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Demanding justice for Cindy

Toronto rally in honour of Cindy Gladue, April 2

Please see full story and more photos on page 7.

Photo: Barb Nahwegahbow

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Verdict in murder trial prompts protests across Canada 7

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Report will gather dust like many others 8

First Nations involved in the treaty process are not viewing Doug Eyford's report, *A New Direction: Advancing Aboriginal and Treaty Rights*, as anything other than a reiteration of known facts—and one more report to sit on a government shelf. "A lot of what he's saying in his report is what we've been saying forever and a day," said Cheryl Casimer, political executive with the First Nations Summit task group.

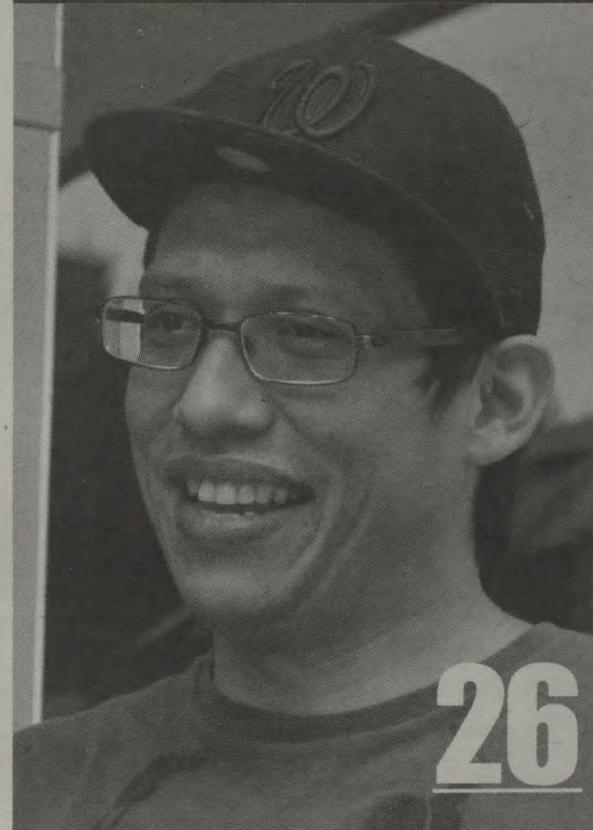
Court orders Saskatchewan Métis to get on with it 9

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MNS) President Robert Doucette is confident that the upcoming court-ordered legislative assembly will bring about the changes needed to the MNS constitution that will help curb the in-fighting that has brought the organization to a screeching halt.

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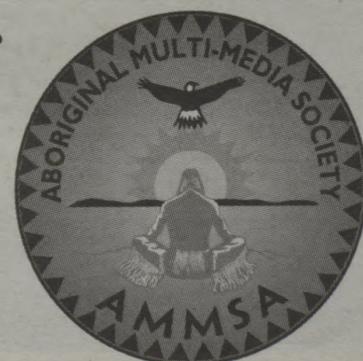
There was no moment of silence for Zaccheus Jackson Nyce at his live-streamed memorial last September. Instead, a moment of 'noise' was offered up to his spirit in raucous poetry slam style. For a full minute the crowd of more than 400 yelled, stomped and screamed before settling down to hear family members, friends, musicians and poets share recollections of the fast-talking poet and performance artist.



.....
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The corner, and parked there

Finance Minister Joe Oliver calls his 2015 federal budget, delivered to the House of Commons on April 21, "Strong Leadership", but for Aboriginal people there is no mention in the document as to where this government plans to take us.

It should be called the "Bare Minimum" budget or the "Nothing To See Here, Folks" budget. What the federal Conservatives have, in deed, done over the last number of years is lead us to the corner where they plan to park us until after the October federal election so we don't cause any fuss or upset to their base, to whom this budget is lovingly dedicated.

But as that wise man Johnny Castle once said, "Nobody puts Baby in a corner."

Did you know that 60 ridings across the country could be swayed by the Aboriginal vote? That's what National Chief Perry Bellegarde told interviewer Evan Solomon when he had a brief few minutes to talk with him about First Nations issues on the national show Power & Politics. Bellegarde's planning to mobilize the votes in those ridings, because he's just not satisfied with the status quo.

Here's another interesting fact from 308.com, which analyzed the 2011 federal election results. Had the First Nations turnout been higher, this Harper government might have been denied its majority. We had the numbers to do that.

Bellegarde said the 2015 budget is pretty sparse, pretty dry. It's a status quo budget and the status quo is not acceptable. He called the budget one of the weakest for First Nations tabled by this government, setting out some minimal renewals, most at a reduced level of funding.

If it's only one of the weakest, we can't remember the others. This budget fails us in the areas of child welfare equity (an Assembly of First Nations advisory reminds us that there are more of our children in state care than at the height of the residential school era), in education (when the on-reserve graduation rate is only 35 per cent, says the AFN), it does nothing to address over-crowded housing or provide potable water. There are 120 First Nations that do not have safe drinking water... in Canada, which consistently ranks in the top 10 on the United Nations Human Development index... but for others, not us. First Nations

are ranked at 63. That's more than a sixth of all of our communities that can't turn on a tap and safely drink the water that comes from it.

"First Nations people are treated like second class citizens living in Third World conditions," said National Chief Bellegarde. He said the Conservative government missed their opportunity to work with First Nations on an approach to address these issues.

But Bellegarde's comments are easy to say, and even easier for the Conservatives to ignore without bringing the hammer to the ballot box. We have the numbers in 60 ridings, but not the muscle because First Nations are not in the habit of voting in federal elections.

And boy, do the Conservatives know it.

If they were afraid of our numbers and our influence, they wouldn't have left us out of this budget, but they know we're not a factor, or at least, haven't been a factor before.

We understand fully there is a reticence on behalf of some nations and individuals to go to the polls for elections. But for many, it's not principle that keeps us from voting in Canadian elections. It's apathy.

If we don't want to continue to bang our heads against the wall on issues of importance to us, we have to begin by telling—and showing—these people in Ottawa that we can make them, or we can break them.

Windspeaker has always shied away from saying this before, because we respect the sovereignty of our own nationhood, but we also believe that if we have the opportunity to pick up an ax to fell a tree when a tree needs to fall, then we should do it.

Indigenous people can no longer wait for the magnanimity of a federal party to attend to our issues. We need to shape the government, fill it with people who understand our issues, heed our advice, and can force our needs to the top of the agenda in each and every budget going forward. We have the numbers right now in 60 ridings, and as the fastest growing and youngest demographic in this country we can have that clout for decades to come. It's time. If you can vote, do it.

Windspeaker

[rants and raves]

Page 5 Chatter

On April 15 to April 20, five Nicola Valley chiefs occupied

the constituency office of B.C. Premier Christy Clark in West Kelowna to protest the importing of "sewer sludge" into the Nicola Valley. A press release states that the sewage is being trucked in from other municipalities to be spread on farm lands, ranches and forests. "We take care of our own sewage and expect other municipalities to do the same," reads the statement. The chiefs said harvesting from their lands and waterways has been jeopardized by this risky practice.

"We believe in applying the 'precautionary principle' in matters such as these, where cultural ways of life are threatened and ecosystems compromised. We are requesting an immediate moratorium on all importation of these so-called 'biosolids' into the Nicola Valley."

The occupation of the premier's office ended when government agreed to talk about the spread of treated human waste on private and public lands in the Nicola Valley. The sit-in was prompted after chiefs had asked twice of Environment Minister Mary Polak to disclose the locations of where the waste materials was being spread, but the government only provided a partial list.

More treatment and support to battle prescription drug

addiction will go to on-reserve members of Manitoba First Nations, reports the Thompson Citizen. A funding announcement of \$2.96 million over five years was made by the federal government on April 14. "This funding will ensure there is access to culturally-relevant care and support," reads a press statement. Existing treatment centres will benefit from the funding to design more effective interventions and support for people with prescription drug addictions, to provide prevention training activities for staff who treat people with drug addictions and initiate a prescription drug abuse crisis intervention team made up of specialists that can help caregivers in treatment facilities manage clients.

The money is part of \$13.5 million in funding for prescription drug abuse treatment in First Nations communities across Canada.

The Ottawa Citizen reports that a First Nation from Ontario

has filed a lawsuit against the development of the Chaudière and Albert islands. The Amikwabi Nation and Algonquins in Ontario and Quebec filed a statement of claim that raises the issues of sacred sites, consultation and hunting rights on lands that Windmill Development Group Ltd. hopes to build a residential, commercial and retail development on 40 acres on the Gatineau shoreline, including the islands. The development is opposed by Kitigan Zibi former chief, Gilbert Whiteduck, and a group that includes architect Douglas Cardinal. Cardinal has designed a healing and reconciliation centre honoring the vision of Algonquin Elder William Commanda for part of the site, reads the article. Ontario Superior Court in Toronto will hear the case July 13 and 14.

In response to the MV Marathassaspilling about 2,700 litres of bunker fuel into English Bay in early April, the Musqueam

Fisheries Department notified its fishers to get their gear out of the water, including the removal of crab and prawn traps. The Musqueam Nation closed all aquatic harvesting until further notice.

"We are very concerned about how long it took to notify officials and Musqueam about the spill in English Bay," said Chief Wayne Sparrow. "Musqueam must be part of the solution to improve emergency response to spills, accidents and emergencies, especially in our waterways. Canada has an opportunity to improve this relationship and role with Musqueam."

This recent incident in English Bay highlights the need to improve relationships between Musqueam, Coast Guard, Port Metro Vancouver and the City of Vancouver, reads a press statement from the nation. "We must put the environment and our waters at the forefront. Musqueam has the knowledge and expertise in our waters," Sparrow said.

A life-jacket campaign in two northern Ontario First Nations

was initiated by an Ontario Provincial Police officer after he lost two friends to separate drowning accidents in the same week. Sgt. Marty Singleton wants to raise funds to buy 1,000 life preservers. Five years after the deaths of friends, Singleton says the high cost of living still precludes safe travel on water, as families scrimp on spending money on such things as life preservers. The life preserver fund is called "Remember Your Lifejacket Fund" at TD Bank Account No. 6499635.

Xeni Gwet'incouncillor Marilyn Baptiste has won the 2015 Goldman Environmental Prize for her leadership

in defeating a proposed gold and copper mine that would have destroyed Teztan Biny (Fish Lake), a source of spiritual rejuvenation, identity and livelihood for the Xeni Gwet'in, reads a statement. The Prize is the world's largest award recognizing grassroots environmental activists and is awarded to six people from around the world. It is valued at \$175,000 and recognizes individuals for sustained and significant efforts to protect and enhance the natural environment, often at great personal risk. "We couldn't be more proud of Marilyn Baptiste, whose incredible devotion to the Tsilhqot'in people and territory is demonstrated in every action she takes, wrote Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, president of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

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Stop the spying, says KI chief

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

TORONTO

If Bill C-51 had been law when Chief Donny Morris of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) and his council were thrown into jail in 2008, Morris expects their experience would have been different.

"That's what I'm afraid of. I don't know what the future holds for anybody who will be protesting in the future... when it happened to us in a remote area, I think it would be bigger now because now (the federal government) will have more power.

"While we were doing that, they did not really get that direction and authority and power. They were really not sure what their roles were, their responsibilities were at that time," said Morris. "But now I believe the federal government, they pass this law, it's going to give them stripping powers, like a dictatorship authority."

Morris and his council spent 60 days in jail in 2008 for peacefully blocking Platinex Inc., who wanted to establish a platinum mine in KI traditional territory.

The Ontario Court of Appeal released the so-called KI Six and directed the Ontario government to negotiate with the First Nation.

Platinex's mining claim was eventually bought out for \$5 million by the McGuinty government. Morris said KI had to divert more than \$1 million in funding from band programs in order to pay their legal fee. KI was not reimbursed for the cost.

Morris wants to know what issues KI could be facing as Bill C-51, the anti-terrorism legislation, is being considered. He has filed a request for access to information for records the RCMP and Canadian Security Intelligence Service have on KI from 2008 to the present.

"I basically want to know if our community is still being spied on," he said.

If KI is still on a watch list, Morris said something needs to be done.

"We are a treaty partner. I'd like to be treated with the same regards as any politician, federal or provincial," he said. "Let's do away with (the spying). There's no need for that."

Previously, KI was able to access information from 2007. The documentation he has seen was highly redacted. KI is working with lawyer Julian Falconer to see if the band can get the unedited version.

In 2011, the Toronto Star reported that the RCMP had operated a wide-ranging surveillance network from 2007 to 2010 to monitor protests by First Nations. The Star said that an annual Strategic Intelligence Report, dated June 2009, indicated the surveillance at the time focused on 18 "communities of concern" in five provinces across the country, including KI First Nation.

Said the Star article, "Although the Strategic Intelligence Report's profile of

KI is heavily redacted, as with all the 'communities of concern,' it states that KI First Nation 'remains committed to ensuring their concerns related to the impacts of mining and forestry are addressed by the Ontario government' and 'possible future disputes could result in blockades and demonstrations.'

Morris is urging other First Nations to file their own requests for information.

"To see if they're being profiled," said Morris. "To see who's friendly, who's not."

He has yet to hear if any other First Nation will be making the same request.

Morris was in Toronto on April 16 to participate in a forum on Bill C-51. The forum was hosted by Unifor and the Canadian Labor Congress. Morris said it's important for Canadians to understand that the anti-terrorism legislation is far reaching.

"It's not only about (Aboriginal people). It could happen to any ordinary Canadian or organization if they

decide to do something which (the government) would deem illegal," he said. "To us, in my area, to protect our lands, that's not an illegal concept. It's our legal obligation to protect our land, our waters and animals that we survive off of them."

Information and privacy commissioners across the country have expressed concerns with Bill C-51. In a letter sent March 4 to the federal standing committee on public safety and national security, they outlined their "deep concerns," stating, "Bill C-51 challenges fundamental rights and freedoms on several fronts, but the focus of our concern is on its mandate for overbroad, unregulated and intrusive sharing of the personal information of ordinary Canadians. If enacted, the portion of Bill C-51 comprising the Security of Canada Information Sharing Act (SCISA) would significantly expand the power of the state to surveil and profile ordinary, law-abiding Canadians."

800% rent increase sparks tension with Musqueam Nation

By David P. Ball
Windspeaker Contributor

VANCOUVER

Musqueam Indian Band wants to jack up rents eightfold for long-term leaseholders who've made a home on a subdivision of the reserve, one surrounded by mansions of Vancouver's skyrocketing West Side that have themselves seen a 400 per cent spike in property values.

Tensions over the impending 20-year lease renewals on June 8 have sparked a threat of litigation and a heated series of meetings as the band re-negotiates with non-members who live on the reserve.

But some residents' monthly payments to the band are in fact proposed to rise even more than eight times, reaching nearly \$10,000 a month.

Some residents have expressed fear that they could be pushed out of their homes — and lose their investments — as a result of being caught by surprise by the sudden rent increase.

A spokesperson for Musqueam Indian Band declined a Windspeaker interview request,

but noted that a "communications package is in the works" for media and that the First Nation's leadership "just want to make sure they do their due diligence as the process unfolds."

But in a confidential letter the nation sent to leaseholders, obtained by Windspeaker, the band said that with a Supreme Court of Canada case allowing a rent increase based on six per cent of the land's value — and setting out rules for calculating leasehold values — the current increase simply brings the land up to the level of adjacent Vancouver's rising prices.

At issue now, with a June 8 deadline to determine increases, is Musqueam nation's argument that the Supreme Court of Canada's 1995 ruling — that reserve lands should be valued only half as much as off-reserve due to uncertainty over how to assess land values, the inability of leaseholders to vote in band elections, a lack of City of Vancouver services, and "unrest on the Reserve" — no longer applies because the concerns have since been resolved.

"In the view of the Band, a

discount for 'Indian reserve features' should no longer be made as the relevant facts have changed since 1995," the band's letter stated.

As part of economic development initiatives of the First Nation, Musqueam band constructed an estimated 219 homes on lands leased for a century to the reserve 50 years ago by the federal government. Out of those houses, most prepaid the leases up-front, meaning there was no risk of a monthly increase. But for 75 of the residents, the leases are renegotiated every 20 years.

In the 1990s, those leaseholders upset with a major rent increase at that time took the band to court, spending more than \$1 million in the legal battle.

For Musqueam band member Cecilia Point, although the 1990s lawsuit by disgruntled leaseholders was well-known in the community, the recent increase proposal is news to her and many others on the reserve.

"They never told us about that... nothing verbal or written from our council," she said. "My guess would be this is straight-

up negotiations.

"The leases are still really low if you compare them to what'd you'd pay for a leasehold in the City of Vancouver. Here they've always been low. I know it was a big-sticker shock to people (but) my guess is they're trying to stay current with the times."

In the confidential letter to leaseholders, the Musqueam stated that they're open to negotiations on the disputed amounts — and even considered putting the issue of turning them all into pay-up-front leases to a referendum vote amongst band membership.

"The leases precluded prepaid leases and the only way to change the leases would be a full referendum vote of the Musqueam membership," the letter states. "The Band Council had considered a referendum but concluded that such a vote would not be successful. Accordingly the Band decided to obtain an appraisal to provide a value for rents based on the existing terms of the leases as interpreted by the Supreme Court of Canada."

The renters are organized under the umbrella of the

Musqueam Park Leaseholders Association (MPLA), but due to ongoing negotiations are unable to speak to the media due to signing a confidentiality agreement with the Musqueam Indian Band, according to a letter from the MPLA, also obtained by Windspeaker.

The association held an open house for leaseholders on March 31 in advance of the band's April 8 notices, and another community meeting was held on April 15 to discuss the impending deadline.

"The MPLA negotiating committee will continue to put forward a fair alternative position," the group's letter stated, adding that they had raised money to recruit experts including legal advice and property appraisers in order to put forward their counter-proposal on rent increases.

For Point, a prepaid, long-term lease makes a lot of sense for everyone. She said developments by Tsleil-Waututh Nation have included 100-year leases that residents "pay up front so you don't have a sticker shock. Most people would prefer that."

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Verdict in murder trial prompts protests across Canada

By Barb Nahwegahbow
Windspeaker Contributor

TORONTO

The March 18 acquittal of the man charged with the 2011 murder of Cindy Gladue sparked a series of protests and rallies across the country on April 2. In Toronto, about 400 people gathered for a rally in front of the Bay Street office of the Ontario Attorney General.

Forty-year old Gladue bled to death in the bathtub of an Edmonton hotel room. She had an 11-centimetre cut in her vaginal wall. A jury found Bradley Barton, a 46-year-old trucker from Mississauga, not guilty of first-degree murder and manslaughter. The court was told that he had hired Gladue for two nights of sex and the injury that resulted in her death was caused by rough consensual sex.

Rally organizer Audrey Huntley of Silence No More read a statement prepared by Gladue's mother, Donna. The crowd heard about a young woman who loved cooking, enjoyed listening to music, made friends easily and was close to her siblings and her uncles and aunts.

"Cindy was a kind-hearted person who would help you any way she could," Huntley read. Gladue had three daughters and, because she was a single parent, had a difficult time raising them. Her mother stepped in and raised the girls.

"Cindy loved her girls so much," the statement said, "and she was thankful for what I did. Losing my daughter was the hardest thing I've ever had to go through. Going to trial was very hard. Then, when they found him not guilty, that was a shock."

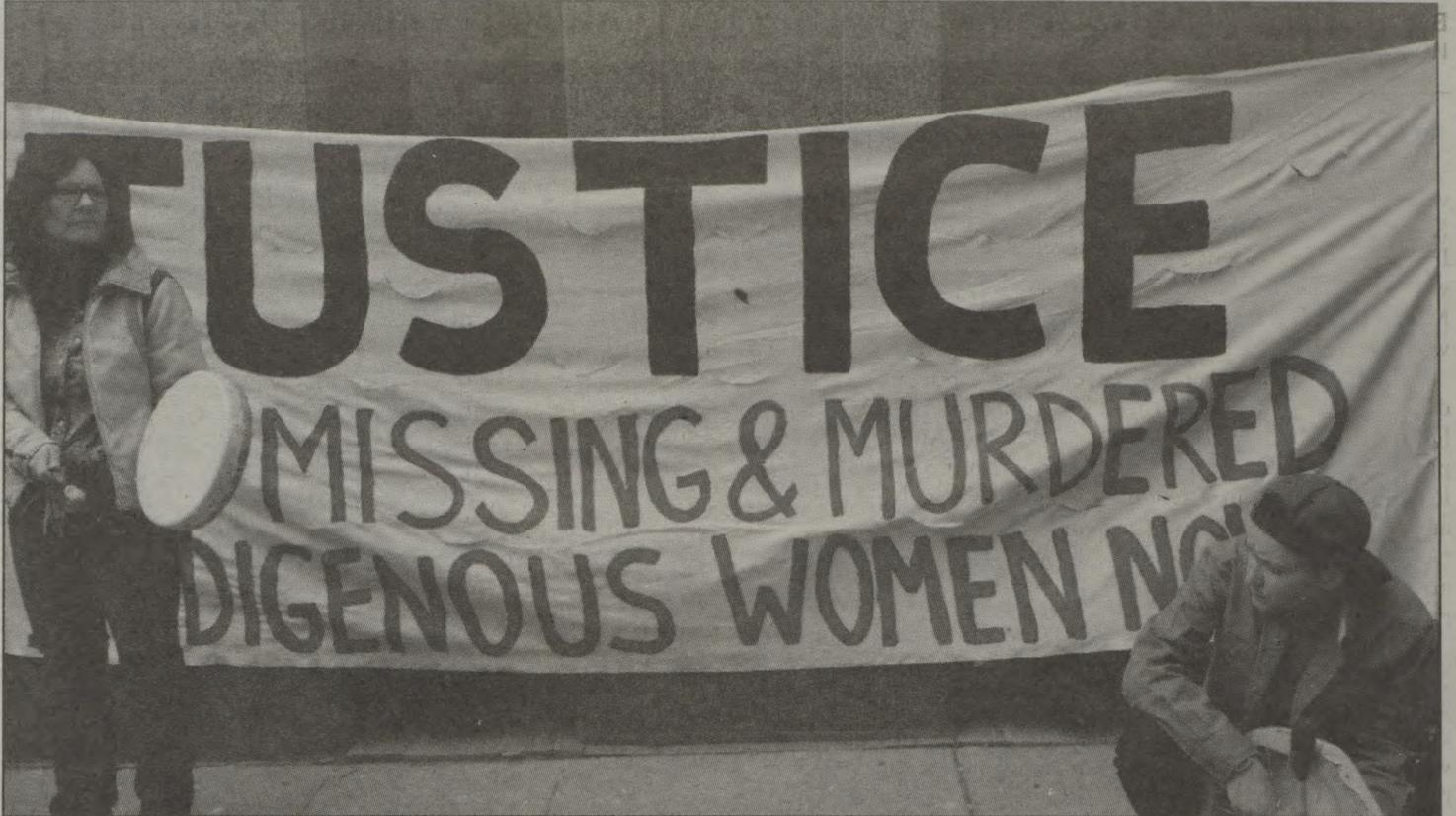
Lawyer Christa Big Canoe, legal advocacy director at Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto, expressed her shock, sorrow and disbelief, not only at the acquittal, but also that Cindy Gladue's "most intimate parts" were presented as evidence in court.

"Cindy was a human being," she said. "She was a human being regardless of her profession. She was a human being. It's really that simple."

When she first read the story, Big Canoe said she didn't see the words, "preserved vagina". She automatically assumed it was a model similar to what you find in a doctor's office. When she read it a second time and read the words out loud, "I was sick in my stomach," she said.

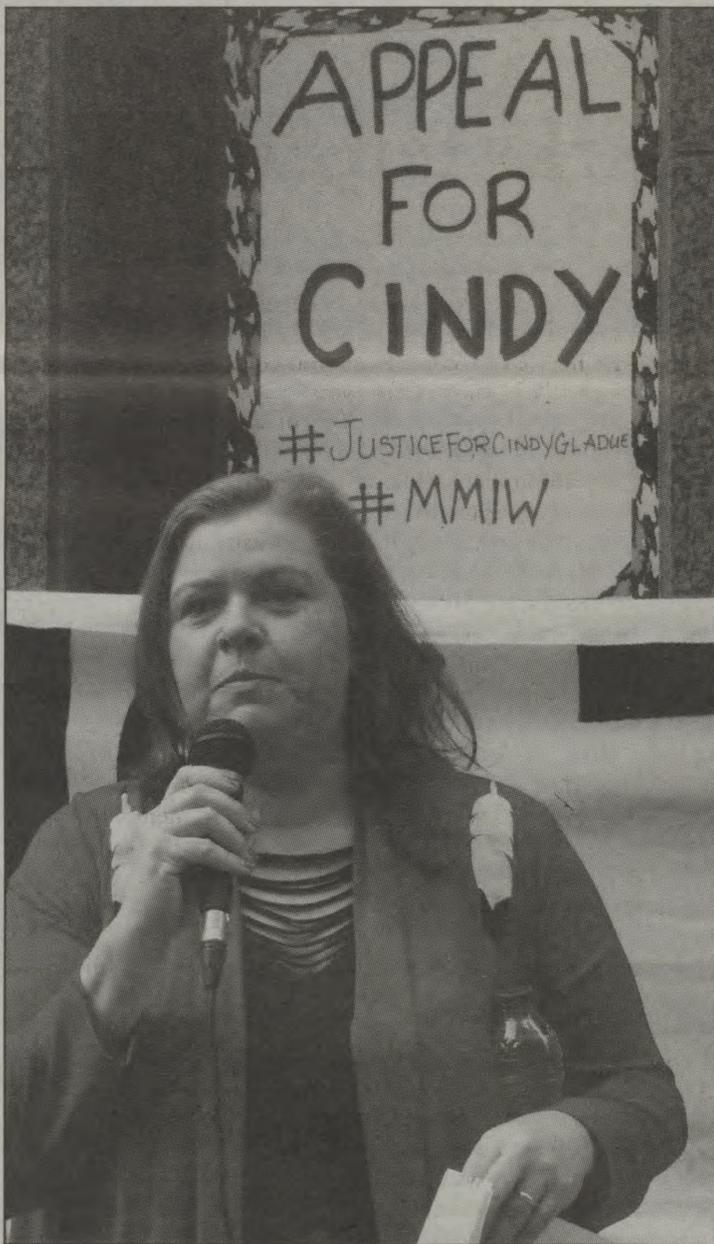
"My eyes began to water... and I cried. And I was angry. Angry and sad for two whole days."

The affront to Gladue's dignity was horrific, Big Canoe said, "her dignity as a human being and the dignity that should have been afforded to her



Organizer Audrey Huntley of Silence No More at Toronto rally to honour Cindy Gladue.

PHOTOS: BARB NAHWEGAHBOW



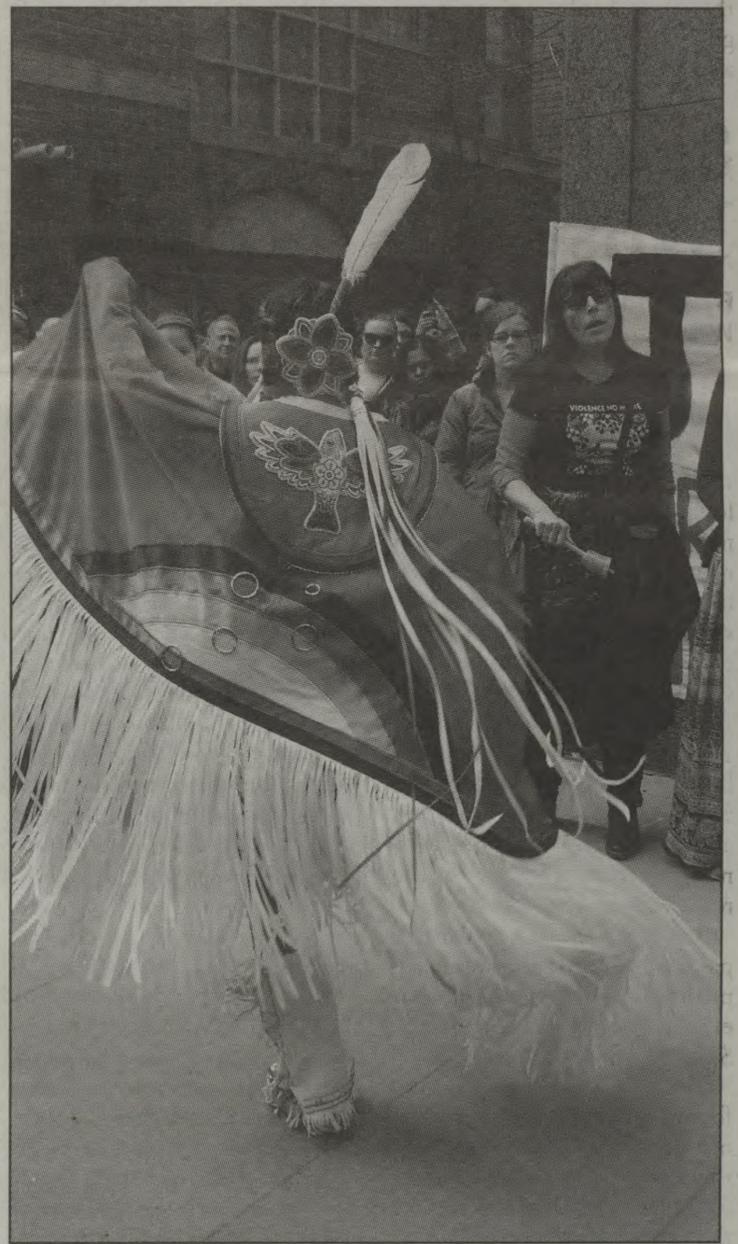
Lawyer Christa Big Canoe addressing Toronto rally in honor of Cindy Gladue on April 2.

family in respect of the loss of her life."

The right to privacy does not end at death, Big Canoe said, "and there is nothing more private than the intimate body parts of a woman. In Indigenous cultures, those body parts, whether a woman chooses to or not, are life-creating and sacred. And to display them in a court of justice to demonstrate a medical theory is unacceptable."

The Cindy Gladue murder trial exemplifies how the Canadian legal system does not adequately look at or address Indigenous perspectives, protocols and concerns, Big Canoe said, and cannot be counted on to resolve the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

This verdict and this trial, "requires us to keep talking about what we believe is



Healing dance by shawl dancer at Toronto rally to honour Cindy Gladue April 2

acceptable and not acceptable. It's supposed to be our justice system too. It's supposed to be informed by what we need it to be. There has to be a recognition of what our community wants," Big Canoe said.

Audrey Huntley reminded the crowd that all the families of missing and murdered women, "are really hurting right now. This has been really triggering for all of them and they need our

love and support right now." She encouraged people affected to seek help and support.

It was announced during the rally that the Alberta government will be appealing the March 18 court decision. The announcement was met with deafening cheers and applause. A healing dance by a young shawl dancer in honor of Indigenous women and girls ended the rally.

[news]

Report will gather dust like many others

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

VANCOUVER

First Nations involved in the treaty process are not viewing Doug Eyford's report, *A New Direction: Advancing Aboriginal and Treaty Rights*, as anything other than a reiteration of known facts—and one more report to sit on a government shelf.

"A lot of what he's saying in his report is what we've been saying forever and a day," said Cheryl Casimer, political executive with the First Nations Summit task group.

She agrees with Eyford's recommendation that "a whole of government commitment" needs to happen. She says right now neither Canada nor the provinces enter into negotiations with the same level of commitment as First Nations. "We need real negotiators at those tables with real mandates."

Eyford tabled his report with Aboriginal Affairs Canada Minister Bernard Valcourt in April. Eyford was appointed as ministerial special representative in July 2014 to review Canada's comprehensive land claims policy. He held engagement meetings between August 2014 and February 2015 with representatives of Aboriginal communities and organizations, provincial and territorial governments, and stakeholders.

"There is a conspicuous lack of urgency in negotiations and in many cases there are sharp differences between the parties about the core elements of a modern treaty," reported Eyford. There is "ongoing tensions between the Crown and Aboriginal organizations."

For Canada to show its "commitment to reconciliation," wrote Eyford, the federal government needs to address the institutional barriers and process inefficiencies that obstruct progress at treaty tables; needs to recognize at the outset of negotiations existing rights where title can be conclusively demonstrated proceed on that basis; needs to offer alternative reconciliation arrangements to comprehensive land claims agreement; and needs to improve the implementation of modern

treaties and other agreements already in place.

Eyford said the renewal of the comprehensive land claims policy "is timely" as Aboriginal people represent the fastest growing demographic.

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde says the only way to close the gap for the standard of living, which sees Canada ranked by the United Nations at six while First Nations within Canada are ranked at 63, is through treaties.

"That principle of Indigenous people, via treaties, that we were sharing the land and resource wealth, peaceful co-existence and mutual respect; our people didn't ask for poverty but that's what we see because we've been excluded from the development of the land and resources collectively," said Bellegarde.

Casimer says in BC, First Nations are seeing the province place more emphasis on short-term economic agreements. She says the Summit has complained to the province that negotiators are being pulled from treaty tables in order to focus on liquefied natural gas agreements on First Nations, a development which benefits the province.

"They want to sit down and negotiate short-term arrangements right now," she said. "The state of the conditions that First Nations are facing today ... is dismal. If you can't generate ... your own source revenues in order to do the work you need to do to elevate your community to a higher standard then all you're left with doing is managing poverty under the *Indian Act*. And so you can't blame First Nations who are looking for ways in order to generate more monies, to bring revenues into the community to do housing, to do education, support social programming, create economic development opportunities, that's what short-term agreements are offering."

But the immediate benefits that short-term arrangements bring need to fit into and support the longer-term agreements that are required to reconcile Crown-First Nations interests, says Casimer.

"Treaties and comprehensive agreements provide long-term benefits. You acquire a land base

in which you are the one who makes the decision about what happens on that land base, you can tax it, you can generate revenue, you can develop it, you can do whatever. You also acquire self-governing tools. You're agreement becomes constitutionally protected so you have something to support your future generations," she said.

But according to figures presented by Eyford, the average negotiating time for a comprehensive land claims agreement is 15 years. Since 1973, 26 modern treaties have been concluded and there are currently 75 comprehensive land claims negotiations across Canada at various stages of progress.

"Treaty-making has progressed at a glacial pace and at significant cost," said Eyford.

Many negotiations are embroiled in litigation, with AANDC named in 452 proceedings. AANDC has spent in excess of \$100 million in legal costs over the past five years.

Bellegarde says that as long as the federal government continues to appoint special representatives nothing will be accomplished.

"... What is needed is direct, face-to-face discussions in which the federal government and First Nations are equal, committed partners. This is consistent with our nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship," said Bellegarde, in a statement. "We want real engagement on the path forward to lead to real results."

Bellegarde urged the government to move ahead on a new Comprehensive Claims Policy that includes the "implications of the Supreme Court of Canada decision in the Tsilhqot'in Nation case."

That decision, which was rendered in June 2014, recognized Aboriginal title in unceded lands and increased the requirements for consultation on development with First Nations. Canada has failed to publicly respond to the Tsilhqot'in Nation case, which said Eyford, "is seen by some Aboriginal groups as a purposeful omission and has fueled speculation that Canada will avoid addressing claims of Aboriginal title."

BC throws a wrench into treaty work

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

VANCOUVER

The last minute decision by British Columbia's cabinet to not confirm George Abbott as the new chief treaty commissioner has brought into question the province's motivations.

"If (Premier Christy Clark) was trying to pull the legs out from underneath the Treaty Commission, that's not going to happen, because (the Treaty Commission) continues to operate with full authority to do the work that needs to be done," said Cheryl Casimer, political executive with the First Nations Summit task group. "They have a mandate, they can still carry out that mandate regardless of whether BC supports it or not."

According to the process established when the treaty commission was formed in 1992, the chief treaty commissioner must first be approved by the Summit, which represents the First Nations in modern treaty negotiations. Next the provincial government gives the nod, and finally the federal government. Both the province and Ottawa must pass orders in council to approve the new appointee. Appointment of the new chief commissioner takes about six months.

Casimer says all three parties got together late last year and presented their choices to replace Sophie Pierre, whose position as chief treaty commissioner had been extended. Casimer says three or four names were common among the three groups, with Abbott, the former provincial minister of Aboriginal relations and reconciliation, top of the list.

In October 2014, the Summit passed a resolution during the Chiefs Assembly appointing Abbott. When it was BC's turn, the process dragged to the point that Casimer contacted Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Rustad to find out if there was a reason to be concerned.

She was reassured there was nothing to report. She learned later, that Abbott's appointment had been challenged at the Cabinet level as early as January, when there would have been time to pick a new chief treaty commissioner.

On March 18, less than two weeks before the end of Pierre's term, Casimer heard from an unnamed source that Abbott would not be confirmed by the



PHOTO: SUBMITTED

Celeste Haldane will sit as interim chief commissioner

BC government. She contacted Rustad again at which time he confirmed Abbott would not be approved.

"We were deeply disappointed just given how everything unfolded," said Casimer. "We had full agreement amongst three principals that this was the individual we were going to move with and then all of a sudden have BC unilaterally just put a stall into that entire process is really frustrating."

In an interview with CBC Radio on March 25, Pierre also expressed her disappointment with the province. She added that matters were even more complicated with a looming federal election.

"If there was a time when BC could really just mess up the whole process, I suppose this was it and for whatever reason they chose to do so and that does really question their commitment in continuing in this legal obligation that they have entered into with First Nations," said Pierre.

Cabinet decisions are confidential so no reason was given for BC's last minute lack of support for Abbott. However, in a statement released by Rustad, he said, "I have also heard from many First Nations that the treaty process, mandates and negotiations take far too long and they are looking for a better way."

Pierre says criticism of the system has been there since the beginning and shouldn't be the reason why the process has been held up now by the province.

Celeste Haldane, a present member of the commission, has been appointed by her fellow treaty commission members as acting chief commissioner.

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Court orders Saskatchewan Métis to get on with it

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

SASKATOON

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MNS) President Robert Doucette is confident that the upcoming court-ordered legislative assembly will bring about the changes needed to the MNS constitution that will help curb the in-fighting that has brought the organization to a screeching halt.

But Helene Johnson does not believe the solution lies in changes to the constitution.

Doucette and Johnson are members of what Saskatoon Queen's Bench Justice Brian Scherman labeled opposing "factions" in his 17-page decision rendered early April.

Scherman ordered that a Métis Nation Legislative Assembly be held by or before June 19. Doucette heads one faction while Johnson is part of a faction led by MNS Vice-President Gerald Morin.

"Given the long history of conflict between the Doucette and the Morin factions, it is clear that a profound level of distrust exists between them," wrote Scherman.

Doucette labels it as "a struggle of personality" which has played out to the detriment of the organization.

"If you don't like somebody that's elected, at least work with them," he said. "And if you don't like what they've done over their term, then kick them out. But don't go out of your way to kill the organization just because you don't like somebody."

"It isn't even so much in-fighting," said Johnson. "We have procedures and guidelines under the constitution that need to be followed, and that has never been done. It is a good process. Just follow it." She places the blame squarely on the shoulders of Doucette.

Scherman over-ruled the Provincial Métis Council, which set the legislative assembly for

September. No legislative assembly has taken place since 2010, although the organization's constitution mandates two annual assemblies. The provincial council is the 18-member executive body of the MNS, which the Morin faction dominates.

Scherman was asked to rule when Doucette sought court action. Doucette claimed that holding the legislative assembly in September would cause "irreparable harm" to the organization as Aboriginal Affairs Canada, the primary source of funding for MNS, had cut off financial support as of Nov. 1, 2014.

Scherman agreed, calling the delay in scheduling a legislative assembly "indefensible in the circumstances... in the face of an urgent need."

Doucette says Scherman's decision is a "good ruling for all Métis people... because now their voice, their voice that has been missing from this organization, they're going to have the opportunity to... (say) where this organization should be going."

Doucette is adamant that for the MNS to move forward in a productive manner, the constitution needs to be changed. When it was adopted in 1993, Doucette, who was president of local 126 at the time, says he was among 10 people who voiced concerns that the constitution gave too much power to too few people.

"Our constitution is dysfunctional... and all the power is in the hands of nine people. With no checks and balances, there is no way to wield these people in," he said.

Doucette is confident that one of the changes that will be brought about through the legislative assembly will see area directors stripped of much of their power.

"And if it doesn't... we will continue to have this in-fighting," he said.

Johnson concedes there needs to be changes to the constitution,

but "not substantive" as Doucette claims. She notes that constitutional changes require a vote of 75 per cent. Johnson was an employee with one of the regions at the time the 1993 constitution was adopted and Morin served as president.

The next election for the MNS executive and directors is set for September 2016, although that timeline could be changed at the legislative assembly.

Doucette does not anticipate an earlier date, noting that it would cost anywhere from \$300,000 to \$500,000 to hold elections.

Doucette is now working on scheduling committee meetings which will lead to the Provincial Métis Council to happen May 8 and 9. He has already spoken to Aboriginal Affairs about receiving help to cover the costs of the legislative assembly, which he sets at around \$100,000 to \$120,000. At the provincial council, the date and venue will be set for the legislative assembly. Doucette does not see the legislative assembly happening any earlier than the June 19 deadline set by Scherman.

Doucette believes the decisions made at the legislative assembly will create stability in the organization, which will in turn lead to discussions with both the provincial and federal governments to reinstitute funding to the MNS and restore credibility with the public.

It will also allow the organization to move forward on such issues as violence against Aboriginal women, child care intervention, harvesting, land rights, employment and housing.

"It will lead to, at the very least, a period where we can get to that next election and get the people, who can at some point, really bear down and work for our organization," he said.

Johnson says she has no issue with Scherman's decision for the earlier date for the legislative assembly.

"I'm over it," she said. "Get on with life."

Windspeaker News Briefs

The Navajo Nation is imposing a two per cent sales tax

on such foods as soda, chips, and energy drinks sold in retail centres on the reservation. It's the only place in the United States to impose a two per cent sales tax on foods with little or no nutritional value. The Healthy Dine Nation Act strives to encourage healthier choices on food purchases and combat obesity and diabetes rates among the Navajo. It also eliminates a five per cent sales tax on such foods as fresh fruits and vegetables.

On June 13, a 10 km run will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico

to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Billy Mills' gold medal in the 10,000 meter run in the Tokyo Olympic Games. The overall male and female Native American runner of each 10K age division will be crowned "Native American 10K National Champion." The event is open to all ages, divided into a number of divisions. Billy Mills will be in attendance. The race registration can be accessed here: <http://www.active.com/albuquerque-nm/running/billy-mills-50th-anniversary-10k-gold-medal-run-2015>

On April 16, First Nations whose lands and resources will be

most affected by the proposed Ring of Fire development met to sign a protocol agreement. Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation entered into a "Negotiation Protocol Respecting Early Exploration in the Ring of Fire". The protocol strengthens the commitment of both First Nations to work together to advance their common interests in a coordinated manner while respecting their mutual and unique interests over their respective lands and approvals to use the lands, reads a release.

More than 100 mineral exploration companies have staked claims and proposed related developments in the Ring of Fire. Both Marten Falls and Webequie agreed to set out their mutual expectations from early exploration activities in the Ring of Fire.

"This will not only be good for us, but will also be good for the exploration companies to know the protocols for exploration on our mutual traditional lands," said Chief Cornelius Wabasse of Webequie First Nation.

Misipawistik First Nation will remove parents from homes,

not the children, under its new child-welfare policy. It becomes the second First Nation in Manitoba to do the turn-about, joining the Nisichawayshk Cree Nation in Nelson House which rolled out a similar policy in 2002. Misipawistik's new policy took effect March 17 and procedures are being developed to put it into practice.

Assembly of First Nations regional chief for Quebec and Labrador, Ghislain Picard, joined 25,000 people in April at a march

in Quebec City to call upon Canadian premiers to act on climate change. "That means no new tar sands pipelines," said organizers for the Act on Climate March. Picard said almost half of all First Nations in Quebec will be impacted by the Energy East pipeline which will carry 1.1 million barrels of crude oil per day from Alberta and Saskatchewan to refineries in Quebec City and Saint John, N.B. "There's too much unknown," Picard said.

"It's economy versus tradition versus environment... We contribute the least in what's happening to the environment but we are impacted the most." People from across Canada attended the rally.

A new study shows that survivors of sexual abuse and children

of residential school survivors are at a disproportionately higher risk of sexual assault. The study by The Cedar Project identified risk factors for sexual assault among young Aboriginal women who use drugs.

The Cedar Project is a partnership between Indigenous leaders and health researchers to examine vulnerability to HIV among Indigenous people who use drugs in Prince George and Vancouver, reads a press release. The findings, they say, point to alarming patterns of historical trauma, childhood sexual abuse, and vulnerability to sexual assault among at-risk Aboriginal young women in British Columbia.

Researchers found that women who had a parent who attended a residential school were 2.35 times more likely to be sexually assaulted. Women were also nearly 10 times more likely to be sexually assaulted later in life if they had a history of childhood sexual abuse.

Researchers with the University of British Columbia School of Population and Public Health and the Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences followed a group of 259 young Aboriginal women who use drugs (aged 14 to 30) in Vancouver and Prince George over a seven-year period. More than a quarter of the participants (28 per cent) reported they were sexually assaulted, and 41 per cent were assaulted more than once.

Indigenous leaders in B.C. are calling for an integrated and trauma-informed response to address childhood sexual abuse and sexual violence.

"These statistics are more than just numbers," said Chief Wayne Christian, co-principal investigator of The Cedar Project. "They are our children, our relations. Some are being hurt this way before they can even speak. I myself am a survivor of multiple forms of trauma. I have walked the pain of these young people and they are calling for change. We need to stop this cycle. We've lived in denial for long enough and it's high time for a response."

Victory for Darlene Necan

(Continued from page 7.)

own meals. This young Aboriginal mother on welfare experiences racism and discrimination from landlords, she said.

Necan herself, as a homeless person, receives \$240 monthly. She puts this money towards purchasing food wherever she stays.

"You can't just go there and eat," she said, "because they too have no food because the only people I interact with is my family in Thunder Bay and a lot of them are impoverished." We're all struggling, she said.

People depending on the system live in fear of getting cut

off, she said.

"People don't want you to stay at their place because you're not bringing in anything."

"I walk around Thunder Bay, look at other people's houses and wish I had my own house. Wish I would have been allowed to build my own house," Necan said. "I wouldn't have to depend on welfare and if I was at home, I would have went fishing, would have went partridge hunting. I would have went rabbit snaring and moose hunting. I would have done all that."

After her victory, Necan will be able to do all of those things and provide for herself.

"I can't wait to move into my house," she said. "Even though there's no heat, no hydro, it's my own house. I can't wait."

Mike Leitold, a lawyer who has been working with Darlene for the past couple of years, had this to say on March 19 about her case:

"The strong stand taken by Darlene Necan in this matter is inspiring as it shows the power of grassroots action and solidarity to win victories for oppressed people. It is only right that the charges against her have been dropped, as she is rebuilding her home on her traditional territory. I hope her victory encourages all of us to fight against ongoing colonial oppression."

Day scholars await a judgement

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

VANCOUVER

Day scholars who are members of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc and Shishalh Indian bands will have to wait until summer to learn if they can move forward on receiving compensation for the abuse they suffered when attending residential schools.

A Vancouver Federal Court judge heard five days of arguments between April 13 and April 20. Justice Sean Harrington will have to determine whether to certify a class-action lawsuit for compensation in three separate streams: for former day students, for their descendants and for bands impacted by members who attended residential schools as day students.

The proposed class action law suit seeks compensation for those day scholars, alleging that as

students participating in classes and the social life of Indian residential schools, they suffered the same loss of language and connection to culture as those who resided at the schools.

The law suit alleges that these losses were an intentional aspect of Canada's education policy.

"The experience (day scholars) suffered as well fragmented their families and communities. Basically it's time to draw strength and encourage each other on the path of healing," said Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde, who was in attendance at the first day of the hearing.

"If Canada is very serious about their apology, then they should really look at reconciliation for all students that attended residential schools, whether they're the ones who spent the nights there or even including day scholars. They're residential schools survivors."

Prime Minister Stephen

Harper's 2008 apology for Canada's role in residential schools was followed by a compensation package through the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.

The agreement compensated students who attended a specified list of residential schools recognized by the government. Those students were eligible for a Common Experience Payment set at \$10,000 for the first year of attendance and \$3,000 for each subsequent proven year of attendance.

Students could also testify in private hearings through the Independent Assessment Process and be financially compensated for sexual and physical abuse. Day scholars, along with students who attended any of the non-prescribed schools, attendees of residential schools in Newfoundland and Labrador, attendees of Metis residential schools, and those who resided in foster homes and group

homes, were excluded from compensation through the settlement.

The narrow scope of the settlement agreement is a concern that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, formed as part of the agreement, has voiced repeatedly. In its community hearings and national events, the TRC has invited testimony from all students and not just those covered under the settlement agreement.

"There's a significant group of students still waiting for justice for their situation," said TRC Chair Justice Murray Sinclair.

Not wanting to wait any longer is what drove Tk'emlups te Secwepemc and Shishalh Indian bands to file their complaint in federal court in August 2012.

"We wanted to do what was right for our people... seeking redress for our day scholars was our number one priority. We advanced our own class action

suit because we didn't want to wait for anybody," said Tk'emlups te Secwepemc Chief Shane Gottfriedson.

While the court action is specific to the two BC bands, which numbers around 450 day scholars, Gottfriedson expects other bands and groups of day scholars will join once Tk'emlups te Secwepemc and Shishalh Indian bands class action moves forward.

"It's a human rights issue. It's something we thought was necessary for the well-being of our community," said Gottfriedson.

Bellegarde believes Canada owes day scholars more than financial compensation.

"The goal is for justice and compensation for the day scholar children that suffered abuse as well by the residential schools," said Bellegarde. "It should be approached on wellness and healing and justice and fairness. It's all of the above."

Creation site a no-go for quarry development

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

KATZIE FIRST NATION, B.C.

Katzie First Nation is making its position clear: there will be no more development on the sacred genesis site of Sheridan Hill.

"We will put the province on notice that as members we are very committed to saving our history," said Chief Susan Miller.

Miller and her chief negotiator were joined by Pitt Meadows Mayor John Becker and a city councillor in Victoria on April 20 to make a joint presentation to British Columbia's Energy and Mines Minister Bill Bennett and Environment Minister Mary Polak.

Both Katzie Nation and Pitt Meadows stand in opposition to the Meadows Quarry, a development proposed by Pitt Meadows businessman Bob McLean, who lives in the neighbourhood that would be impacted.

The quarry would be located

on the south side of Sheridan Hill, removing 240,000 tonnes per year, and lowering the height of the hill by 30 metres.

While Sheridan Hill is located within the municipal boundaries of the city of Pitt Meadows, the hill is within the heart of the Katzie unceded traditional territory. More than that, Sheridan Hill is the creation site of the Katzie people.

The Katzie First Nation Web site records the history of the Katzie people as having descended "primarily from Oe'lecten and his people, created at the south shore of Pitt Lake, and Swanese and his people, created at Sheridan Hill."

Two busloads of Katzie First Nation members made the trip to Victoria. It isn't the first time Katzie members have turned out in force to oppose the development. At the end of March, about 40 Katzie members joined 400 residents of Pitt Meadows in the city in a rally opposing the new quarry.

The city says the blasting and

truck traffic created by the development would be disruptive for residents of the area and cause environmental, agricultural and neighbourhood concerns. But opposition to the development is about more than how it impacts that city, says Becker, who was elected mayor in November 2014.

At that time, he set improving the city's relationship with the neighboring Katzie First Nation as a priority. Supporting Katzie's need for proper consultation is part of that growing relationship.

"They were looking at a very important site being under attack again," said Becker.

There is an existing quarry, now operated by Lafarge, on the north side of Sheridan Hill. The Katzie First Nation was not consulted on the development of Pitt River Quarries when it began operating in the 1960s as the government had no legally-proven obligation to do so at that time.

Miller says that in mid-February, Katzie First Nation was

contacted by the province, saying it had yet to hear back about the proposed quarry. It turned out that the information sent by the province had been misplaced internally by the nation.

Katzie was given an additional two weeks to reply to the proposal. Katzie responded in one-and-a-half weeks with an emphatic, "Hell, no."

She says the only notification she received from the developer was an email in October 2014, a year after she took over as Chief. Katzie immediately responded in the negative. Miller says she did not hear back from Meadows Quarry.

Miller said Becker contacted her and they joined forces against the proposal.

"It's common knowledge in Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge that Sheridan Hill is of great importance to the Katzie people and I think that's why (Becker) called on us as quickly as possible," said Miller.

"Having Pitt Meadows on side and having the residents on side,

really demonstrates how we are in this together... but we're very clear that Katzie is in the foreground. This is our traditional territory."

Becker agrees.

"The consultation requirements with the community (of Pitt Meadows) exist in the (provincial) legislation, but are by no means as strong as the requirement for true consultation with the effected First Nation," he said.

Moving forward, Miller says Katzie will begin a public campaign to share the story of Sheridan Hill, so people across the province and country understand the significance of the site to the Katzie people and the other First Nations descendants of the hill.

"The bottom line is, in light of the Tsilhqot'in First Nation decision, government has to deal with things in a different way, not simply acknowledging, 'Yes, this is your territory.' But they have to acknowledge with legal rights within our territory," said Miller.

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Richard Van Camp gives us new works

By Leif Gregersen
Windspeaker Contributor

EDMONTON

Three Feathers, a graphic novel about restorative justice, is just one of six new works from Richard Van Camp anticipated for release in 2015. He worked on *Three Feathers* with artist Krystal Mateus.

It tells the story of three young men who return from the land after nine months of learning their language and culture.

In the novel, three boys, Rupert, Bryce and Flinch, break into a number of homes to steal valuables and drugs. When they are caught, they feel nothing but contempt for the people they victimized and the Elder they gravely injured.

The story is richly drawn with vivid images of the pain these young men feel, having lost their culture and connection to their community. One of the lines that stand out explains, "Every animal is born with gifts. Bears always know what you are thinking. Frogs are keepers of the rain. Dragonflies are keepers of snakes and can sew the lips shut of any child who tells their first lie."

This graphic novel can be read and re-read for the wonder of learning Native culture and for the simple genius of how the story is told, bringing three misguided boys to a new understanding of who they are in the world around them and bringing them to 'repent' for their crimes and make right what was made wrong.

Richard Van Camp was born in 1971 and grew up in the town of Fort Smith, N.W.T. in the South Slave region. Nearly all of his work has a focus on the northern region and he counts himself lucky to have lived there in the time of ninjas, music videos, Star Wars and He Man, which he says "invaded his life and spirit".

Always a big reader, Van Camp devoured the writings of S.E. Hinton, Stephen King and Pat Conroy, and many comic books. He started writing himself when he was 19 when he realized that no one was writing about the life he and his family and friends were experiencing, living in both the traditional Native and pop culture worlds.

His earliest major work was "The Lesser Blessed," which came out in 1996.

Another new work, released in April is *The Blue Raven*, a graphic novel illustrated by Stephen Keewatin Sanderson. It's a tale of family and loss and friendship.

A young man named Benji has his bike stolen, and a young man in his teens named Trevor offers to help get the bike back. The two boys become close



Richard Van Camp

friends as the younger boy teaches the older about the wonders of his culture, though he is still tormented by the loss of his father which the lost bike symbolizes for him.

The story carries a message of hope in how by helping one another through life's difficulties we grow stronger, and it is also about the power of tradition in all of our lives.

A third Van Camp short novel called *Whistle* will also focus on the topic of restorative justice, but this time told through letters written from a young man named Darcy to a boy he bullied and assaulted numerous times.

The letters are written from a youth detention centre where Darcy was taken and shows the transformation of the young man as he learns useful job skills, realizes how important his family is to him and, through writing to his victim, realizes that when he was most angry and violent he was more scared than anything.

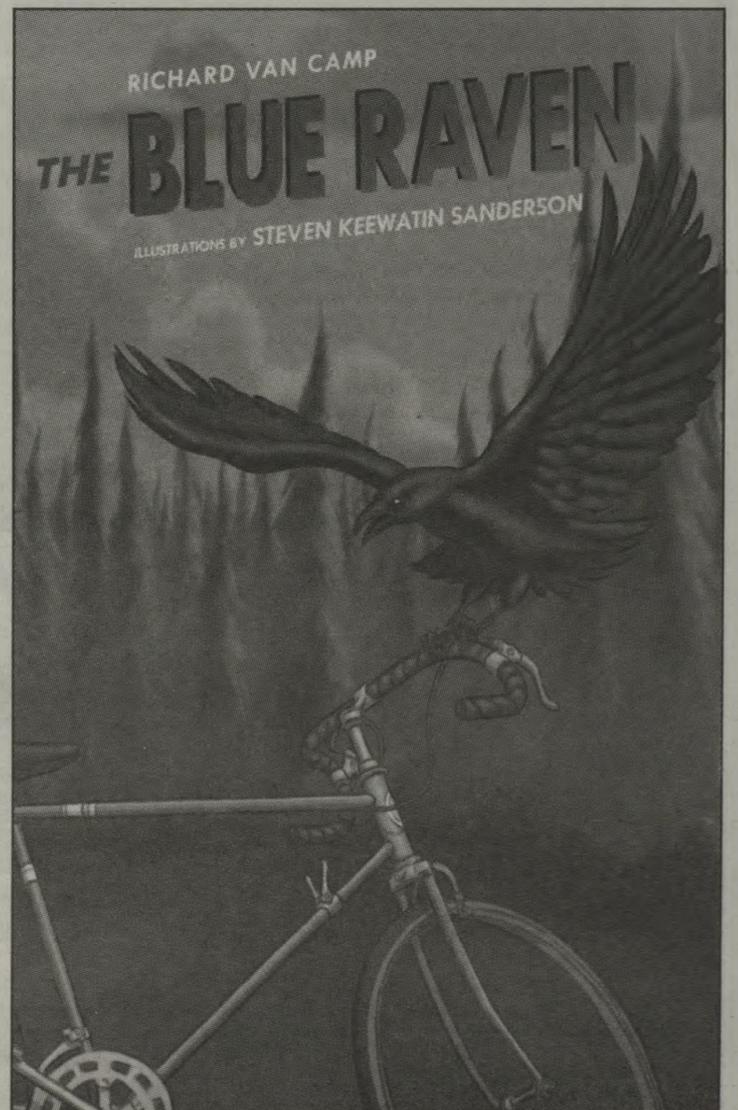
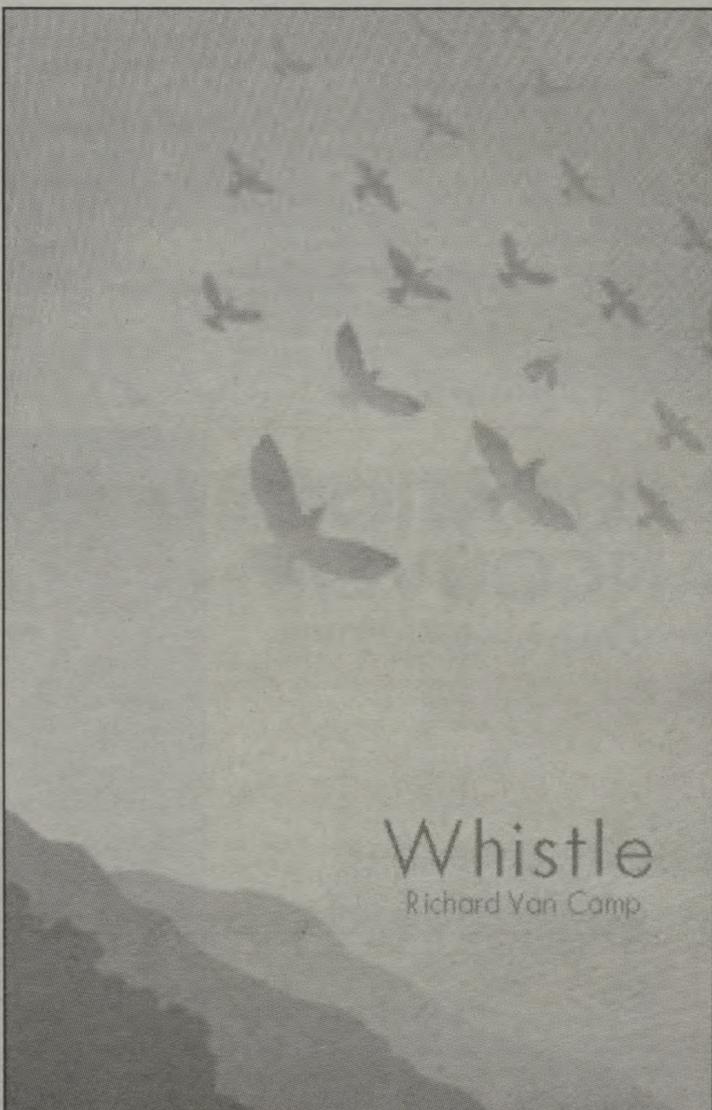
These three works are set up to be used as teaching tools. *The Blue Raven* and *Whistle* are featured on the website www.pearsoncanada.ca under the heading "Always Learning", and *Three Feathers* is available through Highwater Press, which can be accessed through

www.highwaterpress.com

Other works to watch for from Richard Van Camp are *For Our Children: Teachings and Traditions from Fort Smith Elders*, *Night Moves*, and *The Moon of Letting Go*.

Van Camp believes that life in Fort Smith will always influence his work.

"There is a magic there" he said. "There are so many storytellers and so many people I admire."



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Scholarship Search Tips!

- When fishing for scholarships, cast the widest net you can, focusing on your area of specialty while applying for general scholarships/bursaries anywhere you're eligible. Admissions offices will often have listings, but internet searches are also effective, and many applications can be completed online.

- Criteria and eligibility vary from place to place but once you've completed a first application, the second one invariably goes faster. It is mainly a gathering and organization of information for the sponsor awarding the scholarship, so checking carefully to meet the criteria and goals listed by the organization will increase success.

- Always try and keep copies of documentation, such as letters of support, to use for multiple submissions. Many scholarships can be completed online.

- Read guidelines thoroughly and check biographies of past winners.

- Remember to make deadlines – even the strongest candidates will be eliminated if they file too late – this demonstrates commitment and responsibility! And if you don't make it this year – your chances can only increase with time and experience for next year.

- Many sponsors learn who their students are and maintain a supportive relationship, which can even include summer employment opportunities.

- Everyone likes to back a winner! List past scholarships and bursaries received, for that "snowball effect".

NATIONAL

ConocoPhillips Aboriginal Awards Program Deadline June 30th of each year.

The Aboriginal Awards Program has been developed to provide financial assistance to Aboriginal students pursuing high school upgrading and post-secondary education.

Award amounts are designated according to the educational level you are pursuing:

Secondary School/Academic Upgrading \$1,000
College or Technical Institute \$2,000
University \$3,000

The award amounts are granted on an annual basis with students being required to re-apply each year for continued funding. Awards may be used to cover portions of tuition, books or living expenses.

Eligibility

You may apply to the ConocoPhillips Aboriginal Awards Program if you meet the following criteria:

- You are of Aboriginal ancestry
- You are a Canadian citizen
- You are enrolled in an eligible program, on a full-time basis
- You demonstrate promising academic qualifications
- You require financial assistance to pursue your education

Application process: Please send your completed application along with your proof of acceptance and most recent transcripts to the following address:

Please send your completed application along with your proof of acceptance and most recent transcripts to the following address no later than June 30th:

**Attention: Aboriginal Awards Program Stakeholder Engagement
ConocoPhillips Canada
P.O. Box 130, Station "M",
401 - 9th Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2P 2H7
Direct Phone: (403) 260-1655
Fax: (403) 532-3404
Email: aboriginalawards@conocophillips.com**

Canadian Nurses Foundation

Canadian Nurses Foundation (CNF) is the only national foundation solely committed to promoting the health and patient care of Canadians by financially supporting Canadian nurses engaged in higher education, research, home health-care and specialty certification; advocating dissemination and utilization of nursing knowledge.

Awards are supported by contributions from corporate and individual donors. CNF gives nurses across Canada approximately \$275,000 annually in scholarships and certification awards. The value of the scholarship awards ranges from \$1,000-\$6,000.

The CNF TD Aboriginal Nursing Fund specifically supports First Nation Status or Non-status, Inuit or Métis nurses at the Bachelor, Master's, PhD and Nurse Practitioner levels. Over the past five years, CNF has supported over 100 aboriginal nursing scholars through the TD awards.

Deadline for all applications is March 31st of each year for the following academic year.

Applicants for the CNA Certification awards must have confirmation of approval from CNA to write the exam.

For more information, please visit the CNF web site at www.cnf-fiiic.ca or e-mail to info@cnf-fiiic.ca. We're on Facebook and Twitter, too! Tous les renseignements sont également disponibles en français.

9th Annual AFOA-PotashCorp Aboriginal Youth Financial Management Awards

The 9th Annual AFOA-PotashCorp Aboriginal Youth Financial Management Awards are open to Aboriginal youth in grades 11 and 12. Winners attend AFOA Canada's National Conference and participate in a special Youth program designed to introduce youth to careers in Aboriginal finance and management.

There is a great demand both within First Nation communities and off-reserve for Aboriginal financial management professionals and there are many opportunities for those who want to pursue this career path and many sources of assistance. However, very few of our young people are pursuing an education in financial management after high school. That is why AFOA Canada and PotashCorp have come together to offer the Aboriginal Youth Financial Management Awards.

In 2015 we want to bring 3 outstanding Aboriginal Youth to Winnipeg, Manitoba for 4 nights to attend the conference and awards ceremony at the AFOA Canada National Conference on February 17-19, 2015.

Eligibility:

- Aboriginal Ancestry (Proof of First Nation, Inuit or Métis status)
- Pursuing post-secondary education and demonstrates an interest and is considering a career in the areas of finance and/or management/commerce (including financial management/planning, business administration, commerce, accounting and economics)
- Completed Application Form and submit an essay
- 2 letters of recommendation from a teacher, guidance counsellor or educator, attesting to the student's performance and commitment
- Academically successful
- Students in Grades 11 and/or 12 may apply (maximum age 19)

Deadline: Monday, December 1 at 9PM (EST)

For more information:
Call: 1-866-722-2362
Email: youthawards@afoa.ca
Website: www.afoa.ca
Submit your application, essay and reference letters to one of the following:
1. Email: youthawards@afoa.ca
2. Fax: (613)-722-3467
3. Mail: AFOA Canada
1066 Somerset St. West-Suite 301
Ottawa, ON K1Y 4T3

ATCO Pipelines Aboriginal Education Awards Program

The ATCO Pipelines Aboriginal Educational Awards Program is aimed at supporting Aboriginal students from First Nations and Métis communities in close proximity to our facilities. Successful applicants will demonstrate a balanced lifestyle and commitment in the pursuit of education. These awards, bursaries and scholarships are awarded to select students who demonstrate leadership capabilities and strive to be role models in their schools and communities.

Since the program was launched in 2011, this program has seen 74 students from across the province receive awards.

There are three different awards available:
• **Merit Awards** - merit awards of \$500 to be granted each year;
Must be attending High School (completing grades 10-12); Maximum one award per applicant per calendar year; Must re-apply to be considered for subsequent years

Bursaries - bursaries of \$1,000 to be granted each year; Must be registered in a recognized trade/community/technical college diploma or certificate program; Preference will be given to those enrolled in a program relating to the natural gas industry; Maximum one award per applicant per calendar year; Must re-apply to be considered for subsequent years

Scholarships - scholarships of \$1,500 to be awarded each year; Must be registered in a university program intended to lead to a bachelor or graduate degree; Preference will be given to those enrolled in a program relating to the natural gas industry; Maximum one award per applicant per calendar year; Must re-apply to be considered for subsequent years

Eligibility:

All applicants must be enrolled full-time in a secondary or post-secondary educational program, be Canadian citizens of Aboriginal ancestry and originate from within 50km of ATCO Pipelines facilities. ATCO employees and/or their children will not be considered for these awards.

How to apply:

The deadline to submit an application is August 1st annually. Applications received after that date will not be considered during the review and selection process.

The following information must ALL be included in the application package in order to be regarded for any one of these awards:

- A completed application form
- One reference letter from a teacher, faculty member, employer or community leader
- A short essay (minimum 250 words) describing why you are a suitable candidate for the award
- Proof of enrollment for the upcoming semester in a secondary or post-secondary institution
- Transcripts from a secondary and/or post-secondary institution in which you are currently enrolled

Mail or deliver completed application packages, and direct official transcripts, to:

**Corporate Communications
ATCO Pipelines
#1300, 909 - 11th Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2R 1L8**

Website:

<http://www.atcopipelines.com/Community/Aboriginal-Education-Awards-Program>

Selection

All applications will be reviewed by a selection committee comprised of representatives from various departments within ATCO Pipelines. Committees will be established each year specifically to review candidate submissions for this program.

Indigenous Scholarship Program - Holiday Inn Vancouver Downtown

Value: \$2,000
Number: Varies

Deadline: Scholarships awarded throughout the year

Conceived and established in 2003 by Holiday Inn Vancouver Downtown, the Indigenous Scholarship Program sets aside program funds for every room night spent at the hotel by a member of Canada's Aboriginal Community.

Each year, the hotel will award at least one scholarship to First Nation youth that are pursuing a post-secondary education. Open to all Aboriginal students, the Indigenous Scholarship Program considers a number of criteria in awarding scholarships including financial situation, academic achievement, community involvement and career aspirations. The Indigenous Scholarship Program is managed by Holiday Inn Vancouver Downtown with recommendations from an Executive Education Committee and input from an Advisory Board made up of representatives from Canada's Aboriginal Community.

Eligibility: Aboriginal/Indigenous student currently enrolled at or, accepted to a post secondary institution.

Application: Application form and eligibility criteria for the Indigenous Scholarship Program can be obtained by calling the Holiday Inn Vancouver Downtown at 1-800-663-9151.

Web site:

holidayinnvancouverdowntown.com

Helen Bassett Commemorative Student Award Deadline: July 27

Every year since 2003 the Native Women's Association of Canada coordinates the Helen Bassett Commemorative Student Award (previously a scholarship) that is awarded to four young Aboriginal women in the amount of \$1,000.00 dollars each in accordance with the four directions (North, East, South and West). This Student Award is NWAC's way of supporting Aboriginal women strive for their academic goals, as well as recognizing the dedication and commitment that they are making toward the well-being of their sisters and their communities. The Helen Bassett Commemorative Student Award is facilitated through the Youth Program of the Labour Market Development Department and is made possible by the generous donation of Helen Bassett.

<http://nwac.ca/nwac-helen-bassett-commemorative-student-award>

KPMG's Aboriginal Scholarship Program
KPMG's Aboriginal Services is proud to offer five \$1,500 scholarships

The scholarship program is designed to recognize the Aboriginal community and offer financial assistance to Aboriginal students attending post-secondary institutions across Canada.

Selection Criteria

Weighting will be proportionally focused on the following categories:

- Future plans to support the Aboriginal community
- Future career plans
- Current and/or projected financial situation
- Current involvement in the Aboriginal community and other organizations
- Grade point average

Requirements of Scholarship Recipients

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Phone: 604-684-2151
Fax: 604-684-4736
E: info@hivancouverdowntown.com

*Prices subject to availability and do not include applicable taxes.

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From **\$99**
October - December, 2015

Aboriginal Scholarship & Bursary Guide

Annual Windspeaker Insert — May

Check online for complete listings at www.ammsa.com



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For more information:
www.nait.ca/scholarships
Email awards@nait.ca
Phone 780.491.3056



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- Willing and available for media interviews
- Willing and available to be photographed
- Provide permission to be referenced and quoted in KPMG and/or KPMG approved material, websites and publications
- Provide permission for use of photos in KPMG and/or KPMG approved material, websites and publications

How to submit your application

1. Provide it directly to your local KPMG adviser
2. Email to: aboriginalservices@kpmg.ca
3. Mail to: Penny Eggett, National Marketing Coordinator
KPMG MSLP
333 Bay Street, Suite 4600
Toronto, ON M5H 2S5

or by mail.
All applications must be received in full by November 30.

In addition to this application form, applicants must arrange to have a copy of their official transcripts sent to:

ATTN: Megan Wolfinger
AltaLink
2611 3rd Ave SE
Calgary AB, T2A 7W7

Mail application

To apply by mail, applicants must print off and fill out the scholarship application form. The form must then be mailed to Megan Wolfinger at AltaLink.

TransAlta Aboriginal Bursary Program

In keeping with our commitment to provide educational support to the Aboriginal community in Canada, on an annual basis TransAlta offers up to seven bursary awards in the amount of \$3000 each for those entering college or university programs on a full time basis. Additionally, TransAlta offers three awards in the amount of \$1000 each for those in a trades program.

Eligibility Criteria

1. You are an Aboriginal person, and provide proof of your status
2. You are enrolled in a fulltime post secondary or trades program and will maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout your program
3. You have a plan for achieving your education and career goals
4. You commit to updating TransAlta on your progress throughout the duration of your studies
5. You complete and provide the information as requested by TransAlta

Deadline: September 15

You must submit the application form and all requested documentation by September 15th to be considered. Additional information and a copy of the application form can be found on the website: <http://www.transalta.com/communities/aboriginal>

Contact Information:

Lynn Calf Robe, Aboriginal Relations Coordinator
TransAlta
Phone: 403 267 2557
Fax: 403 267 2005
Email: lynn_calfrobe@transalta.com

AltaLink Aboriginal Scholarship Program

In 2007, AltaLink launched its Aboriginal scholarship program. This scholarship program is designed to recognize the Aboriginal community and offer financial assistance to Aboriginal students attending post-secondary institutions by offering four \$2,000 scholarships.

ELIGIBILITY:

This scholarship is open to all students who are Métis or members of Treaty 6, 7 or 8 and are currently enrolled in a post secondary institution.

HOW TO ENTER:

Applicants can enter one of two ways, online

In addition to this application form, applicants must arrange to have a copy of their official transcripts sent to:

ATTN: Megan Wolfinger
AltaLink
2611 3rd Ave SE
Calgary AB, T2A 7W7

SCHOLARSHIPS:

A scholarships valued at \$2,000 will be awarded to a student from each of Treaty 6, 7, 8 and Métis.

SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION:

Recipients will be selected in January of 2013 and will be directly notified. Only successful applicants will be notified.

Students will be selected for the awards based on financial need, scholastic achievement, community involvement and career and life goals.

Be sure to complete all the required questions and provide your official transcripts to us. A complete application will increase your chances of selection.

PRIVACY:

The information you are providing to AltaLink is being collected for the purpose of choosing a scholarship recipient. AltaLink will not rent or sell your personal information to any third party. Information held by AltaLink will be protected in accordance with AltaLink's privacy policies. If you have any questions, please contact Megan Wolfinger at (403) 267-4292.

Application deadline is November 30

The Canadian Medical Foundation Dr. John Big Canoe Memorial Scholarship

Deadline: Applications and supporting documentation for the 2014/2015 academic year must be received by October 2014.

During each year of the program, a \$2000 scholarship may be awarded to an undergraduate Aboriginal student enrolled in the last or second to last year of study in a Canadian school of medicine who has demonstrated both strong academic performance and outstanding contributions to the aboriginal community in Canada.

Applications and supporting documentation to: Marie-Jeanne Schoueri, Office Manager

The Canadian Medical Foundation,
1867 Alta Vista Drive,
Ottawa, ON K1G 3H7
Phone: (613) 520-7681
Toll Free: 1-866-530-4979
Fax: (613) 520-7692
Email: marie-jeanne.schoueri@cmf.ca

The Gabriel Dumont Institute - Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (GDI-SUNTEP) is recruiting students for Fall 2015

SUNTEP is a four year accredited Bachelor of Education program, offered by the Gabriel Dumont Institute in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and the University of Regina.

- SUNTEP offers smaller classes, tutoring and counseling support, accessible instructors and an on-campus location
- Specializations are Reading/Language Arts, Cross Cultural Education and Indigenous Studies



Deadline date for applications is May 1st.

If you are Métis and interested in teacher education, please come and see us at College West Building, Room 227, University of Regina, or contact us at the number below. First Nation students with band support are welcome to apply.



For more information or applications, contact:

SUNTEP Regina
CW 227, U of R
3737 Wascana Parkway
Regina, SK S4S 0A2
306-347-4110 • www.gdins.org





Aboriginal Scholarship & Bursary Guide

Annual Windspeaker Insert — May

Check online for complete listings at www.ammsa.com

Web site: www.medicalfoundation.ca

Canadian Medical Association Special Bursary Program for Undergraduate Aboriginal Medical Students

Deadline: October 9

The bursary is awarded based on financial need and will provide a maximum of \$4000 per academic year to each successful applicant. A total of up to \$40,000 in bursaries may be awarded in each academic year of the program. Given that financial resources are often limited by the end of the academic year, bursaries will be awarded at this time. Bursary recipients will also receive memberships in the CMA, the relevant division of CMA (provincial or territorial) and the Native Physicians Association in Canada.

Applications and supporting documentation to: Marie-Jeanne Schoueri, Office Manager
The Canadian Medical Foundation,
1867 Alta Vista Drive,
Ottawa, ON K1G 3H7
Phone: (613) 520-7681
Toll Free: 1-866-530-4979
Fax: (613) 520-7692
Email: marie-jeanne.schoueri@cmf.ca
Web site: www.medicalfoundation.ca

Heroes of our Time Scholarships - Assembly of First Nations

Sponsored by: Assembly of First Nations
Eligibility: First Nations Citizen

Value: TBA
Deadline Date: June 1 each year

Tommy Prince Award
Walter Dieter Award
Omer Peters Award
Robert Smallboy Award
James Gosnell Award

Applications submitted to:
Selection Committee - Heroes of Our Time Awards
The Assembly of First Nations - Education Sector

473 Albert Street - Suite 810
Ottawa, ON K1R 5B4
Toll-Free: 1-866-869-6789
Phone: (613) 241-6789
Fax: (613) 241-5808

Tom Longboat Award

Sponsored by: The Aboriginal Sport Circle
Eligibility: Nominations are invited from all levels of sport. To be eligible, nominees must meet the following criteria:

Must be of Aboriginal descent
Must have amateur status in the sport which they are nominated
Must be for athletic achievements within the awards calendar year
Must submit a completed Nomination Form to the appropriate Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Sport Body on or before the annual deadline.

Value: TBA
Criteria: Currently enrolled/accepted in medical program, demonstrated exceptional academic abilities, involved and committed to extra-curricular activities

Deadline Date: January each year.

For more information contact:
Aboriginal Sport Circle at
Email: mtrudeau@aboriginalsportcircle.ca
Ph: (613) 236-9624 ext. 223
website: www.aboriginalsportcircle.ca

Educational Awards Program - Husky Oil

Deadline: May 31
Awards announced: July 31
Up to 7 Aboriginal students are selected each year.

Awards of up to \$3,000 per year will be granted to cover a portion of tuition, books, or living expenses.

Aboriginal people (Inuit, Métis, Status and Non Status Indians) who meet the following qualifications:

- * Canadian citizen
- * in need of financial assistance
- * demonstrate serious interest in furthering their educational and career development

Preference will be given to applicants whose residence is located on or near one of Husky's exploration, development or operation sites
Individuals pursuing academic post-secondary studies at a university, community college or technical institute are eligible to apply.
Diversity and Aboriginal Affairs
Husky Oil Operations Limited
P.O. Box 6525, Station D
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3G7

RBC Aboriginal Student Awards

Deadline: January 31
Ten (10) awards of up to \$4,000/ year for four (4) years at university or two years at college.

- * You are a permanent resident or citizen of Canada
- * You have been accepted to or are currently attending an accredited post-secondary institution in Canada
- * You maintain a full course load that leads to

a recognized degree, certificate or diploma
* You require financial assistance to pursue your education

A committee of Aboriginal academics and RBC representatives review all completed applications and makes the final selection of the award recipients primarily based on personal and academic achievements and individual financial need. Successful applicants are notified of the committee's decision by June 15 of each year. All decisions of the committee are final.

You will receive up to \$4,000 per academic year for educational and living expenses for a maximum of four years. To receive the full amount for all years of study, you must attend an accredited post-secondary institution, remain in the program of study we awarded the scholarship for and maintain a full-time course load and good academic standing. RBC requests confirmation of your full course load and good academic standing at the beginning of every fall and winter semester. This confirmation will be collected in a way satisfactory to RBC. You will receive the first half of your scholarship at the beginning of the fall semester. If you maintain a good academic standing, you will receive the balance in January. Please note that RBC reserves the right to change or discontinue this program at any time. We will honour commitments already in place if the program changes or ends.

Toll-Free Fax: 1-866-780-2188
Toll-Free Fax: 1-866-780-2188

Mail:
RBC Aboriginal Student Awards
C/O Aboriginal Link
PO Box 50058, 17-2595 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R2V 4W3
www.gotoapply.ca/RBC

Canada - US Fulbright Program

Deadline: November 15
Student must be American or Canadian with Native Heritage and attending a post-secondary education institution studying countries relations between other countries. Value of award is \$15,000.00 for student and \$25,000.00 for faculty members enrolled in graduate studies.

For more information contact:
350 Albert Street, Suite 2015,
Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 1A4
Ph: (613) 688-5540
Fax: (613) 237-2029
E-mail: info@fulbright.ca
web site: www.fulbright.ca

Investing in the future growth of Aboriginal Youth - Canadian National

CN makes awards available to Inuit, status or non-status Indian or Métis students entering or enrolled full-time in a post-secondary program in Canada that leads to a career in the transportation industry. This includes fields such as engineering, business, computer science, communications and technical studies.

Deadline: June 1 of each year.

For more info, contact your band office, friendship centre or college of your choice
Web Site: www.cn.ca/en/careers-offer-scholarships-aboriginal-awards.htm

To obtain further information or an application form, please contact:

Aboriginal Awards Program
c/o Indspire
70 Yorkville Avenue, Suite 33A
Toronto, Ontario M5R 1B9
Telephone: 1-800-329-9780 (toll-free)

CN Scholarship For Women

Deadline: October 15 each year
CN encourages women to pursue non-traditional careers in areas such as trades, technology and operations. To date, participation by women in these fields has been limited. This is a special CN initiative aimed at promoting employment equity in Canada. Scholarships are awarded annually to women in selected community colleges and institutes of technology across Canada.

Web Site: www.cn.ca/en/careers-offer-scholarships-women.htm

CMHC Housing Awards: Housing for Youth

Individuals, firms, institutions and government agencies that are delivering programs that improve choice, quality or affordability of housing for youth may be nominated for a Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Housing Award. Awards and honourable mentions are given to those individuals or groups that have achieved excellence in one of five categories: financing and tenure, technology and production, planning and regulation, concept and design, and process and management.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Social and Economic Policy and Research
700 Montreal Road Room C7-417
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0P7
Phone: 1-800-668-2642
Web: www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca

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2012 Alumni Valerie Jean

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We Can Launch Your Career in Construction

The new Alberta Aboriginal Construction Career Centres are here to assist Aboriginal workers gain the skills needed to get employment in the construction industry. We provide the necessary guidance that will support individuals throughout their career journeys by offering in-depth career counselling, safety certification to enhance their employability and connect them with our construction industry partners.

Register by calling 403-441-2380 or visiting www.aacc.ca



Alberta Aboriginal Construction Career Centres



Aboriginal Scholarship & Bursary Guide

Annual Windspeaker Insert — May

Check online for complete listings at www.ammsa.com



Indspire Awards (formerly National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation)

Fine Arts: Two deadlines annually on May 1 and November 30

OFIC Bursary: For Mature Aboriginal Women with Dependant Child(ren) Residing in an Urban Setting in Ontario: Deadline May 1
Legal Studies for Aboriginal People (LSAP) PRE-LAW Bursary Award: Deadline May 15

Oil and Gas Aboriginal Trades & Technology: Two deadlines annually on May 1 and November 30

Aboriginal Health Careers: One deadline annually on June 1

Post-Secondary Education Awards: One deadline annually on June 1

Imperial Oil Aboriginal Scholarship Awards Program (Inspire)

Imperial Oil has formed a partnership with Indspire to manage its Aboriginal Scholarship Awards Program (ASAP).

The purpose of the awards program is to encourage and assist people of Aboriginal ancestry to pursue post-secondary educational studies in disciplines relevant to the petroleum industry.

Please apply on-line at Indspire's post-secondary education bursary awards program or contact Indspire at 1-800-329-9780.

Aboriginal Health Careers Program Scholarship (Inspire)

Deadline: May 1

Provides support for students who are pursuing accredited health studies leading to employment in the health professions and who have demonstrated the potential for academic success.

Eligible fields of study: medicine, nursing, dentistry, biology, chemistry, physiotherapy, pharmacy, clinical psychology, laboratory research and technology and any other health field in which a study of the hard sciences is a pre-requisite.

Aboriginal Veterans' Scholarship Trust - Canada (Inspire)

For students engaged in fields of study that support and contribute to Aboriginal self-governance and economic self-reliance. For more information check out the web site Aboriginal Veterans Scholarship Trust.

Business, Sciences and General Education Program (Inspire)

Value: Varies from \$1,000 to \$8,000
Eligibility: Aboriginal ancestry (Status, Non-Status, Métis, Inuit) attending a Canadian Community College (CEGEP) or university (first year or returning students); registered in programs such as business, health sciences, new and advanced technologies (not limited to these). Priority is given to students enrolled in business and sciences.
Deadline: June 1

Diane Fowler Leblanc Aboriginal Social Work Scholarship (Inspire)

Value: The amount of each scholarship is based on the individual needs of each candidate (tuition, course materials, living expenses, daycare, travel) up to a maximum of \$10,000 per year for three or four years, depending on the institution's course requirements.
Eligibility: The scholarship is open to all Aboriginal people, including Métis, Inuit, and Status and Non-Status Indians, interested in studying at the Bachelor of Social Work level at a recognized educational institution in Canada.

The Alberta Museology Internship (Inspire)

Value: Varies.
Two four month internships at the Provincial Museum of Alberta for Aboriginal students pursuing a career in ethnology, natural history or Canadian history.

Arts Scholarship Program (Inspire)

Deadline: March 31.
Value: Based on Budget needs. All areas related to the visual, performing, media, graphic and literary arts. Award decision based on merit of project, quality of training and financial need. Art work samples will need to be sent with application.

Petro Canada Education Awards for Native Students (Inspire)

Deadline June 15
Five education awards of up to \$5,000 are available to native students of Canadian or Inuit ancestry entering or enrolled in post-secondary programs where studies can be applied in an industrial setting in the oil and gas industry. Selection is based on financial need, academic performance and potential, appropriateness of studies to industry, and future aspirations.
Contact individual schools for application forms.

Shell Canada Aboriginal Scholarship Program (Inspire)

Preference will be given to studies in business, science and engineering.

CIBC Achievers (Inspire)

Fields of study an unlimited.

TransCanada Pipelines Leadership Awards (Inspire)

With these awards, TransCanada Pipelines is helping Aboriginal students prepare themselves to play leading roles in the fields of engineering, business and commerce, law, science and technology, environment and communications.

BP Canada Aboriginal Young Achievers Scholarship (Inspire)

Priority for these scholarships may be given to students who are pursuing careers in business, engineering, environmental studies and physical sciences.

Great-West Life Business Education Scholarship (Inspire)

This scholarship was created to help Aboriginal students from across Canada to succeed in the areas of business and entrepreneurship.

TD Bank Financial Group Scholarships (Inspire)

Through its support of the scholarship program, TD Bank Financial Group is helping to make it easier for Aboriginal students to realize their educational goals.

UGG Agricultural Scholarships (Inspire)
UGG is pleased to provide scholarships to encourage Aboriginal students from the Prairie Provinces to pursue careers in fields related to agriculture.

The CN Aboriginal Scholarships (Inspire)

These scholarships provide funding assistance to Aboriginal students from across Canada who are engaged in studies that will prepare them for careers in the transportation industry such as engineering, business, computer science, communications and technical studies.

Suncor Energy Foundation "Shared Achievements" Aboriginal Scholarships (Inspire)

These scholarships were created to assist Aboriginal students who are pursuing post-secondary education in business, teaching and science, particularly engineering, earth sciences, natural resource management, environmental studies and computer science. Preference will be given to students from Central and Northern Alberta, Northeastern and Southwestern British Columbia and the North West Territories.

3M Canada Aboriginal Health Education Awards (Inspire)

With these awards, 3M Canada is making a positive contribution to the lives of Aboriginal students who are pursuing careers in fields related to health care.

Sun Life Financial Careers in Health Awards (Inspire)

With these awards, Sun Life Financial is providing increased opportunities for Aboriginal students to receive training and education for careers in health care.

Weyerhaeuser Aboriginal Scholarship (Inspire)

Weyerhaeuser is pleased to offer scholarship assistance to Aboriginal students who are pursuing careers in business and science.
Contact individual schools for application forms.
Indspire Head Office

P.O. Box 759
2160 Fourth Line Rd.
Six Nations of the Grand River
Ohsweken, ON, N0A 1M0
Toll free: 1-800-329-9780
Phone: (416) 926-0775
Fax: (416) 926-7554
www.indspire.ca

Foundation for the Advancement of Aboriginal Youth (FAAY) - Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business

Deadline: October 15
Number of Awards: The number of awards is dependent on the sponsors of the program. In 2010 we disbursed 140 awards, 95 were scholarships and 45 were bursaries.
Award Amount: Scholarships for post-secondary applicants range from \$2,500 - \$5,000. Bursaries for high school applicants are \$750.

Eligibility Factors: Canadian residents of First Nations (Status or Non-status), Métis and Inuit Heritage attending High School or a Post-secondary Institution full-time within Canada. Mature students and adult education programs are included.

Supporting Documents Required:
1. Letter of introduction: introduce your-self, mention education goal and career plan, any challenges, any successes, contributions to family, school, community, and answer why you think staying in school is important.

2. Proof of Heritage includes: copy of Indian Status Card; copy of Métis membership card; copy of Inuit beneficiary card; parent/grandparent heritage information & documents showing your relationship to them (long-form birth certificate, baptismal records.); letter of acknowledgement from First Nation, Métis Association or Inuit Agreement Administrator.
FAAY Awards now administered by Indspire:

Indspire Head Office
P.O. Box 759
2160 Fourth Line Rd.
Six Nations of the Grand River
Ohsweken, ON, N0A 1M0
Toll free: 1-800-329-9780
Phone: (416) 926-0775
Fax: (416) 926-7554
www.indspire.ca

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Aboriginal Scholarship & Bursary Guide

Annual Windspeaker Insert — May

Check online for complete listings at www.ammsa.com

2015 Prairie Equity Scholarship

Purpose

By supporting the career development of groups currently underrepresented in the broadcast industry on the Canadian Prairies, the Jim Pattison Broadcast Group believes it can improve the industry in a number of ways.

- Aboriginal Peoples
- Persons with disabilities
- Members of visible minorities
- Women

employment of people with diverse viewpoints and backgrounds to enhance relationships with local communities

- to broaden the potential audience and advertiser base

The Scholarship

The Prairie stations of the Jim Pattison Broadcast Group will make available two \$2000.00 scholarships in 2015 to students accepted into a recognized broadcast education program at a post-secondary educational institution in Alberta, Saskatchewan or Manitoba.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet these criteria: proof of enrollment will be required before payment is finalized.)

Selection Criteria

The selection committee will award the scholarships based on the following criteria.

- Aboriginal Peoples
- Persons with disabilities
- Members of visible minorities
- Women

Applicability of the philosophy of this scholarship to the applicant's personal situation (i.e., membership in one of the underrepresented groups).

- The applicant's commitment to broadcasting
- The applicant's community involvement and activity

Application Procedure

Complete the application form, attaching your essay and recommendation letters, and mail

or e-mail all documents to:

Prairie Equity Scholarship Committee
Jim Pattison Broadcast Group – Medicine Hat Division

10 Boundary Road SE
 Redcliff, Alberta
 T0J 2P0

dsherwood@jpbg.ca

Applications must be postmarked/e-mailed by October 10, 2015.

The applications will be reviewed by the General Managers of the stations of the Jim Pattison Broadcast Group in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. A personal or phone interview may be arranged. The successful applicants will be notified by November 15, 2015.

Joe P Cardinal Bursary/Internship Award Aboriginal Multi Media Society (AMMSA)

AMMSA is pleased to offer an annual Bursary/Internship Award to an Aboriginal student to further their education in communications specializing in broadcasting and/or journalism. This Bursary is intended to assist students in the 2nd or subsequent years of a degree program in radio broadcasting or journalism.

The Bursary is named to honour Joe P. Cardinal, Elder, AMMSA Board Member and leader who believed communications was key to greater understanding between people and cultures.

Applicants MUST:

- Be First Nations, Inuit or Métis, hold permanent Canadian resident status and have in Alberta
- Be enrolled in the 2nd year (or beyond) of a Canadian post secondary Journalism or Radio & Television Arts Program or Equivalent Certified Training Program (as recognized by Alberta Learning) and be able to produce a transcript of grades from the 1st year
- Be available to participate in a 4 week internship program at AMMSA at the completion of the school year. (There is an opportunity for the internship to be extended

to a 4 month paid internship.)

Be interested in acting as an ambassador for the broadcast industry and serving as a role model for other Aboriginal people to encourage them to pursue careers in broadcasting

Guidelines:

One bursary valued at \$4,000 will be awarded

each year. This award may be applied to academic and/or living costs. An additional \$1,000 will be awarded to the student for their participation in the AMMSA Internship program.

Bursary recipients are eligible for continued scholarship awards each year they continue in the approved programs in the amount of

\$2,500 annually to a maximum of \$10,000

Application Form:

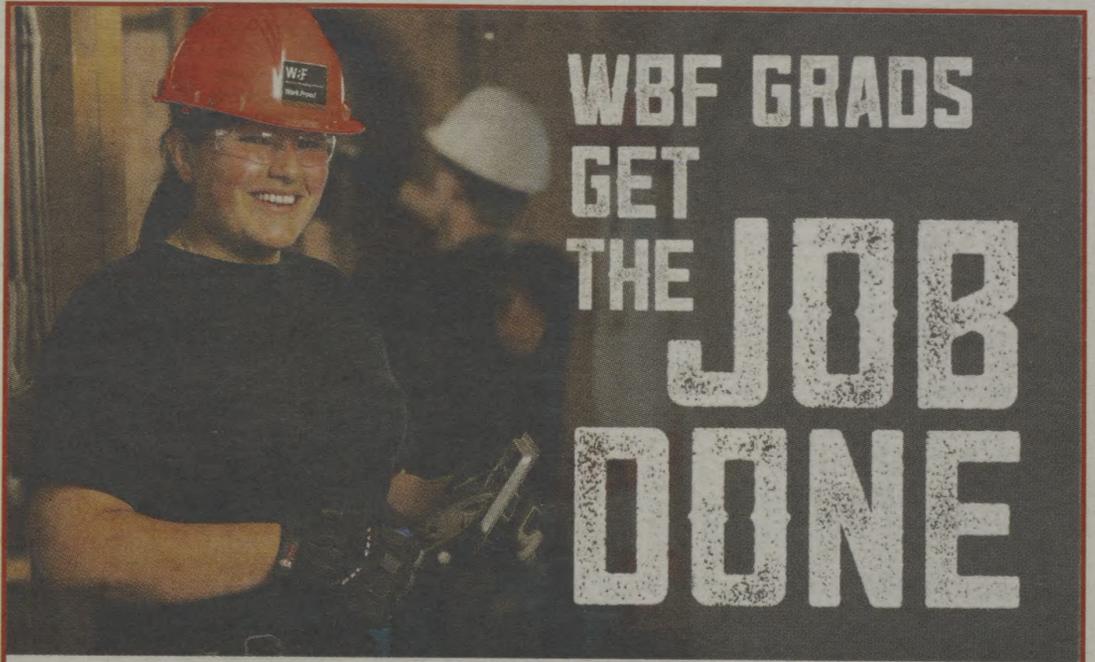
Selection Committee:

The management team of AMMSA will grade each application on the criteria outlined

Deadline for submissions: May 15, 2015

Please submit to

Carol Russ



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- » Entering any period of technical training in a Registered Apprenticeship Trade;
- » Entering certificate program of one year or less;
- » Note: The financial contribution for eligible clients may include tuition, mandatory books and supplies and income support.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

RUPERTSLAND INSTITUTE
 MÉTIS TRAINING TO EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

1-888-48-MÉTIS (1-888-486-3847)

WWW.METISEMPLOYMENT.CA



MÉTIS EDUCATION FOUNDATION
 BRIDGING THE MÉTIS EDUCATION GAP

MÉTIS SCHOLAR AWARDS



The Métis Education Foundation offers Métis Scholar Awards to Métis Students at post secondary institutions across Alberta.

For information on how to apply, or for eligibility criteria, please contact the student awards department at your post-secondary institution or contact Rupert's Island Institute at 780-801-9989

Aboriginal Scholarship & Bursary Guide

Annual Windspeaker Insert — May

Check online for complete listings at www.ammsa.com



AMMSA Bursary Selection Committee
13245 - 146 Street
Edmonton, AB T5L 4S8
Fax: 780-455-7639
Email: news@ammsa.com

Northern Alberta Development Council
Application deadline: April 30
Are you interested in living and working in northern Alberta? If so, consider applying for one of the NADC Bursaries offered each year to Alberta students. Bursaries are offered to students in a wide range of programs including education, technical programs, health, business and social services. Bursaries are valued at \$6,000, with some specialty bursaries for

certain occupations valued at \$9,000 and \$12,000. For more information visit our website at www.benorth.ca. Upon graduation, recipients live and work for one year within the Northern Alberta Development Council boundary. Applicants must be Alberta residents based on Students Finance regulations. Applicants must also be within two years of completing their program. Students receive a maximum of two bursaries.

Applications are available online: www.benorth.ca
OR:
Northern Alberta Development Council
Postal Bag 900-14
Peace River, Alberta T8S 1T4

780-624-6545 (toll-free first dial 310-0000)
Email: nadc.bursary@gov.ab.ca

The Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards
Value: \$2,000 - \$9,000
If you are a Métis residing in Alberta and need financial help to pursue your education or upgrade your skills, a Belcourt Brosseau Métis Award can help you take the next step. It will give you the opportunity to continue your education by covering a portion of your tuition costs.
Deadline: March 31
For more information call: 1-866-626-0015
Web site: www.bbma.ca

Alberta Blue Cross 50th Anniversary Scholarships for Aboriginal Students
Closing date: September 20
Value: Varies (\$375 - \$1,250 depending on institution)
Number of Awards: Three

Applicants must be Registered Indian, Inuit or Métis and must have been residents of Alberta during their previous year of study. Applicants must have just completed their final year of high school and be entering into the first year of post-secondary studies at an accredited Alberta post-secondary institution. Applicants will be evaluated based on the results as shown on their Alberta Education High School transcript. The top five courses with a minimum five credit value will be averaged to determine a percentage score. Financial need and community involvement will also be evaluated in determining the recipients of the scholarship.

Students will be ineligible if receiving more than \$3,500 in other scholarships or bursaries for the current academic year.

Field of Study: Any full time program of two or more years duration.

Accredited Institutions: Alberta College of Art & Design, Ambrose University College, Athabasca University, Augustana University College (U of A), Blue Quills First Nations College, Bow Valley College, Canadian University College, Concordia University College, Fairview College (NAIT), Grande Prairie Regional College, Keyano College, King's University College, The, Lakeland College, Lethbridge College, MacEwan College, Maskwachees Cultural College, Medicine Hat College, Mount Royal College, NAIT, NorQuest College Northern Lakes College, Olds College, Old Sun Community College, Portage College, Red Deer College, SAIT, University of Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge

Applications should be sent to:
Alberta Blue Cross
Corporate Offices
10009-108 Street NW
Edmonton AB T5J 3C5
Fax: (780) 498-8096
web site: www.ab.bluecross.ca

Andy Collins Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility Requirements
Applicant must be of Aboriginal ancestry within Zone II Métis Nation of Alberta regional boundaries
Entering a field in one of the following areas: oil and gas, music or sports
Entering or enrolled in a post-secondary educational institute
Must demonstrate a financial need
Applications Process
Fill out an application form available at the Zone II Regional Council office in Bonnyville. Attach the following with your application: Letter of Acceptance or proof of enrollment from the institute, short type-written profile on yourself and proof of Aboriginal ancestry. Applications will be accepted from January 15 of each year to July 1st. A panel will review all applications. Two letters of support must be submitted with application.

For More information:
Zone II Regional Council
Métis Nation of Alberta
Box 6497
Bonnyville, AB T9N 2H7
Phone: 780-826-7483

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. Scholarships

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. has announced that they will provide six \$1,000 cash bursaries to any qualifying MÉTIS individuals that are in their first year of Post-Secondary education.

All the applicant needs to do is go to our web site at www.apeetogosan.com to receive a copy of the details and application.

Michael Ivy, General Manager
Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc.
#302, 12308 - 111 Avenue
Edmonton AB T5M 2N4
Phone: 780-452-7951
Toll Free: 1-800-252-7963

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. Bursaries

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. is pleased to offer 6 annual bursaries of \$1,000 to qualifying Métis students wishing to further their education. The application form can be obtained by going to our website at www.apeetogosan.com.

The bursary is for qualifying first year post secondary students.

Michael Ivy, General Manager
Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc.
#302, 12308 - 111 Avenue
Edmonton AB T5M 2N4
Phone: 780-452-7951
Toll Free: 1-800-252-7963

Alberta Apprenticeship Scholarship Program

Number: 165
Value: \$1000
Alberta industry is in desperate need of skilled tradespeople. Funding for the Scholarship program was raised through an industry and government fund-matching campaign. Industry, with support from the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AAIT) Board, raised a grand total of \$1.3 million and Alberta Learning committed to match the double of industry's contributions up to \$1 million.

Complete criteria and applications will be available later this spring at www.tradesecrets.org and at local Alberta Apprenticeship Industry Training offices.

Information:
Fairview College
Financial Services Department
Toll free 1-888-999-7882, ext.654
E-mail: sbough@fairviewcollege.com

This is only a partial listing of the funding currently available to Indigenous students. There are many more listings posted online at www.ammsa.com.

This online list is updated throughout the year as new information becomes available. To add/update scholarship information from your school or organization please forward the information via email to us at: market@ammsa.com

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INDIGENOUS EDUCATION AWARDS PROGRAM

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ATCO Pipelines is offering awards, bursaries and scholarships to Indigenous students from Alberta demonstrating leadership and commitment to further development.

ATCO Pipelines is committed to supporting the development of young leaders in the communities where we own pipelines and facilities.

Deadline to apply is August 1



Find out how to apply: ATCOPipelines.com/indigenousawards

For more information, please contact ATCO Pipelines Corporate Communications at 403.245.7300

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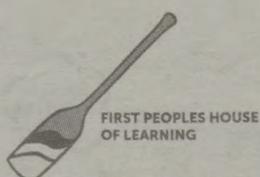


TRENT UNIVERSITY FIRST PEOPLES HOUSE OF LEARNING

Applications are still being accepted.

Please visit our website to find out what services, supports and cultural programming First Peoples House of Learning offers.

For those who have followed a non-traditional academic path, we also offer a pathway to university studies, titled the "Foundations of Indigenous Learning" diploma. For more information, go to www.trentu.ca/fphl



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Raven's Eye: Special Section providing news from BC & Yukon

A team of scientists with Simon Fraser University has

discovered that ancient coastal Indigenous people were more than hunter-gatherers. Archaeologist Dana Lepofsky and 10 collaborators have discovered that Northwest Coast Indigenous people didn't only make their living just by gathering the ocean's bounty. Rather, from Alaska to Washington, they cultivated productive clam gardens to ensure abundant and sustainable harvests.

The team isolated ways to date the stone terraces that created clam beaches. Many thousands of years ago, people built gardens on bedrock, creating clam habitats where there was none before. The research challenges the notion that First Nations were living in wild, untended environments.

"We think that many Indigenous peoples worldwide had some kind of sophisticated marine management, but the Pacific Northwest is likely one of the few places in the world where this can be documented," said Lepofsky. "This is because our foreshores are more intact than elsewhere and we can work closely with Indigenous knowledge holders."

Lepofsky's team is comparing

clam garden productivity to that of modern aquaculture and assessing whether the shell-rich beaches of clam gardens help buffer against increasing ocean acidification.

The team will also build experimental clam gardens, applying many of the traditional cultivation techniques learned from First Nations collaborators as a means of increasing food production and food security today.

The Heiltsuk First Nation stood together in April to protect

the herring stocks in their territory by occupying the offices of Fisheries and Oceans Canada until a planned gillnet fishery was canceled.

The Assembly of First Nations commended the Heiltsuk for their commitment to a peaceful and cooperative resolution of issues related to their traditional fishery. "I want to lift up the Heiltsuk First Nation for taking a clear, firm stand for their inherent rights," said National Chief Perry Bellegarde.

"The Heiltsuk First Nation repeatedly raised legitimate concerns about conserving and preserving this traditional resource that has sustained them for generations. That is their right

and, more than that, First Nations see it as our responsibility. The federal government now needs to work with the Heiltsuk First Nation to resolve this issue based on good faith and respect for First Nations rights and traditional knowledge."

The Heiltsuk First Nation, the Haida, and the Nuuchahnulth Nations had all expressed concerns to DFO about the sustainability of the herring stock in their territories. DFO claimed that the roe herring stock was large enough to support a commercial fishery.

The Nuuchahnulth lost a bid for an injunction against the fishery this year, and DFO opened their territory to a seine fishery, which came up empty for fishermen. The commercial boats then moved on to the central coast, targeting an area that the Heiltsuk said was a no-go zone, so the Heiltsuk took action.

"First Nations throughout BC today herald Heiltsuk First Nation for their persistence in asserting their inherent Aboriginal rights to manage fisheries in their traditional territories," said BC Assembly of First Nations spokesperson Chief Maureen Chapman.

"The Heiltsuk have acted based on traditional knowledge

of their territories and with the objective of ensuring the fishery and their way of life is protected for future generations. The events and final outcome with the closing of the commercial herring roe fishery highlight the need for DFO to commit to developing collaborative management and decision-making processes and practices with First Nations for science, monitoring and stock management into the future."

Plateau Pipe Line Ltd. has applied to the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office to waive

the environmental assessment certificate on a 160-kilometre pipeline that would carry condensate and natural gas liquids to a terminal in Taylor. If it proves the pipeline "will not have significant adverse environmental, economic, social, heritage or health effects," or that those effects can be minimized, the company can be granted an exemption, though it would still be required to consult with First Nations, residents and local governments. The company has argued that the environmental footprint of the pipeline will be minimal with 80 per cent of the route cleared previously for farming, roads, transmission

lines or other pipelines. Around 300 hectares of land would still need to be cleared, however.

The Saik'uz First Nation and Innergex Renewable Energy Inc. have announced

the signing of an agreement to jointly develop a wind energy project at Nulki Hills near Vanderhoof, B.C.

In a 50-50 partnership they will develop up to 210 MW of clean renewable power. The project is currently undergoing a BC Environmental Assessment. The partners have agreed to work together to obtain an Environmental Assessment Certificate from the province and an electricity purchase agreement from BC Hydro for the project.

"We have had a very positive relationship with Innergex to date and we are extremely pleased to enter into a partnership with them," said Saik'uz First Nations Chief Stanley Thomas. "We are excited about the new opportunities the Nulki Hills project will bring for our community, and we are confident that they will take place in a manner that is respectful of the environment, our culture and our constitutional Aboriginal rights, titles and interest."



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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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GD511-255

Alberta Sweetgrass: Special Section providing news from Alberta

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Concession / Vendors on Site
For more info email: florencemc@metischild.com or call : (780) 452-6100 ext 227

Canadian Country Music Legends - Friday May 15th, 2015 - 7:30 PM

Admission: \$35.00  Advance Tickets: \$30.00

Street drug forces state of emergency on Blood reserve

The Blood Tribe called a state of emergency in early March in response to at least 10 deaths on the First Nation over the last six months. Deaths have been linked to the street drug Oxy 80, or fake Oxycodone. The pill contains fentanyl — a potent opioid -based pain killer that has a high risk of overdose. It's believed organized crime groups are pushing Oxy 80 in the area. As a result, the Blood Tribe Police Service added a new Crime Reduction Unit with two dedicated officers. The BTPS also started an Oxy 80 tip line for citizens wanting to provide information. As a result, a number of charges have been laid since Christmas time. Chief Charles Weasel Head and council passed a resolution on March 6 declaring a local state of emergency to draw attention to the situation and bring more services and support to the community. Band council discussed next steps with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency and the First Nations Inuit and Health Branch.

education; continue funding for training and work experience for Métis and Inuit women and support for entrepreneurs; assist with development of a Métis Women's Social Enterprise Cooperative to promote, protect and sell authentic Métis arts and crafts; develop a user-friendly portal to programs and services; and continue to promote campaigns that take a stand against violence towards Aboriginal women. The councils were established in 2013 to provide advice to the government. In related economic assistance, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada has given \$200,000, as part of a larger project, to the Alberta Women's Entrepreneurs. Federal funding of \$1.2 million will assist AWE in working with emerging women entrepreneurs, including Aboriginal women, to build leadership skills and business capacity.

Emergency management services agreement extended

The provincial and federal governments have agreed to a 10-year extension to a deal to provide emergency management services to Alberta's First Nations. With Ottawa putting \$14.6 million toward the agreement, the number of First Nations field officers in the program will double to four, plus a manager, and they will get new responsibilities for on-site training. Through this agreement with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency, First Nations will receive on-reserve support in four areas of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. This includes provincial presence, if required, during emergency events on-reserve.

2015 provincial budget includes Aboriginal funding

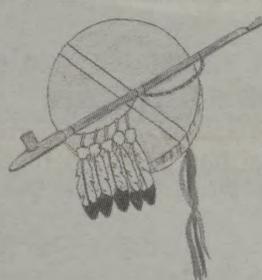
"Families and communities are the heart of Alberta. This budget makes supporting working families and those in need a priority. It invests in communities and supports culture and recreation, and helps Aboriginal people and communities participate in Alberta's economy," said Premier Jim Prentice, who also serves as minister of Aboriginal relations. In the 2015 budget, funding has been maintained for Alberta Native friendship centres; \$42 million has been slotted for First Nations and Métis economic and social development; \$15.8 million for the Aboriginal Consultation Office; and \$128 million to go to the First Nations Development Fund, down \$10 million due to lower proceeds from government-owned slot machines in First Nations casinos.

Poor NSD school attendance focus of Auditor General

Low student attendance in the Northland School Division was singled out as an area of concern in the *Report of the Auditor General of Alberta—March 2015*. Auditor General Merwan Saher has recommended that Alberta Education exercise oversight of NSD's plans to improve student attendance. "In our view, oversight is the key to not failing another generation of the division's children," said Saher. Premier Jim Prentice, who also serves as Aboriginal relations minister, agreed that attendance was an area of concern. "We cannot properly educate our children if they are not in the school room. We have work to do, we need to bear down on the problem of student absenteeism. ... The children who are most at risk are the children who are not at school receiving the educational opportunities we all want for our children," said Prentice.

Government accepts recommendations from Aboriginal women's councils

The province has accepted all the recommendations put forward by the First Nations and Métis women's councils on economic security to improve the lives of Aboriginal women in Alberta. In response to the recommendations, the province will review the accountability for Aboriginal education funding to promote the need for setting local targets for achievement of outcomes of First Nation students and reporting on those outcomes; develop a parent toolkit to help parents take a greater role in their children's



NORTH PEACE TRIBAL COUNCIL

Box 1889
High Level, Alberta T0H 1Z0
Phone: (780) 926-3446 Fax: (780) 926-4075

CASEWORKERS

The NPTC Child and Family Services are recruiting two Caseworkers at the administration office in High Level, AB. The Caseworkers are responsible for the ongoing assessment of children, youth and families, case planning and provision of/or management of, services and interventions to meet the child's/youth's/ family's unmet needs within the specified timeframes. The Caseworkers engages families, helps them understand their situation, and works with them to address issues causing the child to be in need of intervention.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provide services to children and families through case planning and management to help meet the client's needs;
- Establish and maintain effective working rapport/relationships with community and agency resources;
- Coordinate and facilitate case conferences with clients;
- Have strong interviewing skills, problem solving and conflict resolution skills;
- Be an effective communicator, both orally and in writing;
- Willing to be on-call after hours including weekends;
- Understanding and working knowledge of Case Work Practice Model.

Qualifications: Diploma in Social Work, Bachelor of Social Work or Master of Social Work plus some directly related experience working with children and families. Candidates will be expected to be registered with the Alberta College of Registered Social Workers or obtain registration within six months of employment.

Additional Requirements:

- Provide a clear Criminal Record and CYIM checks
- Provide a valid Driver's License
- Knowledge of languages and cultures of the NPTC member First Nations will be a definite asset
- Candidates must be prepared to travel to local communities.

Submit your resume with three references to:

North Peace Tribal Council
Human Resources Manager
Box 1889
High Level, AB T0H 1Z0
Email: Doreen.Apannah@nptc.ca or
Fax: (780) 926-4075

Competition will remain open until suitable candidates are found.

Saskatchewan Sage: Special Section providing news from Saskatchewan



College provides reading material for resource centre

PHOTO: PARKLAND COLLEGE

(From left) Yorkton Family Resource Centre representative Kim Gelowitz and Parkland College's essential skills regional facilitator Kim Kyle-Zwirsky, along with students Lucille Lerat, Cynthia Shingoose and Jackie Gambler, look on as Delphine Shingoose displayed the contents of one of the book bags. The book bags project originated as an assignment in the college's Workplace Essential Skills program. Students were assigned a social project in which they identified a need in the community and tried to address it. Since reading and literacy are vital to all Essential Skills programs, the students chose to put together the book bags. They created four book bags for children under three years of age, four for ages 4 to 7, and another four for ages 7 and up.

Inquest into Bonneau's death

The coroner's inquest into the death of Lee Bonneau, 6, heard from 32 witnesses over two weeks in April in Regina. On Aug. 21, 2013, Lee was lured away by a 10-year-old boy and struck by a blunt object. He died in hospital the next day. Lee was visiting the Kahkewistahaw First Nation and waiting for his foster mother who was playing bingo at the recreation hall. Social Services had apprehended Lee and put him in foster care two and a half months before. The 10-year-old boy was known to social services and RCMP. Because of his age, he cannot be named, and because he is under 12, he could not be charged under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.† In his report, Saskatchewan's child advocate Bob Pringle concluded, "The lives of these boys intersected in a tragic way and we have much to learn from their experiences." The role of a coroner's jury is not to assess blame. Rather, the six jurors — chosen deliberately in this instance to include those who are Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in keeping with unique provisions in the Coroners Act — are to determine the who, when, where and how of Lee's death.

Deal with India to impact Aboriginal employees

Upon his visit to Canada in mid-April, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi signed an agreement valued at hundreds of millions dollars to buy uranium from Saskatchewan. India has entered into a contract with Cameco Corp. to purchase more than 3,000 tonnes of uranium to fuel India's power reactors. "For an employer of 4,000 people in the province—45 per cent of them First Nations and Metis—it's a great day for Saskatchewan," said Premier Brad Wall, who was in Toronto for the signing.

Anti-pipeline tour hits Saskatchewan

The Council of Canadians was in Saskatchewan mid-April as part of a speaking tour in opposition to the multi-billion-dollar Energy East pipeline project. TransCanada proposes repurposing a 43-year-old existing pipeline across the southern Prairies and Ontario to carry oil, rather than natural gas, to the Irving Oil refinery at Saint John, N.B. "The purpose of the tour is to provide some information about the project, specifically about the risk that we see of a pipeline spill," said Andrea

Harden -Donahue, an energy and climate justice campaigner with the Ottawa-based council. The council says the proposed development would encourage expansion of northern Alberta's tarsands and threaten waterways in its path. Speakers on the tour included Maude Barlow, national chairperson of the Council of Canadians, Ben Gotschall, energy director for Bold Nebraska, a ranchers' group that has opposed the Keystone XL pipeline in the Midwestern U.S., and Melissa Daniels, Dene lawyer and a representative from the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, who will speak on tarsands expansion, plus First Nations treaty and Indigenous rights. The tour stopped in Regina, Swift Current and Moose Jaw.

More needs to be done for Aboriginal joblessness

University of Saskatchewan professor Eric Howe says the province is losing its battle against Aboriginal joblessness. According to recently released figures, Saskatchewan's unemployment rate dropped to 4.4 per cent in March, the lowest in Canada. However, the numbers for First Nations

and Metis people, after years of gradual improvement, have stagnated in recent years. Metis unemployment levels hover in the 10 per cent range in Saskatchewan, with First Nations at roughly 15 per cent. More than 18,000 First Nation adults in the province remain on welfare, the same level as five years ago. Howe notes that some initiatives, including an Aboriginal education employment strategy the provincial government committed to in 2011; a database launched in March linking First Nations workers and contractors with educational institutions, government programs and large companies; and work programs undertaken by First Nations such as the Whitecap Dakota Nation and Lac la Ronge Indian Band, are all laudable, but more is needed. In 2013, Howe authored a study that stated Saskatchewan stood to lose \$6.7 billion in gross domestic product if First Nations education and employment rates continued to stagnate. Howe said the proportion of Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan will increase dramatically in the coming decades, so the situation will become more urgent.

Court agrees no need to consult at this juncture

The Saskatchewan Court of Appeal has upheld a ruling against the Buffalo River Dene Nation, which wants to halt oilsands exploration on its traditional territory. Last year a Court of Queen's Bench judge ruled against the Buffalo River Dene Nation's challenge of exploration permits issued to Scott Land and Lease. The First Nation argued the permits were a violation of treaty rights and the duty to consult was ignored. The judge ruled there was no duty to consult for exploration permits. The Buffalo River Dene filed an appeal. In April, Justice J. A. Caldwell dismissed the court action, ruling, "Buffalo River Dene Nation's assertion that the Crown's duty to consult has been triggered here, chiefly because of the possibility of impact on the rights of its members under Treaty 10, amounts to no more than speculation at this juncture." The province has said the permits grant the company exclusive rights for exploration, but do not permit access to land or excavation.

Compiled by Shari Narine

Manitoba Pipestone: Special Section providing news from Manitoba

Agreement with Red Cross stop-measure gap

In anticipation of the upcoming flood season and to ensure that First Nations receive emergency management services, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada has entered into a one-year agreement with the Canadian Red Cross Winnipeg. The agreement with the Red Cross is a temporary measure as the federal government and the province have yet to conclude negotiations for a bilateral agreement that would provide \$19 million annually for emergency preparedness. In November 2013, the federal government announced measures to strengthen emergency management on reserves through a new, comprehensive single-window approach to emergency financial arrangements. The agreement with the Red Cross will ensure that First Nations have support for any potential 2015 evacuations, covering evacuations from their communities to secure locations, as well as food,

shelter and related services due to flood, fire and other circumstances.

Red River to be dragged again

A group of volunteers plan to dredge the Red River again this year, hoping to find anything that will bring closure to the families of missing and murdered Aboriginal women. This time the operation will be more sophisticated, said Bernadette Smith, who spearheaded the search last year after the body of 15-year-old Tina Fontaine was found in the river wrapped in a bag. The dragging bars are better made, Smith has bought her own boat, and fundraising is underway for another boat and rain gear. Last year, volunteers went out on boats with hooks that combed the bottom of the river, hoping to dig up clues about women who have vanished. The group wants Winnipeg police to be actively involved, but the police say they will only monitor the volunteers "from a safety standpoint." Smith's sister Claudette Osborne went missing seven years ago.

Urban Aboriginal Strategy funds 15 organizations

Fifteen organizations in Manitoba are recipients of \$2.3 million in funding through the Urban Partnerships program. The successful organizations were selected through an adjudicated call for proposals process that was administered by the Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres. Initiatives that increase the participation of urban Aboriginal people in the economy is the focus of the funding.

Indigenous learning part of undergraduate degree at U of W

The University of Winnipeg senate has approved in principle a motion that will make Indigenous learning part of the undergraduate degree requirements for all its students. It could potentially come into effect in fall of 2016. The Aboriginal Students Council and the university's students' association began pushing for the requirement earlier this year. Rorie McLeod Arnould, of the students'

association, says the hope is to develop "mutual respect and understanding." University President Annette Trimbee calls it "an important step on the path to a better, more understanding, and inclusive society."

Pilot project to increase flood protection

Peguis First Nation, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and the Interlake Reserve Tribal Council have created the First Nations Emergency Operations Centre as a pilot project. The centre will be implemented in three phases, with \$5 million in funding provided by Aboriginal Affairs Canada and Public Safety Canada for flood equipment and training. The main purpose of this initiative is to increase the level of flood protection of First Nations to one comparable with non-Aboriginal communities in Manitoba. The First Nations Emergency Operations Centre will also be responsible for addressing all types of natural or manmade disasters.

Largest school infrastructure procurement

The Bunibonabee Cree Nation, God's Lake First Nation, Manto Sipi Cree Nation and Wasagamack First Nation are part of a partnership with the federal government to support investments to construct or renovate on-reserve schools. Bernard Valcourt, federal minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, said this is the largest school infrastructure bundle to be undertaken by his department. By centralizing project management and bundling procurement, the partnership will allow for more effective and efficient construction and renovation of schools, such as allowing for a reduction to shipping and materials costs. "I am very pleased to be part of a project that brings much needed educational facilities into our communities. It is definitely a good day when a project on paper becomes a reality," said Chief Gilbert Andrews of the God's Lake First Nation.

Compiled by Shari Narine

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Ontario Birchbark: Special Section providing news from Ontario



PHOTO: ONTARIO NATIVE EDUCATION COUNSELLING ASSOCIATION

Campaign for First Nations war hero

Ontario Native Education Counselling Association executive director Roxane Manitowabi and president Roger Chum display some of the gifts that will be offered in thanks for donations at various levels as they raise \$85,000 to help honour Francis

Pegahmagabow.

Pegahmagabow, from Wasauksing First Nation, is the most highly-decorated First Nations soldier of the Great War. ONECA leads a committee dedicated to creating the first life-sized bronze sculpture to be created by Tyler Fauvelle, a professional sculptor based in Sudbury. The sculpture, to be

unveiled June 2016, will be installed at the Charles W. Stockey Centre for the Performing Arts in Parry Sound. Inspired by this initiative, the Broadcasting-Television and Video Program at Canadore College, North Bay, is working with one of its First Nations students to produce a video about Francis Pegahmagabow

and military contributions made by Canada's First People.

Kina Gbezhgomi services designated children's aid society

Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services has been designated as Ontario's newest children's aid society. This designation will result in KGCFS assuming child protection services for seven First Nation communities in the Manitoulin area. For the past 20 years KGCFS focused on providing prevention supports and services to First Nations children and families, with protection services provided by the Children's Aid Society of the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin. As part of the designation process there is a transition phase that focuses on mentorship and capacity building before the transfer of jurisdiction for child protection services from one society to the next. "This is a historical milestone for our member First Nations and agency. KGCFS will continue to honour and support our families' and communities' inherent authority to care for our children based on unity, traditions, values, beliefs and customs. The services within the integrated community model of protection and prevention services will ensure that children are protected and stay connected with their culture, language and community while strengthening family and community relationship," said Denise Morrow, executive director of KGCFS.

minimizing the rate of unemployment and poverty and the significant lack of opportunities within our First Nations," said Marten Falls First Nation Interim Chief Bruce Achneepineskum in a news release.

Board meetings begin with acknowledgement of territory

Peel District School Board trustees approved a motion to start meetings with the statement: "We would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. Mississauga Wards 6 and 11 Trustee Robert Crocker brought the motion forward. Crocker is a former history teacher who always made a concerted effort to make First Nations history a part of his lesson plans. When he became a trustee last fall, Crocker was appointed the board's representative to the First Nation, MĒtis and Inuit Circle. "I knew that the (Aboriginal) community would appreciate the verbal acknowledgement, and knew as well that it has become increasingly commonly used at political gatherings and union meetings," Crocker said.

MOU recognizes lengthy partnership

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Trent University, Confederation College and First Nations Technical Institute acknowledging a unique relationship in Ontario. The MOU recognizes the ongoing partnership, which creates pathways for Aboriginal learners across the three institutions. "All three partners deliver Indigenous Studies programming that is well established, innovative and recognized for academic leadership. This initiative provides greater alignment for Aboriginal learners transitioning from a First Nations institute to a northern college to a university. Trent University was the first university in Canada, and only the second in North America, to establish an academic department dedicated to the study of Aboriginal peoples. The First Nations Technical Institute was the first established facility among Aboriginal institutions.

Compiled by Shari Narine

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Sports Briefs

Compiled by Sam Laskaris

Saskatchewan Teams Hoping To Defend Titles

Both of the squads considered THE teams to beat at this year's National Aboriginal Hockey Championships are from Saskatchewan. But that's only because rankings for this year's tournament, which began April 2 in Halifax, are based solely on the results from the 2014 NAHC.

Saskatchewan clubs won both the girls' and boys' division at last year's tournament, which was held in Kahnawake, Que.

As a result, both of the Saskatchewan entries are seeded Number 1 at this year's event, which continues until May 2. Both categories at the upcoming nationals will feature eight entrants.

In the girls' division, Ontario and the Quebec-based club dubbed Eastern Door and the North (EDN), are seeded second and third, respectively. Meanwhile, in the boys' category, British Columbia is ranked second, while Alberta is seeded third.

Both the female and male groupings will feature the same eight entries. Also taking part will be squads from Manitoba, Team North (Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories) and Team Atlantic (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, as well as Newfoundland and Labrador).

All squads will play three round-robin contests. Then all teams will be reseeded based on these results, prior to their quarter-final games.

Both of the championship finals, as well as the two bronze-medal matches, will be held at the Scotiabank Centre. This facility, which can accommodate about 12,000 spectators, is also the home of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League's Halifax Mooseheads.

All of the other NAHC matches will be staged at the BMO Centre in the neighbouring community of Bedford. This marks the 14th consecutive year the NAHC has been held. The inaugural event was held in Akwesasne, Ont.

The tournament, which has been staged in various locations across the country since then, primarily features Bantam and Midget players. A few overagers, however, are allowed in the girls' division.

Cree Defenceman Competing At Worlds

Ethan Bear and his Seattle Thunderbirds' teammates were knocked out in the opening round of this year's Western Hockey League playoffs.

But for Bear, a 17-year-old Cree defenceman from Saskatchewan's Ochapowace First Nation, this defeat did not signify the end of his hockey season.

That's because following the Thunderbirds' defeat, Bear was chosen to represent Canada at the world boys' under-18 tournament being held in Switzerland. The 10-nation world tournament was staged April 16 to April 26.

Bear scored once in Canada's opening match, a 11-6 triumph over Latvia. Others who took part at the world tourney were Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, United States and host Switzerland.

Bear, a 5-foot-11, 200-pounder who is coming off a stellar sophomore season with the Thunderbirds, is expected to get some more good news this summer.

He is expected to be selected in the National Hockey League's Entry Draft, scheduled for June 26 and June 27 in Florida.

Bear was listed as the 97th best North American skating prospect (goalies and international players have separate lists) in the final Central Scouting rankings, which were released earlier this month.

A total of 210 players will be chosen in this year's seven-round draft. Bear is projected to be selected anywhere from the fifth to the seventh round. During his 2014-15 season with his Seattle club, Bear doubled his point production from his rookie campaign. He collected 38 points, including 13 goals in 69 regular season matches. A year ago he had 19 points in 58 contests.

As for the playoffs this year, Bear and his teammates managed to take a 2-1 lead over the Portland Winterhawks in their opening best-of-seven series. But Portland won the next three outings to capture the series 4-2. Bear had three points (one goal, two assists) in the series.

Indigenous World Series

Indigenous youth from across North America will be heading to the World Series later this year. Their own World Series, that is.

Officials in Lethbridge, Alta. are planning to stage the inaugural Indigenous Baseball World Series this summer. The event, scheduled to run Aug. 24 to Aug. 29, would feature an Under-12 division, as well as a high school category.

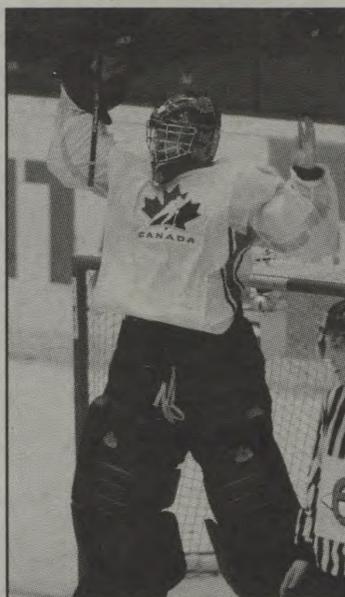
Communities from Indigenous communities from the continent are being encouraged to send clubs to the tournament. Organizers are hoping to attract a maximum 16 teams in each division. All teams would be guaranteed a minimum of five games.

Some of the matches for the high school division will be staged at Spitz Stadium. This facility is the home of the Lethbridge Bulls, a collegiate summer squad that competes in the Western Major Baseball League.

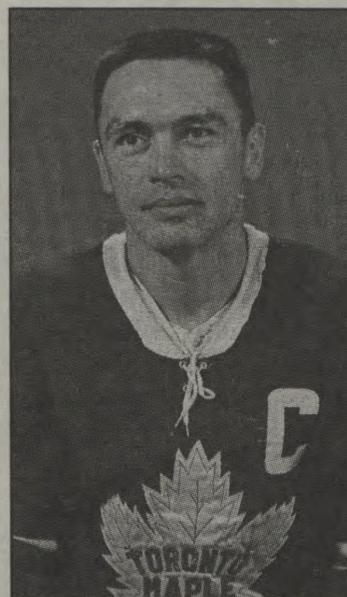
The 11-team WMBL features franchises in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Price favored for MVP and top goalie honors

[sports]



Carey Price



George Armstrong



Reggie Leach



Brian Trottier

By Sam Laskaris
Windspeaker Contributor

MONTREAL

The legend of Carey Price continues to grow.

The 27-year-old goalie, a member of British Columbia's Ulkatcho First Nation, had a spectacular regular season with the National Hockey League's Montreal Canadiens.

Price's regular season performances are expected to earn him a pair of prestigious awards. He is favored to not only win the league's top goalie award, but also be chosen as the NHL's most valuable player.

The winners will be announced at this year's NHL awards ceremony, scheduled for June 24 in Las Vegas.

Price, who is in his eighth NHL campaign, statistically at least, had his best season. He registered a career high 44 wins, surpassing the 38 victories he had earned during the 2010-11 season.†

He also racked up nine shutouts this year. His previous high, also during the 2010-11 campaign, was eight.

And for the first time in his pro career, Price posted a goals-against average below 2.00. He appeared in 66 matches and had a 1.98 GAA.

The fact Price is being mentioned as the NHL's top

goalie—and possibly even the best player in the league—should not come as a huge surprise.

The hockey world has been raving about his abilities for well over a decade now. The Montreal Canadiens' brass has been expecting big things out of Price ever since they selected him in the first round, fifth over-all, at the 2005 NHL Entry Draft.

Price has continued to rack up his share of accolades since then.

For starters, he capped off his junior career with the Western Hockey League's Tri-City Americans during the 2006-07 season. He was named as the WHL's top goalie that year.

During his fourth and final season with the Washington-based Americans, Price also suited up for the Canadian national junior team. He backstopped Canada to a gold medal at the 2007 World Junior Championships and was selected as the tournament MVP of the event, held in Sweden.

Upon the conclusion of his Tri-City season, Price joined the Canadiens' American Hockey League affiliate Hamilton Bulldogs and had immediate success.

He led the Bulldogs to the AHL championship that spring and was named as the playoff MVP.

Price's legacy with the Canadiens has only continued to grow in recent years. Another

career highlight for him occurred last year when he led Canada to a gold medal in the men's hockey tournament at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

As of mid-April, Price was still shining this season. He was hoping to lead the Canadiens to a lengthy playoff run.

While he is a favorite to win the NHL's best goalie and MVP awards this season, it is debatable whether Price is indeed the best Native player in the league's history.†

Others who would be in the running for such an honor include George Armstrong, Bryan Trottier and Reggie Leach.

Armstrong, who has Ojibwe ancestry, is considered one of the greatest Toronto Maple Leafs of all time.

He spent his entire 20-year NHL career with the Maple Leafs.

Armstrong appeared in 1,298 NHL matches, earning 773 points. He also helped Toronto win Stanley Cup championships in 1962, '63, '64 and '67.

Armstrong, who was nicknamed Chief, also served as the captain of the Maple Leafs for 13 seasons.

Armstrong, who is now 84, was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1975.

Like Armstrong, Trottier, who is Metis, was inducted into the hall of fame in 1997, following an illustrious playing career.

Trottier played 15 seasons with the New York Islanders and three more with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

He won the Stanley Cup four straight years with the Islanders (1980-83) and twice more with the Penguins, back-to-back titles in '91 and '92.

Trottier also won the Stanley Cup once more, as an assistant coach with the Colorado Avalanche in 2001.

As for Leach, who is Ojibwe, he was once considered among the NHL's top forwards. He played 13 seasons in the league, suiting up for the Boston Bruins, California Golden Seals, Philadelphia Flyers and Detroit Red Wings.

Leach, who hails from Riverton, Man., was nicknamed the Riverton Rifle for his deadly shot. He had a career high 61 goals during the 1975-76 season with the Flyers.

Leach helped the Flyers capture the Stanley Cup in '75. Though he was also named as the playoff MVP the following year, Leach and his teammates lost the league final to Montreal.

During his NHL career Leach appeared in 1,028 games and had 735 points.

Who do you consider the best Native player ever in the NHL?

Go to www.ammsa.com to vote for Carey Price, George Armstrong, Bryan Trottier or Reggie Leach.

[health]

Traditional healer says it comes down to unresolved emotional issues

By Darlene Charpko
Windspeaker Writer

CALGARY

While traditional healing has always been a key part of Aboriginal culture, Camille Pablo Russell believes it is becoming more widely accepted by Western medicine.

"It has always been there, but not at the level it is now accepted by Western medicine, and it has given the Aboriginal population the access to use it and in the past it wasn't there for them unless they went to reservations," said Russell, who was born on the Blood Reserve.

Russell has written *The Path of the Buffalo Medicine Wheel*, a transcription of the contents of his lectures and workshops. He works days as a spiritual counselor at the Elbow River Healing Lodge, a unique health care facility dedicated to Aboriginal people, that focusses on the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual approach to health care. Evenings, Russell works as Native coordinator at the Calgary Remand Centre.

Usually, Russell's clients are referred to the Elbow River Healing Lodge by a doctor for help with spiritual or emotional matters.

"They explain what they are going through and how they are feeling," said Russell. "I decide how I can assist with what they need and smudge. Through the smudge I get messages as to how to help them individually and do a prayer."

Russell gives herbs and instructions how to use them, offering spiritual support. He recommends herbs such as sage, sweetgrass, yarrow, rosehip roots that come from nature as an alternative or with medication to enhance well-being.

"I never give herbs that will contradict medication that was given by doctors," said Russell.

There is a protocol to picking the herbs which involves ceremony and prayer. "I ask permission to pick with positive thoughts and prayers," he said.



PHOTO: JANNIE NIKOLA

Camille Pablo Russell works traditional healing with modern medicine.

Given permission from his teachers to practice traditional medicine, Russell studied under them for 13 years. "You have to have the proper rights and education. If you don't, the herbs will react to some medications."

Whether healers are from Africa, South America, or Australia, they always seem to have the same way of healing, using different herbs, said Russell, who for several years now, has won the representation of Canada at an International Healers Congress in Munich.

"The system is the same," he said. "Traditional healing is holistic. The spiritual, mental, emotional and physical are all connected. If they are not working properly, they will affect each other and result in a physical problem. If the problem is not traced back to its roots,

which are usually emotional, it will come back." Often origins are traced to stress, death and unresolved family issues.

Following his own vision quests, Russell spent 18 years in Europe before he came back home to help his people in a variety of roles including support worker for the Indian Residential School, an IRS Elder, and an IRS support worker with Treaty 7 Management Corporation.

"All healing, all thanks goes to the Creator. He doctors," said Russell.

Russell has received much recognition for his work, including a commendation from the government for helping 32,000 people in one year. He is also a recipient of the City of Calgary's Chief David Crowchild Memorial Award.

Health Watch

Compiled by Shari Narine



PHOTO: FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT CANADA

Cultural ways to deal with mental health examined

Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment, Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency and Minister for the Arctic Council, delivered opening remarks at the Circumpolar Mental Wellness Symposium in Iqaluit on March 25. "This is an issue that affects the entire circumpolar North," said Aglukkaq. Delegates spent three days identifying best practices to support mental wellness to be integrated into Indigenous communities while respecting cultures and traditional knowledge.

Enhanced funding to fight prescription drug abuse

The federal government has enhanced access to addictions supports for prescription drug abuse for First Nations living on-reserve across the country. Prescription drug abuse is a significant public health and safety concern. Drugs like opioids, sedative-hypnotics and stimulants are legal and have proven therapeutic benefits, but they also have a high potential for harms such as addiction, withdrawal, injury, and death. Health Canada is investing \$13.5 million over five years to enhance prevention and treatment capacity for prescription drug abuse within First Nations communities across Canada in keeping with Health Canada's *Honouring our Strengths: A Renewed Framework to Address Substance Use Issues Among First Nations People in Canada*. Health Minister Rona Ambrose has met with several First Nations to discuss working together to find culturally appropriate solutions.

Correlation between continued abuse, residential schools

The Cedar Project, a nationwide survey, is the first study of its kind in Canada to show a statistical connection between continued abuse and residential schools. The Cedar Project interviewed 259 women, ages 14 to 30, every six months over seven years. The women were recruited through health-care providers and street contacts in Vancouver and Prince George. The report says they were "nearly 10 times more likely to be sexually assaulted later in life if they had a history of childhood sexual abuse." It said the women were also at a high risk if at least one of their parents had spent time at a residential school. Researchers from the University of British Columbia's School of Population and Public Health and the Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences tabulated the information. BC is the province with the highest number of residential schools, at 22.

NAN, NDP recommend changes to Nutrition North program

The NDP is proposing changes to the Nutrition North program. Changes would see incorporating 50 isolated, fly-in northern communities that are not eligible for a full subsidy under current Nutrition North provisions. A recent Auditor General report found that the program had minimal impact on food cost and lacked transparency or accountability. The NDP is also proposing a comprehensive review of the program with Northerners as full partners; creating equitable program eligibility criteria for Northern communities based on their real circumstances; and working with all Northerners to develop a sustainable solution to food insecurity. Nishnawbe Aski Nation is in full support of the NDP proposed changes, noting that at present only eight of NAN's 32 remote communities receive the full subsidy and seven receive a partial five-cent per kilogram subsidy. NAN has provided recommendations to the Auditor General, the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board and the federal government on ways to improve this program. "Any restructuring of this program must be First Nation-led with active participation at the community level if it is ever to be successful in delivering this much-needed assistance," said NAN Deputy Grand Chief Goyce Kakegamic in a statement.

Latest version of RHS rolled out

Phase 3 of the First Nations Regional Health Survey began its official roll out April 1 in 250 First Nations communities. The landmark survey was established in 1997 as a means of collecting information about the living conditions of First Nations people on reserve and northern communities across Canada. "Data collected from the previous RHS surveys has influenced and informed program and policy development in a number of health programs," said Addie Pryce, First Nations Information Governance Centre's RHS and capacity development coordinator. The only First Nations-governed holistic health survey of its kind in Canada, the RHS is currently in the third year of a five-year process working in collaboration with regional partners in 10 provinces and two territories. The final report for the data collected is expected to be delivered in 2018.

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Youth to learn about spirituality

By Sam Laskaris
Windspeaker Writer

EDMONTON

Cory Nicotine certainly believes in inclusiveness.

That's why the 26-year-old from the Saddle Lake Cree First Nation has put together an Edmonton-based event called Knowledge Is Pow Wow.

The program, which is geared towards all youth, features presentations on various religions.

The event began on Feb. 20 with a night dubbed Indigenous Spirituality. The Mar. 20 session was on Catholicism. Judaism and Islam presentations will follow on Apr. 20 and May 20, respectively. A program finale, including live musical performances, will be held on June 13.

All of these sessions are taking place at the Boyle McCauley Health Centre in Edmonton.

"It's geared towards everybody," Nicotine said. "I set it up for everyone to learn about the different religions and the value of it."

The Knowledge Is Pow Wow sessions are part of the programming for the iHuman Youth Society. This Edmonton-based group engages youth, who exhibit high-risk behaviours, in various arts activities, including music and theatre.

The goal is to have those in the various programs make positive



PHOTO: SUBMITTED

Cory Nicotine hopes to facilitate dialogue on religion with his Knowledge Is Pow Wow monthly sessions, coordinated for iHuman Youth Society.

social changes.

Nicotine is not keen to discuss why he sought assistance from the iHuman Youth Society several years ago.

"You can just go there to get some help," he said of the organization. "It's a good place to get help. They helped me a lot. And I just want to give back now. I want to create more initiatives for youth."

For the first night of the Knowledge Is Pow Wow

program Nicotine had Cree Elder Gary Moostoos and Donovan Shirt, an 18-year-old from the Frog Lake First Nation, as guest speakers.

Moostoos spoke of the religious beliefs of Aboriginals.

About 50 youth, many of them non-Native, attended the event.

"They liked it," Nicotine said of the reactions of those who showed up. "They found it interesting. And even the

Aboriginal kids learned stuff that they didn't know."

As for Shirt, he's a musician who sings and drums traditional Native music. But he did not perform that night. Instead he spoke to those in attendance.

"He came to speak about how (music) has affected his life," Nicotine said.

Shirt, however, will perform at the Knowledge Is Pow Wow finale.

Besides wanting to inform and

assist youth, Nicotine has a personal reason for organizing the program about varying religions. Some of his family members (uncles and aunts) are now practising Christians, who have abandoned their Aboriginal religious beliefs.

But it's not just family members that Nicotine is hoping to sway through the Knowledge Is Pow Wow programming.

"There's a need to show people about other religions," he said. "I wanted to show them that all religions are the same."

Nicotine, who is a senior member of the iHuman Youth Society's Mentorship Circle, has previously been involved with some of the group's programming.

For example, he's participated in the Friday Night Challenge group. During these sessions he supports peers who are trying to stay clean and sober.

Nicotine has also been involved with the Uncensored program. This curriculum aims to not only educate but also train social service providers and authority figures about some of the experiences of high-risk youth from Edmonton.

Nicotine's humanitarian efforts also included taking part in the Canada World Youth venture. He was in Tanzania in 2012 and '13 participating in the CWY's Youth Leader in Action program, assisting on environmental ventures.

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[footprints] Zaccheus Jackson Nyce

Rapid-fire word artist had impact on all, especially youth

By Dianne Meili

There was no moment of silence for Zaccheus Jackson Nyce at his live-streamed memorial last September. Instead, a moment of 'noise' was offered up to his spirit in raucous poetry slam style.

For a full minute the crowd of more than 400 yelled, stomped and screamed before settling down to hear family members, friends, musicians and poets share recollections of the fast-talking poet and performance artist.

"Jackson Nyce was a Blackfoot alchemist who could inspire us, set a fire in us," rhymed RC Weslowski, two-time World Cup of Poetry Slam finalist. He also mentioned his friend Zaccheus could deliver workshops to youth that brought more healing "than an episode of MASH."

Fighting tears, mother Terry Nyce managed a smile when she introduced herself as the "alpha female" because Zaccheus told audiences he'd been raised by wolves since birth. Her early life anecdotes illustrating her son's inquisitive, mischievous mind kept the mood jovial, but she became serious when she thanked the spoken word community and Vancouver for saving his life.

Laughter erupted again when adopted father Clarence translated Jackson Nyce's traditional Haisla name. "It means 'a growing tree out of control,'" he said, referring to his son's towering six-foot-three-inch stature.

Days after his Aug. 27, 2014 death in Toronto, 100 mourners marched from the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre to Café Deux Soleils – the place where Jackson Nyce first asked what slam poetry was after noticing a sign advertising it outside the restaurant. It was 2005 and he was just two months free of a crack addiction.

The timing couldn't have been better. His internal demons threatened to destroy him but now he had an outlet.

"With poetry, he could be open, honest and intense with his emotions," said friend Nyla Carpentier, also a word-weaver.

She "along with a small army of allies" is working on a Zaccheus Jackson memorial project that is taking his poetry into schools and having high school students transcribe it; his work will also be shared with elementary school students.

"He'd always been a writer," fellow spoken word artist Brendan McLeod told Windspeaker. "And I remember him telling me a grade four teacher made him memorize 'The Creation of Sam McGee'. He hated it ... but at the same time it made him aware of what he could do with words and language."

Following his stage debut, Jackson Nyce began storming poetry slams throughout Vancouver, giving explosive performances that included "gritty street tales, intricate rhyme patterns and social criticism," according to his online biography.

"His voice could move mountains," said Carpentier of his thunderous baritone.

Almost immediately after he entered the slam poetry world, Jackson Nyce began working with youth. Carpentier marvelled at her friend's ability to reach students, especially teens.

"With his backstory of addiction and homelessness, he was blunt with Aboriginal kids. I heard in his workshops kids would come in with their hoodies up, looking like they were having none of it. By the time it was over, the hoodies would be down and their heads would be held up high. They'd tell him about their own troubles – suicide, sexual abuse, bullying – things you wouldn't want anyone to have to face.

"He was straight-up. He did not sugar-coat anything. He taught me that you can make a difference. You can give back to your community."

Quoted in an article in Urban Native Magazine, Chris Gilpin, who directs Wordplay, a Vancouver Poetry House program that sends poets into schools to run workshops and



Zaccheus Jackson Nyce

perform poetry for school assemblies, praised Jackson Nyce. "Zaccheus is the most requested by teachers. Schools that have brought him in once, often want him back the next term or school year ... the strongest possible compliment of Zaccheus' impact with youth," he stated.

About Jackson Nyce's poetry, Gilpin said it conveyed street-wise stories of a young man's life and was incredibly complex in meaning and form.

Born into the Piikani First Nation in southern Alberta, the performer and teacher was adopted at six weeks old by a family who moved to Terrace in northern B.C. His teen years found him battling addiction and living on the streets of Calgary in the early 2000s.

After his first poetry slam – a competition where the audience gives performers points based on how much they liked their

content and delivery – he went on to become the 2013 Vancouver Grand Slam Champion and artist-in-residence at New Westminster Secondary School from 2011 to 2013. He was on the Vancouver Poetry Slam team six times and twice represented Vancouver and Western Canada at the Individual World Poetry Slam. If he'd lived longer, he may have represented Canada at the World Poetry Slam held annually in Paris.

Jackson Nyce was also involved in Full Circle, a local arts performance group focusing on Aboriginal stories, worked with the Urban Native Youth Association, and taught at a secondary school.

"He was really just starting to soar before he died," said Carpentier. "He was already flying with his words and ability to inspire. One of the pieces of his life I know of that he was

working on ... he was just starting to sing Blackfoot songs, and was exploring his own Blackfoot ways."

Jackson Nyce was in the midst of a nine-week solo tour of Canada when he was struck and killed by a three-car locomotive in a Toronto train yard last summer. Police ruled it a tragic accident.

"He was truly a trickster warrior spirit with a gentle heart," Carpentier concluded. "If he saw you he immediately ran over to give you a huge bear hug. If he liked you, he really liked you."

Close friend Jillian Christmas recalled in The Star that she once discussed legacies with Jackson Nyce. She hoped her poetry would outlive her, but he said helping young people was most important to him. He wanted to make sure they felt empowered, she said.

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