Siksika, Alberta, Canada
Contact: Lucille Wright
Phone: 403-734-4363 / 403-901-9817
www.siksikanation.com

August 7 - 9, 2015
Samson Cree Nation Celebration Competition Powwow
Maskwacis Park
Maskwacis, Alberta, Canada
Contact: Holly Johnson-Rattlesnake / Clayton Bruno / Patrick Buffalo / Shannon Buffalo
Phone: 1-800-661-2579 / 780-585-3793
www.samsoncelebration.com
www.samsoncree.com

August 13 - 16, 2015
18th Annual John Arcand Fiddle Fest
Windy Acres on Pine Lake Hwy #60
SW of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
Contact: Vicki Arcand Phone: 306-382-0111
Email: windy.acres@sasktel.net
www.johnarcandfiddlefest.com

July 18, 2015
7th Annual Colorado Springs Native American Intertribal Powwow
Freedom Financial Services EXPO Center
3650 N. Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA
Contact: Al & Rhetta Walter
Phone: 719-559-0525
Email: Rhetta_Walter@hotmail.com
www.palmerdividhistory.org

July 18 - 19, 2015
Timiskaming First Nation 13th Annual Powwow, Culture & Heritage Festival
Timiskaming First Nation Arbor
Notre Dame du Nord, Quebec, Canada
Contact: Festival Committee
Phone: 819-723-2255

July 23 - 26, 2015
149th Annual Winnebago Homecoming Celebration
Winnebago Veterans Memorial Park
Winnebago, Nebraska, USA
Contact: Terry St. Cyr Phone: 402-241-7536
www.winnebagotribe.com

July 24 - 26, 2015
Spirit of the People Powwow
Honoring Our Women
Tzeachten Sports Field
46770 Bailey Road
Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada
Contact: Gary Abbott Phone: 604-845-5234
Email: garyvabbott@live.com

July 24 - 26, 2015
37th Annual Keweenaw Bay Maawaniji'iding Honoring the Ojibwidaag
Ojibwa Campground
Baraga, Michigan, USA
Contact: Gary Loonsfoot
Phone: 906-353-4108
Email: gloonsfoot@kbc-nsn.gov

July 24 - 26, 2015
46th Annual Kihekah Steh Powwow
Kihekah Steh Powwow Grounds
193rd Road & 52nd W Avenue
(Javine Hill Road)
Skiatook, Oklahoma, USA
Contact: Donna Phillips Phone: 918-381-7996
Email: dkphillips2002@gmail.com

July 24 - 26, 2015
36th Annual Grand River 'Champion of Champions' Powwow
Chiefswood Tent & Trailer Park
Six Nations of the Grand River Community
Ohswaken, Ontario, Canada
Phone: 519-751-3908 / 1-866-393-3001
Email: info@grpowwow.ca
www.grpowwow.ca

JULY

July 1 - 5, 2015
117th Annual Arlee Celebration
Arlee, Montana, USA
Contact: Willie Stevens, Chairman
Phone: 406-270-6958
Email: willies@cskt.org
www.arleepowwow.com

July 2 - 5, 2015
143rd Annual Quapaw Powwow
Beaver Springs Park
5681 South 630 Road
Quapaw, Oklahoma, USA
Phone: 918-542-1853
www.quapawtribe.com

July 3 - 5, 2015
O'Chiese First Nation Competition Powwow
Celebrating Our Cultural Heritage
O'Chiese First Nation Reserve
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, Canada
Contact: Doreen Gladeau
Phone: 1-888-256-3884 / 403-418-5566

July 3 - 5, 2015
Ermineskin Cree Nation Powwow
Celebrating Life
Maskwacis Park
Maskwacis, Alberta, Canada
Contact: Iris Albert / Phone: 780-585-3065
Contact: Nina Makinaw Phone: 780-352-1321
www.ermeskin.ca

July 3 - 5, 2015
21st Annual Wildhorse Resort & Casino Powwow
Umarilla Reservation
46510 Wildhorse Blvd.
Pendleton, Oregon, USA
Phone: 1-800-654-9453
Email: info@wildhorseresort.com

July 9 - 12, 2015
64th Annual North American Indian Days
Blackfeet Reservation
Browning, Montana
Contact: James McNeely Phone: 406-338-3513
Contact: Elma Carlson Phone: 406-338-7179
Contact: Marilyn Parsons Phone: 406-338-4389
www.blackfeetcountry.com

July 10 - 12, 2015
Enoch Cree Nation Powwow
Enoch Cree Nation, Alberta, Canada

There are many more events listed online: www.ammsa.com



Journey to Churchill

Assiniboine Park Zoo Dec. 23, 2014-Dec. 23, 2020
Winnipeg

The Winnipeg Art Gallery has joined Hudson, Aurora, Storm, and Kaska at the Assiniboine Park Zoo's Journey to Churchill exhibit with an impressive array of Inuit sculpture in an ongoing, rotating display. The carvings are featured in a 20-foot long case in the Journey to Churchill's Gateway to the Arctic building. As visitors move around the case to the underwater viewing tunnels, the spectacular views shift from sculpture to live bears swimming underwater. Journey to Churchill is home to polar bears, muskoxen, Arctic fox, wolves, and others creatures that make up the most comprehensive northern species exhibit of its kind in the world. Visitors experience a variety of naturalistic landscapes and animal viewing areas. Interpretive signage and interactive displays invite visitors to learn about biodiversity, climate change, and conservation. The Winnipeg Art Gallery holds the largest public collection of contemporary Inuit art in the world with over 13,000 pieces, including sculpture, prints, drawings, ceramics, and textiles. Planning is currently underway to create an Inuit Art Centre to house the collection.

For more info: <http://www.assiniboineparkzoo.ca/>

Walter Cook Caves Park Reserve

Located 410 kilometres north of Winnipeg, and 28 kilometres northwest of Grand Rapids

The Manitoba government has permanently protected Walter Cook Caves Park Reserve as an ecological reserve. The Walter Cook Caves contain a variety of unique rock formations and are home to little brown bats. It is also the only known place where elk, moose, white-tailed deer, woodland caribou and wood bison share the same habitat. The province worked with the Misipawistik Cree Nation on the designation and management of the Walter Cook Caves Ecological Reserve. A new community advisory group - the first of its kind in Manitoba - was established to cooperatively manage the area as an ecological reserve. The park reserve overlies unique karst landscapes within near surface limestone and dolomite bedrock. The landscapes feature sinkholes, caves and other features shaped by the dissolving action of water on limestone and dolomite. Along with the Walter Cook Caves, the area includes Iguana Crypt, Ice Cascade, 4-Eyed, Caprock and Anticipation. The rare calypso orchid and sandhill crane are also found seasonally in the park reserve. Bats, moths and red squirrels frequently winter in the caves. Black bears will also hibernate in the caves. The area supports pockets of jack pine and aspen poplar forests. The ecological reserve is located within Misipawistik Cree Nation's trapline.

Spirit of Alliance sculpture

Conceived and created by Adrian Stimson, Ian (Happy) Grove, and Jean-Sebastian Gauthier
River Landing, Saskatoon

Spirit of the Alliance, the War of 1812 monument, was unveiled by His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, last September. Adrian Stimson, Jean-Sebastian Gauthier and Ian (Happy) Grove were the design team chosen to create and implement the monument with its interpretive panels. The project commemorates the participants of the War of 1812, whose descendants now reside on the Prairies. The project was commissioned by the Whitecap Dakota First Nation. The sculpture reflects positive moments at the creation of the treaty, in the time prior to 1812. The figures are in positions of exchange and attention towards each other, with the seal of promise based upon the exchange of gifts that would happen at the time of making treaty promises, and other alliances. The sculpture is surrounded by four interpretive panels. "This is a great honour for all three of us to be able to create this "Spirit of Alliance" piece to commemorate the people involved in 1813," Stimson said on behalf of the team of artists. "The installation will pay homage to the Dakota role in the War of 1812 and hopefully capture a snap shot in time."

Rock paintings on the Churchill River system Lac La Ronge Provincial Park

Churchill River is a series of island-filled lakes joined by rapids or falls. Canoeing along the system will provide incredible sights, from swooping eagles and fishing pelicans to the paintings that adorn granite rocks on the shores of rivers, streams and lakes. The rock paintings depict people, birds, animals and, possibly, religious icons. It is believed the paintings were created by the Algonquian-speaking peoples, the ancestors of the Ojibwa, Algonquian and, in the case of the Churchill region, Wood Cree peoples, who still live in the Canadian Shield. One of the most commonly represented figures in the Churchill rock paintings is the thunderbird, an important deity in the mythology of the Cree and many other North American Indians. Cracking thunder was believed to be the sound of the thunderbird's wings, while lightening was said to be flashes from the mighty bird's eyes. The thunderbird was said to be engaged in an ongoing struggle with various evil creatures from the underwater or under-earth realms. The most common of these bad characters - serpents, as well as panthers and lynxes with horns - can also be seen in the rock paintings. Most of the paintings, about a foot or less in size, were made using the reddish-brown mineral ochre as pigment for the paint. Mixing the ochre with "isinglass," an organic substance made from the swimming bladders of fish, preserved the work. About 700 rock-painting sites have been discovered across the Canadian Shield, from Quebec through Saskatchewan.

For more information, check out <http://www.saskparks.net/laclaronge>

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Arena Director: Gerald Chum, Moose Factory, Ontario

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Head Male Dancer: Ian Akiwenzie, Toronto, Ontario

Guest Dancer: Spencer Linklater, Cape Croker, Ontario

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Grand Entry Times

Friday 6:00 p.m.	Saturday 11:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.	Sunday 12:00 p.m.
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Aboriginal Pavilion

Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, Garrison Commons and Planet IndigenUs
During Pan Am (July 10-26) and Parapan Am Games (Aug.7-15)
Toronto

The Aboriginal Pavilion will offer diverse performances, demonstrations, commissions and activities during the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games to be held in July and August in Toronto. The work of the Indigenous cultures of America will be seen at three locations across the city: the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, Garrison Commons (adjacent to Fort York), and Planet IndigenUs at Harbourfront Centre. The Aboriginal Pavilion will be one of the largest Indigenous festivals ever organized in Canada.

The Mississaugas of New Credit, who live next to the Six Nations of Grand River near Brantford, are the host First Nation for the Pan Am Games.

More info.: <http://www.toronto2015.org/culture-events>

Legends: Norval Morrisseau and Anishinabek "Woodland School" Artists

McMichael Canadian Art Collection
Kleinburg, Ontario

First Nations artist Norval Morrisseau is celebrated for establishing a style of art that became known as the Woodland School. Morrisseau pioneered the telling of Ojibwe legends and stories not in the traditional visual form, but through introducing a modernist, pictorial vocabulary. The source for Morrisseau's inspiration is found in the earlier Ojibwe imagery which was inscribed or drawn on rock surfaces as petroglyphs or pictographs. Morrisseau's decision to produce his art on canvas and paper marked a shift to European-influenced traditions, which served to broaden the artist's opportunities to communicate his vision and cultural beliefs to a larger audience. Morrisseau has stated that he wanted to communicate with the viewer using colour. His painted compositions are characterized by an intuitive use of bright, pure colour shapes contained within black form lines. Through their collective actions, Daphne Odjig, Carl Ray, and other artists of Morrisseau's generation emerged as proponents of a contemporary Woodland vision. View the Morrisseau's work and that of other "Woodland School" artists in Gallery 8 in the upper level. The McMichael gallery is located in the village of Kleinburg, just minutes north of Toronto. Beyond the signature fieldstone gates, there is outdoor art, four floors of gallery and program space, including the Library and Archives, and the Gallery Shop – all surrounded by 100 acres of beautiful conservation land which can be explored through a network of paths and trails.

More info., check out <http://www.mcmichael.com/>

Odeyak

Aanischaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute
Oujé-Bougoumou

The Odeyak, one of the first artifacts brought to the Cree Cultural Institute, is celebrating one quarter of a century. Twenty-five years ago 60 Inuit and Cree from Northern Quebec paddled their Odeyak into New York City, a blue and green Earth Day flag fluttering at the bow, symbolizing the two nations' fight against the flooding of their territory for a hydroelectric megaproject. The Odeyak travelled more than 2,000 km over five weeks, by dogsled on the frozen bay, by road and by river, all the way to downtown Manhattan in a campaign against the proposed damming of the Great Whale River. The \$12.6-billion Great Whale project would have diverted eight large rivers and affected an ecosystem the size of France. Hydro-Québec planned to sell electricity from that project to New England and New York State. The voyage achieved its intention: New York State pulled out of its \$17-billion agreement to buy the electricity, and Quebec eventually shelved the Great Whale project. The Odeyak is on permanent display at the Cree Cultural Institute.

For more information, check out: <http://www.creeculturalinstitute.ca/en>

Double Mer Point archaeological site

Rigolet, Labrador

A boardwalk leads the way to the archeological site at Double Mer Point along which excavations dating back to between 1760 and 1800 are located. Double Mer Point is one of a period Inuit sites in Labrador. This is an important cultural and historical site and represents the "communal house phase," which is usually considered to span the 18th century and saw a shift in Inuit settlement from small, single-family dwellings to larger multi-family houses. Rigolet is nestled in a sheltered cove at the entrance of Lake Melville, and is the most southerly Inuit community in the world. Rigolet has benefitted from an expanding cruise ship industry which in 2014 saw three ships dock in the community. Minke whales swim along the shore. Rigolet is alive with traditions with expert craftspeople and artisans producing handcrafted salt water grass pieces and authentic sealskin garments. Rigolet is now becoming the gateway to the nearby Mealy Mountain National Park Reserve.

Pawakan Pole

Carved by Ned Bear
St. Thomas University
Fredericton, New Brunswick

A tree felled by post-tropical storm Arthur has been carved into a Pawakan Pole, traditionally viewed as a spirit guide, or spirit helper, to represent a welcoming space in the middle of St. Thomas University's campus, near Margaret Norrie McCain Hall. The work was undertaken by Maliseet artist Ned Bear, of St. Mary's First Nation, who has been carving for over 30 years. He was already at St. Thomas University as one of five artists taking part in STU's inaugural artist-in-residency program, which ran from October 2014 to April 2015. Bear is an internationally renowned artist, who has participated in numerous group and solo shows. Among his accomplishments are a fellowship from the Smithsonian Institute in New York City, winner of the prestigious Face the Nation competition at the UC Davis Design Museum in San Diego, and work as part of a cooperative project for the 2010 Winter Games in Whistler. Bear received formal art training at the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design, and was the first Aboriginal students to graduate from this institution and did so with honours. He was joined by his son Jeremy Bear to carve the Pawakan Pole. The two used only adze, chisel and axe to create their masterpiece.



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PHOTO: [HTTP://WWW.CITY.WHITEHORSE.YK.CA/](http://www.city.whitehorse.yk.ca/)

Kwanlin D'n First Nation Chief Doris Bill and Whitehorse Mayor Dan Curtis at new transit shelter on McIntyre Drive.

Bus shelters display Kwanlin D'n First Nation art Created by Justin Smith McIntyre Drive and at Range Road North and Crowe Street Whitehorse, Yukon

Three new transit shelters installed in January illustrate the strong partnership between the City of Whitehorse and Kwanlin D'n First Nation. "This beautiful bus shelter design is just one example of what we hope will be many shared successes between the City and Kwanlin D'n," said Chief Doris Bill. "This project is a testament to the collaboration between our governments on initiatives that serve mutual needs and, as in this project, that also celebrate the rich cultural identity of Kwanlin D'n." The artwork is an interpretation of Kwanlin D'n's clan symbols – wolf and crow – created by Kwanlin D'n artist Justin Smith. The wolf and crow are moiety symbols of the two clans that are associated to the Kwanlin D'n peoples' identity.

Smith has a number of years' experience in First Nation art design. He enjoys seeing his artwork find a home in the Kwanlin D'n community and hopes that his work may help to inspire younger generations to learn their culture.

Nation to Nation: Treaties between the United States and American Indian Nations Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian September 2014-Fall 2018 Washington, DC

The exhibition focuses on eight treaties representing the approximately 374 ratified between the United States and the Native Nations, on loan from the National Archives. Each document details and solidifies the diplomatic agreements between the US and the neighbouring Native Nations. Told from the point of view of the Indian Nations and accompanied by US testimonials, curated by Suzan Shown Harjo (Cheyenne/Hodulgee Muscogee) the story is woven through five sections: *Introduction to Treaties, Serious Diplomacy, Bad Acts, Bad Paper, Great Nations Keep Their Word and Reflections*. Featuring more than 125 objects from the museum's collection and private lenders – including art and artifact - the Navajo blanket owned by General William Sherman, a collection of Plains Nations pipes and beaded pipe bags, peace medals given to Thomas Jefferson, George Washington and the sword and scabbard of Andrew Jackson (on loan from the National Museum of American History) - tell the story of early ancestors and their efforts to live side-by-side at the birth of the United States. Video installation, archival photographs, wampum belts, textiles, baskets and peace medals highlight each historical moment in time.

For more information, check out <http://nmai.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/item/?id=934>



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Saskatchewan Sage: Special Section providing news from Saskatchewan

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Premier Brad Wall, Education Minister Don Morgan, Whitecap Dakota First Nation Chief Darcy Bear and Regina-Lumsden-Lake Centre MP Tom Lukiwski were joined by children for the sod digging on May 5.

Early learning centre to be built

A \$2-million 56-space early learning centre will be attached to the Whitecap Elementary School. Whitecap Dakota First Nation is contributing \$260,000, while the federal government will provide \$1 million and the province will provide \$500,000 to help fund the construction. BMO Financial Group is contributing \$250,000. The province has also committed to annual operating funding for 45 of the 56 spaces when the centre opens. The remaining 11 spaces will continue to be federally funded. The centre is expected to be ready by the start

of the 2016 school year.

Specific Claims Tribunal decision could see multi-million payment

A decision by the Specific Claims Tribunal could be worth \$4.2 million for Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation. The tribunal has ruled the government owes the band compensation for money lost during the Northwest Rebellion of 1885. The government withheld annuity money from bands they labelled disloyal. "I guess I am not about to do cartwheels until we get the response from the government because this is the government that spends \$149 million fighting treaty rights and losing at every turn," said Chief Rick Gamble. The federal government has 30 days to appeal the decision. Chakastaypasin, Little Pine, Lucky Man, Moosomin, Mosquito/Grizzly Bear's Head/Lean Man, Muskeg Lake, One

Arrow, Onion Lake, Poundmaker, Red Pheasant, Sweetgrass, Thunderchild, and Young Chipewyan First Nations were listed on the lawsuit as interveners and could be affected by the decision. Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation was the claimant on the lawsuit.

Plan to improve child care services outlined

The two-week inquest into the death of Lee Bonneau, 6, has resulted in 19 recommendations to the Ministry of Social Services, the Yorkton Tribal Council Child and Family Services, and the RCMP. The Saskatchewan government has released a plan designed to improve the child welfare system and supports for vulnerable families and children. The new plan follows not only the inquest, but also a 2014 report on the same case by the

(See Sage on page 21.)

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Manitoba Pipestone: Special Section providing news from Manitoba



PHOTO: JILL THOMPSON

Prime Minister announces new funding for child advocacy centres

On April 24 Prime Minister Stephen Harper was joined by his wife Laureen, and MP for Saint-Boniface Shelly Glover for a roundtable meeting with victims' advocates at the Winakwa Community Centre in Winnipeg, where he announced the government's intention to provide new funding for Child Advocacy Centres to help support young victims of crime.

Shoal Lake lifts state of emergency

After nearly two weeks, Shoal Lake 40 First Nation lifted its state of emergency. The state of emergency was declared at the end of April when Transport Canada ruled the First Nation's 30-year-old ferry unsafe due to a leaky and rusty hull. As the ferry was the community's only access to health care services and basic needs in neighbouring cities, Elders were evacuated. For more than a century, the community has been isolated after an aqueduct was built to help bring water into Winnipeg. The reserve has no all-weather road although it has been lobbying for years for one. The federal government, Manitoba and Winnipeg have chipped in \$1 million each for a feasibility study, but there are no firm commitments beyond that. The community has been under a boil-water advisory for 17 years. The ferry was repaired and put back in the water in a limited capacity, said Chief Erwin Redsky, and it will have to undergo extensive repairs in the fall.

Four years after flood, thousands still not home

On May 8, flood evacuees marked the fourth year of their exile with a march through downtown Winnipeg to the regional headquarters of the

federal Aboriginal Affairs department. Nearly 2,000 people from four First Nations around Lake St. Martin are still out of their homes following the 2011 flood. They are being temporarily lodged in rentals and hotels in Winnipeg. "I don't want the public to think we're always asking for handouts. We're not begging. Enough is enough. Give us our community back before we're all assimilated. We're not begging. We're asking for what's rightfully ours," said Lake St. Martin Chief Adrian Sinclair. To save Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie and farmland, the province diverted water from the Assiniboine River to Lake Manitoba, flooding out thousands of people. By the end of May 2011, 3,214 evacuees were removed from homes in Lake St. Martin, Little Saskatchewan, Dauphin River, Pinaymootang and about a dozen other First Nations. About 1,300 First Nations people and hundreds of non-Aboriginal cottagers and residents returned home within the next year or two. The Canadian Red Cross continues to pay rent for 1,914 people. The total cost of the evacuation, as of January, was \$115.6 million and rising. But the two levels of government and four First Nations cannot agree on how to get the people home. In the beginning of May, the province announced it had set aside \$100 million to deal with the chronic flooding of First Nations caused by the flood-protection infrastructure that protects Winnipeg.

Opaskwayak Cree Nation gives notice to Bipole Three

Chief Michael Constant of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation says he is "officially declaring stoppage" on work for the Manitoba Hydro's Bipole Three transmission line. Approximately 165 km of the line must cross Opaskwayak traditional territory. Constant says the band's issues are not being addressed. Grand

Chief Derek Nepinak, of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, said contracts are starting to be awarded before First Nations communities are being assured that they will get proper economic benefits. Manitoba Hydro has been in discussions with First Nations along the line route since 2008 about economic and environmental impacts of the project. The transmission line is a \$4 billion project to bring power from

northern generating stations to homes and businesses in the south. Initially, Manitoba Hydro planned to run a shorter, direct line down the east side of Lake Winnipeg but feared that First Nations in the area would fight the project in court. The NDP government ordered Hydro to reroute the line to the west where it will then have to loop southward and back east. Manitoba Hydro plans to have the line up and running by 2018.

First Indigenous woman elected to Manitoba Legislature

Amanda Lathlin became the first Indigenous woman in the Manitoba Legislature. Lathlin won a by-election win for the NDP in The Pas on April 21. NDP Frank Whitehead resigned his position almost a year ago due to health reasons. Lathlin took 1,557 votes to opponents Jacob Nasekapow, a former band councillor in Moose Lake running for the Progressive Conservatives, with 817 votes; Inez Vystrcil-Spence, a Liberal who has worked for the group that represents northern First Nations, with 369. Voter turnout was around 22 per cent. Premier Greg Selinger tweeted: "Congratulations to Amanda Lathlin on her historic win - 1st Indigenous woman elected to the Manitoba legislature." The Pas has generally been considered a safe seat for the NDP

government.

Two Métis among 12 recipients of Order of Manitoba

Donald R. J. Mackey, CD, a decorated Métis veteran, and Karen Beaudin, a City of Winnipeg community resource co-ordinator, will be among 12 people inducted into the Order of Manitoba this year. Beaudin, a proud Manitoba Métis, was named to the order for increasing support, understanding and respect for Indigenous people in the workforce and her ongoing service to the community, while Mackey was honoured for ensuring the sacrifices of First Nations and Métis veterans are never forgotten and encouraging inner-city youth through the establishment of the Sgt. Tommy Prince, MM, Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps. Among others to be inducted are singer/songwriter Tom Cochrane, former NHL player and spokesman against child sexual abuse Sheldon Kennedy, and Chicago Blackhawks captain Jonathan Toews. The Order of Manitoba, the province's highest honour, recognizes individuals who have demonstrated excellence and achievement in any field of endeavour, benefiting the social, cultural or economic well-being of Manitoba and its residents.

Compiled by Shari Narine

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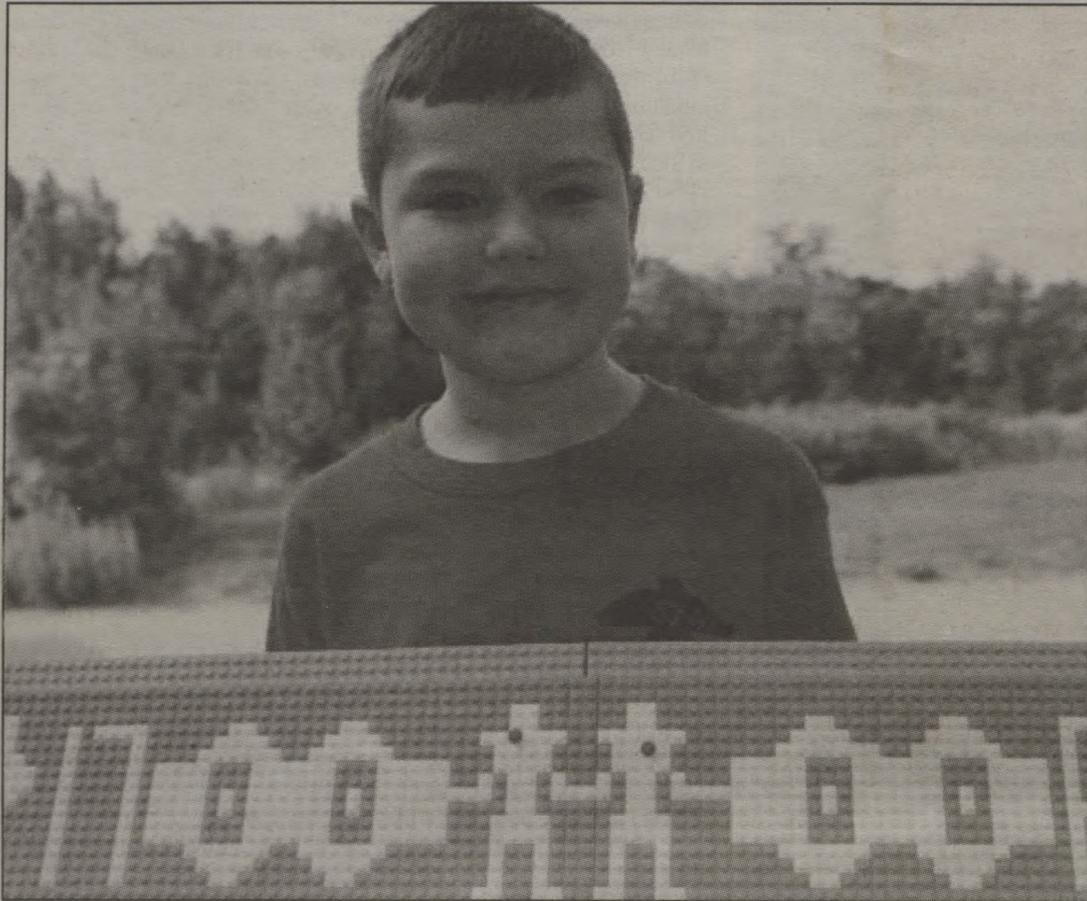
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Ontario Birchbark: Special Section providing news from Ontario



New learning resource for students

Alexander Hebert, 9, designer of the LEGO "Treaty of Niagara" wampum belt, was part of the launch by the province and the Union of Ontario Indians of a new education resource. "We are all Treaty people" is designed to help children learn about the treaty relationship in Ontario at an early age. Alexander, a citizen of Dokis First Nation living in Sturgeon Falls, was joined at the launch at UOI head office by Ontario Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Zimmer, Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee, and Kelly Crawford, teachers guide author, a citizen of M'Chigeeng First Nation living in Lively, Ont.

education, to teachers and students. OISE students tell of their own stories of school success that led them to a university education. The goal of the project is to inspire and model to the children and youth what contemporary Indigenous identity can be in an urban area. By the end of May, students in Grades 5 and 11 from 25 schools will have gone through the program, which was funded through the Ministry of Education's Aboriginal Education Department.

Ontario budget offers little help for First Nations

Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy says the 2015 Ontario budget does not answer how Ontario will work with First Nations over the next year. The budget, which projects slight increases in First Nations spending, contains no new programs or services to close the gap between First Nations and Ontarians. Ontario will follow through on previous promises to help remote First Nations in the north connect to the province's power grid and pledged to build infrastructure within the Ring of Fire region; and some First Nations will benefit from reduced energy bills under the newly announced Ontario Electricity Support Program. However, Ontario's intention to prosecute more First Nations for possessing raw leaf tobacco is meeting with criticism. "First Nations have continually called on Ontario to drop its discriminatory assault on First Nations tobacco. We will continue to oppose and challenge every effort Ontario makes to violate First Nations rights and disrespect our cultural ties to tobacco," said Beardy. The trade of tobacco and tobacco-related products has evolved into a commercial commodity that supports many First Nation families particularly in Six Nations, Kahnawake and Akwesasne communities.

Legal Aid Ontario funds extended services

Legal Aid Ontario funding will bring two new community-based services to members of Grand Council Treaty #3. The group is providing \$200,000 to hire, train and manage two Gladue caseworkers for one year. These caseworkers will write Gladue reports for Treaty #3 members in Kenora, Fort Frances, Dryden and Sioux Lookout. The reports will be available to accused people facing 90 or more days of incarceration, either at the bail or sentencing stage. Legal Aid Ontario will also provide \$200,000 to finance an Aboriginal alternative dispute resolution worker for two years. This worker will arrange circles to deal with child protection issues in collaboration with child and family services agencies. The circles will provide an alternative to family court for First Nation families. "These programs and other restorative justice practices are stepping stones that help address the over-representation of Anishinaabe peoples in the justice system," said Arthur Huminuk, justice projects coordinator with Grand Council Treaty #3.

Aboriginal post-secondary institutions, students see new cash

Aboriginal post-secondary education got a two-fold boost recently from the province. In the budget, the government announced an additional \$5 million in funding through the Post-secondary Education Fund for Aboriginal Learners. The additional support positions Aboriginal institutes of higher learning to achieve even greater student success while continuing to work in partnership with Ontario's colleges and universities, said Rebecca Jamieson, president and CEO of Six Nations Polytechnic. Jamieson, is also president and CEO of Indspire, a national charity, which received \$1.5 million from the province to support Indigenous education.

See *Birchbark* on page 20.)

Public Notice

The National Energy Board is looking for your input on the proposed ITC Lake Erie Connector International Power Line (IPL) Project, which would run from Haldimand County in Ontario to Erie County in Pennsylvania, with an underwater cable portion at Lake Erie. If you are a landowner, Aboriginal group, incorporated non-industry, not-for-profit organization or an individual who could be directly affected by this project, you can apply for funding. The funding must be used to prepare for and participate in the Lake Erie Connector Project hearing.

Information regarding the online presentations on the Board's public hearing process related to the ITC Lake Erie Connector Project and how you can participate will be provided on the NEB's project page for the ITC Lake Erie Connector at www.neb-one.gc.ca/itclakeerieconnector, or by contacting the Process Advisor, Brian Doyle, at the NEB by calling the toll-free line 1-800-899-1265, or itclakeerieprocesshelp@neb-one.gc.ca. For general information about the NEB hearing process and how you can participate effectively, please visit the NEB website and select Participate in a Hearing.



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[health]

Nurses and their training key to improving health outcomes

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

THUNDER BAY, Ont.

The Auditor General of Canada says the federal government cannot guarantee adequate health services for First Nations people living in remote areas in Ontario and Manitoba.

That's a conclusion First Nations leaders agree with, but not for the same reasons outlined by Auditor General Michael Ferguson.

"I think the report miscued altogether," said Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy, who holds the portfolio for health for the Assembly of First Nations. "(The audit) is correct what they reported, but it's not where the real need is in terms of addressing access to quality health care for First Nations people."

The focus needs to be on training nurses to deliver adequate primary care not on training nurses in advanced medical techniques, said Beardy. He adds that a lack of nurses nationally has forced the federal government to rely on agency nurses, whose experience comes in urban settings and not in isolated communities.

"What we need is advanced primary health care at the community level and what we're looking for is community health specialists, nurses that can deal with mental health, addictions and acute care. People that have the ability to assess and manage. Right now, that is lacking," said Beardy.

The Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada and the Canadian Nurses Association agree with Beardy's assessment. In a joint news release issued by the two organizations following the Auditor General's report, they referenced a 2014 study they undertook that called for a concerted effort to recruit, train, and retain Aboriginal nurses.

"Aboriginal health inequities are deeply rooted in this country's health system — from the lack of Aboriginal nurses in leadership and direct care positions to the disregard for Indigenous health practices,"

said the Aboriginal nurses association president Lisa Bourque-Bearskin.

"The consequences of these inequities are clear in the evidence that access and health status for First Nations individuals in remote communities are not comparable to other residents in similar rural locations."

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Deputy Chief Alvin Fiddler also had concerns with the nurses. The audit found that often times the nurses were required to perform duties that fell outside their legislated scope of practise.

Fiddler points to a 2010 Health Canada internal audit, which noted the same practise and the need for additional training for the nurses. Five years later, the Auditor General found that only one out of every 45 nurses had completed the mandatory training.

The Auditor General also found that Health Canada did not take into account the specific needs of the remote communities when allocating health support.

"The way the system is currently being delivered is putting lives at risk. It's not designed to improve our health or saving lives, it's designed to save money because each region gets a certain amount of money in an envelope and you're directed to operate within that envelope that you're given," said Fiddler, whose organization represents 49 First Nations communities, 32 of which are considered remote fly-ins.

The Auditor General also found that not every resident was eligible for medical transportation benefits; and that many nursing stations had health and safety deficiencies. The audit encompassed 85 health facilities servicing approximately 95,000 First Nations people.

The Auditor General made 11 recommendations to improve training for nurses, nurses stations, medical transport benefits, and appropriate funding for health care. Federal Health Minister Rona Ambrose accepted the recommendations.

"Priority number one is ensuring that remote First Nations communities have access to healthcare providers," said Ambrose in a statement. She also committed to implementing a nursing recruitment and retention strategy.

Fiddler is encouraged by Ambrose's response and believes the Auditor General's report will get the action the 2010 internal audit did not.

"The Auditor General of Canada, it's more of a public process... and the pressure being put on Health Canada for them to do this is bigger this time around," he said.

Fiddler adds that he is still awaiting a response from a letter sent to Ambrose asking her to meet with NAN and Manitoba Keewatinowí Okimakanak, which represents the northern Manitoba First Nations communities included in the report.

Beardy says Ambrose's commitment to the Auditor General's recommendations is in keeping with an earlier commitment she made to AFN to join in a review of the non-insured health benefits program. A committee was struck late last year with an equal number of representatives from AFN and Health Canada. However, Beardy says, they won't be waiting until the review has been completed to take action. Ambrose has agreed to act on "quick win" health gaps that can be resolved with straightforward policy changes, he said.

"Both the joint policy review and the Auditor General report bring to the forefront that there are challenges for First Nations people in accessing quality health care. I think any report that comes forward that has credibility will feed into that process," said Beardy.

"First Nations people are still struggling with basic human rights. Access to clean drinking water. We're talking about access to a doctor, we're talking about proper supports for health care. So we're talking about very basic things, yet it's a given for the rest of Canada. That's what we're still fighting for," he said.

Health Watch

Compiled by Shari Narine

Organs can be harvested from children who die in Alberta care

Treaty 8 Grand Chief Steve Courtoreille says organ donations from children who die in government care will be one of the priority issues raised when chiefs meet with Alberta's new premier, Rachel Notley. Notley and the NDP swept into power in the May 5 election. Courtoreille said he was "disgusted" to learn that a policy implemented in 2006 allowed the government to harvest organs from children who died in care. In 2014, the policy was amended to include children who died while under temporary guardianship order. "We needed to know about the policy. We would have asked them to take it out," said Courtoreille. The majority of children in care in Alberta are Aboriginal. "It's bad enough that our children are taken from our homes, but now this?" said Courtoreille. The government said it consulted with 18 First Nations agencies and 12 CEOs of Child and Family agencies. "Who are these agencies?" asked Courtoreille. "There are 44 First Nations in Alberta and somehow everyone was missed."

Report indicates Indigenous mothers, babies suffer greatest risks

Save the Children's 16th annual State of the World's Mothers report found a clear correlation in Canada between race, income inequality and poor health outcomes. Areas with a large Indigenous population consistently represented the highest maternal and infant mortality rates, such as Winnipeg's Port Douglas or downtown core, which has an infant mortality rate at 7.3 to 7.4 deaths per 1,000 live births. In Saskatchewan, mothers living in impoverished neighbourhoods, with significant Indigenous populations, experience the loss of a child at 1.5 times the rate of mothers in more affluent neighbourhoods. A 15-year analysis of infant mortality rates in highest-and-lowest-income neighbourhoods in urban British Columbia found infant mortality rates were two-thirds higher in the poorer neighbourhoods and that the gaps did not narrow over this time period. "For the first time in history, more than half of the world's population lives in urban areas. People are often drawn to cities by the prospect of a better life for their children, but many cities around the world are unable to keep up with dramatic growth, leaving hundreds of millions of mothers and children in cities without access to essential health services and the clean water they need to survive and stay healthy," said Patricia Erb, president and CEO, Save the Children Canada. Canada is ranked 20th out of 179 surveyed countries.

Aboriginal healing centres slated for Vancouver

The city of Vancouver and community organizers are considering the construction of several Aboriginal healing and wellness centres throughout the city. For the past year, an advisory group has been discussing the project, which is mandated under the City of Reconciliation declaration, the task force for mental health and addiction, and the Downtown Eastside local area plan. So far, the city has partnered with the Urban Native Youth Association and Lu'ma Native Housing to secure the construction of two healing centres. The UNYA location will focus on Aboriginal youth and is slated to open this summer, while construction has yet to begin on the new facilities at Lu'ma. Still in the works is a healing centre for Downtown Eastside. Its proponents want it to be entirely devoted to the use of traditional healing practices to treat addiction and this is causing delays with the city. "The challenge is that our partners don't have an off-the-shelf model that they can point to. This would be a new thing that would be done, and it takes more time to figure out how you can develop something from scratch that hasn't been done before," said Vancouver deputy mayor Andrea Reimer. In the next few weeks, city officials will be mapping areas in the Downtown Eastside where people are already using traditional healing practices so as not to duplicate services or divert resources.

Judge clarifies mother's Aboriginal rights to limit girl's treatment

Last month Justice Gethin Edward clarified that the best interests of a child must come first in deciding if Aboriginal parents can abandon life-saving western treatment. In November, Edward upheld the mother's Aboriginal right to use traditional medicine in the treatment of her 11-year-old daughter (who could not be named), who had acute lymphoblastic leukemia. "It has now been clarified that the law remains the same, i.e., that a child's best interests are always paramount," said Hamilton Health Sciences' lawyer Daphne Jarvis. There had been calls for the Ontario attorney general to pursue litigation in the case. However, the attorney general instead opened lines of communication between all those involved. "(It) ultimately led to an approach that spoke more to what joins us as opposed to what separates us... such an approach bodes well for the future," said Edward. The deadline to file an appeal had been extended a number of times while the province worked with the girl's family to find "the most respectful and effective" ways to provide health care for the child. The girl is now being treated by both doctors and Haudenosaunee health-care providers. Her leukemia had gone into remission but is now back. A joint statement by the family, Six Nations and the province says they hope this case will enable "important conversations" about how to "bring together different healing traditions."

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Compiled by Sam Laskaris

FIRTHS ENTER CANADA'S SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Sharon and Shirley Firth are among those being honoured this year by Canada's Sports Hall of Fame. (The twin sisters, former elite cross-country skiers, were the first Indigenous athletes to represent the country at the Winter Olympics. (Shirley will be inducted into the national hall posthumously as she died in 2013. (The Firths, members of the Gwich'in First Nation, were born in Aklavik in the Northwest Territories. (Though they did not win any medals, the sisters both competed at four Olympics. Their first was at the 1972 Sapporo Games. They also participated at the 1976 (Innsbruck), 1980 (Lake Placid) and 1984 (Sarajevo) events. (The sisters were dominant on the Canadian cross-country skiing scene from the late 1960's to the mid-80s. Combined they won a total of 48 national championships. And they captured a total of 79 medals at Canadian championships. (The Firths also took part in four world championships. And they were members of the Canadian national team for 17 years, an amazing feat in itself. (A total of 12 individuals will enter the hall of fame this year. The list also includes Paul Coffey, regarded as one of the best defencemen to play in the National Hockey League, and Susan Auch, a five-time Olympian in speed skating. (The induction ceremony will be staged on Oct. 21 at Toronto's Mattamy Athletic Centre, the former Maple Leaf Gardens. Canada's Sports Hall of Fame though is located in Calgary.

SASKATCHEWAN TEAMS DEFEND TITLES

Saskatchewan teams managed to continue their recent dominance at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships. (For the second straight year both the Saskatchewan girls' and boys' entries captured gold medals at the tournament, which concluded on May 2 in Halifax. (The Saskatchewan girls' club edged Ontario 3-2 in its gold-medal contest. And the Saskatchewan boys' side registered a 4-3 triumph over Alberta in its championship final. (This year's tournament featured a total of 16 clubs, eight in each division. (Manitoba took the bronze in the girls' grouping, thanks to a 3-2 victory over Alberta. And in the boys' bronze-medal battle, British Columbia defeated Manitoba 5-4. (The NAHC has been staged annually since 2002. This marked the first time, however, that the event was held in Nova Scotia. (Saskatchewan's dominance has not been just in the past two years. (The boys' team from the province won five consecutive NAHC titles from 2008 through 2012. And the Saskatchewan girls' squad has now won either gold or silver medals at each of the past five tournaments. (Tournament officials have already announced the 2016 NAHC will be held in Mississauga, located just west of Toronto. The tourney was last in Ontario in 2010, when it was in Ottawa.

WELL-TRAVELLED MINOR PRO

Casey Pierro-Zabotel has completed yet another season in the minor professional hockey ranks. (And like most of his other pro years, Pierro-Zabotel, a member of British Columbia's Bonaparte First Nation, suited up for more than one team this season. (Pierro-Zabotel, a 26-year-old forward, began the season with the Gwinnett Gladiators, a Georgia-based team that competes in the East Coast Hockey League. He averaged more than a point per game with the Gladiators, scoring 60 points (23 goals, 37 assists) in 54 regular season contests. (Pierro-Zabotel though was traded to the Florida Everblades in mid-March. He ended up appearing in five regular season matches with the Everblades and earned four points. And then he suited up for 12 playoff contests with the Florida squad and collected six points, including four goals. (During the 2014-15 campaign Pierro-Zabotel was also called up and played three games in the American Hockey League with the Norfolk Admirals. The Admirals, who were based in Virginia this season, will be relocating to San Diego for the upcoming year. (Pierro-Zabotel had been drafted in the third round, 80th over-all, by the Pittsburgh Penguins in the 2007 NHL Entry Draft. But he hasn't played a single game in the NHL. (As a pro, he has played for nine different squads. This includes the half-season stint he had with the Lausitzer Foxes, a German franchise, during the 2013-14 season. (During his six years as a pro Pierro-Zabotel has only spent one season with just one club. That was during the 2011-12 campaign when he was a member of the California-based Bakersfield Condors of the ECHL. (Pierro-Zabotel turned pro in 2009, after spending a pair of seasons in the Western Hockey League with the Vancouver Giants.

Lots of plans for provincial dollars in the works

[sports]



By Sam Laskaris
Windspeaker Contributor

RAMA FIRST NATION, Ont.

Officials from the Aboriginal Sport and Wellness Council of Ontario are thrilled with the multi-million dollar funding they have received from the provincial government.

At a news conference on May 15 it was announced that the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport has reached a two-year \$3.6 million partnership with ASWCO.

The funding agreement will allow the Aboriginal organization to invest in the wellbeing and health of Aboriginal youth across Ontario through a number of different ventures.

Wes Marsden, ASWCO's co-ordinator and communications co-ordinator, knew that some sort of funding was forthcoming.

"We've been working with them for quite some time," he said of provincial officials.

"It's been in the works since last year."

Yet Marsden said he was surprised to hear how much money the provincial government was handing over.

"In a sense we would have been happy with whatever (amount)," he said.

"We're very happy now with what we got. I think everybody is pleasantly surprised with how much it was."

Marsden added ASWCO officials are hoping to soon announce additional funding partnerships with various corporations.

The provincial government funding will allow ASWCO to run a number of different tournaments for Aboriginal athletes.

For starters, this includes a basketball tournament featuring 10 youth teams from across the province, which was held May 15 to 17 at the Mnjikaning Arena and Sports Ki (MASK) Recreation Centre on the Rama First Nation.

The news conference announcing ASWCO's funding from the provincial government was held just prior to the start of the basketball tournament.

This year's inaugural event was called an invitational tournament. Marsden is hoping the tourney eventually becomes the provincial Aboriginal championship.

"We hope to turn it into that," he said.

"We felt we didn't have enough teams this year to call it the Ontario championships."

This year's event featured six boys' teams and four girls' clubs. Participants were ages 13 to 18 years old.

ASWCO will also be running a youth soccer tournament in Sudbury in July.

"And we're going to look at whether to have a volleyball tournament and lacrosse is also on the radar," Marsden said.

There's a chance ASWCO might also schedule a hockey tournament.

"We're not sure if we have identified there is a need for that," Marsden added.

ASWCO already organizes provincial teams

— female and male

— that annually compete at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC).

ASWCO will also have a booth at the Aboriginal pavilion at this summer's Pan American Games in Toronto. Marsden is hoping this will generate a considerable interest.

"We're trying to raise awareness of who we are," he said. "And we're trying to become players in the Aboriginal sports scene in Ontario."

The provincial funding will also help ASWCO with several other ventures.

For example, ASWCO is co-ordinating a June 6 event at Toronto's Humber College featuring Canadian Olympic boxer Mary Spencer, who is Ojibwe. The event, called Step It Up, is geared toward Aboriginals ages 16 to 24, who are considering some post-secondary school education.

Spencer, who represented Canada at the 2012 London Olympics where women's boxing made its Olympic debut, will be the keynote speaker at the event.

"It's also a good chance for kids to get off the reserve for a day and to go and see what a school campus is all about," he said. "A lot of times this can be intimidating for them."

Thanks to provincial funding, ASWCO officials have also launched a Power to Play Equipment and Leadership Program.

This venture will see sports equipment shipped to various Aboriginal communities across the province. This will not only strengthen existing sporting programs but also assist in their sustainability.

The program will also allow for the hiring of individuals to help with the running of various sports and recreation programs. Regional co-ordinators have already been brought on board through this program.

Thanks in part to the recently announced funding, ASWCO will now also be able to host some major sporting competitions.

It has already been revealed that the 2016 hockey championships will be held in Mississauga. And though it has not been officially awarded the event, Toronto, through ASWCO, is the only city that submitted a bid to host the 2017 North American Indigenous Games.

This multi-sport competition, last staged in Regina in 2014, traditionally attracts thousands of participants from across Canada and the United States.

"I know the end goal for us is to host the 2017 North American Indigenous Games," Marsden said.

"There's a big push for that going on."

[education]
Courage under Fire
First Nations war hero a fighter on two fronts



PHOTO: MARIUS BARBEAU, 1945/CANADIAN MUSEUM OF HISTORY, 95292

In 1945, Sgt Francis Pegahmagabow was photographed while attending a conference in Ottawa. From left to right, he is wearing his Military Medal with two bars, the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal (1914-1920) and the Victory Medal (1914-1918). The two additional silver bars on the Military Medal show that the war hero won the Military Medal three times, one of only 38 Canadians to do so.

By **Gerry Weaver**
Army Public Affairs

OTTAWA

Whether fighting in the trenches of the First World War or fighting in the political arena for full rights for his people, First

Nations soldier Sergeant Francis Pegahmagabow is a true Canadian hero.

The Ojibwe soldier from Wasauksing First Nation near Parry Sound, Ont. was not only one of the most effective snipers and scouts in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), but

of the Aboriginal peoples who participated in the First World War, he is the most decorated.

Recognized three times for bravery and devotion under fire in Belgium and France, he is one of only 38 Canadians to earn the Military Medal with two bars, each bar referring to a subsequently recognized act of bravery.

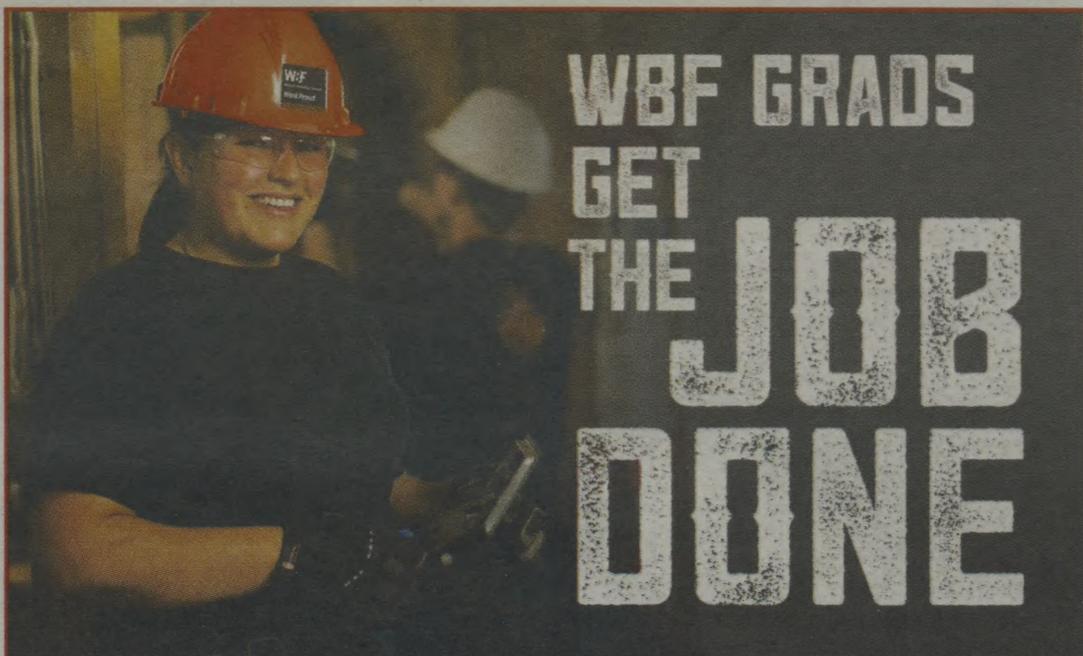
The modern equivalent to the Military Medal is the Medal of Military Valour, the third highest award for military valour in the Canadian honours system.

Sgt Pegahmagabow was most likely born on March 9, 1889, in what is now Shawanaga First Nation, near Parry Sound. The war hero's father, a member of Wasauksing First Nation on Parry

Island, died of an illness when Sgt Pegahmagabow was just a baby.

As his mother also fell ill, he was raised by his Shawanaga relatives, only returning to Wasauksing First Nation as an adult.

As a young man, he turned his hand to several trades, including working as a seaman on boats in Georgian Bay. At 21, he learned



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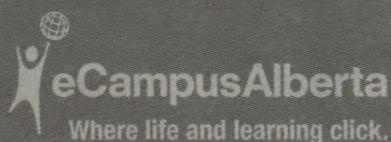
2014 Alumni Sandra Racine

Photography by Photo (3/16)

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[education]

to read and write English, a rare skill for a First Nations person of Sgt Pegahmagabow's generation.

"We have great admiration for him for that," said the veteran's great-grandson, Dr. Brian McInnes. An Assistant Professor of Education at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, Dr. McInnes was very close to two of Sgt Pegahmagabow's children, Duncan and Marie, who passed on many stories about his great-grandfather.

Sgt Pegahmagabow's world was soon to change dramatically. When Britain declared war on Germany on Aug. 4, 1914, Canada too was at war as a member of the British Empire. He was among the first recruits, signing up on Aug. 13, 1914, despite an early prohibition against the enlistment of Aboriginal peoples.

Sgt Pegahmagabow served with the 23rd Northern Pioneers Regiment, based in Parry Sound, which amalgamated into the 1st Battalion of the CEF. He would go on to fight on the Western Front during all four years of the Great War, attaining the rank of Corporal on Nov. 1, 1917.

Nicknamed "Peggy" by his Army buddies, the young Ojibwe man soon proved that his courage and abilities were second to none. In 1916, he was one of the first Canadians to be awarded the Military Medal.

He received the first of his three commendations for facing enemy fire repeatedly while carrying vital messages along the lines during the battles at Ypres, Festubert and Givenchy.

A spiritual man, Sgt Pegahmagabow carried an Ojibwe medicine pouch which he believed would help keep him safe. This belief may have been a comfort to a man who faced constant danger, including being present at the Second Battle of Ypres, where the German Army first used chlorine gas as a weapon.

Dr. McInnes said after the war, his great-grandfather developed breathing issues which became so severe he eventually had to sit up to sleep.

Wounded in the leg while fighting in France in September 1916, the war hero returned to action in time to take part in the bloody assault on Passchendaele. During a battle so intense the Allies lost some 16,000 men, he earned his first bar to his Military Medal. His commendation reads:

"At Passchendaele Nov. 6th/7th, 1917, this NCO [non-commissioned officer] did excellent work. Before and after the attack he kept in touch with the flanks, advising the units he had seen, this information proving the success of the attack and saving valuable time in consolidating. He also guided the relief to its proper place after it had become mixed up."

Following his valorous actions during The Battle of Scarpe in August 1918, Sgt Pegahmagabow received his second bar. This commendation reveals again his courage under fire:

"During the operations of August 30, 1918, at Orix Trench, near Upton Wood, when his company were almost out of ammunition and in danger of being surrounded, this NCO went over the top under heavy MG [machine gun] and rifle fire and brought back sufficient ammunition to enable the post to carry on and assist in repulsing heavy enemy counter-attacks."

His record as a sniper is equally impressive. Although difficult to substantiate as he worked alone, the expert marksman is credited with 378 kills. However, Dr. McInnes pointed out his great-grandfather never spoke of his record as a sniper to his family.

"He valued that he had won the Military Medal three times, and the fact that each time he had so done it was for an act of valour that saved life," said his great-grandson.

According to Dr. McInnes, his great-grandfather was known as an insightful man. "He was an exceptionally kind, gentle, light-spirited and humorous individual, who also was thoughtful and reflective on the world."

Sgt Pegahmagabow's early response to Canada's call for soldiers may well have been an example of that reflective nature. With a great-grandfather who fought for the British in the War of 1812, the war hero's family had a history of military service. Dr. McInnes said Sgt Pegahmagabow also hoped his willingness to serve would help change perceptions about Aboriginal peoples.

"I think that was a powerful motivator for him to go to war because it was this opportunity that equalized men and women. In war, nobody was above anyone else by virtue of their birth status in this country," said Dr. McInnes.

Sgt Pegahmagabow made the point himself in a 1919 interview with the *Toronto Evening Telegram*, saying bluntly, "I went to war voluntarily just as quick as the white man."

Ending the war at the rank of corporal, the weary veteran returned home in 1919 to a political landscape that was as restrictive for Aboriginal peoples as it had been before the war.

"Returning from the war where he had done what he believed to be a great act of service to Canada, I think he believed he should have earned equality from that experience," said Dr. McInnes. "It was a source of frustration that would bother him the rest of his life."

Sgt Pegahmagabow, who married Eva Nanibush Tronche and fathered eight children, became a political activist, serving as councilor and band chief for Wasauksing First Nation. He was elected the Supreme Chief of the National Indian Government and was also a member of the National Indian Brotherhood, which was an early precursor to the current Assembly of First Nations.

After the war, the veteran
(See *War Hero* on page 21.)

Birchbark Briefs

(Continued from page 16.)

A report released by Indspire in February 2015 showed that 93 per cent of Indigenous students who received funding from Indspire for their education earned a post-secondary credential, and 82 per cent of those graduates found work.

Campaign launched for new health treatment facilities

The De dwa da dehs nye>>s Aboriginal Health Centre, which offers a mix of traditional healing and western medicine, has outgrown its existing facilities. Capital planning campaigns for Hamilton and Brantford were officially launched at events in the two cities in early May. It is hoped that some of the funding for the multi-million dollar project will come from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The centre is planning a community feedback session for late June and expects to submit a proposal to the ministry as early as the end of July. The centre services roughly 1,500 clients a year in everything from primary health care to spiritual healing and mental health and addiction services.

Compiled by Shari Narine

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

(Continued from page 6.)

The closing ceremonies will also see another round of honorary witnesses inducted, as well as actions of reconciliation.

"There needs to be a broad-based movement led by prominent citizens and people at the community level to continue to move the issue of the relationship between Aboriginal people and the rest of Canada, particularly the government, forward to a point to where the relationship is much better than it is now," said Sinclair. He stresses that the government cannot be relied upon to undertake this role as they were the perpetrator.

The movement must identify the process that will be followed to bring about improvements. Sinclair says action needs to include the development of new education curriculum that speaks respectfully to and about Aboriginal peoples; examination of how laws are created, passed, interpreted, and administered; changes to the child welfare system; addressing of social issues in an adequate manner;

and advancing of self-determination and self-government for Aboriginal peoples in order to fulfill the treaty-making process.

Sinclair is clear that the reconciliation process must continue and he is not comfortable with leaving it up to the courts to monitor the work that is undertaken. He says that courts focus on legal definitions and not reconciliation.

"And what we are concerned about was that there really should have been more thought given to the ongoing need of the reconciliation process.... This is a political and legal relationship that can't be terminated. At least not easily. So some process has to be in place on a permanent basis to address the question on what do we do if we can't agree," he said.

Sinclair would not elaborate on what that process would look like, saying it will be unveiled as part of the TRC's final report, which will be delivered June 2. The TRC's closing ceremonies will take place May 31-June 3 in Ottawa.

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War hero a fighter on two fronts

Sage Briefs

(Continued from page)

appeared to miss the camaraderie he had enjoyed with his Army colleagues. In the mid-1920s, he re-enlisted in the Militia. Historian Adrian Hayes in his book, *Pegahmagabow: Life-Long Warrior*, presents convincing media and anecdotal evidence that the war hero served in "A" Company of the 23rd Northern Pioneers Non-Permanent Active Militia (NPAM). The unit was later amalgamated into the Algonquin Regiment. The Reserve Force is the modern equivalent to the NPAM.

Unfortunately, as many Militia soldiers' personnel records between the First and the Second World Wars were not archived,

there is no formal record of Sgt Pegahmagabow's rank during his Militia service. However, during his research, Mr. Hayes noted and made photocopies of correspondence from the Company Commander of "A" Company to the war hero. One letter addressed the war hero as Sergeant, while another addressed him as Sergeant-Major.

As well, Mr. Hayes observed that in his interview with Roy Lloyd O'Halloran, Second World War veteran and former Mayor of Parry Sound, he described Sgt Pegahmagabow as a sergeant-major. Dr. McInnes also documented Francis's son Duncan referring to his father as Sergeant.

The decorated veteran died in

the community of Wasauksing on Aug. 5, 1952 of a heart attack. He has been honoured by being entered into the Indian Hall of Fame, as well as having the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group's headquarters at Canadian Forces Base Borden in Ontario renamed in his honour in 2006.

Dr. McInnes feels his great-grandfather offers this country an authentic story of a Canadian hero whose soul was defined by his distinct linguistic and cultural identity.

"He valued above all else his identity as a First Nations person in this country and the unique contributions he could make as a First Nations person."

(Continued from page 13.)

Advocate for Children and Youth. That report contained 23 findings and 18 recommendations. Among the recommendations is a stronger focus on foster parents, including recruitment, retention incentives, follow-up and communication. Two weeks of testimony took place to examine the circumstances around the 2013 murder of Lee at the hands of another boy, aged 10. Lee died on the Kahkewistahaw First Nation.

Habitat for Humanity to undertake first on-reserve project

The construction of a 10-bed seniors lodge will begin towards the end of May on the Flying Dust First Nation. The lodge, to be located near Meadow Lake, is a joint venture between the First Nation and Habitat for Humanity. This marks the first time that the national organization has made a commitment to an on-reserve development project. "I think this came about because we were tired of having to tell people that we didn't have the money to build this project. We had to come up with a solution to this," said former Chief Robert Merasty, who was instrumental in setting up the partnership. The initial budget for the project is set at around \$1.4 million, but Merasty expects that that figure will drop as Habitat for Humanity secures better supply contracts. Volunteers from Toronto, New Brunswick, and the United States are slated to travel to Flying Dust First Nation to help with the construction. It is hoped that the facility will be ready for residents by mid-winter of 2016.

Economic development spurs urban reserve

There could be a fifth urban First Nations reserve within the boundaries of Regina. Nekaneet First Nation wants to build a gas station and convenience store on the land located on the north edge of the

city. The band will have to apply to Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Canada to convert the property into reserve land as well as sign an agreement with the city to pay the equivalent of property taxes in exchange for police, fire and other services. The band will also pay fees for water, sewer and garbage removal. The proposal goes to Regina City Council on May 25. Nekaneet First Nation's main land base is about 390 km southwest of Regina.

Book on "Indian Group of Seven" wins big

The MacKenzie Art Gallery swept the Saskatchewan Book Awards this year, taking home all three publishing awards for *7: Professional Native Indian Artists Inc.*, curated by Michelle LaVallee. It received the First Nations' University of Canada Aboriginal Peoples' Publishing Award, the University of Regina Faculty of Education and Campion College Award for Publishing in Education, and the Ministry of Parks, Culture, and Sport Publishing Award. The jury comments for the Aboriginal Peoples' Publishing Award stated, "This wonderfully curated book offers its readers the joy of witnessing the parallel emergence of a varied Indigenous vision assuming its rightful place in the international art world." Other winners included Ernie Louttit, whose book *Indian Ernie* was nominated for five awards, won the Rasmussen, Rasmussen and Charowsky Aboriginal Peoples' Writing Award, and Dawn Dumont, who was nominated for four awards, won the City of Regina Fiction Award for *Rose's Run*, published by ThistleDown Press. The 22nd awards ceremony celebrated excellence in books from a wide range of genres and diverse cultural heritages. The categories include poetry, scholarly, fiction, non-fiction, and young adult literature, French literature, as well as excellence in publishing

Compiled by Shari Narine

INDIAN RESOURCE COUNCIL OF CANADA - (IRC)



DIRECTOR, BUSINESS CENTRE (NEBCE)

The IRC, located on the Tsuu T'ina First Nation, established the National Energy Business Centre (NEBCE) six years ago with the mandate to provide (oil and gas) expertise and capacity enhancement programs to its First Nations members.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Reporting to the President/CEO of the IRC, the Director is the senior staff member of NEBCE and is responsible for the overall direction and operation of the Centre. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, managing the human resource requirements of the Centre; managing and coordinating requisite (oil and gas) expertise and capacity needs of First Nations; developing project specific business proposals; ensuring financial sustainability of NEBCE; liaison with the oil and gas industry; liaison with training institutions; formal reporting to funders and to the IRC; and other duties as directed by the President/CEO of IRC.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The ideal candidate should demonstrate sound knowledge of the oil and gas industry through formal university training; however, a combination of experience and training will be considered. Also, knowledge of unique First Nations oil and gas issues and HR needs will be required for this position. The position requires excellent writing and oral (presentation) skills.

SALARY: Negotiable and competitive

START DATE: June 15, 2015 or as soon as a suitable candidate is hired

DEADLINE: Please submit a Letter of Interest and your resumé by June 5th, 2015 to:

Stephen Buffalo, President and CEO
Indian Resource Council of Canada
235, 9911 Chiila Blvd.
Tsuu T'ina, AB T2W 6H6
Email: stephenb@ircrcanada.ca



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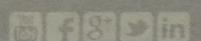
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Straight-talking Chief remembered

By Dianne Meili

He was an honoured leader who cared equally for each and every member of his Tsuu T'ina First Nation, and so the old-time Elders named Gordon Crowchild "Lifetime Chief."

"That's the way he was. He always felt responsible for those around him," said son Lee Crowchild. "Even after he was no longer the official chief, he helped everyone and the old people considered him their forever chief. Even after he got sick they referred to him that way."

"He had the respect of everyone."

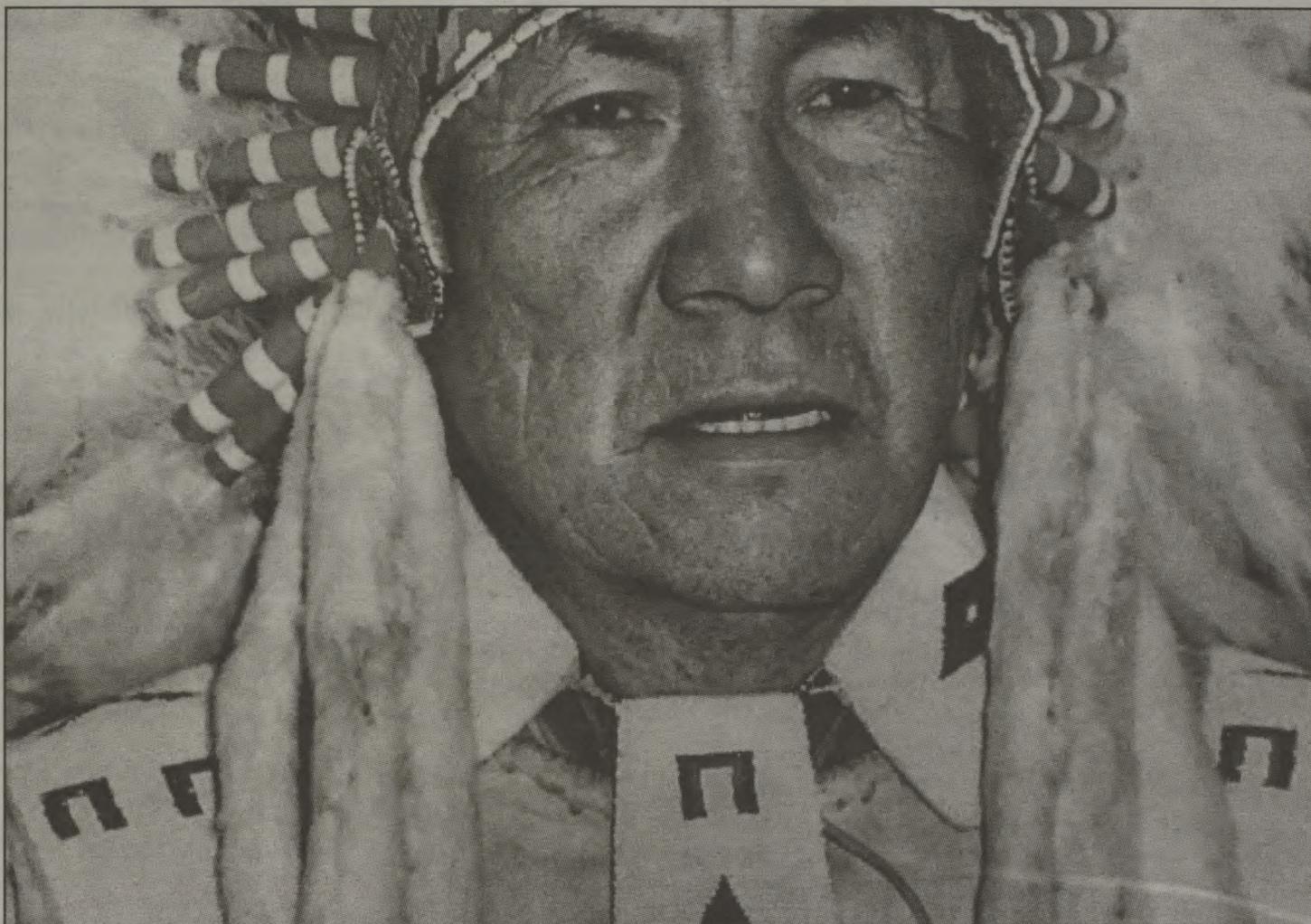
The Tsuu T'ina chief of the small community next to the growing sprawl of Calgary had his political battles cut out for him during the tumultuous years between 1970 and 1976. Provincial officials were pressuring him to approve an extension of a ring road that would route Calgary traffic through the reserve.

"The Alberta Government was unrelenting. They put a lot of pressure on my dad to approve the extension of 37th street through our land," said Lee. "He refused, so they resorted to bribing him with the promise of sending his whole family to Hawaii for a holiday."

Like his father before him, Chief David Crowchild, for whom Calgary's Crowchild Trail was named back in 1968, Gordon did not claim to be a warrior, but he stood for what was right and just. He adopted the words his father delivered at the official opening of Crowchild Trail claiming "not to champion only my own people, but also those just conditions and laws which affect us all."

Gordon was also challenged by the early 1970s rise of the American Indian Movement. Several members crossed into Alberta from the United States, boldly occupying the administration office in the Morley townsite of the Stoney Nakoda First Nation, just west of Calgary.

"My father joined other Treaty 7 chiefs to stop the occupation and get everyone to safety. He told the AIM guys he supported what they did and how they awakened the spirit of the people, but violence was not the way to



Gordon Crowchild

do it," Lee recalled.

Crowchild was fascinated with the dynamics of peace-making and travelled to Belfast during the height of the civil war there looking for solutions to peace. He went on a pilgrimage to Sarajevo with a number of his peers during the Balkan war.

"When the Gustafsen Lake Sundance in B.C. was being occupied, he drove out there by himself and went right into camp to support them, but asked that they don't use violence," according to Lee.

Speaking at Gordon's Jan. 7, 2015 funeral, attended by 900 people, current Tsuu T'ina Chief Roy Whitney credited the former leader with bringing economic development and training programs to Tsuu T'ina youth. It was under Gordon's watch that the prestigious Redwood Meadows Golf and Country Club and housing community surrounding it was developed. Powwow grounds were added later.

"He instilled a mindset in our

people to strive for opportunities, allowing them the ability to enhance their lives for not only the betterment of themselves and their families but also for the community," Whitney said.

"My dad used humor and he spoke of unity, but he was also a straight talker," Lee explained. "If something needed to be said, he said it and sometimes it came out harsh. Some people didn't quite know how to take him."

A humorous case in point occurred when Gordon was asked as an Elder in the 1990s to dedicate a tipi to then leader of the Assembly of First Nations Ovide Mercredi. As Lee describes it: "They came and got him. He told them they hadn't given him enough time to think of what to say. But, after they presented it my dad got up and announced that Ovide would have to sleep in his new tipi that was pitched just outside, naked."

The room erupted in laughter but Gordon finished the point he was trying to make in all seriousness. "He told them 'what

I mean is you have to bare yourself, so to speak, when you're working for the people. You can't hide anything from the Creator,'" Lee explained.

"Mercredi did sleep in the tipi that night and, as I recall, he and my dad had a good talk when morning rolled around."

Born in 1929, Gordon grew up watching his father David compete in the Calgary Stampede Rangeland Derby. It wasn't long before he entered his first rodeo competition in the boys' steer-riding event in 1944 and later fulfilled his dream of becoming a chuckwagon driver. In 1955, he experienced an accident that ended his chuckwagon career and almost took his life.

"They raced in all kinds of conditions back then and my dad was outriding. There was so much dust my dad's horse stepped in the basket hanging at the back of the wagon in front of him. They both went down. The wagon behind was being driven by Rufus Goodstriker (a

well-known Elder who has now passed on) and he hit my dad's horse and just clipped my dad. He was laid up for quite a while after that, but his horse saved his life," Lee said.

Never one to quit, Gordon continued steer decorating, steer wrestling and wild horse racing even into the 1990s. He competed at the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA) and the Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA), and was known for helping many young and upcoming cowboys live their dreams. Professional cowboys sought him out at the Calgary Stampede 'to share a story or two', according to a news release. He was inducted into the Canadian Professional Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2005.

Gordon, 85, is survived by his wife of 57 years, Maria Crowchild, eight children, 23 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.

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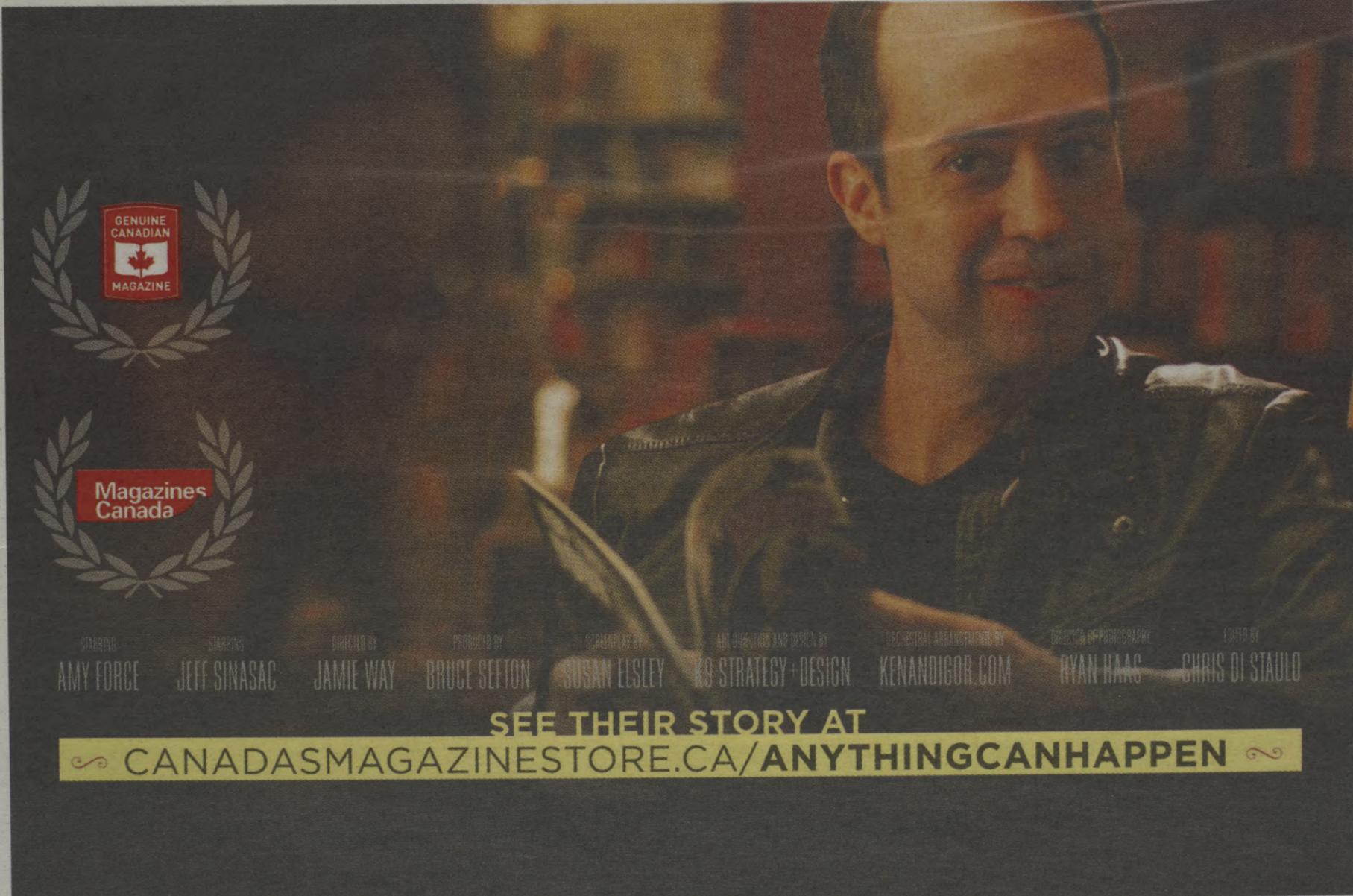
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