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Exhibition explores Canada's Residential School System

EDMONTON, AB – For far too long the painful story of Residential Schools went untold and countless Survivors quietly suffered. *Where are the Children? Healing the Legacy of the Residential Schools* is an exhibit that draws much needed attention to this Canadian tragedy. It is on display at the Borealis Gallery within the Legislative Assembly Visitors Centre in Edmonton until September 2, 2019.

The aim of the centre is to educate Albertans on not only parliament and democracy but also significant historical and cultural issues. Education leads to understanding and in that spirit all Albertans are encouraged to visit this exhibit. The exhibition aims to assist with the healing and understanding required for reconciliation and provides a wide range of perspectives, from stories about the children who never returned home to contemporary Indigenous role models.

Through Survivor stories and archival photographs and documents the exhibition covers over 125 years of history, transitioning from a child leaving home to arriving at school and participating in class activities.

This powerful travelling exhibition explores the damaging effects that the nationally run Residential School System, operating in Canada between 1831 and 1996, has had on Indigenous communities. The schools have been recognized as a deliberate attempt to assimilate Indigenous children with a view to eradicating the culture, language and way of life of all Indigenous peoples. This tragedy has been described by many as cultural genocide.

"This project represents an attempt to tell the true and painful story of a national institution committed not to the preservation of a people but to their forced assimilation," explains Aboriginal Healing Foundation Chairman Georges Erasmus. "*Where are the Children?* acknowledges that the era of silence is over.

"This exhibit has meant and will mean many things to many people. Those who are Survivors of Indian Residential School Trauma will have painful recollections.

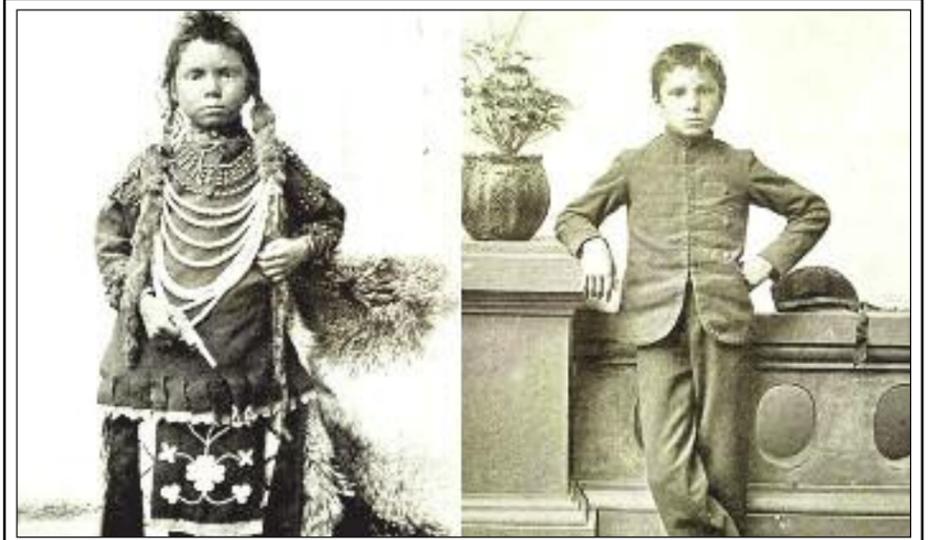
Some have begun their healing, others are yet to begin. I acknowledge their strength – their determination to face the truth and to end the cycle of abuse. People of courage are the wealth of our nations. May this exhibit contribute to their healing.

"Some will for the first time see what Survivors of residential school abuse have never forgotten: the face of a child whose identity is a number, whose culture is forbidden and whose future is an institutional experiment. May this exhibit provide a greater understanding.

"Meanwhile, the healing will continue. We will look beyond mere survival, toward the renewal of nations and the reconciliation of peoples. I thank the Survivors of residential school abuse who today are enriching both the present and future state of Aboriginal communities."

Iroquois artist Jeff Thomas curated this exhibition, which was created by the Legacy of Hope Foundation, an Indigenous-led charitable organization with the exclusive goal of educating and raising awareness about Canada's Residential School System, in partnership with Library and Archives Canada and the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

"For thousands of years, Indigenous had flourished on this continent, imparting to their children - from generation to generation - a great sense of respect for their environment, their communities, and their families," explains Thomas. "The arrival of Europeans slowly began to erode the integrity and strength of Indigenous cultures. Government and church institutions justified taking indigenous children away to residential schools by asserting that their families were not capable of taking



Cree child Thomas Moore before and after attending Regina Indian Industrial School in 1897. Photo: Saskatchewan Archives Board.

proper care of their children.

"The reality is that these children did not enter these schools uneducated. The objects I have selected for this exhibit are symbols of the rich knowledge and cultures that existed in indigenous communities. They are symbols of what was lost when the children passed through the residential school doors.

"*Where are the Children?* examines and acknowledges the experiences, consequences and impact of Canada's Residential School System on Aboriginal peoples. It does not attempt to tell the whole story about residential schools; rather, it introduces people to a part of Canadian history that spans over 130 years from the 1880s to present day.

"Through documentation, acknowledgment and education, the exhibition aims to promote understanding and reconciliation in Canada about residential schools and the continued effect they have on people's lives today."

Where are the Children? Healing the Legacy of the Residential Schools will show at the Borealis Gallery until September 2, 2019. The Borealis Gallery is located in the Legislative Assembly Visitor Centre on the main floor of the Edmonton Federal Building. For further information visit: assembly.ab.ca/visitorcentre/borealis.html.



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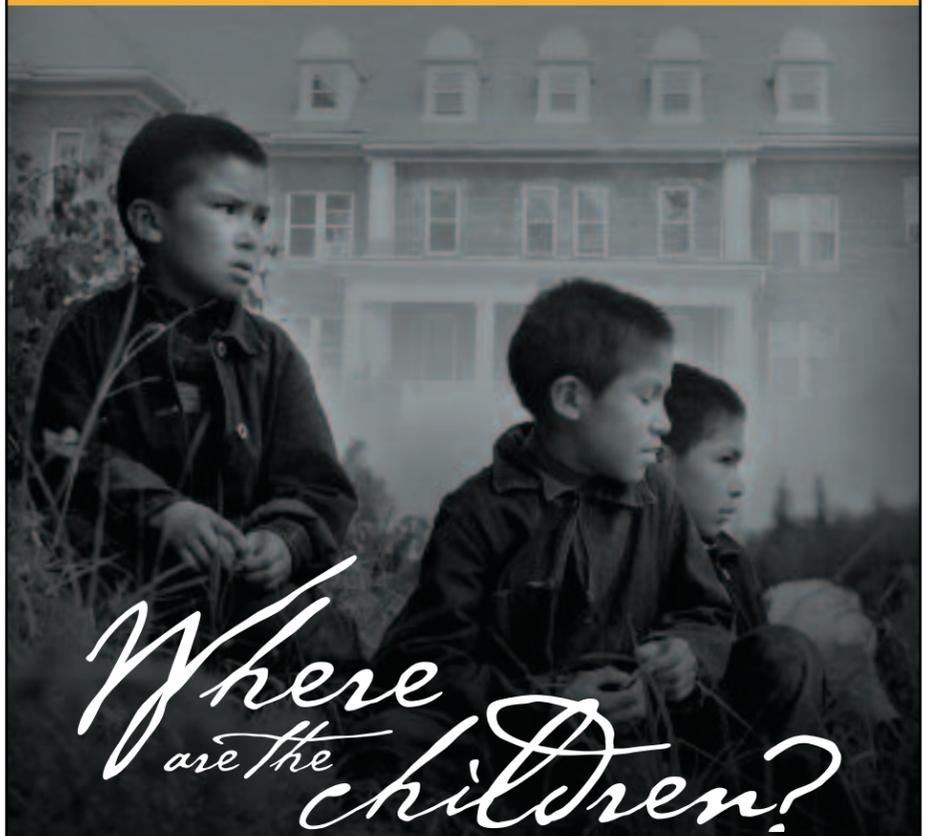
**Deadline for applications is
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City Council will select members on Oct. 28, 2019.

For more information visit calgary.ca/boards or contact City Clerk's Office at 403-268-5861.

19-00837409

Showing daily until September 2 | Borealis Gallery



**HEALING THE LEGACY OF
THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS**



[assembly.ab.ca/
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Legacy
of Hope
Foundation



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July 1 Powwow at Bow Valley College

(Calgary) - On July 1, 2019, Bow Valley College and the Iniiikokaan Centre, together with the City of Calgary, hosted another great Powwow at Prince's Island Park.

Their Canada Day Indigenous Showcase and Powwow featured an Indigenous Music Award nominee, a rapper, and a wide range of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples' ways of knowing, being, and doing.

The sixth annual event began at Prince's Island Park at 11 a.m. with a blessing from Cultural Resource Elder Keith Chiefmoon.

It continued with performances by Jamie Ahksistowaki Medicine Crane, an Indigenous Music Award nominee, and rapper Qualyt: Maska Lightning.

Cultural teachings by Indigenous Peoples took place in the tepees and the Métis Tent throughout the day, including medicine wheel, language, and regalia and drumming teachings.

Jamie Ahksistowaki Medicine Crane also entertained in the children's area while kids did arts and crafts and received airbrush tattoos. At the nearby artisan market, guests browsed a selection of jewelry, art, beadwork, and blankets.

This cultural celebration attracts more than 80,000 people annually, educating and engaging Calgarians and visitors alike with Indigenous cultural activities.

Through working with Treaty 7 First Nations, the Powwow demonstrates Bow Valley College's commitment to Indigenous practices, community involvement, and strengthening relationships, and to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Actions.

If you're an Indigenous learner attending Bow Valley College, the Iniiikokaan (Buffalo Lodge) Centre is there to help you succeed. Take advantage of their many programs including funding information and student gatherings.

The following services are available to Indigenous learners at Bow Valley College: Learner Success Services



Vibrant powwow dancers at the Bow Valley College Powwow in Calgary

that include help with money (such as emergency bursaries), study skills, mental health resources, and more.

They help identify awards and scholarships for Indigenous learners and also assist with information on First Nations funding.

The centre additionally provides: Elder advising, consultations, and spirituality resources, ceremonial smudging, culturally relevant speakers and information sessions, a gathering place to study and advocacy for First Nations band and Metis educational sponsorship.

For more information visit bowvalleycollege.ca.

Saddle Lake Health Centre Opens

(ANNNews) – On August 9, 2019, onihcikiskwapowin – Saddle Lake Cree Nation celebrated the grand opening of their new and expanded Saddle Lake Health Care Centre.

“The opening of this health facility is the result of a successful partnership with the Government of Canada,” stated a Saddle Lake spokesperson.

“It is the foundation of our comprehensive approach to addressing many issues facing our community. The programs we provide through this facility will make a real difference to our people for generations to come.”

Minister of Indigenous Services, Seamus O'Regan congratulated onihcikiskwapowin – Saddle Lake Cree Nation on completing the redevelopment and major

renovation of the Saddle Lake Health Care Centre.

“Congratulations to onihcikiskwapowin – Saddle Lake Cree Nation on completing renovations to the Saddle Lake Health Care Centre,” remarked Minister O'Regan. “The best health outcomes for Indigenous peoples are achieved through programs that are designed, developed and led by Indigenous peoples. The Government of Canada has been proud to partner with you to improve access to quality health care services for the peoples of Saddle Lake.”

Construction on the Centre began in 2017 with a total investment of \$6.6 million from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). The project includes renovation of the 1,400 square metre facility and the addition of more than

600 square metres of functional space to the existing Centre. The investment is part of the Government of Canada's \$180+ billion Investing in Canada infrastructure plan.

The redevelopment and renovation of the health facility will improve access to primary health care in the community and will support a range of services related to public health, mental well-being, and dental care including children's oral health.

Saddle Lake Cree Nation is in the Treaty No. 6 territory and is located approximately 160 km northeast of Edmonton with a population of approximately 6,000 on reserve.

The health centre is staffed with ISC Public Health and Homecare nurses and Nation employed community-based health program teams and support staff.

Your place to celebrate and succeed.

Discover Bow Valley College's Iniiikokaan Centre to engage with First Nations and Metis Elders, access Indigenous scholarships, and take part in traditional ceremonies for student support and growth. Welcome to a centre committed to helping learners like you succeed.

Learn more at bowvalleycollege.ca



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Climate crisis is an emergency

On July 23, 2019, the Chiefs at the Assembly of First Nations annual general meeting, unanimously passed a resolution declaring a climate emergency. The resolution came in the face of reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report, which warn that global temperature rise must not increase beyond 1.5%, and Canada's Changing Climate Report, which places Canada as a top contributor to global temperature rise. The Chief's resolution states, "the climate crisis constitutes a state of emergency for our lands, waters, animals, and peoples."

"Western science has finally caught up with what our elders and knowledge holders have been telling us for centuries," stated AFN Alberta Regional Chief Marlene Poitras.

"Many Indigenous people have been taught on the land, through ceremonies, teachings and stories about Creation. We are taught that everything has a spirit and a purpose, and we have to honour that spirit. We have to do that by taking only what we need and giving back. It's Natural Law, the law of reciprocity. We are taught the Earth, our Mother, is out of balance, and has not been given time to heal. But we are also taught that she is mighty and will do what she has to do to cleanse herself but before that happens the air and water will be poisoned, and our natural foods will be scarce. That's what our elders tell us."

Regional Chief Poitras added that climate change should be a non-partisan issue.

"All levels of government federal and provincial have an important role to play in combating climate change by enacting and enforcing regulations to cap and lower emissions, and enacting policies that encourage a speedy transition to clean energy such as wind and solar," she noted.

"They can provide support for mitigation and adaptation directly to First Nations to mitigate climate change impacts. They can support our elders and the transfer of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge to youth and help build climate change leaders in our communities. This federal election is a good opportunity to ask all candidates what their plan is on climate change."

We must all take action collectively, continued Regional Chief Poitras. "We cannot wait. As First Nations, we must

take on the responsibility as stewards of the land to protect Mother Earth, so that our children can have a future."

"Every person can take personal responsibility to lower their environmental impact by making better consumer choices, reducing consumption, reusing and recycling," concluded Regional Chief Poitras.

"Canada has set a target of 2021 for a ban on single-use plastics. These are targets that individuals can help achieve immediately. We must give our children hope."

There was consensus among the chiefs in their resolve to develop a First Nations-led climate strategy. They called on federal and provincial governments for "urgent and transformative" action to keep global warming below 1.5 C and to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde encouraged the more than 1,000 delegates to make climate change the number one topic of October's federal election.

"Our Elders said: climate destruction," he declared in his opening remarks. "We've seen the big winds, the floods, we see the fires, we see all the natural things that are turning around. And our Elders predicted that. Mother Earth is saying something. She's saying: Stop it."

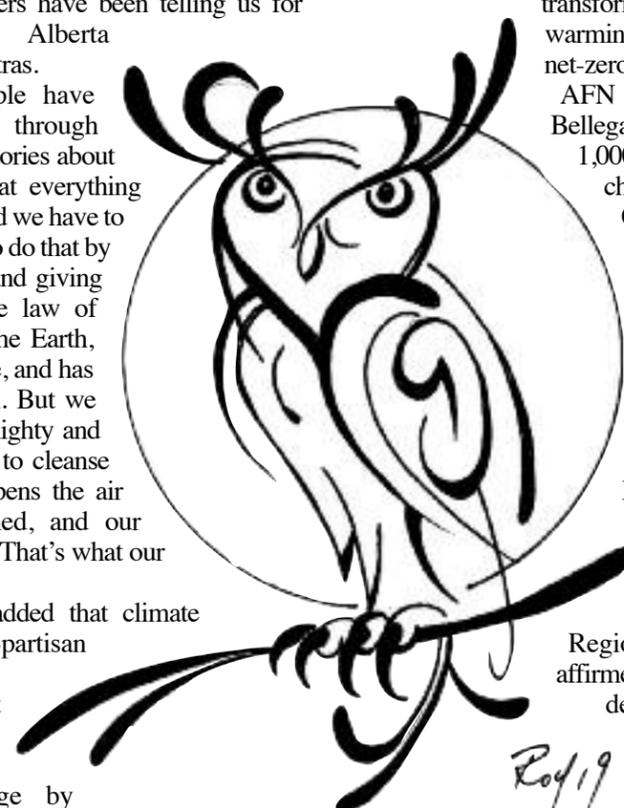
In May 2019, Chief Kluane Adamek, AFN Regional Chief for Yukon, reaffirmed her strong support for the declaration of a state of emergency on climate change by the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, the most northern community in

the Yukon. Regional Chief Adamek brought the issue directly to the AFN National Executive Committee in an effort to create national awareness of the urgent situation facing First Nations citizens in the northern territory.

"First Nations, especially those in the North, are the first to feel the impacts of climate change and we can be first responders in taking action on this global crisis," said Regional Chief Adamek, who leads the AFN's efforts on the environment and climate change.

"Our people have long spoken of this great change and now we are seeing it. This Declaration was made in respect of all living beings and for the future of all peoples," added Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Chief Tizya-Tramm. "Its title comes from our past Elder Sara Abel Chitze, born in 1896, who said 'Yeendoo Diinehdoo Ji'heezrit Nits'oo Ts'o' Nan He'aa,' which means 'after our time, how will the world be?' In this climate crisis, we must all ask ourselves this question."

"The crisis stage was 20 years ago," remarked Regional Chief Adamek. "We cannot continue to move forward without including climate considerations in every single thing that we do."



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Calgary Stampede was a memorable event!

by Terry Lusty

Starting with the vibrant parade and ending at Elbow River Camp for the amazing Closing Ceremonies, another successful Calgary Stampede was celebrated in Calgary this summer.

Despite some rainfall, the total attendance was close to 1.3 million visitors, making 2019 the second highest attended Calgary Stampede - second only to the 2012 Centennial celebration. Once again, the Stampede attracted visitors from all over North America and beyond.

Following an early morning shower on Friday, July 5, the skies parted just in time for the parade to begin, featuring 112 entries led by parade marshal, Amber Marshall, a local actress on CBC TV's western series, "Heartland." Marshall is an avid horsewoman who also happens to live a genuine western lifestyle.

An estimated crowd of 350,000 witnessed the 32 colourful floats, over 200 horses and 19 marching bands wind their way along the 4.5 km route.

This 107th-year anniversary of the Stampede paid special tribute to the one exactly 100 years ago when the Stampede hosted the 1919 Victory Stampede Parade.

Initially launched in 1912, the first Stampede had 2,000 First Nations in the parade and approximately 75,000 spectators. And, historically, First Nations have always played a prominent role in all facets of the 10-day extravaganza - from the parade to the midway workers, volunteers, rodeo and chuckwagon contestants, Indian Village campers, and so on.

As in previous years, every afternoon, the Elbow River Camp (formerly known as the Indian Village) in the far northeast corner of Stampede Park, came alive as First Nations men, women and children opened their teepees to visitors and demonstrated the art of some of their traditional activities such as cooking, handgames, teepee raising, powwow singing and dancing. Craft sales are always an added and welcome attraction, along with the sampling of tasty dry meat and freshly cooked bannock.

The village and its five representative tribes are represented by an annually selected First Nation Princess. This year, the princess is Astokomii Smith of the Siksika

First Nation whose lands lie an hour's drive southeast of Calgary.

Smith's regalia during her reign drew her to tears of joy. Her crown was beaded by Stacey Running Rabbit who's been producing them for the past ten years. The gorgeous clothing virtually stopped Smith in her tracks. "I'm thankful, I know a lot of work went into this by many different people," she stated. The butterflies on the sleeves represent her fancy shawl dance . . . the bears along the bottom hem are from historic designs. Also included as part of her outfits is stunning beadwork by her granny Darlene Munroe and her Aunt Karen Ayoungman and beautiful leather garments created by Janine Stabner of Janine's Custom Creations.

In addition to the gorgeous traditional regalia, Smith has thoroughly enjoyed all the wonderful people she's met during her reign as Princess and the wide range of activities that she has experienced.

"Growing up I never saw myself being a princess or anything close to that because I was shy, anxious and the idea of speaking in front of people was something I would avoid," said Smith. "But still, I had this urge to represent my people in a positive way and to teach others about First Nations culture and history."

The message that Smith chose to spread throughout her reign was that mental health issues are not a weakness. "There are too many of us who miss out on opportunities



Top: Princess Astokomii Smith with her Calgary Stampede "royal" colleagues. Bottom: A grand entry during the rodeo intermission. Photos by Terry Lusty

because of our mental health," she noted.

"During my year as the 2019 Calgary Stampede First Nations Princess I attended over 400 events locally, nationally, and internationally throughout my year. Not only did I get to dance in front of the Sydney Opera House and the Eiffel Tower, I also overcame my fear of public speaking, and made some amazing lifelong friends.

"This program has been so beneficial to me in not only life skills such as public speaking, horsemanship, media, etiquette and so much more but in experiences as well. During the Calgary Stampede I spoke in front of over 20,000 people and have been told that once you do that you can do anything and let me tell you, it sure feels like it. This truly is a once in a lifetime experience."

Continued on page 8

PADDLE INTO THE PAST AT MÉTIS CROSSING

Paddle into the Past is an exciting 4-hour immersive tourism experience blending Métis culture, history, and the great outdoors. Learn about the families that trapped, hunted, traded, and celebrated life along the North Saskatchewan river.

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Paddle into the Past is offered on select dates over the summer.

Find a schedule, pricing, and more information at MetisCrossing.org.





IMPORTANT BACK-TO-SCHOOL INFORMATION

Students return: Tuesday, September 3rd

Student Registration: Parents or Guardians are asked to accompany their child if new to an elementary or junior high school. New Students will need to bring one of the following documents; Birth Certificate, Residency Document, Canadian Citizenship Document or Passport. Northland School Division has revamped the registration forms for new students! The form is available on the NSD website www.nsd61.ca/download/173277. Parents who have Returning Students, please contact your local school if you haven't confirmed registration details.

Kindergarten Students: Please note that start dates for kindergarten may vary from school to school. Parents are asked to contact their local schools.

School Bus Information: Visit the NSD website to access the School Bus Registration form: nsd61.ca/departments/transportation/student-bus-registration. Please contact your local school for school bus times, pick-up and drop off locations and general information. Parents will need to provide a physical address (not a box number).

Helpful start-up information for the 2019-2020 school year: nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/2019-2020-back-to-school-information

If you have any further questions: Please call Northland School Division central office at 780-624-2060 or 1-800-362-1360.



Our website: www.nsd61.ca
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/NorthlandSchoolDivisionNo61
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Our cover artist: James Black

(ANNNews) - The beautiful art on the cover of this month's Alberta Native News is by James Black, a talented contemporary artist. Originally self-taught, James Black has been a committed artist for over 20 years. James has lived a traditional life, hunting and fishing, and is a member of the St'at'imc Nation, born in Lillooet, in the interior of BC.

As a traditional hunter and fisherman, James draws from his culture, but is also committed to representing contemporary urban life, sometimes highlighting the conflicts between the two worlds in his works. James knows the struggles of First Nations youth in Urban environments. He has struggled with addictions in the past. Reaching out to respected Elders, he was able to recover through traditional practices and medicine. His art then began to flourish, inspired by the beauty of his people and by the challenges within his culture.



James Black

James attended

Thomson Rivers University for three years in Kamloops BC, studying fine arts, computing and political science. He was honoured to be recognized by the Kamloops Art Gallery while still a student at TRU.

James has worked with several First Nation communities over the years designing logos and posters and he enjoys listening to others and helping them bring their visions to light. Although he finds this type of collaboration enlightening, he also paints from within.

Of his own creations, he says, "I strive to keep the designs simple and seamless, constantly searching for the perfect angle and hiding one inside the other in a way that it flows and keeps the viewers' attention. My personal art over the years has a bit of a darker side, reflecting my interpretation of my family history as residential school survivors.

"At first the colors and theme appear beautiful and captivating until the eye captures the scene in its entirety. In these depictions I try to capture the moment of realization that it is life at its worst. A few of these pieces are titled the *Lost Sister Series* and are available at Bearclaw Gallery in Edmonton. As painful as some as these pictures may be upon full realization of what is happening, these horrible things happened and are continuing to happen to many people and not only in First Nation Communities.



Attention brings better results I like to think."

James encourages people to contact him at forward2jmc@yahoo.com. He says, "If you have any design needs or ideas you would like to share with me please do. I often work with communities on an honorarium or gift basis. It's something I enjoy, a gift that I want to share; it's the stories and capturing something visually from your words that drives me to try harder as an artist. I get satisfaction from being part of something."

Alberta RCMP host second annual Soaring Eagles Youth Camp

On August 9, representatives from the province, RCMP members and family gathered to congratulate 21 very proud Indigenous youth as they paraded outside the RCMP "K" Division headquarters for their Soaring Eagles Indigenous Youth camp graduation.

Returning after its inaugural year, the camp is designed to simulate the same physical and intellectual training regular members receive in Depot. The week-long camp saw the 16-19-years-old participants engage in daily physical fitness and foot drill, as well as interactive presentations with members of the Emergency Response Team, Police Dog Services, Explosive Disposal Unit, and Forensic Identification Services.

The Soaring Eagles Indigenous Youth Camp is hosted by the "K" Division Recruiting Unit in partnership with the Justice and Solicitor General – First Nations Policing Services. The camp introduces Indigenous youth to a

career in law enforcement, emergency response and community involvement.

"The Alberta RCMP is proud to host the Soaring Eagles Camp for the second year, a camp designed to connect and build strong relationships with Indigenous youth and their communities," stated the Commanding Officer of K Division, Deputy Commissioner Curtis Zablocki. "For the RCMP, it is critical that we reflect the communities we

serve as many of the cadets here today reside in rural communities served by the RCMP."

The first Soaring Eagles Indigenous Youth Camp was held in August 2018 and to date, 39 recruits have graduated from the Soaring Eagles Indigenous Youth Camp.

"Experiences like these open doors for building trust and reconciliation with the Indigenous communities, all while representing the changing face of the RCMP," remarked Sgt. Kimberly Mueller, K Division Indigenous Recruiting.

A call for applications goes out every spring for Indigenous youth ages 16-19 from across Alberta to apply.

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The Sixties Scoop Class Action concerns any registered Indian or person eligible to be registered or Inuit person who was adopted or made a permanent ward and was placed in the care of non-Indigenous foster or adoptive parents in Canada between January 1, 1951 and December 31, 1991, which resulted in the loss of cultural identity. Eligible class members could receive compensation between \$25 000 and \$50 000 depending on the overall number of eligible members.

TO START THE PROCESS

Eligible members have until August 30, 2019 to claim compensation.

You can get free support by calling 1 844 287 4270 or writing to sixtiesscoop@collectiva.ca

Professionals will assist you in the completion of claim forms.

Collectiva is holding information sessions on the Sixties Scoop Settlement Claim Process. For the list of cities we will visit and for more information:

sixtiesscoopsettlement.info

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Eleven Eloquent Elders at the Poundmaker's Lodge Powwow. Photo by Judith Gale, JAG Creations

Premier pledges a statue of Chief Poundmaker

(ANNews) - The smiles were big, and the energy was vibrant on August 3 and 4 as Poundmaker's Lodge Treatment Centres celebrated their annual Traditional Powwow.

The annual Powwow is Poundmaker's Lodge Treatment Centre's signature community engagement event which attracts 10,000 spectators each year, bringing awareness to the efforts they provide to the Indigenous and Non-Indigenous communities.

Alberta Premier Jason Kenney was one of the special guests at the Powwow. In his remarks, he praised the efforts of Poundmaker's Lodge Treatment Centre and said that he was pleased to show support for the life saving work of Poundmaker's Lodge.

The premier thanked the government of Canada for its recent exoneration of Chief Poundmaker and he reiterated that the Chief was a man of peace who saved lives during

the 1885 North West Rebellion. He said that it was fitting for Poundmaker's Lodge to be named for this great chief because the Lodge has been saving lives for over 40 years.

Premier Kenney said that the government of Alberta is a strong partner in providing a continuum of care and support in the treatment of addictions. He also declared, "I want to make a commitment that before I end my service here, we will have, somewhere on the legislature grounds, a bust or a statue of the great Chief Poundmaker that recognizes him as one of the fathers of our lives together in Alberta."

Poundmaker's Lodge Treatment Centres is an Indigenous addiction treatment centre near St. Albert, AB that was established in 1973. They have been leaders in the provincial, national, and global addiction and mental health treatment community. Through concepts based in the cultural and spiritual beliefs of traditional First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, Poundmaker's Lodge

offers an Indigenous wholistic treatment experience that focuses on the root causes; and empowers people in their recovery from addiction.

The theme for the 2019 Pow Wow was Honouring Indigenous Language & Culture. Language and culture play a crucial role in the daily lives of people, not only as a tool for communication, education, social integration and development, but also as a repository for each person's unique identity, cultural history, traditions, and memory.

The annual powwow embraces and celebrates the achievements of Indigenous Peoples and provides an opportunity for visitors to experience cultural spirituality. The event featured traditional dancers, singers, traditional foods, and artisans. In addition to the two-day powwow, on August 2, Elders from the community shared Traditional Stories.



Poundmaker's Lodge Powwow was a huge success. Photos by Judith Gale, JAG Creations

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Calgary Stampede *cont. from p 5*

The 2019 Calgary Stampede included many memorable events. One especially spell-binding event this year was the high wire act by Nik Wallenda, a family member of the great world-renowned Wallendas. Nik set a new record by travelling 549 metres at a height of 35 metres above ground on a high wire. It was truly an amazing sight to behold.

Meanwhile, the daily fodder of fantastic excitement during Stampede is the rodeo and the chuckwagon racing, otherwise known as the Rangeland Derby. More recently, the sport of Indian Relay Racing has taken off and it continues to attract growing numbers of followers and investors.

Teams consist of a rider, an exchange holder, a backholder and a mugger who steadies and calms the horses to be mounted. The race can get quite chaotic at times, especially when the exchange is taking place. As the rider approaches his mount, the horse is often excited and moving about a lot, just itching to take off. Once the rider is on board, he flies away at break-neck speed around the track until he's back to where he started from. Then he leaps off his winded pony, jumps on the next one and repeats his run until he's done three laps on three different horses.

Although the event has been taking place in the U.S. for over 80 years, it is relatively new in Canada; the Canadian Indian Relay Racing Association was just formed in 2017. It will be hosting a fall championship event at Century Downs Racetrack and Casino with \$58,000 up for grabs. The organization began with 16 teams and now has 28 according to its president, Dexter Bruised Head from Kainai First Nation.

Ty Provost who participates with the Thunder Beings Team, said that the event is just now making its way into Canadian territory. It is "really catching on with our young people," he added and he's proud to teach them the skills

required and to participate, himself, at the Stampede.

The Relay event was held right after the chuckwagons finished running. This year's winner of the Relay was a seasoned team from Montana by the name of Carlson that travels to a number of states to compete.

Over the decades, the presence of First Nation and Metis contestants seems to go through phases. As the competitors age, they move on and are eventually replaced by newcomers. At this particular time, it appears to be happening with the appearance of new names and faces.

A fine example of this is bareback rider Ty Tappotat from Regina who was just short of making the final cut for the semi-finals. Also, Ryan Dirteater is a fine bull rider, who did pretty well this year, pocketing over 10 grand in prize money. Some other new faces are the three fellas from Brazil. Last year one of them (Marcos Gloria) won. These guys know their stuff and any of them can win on any given day.

Last, but hardly least, are the thrilling and historic chuckwagon races, also known as the Rangeland Derby. And what a journey that proved to be this time around for relative newcomer Todd Baptiste, nephew and former outrider for a past (1996) Derby winner, Edgar Baptiste. He's only been at Stampede about five or six times, but he was right up there duking it out for first overall versus the eventual winner, Logan Gorst. The two battled back and forth but in the "dash for cash" final and the \$100,000 cheque, it was Gorst with a blistering pace of 1:10:87. Baptiste clocked a respectable 1:11:30, ahead of Luke Tournier and Vern Nolin.

A few other drivers deserving mention include Roger Moore, Cody Ridsdale and Ray Mitsuing, a former chief of the Loon Lake First Nation in Saskatchewan and the Aggregate champion in 1992 - probably still one of his favourite memories of racing.



Photos by Terry Lusty

This year was Mitsuing's "swan song" as he bid farewell to a sport he loved and embraced so dearly for 36 years alone at Calgary. He was an ever-present sight and fright due to his well-honed skill as a reinsman. Sadly, he was often victimized by penalties though he still managed to make good day money.

Now 65, he will be missed, and you know, as recently as 2015 and 2016 he was the Canadian Professional Chuckwagon Association champion and high point winner.

Indeed, we all hail "the chief" and wish him well.



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Veteran driver Ray Mitsuing is retiring after 36 Stampede years



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U of Students learn Indigenous art

by Jordan Mae Cook, University of Alberta

(Edmonton) - Skinning a porcupine in a University of Alberta classroom isn't a normal occurrence, but for some students, it's a transformative experience.

"A lot of us have not been raised learning our cultural traditions or ways of doing things, so I think it's really important to have this here at university," said Pam Greene, an undergraduate student in the Faculty of Native Studies.

The course Porcupine Goes to the City: Quillwork Teachings, is the first time the faculty has offered a land-based class in an urban setting.

Taught by Métis artist MJ Belcourt Moses, Edmonton's current Indigenous Artist in Residence, the course introduced students to the process of porcupine quilling, including harvesting - in this case, from roadkill - plucking, cleaning, dyeing and stitching.

Course co-ordinator Sara Howdle explained that the class is about porcupine quilling in relation to wâhkôhtowin, a Cree and Métis concept of the interconnectedness of all beings and relationships, and that emphasis is placed on learning about the complex relationship between the porcupine and Indigenous peoples. Howdle noted that knowledge keepers Ehtsue Lamothe, Dwight Paul, Doreen Wabasca, Bonny Spencer and Dorothy Thunder were instrumental in guiding the structure of the course, and the class's understanding of wâhkôhtowin.

"It's not just the technical aspect of quilling; knowledge keepers stressed the importance of the sacredness and teachings within those technical pieces," said Howdle.

Land-based learning opportunities are valuable, she added, but can be expensive and require students to be away from home for periods of time. Bringing some of those opportunities into urban settings can open access and create opportunities for more people to participate in these teachings.

"This allows us to bring more Elders onto campus and make campus feel not only more welcoming, but also more of a space where Indigenous knowledges are not just seen as legitimate, but truly a part of the nucleus," Howdle said.

Belcourt said bringing Indigenous ways of knowing and relating with the land to urban spaces like the U

of A's north campus is rewarding, but not without its challenges.

Land-based teachings are normally influenced and inspired by the environment around you, she explained. Noticing something outside and then talking about it—being in an animal's habitat to understand more about it, for example—all helps to highlight that connectivity.

"We're so much in our books or on our screens, and we forget this part, our holistic self. If we can learn with all those senses, then it has a little more meaning to it," said Belcourt.

Traditionally, a skill like porcupine quilling would have been learned over a lifetime, Belcourt explained. People would be drawn to the art, go through ceremony to be a part of it, and it would become a part of who they are, she said.

Given that history, and the history of cultural appropriation at universities, Howdle said one of the first lessons the students learned was that these teachings aren't simply "up for grabs."

"The students are taught that they don't have the right to go and pass that technical knowledge on. But they're encouraged to share only some teachings and give credit to the Indigenous artists and knowledge keepers," Howdle said.

Greene said the lessons of the course were something she took on personally and spiritually.

"We're learning these teachings and combining it with wâhkôhtowin, which is 'all my relations.' It's about passing on those things you learn and showing your kids, 'You can do this, you can be a part of our culture still, don't lose it,'" she said.

The course was created by the Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research (RCMR) and the Indigenous Women and Youth Resilience Project (IWYRP) in response to requests from students.

The Rupertsland Centre had previously led several workshops on campus, said director Nathalie Kermaol, including a class with Métis beader Jeanine Krauchi. The popularity of these workshops led to students requesting more land-based and traditional teachings.

"We asked ourselves: Is there a way we can bring these teachings into the classroom? And if we can,



Metis artist MJ Belcourt shows U of A students how to properly quill a porcupine. (Photo supplied)

how should we do it?" Kermaol said.

To develop the course, the RCMR and IWYRP teams worked with knowledge keepers and Elders, and the discussions that arose were transcribed and became part of the required reading for the course. Elders were also invited into the class as guest speakers. Howdle and Kermaol explained that this inclusive process helped them shape every aspect of the course.

"We understood that [quilling] wasn't just brought in, that there was lots of talk before, lots of information gathering and keeping the Elders included. It's really a good experience for us," said Greene.

The dream for both the IWYRP and the RCMR is to continue exploring what's possible with land-based learning in an urban setting, and hopefully build an appropriate space in the Faculty of Native Studies to continue offering these courses, said Howdle.

"Ultimately this course was a pilot, but we're hoping to continue providing these possibilities for students to connect or reconnect with these skills, and expand their learning through wâhkôhtowin," said Kermaol. "Because if we're talking about decolonization, it's also about exploring other ways of learning."

This article was originally published in Folio.ca, newspaper of University of Alberta.

Solar project gets a boost

FORT CHIPEWYAN, AB - The Government of Canada is investing in renewable energy to invigorate local economies, create jobs and reduce emissions for a low-carbon future. The adoption of renewable energy technologies is also helping rural and remote communities reduce their reliance on diesel fuels.

On August 8, 2019, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources, Amarjeet Sohi announced a \$4.5-million investment in a solar energy and energy storage project in Fort Chipewyan, AB. The investment will reduce pollution and create over 40 good, middle-class jobs during construction. The Government of Alberta also contributed \$3.3 million to the project.

The project will result in 20 percent of electricity generation for the community coming from renewable sources. Upon completion, a new 2.2-megawatt solar farm will complement an existing 400 kilowatt installation, making it the largest off-grid solar project in Canada. In addition, a battery storage system and micro-grid control system will improve reliability of the grid. The project's combined solar and battery energy storage system will displace 650,000 litres of diesel fuel per year, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1,743 tonnes annually.

The project will be owned by Three Nations Energy, a Limited Partnership formed by the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Mikisew Cree First Nation and Fort Chipewyan Métis Local 125 - three neighbouring Indigenous groups in Fort Chipewyan. ATCO, an energy infrastructure company, will be a partner in the project.

"Working in close partnership with these communities on an off-diesel project of this magnitude will have real and lasting impacts, both on the local communities and in Canada's fight against climate change. It is our hope that Indigenous ownership, employment and capacity-building in Fort

Chipewyan will inspire similar projects in remote communities to reduce diesel use and pollution."

"While the regional economy depends on the oil industry, we feel the effects of climate change in Fort Chipewyan and see the growing impacts on our Delta

lands," remarked Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Chief Allan Adam. "Our members want us to be part of the solution, and we appreciate Canada and Alberta working with us to take a big step forward to cut

Continued on page 11

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Edmonton student wins Orange Shirt logo design contest

Edmonton, AB – The Society for Safe and Caring Schools & Communities (Safe and Caring) recently announced the winner of their annual Orange Shirt Program Logo Design Competition.

Jasper Place High School Grade 11 student, Farrah Ochiese's design has been selected as the logo for the 2019 Orange Shirt Program and will be featured on the front of the official Alberta Orange Shirt, worn to honour Residential School Survivors and to promote ongoing Reconciliation.

Ochiese entered the contest after learning about it from one of her teachers. Ochiese, whose family originates from Driftpile First Nation in Treaty 8 territory, describes her artwork as "a mother trying to keep her children safe, under her wing, within her." "It's scary losing a child in a mother's vision, something you grew to love and raise." Ochiese wants all Albertans to know that "all children are precious - they're our next generation."

Ochiese's design was shortlisted from 815 submissions by a panel of judges that included Residential School Survivors, Intergenerational Survivors, Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA), Indigenous organizations, community and business leaders, and Safe and Caring board members. It was then selected through a process of community engagement at Edmonton's Indigenous Peoples Festival and online voting through the month of July.

"So many fantastic submissions for this year's logo contest from across the Province. We are seeing such an increase in the participation levels in the Orange Shirt Program which is just one of the ways to keep the conversation going throughout the year and grow our understanding, recognize the harms done to Residential

School students and to demonstrate commitment to participate in the work of Reconciliation," said Leslie Ronaldson, Executive Director at Safe and Caring. "Safe and Caring Schools & Communities is proud to deliver the Orange Shirt Program in Alberta."

Alberta's Orange Shirt Program will run throughout the month of September and early October, culminating in Orange Shirt Program events in Edmonton, on September 27, and in Calgary, on Thursday, October 3 this year. Albertans are invited to order their orange shirts featuring Ochiese's design through the Safe and Caring's website: safeandcaring.ca/orangeshirtprogram/orange-shirt-program-t-shirts/

Orange Shirt Day honours the legacy of Residential Schools, Survivors, Intergenerational Survivors and those that did not survive as an act of Reconciliation. It honours the legacy of the 2013 St. Joseph Mission Residential School commemoration event, held in Williams Lake, B.C. It grew out of former student, Phyllis Webstad's account of having her brand-new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission.

The Orange Shirt is meant to recognize the harm done to Residential School students and show a commitment that Every Child Matters. A date in September was chosen because it is the time of year when children were taken from their homes to residential schools and it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year.

Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.



Farrah Ochiese with her winning design

The Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities builds school and community capacity and awareness school environments through the use of needs assessments, programs to promote healthy relationships for all.

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Ottawa supports Indigenous tourism, skills and growth in Alberta

(CALGARY) - The Government of Canada has announced funding for four Indigenous projects in Alberta as part of its commitment to creating well-paying middle-class jobs and long-term prosperity with growth opportunities for Indigenous Peoples.

On August 8, Karen McCrimmon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and Member of Parliament for Kanata-Carleton, on behalf of Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, and Minister responsible for Western Economic Diversification Canada, announced \$2,800,360 in funding towards four projects that will promote Indigenous tourism, skills development, and business growth.

"Supporting Indigenous cultural awareness, skills training, and business growth is essential to building a strong, innovative and inclusive Canadian economy," stated Minister Bains. "I am proud the Government of Canada is investing in Indigenous Peoples, removing barriers to their success, and making it easier to capitalize on Indigenous tourism, employment, and economic opportunities."

The announced investments include \$1,000,000 through the Regional Innovation Ecosystem program stream for Indigenous Tourism Alberta to deliver a program that promotes, strengthens, and grows the Indigenous tourism industry in Alberta. Activities include developing and delivering multiple community tourism readiness programs, Alberta Indigenous tourism summits, and cultural awareness programs.

"We are incredibly pleased to collaborate with the Government of Canada to support the development of

authentic Indigenous tourism in Alberta," remarked Tarra Wright Many Chief, Executive Director of Indigenous Tourism Alberta. "The key to success for the future of Indigenous tourism is the ability to foster and build collaborative relationships with key partners. This partnership supports Indigenous Tourism Alberta's mission to provide leadership in the development and marketing of authentic Indigenous tourism experiences in this growing industry."

\$829,860 was also announced through the Western Diversification Program for the TsuuT'ina Nation to establish two skills training programs in Calgary: a First Nations culinary program in partnership with the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology and the Seven Chiefs Fitness Complex Women's Personal Fitness Trainer Development program in partnership with Mount Royal University. The accredited programs will promote Indigenous economic growth by pre-qualifying participants for employment opportunities at various Nation-based enterprises.

\$750,000 through the Western Diversification Program was announced for O'Chiese Contracting Limited Partnership (OCLP) to purchase construction equipment to support First Nation business opportunities. The equipment will enable OCLP to compete for new contracts and build on existing contracts with other resource development companies.



Indigenous Tourism Alberta receives federal funding to support Indigenous tourism in the province.

opportunities beyond the boundaries of our Nation."

\$220,500 through the Regional Innovation Ecosystem program stream was announced for Business Link to deliver a two-year outreach program that will help to increase the access of Indigenous businesses to federal government procurement opportunities. These outreach events will build awareness of procurement opportunities, identify Indigenous businesses that are procurement-ready, and provide training to businesses so they are able to bid on federal opportunities.

"Ten years ago, Business Link introduced Indigenous services to our offerings," noted Holly Atjecoutay, Team Lead, Indigenous Services, Business Link. "We are honoured to now offer a program that assists Indigenous businesses that are procurement-ready. We are confident that the program will be an integral part of a new business landscape that utilizes the Indigenous business community whenever possible, while also supporting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action."

These projects are expected to develop, maintain, or expand 126 businesses, create 85 new jobs, and train over 200 Indigenous persons. The Government of Canada is committed to building a new relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, cooperation, and partnership. The investments announced today are a reflection of that commitment in action.

"Diversity and inclusion are cornerstones of Canadian identity, and a key part of western Canada's economic prosperity," concluded McCrimmon. "Today's investments will ensure through increased cultural awareness and access to new skills and resources, Indigenous Peoples can fully participate in the economy and strengthen their communities."

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O'Chiese First Nation Chief Douglas Beaverbones remarked, "The financial support provided by Western Economic Diversification Canada today will assist in the expansion of O'Chiese Contracting to allow the O'Chiese people to participate in economic

Solar Energy

cont. from p 5

pollution and protect the environment."

Funding for the project comes from the Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities program. The six-year, \$220-million program aims to reduce reliance on diesel in rural and remote communities by deploying and demonstrating renewable energy, encouraging energy efficiency and building local skills and capacity. It is part of the Government of Canada's Investing in Canada infrastructure plan, a more than \$180-billion investment over 12 years in public transit projects, green infrastructure, social infrastructure, trade and transportation routes and Canada's rural and northern communities.



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