



ALBERTA NATIVE NEWS



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Pincher Creek hosts Alberta Friendship Centres' AGM

By Terry Lusty

From September 20 to 22, the Napi Native Friendship Centre at Pincher Creek in the extreme southwestern corner of Alberta hosted the 49th Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA).

Approximately 150 friendship centre delegates converged on the tiny community nestled in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies for three days during which they tended to the usual annual business of presenting annual reports from various individuals and committees, voted in some new executive members, addressed the financial report for the year and reviewed past programs, their delivery and the direction the centres might want to determine for future considerations.

The first day was dedicated to four main committees which met separately. These included: The Elders' Wisdom Circle Meeting, the Presidents Committee, the Executive Directors Committee, and the Aboriginal Youth Council.

The evening proved to be an enjoyable open-door session that focused on traditional hand games in addition to storytelling with elders.

On the following day, Sept. 21st, provincial president Robert (Bob) Oshanyk and the Napi Friendship Association president, Ross Yellow Horn, extended welcoming remarks.

From then on, it was all business.

Roll call, adoption of the agenda and adoption of the previous year's minutes were dealt with before moving forward with a number of annual reports. A few of the more major ones, of course, were the President's Annual Report by Bob Oshanyk, the Executive Director's Annual Report by Joanne Mason and the Financial Statements by chartered accountant Joseph Man.

Additional annual reports were offered by Marlene Gervais, chair of the Elders' Wisdom Circle, the National Youth Representative Report by Levi Wolfe, the Aboriginal Youth Council Report by Mason

Simoneau, and the National Association's Vice-President's update by Kelly Benning.

Overall, a great deal of business was addressed, thus making for a somewhat long day.

The previous day's committee meetings were presented for informational purposes and special resolutions pertaining to the organization's bylaws were also discussed.

The evening agenda featured a community-based banquet.

Elder Morris Little Wolf kick-started the evening with a smudge and opening prayer, followed by a number of greetings and comments from special guests in attendance.

These included Quinton Crowshoe who extended an official welcome as the emcee, then greetings from the local centre's president, Ross YellowHorn and the provincial centre's president Robert (Bob) Oshanyk.

Special honourings were extended to Napi Board Elders Rose Potts and Jane Goddard, followed by the provincial associations special service awards to a number of recipients who had given of themselves to the centre movement over the years. These were divided into five-year segments, ranging from five years and up to 40 years of dedication, for which the recipients were acknowledged and gifted service certificates and pins. In all, a fine gesture of acknowledgment to deserving candidates.

The ANFCA also has a number of other honourings planned for the future. These will recognize founders,



Youth delegates and ANFCA leadership at the AGM in Pincher Creek.

builders, provincial retirees, special Elders, families of deceased members who are in need of support, long-term service members, an Elders biography book, memorial walls, tree planting for those deceased, and more!

The balance of the evening featured live entertainment and a dance with a Kainai Nation band, Rudz Crew, as the main, featured attraction.

Sunday, Sept. 22, was primarily dedicated to special resolutions and elections for part of the executive committee members. When all was said and done, the open board positions that were voted on included:

- President - Len Morissette
 - Treasurer - Barbara Courtorielle
 - Proviincial Elder - Marlene Gervais
 - National Youth Board Rep - Keisha LaRiviere
- Next year's annual provincial assembly was awarded to the Hinton Native Friendship Centre which will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary.



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The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) invites you to its 3rd Annual National Water Symposium and Tradeshow: First Nations Water Future Post-2021, taking place November 20-22, 2019 at the Fairmont Royal York in Toronto, Ontario. The Government of Canada has made a commitment to end all Long-Term Drinking Water Advisories on-reserve by March of 2021...but what will happen after that?

The AFN Water Symposium will host plenary sessions, workshops and dialogue opportunities to hear your views on the long-term goals, objectives and strategies for First Nations water and waste-water future post-2021.

This Symposium will also provide an opportunity to update the existing AFN National Water Declaration and to convey to Canada and the world our goals, objectives and priorities as First Nations in the post-2021 water future.

Please watch for updates at www.afn.ca



Contact:
Nov2019WaterSymposium@afn.ca

Great Bear Rainforest Comes to IMAX Screens

The stewardship and conservation efforts of coastal First Nations are featured throughout a new IMAX film entitled *Great Bear Rainforest: Land of the Spirit Bear*, now showing at the Telus World of Science in Edmonton.

It may be one of the most remote places on the planet, but now viewers from all walks of life are able to immerse themselves in one of the planet's most exquisite and secluded wildernesses and incredible cultures of Canada's Great Bear Rainforest.

From an underwater ocean world and salmon-filled river valleys, to the ice-capped peaks of the Coast Mountains, audiences will journey into a land of grizzly bears, coastal wolves, sea otters and humpback whales, on their way to discover the secret world of the Spirit Bear.

"The Great Bear Rainforest is truly one of the last wild places left on Earth, and has immense value both ecologically and culturally," said director Ian McAllister. "Many people don't know about this ancient rainforest and the Indigenous people who have helped protect it for thousands of years. We hope audiences will leave theatres inspired that an extraordinary world of such natural wonder and splendor still exists."

Hidden from the outside world, the Great Bear Rainforest is a sanctuary to a stunning diversity of wildlife, including the fabled all-white Spirit Bear (the rarest bear on Earth) and the Indigenous First Nations people who live there and who have provided stewardship of the forest for millennia. The Great Bear Rainforest is the largest temperate coastal rainforest in the world and it has remained relatively unchanged for more than 10,000 years.

"This film is both fascinating and stunning and to see it on Alberta's largest screen is an incredible experience," said Alan Nursall, President and CEO of TELUS World of Science – Edmonton. "Not only does this film capture scenes of remarkable wildlife, it's a Canadian film that features stories from Canada's First Nations people. I can't wait for everyone to see this amazing new IMAX documentary."

McAllister and his crew spent three years filming



Director Ian McAllister gets up close with his subjects in "Great Bear Rainforest: Land of Spirit Bear." (Photo supplied).



the remote reaches of the Great Bear Rainforest. The footage they captured is unprecedented and provides a magnificent view of a land where ocean, forest, mountain and river meet in a mighty convergence. Great Bear Rainforest celebrates a place that could only have thrived – and will only continue to thrive – through sustained co-existence between humans, land and sea animals and the natural environment.

Narrated by Canadian actor Ryan Reynolds, *Great Bear Rainforest* marks the first time this pristine, wildlife-rich world will be experienced in IMAX® and giant screen theaters. The film features music composed and arranged by the legendary Academy Award®-winning composer Hans Zimmer and Anže Rozman for Bleeding Fingers Music.

Great Bear Rainforest is a family-friendly film and runs 40 minutes.

The film was created in partnership with a number of First Nations whose territories span the region. The stewardship work of Gitga'at First Nation, KITASOO / Xai'Xais Nation and Haíłzaqv (Heiltsuk) Nation are all featured in the film.

In a 2017 interview about the film, William Housty of the Haíłzaqv (Heiltsuk) Nation said, "Conservation-wise, this film will really inspire a lot of people to realize the importance of making sure that places like this region are highlighted and preserved for the future."

It was essential to involve First Nations in the creation of the film, says McAllister in an interview about the film: "It was important to us to talk sincerely with the local communities, so we went to each of them and explained what we were hoping to do with the film and then we took their advice and direction. We wanted to spotlight real people, especially young people, and real things that are happening in their communities."

Along with the incredible fauna of the Great Bear

Rainforest, the stewardship endeavours of First Nations are featured throughout the film. As the film's website says, "Their living history is inseparably connected to the vibrancy of the rainforest, which they have protected for thousands of years. Today, Indigenous youth are coming together and taking responsibility for this place they call home."

A delegation of Haíłzaqv (Heiltsuk) leaders including elected officials, hereditary, and cultural authorities traveled to Vancouver in March 2019 to welcome the premiere of the IMAX film *Great Bear Rainforest: Land of the Spirit Bear*.

"We welcome the world to visit our territory through this IMAX experience and to learn more about how they can support our and other Indigenous nations around the world in continuing this crucial work," remarked elected chief councillor Marilyn Slett.

"This film offers the world a glimpse of what our people have been working so hard to protect for 14,000 years," added hereditary chief Frank Brown.

Since time immemorial the Haíłzaqv have lived in harmony with their waters and lands. As owners of these pristine territories, they work tirelessly to conserve and protect them for future generations. As the delegates prepare to head down and represent their Nation and homelands they hope the film will help boost support and awareness of their and other nations' hard work protecting this and other global treasures.

In today's context of the global pressures of climate change, over-consumption, and shifting landscapes the Haíłzaqv work continuously to protect their homelands from exploitation. Most importantly, the area some people now call the Great Bear Rainforest is the ancient homelands of the Haíłzaqv, KITASOO Xai'Xais, and Gitga'at people all featured in the film.

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Fed's request for Judicial Review is a giant step backward

First Nations leaders are extremely disappointed to hear of the Federal Government's recent request for judicial review on the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) decision that secured compensation for First Nations children wrongly removed or denied essential services.

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ordered the federal government on Sept. 6 to pay \$40,000 — the maximum allowed under the Canadian Human Rights Act — to each child taken from homes and communities under the on-reserve child welfare system from Jan. 1, 2006, to a date to be determined by the tribunal.

The ruling also directed Ottawa to compensate some of the parents and grandparents of children who were apprehended. The decision would leave the federal government owing billions of dollars in compensation.

Grand Chief of Treaty 6 Dr. Wilton Littlechild stated, "Personally, I was always concerned about backlash because of our success in advancing reconciliation through honouring and enforcement of our Treaty. After all the good words, I did not expect Prime Minister Trudeau to take this path. I either totally misread him or his true colours are now coming out as he is losing ground to the Conservatives."

Grand Chief Littlechild is a former Member of Parliament, was instrumental in the development and adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and is one of Truth and Reconciliation Commissioners on the Indian Residential School Era. He has advocated over four decades for justice for Indigenous peoples and particularly for First Nations citizens of this country. He noted this decision is "a giant step backwards that puts Trudeau squarely in the conservative camp — now both are opposing the rights of our peoples."

Chief Craig Makinaw of the Ermineskin Cree Nation made the following comment, "It is unfortunate that the government is asking for a judicial review. This ruling (CHRT) is for the children in-care and their families."

According to a statement by the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations, "The decision by Justin Trudeau is beyond disappointing, rather it is a clear indication that the federal government will continue violating Treaty and Human Rights of the indigenous Peoples as Conservative candidate Andrew Sheer has also stated publicly that if elected, under his government, there will be a judicial review."

"The Indian Residential School era, the 60s Scoop and the current child welfare system continues the plan of cultural, if not out right genocide of Indigenous peoples as noted in various government documents since Confederation. The CHRT reviewed the issue and made their ruling based on proven violations by Canada."

When reviewing the campaign material of the current MP from his local riding, the Grand Chief stated, "I also noted in our incumbent's campaign brochure there is not one word about Indigenous issues. 'This is very concerning given the huge number of First Nation citizens eligible to vote in that riding.'"

The Grand Chief encourages all First Nations to review the voting stats of their MPs during the last term on how they voted on Indigenous issues while in the House of Commons. "We cannot allow our voices to be silent, we cannot allow government to ignore our rights and continue to abuse our children; we must take an active role in decision-making in this country."

"This is beyond unacceptable," stated Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde in response to the announcement of the request for a judicial review. "The Government of Canada is once again preparing to fight First Nations children in court. I've connected with Minister Seamus O'Regan to share my deep disappointment. The AFN will always stand up and fight for First Nations children and families."

"The CHRT panel found that the government racially discriminated against First Nations children in care in a willful and reckless manner. As a result, the CHRT ordered Canada to pay the maximum amount allowable under the Canadian Human Rights Act."

Continued on next page



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About Bow Valley College

(ANNews) - Bow Valley College (BVC) is located on a special site where the Bow River meets the Elbow River. The traditional Blackfoot name for this place is Mohkinstsis (Calgary). They are in the traditional territory of the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) and, in Treaty 7 territory. They acknowledge the Siksika, Piikani, Kainai, Tsuut'ina, Iyarhe Nakoda and the Métis Nation of Alberta Region III. They also have satellite campuses located across Treaty 7 territory in Canmore, Banff, Strathmore, High River, Okotoks, Airdrie, and Cochrane.

Bow Valley College respects and values the long-standing relationships they have with Indigenous Communities. The College has a growing presence of Indigenous learners, alumni, faculty and staff who play a key role in advancing educational, professional, and social outcomes of Indigenous peoples in Calgary and beyond.

BVC has a number of Indigenous specific student supports including the Iniikokaan Centre, their Indigenous student centre where learners from all background can connect with Indigenous Elders, participate in ceremony, connect with academic supports and study together. The Iniikokaan Centre was established in 2008 and in 2013 it was renovated and relocated to a beautiful new space. It is fully ventilated for ceremonial purposes and the Iniikokaan Centre provides sacred medicine for those wishing to smudge. There is a monthly student smudge led by a cultural resource Elder who also provides teachings about the smudge.

Iniikokaan Centre and staff also lead cultural events across campus and around the community, like Orange Shirt Day, Honouring Indigenous Veterans ceremony, Indigenous Awareness Month and the

Indigenous Show-case and pow wow in partnership with the City of Calgary.

The Student Association at Bow Valley College supports student clubs, the newest of which is SOAR (Supporting Our Actions Towards Reconciliation). SOAR provides an opportunity for students from all backgrounds to come together to foster truth and reconciliation dialogues through events-based learning across our campus.

With the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) Final Report and Calls to Action in 2015, BVC recognized the need to increase resources to support their reconciliation and indigenization journey.

Within the TRC Calls to Action, there were a number of actions that specifically apply to the work of educational institutions. Among them, they include improving educational outcomes for Indigenous learners and bringing Indigenous ways of being, knowing and learning into the classrooms and into teaching styles, through the voices of Indigenous peoples.

To advance this work, Bow Valley College identified as a core action in the 2018 – 2021 Comprehensive Institutional Plan the need to develop



This year, at Bow Valley College, on October 5, to commemorate Orange Shirt Day, four residential school survivors spoke about the losses they endured at Indian Residential School. The survivors included Doris Calliou, a Cultural Resource Elder at the College from the Alexander First Nations, and Keith Chiefmoon, from the Kanai Nation.

and implement an Indigenization Strategy, supporting the institutions goal of *fostering an environment of inclusion and respect*.

BVC has created several new positions since 2017 including the Indigenous Learner Liaison, Indigenous Partnerships Officer, Indigenous Curriculum Specialist, and the Indigenization Strategy Specialist. They continue to evaluate the human and financial resources required to authentically, decolonize and indigenize their institution.

The BVC Indigenization Strategy is focused on: recruiting and retaining Indigenous learners and employees across the college, building awareness of Indigenous culture and history through events and curriculum based learning, and fostering mutually beneficial relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations.

For more information, visit bowvalleycollege.ca.

Judicial Review *cont. from p 4*

The government could have addressed the broken system and the funding inequalities before, but they didn't. To appeal this CHRT ruling, which was meant to provide a measure of justice for First Nations children in care, is hurtful and unjust."

It is estimated that a minimum of 54,000 children and their families could have benefitted from this ruling. The CHRT has issued seven compliance orders against Canada since its original ruling in January 2016.

"It is time for Canada to stop obstructing fairness and justice, end its discriminatory practices, and start

taking responsibility for its historic and ongoing treatment of First Nations children. First Nations children must be provided the care and opportunity they deserve," said AFN Manitoba Regional Chief Kevin Hart, who holds the child welfare portfolio for the AFN.

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2019 BBMA award recipients, leaders and founders

BBMA recipients receive their Métis Sashes with pride and joy

by Theresa Majeran

(ANNews) - On Saturday, September 21, 2019 the Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards (BBMA) initiative celebrated another consecutive year designed to honour and celebrate achieving and deserving Métis students on the path of their educational journeys.

The Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards program began in 2001 with a \$13 million donation from Métis entrepreneurs and philanthropists Georges R. Brosseau Q.C., Orval Belcourt and Dr. Herb Belcourt. The trio founded the awards program to support the educational dreams of Métis youth and mature students in Alberta. Since the inception of this fund more than 2000 awards have been granted providing funding for the cost of tuition.

BBMA Alumni Christie Ladouceur (BBMA 2010) vintage and Fred Keating co-emceed the event. Guests were greeted by fiddler Caleb Hunt; Brianna Lizotte BBMA recipient and Colton Bear joined in on guitar. More than 400 guests gathered to celebrate the achievements of BBMA and this year's attending Sash Ceremony recipients.

The evening opened up with fiddlers Danial Gervais, Alex Kusturok, Brianna Lizotte and Colton Bear providing the ambiance followed by the singing of both the Canadian and Métis anthems by well-known vocalist Sarah Wolfe a 2019 Sash recipient.

The crowd was treated to a new video called

"In their own words" where the founders provided an overview of their vision. Founder Georges Brosseau noted that he believes "it is important that those in the extended Metis family who have knowledge share it, because knowledge is fire of education and I'd like to see all of those within the family to be able to light their candle against that fire so all can have a brighter future."

Orval Belcourt commented that "the BBMA is a vehicle to help Metis people achieve goals and he hopes they do just that."

Herb Belcourt reminded the students "that the world is in their hands and in the future Canada will be proud of our Native people."

Kathryn Brosseau BBMA panel member then introduced the many special guests, dignitaries, government officials, sponsors and Elders attending the evening event along with an update on the success of the awards program.

"Today," noted Kathryn Brosseau, "we are here to witness first-hand the pride, the success and the camaraderie of the Métis people. This evening would not be possible without the support and hard work of everyone involved - the founders, the donors whose contributions to our endowment fund help to financially support their need to pursue post-secondary education and fulfil their dreams of a successful life. This year we are able to support about 197 students with approximately \$660,000 this year alone with a total of 7.9 million being disbursed over 18 years."

She went on thank organizer and communications manager Theresa Majeran and the many volunteers that help to make the annual event special every year and the BBMA Panel Members "who volunteer countless hours to review all of the BBMA applications and manage the tasks that support and guide the BBMA program." Kathryn introduced Martin Garber-Conrad from Edmonton Community Foundation as one of our most important partners and excellent stewards of the endowment fund.

Martin offered his welcoming comment and spoke about the Foundation's goal to provide lasting solutions to a variety of issues in our communities. He congratulated the recipients in the room and talked about careers and "connections with your heritage and



Christine Alexander and Phyllis Collins

with new friends; your hard work has results for you and your community.

"The numbers of students assisted by the BBMA and the dollars awarded are indeed impressive but the real power of BBMA is the change in individuals - their pride, their opportunities, and their connection to their culture. BBMA helps to create opportunities for cultural recovery, reclaiming pride and for personal, community and economic development."

Before the sash ceremony began, BBMA Alumni and Sash story teller Matt Hiltermann shared some thoughts regarding the history and meaning of the Métis sash. In his words, "it is one of the things that symbolize Métis; not only does the sash as a whole represent us as a people, but each colour carries a different connotation. Red and white are always side by side to represent our ancestors First Nations and European peoples, blue and white are side by side to represent our flag, green and yellow are also side by side to represent our homelands the prairies and the boreal forest, and black represents the dark times for our people where some hid their Métis identity... Past, present and future is woven together forever."

The highlight of the evening - the Sash ceremony was next up with some 62 new award recipients excited and heading to the stage; Elders Phyllis Collins from Elizabeth Métis settlement and Doreen Bergum from Olds presented Métis sashes and BBMA panel members Harold Robinson and Lisa Weber called the students to the stage. As each sash recipient's name was called, the BBMA fiddle orchestra played. At the end of the ceremony the Moms and Poparazzi rushed the stage with pride in their hearts and cell phones in their hands to capture the moment.

The BBMA Alumni speech delivered by Conor Kerr Manager, Indigenous Relations & Supports at NorQuest College, was full of passion and inspiration. He reminded the Métis students "here tonight are descended from revolutionaries and rebels, strong matriarchal leaders and people who kept culture, language, and most importantly the dream of a better future for generations of Métis people alive."

He said, "Every single word you read in your program, every single essay you write, every single question you answer is a revolution. Because you were not supposed to be here right now. I firmly believe that education is the path to creating a new narrative for Metis People."

Following the alumni speech an outstanding cultural feast was served up including; whole bison roasted and venison sausage by Chef James Hanson

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Kaleido festival a huge success with something for everyone

By Terry Lusty

One couldn't have asked for a better weekend for the annual Kaleido Family Arts Festival, this year in Edmonton.

The September 13 to 15 event had 118 Avenue blocked off from 90th to 94th Street with the sun smiling down and temperatures running in the low 20s, thus making for a terrific outing to the three-day extravaganza that offered something for everyone, regardless of age or gender.

There were short films, face paintings, stilt walkers, cafes, crafts sales booths, some giveaways, music of all genres, Oriental lion dancers, and so much more - including an Indigenous community village with teepees and wall tents, known as Takwakin Village.

The village saw the return of Indigenous northern trapper, Robert Grandjamb, who displayed various furs and pelts, and offered information about the humane side of his profession. There were demonstrations of Metis sashes being hand woven, cooking bannock on a stick over an open log fire, mint tea, and the all-afternoon concerts by talented Indigenous artists.

Free, live performances were delivered by such engaging acts as the dynamic Dallas Arcand, a.k.a. Crazy Kree, who happens to be a three-time world champion hoop dancer. He demonstrated - to the amazement of so many viewers - his tremendous skills at this art form.

Folk and country singers offered their self-compositions and stylings through such wonderful artists as Cindy Paul, accompanied by Gordon Matthews, James Trent Agecoutay, Wata Wata from Bolivia (residing in Edmonton six years now), and the Metis Child and Family Jiggers.

Add to this the rollicking fiddle tunes of Brianna Lizotte who competed at the recent Canadian Fiddle Championships and was accompanied by Colton Bear, as well as the traditional drum songs of Dwight Paul and Craig Louis, hip-hop by YNG Bear and Cloud Ave, and Amanda Lamothe whose flute playing, jingle dancing and storytelling never fail to further educate and entertain audiences of all sorts everywhere she goes, about Indigenous culture and traditions.

Whether one wanted to relax, participate or simply absorb and get tuned in about Indigenous culture, it was all there, on-site and free, thanks to the sharing by all of the gifted and giving individuals who gave of their time and talents.



World Champion Hoop Dancer Dallas Arcand performed at Kaleido Festival.

Orange Shirt Day in YEG



A sea of orange commemorated Orange Shirt Day at Edmonton City Hall to raise awareness of the harms that were committed against Indigenous students during the Residential School era. Photo by Terry Lusty

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BBMA recipients *cont. from p 6*

and his team at the Edmonton Inn and conference centre. The dinner blessing was provided by Elder Phyllis Collins.

Christine Alexander of Fort McMurray, mother of 9 and a grandmother of many offered her perspective as a Sash recipient. Her career had blossomed into a seasoned FNMI Liaison giving advice to students of Indigenous heritage. Christine works in schools with children and families to bring acknowledgment and awareness to boundaries and help families to remove them or learn lessons from them. Christine learned that only 65% of us make it to grade twelve and she knew she wanted to address this by going back to post-secondary herself.

Christine said, “So those fellow recipients that are here today - give yourselves a pat on the back because you have already beaten the odds. You will now be change-makers for the generations to come. I was continually pushing young people to think big! To go for not just grade 12 but to go for college or university, to be whatever they want to be. I told them to work hard and to live in their best life.

“I watched many kids work through school breaking stigma and getting education. I always had this yearning to go back to school, but I was so scared. I am humbled and cannot thank you enough for believing in me and my dream.

“Going back to school seemed daunting, my biggest fear was not being able to afford such an opportunity and with your help these steps are now a reality. I will in the future be able to work more closely and effectively within the community I was raised in.”

Her quote from Georges Aramus closed her speech: “You are not responsible for the history of your nation beyond the obligation to study it. It is an inheritance. But you are responsible for what happens in your time, under your watch.”

The evening’s entertainment continued with a performance by BBMA student Robin Cisek performing her original song called “Waiting on You.” She has released a new single in October titled “Concentric” available now for download on Spotify.

The final powerful speech of the night was provided by continuing student Noelle Antonsen enrolled in a Bachelor of Midwifery at Mount Royal University.

Noelle explained, “I am asked, ‘What made you want

to become a Midwife?’ There was no specific event that made me want to become a midwife, but rather a series of experiences that, when added together, equal Midwifery. Like raindrops in a bucket, I did not notice them add up until the bucket was overflowing.

“When I was a child my grandmother told me of her experiences giving birth. She spoke of how scared she was, how alone she felt, and how she would have been treated differently if she was not a half-breed. Yet she also spoke of a kind nurse at the Calgary Foothills hospital, who held her hand as she gave birth to my father and his twin sister.

“While on placement we need to have a reliable vehicle, purchase medical supplies, relocate every few months to our next placement, and follow the on-call schedule of registered midwives. Due to the costs associated with this, I would be unable to continue in my studies without the help of the Belcourt Brosseau Metis Awards.

“While on placement last winter, and the very first birth I attended was at the Calgary Foothills hospital where I held the hand of a young mother as she gave birth. I thought of my grandmother giving birth to my father at that very same hospital, and I thought of the kind nurse that held her hand.

“I believe it is important that Métis people become educated and proudly share who we are. I am so honored to be included with the other award winners who are doing just that.”

To wrap up the evening Elder Doreen Bergum closed the formal event with her prayer, then the kitchen party



(Back row) Orval Belcourt, Barry Belcourt, Harold Robinson, Georges Brosseau and Kathryn Brosseau. (Front row) Brenda Bourque-Stratichuk and Lisa Weber.



Shaeley Douglas, Sienna Dextrase, and Tailynn Mennie.

broke out. The Metis Child and Family jiggers kicked it off along with the fiddlers who provided cultural entertainment all night. A Jigging mob of proud students and their families formed down the aisle of the ballroom to end the night, the energy was very high.

Georges Brosseau told us, “Students are selected using a holistic assessment. We want to know what their participation has been in the Métis community; they have to show interest in their Metis heritage. We started out with about \$13 million and through investments and thanks to the Edmonton Community Foundation’s investment we now have about 18.8 million in the endowment fund. This is very positive news and one that ensures that our Métis people will continue to have the opportunity to go to school and to have a successful life.”

“Awards are not based on marks alone. The BBMA awards panel is made up of Métis people. We try to provide the opportunity that many of our young students need - what they do with it will determine their future.”

“It’s an amazing event once again this year,” noted BBMA co-founder Orval Belcourt. “We are so very proud of the many young people who are here today to receive their Metis Sash and the recognition they deserve for their dedication to education and for their hard work and achievements. Our young people are becoming better educated as a result of the awards program and their continued success is proof that a little support can go a long way.”



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Revolutionary Method helps preserve Stoney Nakoda language

MORLEY, Alberta- The Stoney Education Authority with The Language Conservancy hosted a Rapid Word Collection (RWC) event in Alberta last month to help preserve the Stoney Nakoda language. The event was held in the Chill Room at the Stoney Nakoda Resort from September 23 to 27.

At the end of the week, much to the delight of the community, a total of 14,002 words were collected for the new Stoney Nakoda Dictionary.

The number of fluent Stoney Nakoda speakers is dropping, making the language highly endangered. Most dictionaries take about 20 years to develop, but with fluency rapidly decreasing, the Stoney Nakoda nation doesn't have the time to wait.

A Rapid Word Collection event is a revolutionary new method of dictionary development created by The Language Conservancy. During two weeks of word collection, fluent elders from the tribe will gather together with linguists in Morley to record and transcribe thousands of words. The words are generated by going through a core list of 17,000 topics that will allow the elders to share words relating to each topic.

Dictionaries are a core tool to develop other materials that help revitalize dying languages. The



The Stoney Education Authority teamed up with the Language Conservancy for a Rapid Word Collection that resulted in a dictionary of over 14,000 words in the Stoney Nakoda language.

words collected during the event will be gathered into an online dictionary that will help the Stoney Nakoda develop curriculum to teach the next generation fluency in their native language.

The Stoney Nakoda are among a number of Indigenous tribes whose languages are highly endangered. The RWC dictionary development method has been used by other tribes, including the Crow and Ho-Chunk Nations. In the past year, the Crow and Ho-Chunk Nations hosted a Rapid Word Collection with the Language Conservancy that generated 15,000 and 13,000 words in just two weeks,

respectively. Past success with this method brings hope to the Stoney Nakoda of keeping their language alive.

The Language Conservancy is a nonprofit organization leading the preservation and revitalization of indigenous languages and cultures by developing learning materials, hosting educational events and raising awareness for the importance of sustaining endangered languages.

First Nation wins advanced costs in Treaty Infringement Trial

(Lac La Biche, AB) – On September 30, 2019 the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench granted advanced costs to Beaver Lake Cree Nation to allow it to proceed with its Treaty 6 infringement litigation against Canada and Alberta.

The litigation deals with the cumulative effects of the "taking up" of land in Beaver Lake traditional territory and the damage done to the way of life of members of the Beaver Lake Cree Nation by industrial development, including oil and gas expansion from fracking and in-situ oil sands extraction. At its core, the case is about whether or not the Numbered Treaties and in particular Treaty 6, provide constitutional protection for Indigenous culture and way of life.

According to a statement from the Beaver Lake Cree Nation, "with the advance cost award, Beaver Lake Cree Nation will have the financial resources to pursue a case which could be a game-changer in terms of how project approvals are granted in Alberta's oil sands."

As the country in the spirit of reconciliation recognizes and honours Residential School Survivors, the Courts also "provide some important steps along the road to reconciliation" by way of this ruling.

Beaver Lake Cree Nation brought this case in 2008 out of its "profound concern for the increasing industrial development authorized by the Crown" in its traditional lands. Crown consultation and government legislation has not been directed toward or effective in, protecting Beaver Lake's way of life and culture. "Generations of Indigenous Peoples in the region have seen their treaty rights rendered increasingly meaningless as the land, air and water upon which they depend have been degraded by pollution and development.

"Beaver Lake brought this action out of necessity to keep its culture alive." It fears irreversible damage to its culture and way of life as a result of unchecked industrial development.

As noted by the Court, Beaver Lake has committed substantial funds to the litigation over the past ten years. But it can no longer fund the litigation at the rate required to bring it to trial.

Chief Germaine Anderson stated, "We have dedicated our scarce resources to the case because we felt we had no choice. Beaver Lake would rather not have to litigate. It would rather work with the

Crown directly to arrive at a mutual understanding of how to properly implement the Treaty promises, and protect its culture and way of life. However, those discussions have not occurred, and Canada and Alberta have continuously denied that our Treaty affords us protection against cumulative effects."

The Court noted, "Beaver Lake has funded this litigation for 10 years through its own sources. It cannot fund the litigation at the rate required to bring it to trial. I am satisfied that it would be impossible to proceed if the requested order is not made. ... A resolution of this matter is important and

compelling with a reasonable time as the cumulative effects continue to worsen over time. ...It would be manifestly unjust to either compel Beaver Lake to abandon its claim or force it into destitution in order to bring the claim forward."

In the result, the Court ordered that Beaver Lake must continue to contribute to the lawsuit as before and that Canada and Alberta shall provide an equal amount per year until the trial is concluded or the litigation resolved.

The press statement concludes that, "Beaver Lake is thrilled that the Court recognized the importance of the litigation and that denying Beaver Lake advanced costs would deny them access to justice and the ability to enforce their inherent and Treaty rights. Beaver Lake welcomes the ability to move the case forward to trial."

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Candlelight vigil offers support and solidarity

By Terry Lusty

(ANNews) - By 6:30 p.m. the gymnasium was packed with a standing room only crowd, by Indigenous and non-Indigenous supporters standing in solidarity, side by side, shoulder to shoulder, for Canada's missing and murdered Indigenous people.

Among the dozens upon dozens in attendance were so many people shouldering the pain of lost relatives whose deaths or disappearances remain unsolved, unresolved and unsatisfied.

Those impacted continue their journey of traumatization in a world that sadly continues to add yet more statistics to the escalating numbers of the missing and murdered.

The room was filled with signs and posters of the loved and lost while one solitary full-length red dress, symbolizing the missing and murdered, hung suspended from the ceiling, in the heart of all the statements, all the drama and trauma. It was all a caring, shattering reminder of indescribable stories of the loss and pain that sears the very foundation of an unjust world that bears witnesses to the enduring and brutal reality of ongoing misery.

Tragic as it is, it is also a story of incredible strength, resiliency and commemoration.

The date was Friday, October 4, 2019, and hundreds turned up to pay homage and honour the missing and murdered loved ones. It was the annual Sisters in Spirit Vigil, a movement now widespread across Canada every year on this day.

In Edmonton's core area of the city, the gathering culminated at the Boyle Street Plaza, an east-end area that is very familiar to many of the city's Indigenous population.

Marking the occasion this year was the official proclamation announced by the Alberta Indigenous Relations Minister, Rick Wilson, who declared it to be 'Sisters in Spirit Day' before the large crowd.

In so doing, it is the first time that any provincial political party has paid such a tribute.

After acknowledging that "we are all on Treaty 6

territory," Wilson stated that he stands in solidarity with those traumatized on this "emotional day" and avowed that his government "shares your concerns." A framed copy of the proclamation was presented by Wilson to the mother-daughter duo of Muriel and Rachelle Venne, leaders of the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW).

Rachelle explained that the IAAW attended the National Inquiry of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). "We find there's a lot of work to be done," she stated. "And, although progress has been made, we want to continue doing so," she professed.

Metis Elder Elsie Paul offered an opening prayer and said it's a time "to show love to one another, to support one another." They were words echoed by Elder Francis Whiskeyjack who mentioned that, while there's a need "to suppress the past and let go," there are also times one needs to "stand up for what is right."

This year's Sisters in Spirit Vigil arrived mere months after the release of the final report on MMIWG. Close to 2,400 individual testimonies contributed to the report which, like the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report on Indian Residential Schools, includes a number of recommendations that the government is called upon and expected to act upon accordingly.

Also in attendance was the Alberta Minister of the Status of Women, Leela Sharon Aheer, City Councillor Aaron Paquette, New Democrat MP Linda Duncan, in addition to numerous representatives of various organizations, many of whom are on the 'reconciliation road.'

"Every missing or murdered Indigenous woman and girl is a person to be honoured and mourned, and belongs to a family that needs answers, and a community that needs resolution," stated Minister Aheer.

"We commit to building an Alberta where Indigenous

women and girls are valued, respected and safe to live lives filled with hope and promise."

One of the first speakers to address their traumatic loss of a loved one was 39-year-old Somer Grandbois whose brother, Paul, was lost in early 2015. The case remains unresolved, making closure all the more difficult for family members left behind.

Before the evening was over, Grandbois was one of many who had shared their stories of loss and struggled to maintain their composure as they presented their testimonials.

Activist and author Morning Star Mercredi recited a moving and powerful self-composed poem that drew a standing ovation. Singer Jay Gilday also performed one of his own compositions, as did 14-year-old Eva Houle from the Bigstone Cree Band at Wabasca/Desmarais.

In traditional style, Jamie Medicine Crane and Shaunteya EagleChild performed a song and dance, accompanying themselves on flute and rattle while Tanya RedCrow executed a traditional dance accompanied by the River Cree Drum Group.

"We gather to bring awareness," explained Medicine Crane, and to show "our love and support for each other."

"It's so powerful to have everyone here, together," exclaimed MP Duncan. "I'm so inspired to work for Indigenous rights!"

Like Mercredi, Duncan expressed the "need for action," rather than just "words."

Then City Councillor Aaron Paquette shared some thoughts and praised those traumatized as the "strongest of the strong" because they "survive." In like manner he praised the resiliency of Indigenous people and said it's time others looked deep within and not blame "those who are broken, but those who broke them."

Pointing to the dozens of posters displaying the many missing and murdered Indigenous people, he claimed that, "government did this!"

In a choked voice, Paquette concluded by saying, "Our children deserve to come home every night."



Jamie Medicine Crane and Shaunteya EagleChild performed at the candlelight vigil.

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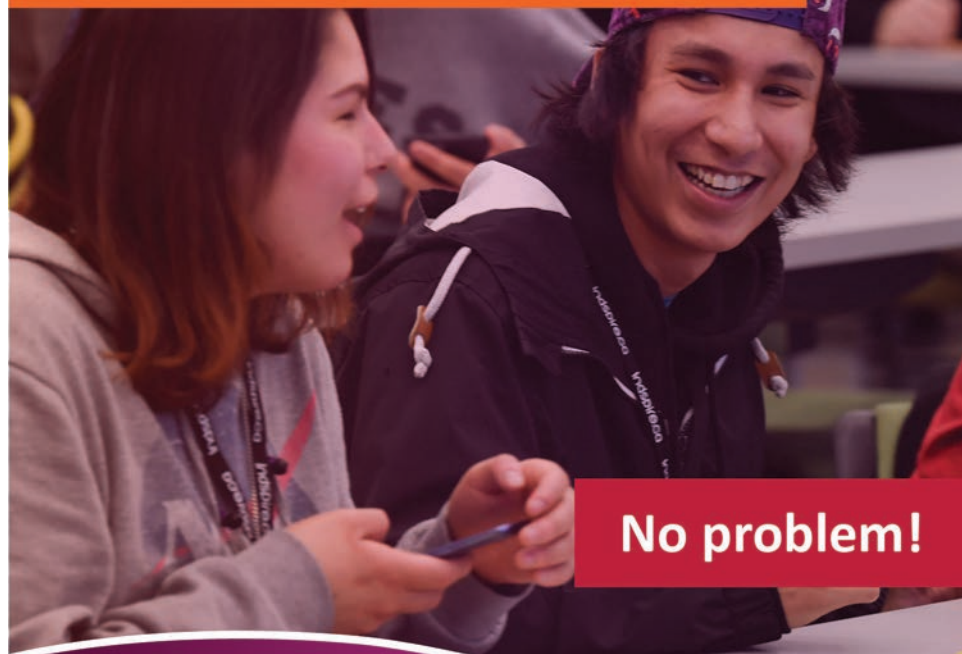
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Logan and Noel featured at Bearclaw Gallery

(ANNews) - The powerful image on the cover of this month's Alberta Native News is by highly acclaimed contemporary artist Jim Logan, entitled "Taking him away again." His art is colourful and vivid in its descriptive style and iconic for its storytelling prowess.

Logan is one of the gifted artists whose new works are featured at Bearclaw Gallery in Edmonton from October 19 - 30, 2019. The other iconic artist featured alongside Logan is the great Maxine Noel (Ioyan Mani). The two artists will be sharing the stage at the gallery in a very special exhibition entitled "Together."

"United we can help people understand that what the ancestors taught was the right way," states Noel, while discussing the theme of the current exhibit. "The Earth is not in harmony unless we respect and understand that all living things on this Earth are equal. We need to respect and care for each other and this Earth. The ancient secrets our ancestor knew to be right need to be known. The ancestors are waiting to teach us – together."

A visionary elder gave Maxine Noel her Sioux name – Ioyan Mani - shortly after birth. It means to walk beyond - and walk beyond she does. Noel is a Santee Oglala Sioux, born in 1946 on the Birdtail Reservation in southwestern Manitoba. It was on her quiet reserve that she learned how to draw.

It wasn't until 1980 that she was encouraged by a fellow Native artist to show her work to a Toronto art dealer. Since that first solo show, Noel has gone on to participate in countless exhibitions and she has dedicated herself to connecting Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities through art, culture and mentorship, often speaking to young people and committing her time and talents to various philanthropic boards and initiatives.

Noel utilizes a wide range of media in her work. Her subjects are young mothers, dancers, lovers and animals of the plains. Her use of fluid images, flowing lines and subtle colours represent some of the essential characteristics she sees in First Nations people - a tone of sensibility, generosity and loving nature. Her presentation is fresh and modern, while still maintaining a spiritual quality. Delicate, flowing lines indicate a strength and serenity, while the simple composition and abstraction give her paintings a distinct character. Her images have been commissioned to grace walls in private and corporate collections, as well as reports, books, magazines and calendars.

Noel has been active with Artists Against Racism and she has lectured at schools in Ontario and Saskatchewan including Western University. She has worked with the Native Earth Performing Arts, the Canadian Native Arts Foundation and the Association for Native Development in the Performing and Visual Arts. She was also one of the first artists to work with the Canada and Africa Twinning programs with

ISAID and CUSO.

In September of 2016, Noel was met with gratitude and praise for her contributions to raising public awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Canada. Her piece, "Not Forgotten," which she gifted to the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), has made around \$60,000 in royalties, which have been donated to the Sister in Spirit Initiative, an organization committed to educating and ensuring effective access to justice for families of missing Aboriginal women.

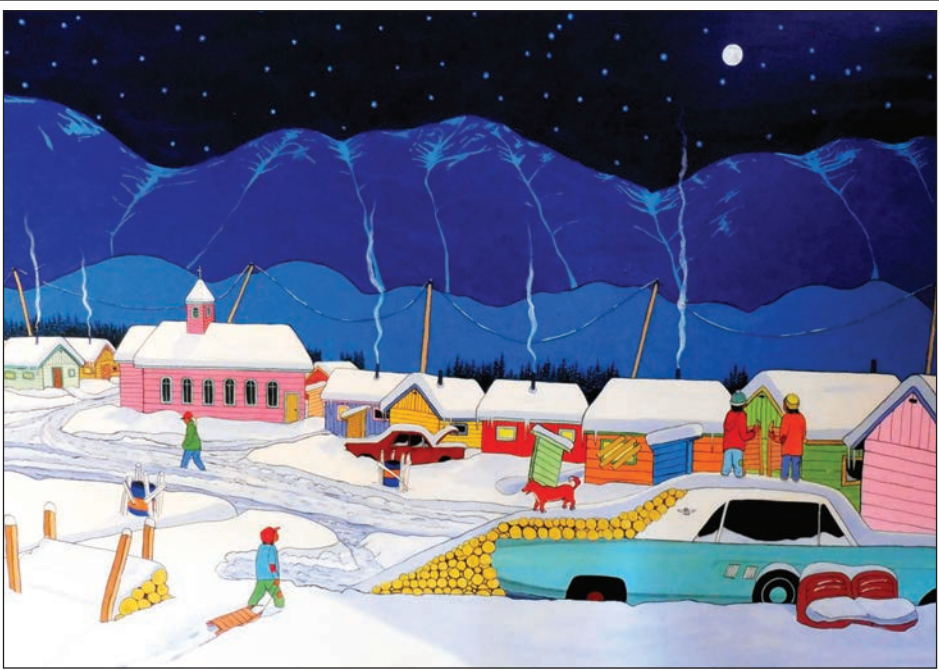
In January of 2017, Noel donated proceeds from her "Spirit of the Woodlands" collection to Dignitas International's Indigenous Health Partners Program. She believes art to be a way of delivering messages and helping further good causes.

For her outstanding contributions Noel is a recipient of the Golden Jubilee Medal and was named to the Order of Canada in 2018.

Noel's new works will be exhibited at Bearclaw Gallery alongside the brilliant art of Jim Logan, whose mission is using his art to depict what he calls the "Quiet Condition."

"My art has always been about existing on the fringes of the mainstream," states Logan, "where our lives are considered as nothing more than 'wards of the state' - a place of a sort of purgatory where we are confined and condemned yet not given any realistic chance to thrive. Yet in this condition we find our strength to resist, to keep our identity and to carry on. We live the same full lives as most but we live it with so much less."

An easygoing, soft-spoken Metis, Jim is a skilled graphic artist, a missionary, and a candid observer of Native life in the North. Although originally from British Columbia, it was the time spent in the Yukon Territory that inspired his mission. The "Quiet Condition" he



Night Sliders by Jim Logan is on exhibit at Bearclaw Gallery.



Mother of the Mountains: part of a collection of new works by Maxine Noel.

found there was the broad spectrum of life on a Northern Indian Reserve. The tenderness and love in his work, contrasted with alcoholism and despair, has shown Jim to be an accurate and painfully honest commentator of Native life.

Jim began to paint as a very young man, inspired by his mother, a hobby painter. He later studied graphic design at David Thompson University and the expressionistic work of artists like Edvard Munch and Van Gogh. He contrives to use his art as a graphic social comment as well as inspiration to many young Native artists. His honesty and sensitivity have earned him international recognition. Jim is undoubtedly an exceptional artist and a voice of his people.

"Together" will be on exhibit at Bearclaw Gallery in Edmonton from October 19 - 30. The gallery is conveniently located in the Oliver Arts District at 10403 124 Street.

Check out their website at Bearclawgallery.com.

Together: Jim Logan and Maxine Noel

An exhibition of new works: October 19 - 30

Artists in attendance: Saturday, October 19 from 1 - 4 pm



Jim Logan



Maxine Noel (Ioyan Mani)

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