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# Wind speaker



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**TRC open for business  
in Winnipeg  
Page 8**

**Minamata disease exists  
here: Japanese expert  
Page 9**

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**Crystal Shawanda performs at the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards held in Regina on March 26, 2010. The Awards will be broadcast by APTN on May 1.**

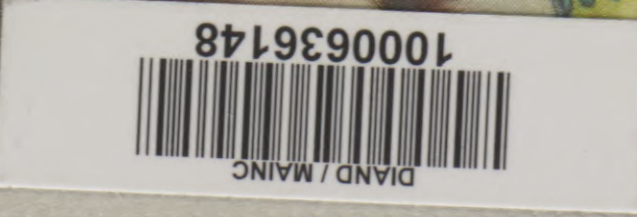
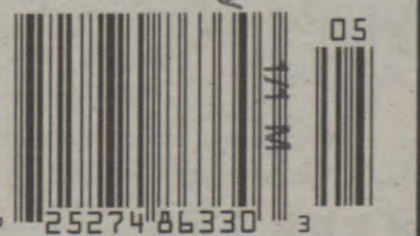
**For a complete story and more photos, please turn to pages 13,14 and 15.**

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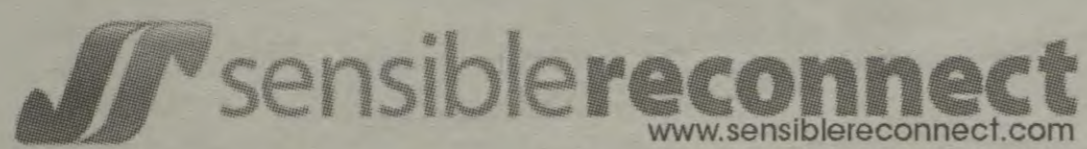
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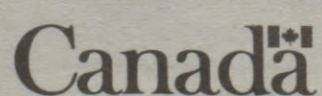
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**Features**

**TRC open for business and planning Winnipeg event 8**

"Survivors and their families are at the heart of all the work we do at the TRC," said Commissioner Marie Wilson in explaining the design of the newly opened office space in Winnipeg, which includes a prominent survivors' gathering room.

**Minamata disease exists here 9**

The existence of Minamata disease (methyl mercury poisoning), with symptoms that include tremors, clumsiness, loss of balance, blurred vision, speech impairment and slowed mental response, is not acknowledged in this country. Health Canada consistently refuses to accept that it has occurred, even in Canada's worst-hit communities of Asubpeeschoseewagong (Grassy Narrows) and Wabaseemoong (Whitedog) where mercury released from a Dryden chlor alkali plant from 1962 to 1975 poisoned an entire river system and devastated the health and economy of those who lived downstream.

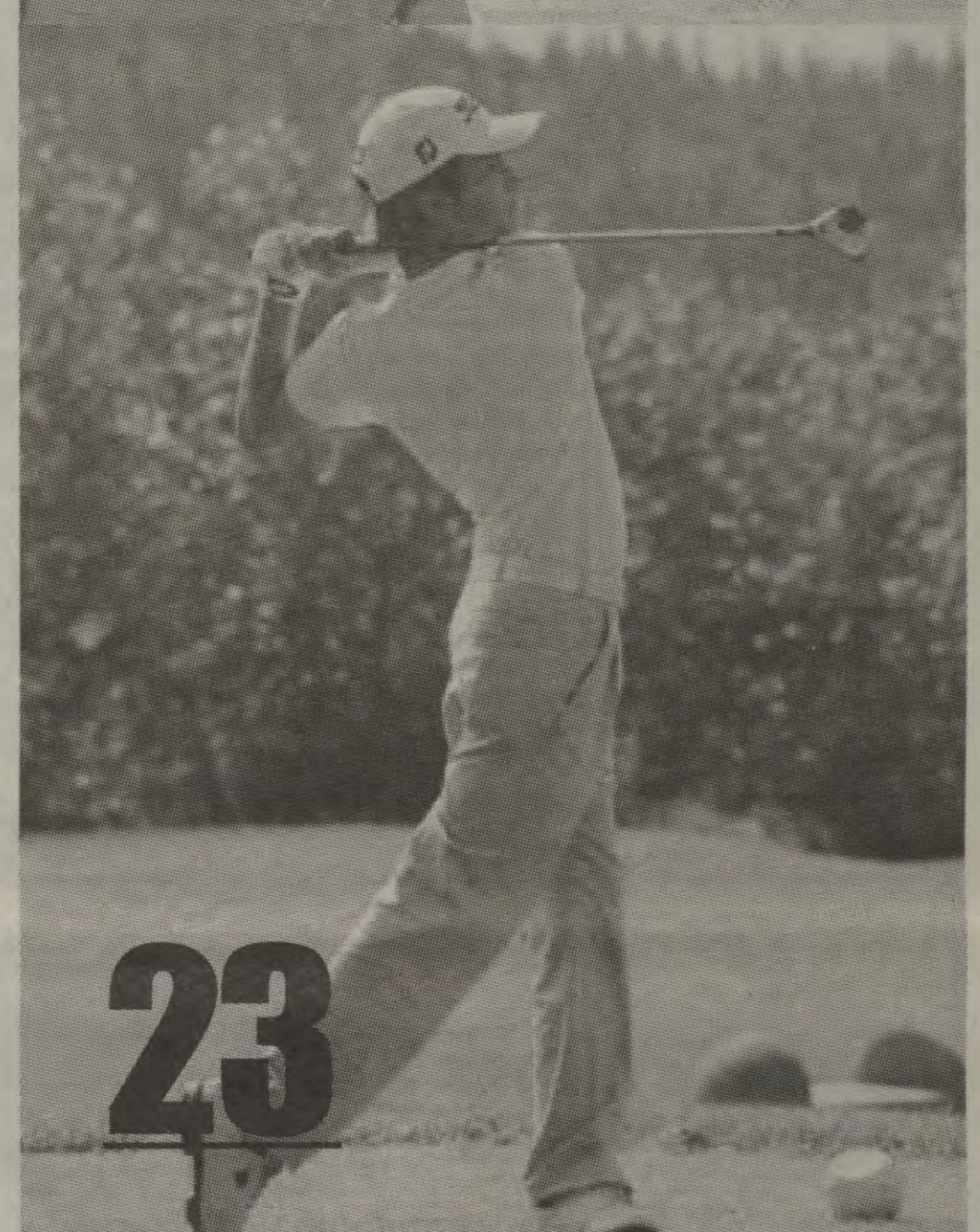
**New study proves CEP process weighed heavily on survivors 10**

It's important, said Gwen Reimer, lead investigator with Praxis Research Associates, that people don't take away the wrong message from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation's newest report.

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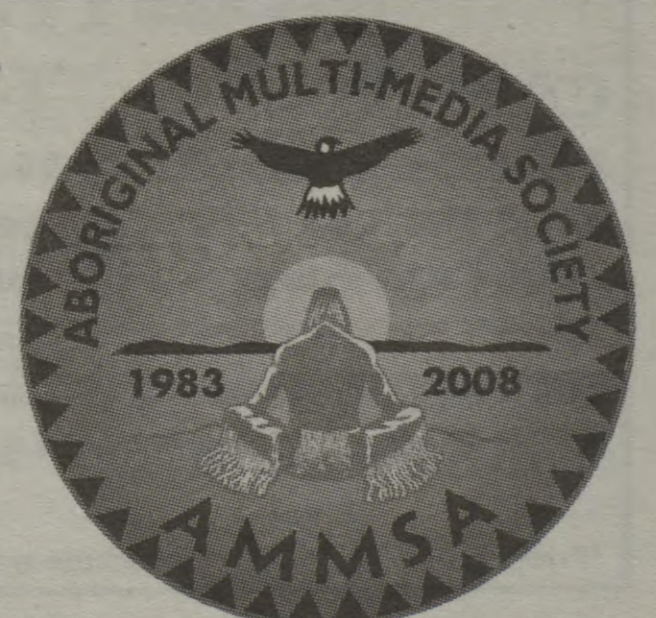
"You've brought me to heaven." That's all the late Sophie Thomas could say when her daughter Minnie Thomas drove her to Tamarack Lake near Skookumchuk, B.C. years ago. "She looked around and she saw the plants. All the medicines she needed were growing there. It didn't take much to make her happy. She was just in her glory."



.....  
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## Dam: That Campbell can spin a story

Gordon Campbell, the premier of British Columbia, seems to have some memory issues. It wasn't long ago that he was boasting that his government was going green. Now all of a sudden he's reviving a massive hydroelectric project from three decades ago that will disrupt an area of the Peace Country.

Some say the Site C dam on the Peace River could potentially increase B.C.'s greenhouse gas emissions an estimated 74,000 tonnes per year through the decomposition of the forests the reservoir would cover. Brian Churchill of the Peace Valley Environmental Association says those same trees without the flooding would capture just as much greenhouse gas.

The Sierra Club's George Heyman agrees. "The huge loss of boreal forest due to flooding would eliminate a major carbon sink for B.C., and increase our CO2 emissions far into the future."

Buddy Arnold Schwarzenegger isn't going to be pleased. "We are united politically and ecologically," said the movie star turned California governor, who stood with Campbell a couple of years back to proclaim that they would show national governments how to achieve environmental targets. They even signed a memorandum of understanding on climate change that set out to reduce greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels.

Of course, this is the same premier that also spoke of greater respect for First Nations. Remember the Recognition Act? Treaty 8 First Nations that occupy that area of the Peace are frustrated with the Campbell government's disregard of their rights when it comes to resource development. I guess it's OK to be green and respectful, as long as it doesn't interfere with the accumulation of money and pleasing your corporate bosses.

Site C project will be the third dam on the Peace River, and, according to a government notice, "it will be a source of clean and renewable energy for over 100 years, producing enough electricity to power about 410,000 homes per year."

Campbell said the Site C dam should be up and running by 2020 if environmental assessments and consultations with First Peoples go in his favor. And who's betting against that happening even if they don't go in his favor? The dam should provide about 900 megawatts of power and 4,600 gigawatt hours of electricity every year, but skeptics are saying that's not intended for residential use.

"Site C is clearly not about B.C.'s energy needs, it is about powering dirty fossil fuel projects and providing a massive subsidy to the private power sector," said the Wilderness Committee's Joe Foy. Oh, that's so not green.

Critics say the power will go to the extraction of dirty oil from the Alberta tarsands, an area of consternation for many treaty nations.

The Supreme Court of Canada has granted intervenor status to Duncan's First Nation and Horse Lake First Nation in a case that asks the question: Do regulatory boards have a duty to decide whether First Nations have been adequately consulted and accommodated by Canada before approvals for resource development are granted. The case will also deal with past infringements of Aboriginal and treaty rights. It's a case that could have widespread legal ramifications.

Campbell's not thinking about that. He's blinded by the dollar signs in his eyes, because the other prize the premier is eyeing is the Horn River Shale Basin in the northeast corner of B.C., the largest natural gas reserve in all of Canada.

Chief Roland Willson said West Moberly First Nations has been in negotiation with B.C. over this issue for years, but it's been like talking to a stick at the end of the table. He's not buying the premier's spin on the dam.

Campbell said the power the dam will generate will give the province a competitive edge.

"The decision to pursue Site C comes at a time when BC Hydro forecasts that B.C.'s electricity needs will grow by 20 to 40 per cent over the next 20 years," the government contends. "The province and BC Hydro are planning now so that British Columbians will continue to enjoy the benefits of clean, reliable and affordable electricity in the future."

Willson's a blunt talker.

"Don't crap in our backyard and tell us it's a bed of roses," he told a Vancouver newspaper.

"It is clear to Treaty 8 First Nations that the only real priority for the government is the further exploitation of the natural resources of northeast British Columbia for revenue into the government coffers," Willson said in a press release.

"We are gravely concerned about this, given the government's recent watering down of environmental regulatory processes. That could enable this mega project to move through with little or no challenges to the application."

Let's face it. Campbell is short on credibility in this province. He told the electorate before his party was returned to power last year that a harmonized sales tax wasn't in the cards for the province, and within three days after the polls closed his minions were plotting to bring harmony to B.C. The HST will go into effect July 1.

Why do they keep electing this man?

**Windspeaker**

[ rants and raves ]

## Page 5 Chatter

### THE JOURNAL PIONEER REPORTS

that Minigoo Fisheries on Lennox Island, P.E.I. is ready to begin processing lobster when the spring season opens on May 1. The event is an historic one in Atlantic Canada as it is the first and only lobster processing plant owned and operated by a First Nation. The Lennox Island First Nations celebrated Minigoo Fisheries Day on April 21 on Lennox Island by holding an open house and offering tours of the plant. Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo, together with Lennox Chief Darlene Bernard, declared the Minigoo Fisheries officially open. "First Nations have the potential to build strong, resilient economies and improve our people's quality of life by exercising their treaty rights," said Chief Atleo. "The treaty relationship has always been about respect, recognition and moving forward." As many as 80 new jobs will be created.

### THE WINNIPEG FREE PRESS IS

reporting that Canada does not have a plan to fight tuberculosis among First Nations. The paper says secrecy surrounding data and turf wars amongst government types is getting in the way of any real progress on the disease. Canada's auditor general ought to investigate, said one NDP MP.

"It's unconscionable that rates of tuberculosis continue to increase among First Nations in a country that otherwise boasts one of the lowest rates in the world," said Chief Angus Toulouse, the regional chief for Ontario in the Assembly of First Nations.

"The ignominy of seemingly intractable tuberculosis in the Aboriginal peoples of Canada while rates of tuberculosis in Canadian-born, non-Aboriginal peoples continues to fall... is not to be borne by people of conscience in a developed country," said Dr. Richard Long, University of Alberta medicine professor, director of Health Canada's Tuberculosis Program Evaluation and Research Unit.

Dr. Kimberley Barker, the AFN public health adviser said tuberculosis is curable, treatable, easy and cheap.

"This is not rocket science. It doesn't require a wizard. It simply requires dedicated resources, ongoing monitoring and a decent program with acceptable standards."

She said Ottawa has so little control over its regional operations that there's little accountability on TB spending.

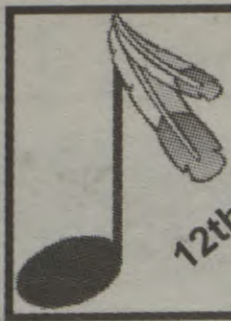
The Winnipeg Press investigation into the issue revealed that Manitoba had some of the highest incidences of TB in First Nations communities. Lac Brochet, it said, recorded 636 cases per 100,000 people.

The NDP's Judy Wasylycia-Leis said the auditor general ought to look at why \$47 million was spent over the last five years making no dent at all in TB rates among First Nations.

### VICE-CHIEF LYLE WHITEFISH OF

the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) came out swinging for the province's Environment Minister Nancy Heppner, calling her ministry insensitive to First Nations. His anger was fuelled by the Saskatchewan Party government's decision to pull funding from a 16-year partnership agreement with FSIN. In the March 24 provincial budget, the protocol agreement funding of \$292,000 for a bilateral task force designed to build co-operation between the FSIN and the Environment ministry "in the management of environment and renewable resources" was axed without proper consultation, said Whitefish. Worse yet, the FSIN was only informed on budget day about the cut by the deputy minister Elizabeth Quarshie. According to Whitefish, this demonstrated the government's "insensitivity and lack of appreciation of First Nations people." "The message you are sending to First Nations leadership is that the ministry would prefer an adversarial approach on dealing with matters between First Nations and the provincial Crown," wrote Whitefish in a letter that was recently made public. NDP MLA Sandra Morin raised the issue in the legislative assembly saying, "This is just the tip of the iceberg. Since this government was elected we've seen nothing but insensitivity, disrespect and broken promises for First Nations and Metis people of Saskatchewan." Heppner said the cut was part of a belt-tightening budget. It was decided that it no longer fit with her ministry's mandate. Heppner said she has made no attempt to contact Whitefish since receiving his letter but was open to talking to him, the Ottawa Citizen reports.

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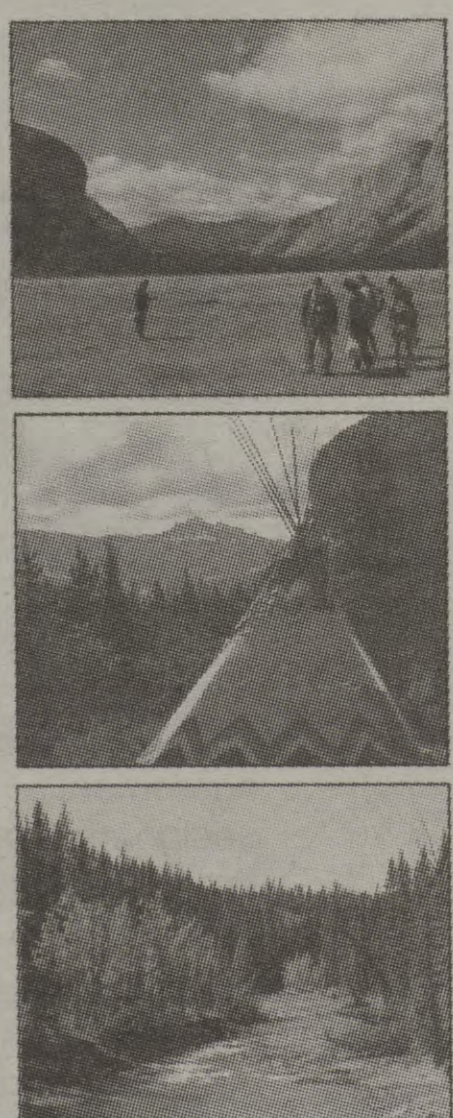
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**Tamarack Integrated Oil Sands Project**  
**Proposed Terms of Reference for Environmental Impact Assessment**

Ivanhoe Energy is proposing to develop an integrated oil sands project using established SAGD thermal recovery techniques with its patented HTL™ upgrading process. The proposed Project lease is a 6,880-acre contiguous block located in Sections 22 to 36, Township 90, Range 9, West of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meridian, approximately 16 km northeast of Fort McMurray, Alberta, in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. The Project has an estimated bitumen production capacity of approximately 50,000 barrels per day (bpd) for 30 years and is proposed to be developed in two phases. The initial phase (Phase 1) will produce 20,000 bpd and the second phase (Phase 2) will support an additional production capacity of approximately 30,000 bpd. Phase 1 is scheduled to commence once regulatory approval and project financing are obtained. Phase 2 plans will be further defined following the completion of future delineation programs and engineering design.

The Director responsible for Environmental Assessment has directed that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report be prepared for the Tamarack Project. Ivanhoe has prepared a proposed Terms of Reference for this Environmental Impact Assessment, and through this public notice, invites the public to review this document. Any comments filed concerning the proposed Terms of Reference will be accessible to the public.

Copies of the proposed Terms of Reference and associated project information can be viewed at the following locations:

- Ivanhoe Energy website: [www.ivanhoeenergy.com](http://www.ivanhoeenergy.com)
- Alberta Environment's Register of Environmental Assessment, 111 Twin Atria Bldg., 4999 - 98 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Attn: Melanie Daneluk, <http://environment.alberta.ca/1283.html>
- Fort McMurray Public Library, 151 McDonald Drive, Fort McMurray, Alberta

For further information on the Tamarack Project or copies of the proposed Terms of Reference and associated project information please contact:

Kendall Dilling  
Director, Regulatory and HSE  
Ivanhoe Energy Inc.  
2100, 101 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW  
Calgary, AB T2P 3P4  
Telephone: (403) 817-1122  
Email: [kdilling@ivanhoeenergy.com](mailto:kdilling@ivanhoeenergy.com)

Individuals wishing to provide written comments on the proposed Terms of Reference must submit them by June 9, 2010 to:

Director, Environmental Assessment, Northern Region, Alberta Environment  
111 Twin Atria Bldg., 4999 - 98 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T6B 2X3  
Fax: (780) 427-9102, Email: [environmental.assessment@gov.ab.ca](mailto:environmental.assessment@gov.ab.ca)

Every single Windspeaker article ever published (well, almost) is now available on our online archives at: [www.ammsa.com](http://www.ammsa.com)

Access is free (how's that for a low price?) at least until our publisher finds out! So hurry and check out our archives before we have to start charging you for it!



# TRC open for business and planning Winnipeg event

By Shari Narine  
Windspeaker Contributor

## WINNIPEG

"Survivors and their families are at the heart of all the work we do at the TRC," said Commissioner Marie Wilson in explaining the design of the newly opened office space in Winnipeg, which includes a prominent survivors' gathering room.

About 250 people attended the opening ceremonies of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's new location on the corner of Portage and Main. The location, said Wilson, is of "sacred importance and symbolism."

In a telephone news conference held after the event, Wilson noted that 75 per cent of residential school survivors live west and north of Winnipeg, while 75 per cent of non-Aboriginal people live east of Winnipeg.

Wilson also made special efforts to point out the slogan of the TRC: "For the child taken, for the parent left behind." She said, "We worked hard to get this worded in a way that we all felt comfortable with... That really is the touchstone, the reminder of why we are doing this work, why it is important to all of us."

Limited details about the first two national events to be hosted by the TRC were announced during the press conference.

Justice Murray Sinclair, chair of the TRC, said timelines for national events have been amended.

The Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement that established the TRC initially called for seven national events to take place over a two-year period. During those events the commission will hear from survivors to record their experiences in the schools and the impacts of those experiences over a lifetime.

"We concluded very early on that that was an unrealistic timeline, and the parties agreed that we would be able to hold those seven national events over the five years of the commission," said Sinclair.

The first event will take place in Winnipeg, June 16 to 20 at Festival Park in the Forks Heritage Site. Not only will survivors be able to tell their stories, the TRC will provide learning, cultural and entertainment activities for visitors. There will be no cost to attend the event and the TRC will not be providing funding for survivors to make the journey.

The next national event will take place a year later in Inuvik, N.W.T. After that, events are to be held every six months.

Wilson said that the TRC advisory committee, which consists of survivors, was consulted about the regions in

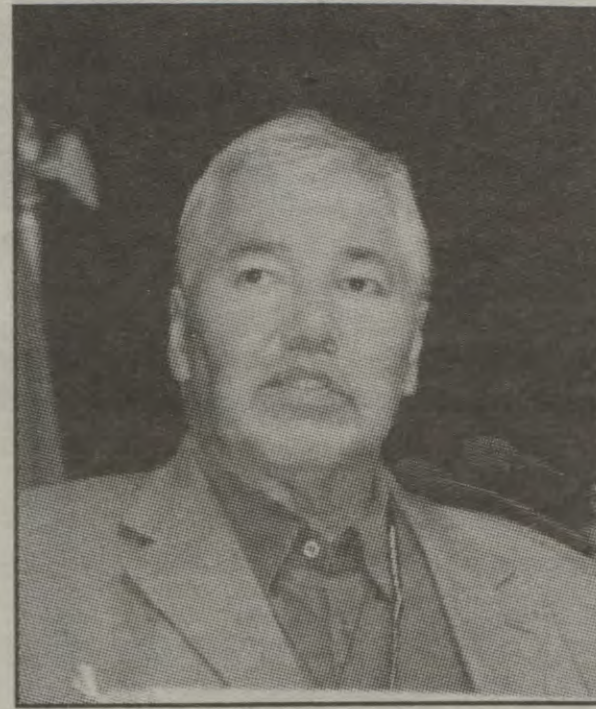
which the national events should take place. Inuvik is the only location in the three northern territories that will host a national event. Wilson said a resolution from the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami called for a northern event to be held in Inuvik. However, concern that the TRC have a presence in Nunavut has been raised.

"There needs to be TRC activity in Nunavut and, indeed, there will be. In Nunavut there is a need for people to gather and bring forth their statements and meet with us as a commission team. That for sure will happen," said Wilson. Details have yet to be worked out, but such a meeting with the commission will not constitute one of the TRC's seven national events.

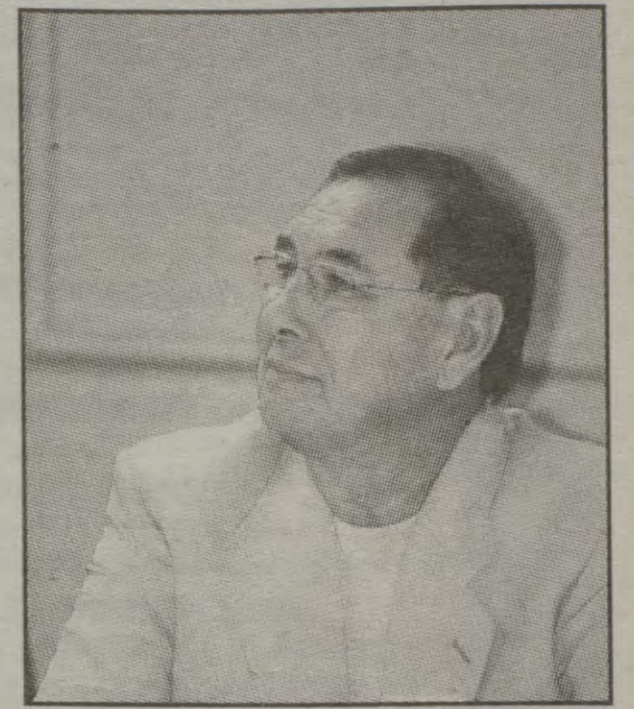
TRC Executive Director Tom McMahon said the commission was still finalizing its criteria for providing funding for community events.

"I don't know about expectations for the amount of funding that might be available... the TRC is not a funding program. I'm worried about expectations, however, of the size of support that might be available," said McMahon.

Commissioner Wilton Littlechild said that interpreters will be provided to allow survivors to tell their stories in their own language, whether to an entire group or privately.



Justice Murray Sinclair



Wilton Littlechild

PHOTOS: FILE

"We've heard at every single gathering, probably, that critical importance of language in terms of what was lost, what was lost in terms of residential school experience," said Littlechild.

He stated that accounts of residential school experiences could be related not only in stories, but also in song, theatre, art, poetry and quilts.

"It's not restricted to oral testimony. Those other media are also very exciting to receive the information through," said Littlechild.

Sinclair said that the parties to the agreement still had to address a one-year extension to the TRC's mandate. Sinclair and the new commissioners have been appointed for five years, which takes their service one year beyond the funding committed to the process to 2013.

"That issue has not yet been resolved by the parties to the agreement. I think we need to address the issue with the parties because it really is because of the terms of the settlement agreement that we're facing this dichotomy," he said.

Also in discussion is the two-year report that was supposed to be tabled by the TRC. Sinclair said, "It's more realistic for us to be held to a two-year timeline beginning from this date."

This discrepancy in timeline came about because of the resignation of the first TRC members. They were appointed in 2008. Chair Harry LaForme tendered his resignation in October 2008 and was followed by the resignations of commissioners Claudette Dumont-Smith and Jane Morley in January 2009.

# Devout First Nations Catholics crave Native clergy

By Isha Thompson  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

## PIIKANI FIRST NATION, Alta.

Father Freddy Valdivia begins Sunday Mass the same way he does every week in the St. Paul's Parish in Brocket, Alta.

"Welcome everyone. I hope you are all well," he says from behind the pulpit in the modest church on the Piikani reserve. It's 10 a.m. and his congregation is made up of entire families, most from the reserve, and all First Nations people.

"I have been sick this past week. I have had..." said Valdivia, pausing, working to conjure up the right word.

"A cold?" shouts a 10-year-old boy in a gentle tone from the audience, whose curious expression reveals that he sincerely wants to assist his priest. Helping Valdivia find the correct word is perhaps something this child is used to doing each Sunday.

"A fever," Valdivia exclaims. He is visibly relieved and proud that he remembers the term in English.

Valdivia is originally from Lake Titicaca on the border between Peru and Bolivia. He has been serving the parish since 2008, when he was assigned to go to the small town by Frederick Henry, Calgary's Catholic bishop.

"I didn't ask for this parish. The bishop gave me this parish and I

said OK," explained Valdivia with a thick accent and his signature chuckle.

At the beginning of April, the Bishop Henry went public with his goal to convince the Vatican to allow him to ordain married Aboriginal men. According to Bishop Henry, overturning the celibacy requirement of Catholic priests, would help encourage religious leadership in Native communities.

"We've raised the issue a couple of times in our visits to Rome," said the bishop in an April 3 CBC News report. "We would like permission to ordain married men on some of our Native communities because of just the absence of a Native clergy."

Because there is a shortage of priests in Canada, people such as Father Valdivia are brought in to fill the gap.

Valdivia, who will serve a five-year term, said he has always wanted to travel and work with Canada's First Nations people and has been welcomed with open arms by community members.

Rose Pard is one of the members who welcomed Valdivia. As a devoted Catholic who visits the same church every week, she said Valdivia's Indigenous roots helps the members feel more comfortable with him.

She admits, however, that she prays for the day her church is led by a North American Native person.

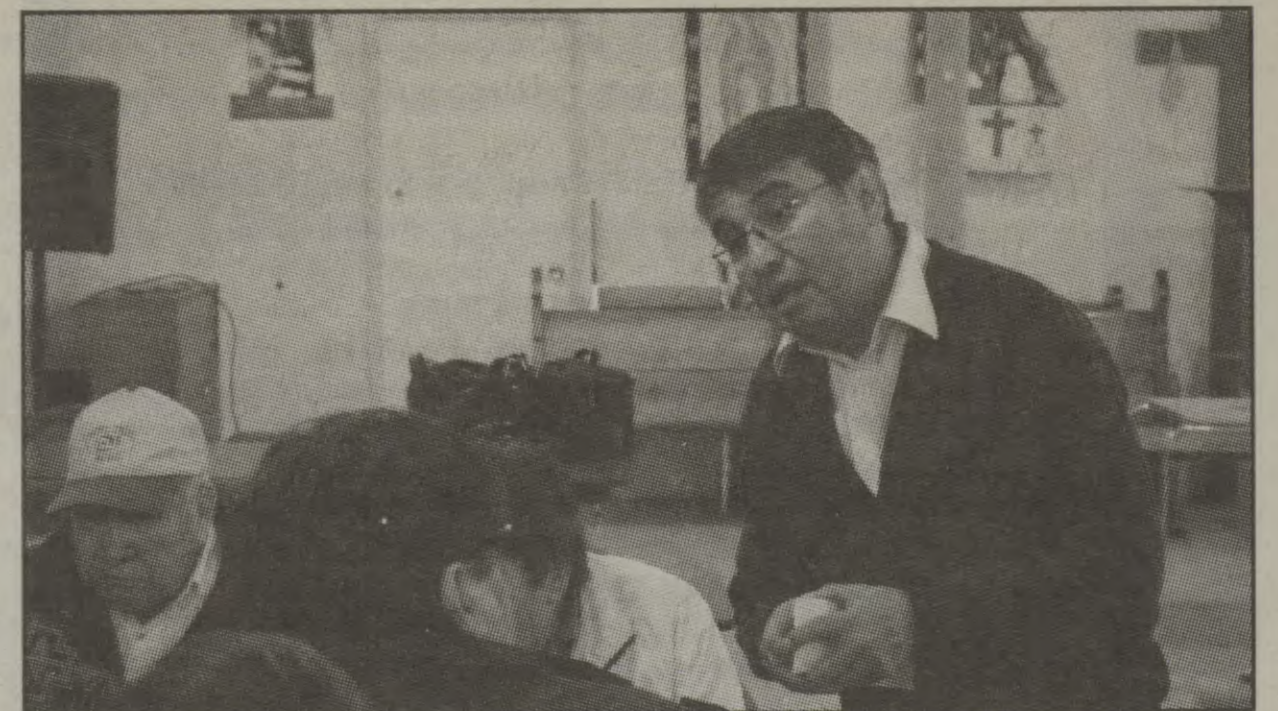
"I always pray for Native men and women to become a priest or a nun," said Pard. "I think it would be nice to have a First Nation priest... We would have a connection with them."

As a member of St. Paul's Elders Council, Pard began volunteering with the church when she was 16 years old. After spending the past 50 years celebrating wedding anniversaries with her husband Dennis and the births of their five children at the same parish, Pard said her church has never had a First Nations priest. She has even prayed for one of her own children to enter the priesthood, but that prayer did not come true.

Pard agrees with Bishop Henry that ordained priests should be allowed to get married. Her conversation alludes to the recent controversy swirling around the Catholic church and sexual misconduct against children in Ireland.

Some believe the church's strict rule on the chastity of priests is to blame for the numerous incidences of pedophilia within the ranks of the Catholic Church. An Ipsos-Reid survey carried out in the first week of April revealed that at least two million Canadians know someone who has been sexually abused by a Roman Catholic priest.

Annette Bad Eagle is confident that if married men were to be ordained, there would be interest from men within the spiritually



Father Freddy Valdivia

PHOTO: DEBORA STEEL



Rose and Dennis Pard

devoted First Nations community.

Bad Eagle is a part of the three-piece choir that performed at St. Paul's church on April 11. Bad Eagle's 14-year-old daughter and mother joined her in leading the church in hymns during Valdivia's service.

She credits her faith as the reason she was able to survive

various troubling times throughout her life.

Celibacy within the priesthood is a topic that is often debated. Some argue that it is unnatural and praise certain sects of the Eastern Rite that have a long tradition of married priests.

Windspeaker attempted to contact Bishop Henry, but our calls were not returned.



# Minamata disease exists here: Japanese expert



PHOTO: KATE HARRIES

Dr. Masazumi Harada (right) shakes hands with Leslie Cochrane, 38, of Grassy Narrows, who has suffered a progressively debilitating condition since his mid-20s. Cochrane has been denied compensation, but after testing him, Harada said there's a strong possibility he has mercury poisoning.

By **Kate Harries**  
Windspeaker Contributor

## GRASSY NARROWS, Ont.

The existence of Minamata disease (methyl mercury poisoning), with symptoms that include tremors, clumsiness, loss of balance, blurred vision, speech impairment and slowed mental response, is not acknowledged in this country.

Health Canada consistently refuses to accept that it has occurred, even in Canada's worst-hit communities of Asubpeeschoseewagong (Grassy Narrows) and Wabaseemoong (Whitedog) where mercury released from a Dryden chlor alkali plant from 1962 to 1975 poisoned an entire river system and devastated the health and economy of those who lived downstream.

Residents and supporters of the two Northwestern Ontario First Nations communities recently took to the streets of Toronto to demand recognition of the fact that they're still suffering into the second and third generations, 40 years after fishing was banned in the English and Wabigoon rivers.

"It really hurts when Canadian doctors say we're pretending, or it's not really happening," Grassy Narrows Chief Simon Fobister told an emotional meeting in Kenora last month, where mothers struggled to hold back tears as they described their children's deteriorating health.

And now fishing is being allowed again, and consumption of those fish, within certain guidelines (avoid the larger fish and some lakes), has been declared safe. It shouldn't be happening again, say some.

Health Canada determined in 1995 that mercury levels in the First Nations residents were below a safety level of six parts per million. But a study from Dr. Masazumi Harada suggests Canada needs to take off the blindfold and face this health problem.

The Japanese mercury poisoning expert diagnosed Minamata disease at Grassy Narrows and Whitedog when he first visited the two reserves in 1975. He returned last month for the fifth and last time (he is 75 and not in good health) where he released a 2005 study that has just been translated.

It found that residents with mild symptoms in 1975 showed almost typical symptoms of Minamata disease by 2002, significantly impairing their ability to function. This despite lower levels of mercury in their bodies.

Harada, who was called a "travelling troubadour" in 1975 by then Conservative Natural Resources Minister Leo Bernier, had already spent 15 years treating victims in Minamata, Japan where an estimated 2,000 people died from exposure to high levels of mercury.

The chemical company that polluted Minamata Bay denied responsibility, as did Japan's government. Thousands of Japanese patients were excluded from compensation and treatment and had to fight for both through the courts. The most recent legal action ended last month with 2,000 Japanese patients accepting a settlement that will be extended to 30,000 others.

For Canada to acknowledge that Minamata disease exists in Ontario could imply liability, legal processes, punitive damages and costly remediation, all of which are powerful incentives for government to look the other way.

That's the thesis of a study by biologist Michael Gilbertson who examined Health Canada data from 1986 to 1992 and found statistically elevated hospitalization for male cerebral palsy in several Great Lakes communities, including Sarnia, Cornwall and Thunder Bay, all areas where there were chlor alkali plants like the one in Dryden (all now closed).

Gilbertson concluded there is reason to suspect previously undetected outbreaks of congenital Minamata.

The symptoms of Minamata disease are varied and change through the patient's lifecycle. Congenital Minamata cases are the saddest ones. Exposure in the womb leads to cerebral palsy and developmental delays. Research in Japan, Iraq and elsewhere indicates that male fetuses are more susceptible.

In an interview, Gilbertson emphasized that more research needs to be done.

"We need a series of epidemiological studies to find out, are there incidences of Minamata disease that are occurring, and what we should be really responding to in terms of cleanup?"

His paper, titled Index of Congenital Minamata Disease in Canadian Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes: An Eco-Social Epidemiological Approach, was published in the Journal of Environmental Science and Health in October 2009.

A spokesperson for the International Joint Commission (IJC), a body whose role it is, in part, to implement the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between Canada and the United States, said the commission has not reviewed Gilbertson's study, but pointed to its 2004 biennial report that included a section on mercury. It makes no reference to the Health Canada data, but does recommend epidemiological studies. No such studies have been carried out.

Gilbertson, who worked for the IJC for 16 years, argues that the bilateral agency's mandate of restoring water quality has been abandoned because of an ideological shift towards deregulation and eliminating barriers to development.

In this climate, research that suggests stricter regulation of risk to human health is dismissed as "junk science," he writes.

See Grassy Narrows on page 10.

## Windspeaker news briefs

### MARCH 31 MARKED THE 50th

anniversary of the right to vote for First Nations. "This is an important milestone and a cause for reflection," said Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl. The Diefenbaker government amended the Canada Elections Act in 1960. The law received Royal Assent on March 31, 1960, and the law came into effect July 1 of that year. "Canada has shown significant leadership in protecting the rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples," said Strahl. "We will continue to work to advance and uphold the rights and freedoms of Aboriginal peoples at home and abroad."

### MÉTIS IN MANITOBA HAVE EXPRESSED

concern about T-shirts being sold online that feature an image of Louis Riel with a noose around his neck. Text on the shirt reads "Hang with me on Louis Riel Day," which is a provincial holiday in February. Riel is a controversial figure in Canada, considered by some a freedom fighter and founder of Manitoba and by others a traitor. He was hanged in 1885. The T-shirts were being sold online by a company in the United States, but have since been removed from the Web.

This year marks the 125th anniversary of the Northwest Rebellion, a famous skirmish in Canadian/Metis history. Back To Batoche is a week-long event that celebrates the resistance and Louis Riel, who was a central figure in the fight. The event takes place July 18 to July 25 in Saskatchewan. Singers Michelle Wright and Andrea Menard will be featured, along with Donny Parenteau, and the Metis Fiddler Quartet. The event attracts thousands of people every year.

### ON APRIL 1, THE COURT OF APPEAL

for British Columbia granted a three-month extension to amend the registration provisions of the Indian Act that the court deemed discriminatory. On March 11, the federal government introduced Bill C-3, Gender Equity in the Indian Registration Act to address the requirements of the court decision. Bill C-3 will ensure that eligible grandchildren of women who lost status as a result of marrying non-Indian men will become entitled to registration (Indian status) in accordance with the Indian Act.

### AHOUSAHT FIRST NATION HAS

taken the next step in its attempt to rid the community on the West Coast of Vancouver Island of drug dealers and bootleggers. About 12 members of the remote First Nation on Flores Island off the coast of Tofino have been issued eviction notices. These are the folks that didn't take up the hereditary chiefs' offer of treatment to deal with their own drug and alcohol problems. About 30 people were told in March that they would be forced to leave the community if they did not accept help. Eighteen people travelled to an isolated location in the territory where counselors and experts in local traditions had prepared for eight weeks of treatment.

### AN INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CALLED

into the death of a 19-year-old woman from Saskatchewan who died on a lonely stretch of road seeking help for her family. Kerri Canepotatoc volunteered to walk to get help after the car she was travelling in broke down April 8. She was travelling with another woman and her two sons. After calling 911 three times and waiting for a response through the night, Canepotatoc set out in the direction they had come from walking an estimated 60 km before collapsing and dying on the highway. The rest of the party wasn't found until April 15. The three were taken to the hospital and later released. It's believed the women were from the Big River reserve.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE FUNDS

promised by the Conservative government to help resolve the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada? The feds aren't sure how the \$10 million will be used. Some fear the money allotted will be distributed through a number of federal departments, and thereby lose the focus for which it was intended. Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, suggests a multi-partisan "cross committee" should be formed to properly address the issue. The Status of Women, Justice, Indian Affairs, and Public Safety should work with First Nations organizations and First Nations women to create a national action plan. "We really want the government to walk with us and work together with the leadership on this and recognize what the Sisters in Spirit have done." Sisters in Spirit is a group that was funded to collect data and raise public awareness on the issue of murdered and missing women.

# New study proves CEP process weighed heavily on survivors

By Shari Narine  
Windspeaker Contributor

OTTAWA

It's important, said Gwen Reimer, lead investigator with Praxis Research Associates, that people don't take away the wrong message from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation's newest report.

Just because more residential school survivors claimed to have positive experiences with the Common Experience Payment (CEP), it shouldn't be assumed that these experiences outweigh the negative impacts of the CEP, she said.

"We wanted to make sure that nobody read this report, looked only at those numbers and said, 'Well, look, more people thought

it was positive than negative.' You really have to take a look at what they're saying and how they're saying it as opposed to merely the number of people saying it," said Reimer.

On March 31, the foundation released "The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement's Common Experience Payment and Healing," a follow-up to the 2007 report, "Lump Sum Compensation Payments Research Project."

The latest report gathered data on the impact of CEP on the survivors and their engagement in healing, as well as the roles of support services in assisting applicants during the compensation process.

Nearly 300 survivors, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, were interviewed for the study and all

were forthcoming in sharing their experiences. Reimer said that even more came forward to tell their stories, but investigators had to turn them down.

"I think people were eager to share their experiences about the process, particularly if they were not very satisfied with the process . . . This was really the only opportunity for them, one on one, to say, 'First I go through the residential school thing and then the compensation process itself has re-victimized me in some way.' . . . There was an eagerness to share those stories," said Reimer.

What surprised her most was that right across the country survivors were telling similar stories. "People's experiences are quite common, which is ironic in terms of what we were evaluating here. People from Nova Scotia were saying many of the same things as individuals from the Yukon, for example," said Reimer.

The findings of the report are stark. Noted in the summary, "Over a third of the study group shared that the CEP process triggered negative emotions or traumatic flashbacks. The most common explanation was that completing the applications brought back negative memories and opened old wounds. Survivors described reactions to

these memories that ranged from feelings of discomfort and loneliness to reactions of panic and depression, sometimes leading to self-destructive behaviors."

It's because of this that Reimer is adamant in saying that the initial satisfaction of buying something with the CEP dollars, like a boat or a car, does not outweigh the heavier, deeper impacts the CEP money had on the residential school survivors.

"You have to take a look at the kinds of positive impacts people are talking about. They're generally quite temporal," said Reimer. "But the quality of those positive impacts can be interpreted as less profound in terms of a person's life experience than the negative impacts."

Almost half of the survivors interviewed said that receiving the CEP money was both a positive and negative experience.

"Fundamentally, this dualism characterized CEP as positive because it relieved financial stress and afforded opportunities to share with family or to make necessary and desired purchases," reads the report, "but also negative because these benefits did not outweigh the sense of injustice in the '10 plus 3' compensation formula nor did they alleviate the pain of triggered emotions and

memories of trauma from their residential school years."

Reimer also noted that survivors expressed concern that while residential schools had an intergenerational bearing, compensation was provided only for the student.

The study also examined support services provided for survivors during the CEP process. More than 40 per cent of the study group relied mainly on non-CEP specific supports, such as family, friends and local resources. Respondents noted that they received support and assistance from Aboriginal Healing Foundation-funded community-based healing projects.

Funding for the foundation was not included in the most recent federal budget and the foundation has been forced to close its community projects. However, it did budget operational dollars for its 12 healing centres, which will continue to operate for another two years.

The survey that resulted in "The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement's Common Experience Payment and Healing" report was carried out over a 10-month period. CEP payments began in 2007 and the study took place a year later.

## Grassy Narrows

Continued from page 9.

Harada tested 187 Ojibwe patients in 2002 and 2004. He found 14 cases of mental retardation in the two communities, nine cases of mental deficiency and three cases of muscular dystrophy. Seven children had cerebral palsy, and another seven showed signs of intellectual developmental delay. There were 139 cases of Minamata disease, Minamata with complications, or possible Minamata - a high rate of neurological symptoms.

Thirty eight per cent of this group have been rejected for compensation by the Mercury Disability Board, based in Kenora, Ont., which administers a fund set up in a 1985 court settlement that averted legal action by Grassy Narrows and Whitedog. It pays up to \$800 a month for symptoms "consistent with" mercury poisoning to just 163 patients from the two communities which has a combined population of around

3,000.

The board uses restrictive Japanese eligibility criteria from 1978 that were overturned by that country's Supreme Court in 2004.

He recommends more research into "medically unknown issues" such as Health Canada's safety guideline, long-term low exposure and the effects of minimal amounts of methyl mercury.

Health Canada said it is reviewing Harada's report.

Harada believes his study of low-level chronic exposure in Ontario has important implications as mercury spreads across the landscape. In Canada, that's primarily through atmospheric deposition from U.S. coal-burning plants. Mining and forestry change water levels and release mercury into waterways, where it is converted into highly toxic methyl mercury by aquatic organisms and accumulates in the food chain.

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**"EMPOWERING OUR SPIRIT, HONORING OUR WOMEN"**  
POUNDMAKER/NECHI COMPETITION POWWOW 2010



**JULY 16, 17, 18, 2010**  
**St. Albert (Edmonton)**  
**Alberta, Canada**

**GRAND ENTRY:**  
**Friday at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Sat: 1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.**  
**Sun: 1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.**

**HOST DRUM: Mountain Cree (Mountain Cree Camp)**

**MASTER(S) OF CEREMONIES:**  
**Douglas Bonaire**  
**Dion Tootoosis**

**ARFNA DIRECTORS:**  
**Stanley Isadore**  
**Elvin Nicotine**

**DRUM BOSS: Cecil Nepoose**

**ARTS & CRAFTS/CONCESSIONS:**  
Contact: Peggy and Dawn  
(Must have own power source)

**DANCE CATEGORIES:**

- 65+ Pensioners (Exhibition)
- Golden Age (55-64)
- Senior Adults (40-54)
- Junior Adults (18-39)
- Teens (13-17)
- Juniors (7-12)
- Tiny Tots (6 & under)

**REGISTRATION:**

**Friday:**  
4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

**Saturday:**  
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**SPECIALS:**

- Princess Pageant
- Men's Traditional
- Women's Traditional
- Women's Golden Age 50+

**SECURITY:**  
Contact Denise & Meagan


**VOLUNTEERS:**  
Contact Paulette  
Email: powwow@poundmaker.org

**ONSITE CAMPING AVAILABLE!**

For more information contact Powwow Chair: Alvina Lake at 780-458-1884

**ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS ALLOWED - ZERO TOLERANCE**

Page [ 10 ]



May 2010

**A brief history of Windspeaker...**

**1983**

The Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA) is incorporated and begins publishing the AMMSA newspaper to serve Alberta's Aboriginal people.

**1985**

The AMMSA newspaper is renamed Windspeaker.

**1987**

Windspeaker expands coverage to western Canada.

**1990**

AMMSA and Windspeaker develop a 5-year plan to become self-sufficient.

**1991**

AMMSA and Windspeaker (along with 10 other Aboriginal publishers) lose all government funding to support training of Aboriginal people in publishing careers.

**1993**

Windspeaker celebrates its 10th anniversary and self-sufficiency by expanding distribution and coverage to include all of Canada.

**1996**

AMMSA and Windspeaker launch the web site: [www.ammsa.com](http://www.ammsa.com)

**2001**

AMMSA and Windspeaker re-launch [www.ammsa.com](http://www.ammsa.com) to include archived articles.

**2003**

AMMSA and Windspeaker celebrate 20 years by expanding operations and moving into a new and larger location.

**2010**

AMMSA and Windspeaker celebrate 27 years with a major re-launch of the web site.

Please visit the new and improved [ammsa.com](http://ammsa.com) and share your thoughts and comments with us.

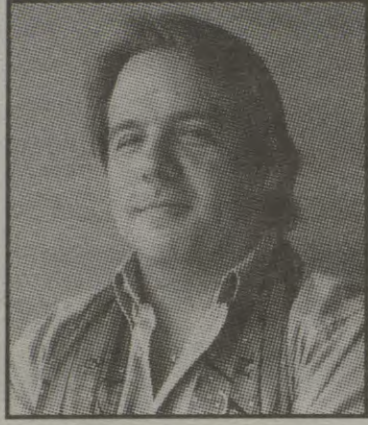
[ strictly speaking ]

# I was in Waswanipi and how many can say that?

It's been a busy couple of weeks, what with me being on a book tour for my new novel, *Motorcycles and Sweetgrass*, and maintaining my usual lecture and reading tour schedule.

I never know where I'll end up. Just the other week I was in central Quebec. I didn't know what to expect other than people eating that unusual and questionable concoction of french fries, gravy and cheese, called poutine.

Waswanipi. It was not what I expected. What I expected... I'm not sure, but what I found was a very interesting community with nice houses and an amazing adult technical school. Myself and several other people were there for sort of a careers day for some of the adult students taking courses there. As well as me, the administration had flown in from Montreal some token... how shall I put this... non-Native types that obviously needed the work. While I expounded on Being a Native Writer 101, they were there to lecture on various business and management techniques. One woman, if you can believe it, was there to talk



## THE URBANE INDIAN Drew Hayden Taylor

about establishing business plans and the evils of procrastination, or as it is sometimes called in places like Waswanipi, Indian time. I'm not sure if she knew what she was getting into.

It might be a moot point. I heard on the news—and this is true—that the earthquake in Haiti was so powerful that it actually slowed down the rotation of the Earth by about 1/1000 of a second. So, all of our watches are off and we're all going to be late anyway. So what's the point?

Ironically or coincidentally, my lecture started half an hour late. I rest my case.

We were all special guests in Waswanipi for the day. Normally, there are classes in nursing, computer, woodworking (the smell of freshly cut wood made memories of my school days in wood shop come flooding back,

along with my mother's tragic and unfulfilled dream that I was more handyman than writerman), small engine repair (as opposed to small Injun repairs, I suppose), industrial engine repairs, gun repairs (lots of repairing done up there it seems), and my favorite, culinary skills.

In that amazing building, I observed an excellent kitchen facility, all geared towards teaching Native people to enter the catering and hospitality industry. Two thumbs up to that. However, due to some obscure and bizarre provincial health regulations involving the hygiene and usage of any kitchen used in a teaching manner, any form of wild meat was prohibited from being cooked inside the building. This was Waswanipi, a community well-known for

hunting moose, caribou, geese, and a horde of other tasty creatures provided by the Creator. Any and all wild meat had to be cooked outdoors and not on the premises. They can cook anything, but their cultural diet.

So, that night for the official feast for the Adult Education conference we were attending, the catering being done by the students consisted of salmon, shrimp and rosti potatoes. I am sure there is logic buried somewhere in there.

Still on the topic of food, how about this. For lunch we decided to patronize one of the local establishments for the other side of the term, traditional Native cuisine. The special of the day at a nearby restaurant announced a hot hamburger sandwich with macaroni soup. I have travelled to more than 130 Native communities across Canada and the United States, and I think I can safely say I have had hot hamburgers and macaroni soup in at least 129 of them, give or take one or two. Some things about Native culture are, indeed, universal.

And then there was Lucien. He's a young student who caught a ride with us from Chibougamou to Waswanipi. The man knew anything and everything about movies. The guy was a reference library, and related everything we were talking about to movies. But at one point it got a little ridiculous when I was lecturing, and commented that I was involved in the production of my first comedy during the famous summer of 1990.

"And what else happened during the summer of 1990?" I asked the audience. Lucien put up his hand and announced proudly "That's the year Ghost came out!"

I was looking for the Oka/Kahnasatake issue, but different things are important to different people, I guess.

Finally, as I sat in the airport in Chibougamou, waiting to fly to Montreal, I saw a Native woman across the aisle from me, reading a book. It was *An Idiot's Guide to Native American History*. What a perfect way to end this trip.

Oh, and by the way, I did see somebody eating poutine, so the stereotype is true.

# Why does our history begin on the East Coast?

By Jack D. Forbes  
Professor Emeritus  
Native American Studies

Heretofore the history of the United States has been largely treated as the story of a process, rather than the complete history of a land "from sea to shining sea." And this process always begins either in Europe or on the Atlantic Coast of North America.

Allow me to contrast the history of England with the history of the United States. In the history of England one finds that a "land," i.e. England, is the focus, and events tend to be portrayed from earliest times to the present even though sources might be archaeological, geological, paleontological or literary. Thus, the story of England is not the story of the Celtic migrations, the Roman conquest, or of the Germanic migrations, or the Danish invasion, or the Norman French conquest. Rather it is the story of the land and its peoples regardless of race, culture, languages or origin.

These different peoples may settle in England from various directions, arriving on a variety of coast lines.

But United States history and

regional histories, (such as the history of "the West" or "the South") are virtually always focused on the westward movement of the British or English peoples across the Atlantic and then the subsequent growth and expansion of the area of British control.

This is followed by the British colonial rebellion against Britain, the development of the United States of North America, soon to be called the United States of America, and the expansion and growth of the dominant white population of the United States and their culture, literature and institutions.

Significantly, the growth and decline of the Spanish and French empires in North America and the adjacent Caribbean receive scant attention usually. Thus, for example, the establishment of Jamestown in Virginia in 1607 is given great attention "as the birthplace of America" while the Spanish settlements of St. Augustine (1565) and Santa Fe (ca. 1598-1610) are often ignored.

Once British North America (Canada) has made it clear that it will not join the U.S.A., its history is dropped except for brief mention of the effort to conquer

it in the War of 1812. Similarly the other British colonies that remained with Britain, such as Barbados, Jamaica, Bermuda and the Bahamas, cease to be areas of U.S. history interest, in spite of the fact, I might add, that Native American captives (slaves) from the mainland were often sold to those islands.

But then, the entire subject of the enslavement of the First Americans is very lightly treated, and usually not at all.

Since there commonly is no attempt whatsoever to tell the story of the settlement of the Americas by Native Americans, except perhaps for a very brief reference to the Bering Straight theory, and certainly no attempt to reconstruct the history of the First Americans, we are presented with the fact that United States history is not the history of the land called variously North America, "America," or the United States. Instead it is a racially focused history telling the story of only one great people and their institutions.

It is an "East Coast history" which subordinates the continent's story to an ethnocentric and geocentric distortion.

It is my argument that U.S.

history, constructed in such a fashion, is inherently biased. It also deprives us and our youth of a deep and full understanding of the story of our land, a story which must begin when North and South America broke loose from their ancient connections with Europe and Africa and moved across the Earth's surface to their present location, a movement which eventually sees North and South America combining to form the continent called America, joining together where Panama and Colombia meet.

Needless to state, the history of the various climatic ages and of the Ancient Americans, with their epochal migrations and colonizing of every section of the hemisphere, forms a fascinating and essential part of the history of our land; but one which is ignored, in spite of the fact that a significant percentage of our population (all who are of Mexican, Central-South American, Puerto Rican, and American Indian ancestry), have direct ties to that marvelous story. Large numbers of African-Americans also had ancestors who were ancient pioneers of the Americas.

Thus I call upon educators and

upon the public to demand history texts and curricula, which are free of racial preferencing and of ardent imperialism and which, instead, tell the incredibly rich and beautiful history of all of our peoples. We can start our American history from the west, from the north, from the south, from the east. California, or Alaska, or Oregon, or Mexico can begin our story. California does not have to wait until 1848 to become part of our land. It was a part of our "country" long before Columbus, and long before Jamestown or Plymouth Rock.

In short, we must try to persuade our European-American fellow citizens to stop their fascination with the triumphs and adventures of their European ancestors and ask them to come home to America, the real land, and its entire history.

*Jack Forbes has been writing about the history of our land since the 1950s. His most recent effort to awaken interest in ancient American history is his book "The American Discovery of Europe" about Indians crossing the Atlantic to Europe and elsewhere long before Columbus' voyage.*

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# Education vital to Aboriginal people, say NAAA



PHOTO: BERNADETTE FRIEDMANN-CONRAD

The 2010 National Aboriginal Achievement Award winners and performers came together for a fun group photo at the Hotel Saskatchewan in Regina on March 25, the day before the Awards show gala.

**By Bernadette Friedmann-Conrad**  
Windspeaker Contributor

## REGINA

As Alanis Morissette would say: Isn't it ironic!

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation rolled out the red carpet for 14 outstanding individuals less than a mile down the road from the First Nations University of Canada in Regina, where the academic institution is in danger of having the rug pulled out from underneath it by the federal government.

The topic was mentioned more than once during the night by those such as Métis academic, teacher and film-maker, Dr. Raoul J. McKay, who was honoured for his work in education.

"Governments tend to think that if we don't play their game they can withdraw their money. It's like a toy," McKay said. "They haven't played a good game for our people. They tend not to fund those universities, and they want to control them. I think people should be given a chance to put their efforts on the right track."

"To kill the university just like that would do a huge disservice to Canadian society and particularly to our own people," he told the audience.

McKay grew up in the Métis community of St. Eustache, Manitoba, and completed four university degrees, including a PhD in history. He spent a lifetime teaching students about the beliefs and history of Indigenous peoples and played a vital role in the development of the Indigenous Studies Program at McMaster University. He was also the founding department head of the Native Studies Department at the University of Manitoba.

"If you look at the staffing at many native studies programs in Canada and the United States, very often the majority of staff is non-native," he said.

"To me, people have to be from our culture from our nations, so they can tell the story from within. Native people need to be the instructors; they need to be in control of education. In many ways this can only happen if you have institutions like the First Nations University and the Gabriel Dumont Institute here in Saskatchewan, because students, when they come out of it, they will do these things," he added.

McKay said he was especially impressed with NAAA youth award winner Skawenni:io Barnes of Kahnawake, Quebec.

"Look at this young woman," he said, "she established a library in her community, my goodness, she's only in her twenties. So you

know our society, the First Nations, Métis and Inuit are in good hands for the future."

Thinking back on his career, McKay said those times that he was able to help students in need are some of the favourite moments to look back on.

"Some people say the highlight of my career was when I established the St. Laurent exhibit at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., but I don't think so. When you can really touch someone, and know that you've made a difference, those are the moments I will always remember. Things like establishing the pre-medicine program for native people. Some of those people have taken care of me in recent years; they're so accomplished, so good at it. That feels really good."

Law and Justice recipient, Donald Worme is a legal scholar and Cree lawyer from the Kawacatoose First Nation in Treaty Four territory.

"It feels really good to receive this award," said Worme, "I'm very excited. For guys like me, simple country lawyers who toil in the trenches, we never expect to be recognized. I'm very proud of this, but it's also a bit overwhelming."

Just about as overwhelming as going to law school back in the day, said Worme.

"I graduated from law school

at a time when people quite openly told me, "You Indians don't belong here, go back to where you came from. Many Aboriginal people had to put up with this," he said.

"But they've done it. They've made success stories, they raised successful families. We have strong and powerful communities despite what has been inflicted upon us by a non-caring government, which was allowed to happen by a population who cared not at all for us."

Worme who was called to the Saskatchewan Bar in 1986, served as lead council to the family of Neil Stonechild in the public inquiry into his freezing death in Saskatoon in 1990, and has been an active member of the Human Rights Tribunal since 2001. Most recently he was appointed as Chief Council for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

"There is no Aboriginal person that I know of who has not been touched by the tragedy of the residential school catastrophe and all of the other ills that has brought to our communities," he said.

Despite the residential school system, Worme says his grandfather was an absolute believer that First Nations people must be educated.

"We often hear that some of our ancestors stated that

education is our new buffalo. It's an absolute must. We must understand the tools of the settler society, their culture, so we can take from it the good things and use them together with our own talents, our own culture and laws. Clearly in this province First Nations University is a central institution," said Worme.

"That institution must not be allowed to go by the wayside. It must be there to perpetuate the knowledge of Indigenous peoples, to facilitate young Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to live together, and provide the future our grandchildren deserve," he added.

Worme and McKay were joined at the podium by exceptional Aboriginal achievers from diverse backgrounds, both culturally and geographically.

More than 1,700 guests attended the 2010 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards in Regina.

The gala event, which was hosted by Andrea Menard and Raoul Trujillo, showcased entertainers Buffy Sainte-Marie, Elisapie Isaac, Leemai Lafontaine, Red Bull, Michael Greyeyes, Lorne Cardinal and the Wanuskewin International Dance Troupe. The NAAA will air on Global Television and APTN beginning May 1.

For more photos please turn to pages 14 and 15.

[ achievement awards ]



Crystal Shawanda, surrounded by a colorful stage decorated in flowers, performed for the 2010 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards held on March 26 in Winnipeg. The show was recorded for airing on APTN beginning May 1.



NAAA special youth award winner Skawenniio Barnes of Kahnawake, Quebec



Doug Henry - TECHNOLOGY (left) Madeleine Ketekwew Dion Stout - HEALTH (centre) and Kenneth Atsenhainton Deer - MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS.



Danny Beaton - ENVIRONMENT (left), Ellen Melcosky - BUSINESS (centre) and Dr. Raoul J. McKay - EDUCATION receive their awards.



Andrea Menard and Raoul Trujillo hosted the awards show.



Buffy Sainte-Marie performs with Red Bull and the Wanuskewan Dancers.

ALL PHOTOS: BERT CROWFOOT



Roberta Jamieson (left), President and CEO of NAAF presents William Commanda with the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Donald Worme - LAW (left), Tom Crane Bear - CULTURE (centre) and Edith Cloutier - PUBLIC SERVICE.



Buffy Sainte-Marie performs with Red Bull.



Kananginak Pootoogook - ARTS (left), Monica Pinette - SPORTS (centre) and Eric William Robinson - POLITICS.

[ news ]

## Qalipu First Nation continues a lengthy waiting game

By Isha Thompson  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

### CORNER BROOK, NL

The Federation of Newfoundland Indians remains tight-lipped about the lengthy legal proceedings that surrounds the three-year battle for the creation of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation.

"This matter is now into a legal process and I am not permitted to speak until this matter is resolved," said president of the Federation Brendan Sheppard.

The establishment of the Qalipu band was originally scheduled for sometime this spring, however, the decision of Mi'kmaq elder Calvin White to seek a legal remedy to his concerns about the creation of the band is what has delayed the process indefinitely.

White has said he believes all of the applications for enrolment into the band must be processed before the Qalipu band is formed. He filed for an injunction several weeks ago.

As of Nov. 30, 2009, the enrolment committee of the First Nation had received nearly 26,000 applications, 11,000 of which had been approved for the initial membership.

The delay in the formation of the band means that approved applicants are stalled from receiving the benefits that come from being recognized under the Indian Act. Post-secondary funding, health benefits and funding for additional programs are only some of the entitlements that approved band members are forced to wait for.

"Everything is on hold until the band is formed because we don't have access to funding to move forward with anything," said Sheppard.

On Nov. 30, 2007, the Federation of Newfoundland Indians entered into an agreement with the federal government, outlining the provisions of the official recognition of the Newfoundland Mi'kmaq as status Indians.

Prior to the recent legal turmoil, the government of Canada had announced an

accelerated process to address the overwhelming membership applications for the band.

On Feb. 1, Chuck Strahl, minister of Indian Affairs (INAC), expressed his optimism about how the accelerated process would eliminate a delay in the Mi'kmaq receiving status.

"This arrangement should provide comfort to those who filed completed applications by Nov. 30, 2009 in that they will not have to wait long to be added to the band list once they are approved for membership," said Strahl in a press release.

However, waiting is all there is to do until the courts have reached a decision.

While arguments are heard in court, INAC has no choice but to put the band's creation on hold, said INAC spokeswoman Margot Geduld.

According to Sheppard, affidavits will be presented to the courts from each side, followed by a decision from the judge based on the information presented.

White, former chief of the Flat Bay Indian Council, became a founding member of the Qalipu First Nation Watch Group formed in January. White opened membership to his organization to anyone who had submitted a membership application to the Qalipu band.

The Elder has been critical of the fairness and equality shown by the Foundation's board of directors in regards to determining Mi'kmaq status.

Windspeaker attempted to call White to comment on the case, but our calls were not returned.

The push to get the federal government to recognize the Mi'kmaq people of Newfoundland began in 1972.

Applicants for membership must be able to prove their Mi'kmaq ancestry.

Though Qalipu First Nation will officially be recognized by Canada as an Indian Act band, members will not receive a land base.

Qalipu is the Mi'kmaq word for caribou; an animal that has always played a role in the survival of the Mi'kmaq people throughout history.

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# Aboriginal peoples study reveals need for funding review

By Isha Thompson  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

A survey that takes a snapshot of urban Aboriginal life across the country is sparking a dialogue about issues that impact the success of First Peoples in Canada's city centres.

The Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study, which was released April 6 by the Environics Institute, involved person-to-person interviews with 2,614 First Nations, Métis and Inuit people conducted in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Montreal, Toronto, Halifax and Ottawa.

Data gathered between March and October 2009 was designed to capture the values and experiences of the urban Aboriginal population. The president of the Environics Institute has said the study was done with the intention of sharing information in order for people to better understand one another.

The influential role of friendship centres in the life of an urban Aboriginal was one of the key findings. Forty-two per

cent of those surveyed considered friendship centres as the most useful Aboriginal service or organization.

The finding may come as no surprise to those who are aware of the various programs and resources that the centres provide. However, the statistic is something the National Association of Friendship Centres hopes will help draw attention to the lack of funding that is available to the 121 organizations that operate under the friendship centre umbrella.

"The reality is, in 1996 the federal government did an expenditure review and cut 25 per cent of funding," said association executive director Peter Dinsdale. He said \$16.1 million a year of federal dollars is allocated to fund all of the friendship centres across the country, and that annual amount has not increased within the past 14 years.

"We are at the exact same level today. It hasn't grown with inflation. It hasn't grown with new projects. It hasn't grown at all. There has been zero per cent growth."

Dinsdale is hopeful that the results of the study will shake up the status quo and encourage

decision makers to re-evaluate.

Friendship centres were first created in the 1950s as a facility that helped improve the quality of life of Aboriginal people who began moving to urban centres in great numbers. Everything from shelter services and cultural integration programs are a large part of the resources friendship centres provide their communities.

Dinsdale explained that the association's goal is to open more friendship centers in areas that are in need of their services. A task that is challenging when there are locations that are treading water just to keep their doors open.

"We have friendship centres getting \$85,000 a year," explained Dinsdale. "For that, they have to hire an executive director, a bookkeeper, a receptionist and keep that place open for the year," said Dinsdale, who is based in Ottawa.

Employment and health centres followed closely behind friendship centers in the survey for most utilized Aboriginal organizations, with 37 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively. Employment and health services are commonly available at the majority of friendship centres.

A place where urban Aboriginals can be welcomed without judgment is perhaps just as valuable today as it was 60 years ago.

The study also reported that almost all of the Aboriginals surveyed believed they are consistently viewed negatively by non-Aboriginals. Thirty per cent said they were perceived as lazy, while 20 per cent experienced stereotypical judgments of poverty and a lack of intelligence.

Estella Muyinda, executive director of the National Anti-Racism Council of Canada, didn't need to hear details in order to support the study findings.

"Aboriginal people feel that way because it is true," said Muyinda. "Canadians have not put a lot of effort into addressing the discrimination against Aboriginal people."

Muyinda strongly believes that all branches of the Canadian government must do more in terms of providing additional educational programs to young Canadians in order for the cycle of racism to stop.

As executive director for the Toronto-based organization, Muyinda recounted several stories about how urban

Aboriginals continually suffer the consequences of prejudice.

Blogs she has found on the Internet are filled with hate towards Aboriginals and even go so far as to promote their destruction, and blogs are only one of the tools used to spew racism.

"It's really, really wrong knowing the history of Aboriginal people, knowing how many kids have killed themselves because of this dysfunction that has been allowed to continue by our government," said Muyinda.

The council is a community-based network that strives to stand up against all forms of discrimination. The team of board members includes representatives from various ethnic organizations, including Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc, a non-profit Aboriginal resource centre based in Winnipeg.

According to Muyinda, a thorough education curriculum for children about the history of Canada's First Peoples is critical, along with an honest admission that discrimination is a hurdle that is present in various areas of life, including in the search for employment.

"Canada doesn't like to talk about its racism," said Muyinda.

## Loose talk and frustration has commission on the defensive

By Shari Narine  
Windspeaker Contributor

WINNIPEG

**Editor's comment:** Please be aware that some of the language in this article could be offensive to some readers.

An interview by the new director for research for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) with his university newspaper has prompted an apology from commission chair Murray Sinclair.

In a March 22 interview granted by John Milloy, who also serves as history professor with Trent University, Milloy told the *Trent Arthur* that "the churches are not being cooperative at all" when it comes to the TRC accessing documentation.

In January, Milloy was appointed as director of the Research, Historical Records, and Report Preparation for the TRC and as such is tasked with gathering documentation from the churches and federal government.

"We were very surprised by (Milloy's) comments. It was not anticipated," said Henriette Thompson, principal clerk with the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Thompson was one of four representatives from the TRC's

partner churches, which also include the United, Anglican and Catholic churches, to receive Sinclair's letter of apology.

In the interview, Milloy stated, "You go to the big meetings where all of the church reps are and they go on about how important this is; then you go to the archivists and you hear, 'it's private, piss off,' or you hear, 'they haven't given us any money.'"

Sinclair said in his letter, "The TRC has enjoyed an open, accountable and productive relationship with all of our Settlement Agreement partners, and we expect that will continue to be the case."

Thompson said she is willing to attribute Milloy's comments to more "generalized frustration" with the large scope of the TRC and the timeliness Milloy has to set up the research centre and gather documentation.

"There's a lot of work to be done in a short period of time," she said.

In his letter of apology, Sinclair also attributed Milloy's comments to pressure.

"Prof. Milloy is, as we all are, under tremendous pressure to produce comprehensive results within constraints that can be overwhelming. The Trent article, I am assured, is an example of one's impatience winning over one's passion to 'get the job

done.'"

Thompson said the churches have moved beyond Milloy's comments already. Following the official opening of the TRC office in Winnipeg, Thompson and her counterparts met with TRC members over two days and "we had very constructive, positive meetings. All parties committed to an honest discussion of Prof. Milloy's article. We practiced our own truth telling and reconciliation among our partners."

Issues of documentation collection are "being worked through," said TRC Executive Director Tom McMahon. But the TRC is being tight-lipped about those issues.

"Anything under discussion between those parties is really not something we're prepared to speak publicly about right now," said Rod Carleton, TRC communication director.

Many of the issues that are on the table are more protocol issues, said Thompson.

The TRC is requesting more and varied documentation than what the churches needed to provide the federal government with at the time of the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.

"There's really no disagreement around the principle of document production at all. We all agree that we need to, want

to, provide these documentations. Sometimes the technical details just take some time to be clarified and understood and agreed to by all the parties and we moved some distance on that (at closed-door meetings held April 7 and 8)," said Thompson.

She added a working group had been created to focus on legal and technical issues.

Among the technical issues is the method of data collection, in identifying, sorting and classifying the documents.

Among the legal issues are where the responsibility for the documents ends with the churches and begins with the TRC; federal privacy legislation; and corporate issues.

Thompson said her "lack of expertise" would not allow her to speak on whether legal issues also included further civil or criminal action that could be taken by school survivors based on the new documentation. She did note that the work being undertaken by the TRC would support Common Experience Payments and the Independent Assessment Process, both providing money to residential school survivors.

In his interview with the *Trent Arthur*, Milloy said, "They're afraid of lawsuits under the Charter of Rights, for example. The Catholics are especially wary. They might say, 'If we give you

the documents, John, and they're the diary of priest so-and-so and this opens him up to liability'—because he was bugging boys in the basement and that sort of thing—and he sues us (the church) we're in all sorts of trouble.' This is the reason they weren't giving us the documents in the first place, because the documents prove they were not treating children in the way they should have been treated. They're just scared shitless."

In response to Milloy's comments, Pierre Baribeau, lawyer for the Catholic entities, told the *Globe and Mail* on April 6, that the Catholic Church was still waiting for the TRC to produce a clear policy for how documents can be released. He noted the TRC could expect to get 99 per cent of the documents it wants from the Catholic archives.

Said Baribeau, "The TRC does not have a free fishing expedition. We are bound by the law. The law does not allow us to deliver documents which are pertaining to individuals who are named in some documents. We're trying to find a way to protect ourselves because the law does not allow us [to disclose], unless we have the consent of the individual... Whether they are or are not related to allegations is not the subject matter [of the discussions]."

## Canoe families honour memory of one of their own

By Debora Steel  
Raven's Eye Writer

### PORT ALBERNI, BC

Sara Parker of Neah Bay, Wash. never really knew Jerry Jack of Tsaxana, Vancouver Island, but they are forever linked.

Parker was only 16 when Jack asked if he could paddle in the canoe that she skippered during Canoe Journeys in 2006, the canoe that was hit by a two-and-a-half metre wave sending all six of the crew into the cold waters of Juan De Fuca Strait.

Five survived the incident. Jack, 68, a Mowachaht hereditary chief, drowned at the scene. Parker stills suffers thinking about the accident. That's why Jerry Jack Jr. presented her with his father's paddle on April 3. Jack Jr. wanted Parker to know his family loved her and wanted her to heal.

The presentation was made during a two-day potlatch held

to honor the memory of Jerry Jack and his daughter Colleen Pendleton, who succumbed to illness not long after her father's sudden death.

Parker traveled from Neah Bay to Port Alberni to witness the family put away their grief through ceremony, drying their tears and celebrating the lives of their loved ones.

Jack Jr. told Parker no one was to blame for the incident as he presented the paddle that he cherished so much as a reminder of his father. Parker shed some tears and a prayer chant was done as she received the gift.

The potlatch was about four years in the planning, and the event was a highly anticipated one up and down the island, and wherever canoe people lived. The late Jerry Jack was widely known and very respected, and the large gymnasium where the potlatch was held was filled to capacity from morning and into the wee hours of the night.

A thousand meals were served

on the first day alone. Many people who had hoped to honor the family's invitation to attend the potlatch had to turn away because there was no room for them in the building.

The Kwagulth, relatives from the east side of the Island, brought out their songs and dances, including the Hamatsa, the dance of a wildman and the supernatural birds that bring him food.

Led by Elder Adam Dick, the Kwagulth were the first group to perform and they danced and sang for three hours.

Later the family of Kelly John performed. They had composed a song and dance for Claire Newman, the late Jerry Jack's sister, and her daughter. The dance came from a dream where a young girl was being asked by her late brother to dance in the rain with him. The sister told her brother she didn't like the rain and she didn't have an umbrella. The brother told his sister that the raindrops were powerful and

the water was pure.

Other nations performed, bringing out their treasured songs, providing money and gifts to help the Jack family care for their guests.

Dance shows had been made for the Mowachaht/Muchalaht dancers with a design that showed late Jerry Jack in a canoe, underneath a representation of Luna the whale.

Luna made headlines around the world with the Mowachaht people believing he was their reincarnated head chief Ambrose Maquinna. Maquinna believed that he would one day return to his people as a whale.

So friendly was Luna, the killer whale, that officials from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans feared for its safety and hoped to remove the whale from the proximity of people, returning him to the open ocean to rejoin his pod.

A tug of war between the Native and non-Native populations over the whale's


future ensued.

Jerry Jack had a good relationship with Luna. He could stand on the wharf and chant and Luna would come to him. Luna would play with Jerry as he paddled his canoe.

Dr. Simon Lucas described Jerry Jack as an extraordinary man who stood up to government and Canadian law to assert his rights over his traditional territory. He advocated for a healthy leadership, making a resolution for the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council that no one could show up to a meeting if they had been drinking. It's a policy that stands to this day.

Jerry Jack Jr. was overwhelmed by the response to his family's invitation to honor the memory of his father and sister. His Aunt Claire Newman was astounded by the songs and dances that came out to celebrate her relatives.

"For our family it was the best medicine."

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jeannie Cranmer

Aboriginal Education & Employment Strategy Manager

333 Dunsmuir Street, 13th Floor, Vancouver, BC V6B 5R3

Phone 604 623 4401

Fax 604 623 3799

Toll free 877 461 0161

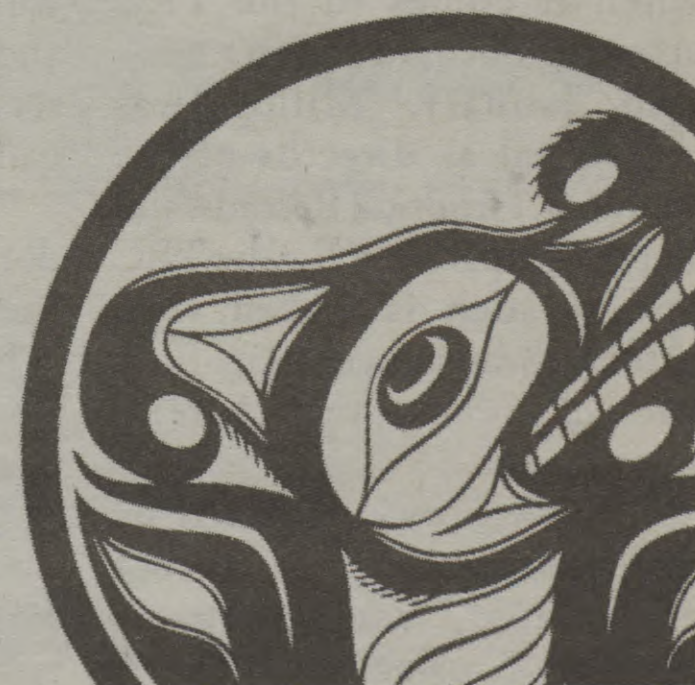
[jeannie.cranmer@bchydro.com](mailto:jeannie.cranmer@bchydro.com)

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# Scholarships help ease financial burden

By Andréa Ledding  
Windspeaker Writer

Formal education isn't just an investment of time and energy – significant money for tuition, books, and living expenses is needed. Student loans are a possibility – but if you happen to qualify, they also have to be repaid, and it's easy to go into extensive debt trying to improve earning potential. This is where a scholarship can be a student's best friend. Many education costs can be covered with minimal time, research, and effort.

For example, Foundation for the Advancement of Aboriginal Youth (FAAY) ([www.ccab.com](http://www.ccab.com)) one of the longest running programs of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB), believes education is the key to prosperity, a better life, and a brighter future – and has helped over 1,500 students with scholarships and bursaries totaling more than \$2.5 million in the past 16 years.

Any Canadian resident of First Nation (status or non-status), Métis, or Inuit heritage, of any age, is eligible to apply to FAAY if they are in high school or any full-time post-secondary program within Canada.

The bursary program provides \$750 to high school students, while the scholarship provides \$2500 and upwards in any discipline. By submitting one form, you are eligible for the consideration of about 145 different scholarships through FAAY. Students are also encouraged to apply elsewhere to maximize their chances of receiving assistance.

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

Williams listed organizations with spring deadlines such as the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation ([www.naaf.ca](http://www.naaf.ca)) and a comprehensive scholarship listing at the Aboriginal Multi Media Society Web page ([www.ammsa.com](http://www.ammsa.com)).

One of the most important factors for FAAY as well as other programs is need as opposed to best grades. Student applicants are encouraged to give as full a picture as possible. The applications forms are available on their Web site, [www.ccab.com](http://www.ccab.com), starting in May. Most scholarships have spring deadlines with the idea of covering fall tuition costs. Sometimes scholarships go directly to the institution to be disbursed or assist with tuition fees.

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation ([www.naaf.ca](http://www.naaf.ca)) disburses approximately \$3 million a year across

Canada in three main funding categories: Fine Arts and Professional Development including Cultural Projects; Health Careers; and Post Secondary Education. Education doesn't just cost time, energy, and dedication – so NAAF, and other organizations like it, provide First Nations students with financial assistance for tuition, books, and living expenses.

There is a difference between scholarships and bursaries. Bursaries are for everyone and everyone is encouraged to apply. While scholarships often focus on academics, bursaries also examine financial need – and as long as that need exists, all students should apply.

Scholarships and bursaries provide opportunities for those who can use them, and any Canadian resident of First Nation (status or non-status), Métis, or Inuit heritage, of any age, is eligible to apply.

NAAF has two major deadlines coming up right now – May 1 for Fine Arts and June 1 for post-secondary and health services. Typically it takes at least 6 weeks to fully process the applications. Oil and Gas Trades dates are in April and November, and other one-time disbursements such as the Métis Health Services disbursement took place in February. Once received, they are processed in the office, and then sent to jury members. Once jurors have reviewed and convened, allocations are made and listed on the website, and cheques issued.

To qualify for a NAAF bursary, students are assessed in four areas, each worth 10 points. Financial need and a demonstrated commitment to aboriginal communities are the first two categories – students must demonstrate community involvement, membership, and an investment in bettering aboriginal communities. The last two areas suitability to chosen field of study – as demonstrated by the written essay and assessment forms; and academic merit through transcripts and assessment forms from instructors or teachers.

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.

So before you get that student loan, or third job, or give up on your dreams – do a little paperwork for some free investment capital that you can perhaps one day pass on to another deserving student when you've got more than you need. There are many organizations that want you to succeed almost as much as you do.

A comprehensive scholarship listing exists at the Aboriginal Multi Media Society webpage ([www.ammsa.com](http://www.ammsa.com)).

## 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.

- One of the longest running programs of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB), the Foundation for the Advancement of Aboriginal Youth One form submitted there will be considered for about 145 scholarships. Their submission form dates are October, once school has already started.

- 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".



# 2010 Aboriginal Scholarship Guide

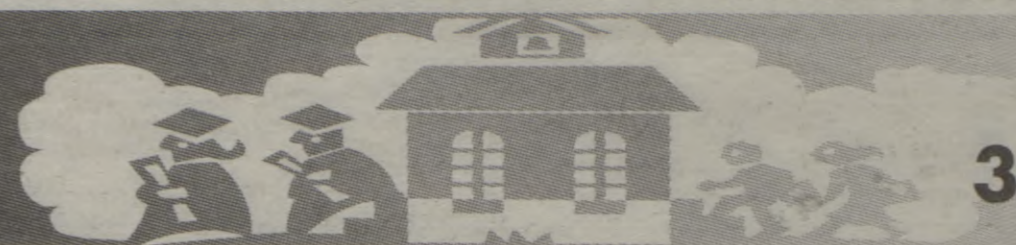
An Insert Exclusively From Windspeaker.



# Aboriginal Scholarship & Bursary Guide

Annual Windspeaker Insert — May 2010

Check online for Aboriginal scholarship/bursary updates at [www.ammsa.com](http://www.ammsa.com)



## Indian and Inuit students.

### TD Bank and First Nations Bank of Canada Aboriginal Education Awards

Deadline: March 31 Value: Five awards of \$1,000 each Recipients will also receive consideration for summer employment and full-time employment once education is complete. Criteria: Applicants must be of Aboriginal ancestry (Status, Non-Status, Inuit, Métis); full time student at recognized Canadian post secondary institution pursuing a program relevant to a career in banking such as business, economics, computer science, math and sciences; in need of financial assistance to further educational goals.

Apply to: Award Coordinator  
Toronto Dominion Centre  
201 Portage Avenue  
P.O. Box 7700  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3E7  
Phone: (204) 988-2800

### AMEC Aboriginal Undergraduate Engineering Scholarship

Deadline: October 17th  
Value: \$5,000

In conjunction with AMEC, CEMF offers up to one \$5000 Undergraduate Engineering Scholarship annually to young Canadian Aboriginal women who are proven leaders and active in their community to encourage them to pursue a career in engineering. Applicants must be enrolled full-time in an accredited Canadian undergraduate engineering program of study and be:

1. In their first year, or 2. In their second year, or 3. In the first term of their third year, immediately prior to the December deadline. Scholarships are based primarily on demonstrated community leadership and involvement in extra-curricular activities. Special emphasis is placed on leadership to recognize and encourage continued contributions to Canadian society. Work

experience may also be considered.

Applicants must be willing to act as role models and promote engineering as a career choice to young Aboriginal girls - each Scholarship winner will be required to make at least one presentation to a high-school level audience of Aboriginal youth.

#### Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be Canadian Aboriginals with permanent residence in Canada. In accordance with the Constitution Act, 1982, Part II, Section 35(2), an Aboriginal applicant is an Indian, Inuit, or Métis person of Canada, or a person who is accepted by one of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada as a member of their community.

All applications must be submitted by all applicants directly to:

The Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation  
AMEC Undergraduate Engineering Scholarship Award  
P. O. Box 370, 1-247 Barr Street  
Renfrew, ON K7V 4A6

### The Department of National Defence Security and Defence Forum (SDF) SDF Aboriginal Scholarship Program

Value: \$10,000

Number available: The Security and Defence Forum has set aside up to \$10,000 a year to fund Aboriginal scholars. The exact number and value awarded annually will depend on the number and quality of applicants. Scholarship funds may cover tuition fees and or expenses related to a degree program, including - but not limited to - support for distance learning.

Fields of study: Social sciences/humanities studies relating to current and future Canadian security and defence issues, including their political, international, historical, social, military, and economic dimensions. Research in the pure or applied sciences is ineligible. Applicants must explain in their proposal the relationship of their study/research plans to

Canadian security and defence issues.

Eligibility: \* Applicants must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents at the time of application and be of either a member of the First Nations (status or non-status), Inuit or Métis. \* Applicants must, as a minimum requirement, hold an Honours Bachelor's degree (four year program) or its equivalent before taking up the award.

Duration: One academic year, and can be used to assist students in continuing their graduate studies at university and/or to purchase technology required to assist distance learning

Eligible institutions: Graduate scholarships are tenable only at Canadian institutions. For more information: For complete information and application form please visit the DND website.

If you wish to have an application form emailed to you, please contact awards@aucc.ca

Phone: (613) 563-1236

Web site: [www.aucc.ca/dnd.html](http://www.aucc.ca/dnd.html)

### Indigenous Scholarship Program - Holiday Inn Vancouver Downtown

Value: \$2,000

Number: 6

Deadline: N/A

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: Any Aboriginal student currently enrolled at or, accepted to a post secondary institution.

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: [holidayinnvancouverdowntown.com](http://holidayinnvancouverdowntown.com).

### Burlington Resources Aboriginal Awards Program

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

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

### Diversified Staffing Services Attention: Burlington Resources Aboriginal Awards Program

100, 805 - 5th Avenue SW

Calgary, AB T2P 0N6

Phone: (403) 237-5577

Toll Free: (877) 271-7720

Fax: (403) 266-3386

Web site: [www.diversifiedstaffing.com](http://www.diversifiedstaffing.com)

### The Canadian Nurses Foundation

Value: varies

Deadline: April 1

The Canadian Nurses Foundation is the only national foundation solely committed to promoting the health and patient care of Canadians by financially supporting nurses through study awards, specialty certification, research grants and general support of

educational endeavors that advance the nursing profession.

The criteria and 2004 application forms are presently on our website [www.canadiannursesfoundation.com](http://www.canadiannursesfoundation.com)

We would appreciate your promoting these scholarships on your web site.

### Canadian Nurses Foundation

50 Driveway

Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1E2

Toll Free: 1-800-361-8404

Fax: (613) 237-3520

email: [info@cnursesfdn.ca](mailto:info@cnursesfdn.ca)

Web: [www.canadiannursesfoundation.com](http://www.canadiannursesfoundation.com)

### The Weather Network — Pelmorex Inc.

Value: One award of \$500.00

Deadline: May 30

The Weather Network educational incentive award is to create interest among Aboriginal peoples in the Canadian Broadcasting industry.

Eligibility: A status or non-status Aboriginal full time student who demonstrates financial need. The applicant is enrolling in a Third or Fourth year Canadian Journalism or Radio and Television Arts program at a recognized College or University and has received passing marks (60% or better) in their previous year of study. Applicants are committed students with proven leadership ability, and enthusiasm for their chosen career path.

If no students entering are eligible, the award may go to an Aboriginal student in another reputable program specifically, Business Administration, Meteorology, Computer Science, Graphic Design or Engineering Technology.

Requirement: Resume, official transcript from most recent year of study, successful interview with Pelmorex and good references.

### Information: Pelmorex Inc.

#### Human Resources

1 Robert Speck Parkway Suite 1600

Mississauga, Ontario L4Z 4B3

Phone: 905-829-1159

Fax: 905-566-9696

## Husky Energy

### ABORIGINAL EDUCATION AWARDS PROGRAM

Husky Energy's Aboriginal Education Awards are available to anyone of Aboriginal ancestry in Canada, who possess suitable academic qualifications, is in need of financial assistance and demonstrates a career interest in the oil and gas industry. Individuals pursuing academic upgrading at a secondary institution or post-secondary studies at a community college, technical institute or university are eligible to apply.

Bursaries will be awarded in the following categories:

Institution	Award Level
University (maximum four years of funding)	\$3,000
Community or Technical College (maximum two years of funding)	\$2,500
Secondary School (maximum one year of funding)	\$1,000

Application forms are found on the Husky website [www.huskyenergy.com](http://www.huskyenergy.com). Applications must be completed and returned to Husky Energy by May 31, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

Husky Energy Inc.  
Aboriginal Affairs Department  
707 - 8th Avenue S.W.  
P.O. Box 6525, Station D  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3G7

Phone: (403) 750-1427 • Fax: (403) 750-1666

Email: [aboriginal.affairs@huskyenergy.com](mailto:aboriginal.affairs@huskyenergy.com)

## TransAlta's Aboriginal Bursary Program.

### Empowering Aboriginal students for success.

Each year, TransAlta offers up to seven \$3,000 bursaries to Aboriginal students attending full-time college or university programs and up to three \$1,000 bursaries for those in full-time trades programs. The annual deadline to apply is September 15th.

For information including eligibility criteria and an application form, visit [www.transalta.com/communities/aboriginal](http://www.transalta.com/communities/aboriginal) or contact Aboriginal Relations at TransAlta at 403-267-7630 (Janet Janvier). Applications are also available at select post-secondary offices.

TransAlta™

## ARE YOU ELIGIBLE? CANADA POST ABORIGINAL EDUCATION INCENTIVE AWARD

If you're a First Nations (status or non-status), Métis or Inuit Canadian with a treaty or membership number who returned to school after having your education interrupted before

completion, you may be eligible for the Canada Post Aboriginal Education Incentive Award. Find out more and submit your application for the award online.

### Submission Deadline

Submissions will be accepted from May 1 - July 31, 2010



[canadapost.ca/Aboriginal](http://canadapost.ca/Aboriginal)



From anywhere... to anyone



### Alliance Pipeline Aboriginal Student Awards Program

Number: One  
 Value: Cost of tuition, books and supplies to a maximum of \$4,000 per academic year.  
 Deadline: April 30  
 Eligibility: Aboriginal students who are residents of Saskatchewan, Alberta or British Columbia; enrolled in, or have applied to a technical school, college or university, in a program relevant to the oil and gas industry; relevant programs include: mechanical engineering technology, instrumentation engineering technology, electrical engineering technology, power engineering, mechanical engineering or business administration.  
**Coordinator, Aboriginal Student Awards Program Alliance Pipeline Ltd., #400, 605 5th Avenue South West Calgary, Alberta T2P 3H5 Phone: (403) 517-6511**

### Imperial Oil Aboriginal Scholarships Awards Program

Please see our ad on page 11.

Value: \$3,500 (maximum for college) and \$4,500 (maximum for university)  
 The awards are designed to cover tuition, textbooks, supplies and other compulsory fees.  
 Deadline: June 30 of each year  
 Imperial Oil Resources offers four individual education awards each year to any person of Aboriginal ancestry entering post-secondary studies. The purpose of the awards program is to encourage people of Aboriginal ancestry to pursue undergraduate post-secondary educational studies in disciplines relevant to the petroleum industry. Applicants must reside in **British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories or the Yukon** for at least one year immediately prior to applying for the award.  
**Application form, full program guidelines and eligibility details can be obtained by calling Imperial Oil Community and Aboriginal**

Affairs at 780-639-5194.

### Jennifer Robinson Memorial Scholarship - Arctic Institute of North America

Value: One scholarship of \$5,000.  
 The Jennifer Robinson Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a graduate student in northern biology who best exemplifies the qualities of scholarship that the late Jennifer Robinson brought to her studies at the Institute's Klucane Lake Research Station.  
 Eligibility: Applicants must submit: a brief description of the proposed research (two to three pages), including a clear hypothesis, relevance, title and statement of the purpose of the research, the area and type of study, the methodology and plan for evaluation of findings. A collaborative relationship or work should be briefly identified; three academic reference letters; a complete curriculum vitae with transcripts; and a list of current sources and amounts of research funding, including scholarships, grants and bursaries.  
 The scholarship committee looks for evidence of northern relevance, and a commitment to field-oriented research.  
**Deadline: January 7**

**Executive Director  
 Arctic Institute of North America  
 University of Calgary  
 Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4  
 Phone: (403) 220-7515  
 Fax: (403) 282-4609**

### Association of First Nations Women Scholarship

Value: Two awards: one in the fall, and one in the spring.  
 Scholarships are awarded twice a year. The successful applicants are presented with their awards at the Blanche MacDonald Memorial Dinner and the Native Indian Teacher Education Program Graduation Dinner.  
 Eligibility: Applicants must: be of First Nation ancestry; be registered as full-time students at a post-secondary institution; and include with

their application proof of registration at a post-secondary institution, a copy of their transcript(s), a professional reference, a personal reference, and a support letter from a major Aboriginal organization.  
 Deadline: Open  
**Association of First Nations Women  
 #1-245 East Broadway  
 Vancouver, B.C. V5T 1W4  
 Fax: (604) 872-1845**

### Canada Post Aboriginal Education Incentive Award

Submissions accepted from May 1st to July 31st of the current year.  
 Are you - a First Nations (status or non-status), Métis or Inuit - a person with a treaty or membership number? - a Canadian citizen? Have you - returned to school after a prolonged absence? - completed one full year of educational/vocational or trade skills training? You are eligible to apply for Canada Post Aboriginal Education Incentive Award.  
**For more information about this award and submitting, please visit Canada Post's website  
 url: English: [www.canadapost.ca/Aboriginal](http://www.canadapost.ca/Aboriginal)  
 French: [www.postescanada.ca/Autochtones](http://www.postescanada.ca/Autochtones)**

### National Union Scholarship for Aboriginal Canadians

Value: One scholarship of \$1,000.  
 Eligibility: The award is open to all Aboriginal Canadian students who plan to enter the first year of a public post-secondary education institution full-time, and who are children of, or foster children of, a National Union member. The award is given to the writer of the best 750-1000 word essay on "The importance of quality public services in enhancing the quality of life of Aboriginal Canadians."  
 Deadline: June 30  
**Scholarships National Union of Public and General Employees  
 15 Auriga Drive  
 Nepean, Ontario K2E 1B7  
 Phone: (613) 228-9800**

Fax: (613) 228-9801

### National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF)

Deadlines:  
 Fine Arts:  
 Two deadlines annually on May 1

OFIFC Bursary:  
 For Mature Aboriginal Women with Dependant Child(ren) Residing in an Urban Setting in Ontario  
 May 1

Legal Studies for Aboriginal People (LSAP) PRE-LAW Bursary Award:  
 May 15

Oil and Gas Aboriginal Trades & Technology  
 Two deadlines annually on April 30 and November 30.

Aboriginal Health Careers:  
 One deadline annually on June 1

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

### Aboriginal Health Careers Program Scholarship (NAAF)

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 (NAAF)

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 (NAAF)

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.

### Diane Fowler Leblanc Aboriginal Social Work Scholarship (NAAF)

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.

### Arts Scholarship Program (NAAF)

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 (NAAF)

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 (NAAF)

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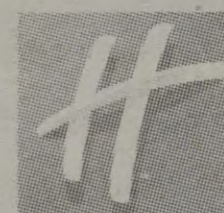
For every night our Aboriginal guests stay with us, a donation is made to our Indigenous Scholarship Program, a post secondary education fund.

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Phone: 604-684-2151  
 Fax: 604-684-4736  
 E: [info@hivancouverdowntown.com](mailto:info@hivancouverdowntown.com)

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

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**TransCanada Pipelines Leadership Awards (NAAF)**  
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 (NAAF)**  
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 (NAAF)**  
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 (NAAF)**  
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 (NAAF)**  
UGG is pleased to provide scholarships to encourage Aboriginal students from the Prairie Provinces to pursue careers in fields related to agriculture.

**Imperial Oil Aboriginal Scholarship Awards Program**  
Imperial Oil has formed a partnership with the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF) 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.

**The CN Aboriginal Scholarships (NAAF)**  
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 (NAAF)**  
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 (NAAF)**  
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.

**National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation 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

**Foundation for the Advancement of Aboriginal Youth (FAAY)**

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

Number of Awards: The number of awards is dependent on the sponsors of the program. In 2008 we disbursed 140 awards, 95 were scholarships and 45 were bursaries.

Award Amounts: Scholarships for post-secondary applicants range from \$2,500 - \$5,000. Bursaries for high school applicants are \$750.

Eligibility: 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.  
3. Original, signed letter from a school/academic representative: teacher, instructor, guidance counsellor, principal, faculty member, teaching assistant, sessional lecturer, practicum supervisor.  
4. Original, signed letter from someone, not related to you, who can speak to your commitment to your community: volunteer organization, aboriginal group, sports rep, camp leader, work supervisor.  
5. Copy of most recent official Transcript or Report Card.  
6. Copy of acceptance letter to program or proof of continued enrolment.  
7. Recent photo in either digital or hard copy format.  
8. Completed application form, signed and dated.

Deadline: Application must be postmarked on or before October 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. No Faxes!

Applications are available for download from Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) website ([www.ccab.com/faay](http://www.ccab.com/faay)) or contact CCAB office for a hard copy.

**Contact Information/Mailing address:**  
**FAAY Coordinator**  
**Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business**  
250 The Esplanade, Suite 204  
Toronto, ON M4C 1Y4  
1-866-566-3229  
[faayinfo@ccab.com](mailto:faayinfo@ccab.com)  
[www.ccab.com/faay](http://www.ccab.com/faay)

**The Canadian Aboriginal Science and Technology Society CASTS Scholarship Programs**

Deadline June 15  
CASTS scholarships are awarded to post-secondary graduate and undergraduate students for leadership and academic achievement. Awards are made possible by individuals who wish to support the advancement of Canadian Aboriginal people. Recipients cannot receive more than one scholarship per year. Students who are members of CASTS will be given first priority, however, all students are encouraged to apply and submit application by June 15 of each year. CASTS Scholarship Chief Crowfoot Professional Health Careers Scholarship Duval House Communication Careers Scholarship Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists Scholarship

**CASTS Scholarship**  
This scholarship is made available to students pursuing academic programs in the sciences, engineering, health-related fields, natural resources and math and science secondary education. Programs of study may be two to four years or longer.

**Chief Crowfoot Professional Health Careers Scholarship**  
Administered for the Deb C. Crowfoot Professional Corporation, this scholarship is made available to four students pursuing professional health careers. The four scholarships are to be awarded in the following manner:

1. must be a member of the Siksika Nation or one of parents must be a Siksika Nation member;
  2. must be a member of Saddle Lake First Nation or one of parents must be a Saddle Lake First Nation member;
  3. must be a member of the Ermineskin, Samson, Louis Bull or Montana First Nations or one of parents must be a member of the four bands;
  4. must be a professional Health Careers student of Canadian Aboriginal Descent.
- Note: Professional health career programs are those that require four or more years of university training.

**Duval House Communication Careers Scholarship**  
This scholarship is offered to students entering fields related to communications such as journalism, graphic design, television and radio arts.

**Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists Scholarship**  
Students pursuing academic programs in the earth sciences are eligible for this scholarship. The program of study must be at least two years in length and the student must have completed the first year of their studies.

When applying for a scholarship please send your applications to:

**CASTS Scholarship Committee**  
P.O. Box 5635  
Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 3G6  
If you require assistance or to request an application form please contact the Treaty 7 Offices  
310-6940 Fisher Road, S.E.

Calgary, Alberta T2H 1W3  
Phone: (403) 258-1775  
Fax: (403) 258-1811  
[www.casts.ca/scholarships.htm](http://www.casts.ca/scholarships.htm)

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Irving K. Barber BC Scholarship Program**  
The BC Aboriginal Student Award was established as part of the Provincial Government's strategy to improve Aboriginal access and achievement. Its purpose is to support Aboriginal people in getting post-secondary education by reducing financial barriers. The Scholarship Society administers the program in partnership with the Victoria Foundation. Awards of \$1,000 - \$3,500 are available for Aboriginal people pursuing post-secondary education that is at least nine weeks long. Application for this award includes:  
\* A brief outline of your education and career goals;  
\* Supporting evidence of your Aboriginal ancestry;  
\* Evidence of community service in an Aboriginal, or any other, community; and  
\* Indication of financial need.  
**Deadline: May 15th.**  
For 2010, \$250,000 (up to 250 awards) is available for awards under this program.

**BC Aboriginal Student Award**  
**Irving K. Barber BC Scholarship Society**  
#109 - 645 Fort Street  
Victoria, BC V8S 1Y9  
<http://www.bcscholarship.ca/web/node/55>

### First Citizens Fund - Student Bursary Program

Objective: To provide financial assistance to eligible Aboriginal students enrolled in post-secondary education programs.  
Number: Varies  
Value: Maximum \$2,000 per year (Students receiving assistance from their Band or Tribal Council are eligible for a maximum of \$700 per academic year.)  
Criteria: Bursaries are available to assist

Aboriginal post-secondary students that are normally a resident of BC and are attending a recognized university or college on a full-time basis. Applicants for the bursary program must be registered in a minimum two-year academic program and must maintain an average of C+ or 2.5 GPA.

Bursary levels are determined by the financial needs of each student but the maximum bursary students can receive is \$2,000 per academic year, and this is paid only after the receipt of official transcripts. The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCA AFC), under contract with the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, currently administers the Student Bursary Program.

**BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres**  
200 - 506 Fort Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 1E6  
Phone: 250 388-5522  
Fax: 250 388-5502  
Toll Free: 1-800-990-2432

**Robert Allison Bursary for Non-Status Indians - Okanagan University College**  
Description: Enables deserving students to begin or continue attendance at Okanagan University College. Value: The annual income from a bequest may be divided or awarded to a single applicant at the discretion of the selection committee. Eligibility: Native descent. Applicant's circumstances make it necessary to be self-supporting. Available to students at any College Centre. Duration: N/A. Deadline: August 14, 2009

**Vicki Hitchen Memorial Scholarship - Okanagan University College**  
Deadline: April 30  
If you are a member of the Adams Lake Indian Band, Neskonlith Indian Band, Little Shuswap Indian Band, Spallumcheen Indian Band or Okanagan Indian Band and if you are planning to continue University or College education next year, you may wish to apply for the Vicki

Hitchen Memorial Scholarship. This is a \$1,000 scholarship\* available to an Aboriginal Canadian currently attending OUC. Applications are available from the Financial Awards Office, or at any OUC campus office. \*Amount may vary slightly depending upon interest actually earned by the endowment fund.

**Interior Aboriginal Endowment Fund Award - Okanagan University College**  
Deadline: August 14, 2009  
The Interior Aboriginal Endowment Fund Award has been established by the Interior Aboriginal Business Services Society to provide annual awards for Aboriginal students. Recipients will be permanent residents of B.C. and will be enrolled full-time in any year of a degree, diploma or certificate program at any centre of OUC. Selection of the award recipient will be based on a combination of academic achievement and financial need, with emphasis on financial need.  
**Information: Financial Awards Office**  
**Okanagan University College**  
1000 K.L.O. Road  
Kelowna, British Columbia V1Y 4X8  
Phone: (250) 862-5419  
Fax: (250) 862-5466

**McCarthy Tetrauit Annual Scholarship - UNBC**  
One (1) valued at \$750 Available to full-time First Nations student enrolled in Northern Advancement Program. Recipient must be resident of northern British Columbia as defined by UNBC Act.

**Bank of Montreal Aboriginal Scholarship - UNBC**  
One (1) valued at \$1,500 Available to full-time First Nations student enrolled in Northern Advancement Program. Recipient must be resident of northern British Columbia as defined by UNBC Act. Must have completed at least 60 credit hours towards Bachelor of Commerce degree.

**Canfor Corporation Scholarships - UNBC**  
Three(3) valued at \$3,000 Must have completed

MAC EWAN

# Bachelor of Child and Youth Care

Prepare for a rewarding career helping at-risk children, youth and their families manage emotional and behavioural problems.

With diploma and degree options, full-time or part-time studies, you can choose your own path - and reach your full potential.

Balance work and study.

The first two years of the program are offered through distance delivery. With faculty support and online access to MacEwan's Library, distance students are able to succeed in obtaining their education while balancing busy lives.

[www.MacEwan.ca/cyc](http://www.MacEwan.ca/cyc)

# Become part of our growing Aboriginal community at **THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA**



## The University of Manitoba is a leader in Aboriginal education.

Reflecting a vibrant and diverse Aboriginal community, the University of Manitoba is a place where students thrive in an atmosphere that honours and celebrates their cultures and traditions.

Aboriginal House is a warm and inviting new building on campus which acts as an educational, social and cultural hub for the university's 1,600 plus Aboriginal students. At Aboriginal House, students can interact and share with peers, staff and Elders in an environment which is truly a home away from home.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The UofM offers a variety of undergraduate and graduate scholarships for Aboriginal students pursuing post-secondary studies. View a complete list of our scholarships and bursaries online at: [umanitoba.ca/student/admissions/aboriginal/](http://umanitoba.ca/student/admissions/aboriginal/)



Aboriginal House

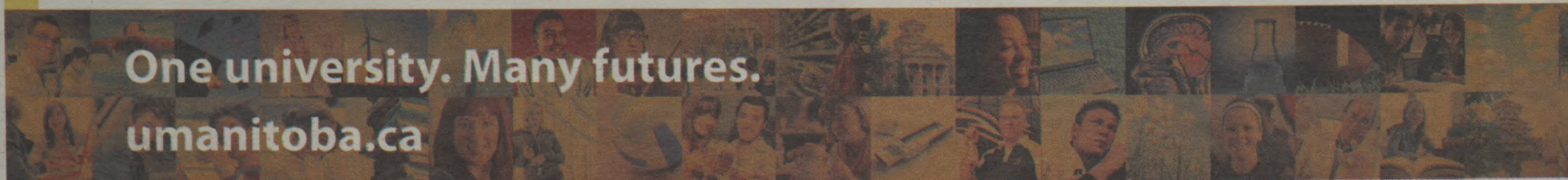


## Aboriginal Student Centre

The Aboriginal Student Centre is a unit within Student Affairs and provides services for all students. The centre is found within Aboriginal House, a place where Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students can gather, study, and share their cultures and traditions in a comfortable, welcoming environment. Here you'll find a caring and supportive community aimed at easing the stress of school. Staff at the Aboriginal Student Centre are eager to help any student with academic, personal or cultural questions. The Aboriginal Students Association, the largest student group on campus, also has an office in Aboriginal House.

One university. Many futures.

[umanitoba.ca](http://umanitoba.ca)





## Focused on you

With more than 90 degrees to choose from, students have the choice and flexibility they need to succeed. Students can choose from a wide range of academic programming including management, engineering, social work, nursing, education and music.



### Some program options that offer built-in supports include:

**Native Studies** is one of the finest programs in Canada. Focusing on governance, land claims, economic development, representation of Aboriginal peoples and women's issues, Metis and Inuit studies, as well as achievements by Indigenous artists and writers, the Native Studies department provides students with a comprehensive foundation from which to grow and succeed.

**Engineering Access Program** is the most successful program of its kind in Canada. It offers an opportunity for Aboriginal students who initially may not meet the engineering entrance requirements, to receive academic upgrading, personal and financial support. Successful completion of the program leads to a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering.

**Aboriginal Business Education Program** provides academic, personal and financial support for students applying or enrolled in the Asper School of Business. By ensuring that students have what they need to succeed in their studies, ABEP prepares them to become true entrepreneurs and business leaders within their communities and beyond.

### Giving a community hope for the future



"As an adult learner, I feel the services offered by the Access Programs, Health Careers Access Program (HCAP), are very beneficial. The staff has been supportive in providing the direction, guidance, and encouragement that I need to meet my educational goals. Having this support in place has enabled me to trust and to believe in myself, and this has brought me to another stepping stone in my life."

-Debbie (DJ) Fisher

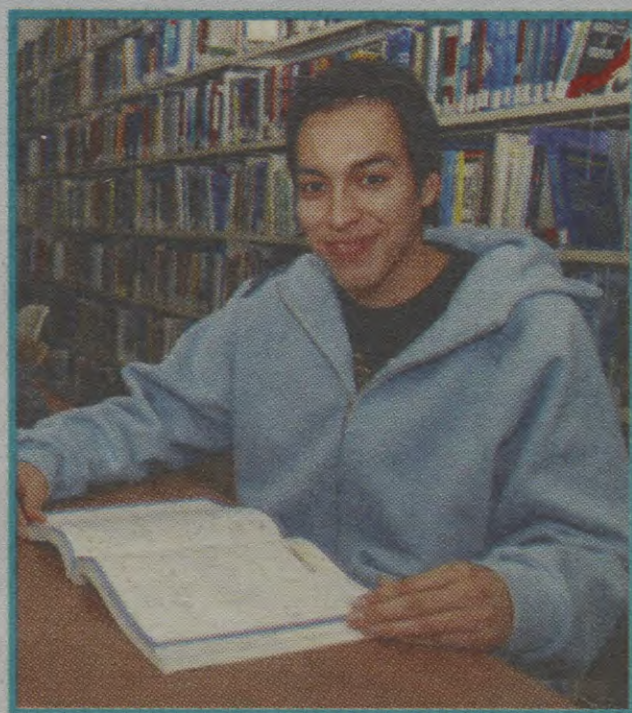
**Access Programs** offer academic and financial support, counseling, advocacy, instruction and tutoring for anyone who has not had an opportunity to attend university because of social, economic, or academic reasons. Students in the program may obtain any degree offered by the university or may choose to enter the specialized Education and Health Careers programs. Access Programs have helped countless Aboriginal students in their learning journey and in their pursuit of a better future for themselves, their families and their communities.

**Aboriginal Focus Programs** respond to the needs and interests of Aboriginal people and offer greater accessibility and cultural relevance. Its certificate and degree-credit programs prepare Aboriginal students for practice in such fields as counseling, education, community wellness, child and family services, and environmental studies. AFP also offers health career and transition year programs as a preparatory year offering a full range of student supports. AFP classes are held at the University of Manitoba's downtown campus and in communities.

### My fear of university was gone

"The ABEP program gave me a map of what I needed to accomplish, including educational and emotional support guides to aid me in my attainment of higher education. My fear of university was gone after my first meeting with them."

-Hanwakan Whitecloud



### For more information

Visit: [umanitoba.ca/aboriginal](http://umanitoba.ca/aboriginal) or contact one of our Aboriginal Student Recruitment Officers:

Christine Pierre

Phone: 204-474-9983

Jen Wood

Phone: 204-474-7144

Email: [Aboriginal\\_Community@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Aboriginal_Community@umanitoba.ca)



UNIVERSITY  
OF MANITOBA

at least 60 credit hours towards Natural Resources and Environmental Studies program. Preference to dependent relatives of Canfor employees or to First Nations students.  
**For information on all UNBC Scholarships please contact: UNBC Financial Aid Office 3333 University Way, Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9**

### BC Hydro Aboriginal Scholarship Program

To encourage and financially assist Aboriginal people to pursue post-secondary education in disciplines relevant to BC Hydro and, where possible, to provide recipients with work experience.

Value: Eight scholarships of \$1,000 each.  
 Eligibility: Status Indian, Non-Status Indian, Inuit or Métis. Has successfully completed the first year of a full time post-secondary program in a discipline relevant to a broad range of BC Hydro careers.

Good academic standing (preferably 75% grade point average) in addition to good written communications skills. Balanced lifestyle (i.e., fitness, community involvement, hobbies and interests). Supported by a British Columbia First Nation or Native organization.

Deadline: Mid-January  
**Information: Outreach Programs BC Hydro**  
 16th Floor, 333 Dunsmuir St.  
 Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5R3

## ALBERTA

### Joe P Cardinal Bursary/Internship Award The Aboriginal Multi-Media Society of Alberta (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

Deadline: May 1, 2010

Please submit to:  
 Selection Committee, AMMSA Bursary  
 13245 - 146 Street  
 Edmonton, AB T5L 4S8  
 Web: [www.ammsa.com](http://www.ammsa.com)

Grant MacEwan College Foundation - Alberta  
 Please see our ad on page 5.

Robert C. Carson Memorial Bursary  
 Sylvia Schulze Memorial Bursary  
 for Alex Taylor School  
 Alberta Indian Arts and Craft Society Scholarship  
 Alberta Health Careers Bursary  
 Aboriginal Leadership Development Awards  
 Canative Housing Corp. Award  
 CFCW Ltd. Scholarships  
 92.5 CKNG FM Scholarship  
 Claudette Rendall Award  
 CN Bursary  
 Dreamcatcher Scholarship  
 Eagle Feather Award  
 Oldies 1260 CFRN/CFRB-The Bear Scholarship  
 Robert Markle Scholarship  
 Social Services Bursary Program

Information:  
 Student Awards Office  
 Student Advising Centre  
 Room 7-112A City Centre Campus  
 Grant MacEwan Community College  
 P.O. Box 1796  
 Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2P2  
 Phone: (780) 497-5063

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](http://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

### 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 of each year. We are now accepting applications throughout the year from students entering the trades.

Applicants are advised to apply early.  
**For more information call:**  
 1-866-626-0015

Web site: [www.DollarsForLearners.com](http://www.DollarsForLearners.com)

### TransAlta Aboriginal Awards Program

Please see our ad on page 3.

TransCanada has been a long time supporter of educational initiatives focused on Aboriginal people. By encouraging and supporting Aboriginal people to obtain an education, we can help increase the number of Aboriginal professionals and trades people in the workforce. We are proud of our long-standing commitment to education and we will continue to enhance and find new ways of furthering our support. The TransCanada's Aboriginal Awards Program is designed to encourage and assist Aboriginal people (status and non-status Indians, Métis and Inuit) to obtain undergraduate post-secondary education.

Closing Date: Administered by the colleges  
 Value: Variable (based on interest earned on the endowment)

Eligibility: Aboriginal ancestry; maintain full course load in chosen program; possess promising academic qualifications; require financial support.

Available to students attending: Grande Prairie Regional College; Lakeland College;

### Robert C. Carson Memorial Bursary

Deadline: Students should contact the financial aid office of their institution.

Value: \$500 Number Available: Five  
 Eligibility: Awarded to Aboriginal students without sponsorship enrolled full-time in their second year of the Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice Diploma or Faculty of Law programs at Lethbridge Community College, Mount Royal College, Grant MacEwan Community College, University of Calgary or University of Alberta. Applicants must have been a resident of Alberta for a minimum for three years prior to applying. Application forms are available from the institution's Student Awards Office.

### NAIT Aboriginal Student Club

Value: \$800

Number: 1

Eligibility: Available to students of Aboriginal Heritage who are enrolled in the second year of the Forest Technology program. Conditions: Awarded on the basis of academic achievement.

Deadline: September 30th

Office of the Registrar Student Awards and Financial Aid The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology  
 Suite 1000 11762-106 Street N.W.  
 Edmonton, Alberta T5G 3H1

### Syncrude Aboriginal and Women Education Awards Program

Deadline: June 30

Two awards of \$2000.00 each for Aboriginal people attending post secondary educational institutions in programs related to the oil sands industry (i.e. engineering, computer science, technologists etc.)

Two awards of \$2000.00 each for Aboriginal people attending post secondary educational institutions pursuing studies in the Finance/Accounting/Business disciplines.

Two awards of \$2000.00 each for women attending post secondary institutions pursuing a degree in Science & Technology.

Eligibility: Aboriginal peoples (Indian, Inuit & Métis) Women pursuing studies in science & technology

You must: have lived in Alberta for at least one year immediately prior to applying for the award, or formerly long-term residents; meet the academic requirements for the program of study; maintain a full course work load leading to a recognized degree or diploma; provide

proof of acceptance into accredited colleges or universities within Canada (must be provided before awards are received)

A selection committee, comprised of Syncrude employees and community members will evaluate applications and its decision will be final. Criteria to be used in selecting award recipients are: financial need, academic performance and potential, and appropriateness of the discipline of studies to Syncrude.

Syncrude Canada Ltd. will notify all applicants, in writing, of the results no later than mid-August.

How to apply: Application forms are available from the address listed below. Please send your completed application form along with the required transcripts and proof of acceptance to the address outlined below. Please note that if proof of acceptance and/or transcripts are not available at that time, then it must be produced prior to receiving the award.

For further information regarding this award program contact Lana Agecutay at Phone: (780) 790-6356

E-mail: [agecutay.lana@syncrude.com](mailto:agecutay.lana@syncrude.com)  
 Syncrude Aboriginal/Women Education Awards Program

P.O. Bag 4023, M.D. 1200,  
 Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 3L5

### Alberta Energy Company Limited Native Scholarship Award

Value: Five (5) \$3,500 scholarships each year. Must be accepted into the oil and gas industry at an accredited technical school, college or university. Candidates must have resided in Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta or other areas where AEC has an operation interest.

Applications are available by contacting:  
 Alberta Energy Company Ltd.

3900 - 421 - 7 Ave S.W.  
 Calgary, Alberta T2P 4K9  
 Fax: (403) 266-8212

### Senator James Gladstone Memorial Scholarship - Alberta Indian Investment Corp.

To recognize excellence and achievement by a Treaty Indian and to encourage and assist Treaty Indians in the pursuit of post-secondary education in the area of business, finance or economics.

Amount: Maximum of \$750 for students enrolled in colleges and technical institutions. Maximum of \$1,000 for students enrolled in universities.

Eligibility: Treaty Indian and resident of Alberta. Enrolled full time at a college, university or technical school in one of the following programs:

1. Commerce 2. Business 3. Administration 4. Accounting 5. Small business.

Personal and academic objectives, particularly as they relate to Aboriginal economic and business development in Canada.

Application Deadline: Varies  
 Information: General Manager  
 Alberta Indian Investment Corporation

P.O. Box 180  
 Enoch, Alberta T7X 3Y3  
 Phone: (780) 470-3600  
 Fax: (780) 470-3605  
 www.aiicbusiness.org

## SASKATCHEWAN

### The University of Saskatchewan

#### Pre-Medicine Awards for Aboriginal Students Chase Memorial Scholarship

Louis Riel Scholarship

Aurora Awards

Gordon McCormack Memorial Scholarship

Harvey Bell Memorial Prize

Roger Carter Scholarships

Henry Favel Scholarship

Diana Leis Bursary

Siberman Filer Bursary

Nexen Awards for Aboriginal Students

Entering Awards - Business Economics

Continuing Awards - Business Economics

Entering Awards in Land Use and Environmental Studies (LUESt) or Environmental Earth Sciences (EES) Continuing Awards in LUESt or EES:

Information: Scholarships and Awards

Office of the Registrar

University of Saskatchewan

105 Administration Place

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 5A2

Phone: (306) 966-6748

Fax: (306) 966-6730

E-mail: [awards@usask.ca](mailto:awards@usask.ca) Jake

### SaskPower Diversity Awards Program

Award description: There are two awards categories:

Entrance: up to seven awards will be presented in each academic year for students entering first-year studies. Continuing: up to eight awards will be presented in each academic year for students entering second-year studies and beyond. Award value is \$1,500

Application deadline: No later than September 30. Awards are presented on a one-time only basis and recipients may only receive one

## Faculty of Health

Hands-on learning



Earn a degree, diploma or certificate in a wide array of health programs.

Trained health care professionals are in demand.

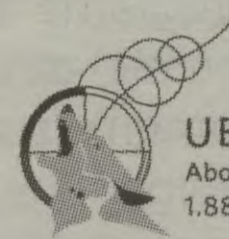
Find your future at UCN.

[www.ucn.ca](http://www.ucn.ca)



The Pas 866.627.8500

Thompson 866.677.6450



UBC OKANAGAN  
 Aboriginal Programs & Services  
 1.888.807.8202

email: [dan.odenbach@ubc.ca](mailto:dan.odenbach@ubc.ca)



a place of mind

OKANAGAN



"The support you get here has been great. You think you're going to be alone, but you're not. The support is there for you. And you have tutors for each subject... You have the same classmates in all your classes. That's a form of support. We help each other out if somebody needs it."

- Aboriginal Access Studies alumni Chris Alexander

### Quick facts on Aboriginal Access Studies:

- University level courses are offered from an Aboriginal perspective like using the medicine wheel in math.
- There are no prerequisites required to be enrolled.
- Aboriginal Access Studies students, who would not have otherwise qualified, have gone on to being accepted into a degree program at UBC.
- The program has a dual intake of September and January of each calendar year.
- Aboriginal Access Study students meet the full-time course load requirements for BC and Canada student loans.

## Environmental Training for Aboriginal People

Take a training program in your community and in a few short weeks, you can:

- develop the skills to work in the environmental industry
- gain practical field experience that employers want



ECO CANADA

BEAHR

[www.eco.ca/beahr](http://www.eco.ca/beahr)

# Aboriginal Scholarship & Bursary Guide

Annual Windspeaker Insert — May 2010

Check online for Aboriginal scholarship/bursary updates at [www.ammsa.com](http://www.ammsa.com)



SaskPower post-secondary award during their studies.

Although students are eligible to apply for the SaskPower Diversity Awards Program and the SaskPower Scholarship Program, the same student cannot receive both awards. Incomplete applications will NOT be considered.

Application forms are available from SaskPower on-line at [www.saskpower.com/careers/students/ps\\_awards.shtml](http://www.saskpower.com/careers/students/ps_awards.shtml)

## SaskEnergy Aboriginal Scholarships

In support of Saskatchewan Aboriginal youth, SaskEnergy provides 14 post-secondary scholarships each year.

Students must attend Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC), Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT), Gabriel Dumont Institute and Dumont Technical Institute.

Value: Varies from \$1000 to \$5,000

Eligibility: Aboriginal; Saskatchewan resident; Saskatchewan high school graduate; achieve 80% average in grades 11 and 12; demonstrate financial need; register full-time for the fall or winter semesters.

Phone: (306) 777-9079

Contact each institution for application forms.

## City of Regina - Henry Baker Scholarships

The City of Regina offers six scholarships to students at the University of Regina including one at SIFC in Regina

Value: 2 @ \$1000 and 4 @ \$2,000 Eligibility: Varies

Deadline: August 1st

Information: Phone: (306) 777-7800

Application form: [www.cityregina.com](http://www.cityregina.com)

Return completed application to:

City of Regina Public Affairs Division

City Hall, 14th Floor P. O. Box 1790

Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3C8

## Eugene Lavallee Memorial Scholarship

Deadline: June 15 One valued at \$500 Awarded in preference to First Nations students whose home community is in the Touchwood File Hills Qu'Appelle area. Subsequent preference will be given to First Nations students from Saskatchewan.

Award based on highest average marks and then based on experience in the field of addictions. In the event of two or more students having similar marks the scholarship will be awarded based on experience.

No student may receive this scholarship two years consecutively.

Apply to: Executive Director  
New Dawn Valley Centre Box 400  
Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan S0G 1S0

## SaskTel Scholarships and Bursaries

### SaskTel Scholarship

Every year, SaskTel awards eleven scholarships of \$3,000 to post-secondary students in Saskatchewan. To be eligible, you must be a Saskatchewan resident; be enrolled in full-time studies related to telecommunications at a post-secondary education institution in Saskatchewan; have achieved a minimum average. SaskTel encourages students from employment equity groups to apply; however, scholarships are not limited to equity candidates. Deadline to apply is September 15.

### SaskTel and Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) Scholarship

The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) and SaskTel jointly established six scholarships valued at \$1,500 to encourage Aboriginal students to pursue post-secondary education in fields directly related to telecommunications. There is an Entrance Scholarship for students who have successfully completed High School requirements or the Adult Secondary Education program and a Continuing Scholarship for students who successfully complete the first year of study of a two year diploma program. Check [sasktel.com](http://sasktel.com) for all eligibility details. Deadline to apply is November 1.

### A.E. Blakeney SaskTel Bursary

The recipient of the A.E. Blakeney Bursary is awarded \$10,000 annually for a period of four years, for a total value of \$40,000. You must be a first year post-secondary student and preference will be given to students from designated employment equity groups. Check [sasktel.com](http://sasktel.com) for full criteria. Deadline is June 9 of the awarding year. Visit [www.sasktel.com/about-us](http://www.sasktel.com/about-us) for more

information and to apply on-line.

## Areva Resources Inc. Scholarships

Deadline: June 30 Ten (10) \$5,000 University and Five (5) \$4,000 Technical Available annually to Northern Saskatchewan residents for courses of study of future benefit to the north.

Information and application forms: Manager,  
Northern Affairs Cogema Resources Inc. P.O. Box 900,  
La Ronge, Saskatchewan S0J 1L0  
Phone: (306) 425-6880  
Fax: (306) 425-6886

## Napoleon Lafontaine Scholarship Trust

To encourage Saskatchewan Indian people to pursue full-time education training in fields related to the economic development of Aboriginal peoples.

### Entrance Scholarships

Value: Up to \$300 for each eight-month period of full-time studies. The number of scholarships and amount depend on the number of applicants in relation to the funds available. Eligibility: Métis or Non-Status Indian. Has resided in Saskatchewan for at least five years.

### Gabriel Dumont Graduation Scholarships

Value: Up to \$200 for each year of full-time studies to a maximum of \$1,000 for any one recipient. Eligibility: Métis or Non-Status Indian. Has resided in Saskatchewan for at least five years. Completed a diploma, certificate or degree program at the Gabriel Dumont Institute which required a minimum of eight months of full-time study.

Enrolled in a public or Aboriginal education institution in Canada providing a recognized diploma, certificate or degree program. Nominated by Institute staff based on academic achievement, contribution to the student body and commitment to Aboriginal peoples. Achieve a B average in the most recent months of full-time studies.

### Graduate Scholarships

Value: Up to \$2,000 for each award period, granted on the basis of 12 consecutive months of full-time studies. The number of scholarships and the amount are determined by the number of

applicants in relation to the available funds. Eligibility: Métis or Non-Status Indian. Has resided in Saskatchewan for at least five years. Engaged in any graduate degree program at the masters or doctoral level or accepted into a masters or doctoral program at a recognized Canadian university.

### Loan Remission Scholarships

Value: Not to exceed 50% of the outstanding loan balance to a maximum of \$3,000. Will not be paid before the date on which interest on the outstanding loan becomes payable. Eligibility: Métis or Non-Status Indian. Has resided in Saskatchewan for at least five years. Has an outstanding loan balance through the Canada Student Loan Program and/or Saskatchewan Student Loan Program after the receipt of any other loan remission awards available to the applicant through the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan.

### Special Scholarships

Value: Varies depending on whether funds designated for other scholarships have been used or unanticipated revenues received. Eligibility: Métis or Non-Status Indian. Has resided in Saskatchewan for at least five years. Enrolled in a public or Aboriginal educational institution in Canada providing a recognized diploma, certificate or degree program. Committed to the needs of Aboriginal people. Achieve a B average in the most recent eight months of full-time studies, over a period of 12 consecutive months.

### Undergraduate Scholarships

Value: Up to \$500 for each eight-month period of full-time studies. Number of scholarships and amount determined by the number of applicants in relation to the funds available. An individual may receive up to three consecutive or non-consecutive undergraduate scholarship awards. Eligibility: Métis or Non-Status Indian. Has resided in Saskatchewan for at least five years. Completed a minimum of one academic year of full-time studies at a recognized Canadian public or Aboriginal educational institution. Duration: Annual Application Deadline: October 1 and May 1 each year. Information: Napoleon Lafontaine Scholarship Fund Room 210 College West building

University of Regina  
3737 Wescana Parkway  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0A2  
Phone: (306) 347-4100  
Fax: (306) 565-0809

## Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Post-secondary Scholarships

Eligibility: Saskatchewan resident who is enrolled or about to be enrolled in full-time studies at a post-secondary education institute in Saskatchewan and must be taking a program related to the following: recreational and leisure studies; business administration; hospitality management; electronics and computer technologies; or communications.

Value: Six (6) \$1000 scholarships for university degree programs; Eight \$500 scholarships for certificate/diploma programs  
Deadline Date: May 31

Applications submitted to:  
Saskatchewan Gaming Scholarship Committee 3rd Floor,  
1880 Saskatchewan Drive  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 0B2

## Donald R. Simmons Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility: Indian or Métis ancestry

Value: Two \$500 awards  
Criteria: Enrolled in first year of approved institution, Grade 12 graduate; General Proficiency Award applicants excluded  
Deadline Date: October 15

Applications submitted to:  
Saskatchewan Education,  
Training and Employment Student Financial Assistance Unit  
Ground Floor, East Wing, Walter Scott Building  
305 Albert Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3V7

## Gabriel Dumont Award

To assist Aboriginal students enrolled at the Kelsey Institute in furthering their education. One award is designated to each of the following divisions: Adult Basic Education (ABE); Industrial Engineering; Health, Science and Community Services  
Value: Three awards of \$250 each  
Eligibility: Aboriginal student enrolled in a full-time, on-campus program at Kelsey Campus. Academic achievement. Involvement in student

# BOW VALLEY COLLEGE

## Unleash your potential

Bow Valley College provides a nurturing environment for our community of Aboriginal learners.

### Our Aboriginal Centre offers:

- student support programs and activities
- cultural teachings
- academic assistance for student success
- access to an Elder for cultural and spiritual consultation

Check out [www.bowvalleycollege.ca](http://www.bowvalleycollege.ca) for information about financial aid and scholarships, including the I Yii Kakimat (Try Hard) Award, and the Scobey Hartley Memorial Endowment.



Aboriginal Centre  
BVC North Campus  
403-410-1786

332 – 6 Avenue SE  
Calgary, AB, T2G 4S6

Elijah Wells, BVC student, and Teresa O'Krane, BVC alumna



life activities. Participation in and contribution to the community.

Deadline: May 31 each year for ABE. February 28 each year for Industrial Engineering and Health, Science and Community Services.

**Information:** Director,  
Student Awards  
SIAST Kelsey Institute  
P.O. Box 1520  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 3R5

## MANITOBA

### Louis Riel Institute - Bursary & Scholarships - Manitoba

Deadline: Due dates vary, check with university directly

All Métis students planning to attend one of the four (4) provincial universities in Manitoba are eligible to apply for an award.

Bursaries are awarded primarily on the basis of economic need. Scholarships are awarded primarily on the basis of academic merit. The value & number of each award varies at each university and is best obtained directly from the University.

**Application:** Louis Riel Institute  
103-150 Henry Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

### Sokoloff Family Bursary - University of Manitoba

Deadline: June 30

One (1) \$700 to \$1,000 annually available for Aboriginal students at the University of Manitoba. One Student shall be selected by the Director of Financial Aid and Awards.

**Application:** Financial Aid and Awards  
University of Manitoba  
Suite 422, University Centre Building  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

### Abraham McPherson Memorial Scholarship Award

Award provided by Manitoba Aboriginal Education Counselling Association Inc. to Aboriginal students pursuing post-secondary education in the counselling field.

Value: Four scholarships annually \$250 each  
Eligibility: Aboriginal ancestry (Status, Non-Status, Inuit, Métis); Manitoba resident, high school graduate with overall 70% average in graduating.

Procedure: Applicants are available from the Student Services Centre Awards Office, from any Tribal Council, Band Education Authority in Manitoba.

Deadline: May 31  
**Manitoba Aboriginal Education Counselling Association Inc.**  
305-352 Donald Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2H8  
Phone: (204) 947-0421

### Manitoba Hydro's Awards Bursaries and Scholarships

#### Employment Equity Bursary

Deadline: October 1

Value: 11 bursaries of \$1,500 awarded plus summer employment

Eligibility Criteria: \* Member of an Employment Equity Designated Group \*\* Entering first year of studies at a Manitoba University studying: Engineering, Computer Science or Commerce OR Entering first year of studies at a Manitoba College studying: Civil, Computer, Electrical or Electronic Engineering Technologies \* Academic history

#### Trio Award

Deadline: December 1 Value: \* 1 award of \$200 awarded to a student in Senior 2 \* 1 award of \$300 awarded to a student in Senior 3 \* 1 award of \$500 awarded to a student in Senior 4 Potential opportunity for summer employment or full-time employment in one of Manitoba Hydro's Trades Training Programs \* Eligibility Criteria: \* Aboriginal ancestry \* High school student in Senior 2 to Senior 4 \* Academic performance

#### Northern Student Award

Deadline: December 1

Value: 3 awards of \$300 awarded to Junior High or High school students living north of the 53rd parallel \* Potential opportunity for summer employment or full-time employment in one of Manitoba Hydro's Trades Training Programs \* Eligibility Criteria: \* Aboriginal ancestry \* Living north of the 53rd parallel \*

#### Mathematics Award

Deadline: May 15

Value: 1 award of \$200 granted to a student in Senior 1  
Eligibility Criteria: Aboriginal ancestry Highest provincial achievement in the Pascal Math competition Application Process: Math teachers or competition coordinators will forward the name of their most successful student who is willing to self-declare as being of Aboriginal Ancestry.

#### Science Fair Award

Deadline: May 15

Value: 1 award of \$200 granted to a student in Junior High or High school

Eligibility Criteria: \* Aboriginal ancestry \* High achievement in a Science Fair competition Application Process: Science teachers or coordinators will nominate Aboriginal Science Fair participants.

#### First Year Information Technology Bursary

Deadline: October 1 Value: 2 bursaries of \$1500 awarded plus potential opportunity for summer employment

Eligibility Criteria: \* Aboriginal ancestry \* Accepted into the University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg or Brandon University studying: Computer Sciences or University One Computer Science curriculum OR: Accepted into Red River College or Keewatin Community College studying: Computer Analyst/ Programmer or Computer Systems Technology \* Academic performance

#### Second Year to Final Year Information Technology Bursary

Deadline: October 1

Value: 2 bursaries of \$2500 awarded \* Potential opportunity for summer employment available to recipients returning to full time studies in the fall. \* Potential opportunity for full-time employment in the Information Technology Training Program for students in their final year.

Eligibility Criteria: \* Aboriginal ancestry \* Students in second year to final year at the University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg or Brandon University studying: Computer Sciences OR: Students in second year to final year at Red River College or Keewatin Community College studying: Computer Analyst/ Programmer or Computer Systems Technology \* Academic performance

#### Second Year to Final Year Engineering Technology Bursary

Deadline: October 1

Value: 6 bursaries of \$1500 awarded \* Potential opportunity for summer employment available to recipients returning to full time studies in the fall \* Potential opportunity for full-time employment in a Manitoba Hydro in-house Trades Training Program for students in their final year \*

Eligibility Criteria: \* Aboriginal ancestry \* Students in second year to final year at Red River College, Keewatin Community College or Assiniboine Community College studying: Electronic, Electrical, Computer, or Communications Engineering Technologies. \* Academic performance

#### Certificate Program Award

Deadline: December 1 for July to December programs and July 2 for January to July programs. Value: 2 awards of \$500 awarded plus potential opportunity for term or full time employment.

Eligibility Criteria: \* Aboriginal ancestry \* Enrolled in one of the following programs: Administrative Assistant, Human Resources Assistant, Network Support, or Contact Centre Representative at a recognized Educational Institution in Manitoba. \* Academic performance

**Application Process:** Pick up an application from your educational institution's awards office or visit our website at [www.hydro.mb.ca](http://www.hydro.mb.ca).

Submit completed application to:  
Community Relations Advisor,  
Employment Equity Department,  
Manitoba Hydro,  
P.O. Box 815,  
Winnipeg, MB, R3C 2P4

#### Scholarships and Bursaries at the University of Manitoba

Please see our ad on pages 6 and 7.

The University of Manitoba offers a wide range of scholarships and bursaries for Aboriginal students.

By self-declaring as a person of Aboriginal descent you will automatically be eligible for a number of awards. Self-Declaration forms are available from the Aboriginal Student Centre, or you can check the box that applies to you on your University of Manitoba application form.

\* Bursary awards are based primarily on financial need; students must submit the University of Manitoba Bursary Application.

\* Academic scholarships will be automatically given to the students who meet the criteria. Specific applications are not required unless otherwise noted.

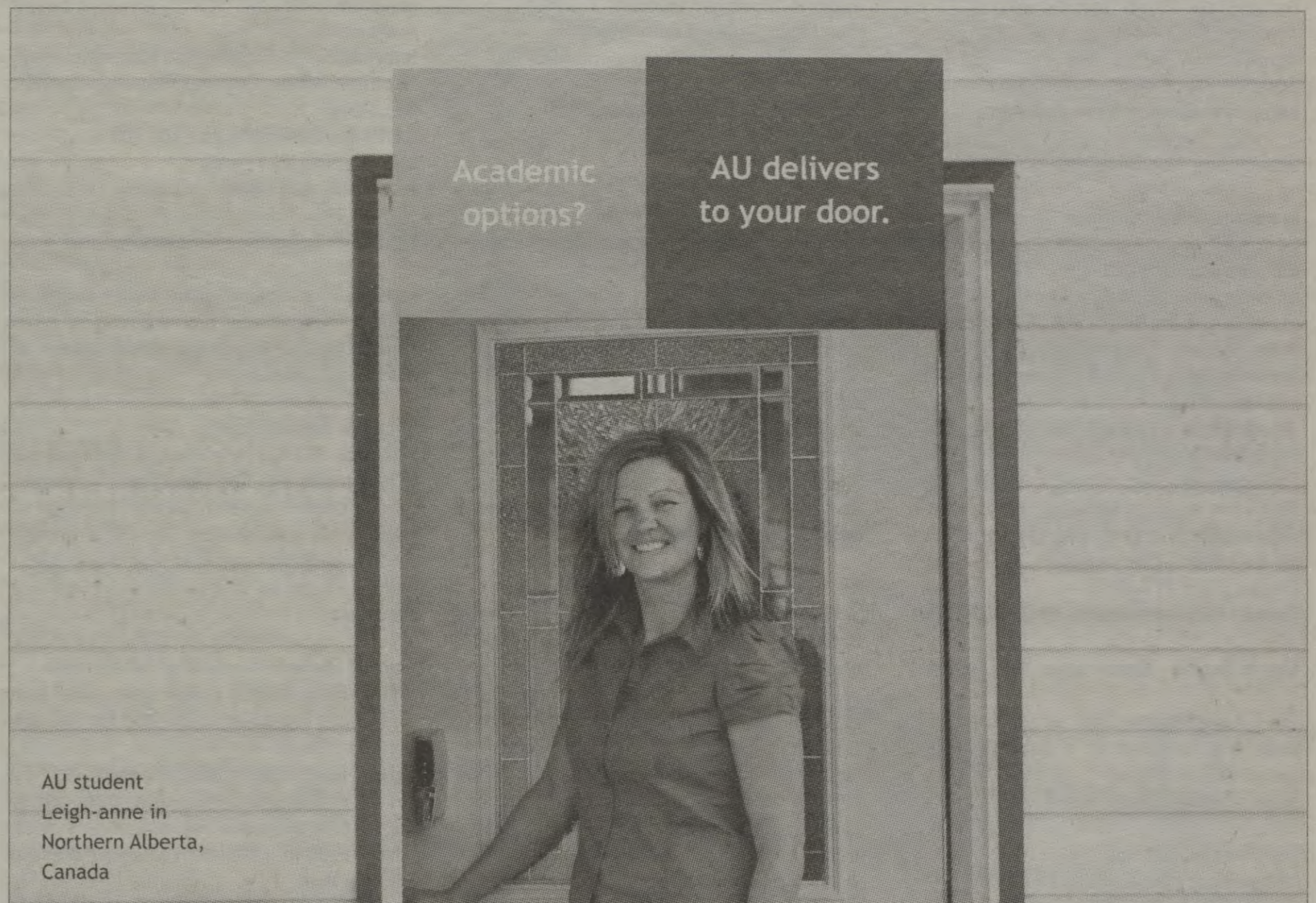
For more information on any awards, please contact:

Financial Aid & Awards  
422 University Centre,  
Winnipeg, MB  
Ph: 474-9531, Fax: 474-7543  
email: [awards@umanitoba.ca](mailto:awards@umanitoba.ca)  
Visit: [www.umanitoba.ca/student/awards](http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/awards)

The following awards at the University of Manitoba are available to Aboriginal (First Nation, Status or Non-Status, Inuit, and Métis) students:

All Faculties at the University of Manitoba

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1-800-661-5469 • Email: [subscribe@ammsa.com](mailto:subscribe@ammsa.com)



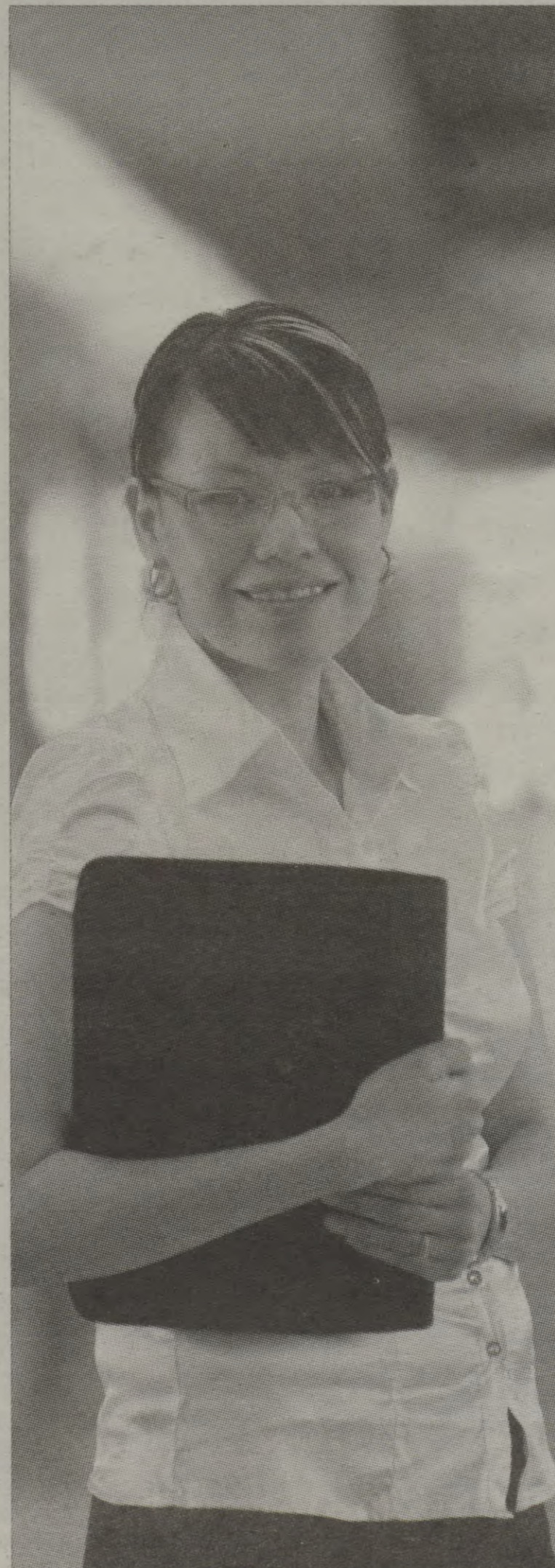
AU student  
Leigh-anne in  
Northern Alberta,  
Canada

### Take post-secondary courses in your community with Athabasca University.

At Athabasca University, our large selection of courses and programs can be accessed online from almost anywhere in the world. We're distance education specialists, so we make sure that all our courses have built in flexibility, so you can fit them into your busy life. For AU student Leigh-anne, AU proved to be an ideal solution. Leigh-anne took some university transfer courses at her home college, and went on to complete her BA in psychology at AU. She's now working towards her master's in psychology at a university in Edmonton. AU offers over 700 courses and 90 undergraduate and graduate degree, diploma and certificate programs to select from. If you're 16 or older, and are eager to learn, you can study at AU. Academic choice. Another reason why AU stands out as a global leader in distance learning excellence.

standout [www.athabascau.ca](http://www.athabascau.ca)  
1-800-788-9041

Athabasca University



## SUCCESSFUL CAREERS START IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Did you know that NAIT has successfully delivered programs to aboriginal communities in Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, Nunavut and all parts of Alberta?

Programs currently being offered in aboriginal communities include:

- Introduction to Trades
- Pre-Technology/Upgrading
- Business/Accounting
- Apprenticeship programs
- Project Management
- Accounting Certificate
- Aboriginal Entrepreneurship
- Computer programs
- And more

For more information contact

PH 780.378.1230

VISIT [www.nait.ca/cit](http://www.nait.ca/cit)



CORPORATE AND INTERNATIONAL TRAINING



# Aboriginal Scholarship & Bursary Guide

Annual Windspeaker Insert — May 2010

Check online for Aboriginal scholarship/bursary updates at [www.ammsa.com](http://www.ammsa.com)



**Marguerite and John Burelle Memorial Aboriginal Scholarships**  
- four awards of \$3,000

**Mary and Louis Finkle Aboriginal and Immigrant Scholarship & Bursary**  
- \$450 (per award) - application required

**Sonia and Ralph Kaplan Aboriginal and Immigrant Scholarship & Bursary**  
- \$450 (per award) - application required

**Winston Samlalsingh Scholarship**  
- one renewable scholarship of \$1,175 for the student entering the University of Manitoba from high school with highest average

**Frances E. Ross Bursary**  
- \$500 (estimated) available for a Métis student in any program

**Louis Riel Bursaries at the University of Manitoba**  
- 84 awards at \$1,500 for any student in any program who holds membership in the Manitoba Métis Federation

**Louis Riel Bursary**  
- \$150 (estimated) offered every two years to a student in any program

**Honourable Mitchell W. Sharp Bursary**  
- \$3,425 available for multiple awards for U1 students

**Cyril Tobias Memorial Bursary**  
- \$2,875 available for multiple awards for students in any program who are from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, or Alberta

**Farm Credit Canada Scholarship**  
- one award of \$1,500 for a student in either the I.H. Asper School of Business or the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences

**Joan and Dean Sandham Scholarship in**

**Aboriginal Health Professional Leadership**  
- \$6700 available for multiple awards for medical doctors and nurses in any undergraduate or graduate program who demonstrate leadership skills and a commitment to developing a career in medicine or nursing

**Johnston Bursary**  
- \$5,200 available (variable numbers and values) for students in Law or Medicine

**Centre for Aboriginal Health Education Student Support Fund**  
- \$5,000 to offer multiple emergency bursaries (\$50 to \$500) to undergraduate students in Dentistry, Dental Hygiene, Medical Rehabilitation, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy

**Wiciwawin Aboriginal Alumni Emergency Bursary**  
- \$2,125 available for multiple awards for students in any program

**School of Art George Swinton Memorial Scholarships**  
- \$750 for a student in the B.F.A. (Honours), B.F.A., or Dip. in Art

**Architecture (Environmental Design) Frank and Marjorie Silver Bursary**  
- \$800 bursary for a student in Master of Architecture, City Planning, Interior Design, or Landscape Architecture program

**Allan Waisman Aboriginal Architecture Scholarship**  
- one award of \$4,950 for a student in Master of Architecture, City Planning, Interior Design, or Landscape Architecture Program

**Asper School of Business Aboriginal Business Education Program (ABEP) Awards**  
- multiple scholarships & bursaries of \$500-\$2,000 to ABEP students

**North West Company Aboriginal Student Scholarship in Management**  
- one award of \$1,125 for U1 student who intends to enter Management - must submit letter of intent

**Vision Quest - Steve Prince Memorial Bursary**  
- \$1,000 for a student in the I.H. Asper School of Business who has demonstrated community involvement

**Linda K. Park Memorial Bursary**  
- two bookstore credits of \$200 available for students in ABEP

**Faculty of Architecture Allan Waisman Aboriginal Architecture Scholarship**  
- one award of \$4,000 for Master's student

**Faculty of Education Manitoba Association of School Superintendents Bursary**  
- one award of \$600

**Manitoba Teachers' Society Aboriginal Bursary in Education**  
- one award of \$2,400

**Faculty of Engineering Engineering Access Program (ENGAP) Awards**  
- multiple scholarships based on grade point average and multiple bursaries from \$500 - \$2,500

**Faculty of Graduate Studies Right Honourable Brian Dickson Graduate Fellowship**  
- one award of \$5,350 for Masters of Law student who is Aboriginal or whose focus is Aboriginal rights

**Ph.D. Studies for Aboriginal Scholars (PSAS) Fund**

- variable amount of \$5,000-\$20,000 for students in first four years of any Doctoral program

**President's Graduate Scholarship for First Nations, Inuit, Métis Students**  
- \*beginning in 2009-10 - for a student in first four years of any Doctoral program or first two years of any Masters program

**Faculty of Human Ecology Human Ecology Endowment Fund Scholarship for Aboriginal Students**  
- up to three scholarships (minimum value \$1000)

**Jean Goodwill - Jean Steckle Bursary in Human Ecology**  
- one award of \$2,900 for student involved in Aboriginal community

**Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management NFL/Budweiser Recreation Services Aboriginal Student Development Award**  
- one award of \$670

**Faculty of Law Michael and Joy Phelps Bursary**  
- one award of \$1,000

**Petro-Canada Manitoba Law Foundation Bursary**  
- one award of \$1,675

**Faculty of Medicine Jack Armstrong Memorial Bursary**  
- \$1,475 for a student in the Faculty of Medicine

**Victoria and J. Stuart Downey Entrance Scholarship in Medicine**  
- \$4,050 total given to one undergraduate student entering the Faculty of Medicine  
- \$3,037 given upon admission to the Faculty of Medicine  
- The remaining balance, \$1,013, given in the summer if the student is admitted to the Bachelor of Science in Medicine program, in the Faculty of Medicine

**Faculty of Social Work Elizabeth Hill Scholarship**  
- \$5,450 available for one or more awards

**Esther Seidl Scholarship**

- \$4,875 available for one or more awards for graduate students in Social Work

**MASW Affirmative Action Bursary**  
- three awards of \$1,000

**Margaret Mary Burns Award in Social Work (Scholarship)**  
- \$16,425 available to offer scholarships for Masters and Doctoral students in Social Work

**Margaret Mary Burns Award in Social Work (Bursary)**  
- \$8,075 available to offer bursaries for pre-Masters and Masters students in Social Work Awards Related to Aboriginal Studies (open to non-Aboriginal students)

**Aboriginal Issues Press Scholarship**  
- variable number and value; for graduate students with research focus on Aboriginal Issues

**James Gordon Fletcher PhD Fellowship**  
- one award of \$16,000 for student researching Aboriginal communities and persons - submit application

**D.A. Thompson, Q.C. Prize for Aboriginal Peoples and Land Claims**  
- one prize of \$100 for student graduating from Law

**D.A. Thompson, Q.C. Prize for Aboriginal Peoples and Law**  
- one prize of \$100 for a student graduating from Law

**Oakes-Riewe Aboriginal-Environmental Studies Research Award**  
- \$10,750 to offer multiple awards of \$500 to \$5,000 for master's and Doctoral students conducting interdisciplinary environmental research within an Aboriginal context

**George A. Schultz Bursary in North American Native History**  
- \$2,000 for a Masters or Doctoral student in History whose research focus in North American Native History

**External Awards Available for Aboriginal Students Manitoba Hydro Bursaries in Business, Engineering and IT**



## Aboriginal Awards Program



**1. Aboriginal Scholarship Award**

Imperial Oil has formed a partnership with the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF) to manage its Aboriginal Scholarship Awards Program. Please apply online at NAAF's post-secondary education bursary awards program ([www.naaf.ca](http://www.naaf.ca)) or contact NAAF at 1-800-329-9780.

**2. Cold Lake Education Award**

One award of \$1,000 and consideration for summer employment will be given to an aboriginal member of regional descent\* attending a petroleum related post-secondary program in 2010.

**For eligibility details and application forms contact 780-639-5195**

Deadline for applications: **June 30, 2010**

\*Cold Lake First Nations, Elizabeth Settlement, Region 1 and 2 Métis Nations of Alberta, Kehewin, Frog Lake, Fishing Lake, Saddle Lake, Goodfish Lake, Beaver Lake, Buffalo Lake, Kikino, Heart Lake

## Aboriginal Student Access Program (ASAP)

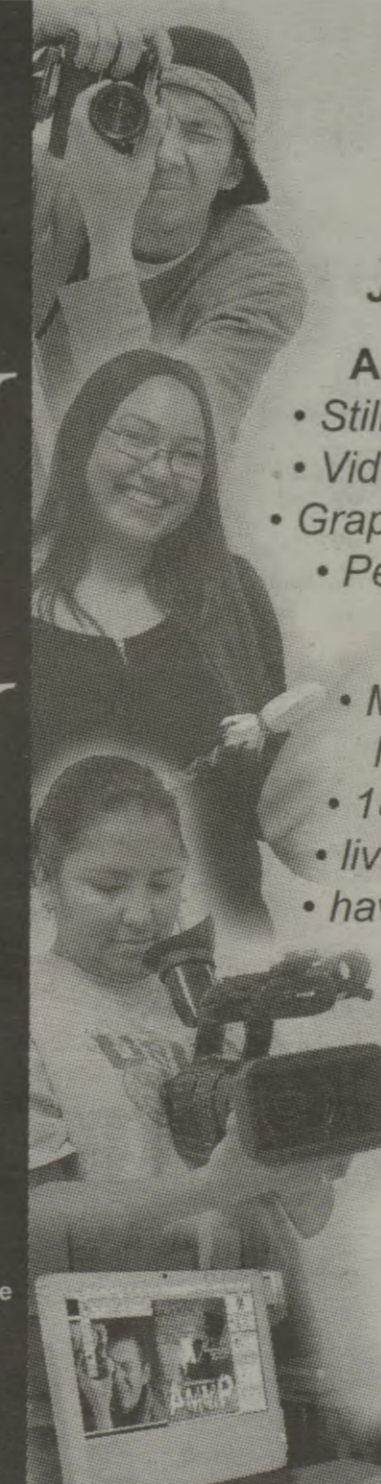
Are you interested in attending the University of Calgary? The U of C offers a full-time transition-year program for Aboriginal students. This program offers core post-secondary level classes and additional support services.

We are accepting applications for the Fall 2010 semester, which starts on September 7, 2010.

For more information, please call 403-220-5975 or e-mail [ASAP@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ASAP@ucalgary.ca)

[ucalgary.ca/nativecr](http://ucalgary.ca/nativecr) UOEC • THIS IS NOW

A  
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## The Aboriginal Multi-Media Arts Program

Jump Start Your Career Now

Are You Interested in:

- Still Photography & Photoshop
- Video Production & DVD Authoring
- Graphic Design & Web Page Design
- Personal & Cultural Development

Are You:

- Métis, Status, Inuit, or do you have an Aboriginal background
- 18 to 29 years of age
- living in or relocating to Edmonton
- have Grade 11 English or better

We are Recruiting Now!

call: 780-965-6542 or email: [palmerj@shaw.ca](mailto:palmerj@shaw.ca) web: [www.cunninghamcom.ca](http://www.cunninghamcom.ca)

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See You on the NAIT Campus  
Oct 4th 2010 till March 19th 2011



- multiple awards (\$1,500 to \$2,500 each) plus offer of summer employment with Manitoba Hydro for students in Business, Engineering, Computer Science, and University 1 (with a focus on IT) October 1st application deadline

**Manitoba Hydro Employment Equity Bursary**  
- multiple awards of \$1,500 each, plus offer of summer employment with Manitoba Hydro for students entering first year Business, Engineering, or Computer Science who belong to an Employment Equity Designated Group (see website for definition).  
October 1st application deadline. Visit Manitoba Hydro at [www.hydro.mb.ca](http://www.hydro.mb.ca) for applications and more information.

**MB Business Council Bursary**  
- multiple awards of \$3000 each for students who demonstrate financial need and are in good academic standing. March 30th application deadline. Visit Manitoba Business Council at [www.businesscouncil.mb.ca](http://www.businesscouncil.mb.ca) for applications and more information.

For more information on any University of Manitoba awards, please contact:  
**Financial Aid & Awards**  
422 University Centre,  
Ph: 474-9531, Fax: 474-7543  
email: [awards@umanitoba.ca](mailto:awards@umanitoba.ca)  
Visit: [www.umanitoba.ca/student/awards](http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/awards)

### ONTARIO

**Awards - Brock University**  
- General Motors of Canada Brock Scholars Award  
- Enbridge Aboriginal Bursary  
- Brock Donor Entrance Scholarship  
Applications open January 1 - March 31, each year.

Also, all of awards are available on our website [https://experience.brocku.ca/Undergraduate\\_Study/Awards.ezc](https://experience.brocku.ca/Undergraduate_Study/Awards.ezc)

**Information: Lily Scappaticci**  
Scholarships and Awards Assistant  
Student Awards and Financial Aid  
Brock University  
500 Glenridge Ave  
St. Catharines, Ontario L2S 3A1  
Ph: 905-688-5550 ext 3028  
Fax: 905-688-3051

<http://www.brocku.ca/studentawards>

#### Casino Rama Aboriginal Scholarships

Awarded in the spring from applications received in the fall.  
Undergraduate and graduate studies  
Full time students must be of First Nations status and must be in second year of their post-secondary studies or higher in an accredited college or university.  
Academic achievement on transcripts must meet minimum A to B percentile averages.  
Person must be a Native resident of Ontario.  
Judging of applications includes consideration of student volunteered community service.

**Corporate Affairs Department**  
Casino Rama RR#6  
Box 178  
Rama, Ontario L0K 1L0  
Phone: (705) 329-5256

#### Four Directions Scholarships Awards

Four scholarships of \$1000.00 each will be awarded annually to graduating aboriginal (Status, Non-status, Metis and Inuit) secondary school/adult students. These awards are administered by the Ontario Native Education Counselling Association.  
Criteria - Student of aboriginal ancestry graduating from an Ontario Secondary School with O.S.S.D of the current school year. - Good academic standing throughout the school year. - 75% overall average in graduating year - Proceeding into a post-secondary institution full time program - Involvement in the community and/or school extra-curricular activities. - Recommended by Secondary School, First Nation Community or Education Counsellor. - Leadership qualities, dedication and good attendance.

**Deadline: June 30, 2010 @4:00 P.M.**  
**Supporting Documents July 30, 2010**

#### Colin Wasacase Scholarship 2010

A \$1000.00 scholarship will be awarded annually to an aboriginal (status, Non-status, Metis and Inuit) Post Secondary COLLEGE student and to a (Status, Non-status, Metis and Inuit) post-secondary UNIVERSITY student, who have successfully completed their first year in a full-time program in the field of Counselling. These two (2) scholarships are administered by the Ontario Native Education Counselling Association.  
Criteria:

- Full-time Post Secondary student of aboriginal ancestry - Must have successfully completed their first year in a Counselling program at an Ontario Post-Secondary Institution - Good academic standing throughout the first school year - 75% overall average in first year - Proceeding into the second year of the same program - Involvement in the community and/or school extra-curricular activities - Recommended by Secondary School, School, First Nation Community or Education Counsellor - Leadership qualities, dedication and good attendance  
**Deadline: June 30th, 2010 @4:00 p.m.**  
**Supporting Documents by July 30th, 2010**

**Ontario Native Education Counselling Association**  
38 Reserve Road, Box 220,  
Naughton, Ontario, P0M 2M0  
Email: [oneca@oneca.com](mailto:oneca@oneca.com)  
Website: [www.oneca.com](http://www.oneca.com)

#### Ontario Hydro John Wesley Beaver Awards

The John Wesley Beaver educational award is equal to one year's college or university tuition, made available to one male and one female person of Aboriginal descent, enrolled in targeted post-secondary programs and selected by the Ontario Hydro Native Circle. Based on academic achievement and financial need.  
**Deadline: June 30 of each year.**

**For more information:**  
**Phone: (416) 592-6748**  
**Fax: (416) 592-4190.**  
**Awards are available to Ontario residents.**

#### University of Toronto Scholarships

##### Roman Paduch Scholarship Fund

To be awarded to an Aboriginal student on admission to the Faculty of Law or the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. The student will be considered on the basis of financial need, demonstrated contribution, commitment, and interest in the native community.

##### Metis Nation of Ontario Bursary

To be awarded to Metis students registered and enrolled at the University of Toronto who demonstrate financial need.

**Florence Evelyn and William Leonard**

#### Prideaux Award

To be awarded to a Canadian Inuit or Aboriginal student from the North West Territories or Moosonee area who is entering or registered at the University of Toronto in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, Architecture Programs in the Faculty of Arts and Science or Wycliffe College. To be awarded to a student who is a member of Scouts Canada, on the basis of scouting service and experience.

#### Rosalind Murray Bradford Scholarship

Awarded to an undergraduate student of native Canadian ancestry entering second, third or fourth year of study in an undergraduate program at the University of Toronto. The candidate must have obtained at least a "B" standing in the previous year. Financial need will also be considered.

#### Gladys Watson Aboriginal Education Fund

Awarded to Aboriginal students enrolled in graduate programs at the masters or doctoral level, and to second-entry professional programs (law, medicine, education, etc.) Preference will be given to those students who demonstrate financial need.  
**Deadline: July 1**

#### First Nations House Grant Program

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**Deadline: End of November**

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**Deadline: November**

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

# All Nations' rink action a treat for devoted fans

By Sam Laskaris  
Raven's Eye Writer

### PRINCE GEORGE

Curtis Cardinal's decision to form an all-Native men's hockey team in Hazelton this past December has already paid off.

The first-year team, known as the Hazelton Wolverines, captured top honors in the men's all status division at the Lumber Kings Sports Club All Nations Hockey Tournament.

The event, which attracted 28 teams, was staged April 9 to 11 in Prince George.

Besides serving as the coach and manager, Cardinal also played for the Wolverines. His squad defeated the Nakazdli Chiefs from Fort St. James 7-4 in the championship final. The Wolverines were awarded \$2,500 in prize money for winning their division.

"I knew we had a good team," said Cardinal, who netted a hat

trick in the championship final. "The team I had assembled was pretty good."

The Wolverines' 20-player roster included 10 individuals from Hazelton. The club also featured six players from Williams Lake. And the squad was rounded out by two players from Prince George as well as one from Columbia Lake and another from Fort St. James.

"I figured we had the right guys," Cardinal said of his tournament roster, which featured some key out-of-town performers.

One of the Wolverines' players from Prince George was Dylan Willick, who spent this past season with the Western Hockey League's Kamloops Blazers.

By winning the championship final, the Wolverines were able to avenge their lone round-robin loss in the tournament. The Chiefs had downed the Hazelton side 5-1 earlier in the tourney.

The Wolverines, however, won

their two other round-robin contests. They blanked a Saskatchewan-based midget boys' side 7-0. And it doubled a Moberly Lake club 12-6.

Hazelton then beat the Moberly Lake entry 7-5 in a semi-final match, earning a berth in the championship final.

The men's all status category attracted just four entrants. The tournament also featured a five-squad women's division. There were also seven teams participating in the oldtimers (35 and over) grouping. And 12 clubs competed in the men's C division.

The event has been held annually since 1985. As a result, it has become one of the longest-running Aboriginal hockey tournaments in the country.

Tournament chairman Harley Chingee was pleased at how evenly matched the majority of the teams were.

"There was a total of 54 games played," he said. "And 17 of them went into overtime."

That included two of the championship games. The Prince George Beavers captured the women's title, with a 3-2 OT victory over the Northwest Lightning, a squad from Houston, B.C.

And a club named the Blueberry Blackhawks eked out a 7-6 overtime triumph over the Fort St. James Chiefs to take home the oldtimers crown.

Meanwhile, in the C Division final, a Prince George-based squad known as Kyle Inc., blanked the Nakazdli Junior Chiefs 7-0.

"There was parity in every division," Chingee added. "There

were no real blowouts. That's good for the fans, but not good for me as it puts everything behind schedule. But that was OK."

Chingee said he was also impressed with the calibre of play at this year's tournament. And he had special praise for those who participated in the women's category.

"The skill was a little improved this year compared to last year," he said. "And I thought the women's division was rather skilled this year."

Chingee estimated there were between 1,200 and 1,500 spectators that showed up each



PHOTO: LG PHOTOGRAPHY

day during the tournament. Matches were held at the Kin Centre, which includes three ice pads, as well as at the CN Centre, home of the WHL's Prince George Cougars.



Corey Potskin is upended by Orey Forsythe in the championship game between the Nakazdli Chiefs (black jersey) and the Hazelton Wolverines, a first-year team that took the match 7-4 in this year's Lumber Kings Sports Club All Nations Hockey Tournament.

"The economy sort of tanked and (our attendance figures) have been down the last few years," Chingee said.

He added the three-day tournament attracted about 14,000 fans in both 2004 and '05. And he's confident the event can once again attract that sort of number, when the economic situation improves. "There's a lot of interest in this tournament," he said.




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Ontario Birchbark: Special Section providing news from Ontario

Thirteen years in development, lodge finally opens

By Katherine McIntyre  
Birchbark Writer

Moose Factory, Ont.

Despite an early thaw, and concerns that the river would be impassable, organizers of the grand opening of Washow Lodge on the shores of the Harricana River near Moose Factory Island breathed a sigh of relief when bush planes arrived with officials for opening ceremonies held on March 31.

The Moose Cree's long-awaited lodge and outdoor centre will host guests in the early summer if all continues to go well.

The opening ceremony and ribbon-cutting took place on the snow-covered ground facing the lodge just as the first geese of the season flew overhead.

"A good sign," said Sinclair Trapper, master of ceremonies and chief operating officer for the lodge.

Twenty-three members of the Echum family on whose trapline the lodge is built gathered on the verandah for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Ninety-four-year old Charles Brodie Echum, one of the last of the nomadic Crees, cut the ribbon with a ceremonial axe on a slab of wood. After a prayer spoken in the Cree language by Eva Lazarus, guests assembled in the lodge's pine-paneled dining room for a traditional feast, speeches and a slide show.

Rick McLeod Farley, development consultant, read a speech prepared by Bert Wapachee, the former Economic Development Officer. He had kept the project together for the 13 years of development, but was unable to attend the opening because of family reasons. Wapachee's speech included an homage to committee members who had passed, his fond memories of hunting geese, ducks, rabbits and partridge in the lodge area and his hopes for the lodge's future.

The lodge land was originally owned by the Ontario Northland Railway and used as a goose camp. It was sold to the Moose Cree in the early nineties. From these beginnings an action plan developed. His hopes for the project will be that it is a place of discovery, not only for tourists, but also for his own people.

He explained that during the planning stages elders spoke of their longing to get out on the land. Single-parent families

wanted Cree cultural exposure for their children. Wapachee hopes to address these mutual needs by using the property as a cultural retreat, a conference centre for local and neighboring bands, as well as for a northern experience for tourists.

He noted that marketing to the vast European market, which is estimated at 10 million people who want to experience Aboriginal culture, signifies a positive future for the lodge. But he warned that the lodge must deliver a high quality visitor experience and he anticipates it will take at least two years to tap this market.

A feast of traditional foods that included moose stew with vegetables and dumplings, goose roasted over a spit in a tipi, beaver, and savory bits of moose entrails, accompanied the speeches.

The building is designed in the shape of a bird with outstretched wings with the pine lined dining area and up-to-date kitchen located where the bird's tail feathers might be. Bedrooms are furnished with queen-sized beds, sometimes two to a room, a small wood burning stove and a private bathroom with a composting toilet. The entire building is extremely eco-efficient with extensive use of solar heat and heavy insulation,

Until the summer when they anticipate their first guests, the Washow development committee will be preparing programs and tours to give tourists a true northern experience. With the assistance from Fed North, a training program has been in place for young people from the Moose Cree First Nation reserve to learn hospitality skills that include housekeeping, serving, property maintenance and tour operations.

One of the young guides explained that in his course he learned how to take guests into the bush to discover animal tracks, where guests will find the best bird sites and fishing spots. He will be a guide on boat trips in summer and in winter take guests out snow shoeing, cross country skiing, and to ice fishing spots.

Yet to be finalized is the most economical way to bring guests into this isolated site on the Harricana River.

Funding for Washow Lodge has been supplied by federal and provincial agencies and band funds.



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Ninety-four-year old Charles Brodie Echum takes an axe and cuts the ribbon to open the Washow Lodge near Moose Factory Island in Ontario.

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# Angela DeMontigny — [ windspeaker confidential ]

**Windspeaker:** What one quality do you most value in a friend?

**Angela DeMontigny:** Trustworthiness.

**W:** What is it that really makes you mad?

**A.D.:** People being unkind, disrespectful or harmful to each other.

**W:** When are you at your happiest?

**A.D.:** When I'm surrounded by people I love, helping others, when I'm creating and when I'm at one with spirit and the universe in ceremony.

**W:** What one word best describes you when you are at your worst?

**A.D.:** Frustrated.

**W:** What one person do you most admire and why?

**A.D.:** My spiritual teacher Diane Longboat. She has taught me what true unconditional love is through her work, the life she leads and the example she sets. I have the utmost respect for her and she has always been there for me as a support.

**W:** What is the most difficult thing you've ever had to do?

**A.D.:** Being a single mom while running a business

**W:** What is your greatest accomplishment?

**A.D.:** Hopefully, being an example to young Native designers, that you can realize your dreams no matter what challenges you face in life.

**W:** What one goal remains out of reach?

**A.D.:** Having more time to spend with my kids...I am still learning how to balance work with time for fun - starting with taking them to Disneyworld in Florida for March Break!

**W:** If you couldn't do what you're doing today, what would you be doing?

**A.D.:** Something that was in the creative arts or music. I would be unhappy and unfulfilled if I couldn't be creative in some way.

**W:** What is the best piece of advice you've ever received?

**A.D.:** To never give up on your dreams and that everyone has their 'time.'

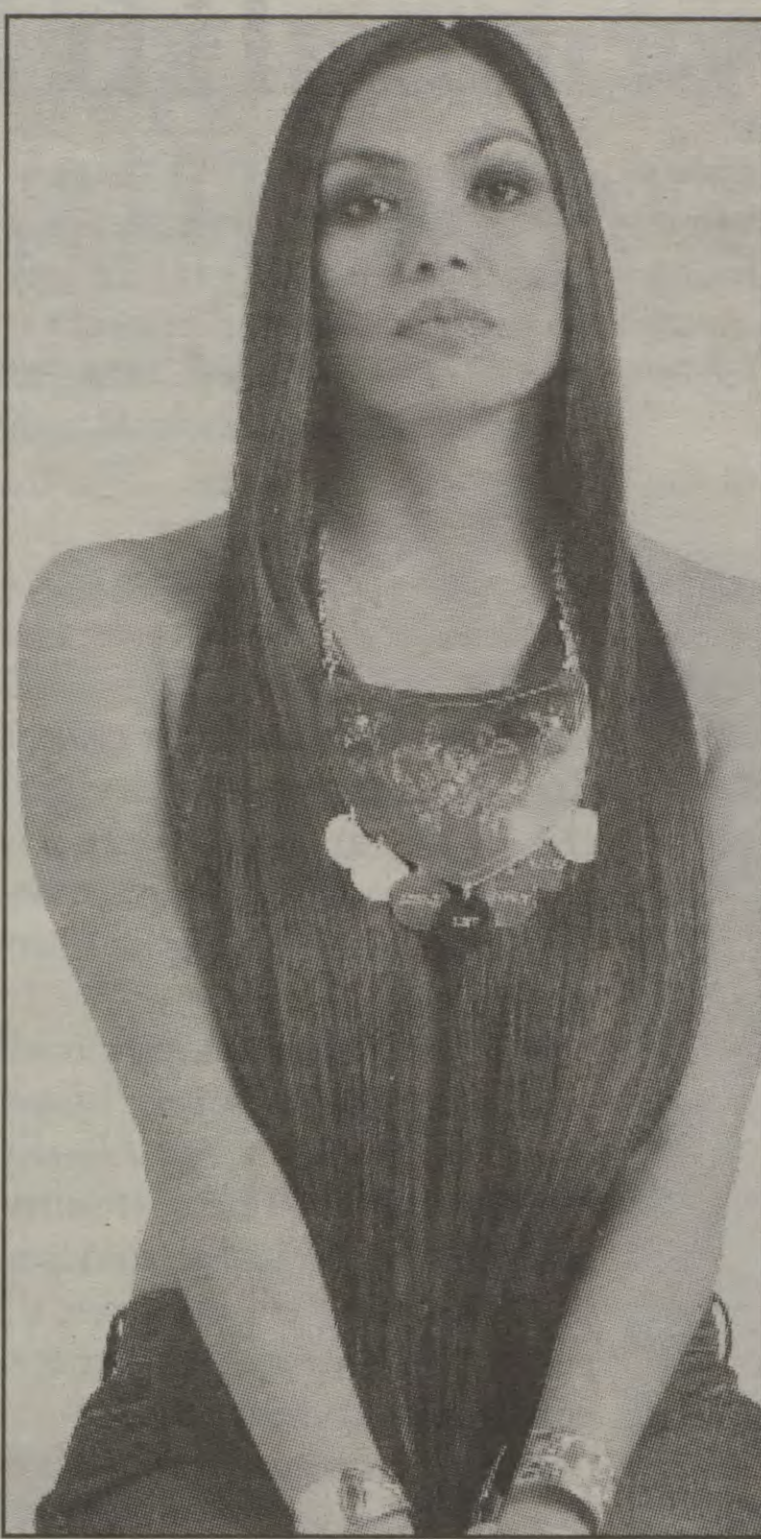
**W:** Did you take it?

**A.D.:** Absolutely!

**W:** How do you hope to be remembered?

**A.D.:** As someone who generally cared about others and inspired them to live the life they dreamed, who enjoyed life and laughed a lot.

Designer Angela DeMontigny made headlines recently as the designer of a silver and diamond gorget debuting at the Aboriginal Fashion Showcase at the Vancouver Winter Olympics, and then during Montreal Fashion Week. The neckpiece was crafted from Canadian diamonds and the silver was etched in spiritual symbols that represented the four races and cardinal directions. Seven inscribed hanging medals represented the Seven Sacred Fires or Grandfathers - Love, Wisdom, Courage, Respect,



PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

A model wears a gorget by Angela DeMontigny

Truth, Honesty and Humility – the aspirations of all who wish to live a good life.

Demontigny said her success is partly due to the fact she advocates for other Aboriginal artists and designers and has regular speaking engagements across the country. She has become one of the leading, elite Aboriginal designers in Canada

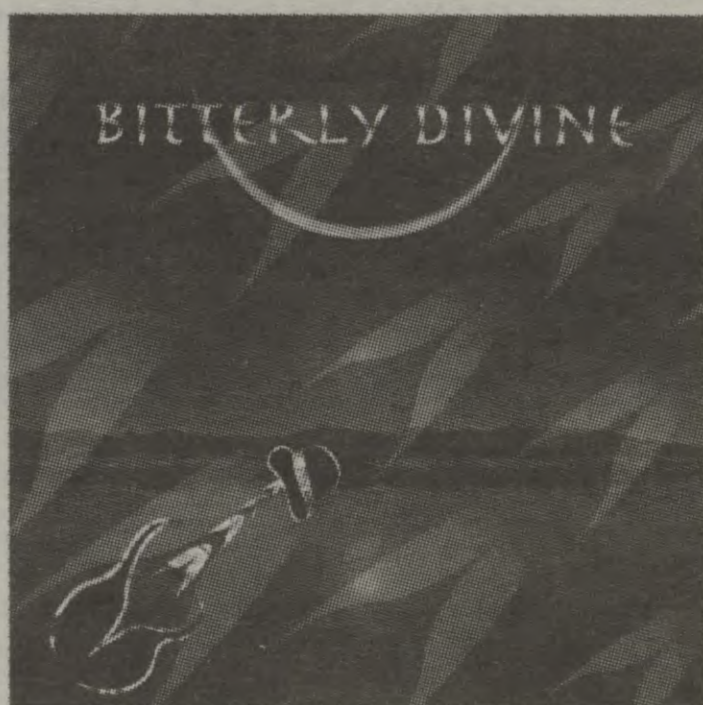
and her appeal is seen most often in the entertainment world, as she attracts accomplished singers, performers and celebrities to her work. DeMontigny produces contemporary, ready-to-wear collections and one-of-a-kind pieces of wearable art that express her zeal for her heritage. Street smart and style savvy when it comes to delivering marketable

merchandise, she combines edginess and elegance with cultural Chippewa-Cree-Metis elements in her designs. Her pieces show up everywhere from nationally televised award shows and programs to international mainstream publications and Aboriginal magazines throughout Canada and the U.S.

[ radio's most active ]

## OUR PICK

**Artist—**Bitterly Divine  
**Song—**Wicked, Wicked  
**Album—**Bitterly Divine  
**Written by—**Bitterly Divine  
**Label—**Independent



Peace, Love and Rock'n'Roll is a personal quote that I try to live by. When in doubt put on an album that influences you to have strength and faith in everything that you believe in and are striving for. Bitterly Divine is a band that is based out of North Vancouver B.C. Together the group sings about aboriginal issues, love and the trails and tribulations of everyday life. The self-titled album is full of hard riffs that any rocker would appreciate. One of them is the song 'Wicked, Wicked' which caught my attention right from the beginning. You know it's great ear candy when the beat keeps your attention and you're anxiously waiting for the intro. Is it a coincidence that the riffs and every beat tantalize the vocal talents of Bitterly Divine? To be honest the song is... Wicked!

Check it out for yourself, go to:

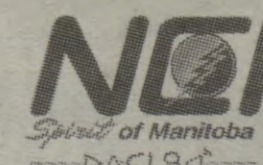
[www.myspace.com/bitterlydivine](http://www.myspace.com/bitterlydivine)

Review by Angela Pearson

## ABORIGINAL RADIO MOST ACTIVE LIST

ARTIST	TITLE	ALBUM
Lucie Idlout	Tonight	Swagger
Shane Yellowbird	Bare Feet On The Blacktop	It's About Time
Blackfoot Confederacy	Wake Up	Single Release
Donald Bradburn	Beautiful Indian Lady	Single Release
Mary Mahler	Walk Away	Single Release
Donny Parenteau	Turn It Up	Single Release
Lawrence Martin	Dancing For Life	Dancing For Life
Brandon Solomon	Barricade	Single Release
Evan Reeve	Not OK	Evan Reeve
Archie Roach	Little Sisters	Journey
Florent Vollant	Eku Mamu	Eku Mamu
Howard Nepinak	What You Wanted	Second Chance
Indian Rodeo	My Block	My Block
Richard McKay	A Lonely Highway	Single Release
Don Bouvette	Marlin' Darlin'	Marlin' Darlin'
The Outlaws	Running Away From You	The Outlaws
Bitterly Divine	Wicked, Wicked	Bitterly Divine
Nathan Cunningham	Tie One On	Single Release
Rick Stavely	Talk About It	You Got Country
Digging Roots	Spring To Come	We Are

CONTRIBUTING STATIONS:



# Project takes eye health to the people

By Debora Steel  
Windspeaker Writer

## Snuneymuwx First Nation, BC

How long does it take for a Mobile TeleOphthalmology Project to go from dream to reality, asked Norman Lewsey, executive director of the Inter Tribal Health Authority (ITHA) on Vancouver Island.

Five long years, he said.

Not so surprising then that the launch of the project would be turned into a big event, complete with feast and speeches from some of the people who had devoted considerable energy to seeing the dream come to fruition.

The celebration included the blessing of the teleophthalmology mobile units and traditional First Nations drumming and singing.

Gathered at Snuneymuwx near Nanaimo on April 16 were health representative full of the hope that their project would bring some equity to First Nations in the area of health services.

Vancouver Island residents living in 51 rural and remote First Nations communities at high risk of developing diseases of the retina related to diabetes would soon benefit from a new mobile retinal screening service. The technicians were trained, nurses hired, and two highly motivated doctors were standing by in Victoria ready to make assessments.

Rural and isolated patients have trouble accessing the same levels of health care as other people in British Columbia. Some can't afford to travel to urban centres. Others refuse to leave home.

The danger of not getting tested is that diseases that could be treated are left undetected. Patients with diabetes are particularly prone to eye disease that can lead to blindness, and there are more incidences of the occurrence of diabetes in the Aboriginal community than there are in the mainstream population across Canada. The

British Columbia First Nations Health Plan estimates that prevalence of diabetes among First Nations people is up to 40 per cent higher than for other British Columbians.

Dr. Stanley Shortt, one of the retinal specialists on the teleophthalmology project team, said people born within the past 10 years have a one in three chance of developing diabetes. Worldwide by the year 2030, 438 million people will suffer with the condition.

Diabetes is the leading cause of blindness in people ages 21 to 74. Getting tested allows doctors to treat issues before they become problems.

The mobile teleophthalmology units will travel to the patients and send the images of their eyes via a secure link to retinal specialists who will examine, investigate, monitor and treat any problems long-distance.

Nanose First Nation Chief David Bob is the ITHA co-chair. He explained that the units didn't test for vision but for disease and urged everyone to take advantage of this technology when the units are in the communities.

About two million Canadians have diabetes mellitus, one-third without knowing it. Uncontrolled blood sugar levels can cause many health problems, including coronary heart disease and renal failure, retinal damage or retinopathy. People with diabetic retinopathy are 29 times more likely than the general population to become blind.

Diabetic prevalence among the 35,000 First Nations people living within the Vancouver Island Health Authority region is estimated to be 2,200.

This population is geographically distributed among some of the health authority's most isolated communities.

Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch and Canada Health Infoway jointly funded the \$1 million teleophthalmology project, contributing \$404,000 and \$636,000 respectively.

"Improving the health status of Aboriginal people on Vancouver Island is one of VIHA's key priorities as identified in our five-year strategic plan," said Jac Kreut, Vancouver Island Health Authority board chair. "We are delighted to be a part of this innovative project that gives residents living in remote and rural Vancouver Island communities who are at risk of developing diseases of the retina the same access to retinal screening services that are available to people living in urban centres."

Four primary screening clinics are located on Vancouver Island in Sooke, Nanaimo, Port Alberni and Alert Bay. The screening equipment used in the clinics is portable, and will be taken to remote and rural First Nations communities where needed.

Said Snuneymuwx Elder Bill Seward, he was pleased to have witnessed the launch of the technology in his community.

"It's good for our people. It's good for our children."



PHOTO: DEBORA STEEL

Ashley George, Jay Kroek and Kylie Paul are trained technicians that will travel to remote communities on Vancouver Island taking scans of patients' eyes and sending the images via secure link to retinal specialists in Victoria.

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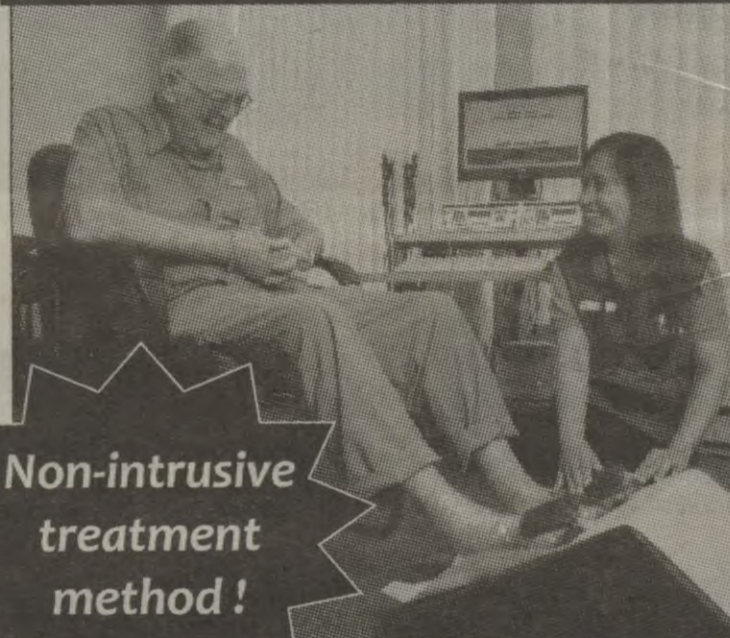
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## Windspeaker sports briefs

By Sam Laskaris

### Neilson to enter Hall

Former defenceman Jim Neilson, an Aboriginal player who toiled for 16 seasons in the National Hockey League, is one of this year's inductees into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame.

Neilson is one of four individuals who will enter via the athlete category. Four others will be inducted as builders. And a pair of teams will also be honored. Induction ceremonies will be held June 19 at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina.

Neilson, who is now 68, was born in Big River, Sask, but grew up in Prince Albert. During his NHL career, which lasted from 1962 to 1978, Neilson played in 1,088 matches. He was credited with 386 points (71 goals, 315 assists).

Neilson, who broke into the NHL during its Original Six days, spent the majority of his pro career—12 seasons—with the New York Rangers. He also played two years with the California Golden Seals. His leadership was evidenced by the fact he was the Golden Seals' captain. And he stayed with that franchise and played two more seasons after it relocated to Ohio and became the Cleveland Barons.

After his NHL career wrapped up, Neilson played one more season, 1978-79, in the pro ranks. He was a member of the World Hockey Association's Edmonton Oilers, a club that featured a youngster by the name of Wayne Gretzky.

### Ontario honors Aboriginal runner

An Ontario politician has ensured legendary Aboriginal runner Tom Longboat will not soon be forgotten. Mike Colle, the Member of Parliament representing the Eglinton-Lawrence riding, introduced a resolution in the Ontario Legislature to have June 4 annually proclaimed as Tom Longboat Day in Ontario.

The resolution was introduced in the Ontario Legislature on April 15 and passed unanimously that same day.

Colle felt June 4 was the best day to honor Longboat as that was his birthday. Longboat was born in 1887 in Six Nations, near Brantford, Ont.

Longboat, an Onondaga runner, was a dominant long-distance runner in the early 1900s. He won numerous prestigious races during his career, including the 1907 Boston Marathon.

Longboat's legacy also lives on through the Tom Longboat Awards. These are presented annually to recipients on a provincial or regional and national basis. The awards go to deserving Aboriginal amateur athletes across the country.

### Souray wants trade

Returning to his home province has not turned out to be much of a pleasant experience for Sheldon Souray. As a result, Souray, a 33-year-old Metis defenceman, has requested a trade from the National Hockey League's Edmonton Oilers.

Souray, who was born in Elk Lake, Alta., was viewed as a key acquisition when the Oilers signed him to a five-year, \$27 million contract in July of 2007. Though he has two years remaining on his deal, Souray has let it be known that he wants out of Edmonton. The Oilers have not qualified for the NHL playoffs during the three seasons that Souray has played in the western-Canadian city. And Edmonton finished dead last in the over-all standings of the 30-team NHL this season, winning just 27 of their 82 regular season contests.

Souray has also been plagued by injuries during his stay in Edmonton. During his first year with the Oilers, he was nursing a shoulder injury and played in just 26 games. Souray rebounded, however, the following season and showed everybody why the Oilers' brass thought so highly of him. He recorded 53 points, including 23 goals, in 81 games.

His offensive production was the second most points he had recorded in a season since breaking into the NHL back in 1997.

As for this past season, Souray once again spent more time on the injured list than he actually did playing. A concussion and a broken hand limited him to just 37 games. He only had 13 points (four goals, nine assists) in those matches.

### New program launched

The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association has launched a new program aimed at First Nations, Inuit and Metis youth.

The program is based on the Everybody Gets To Play program. But the new program incorporates culture and tradition into recreational activities in the hope of getting youth to be more physically active.

The program, which was launched March 31, wants youngsters to take up activities such as hockey and soccer. But it also encourages sports officials to incorporate traditional activities into their programs, such as powwow dancing for First Nations youth, jigging and fiddle music for Métis and drum dancing, throat singing and other culturally-oriented games for the Inuit.

# [ sports ] Big payday on the links still only a dream

By Sam Laskaris  
Windspeaker Contributor

### OKOTOKS, Alta.

Though he's been a professional golfer since 2007, Mitchell Fox is still trying to figure out whether he has what it takes to make a living out of the sport.

So far in his pro career, Fox, who is from Alberta's Blood Reserve, has racked up considerably more expenses than earnings. For example, last year he played in nine events on the Canadian Professional Golf Tour. Fox, who lives in Okotoks, Alta., made the cut in five of those tournaments and won a total of \$3,012 from those events. And that was an improvement from his 2008 season, in which he entered a dozen tournaments on the Canadian tour and won a measly \$200.

Fox said it can cost between \$20,000 and \$50,000 to play on the Canadian tour in one season, so he's been digging into his own pockets to finance his career.

And he's been forced to take on the odd job, like earlier this year when he worked as a security guard. Fox has also relied on some financial support from family and sponsors.

Though he has yet to enjoy any huge paydays, Fox, 22, plans to continue plugging along in the sport. His eventual goal is to compete on the lucrative PGA Tour, the world's premier circuit.

"When I turned pro, I said I was going to do it for eight years minimum," he said. "In golf, most guys don't peak until they're 30 years old."

Fox said he'll re-evaluate his career in a few years from now. If he's still struggling on the Canadian Tour, he'll probably know it's time to do something else. But he's hoping he'll be making a living at the sport, hopefully on the PGA Tour or at least another better-paying circuit in the U.S.

As for the 2010 season, Fox is hoping to once again be a regular on the Canadian tour. He'll head to Parksville, B.C., beginning on May 25, to participate in a tour qualifying event. Should he fare well there, Fox would earn his tour card, allowing him to enter any of the 10 events in the country on the Canadian circuit this year.

And if he doesn't receive his tour card from the Parksville tournament, Fox can still try to enter competitions on the Canadian tour by qualifying for individual events.

Fox has already enjoyed some



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Mitchell Fox is working toward making the cut of the PGA tour.

success this season south of the border. He placed second in the Talking Stick Championship, an event on the professional First Nations Golf Association (FNGA) Tour. That tournament, held March 12 to 14, was in Scottsdale, Arizona.

It was the first FNGA Tour event that Fox had entered. There's a chance he could participate in other events on that circuit later this year.

"My first priority is the Canadian tour," he said. "It's a bigger tour and you get a lot more recognition."

It seems only natural that Fox became interested in golf. He said he's been on the links since the age of two. His father was a golf pro, first at a club in Medicine Hat and then later on the Enoch First Nation.

But Fox said one can't really say he's been golfing since the age of two.

"I was probably just hanging around and being a pest," he said.

By the age of 10, however, Fox started entering tournaments. And then a couple of years later

he realized he wanted to become a pro golfer.

Fox, who turned pro at age 19, originally thought he would be going to school in the U.S. while furthering his golf career. He accepted a scholarship offer from the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV).

Though he was keen to play in the NCAA ranks, just before what would have been his freshman year Fox opted to turn pro instead.

"I had a change of heart and wanted to go in a different direction," said Fox, who won back-to-back Alberta junior championships in 2005 and '06. "I knew a couple of guys that went down (to different U.S. schools) and they didn't like it."

During the past two years, Fox said he has been the only Aboriginal golfer on the Canadian pro circuit. But that's not because he is the only one talented enough.

"There are (other Aboriginal) people capable of playing on the tour," he said. "But it's a big step to take. And it's an expensive step."

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[ education ]

## Flying high with new funding for Aerospace employment



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Lynne Yelich, minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, participates in a demonstration at the Neeginan Aerospace Training Centre at the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development Inc.

By Isha Thompson  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

### WINNIPEG

An Aboriginal training institute is doing everything it can to create opportunities for Winnipeg's Aboriginal workforce.

The Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development Inc. (CAHRD) received close to \$380,000 for one of their skill development programs on April 16, and they continue to keep their fingers crossed for funding to keep their work going.

"Our budget is around \$6 million a year. We provide \$12 million worth of training each year so we go out and get resources from people," said CAHRD executive director Marileen Bartlett.

Bartlett said the much-needed funds donated by Canada's federal government would certainly be put to good use.

"It helped us buy some of the equipment we needed to buy," said Bartlett.

Western Economic Diversification Canada donated \$276,669 and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada gave \$103,308 to CAHRD in order to help facilitate the Neeginan Aerospace program, which is operated by CAHRD.

"Investments like today will create new opportunities for Aboriginal students while helping address skilled labour shortages in the aerospace sector," said Lynne Yelich, minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, in a press release.

The four-year Aboriginal Aerospace Initiative is designed to provide the 200 participants the

appropriate skills and development necessary to fill the high-demand industry.

CAHRD teamed up with the Manitoba Aerospace Human Resource Committee in order to create a program that will secure employment for graduates of the Neeginan Institute at one of the four largest aerospace companies in Manitoba.

The aerospace program began in 2007 and is one part of the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) CAHRD has implemented in order to provide individuals with the necessary education to transition straight into a career.

Bartlett explained that the hands-on programs receive significant interest from several applicants; however, they have trouble finding the proper candidates.

"There is a lot of interest in the programs, but it is hard to fill them because there are high requirements too," said Bartlett. "In our community we are still in a position where there aren't enough people with a Grade 12 education."

She added that CAHRD does not simply deny unqualified applicants. They typically refer them to their adult learning centre in order to help them upgrade on necessary basics such as literacy.

The gas turbine repair and overhaul technician program and the machinist apprenticeship are two other opportunities offered under ASEP.

CAHRD is a non-profit organization, established 30 years ago, that strives to provide employment and education services to nearly 2,400 people annually.

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[ footprints ] Sophie Thomas  
**Traditional healer offered  
 help when doctors said 'no'**

By Dianne Meili

"You've brought me to heaven."  
 That's all the late Sophie Thomas could say when her daughter Minnie Thomas drove her to Tamarack Lake near Skookumchuk, B.C. years ago.

"She looked around and she saw the plants," recalled Minnie. "All the medicines she needed were growing there. It didn't take much to make her happy. She was just in her glory."

Her mother, a Carrier Elder from Saik'uz First Nation near Vanderhoof, made it her life's work to understand the relationship between humans and plants. From an early age she was shown the medicinal properties of plants dismissed by developers and mainstream society as weeds or industrial feedstock.

In her early days of healing, it was easy to find red mountain-alder and chokecherry—harvested for her cancer medicine—but as rivers around her were dammed and polluted, forests were clear-cut, and plants were sprayed with pesticides, she found herself traveling further and further to find them.

Environmental education was a natural progression. In her seminars, which she started doing in the 1960s, she impressed upon listeners where her remedies came from.

"They come from the environment. If we look after the environment, it will look after us. If we destroy it, we destroy ourselves," she always said. For example, "red alder is a little tree often destroyed in land clearing and it never grows back. And there is hardly any chokecherry around anymore."

She felt the effect of the Kenney Dam, built in the 1950's on the Nechako River, perhaps more than anyone.

"They waste our forest when they make a dam. They feed the river not enough and it goes dry. They feed it too much and the fish and duck eggs wash away," she said in a newspaper article.

In 1989, at a Seattle seminar,

Sophie met Terry Jacks, a former singer best known for his 1970s pop song *Seasons in the Sun*. He had turned filmmaker and was so struck by her intimate knowledge of the land that he featured her in a 30-second commercial for 1993's Year of the Indigenous People.

That spot became the introduction for the half-hour documentary by Jacks in 2000 called *The Warmth of Love – the Four Seasons of Sophie Thomas*. The camera follows Sophie through a year as she harvests plants, taps balsam tree sap, cuts the edible inner bark from a Jack pine that can save a lost hunter's life, and boils up raspberry branches on her stove for medicine.

"My mom was teaching herbal medicine at a time when no one was talking about it," said Minnie. "She was probably one of the only ladies in the interior of B.C. to share like that. Our own people forgot most of the medicines, after residential school, and she awakened what they knew."

Since 2002, snippets of Sophie's history and medicinal knowledge have been available on her Web site. There, visitors can also order *The Warmth of Love* video, a book called *Plants and Medicines of Sophie Thomas* and read testimonials from people who have been cured by her.

"My sister had cancer 24 years ago," said David Luggi, Carrier Sekani tribal chief. "She was pregnant. Doctors told her she would have to have radiation and that meant terminating her pregnancy. She went to be treated by Sophie and, 25 years later, I have a healthy and happy nephew."

A former patient who was cured by Sophie of blood cancer "made a trip to my mother's funeral," said Minnie. "He came to our house back in 1968 and said 'the doctors can't do anything more for me.' She helped him. There were more than a thousand



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Sophie Thomas

people at the church. Lots of them were cured by mom."

Sophie's knowledge was vast. Minnie said most healers know one medicine and the best of them might have four.

"But mom – she had more than 10. She seemed to know when someone needed one of them. Lots of times she would have it boiling in a pot on the stove and someone would knock on our door. Sure enough, they needed it."

A diminutive woman, Sophie was orphaned when she was only one year old. Raised by a blind grandmother, she was chosen out of 15 brothers and sisters to receive medicine knowledge, walking the seemingly barren land to find the plants needed for powerful and effective remedies.

Always taught that the medicines are a gift given freely from nature, Sophie didn't charge

for her services, nor did she take credit for her success.

"The Creator does the healing. I am only a servant," she maintained.

She fasted and prayed before she went picking plants, and marked her face with charcoal as a sign of respect.

"Traditionally, a child is chosen before puberty to become a medicine person," explained Minnie, adding she, herself, was sent away by her mother to a teacher to learn about medicine when she was very young.

"I was mad at her and it was only when I became older that I understood why she sent me away." Now Minnie follows in her mother's footsteps, traveling to workshops and receiving people for healing.

Sophie married Morris Thomas and together they had 15 children, through the years

traditionally adopting an additional 15 more from their community. Always active, she helped found Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Carrier Sekani Family Services, and the Yinka Dene Language Institute.

Until her death on March 17, 2010, Sophie lived in a small house hardly big enough to house the many gifts she received for healing. She never kept them anyway, said Minnie, explaining her mom didn't need much to live on this earth.

"She was happy to help people. If you gave her something, she would give it away, especially at potlatches."

This May Sophie was to have received an honorary doctorate from the University of Northern British Columbia to recognize her work as a knowledge keeper and medicine woman.

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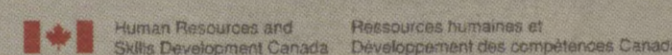
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