

Distributing across Alberta for over 38 years!

A stylized illustration of a tepee with a blue upper section and a black lower section, accented with red and white patterns. It has a black smokestack at the top.

ALBERTA NATIVE NEWS

A black silhouette of an eagle in flight, facing left, with its wings spread.

A stylized sun or moon with a white textured center, surrounded by blue and red concentric circles and wavy lines.

Visit us now at
albertanativenews.com



Lifelong learning at Athabasca U

By Athabasca University staff

A post-secondary education should be open to anyone wishing to pursue higher education if there is a will and desire to obtain a university degree. However, for many, affordability can be a major factor when considering further studies. Some learners are lucky and have access to student loans, have savings such as an RESP, can self-fund with working while studying or are lucky and have family members that can contribute towards the costs of their education.

Every situation is unique and often there are opportunities for funding that some learners may not be aware of. As a First Nations member, there are pathways to take your education with Athabasca University (AU) and access funding to help ease the burden of costs.

One of the best ways to fund your degree is through your local band funding. If you're a Band member you may be eligible for federal funding administered through your Band office!

Athabasca University is proud to be a part of the approved affiliated educational institutions that can help you get your degree today with some band funding. Eligible costs covered by the

program may include tuition, books, travel support and living allowances.

The ability to attend post-secondary with AU has never been easier.

Any Status First Nations post-secondary students who maintain a satisfactory academic standing within an eligible post-secondary institution are eligible to apply. Whether you're taking your undergraduate or postgraduate degree, you can apply today to see if you qualify.

Why Athabasca University?

Our university delivers their programs and courses online, all you need is an internet connection. The costs are significantly reduced when learners can live in the community they currently are at, not expected to move away to go to school. Many learners continue to work part-time or full-time, an advantage for those that don't want to remove themselves from the workforce to study.

AU is also asynchronous for most of their programs, allowing our learners to study and learn at the times that are most convenient

to them. Rather than scheduling activities and family time around course schedules, with AU you schedule your course time around your life!

Staying in your community while you pursue your degree can be a game changer for many. When you don't have to uproot your life and stay where you have a network of supports is a key aspect to a successful learner journey.

Indigenous Women in Business

One of AU's recent graduates is Michelle Martin, and when she enters a boardroom, she knows she is backed by her education from AU. She is an inspiration for and is inspired to support Indigenous women in business.

Michelle Martin, originally from the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, is a financial analyst at Mamaweswen, the North Shore Tribal Council in Ontario



AU graduate Michelle Martin

that represents seven First Nations communities along Lake Huron Martin attended Athabasca University, and received her Bachelor of Commerce and Master of Business Administration degrees, the latter of which she completed as part of the class of 2022.

"It gave me a lot of confidence and credibility behind my name and my credentials to be able to successfully lead a team," explains Martin.

At AU, we pride ourselves on the wealth of programs that we offer in business, humanities, sciences, health and much, much more. One of the most important things that AU provides their learners is the flexibility with their studies.

Martin feels that her success as a leader and role model was supported by that flexibility. In addition to her career in business, Martin is also a busy mother, and needed programming that could be scheduled to work around her life.

"When it came to me pursuing my master's, it was a natural progression to continue with Athabasca University because I liked the format and the asynchronous environment," she said. "I enjoyed not having to be in class and taking a self-directed approach, because I'm pretty disciplined when it comes to completing my studies. It was an easy decision for me."

The growth and success she's achieved personally and professionally is something she wants for all Indigenous women. This desire is what led her to pursue a Doctor of Business Administration, also at AU, where she is tackling her dissertation with leadership and representation at the forefront.

Beyond her academic and career success, it's important to Martin to set an example for her children. As a lifelong learner, she has earned a certified financial planning certificate in between receiving her bachelor and master's degrees. The mother of two believes that knowledge is power and that's why she places a priority on education.

"I always believe in inspiring that desire to have lifelong learning as part of your spirit," says Martin. "I've always been a lifelong learner. I'm hoping that they pick up on that spirit as well."

Attention Readers:

This edition of Alberta Native News deals with topics that may cause trauma invoked by memories of past abuse.

A National Indian Residential School Crisis Line has been set up to provide support for former Residential School students to minimize the risk associated with triggering.

You can access emotional and crisis referral services.

You can also get information on how to get other health supports.

Please call the Crisis Line at 1-866-925-4419 if you or someone you know is triggered while reading the content of this newspaper.



Anyone. Anytime.
Anywhere. Open.

Athabasca University liberates learners from traditional barriers and make transformational higher education more accessible, more flexible, more equitable and more personalized.

With degrees, credentials, and research recognized across Canada and around the world, everyone is empowered to pursue their unique pathways to success through learning.

timefor.athabascau.ca/indigenous

Alexis Nakota chief reflects on Papal visit

By Jeremy Appel, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The chief of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation says the Pope’s apology for the Catholic Church’s role overseeing residential schools is a good first step, but what’s needed is an independent investigation.

Chief Tony Alexis spoke in the wake of Pope Francis’s July 26 participation in the annual Lac Ste. Anne Pilgrimage, as well as his visit a day earlier to Maskwacis, where he apologized at the site of the former Ermineskin Residential School. Ermineskin was the only former residential school site the Pope visited on his trip to Canada.

In addition to his apology, the Pope called for an investigation into crimes committed at residential schools, but was scant on specifics.

“We’re looking forward to that investigation. It can’t be Canada who does it. It can’t be its agents, as well, or the Church who does it,” Chief Alexis said. “It has to be an independent investigation that happens so we can see it in a different light and not in their comfort.”

He said the Papal apology was valuable “validation of what happened to our people,” but is insufficient on its own.

Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation first requested Pope Francis attend the pilgrimage in 2016, Chief Alexis added, noting he was pleased to see the request “come full circle.”

However, he criticized how Indigenous leadership and survivors were treated by the Pope’s delegation. “We were treated [as if] we didn’t have the capacity to do this work, that maybe we shouldn’t be the ones doing it,” Chief Alexis said.

This provided a stark contrast with how the

prime minister and his entourage, as well as other dignitaries, were treated, he noted. “We had to scramble to find a spot or a stool, and in some cases we were sitting on the ground.”

It was left to the chiefs to reach out to survivors and ensure all their needs were met in the aftermath of the Pope’s visit. Chief Alexis said the Church should have taken the initiative to demonstrate its seriousness about reconciliation. “You can’t open up a wound and leave people like that. It’s devastating,” he said.

Alexis had the opportunity to speak to the Pope briefly. He applauded him for showing up, which Alexis said shows “true leadership.”

“We still have lots of work to do, but we’re happy that you’re here and we’ll host you in the best way we can,” Chief Alexis said he told the Pope. Local artist Eugene Alexis gifted the Pope with an eight-foot-long painting depicting Jesus on a mountain.

“The theme of this event was walking together and we worked hard to try to accomplish that,” Chief Alexis said.

“Looking forward, how we walk together (means that) we need to be at the same table.



Chief Tony Alexis, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation

If we’re going to do anything to benefit us or support us, we have to be at the table and lead our people to make sure everything that we need happens.”

Papal visit elicits mixed emotions

By Chevi Rabbit,
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It was an historic three days in central Alberta as Pope Francis embarked on his “penitential visit.” The first stop in the Papal visit was in Maskwacis, where the Pope offered an emotional apology at the site of the former Ermineskin Residential School. His remarks evoked a range of emotions. The Chiefs of Treaty Six First Nations provided these reflections as part of a press conference following the Pope’s apology in Ermineskin Cree Nation.

Treaty Six Grand Chief George Arcand Jr.

“I see Pope Francis’s apology as only the first step in the Church making amends with our People.

After meeting with the Pope and hearing his words - I believe there is a path forward together. There’s a lot of work to be done. The system within the Church needs to be unlearned -- their ways of patronizing our people -- and repair the relationships by looking to us as partners. I have faith it can be done - I know it can be done.

I am hopeful - Pope Francis has shown grace. He can lead the change for his people and we are prepared to walk alongside them on their reconciliation journey. I thank him for honouring our requests to deliver this apology in person. It is a gift for many.

I ask for Canadians to show kindness towards our Survivors, their families and our communities - some of us will be deeply impacted. Some of us will have to go home to our people. Some will have to continue to deal with the fallout. I’m hopeful the government and church will work with us on a path forward. We have no

Continued on page 8

Golderado is a trade labour provider to PME. We are a self-performing, heavy civil contractor based in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.

 **GOLDERADO**
CONTRACTING CORP.



CONTACT US

www.pmeinc.ca
inquiries@pmeinc.ca

8402-116 Street
Fort Saskatchewan, AB
T8L 0G8
780-9922-2280

214 Cardinal Crescent,
Saskatoon, SK
S7L 6H8
306-244-2606

105 -10960 42 Street NE
Calgary, AB
T3N 2B8
587-291-9697

Please submit resumes to:
resumes@pmeinc.ca



Are you a qualified trades worker looking for a job in construction?

WE'RE HIRING for many positions such as; Labourers, Equipment Operators, Foremen, Pipe Layers, Safety Coordinators, Topmen, Carpenters, and so much more!








PME
PLAN. MANAGE. EXECUTE.

SERVICE SCOPES

- Earthworks
- Common Services
- Underground Piping
- Mechanical & Electrical
- Concrete Structures & Foundations

Aside from servicing projects from start to finish - from Central to Western Canada. This dedicated group has made an investment in highly-specialized equipment for complex oil and gas, petrochemical, mining and power generation projects. Backed by substantial civil and industrial resources that deliver competitive pricing and consistent results, this team easily converts first-time clients into lasting partners!



Publication Mail Agreement No. 40050628
Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:
Circulation Department:
102, 10155 114 Street NW
Edmonton AB T5K 1R8
natnews@shaw.ca
Tel: (780) 421-7966

Funded by the Government of Canada | Financé par le gouvernement du Canada | Canada

Volume 39, Number 08, August 2022
ISSN #08294135
www.albertanativenews.com

EDITOR: Deborah Shatz

ADVERTISING:
Dan Moser 780-421-7966

Alberta Native News is published monthly for distribution to Native Bands and Metis Settlements across Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Northwest Territories.

All rights reserved. No part of this newspaper can be reproduced without written permission from the publisher. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Editor. Alberta Native News is published by 320754 Alberta Ltd.

For change of address, please send both old and new addresses. We welcome your stories, pictures, artwork and opinions. Please send anything you would like to have published to our office.

Making Bingo Affordable

Castledowns Bingo Association

12222 - 137 Avenue, Edmonton, AB
780-457-4670

Castledowns Bingo Start Times:
Afternoon: 12:00pm • Evening: 6:00pm
Late-Night: 10:05pm

6 Pots!!
Loonie Pot 1 • Loonie Pot 2/
Full Card Insurance
Odd/ Even • Double Action • Crazy C

Bonus Pays On:
Starburst (Bingo on Top N is a \$100 bonus pay,
Fourth I down is a \$200 Bonus Pay,
and Bottom O is a \$300 bonus pay)
Bonanza (48th number or less \$500,
49th number is \$300, 50th number is \$200)

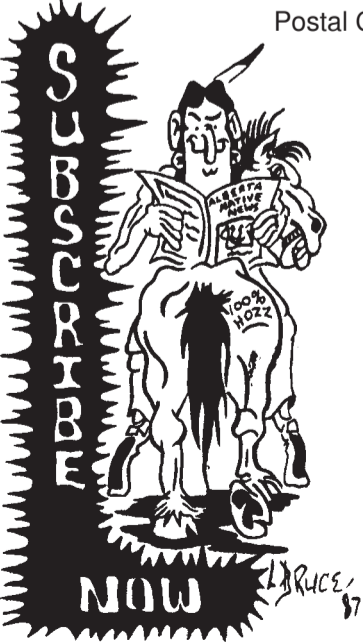
Tuesday is Half-Price Day
from 10:00am-11:30am.

Wednesday is Player of the Week and a Guest!!

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Alberta Native News
#102 10155 114 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1R8

Name _____
Address _____
Postal Code _____



SUBSCRIPTIONS

\$57.75
per year

\$100.80
for two
years

(includes GST)



Now it’s time for action

By Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, Grand Chief Arthur Noskey

There were 11 Residential Schools in Treaty 8 [AB] Territory and 40 day schools, of which many were determined as unvalidated and excluded day schools by the Canadian Government.

On March 1, 2022 Kapawe’no First Nation identified 169 anomalies from St. Bernard’s church in Grouard. As of today, July 26, 2022 we are actively continuing ground penetrating radar searches at St. Martin’s and St. John’s in Wabasca, St. Henry’s in Fort Vermillion, St. Bruno’s in Jossard and upcoming is Holy Angel’s in Fort Chipewyan.

We recognize that for some survivors, this papal visit is an important part of their healing journey. For others, this Papal visit is a trigger, a traumatic reminder of the horrific mistreatment.

The Pope represents the many horrific abuses in those schools, including sterilization and medical experimentation, rape, torture, severe beatings, and deaths. While not all survivors want criminal prosecutions, many do. The Vatican and Roman Catholic Church represents a religious organization that abetted the Canadian Government in administering the crime of genocide on our peoples.

The Governments and Roman Catholic Church have not substantiated action. In fact, the Roman Catholic church has been challenging claimants, they have not shared all documents related to the

residential school systems, they have not prosecuted the abusers and sex offenders, they took our lands and live the freedom of our Treaty, they have yet to pay the agreed upon compensation and make full restitutions for its crimes against the First Peoples.

Further, despite years of advocacy, the Pope and Vatican has not rescinded, repealed, or retracted their papal bulls and the Doctrine of Discovery necessary to give it effect.

We are kind peoples. We are forgiving peoples. But we are also diverse peoples, many of us did not forget who we are as First Peoples. Although they tried, the government and church organizations did not remove “the Indian from the Child.”

The latest gifting ceremony of the head-dress (at the Papal Visit in Maskwacis) portrays a pageantry of its significance to a visitor. It disrespects the significance of that deep sacred meaning and is now obscured by the desire to honour for whatever reasons.

Recently the *Vatican News* printed the following information: “They placed on him the symbol of trust and authority after he asked for forgiveness for ‘catastrophic’ errors.”

Mainstream society perceives this visit as a massive tax burden and inconvenience – another



Continued on page 14



Our People. Our Product. Our Service.
It’s what sets us apart.

YOUR ONE STOP FOR...

- Septic Tanks (up to 5m burial depth)
- Holding Tanks (up to 3m burial depth)
- Water Cisterns (up to 3m burial depth)
- Lift Stations
- Sumps

- Oil & Grit Separators
- Advanced Wastewater Treatment Systems
- INFILTRATOR® Field Systems
- Pumps, Pipe & Fittings
- Fleet of Picker Trucks for Delivery

20 YEAR WARRANTY ON ALL CONCRETE TANKS • CSA APPROVED

Toll Free: 1-800-232-7385
Calgary - Edmonton
www.wilbert.ca



AWS
ALBERTA WILBERT SALES

Leah Omeasoo: The healing power of Jingle Dress Dancing

By Chevi Rabbit, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Leah Omeasoo-Gillette is a member of Samson Cree Nation, one of four reserves that make up Maskwacis, AB. She is an educator in her community with a Bachelor of Education degree and is currently a Master of Education student at the University of Alberta. In addition, she is a well-known jingle dress dancer who has been crafting her dance since she was two years old.

Leah Omeasoo-Gillette comes from a prominent powwow family that has significantly contributed to the powwow culture. She is the daughter of Steve Wood and Hilda Omeasoo-Wood. Leah’s father, Steve Wood, 60, is the founder and drum keeper of the Northern Cree Singers, and the group has received 9 Grammy nominations.

At age six, Leah started dancing to a contemporary jingle dress. She successfully harnessed skills as a contemporary jingle dress dancer, and her dedication got her noticed within the powwow community.

In 2007, everything changed for Leah as she learned a new style of the jingle dress, commonly referred to as “old style” jingle dress dancing.

After attending a traditional powwow in Ontario and witnessing a jingle dress ceremony, she decided to start dancing to the older style of the jingle dress. Her first-time dancing “old style” jingle was at the Veterans powwow hosted at the Panel Memorial Agriplex in Maskwacis, AB.

Leah says the feedback from the elders in her community encouraged her to continue dancing this style.

“There are differences between the foot systems and how the dancers present themselves with their outfits,” she explained. “Contemporary

regalia are very colourful, shiny, and flashy. “They wear plumes and eagle feathers, while the older style of jingle dress is toned down and simple.

“The women keep their feet closer to the ground, and the steps are simple. The women do not carry or wear feathers.”

She incorporates sweetgrass, velvet, and beadwork in her work and dresses.

Leah says that from her understanding, the Jingle Dress is originally from the Ojibwe people of Ontario, parts of Manitoba, Minnesota, and Wisconsin and that each area has its unique variation to the origins of the dance. Still, one thing that remains consistent in the dance is healing and strength.

According to faculty research at the University of Minnesota, the Ojibwe people believe in the healing power of music and the jingles. They believe that spiritual power moves through the air. If you’ve ever been to a powwow, you’ve heard dozens of women dancing together in jingle dresses; it makes an incredible sound. The sound of the tinkling of jingle dresses is part of healing and it is very much in line with how Ojibwe people view the world and how they view spiritual power.

“The great thing about being a part of the powwow community is that everyone is supportive and makes significant long-lasting friendships,” said Leah.

She comes from a traditional family where practicing culture is very important. “This is our life,” she said. “This is how we were raised, and I wouldn’t have it any other way. I’m grateful to my parents for raising me in the powwow circle.”



Painting of Jingle Dress Dancer Leah Omeasoo-Gillette. Photo by Jason Dial. Painting by Isaiah Stewart.

Leah aims to cultivate and raise her family in the powwow community and carry on the family tradition.

She shared a compelling moment in her life when she was selected to be the 2011 Head Lady dancer at the Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque, New Mexico. For those unaware of this gathering, it is one of North America’s largest and most recognizable powwows and has been going on for 39 years in New Mexico.

Leah’s love for the powwow culture reminds us that it’s important to be proud to be First Nations and that we have a rich culture with welcoming ceremonies.

Her message to the youth is: “Learn your language and culture because these two powerful strengths will lead and guide you through life. If you would like to know more about dancing or your culture, reach out to a dancer or singer and ask questions. There is help all around, just ask.”

“Everyone is welcome to join the powwow circle,” she added. “Come out and join us in celebration of song and dance.”



Injured?
We have answers.



camllp.com
Call: 1-780-969-6998

Have your say,
Alberta!

A new federal electoral
map is taking shape.

Every 10 years, Canada revises its federal electoral districts to reflect shifts and growth in the population. It’s a non-partisan open process to help ensure fair representation. We are looking for your input:



Submit written feedback, or attend public hearings with Alberta’s Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission.



Visit our website to see the proposed federal electoral districts.

Learn more about the process and how to get involved at redistribution2022.ca or email AB@redcoupage-federal-redistribution.ca.



Redistribution
Federal Electoral Districts

Joshua Morin discusses why he did not attend the Papal Visit

By Chevi Rabbit, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Joshua Morin is part of a new generation of Indigenous Advocates who did not see the value in attending the Pope's Visit to Canada but instead focused on rebuilding their Indigenous ideology, belief systems, language, and community.

He is also an example of why several advocates chose to give surviving Indigenous elders respect and waited until the Pope left Canada to express their thoughts on why they don't accept the pope's apology.

The Pope's apology came too late for many Indigenous people, including the Morin family.

Many Indigenous people such as Morin are left picking up the pieces or living through the pain caused by intergenerational trauma from family members who attended Residential School.

"To me, the apology will come when we see what the Catholic church does after this," said Morin.

Morin currently works with three non-profits within the Edmonton region that serve the local community: Bent Arrow, Centre for Race and Culture, and Michif Cultural Connections Society.

He decided to focus on the Metis Nation of Alberta's most significant event called "Back to Batoche" which took place July 21-24 at the historic Batoche site where the Metis Nation had its last militarized battle against the Canadian Government.

Before that, the Metis Nation of Alberta hosted a grassland ceremony with Maskwacis Cree at Elk Island Park to bring the Metis and Cree ceremony back to the land and the bison.

"I felt these events and the ceremony were my top priority, despite the papal visit. I am also not a

follower of Catholicism or Christianity, so it would be tough for me to connect to the Pope's visit on the religious level," said Morin.

He noted that one of his current roles is Vice President for the St. Albert Sturgeon Metis Local 1904 and he's a member of Pearson's Publishing Indigenous advisory circle.

The United Nations declared 2022 - 2032 the decade of Indigenous languages and Morin says that relearning Indigenous languages is paramount for all Indigenous cultures. It is also what makes Nations a distinct culture, and if we lose our language, we lose our culture.

According to the website, "The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed the period between 2022 and 2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL 2022-2032) to draw global attention to the critical status of many Indigenous languages around the world and to mobilize stakeholders and resources for their preservation."

Morin explained, "From my knowledge of what my Grandma and Mother have told me, my family is impacted by Residential School, and we deal with forms of intergenerational trauma."

He said his Great Grandmother Julia Boucher attended Residential School and was baptized by Father Lacombe in St. Albert.

"When she entered the school, she was technically under Treaty, but as soon as she went into the school, the Indian agent wrote that my

Great Grandmother ceased to be Indian," said Morin.

His Great Grandmother applied for what they called Metis scrip, so the church could attain her land since scrip was a form of land fraud created by the Canadian Government.

"My Great Grandfather Paul Villeneuve attended Residential School and spoke a variety of languages including Michif, Cree, Blackfoot, English, and French. After that, we started as a family mainly speaking English at home when my Grandma was born."

His Grandma did not attend Residential School but participated at an early public school in the Calgary area when she had kids.

"Canada's mission to assimilate children during the 60s scoop directly impacted my family aggressively," said Morin. "When my Grandmother was in her adult years, the Government scooped her kids, my older Aunts, and Uncles and placed them into residential school and after they went into children services."

Continued on page 10



Drummers welcome the Pope to Sacred Heart Church of the First People in Edmonton. Photo by Paula Kirman.

Call for Submissions from Indigenous Artists

Deadline:
September 16th, 2022

Step 1) Create your masterpiece.

Step 2) Download Entry Form and Rules & Regulations here.



Step 3) Print off and fill out Entry Form.

Step 4) Send in your original art piece and completed entry form by September 16, 2022.

Step 5) Wait for judging and possibly win \$5000.

more details @ peacehills.com

PHT
PEACE HILLS TRUST
39th Annual Indigenous Art Contest



IMPORTANT BACK-TO-SCHOOL INFORMATION

Students return: September 6, 2022

Student Registration: For re-registration, parents or guardians have the following options for verifying information with their local school:

- Drop off the verification form.
- Email the verification form.
- Verify information via text message or phone call.

For new students, parents or guardians will need to fill a registration form and provide one of the following documents:

- Birth Certificate
- Residency Document
- Canadian Citizenship Document
- Passport

Visit: <https://www.nsd61.ca> to access the Registration Form.

School Bus Information: All students must be registered to ride the school bus. This includes contracted buses and students attending junior high and high school in another town. Students will not be permitted to ride the bus if they are not registered through the Transportation Department.

Visit: <https://www.nsd61.ca> to access the School Bus Registration Form.

Please contact your local school for school bus times, pick-up and drop-off locations, and general information. Parents or guardians will need to provide a physical address (not a box number).

Kindergarten: The start date for kindergarten may vary from school to school. Please contact your local school to confirm the start date.

Questions? Please contact central office at 1-800-362-1360 or your local school. Additional information is also available on our website at www.nsd61.ca or www.facebook.com/TheNorthlandSchoolDivision.

Pro boxer Sheena Kaine discusses how boxing has saved her life

By Chevi Rabbit, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Sheena Kaine is a professional boxer who promotes hope and empowerment for vulnerable people. Her experiences teach us about the growing need to educate Indigenous women on self-defense techniques offered through boxing and how sports continue to be part of her healing journey.

She is both a fighter and a survivor.

Kaine grew up in the Fishing Lake Métis settlement and is currently residing in Edmonton. She works as a professional actor, stunt actress, model, personal trainer, facilitator, and speaker. She uses her experiences to educate others and inspire Indigenous youth.

In 2018, Kaine was raped, and during the court case, she turned to the sport of boxing. It helped her through the most difficult time of her life.

According to Sexual Assault Statistics in Canada, “About two-thirds of First Nations (64%) and Métis (65%) women have experienced violent victimization in their lifetime.”

Violence against Indigenous peoples reflects the traumatic and destructive history of colonialization that impacted and continues to impact Indigenous families, communities, and Canadian society.

Kaine said that the trauma of being raped and the ensuing court case took up a considerable part of her life and shaped her perception of men. “I didn’t want to go back to the gym because there were too many men around,” she said.

But she had the skills to practice boxing on her own.

“I got back to hitting the bag in my garage and training on my own,” she said. “I’m grateful I had that because it helped get me through the

four years of the court process before he was finally convicted.”

The sport was first introduced to her in her teenage years because she was getting into fights with others. Kaine explained, “I always seemed to be getting into fights when I was younger, girls, boys, older, whoever, I wasn’t scared of anyone.” However, after one altercation, she was charged with assault.

“When I was seventeen, I was charged with assault. I was able to beat the charges but barely,” she said. She didn’t want to have a criminal record that could negatively impact on her life.

“I didn’t want to have anything holding back my kids and me regarding traveling and a better life,” added Kaine. “My friends suggested I should get into boxing, focus on a healthy lifestyle, and redirect my energy.”

That experience was a wake-up call that she was heading down the wrong path.

At first, “I thought that idea was absurd. I didn’t like the thought of having rules when it came to fighting. But I thought long and hard about it,” said Kaine.

“I googled the closest boxing club at the time, living in Calgary and I fell in love with it after the first day.”

Kaine says that boxing was one of the best things she could’ve done for herself. It gave her the outlet she needed to be successful and challenged her to be a better version of herself.

“I fell in love with how hard you have to train, how hard you have to push yourself to become successful,” said Kaine. “I was obsessed with eating healthy, training harder, and it brought



Pro-boxer Sheena Kaine

back some of my confidence.”

“Boxing also kept me away from street fighting,” she added. “I didn’t want to hurt my knuckles on anyone’s head because then I wouldn’t be able to train.”

In her workshops, she shares how boxing can help with your self-esteem and confidence and helps create a healthy lifestyle.

Also, most importantly, it helps with self-defence.

“Boxing is incredible when used responsibly for self-defence as well. It can be a lifesaver. A real game changer,” said Kaine. “I’ve trained many people who never actually wanted to get in the ring for a competition but fell in love with the workout and knowledge.”

It can help with a spiritual journey too. “I love running workouts and facilitating workshops to help bring more knowledge regarding balancing our medicine wheel with our youth,” said Kaine.

She also continues to model and most recently modeled in Western Canada Fashion Week.

Continued on page 15



We’re Stronger Together

Building relationships is a journey. We are committed to working with Indigenous communities to learn, grow and earn trust. From open and honest dialogue to creative business partnerships, a values-based approach benefits both Indigenous communities and Suncor for years to come.

Visit suncor.com/livingourpurpose



Papal visit *cont. from p 3*

commitment or agreement to move things forward. Hopefully the government and church will reach out their hand.

Today I believe we begin a new journey. Today, I believe we now start to have to do the work necessary to make things better. And I sit by my fellow Chiefs and Survivors. To build that new road and create a better place for our people to live."

Chief of Louis Bull Tribe, Desmond Bull

"I just want to share something, to speak from my heart at this moment.

If you want to help us in healing on our journey, within this country, or within this province, please stop telling us to "get over it."

We can't get over it when the last of our residential schools closed in the mid-nineties. We can't get over it when our Survivors are still here. We can't get over it when intergenerational trauma impacts every youth, every member, and everyone who has a family that has a survivor of residential schools.

Instead of getting over it, I'm asking you to get with it. Get with learning about our history, get with learning about our culture, our people, who we are. Get with reaching out to your neighbouring Métis, Inuit or First Nations person and learn more about them. You want to help with our healing? Get with our healing and be part of our journey.

This is what I ask and I hope people will see this. So when you see a First Nations person, please don't tell them to get over it, but get with it and understand who they are and understand why they're going through the trauma

that they are going through, and be a part of that healing journey."

Chief of Ermineskin Cree Nation, Randy Ermineskin

"After today, I was emotional. Seeing the people that came here to hear an apology – my heart broke for the pain in the moment.

I sat there in memory of my late brother, Brian, who took his life at 17 years old in 1969. He attended school here in Ermineskin. He said, "This is the last time you'll see me". Sure enough – he did what he did. I always think about that – he was only 17 years old. What kind of life would he have had? I am sure he'd have been a prominent member of our Nation.

I sat there thinking about my parents, my brothers who have gone on. They left this world without telling their stories. In 1969, I stepped into this gym that is just behind me and I came full circle. I had a dream to be a teacher. I attended the school here and I always said to myself, I'm going to be a better teacher than these guys. I was getting tired of getting my ears pulled and slapped. And I was told I was never getting anywhere. I would never accomplish anything.

Three degrees later, I'm going to have my doctorate. Eventually, I taught at the school here, and became a phys-ed teacher. So when I was waiting for the Pope at the old residential school site, I just pictured my first year in school. So we think about that true justice. Healing. Those are some of the things that have been building blocks from my own life that I have had to confront."



Images from the Papal Visit at Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples. Photos by Terry Lusty and Paula Kirman.

Chief Vernon Saddleback, Samson Cree Nation

"I told Chief Ermineskin, when it was announced that his Holiness was coming to our community here to apologize, that I was just here to support the Ermineskin Cree Nation. They're our neighbour community. My mother's family comes from Ermineskin, my father's family comes from Samson. As the Chief of Samson, I told him, "Whatever Samson can do to support."

We're here to help and do whatever we can because I have a lot of Survivors and thrivers in my community who were happy to hear the Pope was coming to apologize.

Words cannot describe how important today is for the healing journey for a lot of First Nations people, and especially for the people from Samson Cree Nation. So, I'm really grateful for this event to happen today.

This is an historic day and words fail me to say the importance of what this means to my people."

TRADITIONAL POW WOW

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2022
PINE LAKE CAMP

Grand Entry: 1pm, 6pm
Admission: Donation

Host Drum:
Sorrel Rider

Guest Musician:
Jonathan Maracle

Master of Ceremonies:
Vincent Yellow Old Woman

Dancers Welcome (gifts provided)
Vendor registration available
online.

www.saMissionResource.ca/COC2022
Canada & Bermuda Territory



Quality Used Parts

- Computerized Inventory
- Licensed Mechanics
- Quality Used & Rebuilt Parts For Cars & Trucks
- Competitive Labor Rates
- Buying Scrap Vehicles
- Used Pipe & Assortment of Metal
- Used Vehicles

Located 2 miles West of Barrhead on Highway 18.
Site 13 Box 6 RR2
Email: rob@barrheadautoparts.com

780-674-3443
1-888-577-4377

WWW.BARRHEADAUTOPARTS.COM



MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR YOUTH

Every day is a new adventure!
Assisting youth in achieving their dreams & aspirations.

10585 - 111 Street, Edmonton AB T5H 3E8
Margaret@cycrc.ab.ca 780-420-0324

New hockey assist program created so all kids can play

By Kelly Oehlerking, KidSport Alberta

The Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation has donated \$2 Million to KidSport to help grow the game of hockey in Oil Country. The donation will fund KidSport’s Hockey Assist Program, through which qualified kids in Alberta from Red Deer north will have their full registration fees covered and access to no-cost equipment.

“Imagine hearing your friends at school talk about their hockey game over the weekend, knowing you will never have the chance to play in one,” said Corey Smith, EOCF Board Chair. “The reality is that hockey is expensive, and for many families it just isn’t possible. That’s why we are excited to partner with KidSport to help alleviate the cost of playing hockey for kids from underrepresented groups. With this donation, we will ensure that Canada’s game is within reach for all kids across Oil Country.”

The average cost of a minor hockey registration fee across Oil Country is \$750 per season. Currently 25 localized KidSport chapters in Oil Country raise funds in their community to assist with \$250 per season. Only being able to provide \$250 to low-income families leaves a gap which prevents many kids from participating in hockey. With this donation, KidSport is proceeding with the Hockey Assist Program for registrations for the 2022-23 minor hockey season.

“It is important to recognize the leadership that the EOCF is demonstrating by investing back into the hockey community to grow the game of hockey in Oil Country. It is unfortunate that the game has become financially inaccessible to many families. This strategic partnership with KidSport will ensure that low income, Indigenous, and new Canadian kids are able to play,” said Greg Ingalls, Executive Director at

KidSport Alberta.

“Our 25 local KidSport chapters are collaborating with local minor hockey associations to grow the game in their community. Our partners at Sport Central and Rosenau Transport are going to ensure that we are able to get hockey equipment to those kids who need it as well. The Indigenous Sport Council of Alberta is going to help us get more Indigenous kids playing and Hockey Alberta has played a huge role in connecting everyone in the hockey community. This project is truly a team effort to get more kids playing hockey in Oil Country.”

“My kids love being a part of something special,” said a current KidSport parent about the program. “My son loves scoring goals. My oldest daughter has struggled with depression and anxiety and when she’s on the ice she feels like a different person with no stress. When they play, it helps them learn to contribute at home. They know that being a good member of society and in the home is the key to being a great team player.”

The Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation (EOCF) is a proud supporter of Oil Country and has been contributing to our community’s success since 2001. With a focus on programs aimed at those most vulnerable in our community, the Oilers Foundation is dedicated to building strong, vibrant and safe communities by demonstrating philanthropic leadership and continues its deep legacy of giving back. Thanks to the generosity of our valued hockey fans, Oilers players and alumni, the EOCF Board of Directors, Oilers Entertainment Group (OEG) employees and the Katz Family, the Foundation has contributed over \$66 million to charitable organizations and minor hockey programs across Oil Country since 2001.



KidSport's core business as a charity is subsidizing sport registration fees for kids from low-income families. We believe that playing hockey promotes the development of children's social, mental, and physical well-being. We fundamentally believe that all kids who want to play hockey should be able to regardless of their family's socioeconomic status. We have 25 KidSport chapters throughout Oil Country that provide the infrastructure to get funds to those families who need it to get their kids playing hockey. In addition, the Provincial KidSport Fund covers those communities where we do not have a chapter and the Indigenous KidSport Fund supports kids in Indigenous communities. A simple one-page application process gets things started. Once approved KidSport sends a cheque to the minor hockey association on the child's behalf for the registration fee. In our last normal year - 2019 - our 38 chapters across Alberta assisted 13,677 kids into 40 sports by paying \$3.2 million in registration fees.

For more information visit kidsporthap.ca.



APPLY TODAY!

FULL REGISTRATION FEES & ACCESS TO NO COST EQUIPMENT PROVIDED FOR QUALIFIED KIDS

LEARN MORE AT [KIDSPORTHAP.CA](https://kidsporthap.ca)



Oil Country Hockey Assist Program



Town of Devon presents Treaty Six Day

The Town of Devon is excited to celebrate its second annual Treaty Six Day on Aug. 23 and Aug. 27 in honour of the first signing of Treaty Six on Aug. 23, 1876, in Fort Carlton (in what is now known as Saskatchewan). The event is being held in partnership with kisipatinahk, neyaskweyahk, nipisikopahk, akamihk and maskêkosihk.

The commemoration will begin at 10 am on August 23 at Devon Voyageur Park with a special ceremony to honour Treaty as a community, followed by a meal of soup and Bannock.

On Saturday, Aug. 27, the Town will be hosting a community celebration at Devon Voyageur Park focused on Treaty education, awareness, and Indigenous cultures, knowledge and history. This gathering will include tipi raising, guest speakers, powwow performances, hand games, Métis fiddling, and jigging, knowledge sharing and presentations. Kids activities, artisan vendors and food trucks will also be at the event.

Highlights will include an opening ceremony and speeches at 10 am, a presentation of powwow dance styles at 11 am featuring hoop dancing by Leroy Bull. Afternoon sessions will include Tipi talks sessions with each Nation, RCMP tipi and display, a presentation on Metis

Land Based education, Treaty Talks sessions, a hand game demonstration with Tammy Moonias, storytelling with Lorraine and Harvey Raine, Elders storytelling and a Metis of Alberta cultural presentation. At noon there will be jigging presentations featuring Donny L'Hirondelle and Rocking Fiddle. At 2 pm there will be a Treaty presentation with Gary Lameman. At 5 pm there will be a live acoustic performance with Uncle Joe.

Treaty Six Day attendees are asked to bring a food bank donation to this event in lieu of admission. Food bank donations will be provided to the Nations that have partnered with the Town of Devon on this gathering, including Samson Cree Nation, Louis Bull Tribe, Enoch Cree Nation, Ermineskin Cree Nation, Montana Cree Nation and Metis Nation of Alberta.

"Treaty Six Day was officially proclaimed on August 23, 2021 by Mayor and Council," explained Mitch Wincentaylo. "This day is intended as a way for our community to gather together and learn together with our Indigenous friends and neighbours, to better understand and learn about history, Indigenous cultures and what Treaty truly means."



"2021 was a great kickoff event, even with the record-breaking rainfall!" he continued. "We are so appreciative of our sponsors, as they are the reason we are able to make this event such a great success! This year, we are panning for an even larger and more experiential gathering for the community of Devon."

If you are interested in participating in this year's annual Treaty Six gathering, please contact Mitch at mwincentaylo@devon.ca or 587-597-0691. For details visit devon.ca.

Joshua Morin *cont. from p 6*

"My Grandma advocated to see her kids again, and eventually she got them back, and thankfully my Mom and her two younger siblings did not attend Residential School," said Morin.

"We are still working as a family to relearn our Michif language and find the rest of our family who were taken through colonization. One Auntie I didn't discover until I was in Grade five."

"I firmly believe that apologizing means you have to change what you are doing," he added. "Will churches consult with Indigenous Nations that uphold the standards of UNDRIP to begin genuine healing?"

Morin said questions need to be answered about whether the churches across Canada will return artifacts obtained legally from former Residential School survivors.

He explained, "Researcher Gloria Bell questions if the artifacts were not gifted but rather taken from kids in Residential Schools. A way to

move forward following the apology would be to create a plan so we can return these relatives home to our communities."

He said he believes that recognition involves giving land back.

"The Catholic church owns a ton of land within Canada," said Morin.

"Many Indigenous communities across Canada are starting to look for unmarked graves located near former Residential School sites. One of the hurdles they run into is private land owned by the church, which they have trouble accessing for ground scanning."

He explained, "Catholic Churches within Canada should allow us to scan their properties openly where Residential School sites were located and they should open full access to their records, collection, and archives so we can cross reference data."

"Speaking for myself, I feel that the Church has done this in an attempt to say they are resolved now and that people can follow Catholicism again, without acknowledging the long history of Residential School and oppression they have created," said Morin.

A genuine apology comes with action, he added.

"Also, there have been questions raised by the fact that the Pope got a paved road in Lac St Anne

and important roads closed off in Edmonton while Indigenous communities across Canada still struggle with infrastructure, clean drinking water, access to education, and inherent rights and much more."

"I have to acknowledge that this apology wasn't for me but for the living Residential School survivors across Canada and those who have passed away," said Morin.

"If this apology has helped anyone who is a survivor during this time, it is important for me to recognize that and be grateful that it did help that person, or it has helped people across what is now Canada."

Morin acknowledges that every Indigenous nation and every culture has its different ideologies of gifts given to public figures.

He said, "I would have gifted the Pope a letter from Bishop Grandin in 1880 to the *Saskatchewan Herald*, where he requested up to 1000 First Nation and Metis kids so they could refill Residential Schools in the prairies and that they would be "civilized."

Morin ends the interview by concluding, "I hope we (Indigenous people) do see a roadmap of action, so the survivors across Canada can see that there is a roadmap in place for healing, so they know future generations won't have to endure Residential Schools again."

DISCOVER CALGARY LIBRARY



- Books and eResources
- Arts & Culture displays
- Indigenous Services
- Programs
- Events - and much more!

All free with your Library Card – FREE for all residents of Calgary and surrounding area Indigenous communities.

calgarylibrary.ca





Treaty Six Day

Second Annual

Community Celebration - Saturday, August 27

Join us for live performances, Treaty presentations, knowledge sharing, and much more!

In lieu of admission, please bring a food bank donation!

Location: Voyageur Park, Devon, AB **Time:** 9:00 AM - 10:00 PM

In partnership with...



Proudly Sponsored by:



To advertise your business or community event, call Dan at 780-421-7966 or email natnews@shaw.ca

Artist Shawnee Buffalo commemorates the Papal apology

By Chevi Rabbit, LJI Reporter

On Monday, May 16, Samson Cree Nation spearheaded an event honouring Dr. Wilton Littlechild. The incredible surprise celebration paid tribute to his life work, his commitment to all Indigenous people, and his brave efforts in helping solidify last month’s visit to Maskwacis by Pope Francis.

Chief Littlechild received many gifts on May 16, and one that stood out was the work of Shawnee Buffalo. Her one-of-a-kind painting signified and personified history and a sign of the times.

Shawnee Danielle is a 25-year-old professional artist from Samson Cree Nation on the Maskwacis reserve.

“I graduated in 2020 from the University of Alberta with a bachelor’s in fine art in Art and Design,” said Buffalo.

She is currently working full time at Oteenow Employment and Training Society as the communications officer.

She said she rented an art studio with a few friends from her degree program, where they paint in their spare time.

“I hope to soon apply for Graduate school for my MFA within the following couple of years,” said Buffalo.

“Growing up on the reserve, there wasn’t much for me to do, especially since access to extra-curriculars was limiting. So, I just started painting after school, on weekends, and reading. It’s nothing deep and meaningful. Learning to draw was just something to keep me preoccupied and practice doing,” added Buffalo.

“My aunt, Heather Buffalo, was the one to reach out to me to commission the painting for Willie Littlechild,” said Buffalo

“She showed me 2 (very pixelated, I’ll say) photos of the Pope and Willie. One was the Pope giving a handshake to Willie outside the Vatican when he was apologizing to each of the Chiefs that were in attendance,” said Buffalo.

“It was a moment that I found would have visually made a huge impact compositionally. I decided to paint them both because it was a real historical moment,” said Buffalo.

“It’s a start for acknowledging a traumatic past for Indigenous people.”

“I wouldn’t consider myself a youth, but for the Pope to come to Canada, even the same reserve I grew up on, is a huge deal,” said Buffalo.

She said that she knows that other people may think it was not important, but she disagrees.

“There isn’t anything in the world that can ever change what happened in the past. It was a part of history. What we as Indigenous people can do is heal from intergenerational trauma and for the Catholic Church to begin reconciling history,” explained Buffalo.

To young people or anyone who enjoys drawing and painting, she offers this advice.

“Art is multifaceted and subjective, and not all art has to have a deep meaning.

“Since there are so many mediums to choose from, start experimenting and discover what works for you and practice. I’m still practicing and learning to take criticism with a grain of salt because not everyone will like your art, and that’s okay,” said Buffalo.

She said not everything you make will be good, and making a lot of bad art will help you create good art.

“I have made more than enough bad art, but I never gave up on doing what I love,” said Buffalo.

Chief Littlechild was moved by the surprise celebration. He said he was in complete shock and humbled by the whole experience. However,



Shawnee Buffalo with Chief Littlechild

he was thankful to the community for coming out and paying their gratitude for his life work for Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island.

"It's truly a feeling inside of you that I'll say makes your heart dance, but words can't express," said Chief Littlechild about the surprise celebration.



Continuing our path to reconciliation.

We are at a pivotal moment in history – an awakening – to reset and build a foundational relationship. There is a shifting of awareness to Indigenous history, culture, rights, engagement and inclusion occurring across Canada and Turtle Island.

At Enbridge, we believe we can, and should, be a leader in Indigenous partnership, engagement, inclusion, and awareness – because we have learned we can go further together. Because inclusion creates unique, powerful, respectful and collective opportunities and benefits – for all involved. Because this matters.

Enbridge congratulates **Alberta Native News** for sharing insights, information and covering the stories that matter for the past 38 years.



Congratulations Alberta Native News on 38 years of serving our community!

MLA Adriana LaGrange
Red Deer-North



Constituency Office
#202, 5913 - 50 Avenue
Red Deer, AB
Canada T4N 4C4

403.342.2263 • RedDeer.North@assembly.ab.ca

Calgary Stampede back in full operation

By Terry Lusty, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The world-famous Calgary Stampede is back in the saddle again following three years of down time due to COVID - 19 conditions that prevented mass gatherings.

The bulls, the bucking broncs and the boys - cowboys that is - made for an exciting and welcome return to a full-blown rendition of the Stampede.

Yes, this summer things were pretty much back to normal as the annual parade, rodeo event, chuckwagon races, midway rides, concessions, and exhibits attracted the fourth-highest attendance of 1.2 million people on this, its 110th anniversary.

Recently installed CEO, Joe Cowley, was quite impressed with the high numbers and pointed out the under-construction 500-million-dollar BMO Centre which is scheduled to open in time for the 2024 Stampede and will offer more than one million square feet of space.

In 2020 the Stampede was cancelled entirely due to COVID. And, although it went ahead last summer, it did so with reduced elements. For those who managed to attend that year they noticed a sizeable downturn in attendance, limited functioning and near-empty grandstand days. It is estimated that, over the last couple of years they experienced a loss of revenue amounting to 35 million dollars.

Nonetheless, if this year is any indication, the colossal event is rebounding beautifully according to its president, Steve Mc Donough who says, "It is heartwarming."

Kicking off the 10-day event this year was the well-attended Stampede Parade with veteran actor and entertainer Kevin Costner serving as

parade marshall. As is customary the parade also featured several First Nation members from the Treaty Seven area including Indigenous Princess Sika-pinakii Low Horn from Siksika First Nation.

The Elbow River Camp, formerly known as the Indian Village, once again featured a powwow, drumming and singing, dancing, traditional cooking, hand games, tipi visiting, and more.

A huge attraction to European and other world travelers, the Indigenous camp is a veritable magnet. That's been the case ever since the Stampede began back in 1912. Many out-of-country visitors have never seen an Indigenous person except in the movies. The campgrounds are also a great place to simply kick back and relax, wolf down some tasty bannock and tea, talk to First Nations people about Indigenous culture, try their footwork at round dancing, or check out the arts and crafts booths. They can even visit one of the 26 tipis on site and see what they're like inside.

Visitors could meet Neepin Auger, whose beautiful art is featured on the cover of this month's Alberta Native News. Despite her busyness as an artist, her work at the high school and raising a young daughter who's more into sports, Neepin has authored and illustrated four children's books: *Discovering Animals*, *Discovering Numbers*, *Discovering*



Once again, the Elbow River Camp was a hub of activity for visitors of all ages during the Calgary Stampede from July 7 - 18. Photo by Terry Lusty

People, and Discovering Words.

While on the topic of art, it is noteworthy to mention this year's poster contest winner for the Stampede. The win includes the Dustin Peery Memorial Scholarship valued at \$10,000 and the recipient is Kane Pendry, a 19 year-old Metis woman originally from Edmonton who is already commanding a good deal of attention in art circles.

His winning piece, entitled *The Turnaround*, was an oil on canvas depicting one of the bareback horse riding contestants in the traditional Relay Race - a horseback race that is held each evening at the Stampede.

In Edmonton, Pendry attended Jasper Place High School and is nearing completion of a Fine Arts program at the University of Alberta. He plans to follow that up with a Masters in architecture. Something else, exciting in his near future is his next academic year which will be overseas at Muenster, Germany.

The Indigenous involvement at Stampede has never wavered. Through thick and thin, it has always been a very prominent attraction.

As for this year's First Nation Princess, Low

Continued on page 13

They didn't know we were seeds

Carol Wylie



ABOUT THE EXHIBIT

They didn't know we were seeds is a series of portraits of nine Holocaust survivors and nine Residential School survivors. It is intended to acknowledge these extraordinary people who endured and survived unbelievable mistreatment and to find a way to preserve the personal nature of these memories. Through portraits of individual survivors, the series aims to create a silent dialogue between Jewish survivors and Indigenous survivors.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Carol is a painter whose work focuses on portraiture and figuration. Themes of identity, consciousness, and human interconnectedness run through her work. She holds an MFA from the Vermont College of Fine Arts and BFA and BA (Psychology) from the University of Saskatchewan. Carol resides in Saskatoon, SK and works in art education at Rемаi Modern in addition to teaching drawing and painting privately. She was a finalist in the Kingston Portrait Prize 2015 and the Salt Spring National Art Prize 2021 and is a member of the Studio on 20th art collective.

Stanley A. Milner Library
September 29 - November 25
jewishedmonton.org



Happy 38th Anniversary ANNews!



It's our 38th Anniversary of publishing ALBERTA NATIVE NEWS

The last few years have been tough but we want to take this moment to extend our heartfelt thanks to our readers and advertisers for welcoming our print edition into your homes each month and even more frequently on social media.

These are important times for communication and collaboration and we'll continue to do our best to spread the word.

Like us on  and for more information visit albertanativenews.com

Country singer Stirling John performs at the Calgary Stampede

By Chevi Rabbit, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Stirling John is a member of Sagkeeng First Nation in Ontario, but here in Alberta he is a budding country star with Indigenous roots who started singing with his family in local churches in Ontario.

Stirling moved here for his day job as an RCMP officer, and he's based out of Spruce Grove. The RCMP singer-songwriter has been traveling all over Alberta singing, including most recently at the Calgary Stampede.

"I was honoured to have been given the opportunity to perform a set at the Calgary Stampede Windows on the West," said Stirling in an online post.

John had a very humble upbringing and was raised by a single mother who encouraged the family to get into music and foster their talents as musicians.

John grew up in Ontario, and his family encouraged his dreams to become a musician and were very supportive of his music career. Growing up, he had three passions he wanted to pursue - to become a professional singer, become a police officer, and fly a helicopter.

He got lots of practice singing in front of groups as he and his family performed in Ontario for various church groups. As time passed, he felt he needed to choose a career that would provide for his family. His brother went into the army and he pursued his passions both in RCMP and music.

Now, as a popular RCMP officer, Stirling bridges the gap between police and Indigenous communities and he has become a role model for indigenous youth here in Alberta.

His journey has not been linear however, he's faced challenges and obstacles along the way. He said he's dealt with a lot of anxiety and has worked on overcoming it.

John said that for a long time he couldn't tell his mom that he loved her. He believes it stemmed from being raised in a single-family home without

a father.

He said, what changed for him was becoming a father. He wanted to raise a family where you can say "I love you freely."

"Now, I tell my mom I love her all the time."

Stirling discussed the mistrust that exists between Indigenous people and RCMP and other police services. The reality is that most police officers are good and decent people, said John. But he understands the ongoing issues between Indigenous people and RCMP.

"Unfortunately, there are legitimate reasons why Indigenous people struggle with trusting the police," he said. "These are situations from before you or I were even born, and they have not been changed."

He is referring to the systemic racism issues that plague the RCMP and over incarcerate Indigenous people at higher rates than non-indigenous populations.

The RCMP recognizes that it has systemic racism against Indigenous peoples. Last year, the Alberta RCMP created a Diversity Committee aimed at rooting out systemic racism. (I, Chevi Rabbit sit on this committee for LGBTQ and Indigenous issues).

Stirling said that in most cases the RCMP has excellent relations with people and that these relationships have been formed through the years. He said there are negative examples but lots of positives too. RCMP are often needed to be everything as a police officer and sometimes a psychologist, or a teacher.

"As a police officer, sometimes you have to be there just to listen," he said. "I'll take the time."

"So often, the family has never been to a counseling session, and I am in my own way their first experience in counseling.



Singer / RCMP Officer Stirling John

"This is where there is an opportunity to teach and inspire, especially youth, families, and parents, because some parents don't know how to be parents – right?"

"In many ways, we are all in this together," said John.

When talking about why some Indigenous kids dislike police, he said it's often that their parents teach them to mistrust police.

"The reality is that some parents create fear or mistrust against the police because that is what their parents taught them," added John.

"Unfortunately, that cycle is being taught at a young age, and it's not the kids' fault for how they view the police growing up."

He said that it's so important to connect with youth through music and spend time with them in places like the skate park.

"In these situations, you're coming down to their level as a relatable human. I can't speak for every police officer out there, but I can speak for myself, my purpose and the opportunities given to me to serve communities," said John.

He said his songs deliver hope to all people, including those who are dealing with issues because despite the issues we are all human.

Stirling John's star is shining bright; he is using both his passions to inspire Indigenous youth in northern Canada.

Calgary Stampede

cont. from p 12

Horn, a 26 year-old University of Calgary Fine Arts graduate, was raised with and believes strongly in the traditional values of respect, kindness and simply being a good person on a good road.

Every day, Indigenous horsemen are a special addition at the rodeo arena where they participate in the thrilling Relay Race before a crowded grandstand. The event takes place after the daily Rangeland Derby, a.k.a. chuckwagon races, involving painted warriors and horses that are ridden bareback for three trips around the

racetrack. Each time they pass the grandstand, the rider has to quickly jump off their horse, mount another fresh horse and take off again. The team that has the fastest accumulated time is declared the winner.

Back in the day, horseback races were always very popular and attracted a lot of side-betting as to who would win. For a lot of the participants, it's an event that other family members help with in the care and keeping of the livestock. The teams come from both Canada and the U.S.A.

First Nations members also participate in the grandstand show each evening after the rodeo, Relay Races and Chuckwagons are done

for the day. This year, singer-songwriter and Juno nominee Shawnee Kish of Mohawk ancestry, shared the stage with country singer icon Dean Brody, the Young Canadians and hoop dancer Dallas Arcand whose dad graced the stage for ten years and is a three-times world hoop dance champion.

As for the six major rodeo events, there is: Ty Taypotat from Sask-atchewan in bareback Riding, Logan Bird in the Tie-down Roping, Alan De Souza from Brazil and Edgar Durazo from Mexico who both compete in bull riding.

Earl Dreeshen, MP
Red Deer - Mountain View

Congratulations to
Alberta Native News
on their 38th year anniversary!

#100A, 4315 - 55 Ave., Red Deer AB
Tel: (403) 347-7426 Toll Free: 1-866-211-0959
www.earldreeshen.ca

WE ARE HIRING

1-800-362-1360

Do you enjoy working with children? Do you want to contribute to your community? Would you appreciate a consistent source of income? Do you want to be part of a dedicated team of professionals?

If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, then bus driving may be the career for you.

Spare Bus Drivers
We are looking for spare bus drivers in all of our communities.

School Bus Drivers

Northland School Division offers:

- > Free training
- > Competitive Wages
- > Medical Benefits
- > Pay all summer
- > Long service recognition
- > Comprehensive sick and personal leave
- > Access to the Employee Assistance Program
- > Take your pre-school children with you
- > Reimburse drivers medicals
- > Reimburse drivers license renewals

Free digital communications program launched for Indigenous learners

By Jeremy Appel, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A new program offering Indigenous people a free six-month crash course in digital marketing has launched as a partnership between the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology and Calgary-based anti-poverty non-profit Momentum.

The Digital Dreamers (Pa’ pai tapiiksi) Training Program is intended to blend Indigenous values and culture with rigorous training in the latest tech trends. The Blackfoot name literally translates to ‘dream beings.’

“What we’re doing is finding the parallels between Indigenous storytelling and oral traditions and Western ways of storytelling, finding out how they complement each other to be successful in digital marketing and communications, and telling stories in a way that fits the Western ways of knowing, but also stays true to ourselves as Indigenous people,” Kymowyn Sugar, Momentum’s Indigenous skills training facilitator, told *Alberta Native News*.

The program is divided into three components, explained Sugar, who is a Nehiyaw Iskwew (Cree Woman) from Piapot First Nation in Treaty 4 Territory.

For the first part, participants spend 11 weeks with Momentum, sharpening their “creative and promotional writing” abilities, as well as training in Microsoft 365, resume writing, drop search success, and how to create a personal

employment portfolio, she said.

The next component brings participants to SAIT, where they receive tech training in industry-focused courses, such as user experience and user interface design, which Sugar said will help students “create visual design that’s efficiently operational on a website.”

There are also two levels of courses in Adobe InDesign and Adobe Illustrator, but digital marketing analytics is perhaps the most crucial aspect of the course because those jobs are in such high demand.

“When someone becomes a social media specialist, they have to be able to read what their data is so that they are able to reach the audiences that they’re actually targeting, whatever field that they go into,” Sugar said.

“For example, if someone’s passionate about climate change, they can go

work for a company that’s working towards helping the planet and become a digital marketer for them.”

The final program component is a month-long workplace placement.

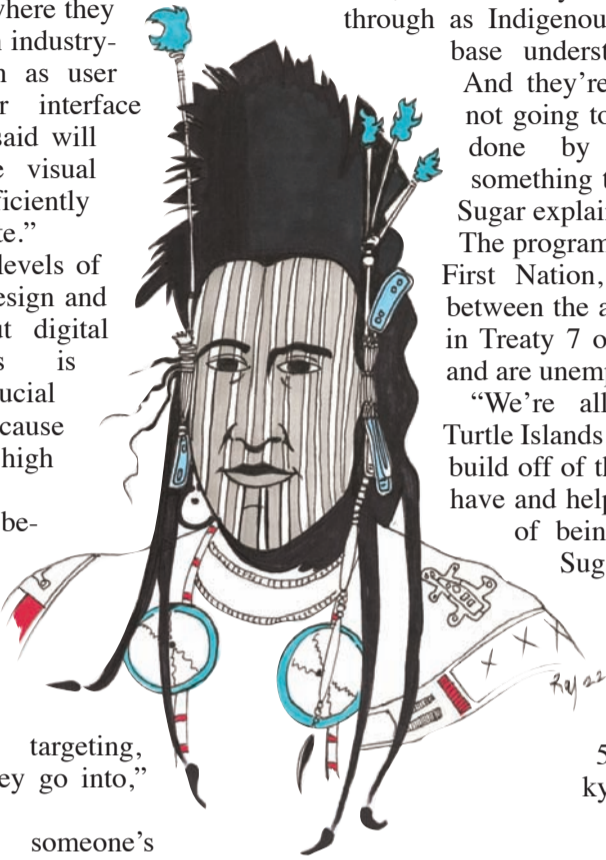
“One of our goals is actually to pair with employers who are also on their journey towards truth and reconciliation, so that we’re sending them into workplaces that are safe, where they understand what we go through as Indigenous people, and there’s that base understanding of who we are.

And they’re in a place where there’s not going to be potentially more harm done by institutions, which is something that we’re quite aware of,” Sugar explained.

The program is open to self-identifying First Nation, Metis and Inuit people between the ages of 18 and 40 who live in Treaty 7 or Metis Region 3 territory and are unemployed or underemployed.

“We’re all very connected across Turtle Islands, so we wanted to be able to build off of the strength that we already have and help people make a career out of being on social media,” said Sugar. “How cool is that?”

Those looking for more information on the program, which begins Sept. 19, can contact Sugar at 403-561-6679 or via email at kymowyns@momentum.org.



Now it's time *cont. from p 4*

classic example of how these actions minimize the serious crimes and indignities subjected to our peoples.

We are distinct Nations. This reminds us of the diversity and differences between the First Peoples, Nation to Nation. This ‘penitential’ pilgrimage diverts us from the dehumanizing actions of the government and church organizations.

The glorified welcome attended by: Governor

General, the Queen’s representative in Canada and more importantly a representative of our Treaties; Prime Minister Trudeau, after he called upon the church on June 4, 2021, to “step up” and take responsibility of its role in the former system of church-run residential schools, the very schools his government funded; and, Premier Kenney, despite the Alberta government operating the day-schools and not releasing/disclosing records.

The Sovereign Nations of Treaty 8 Chiefs and leadership stand united on the Indian Residential School work we are conducting and the Nehiyaw and Denesoline peoples will continue to support one another in our healing journey, however that healing takes place.

They had no problem spending money at the drop of a hat to ensure

the Pope was comfortable while “apologizing” and they paved roads and streets so he wouldn’t have to travel over potholes, meanwhile many of our nations do not have the luxury of paved roads.

Reconciliation means nothing without action. In true penitence for your actions, the Vatican and Governments must give full disclosure on the atrocities committed: rescind your Papal Bulls Doctrine of Discovery, honour and uphold our Treaty, give the lands back to our Nations, release the Indian Residential Schools and day schools’ records, prosecute those responsible, pay full restitution for of your crimes.

Our people have lived on these lands since time immemorial, when the settlers came to our land, we signed a peace treaty with them to share the land. We honoured the Treaty, but the settlers have not, when will you uphold the Treaty? If the Governments and the church are sincere in their words of reconciliation, they should support infrastructure in our nations and honour our Treaty No.8. Actions speak louder than words!



Digital Dreamers (Pa’ pai tapiiksi)

Get the skills you need for a career in Digital Marketing and Communications with Digital Dreamers. This full-time program teaches you essential design software, social media management, web design and more.

All for free!

Register for Digital Dreamers today!

momentum.org/digitaldreamers

403-561-6679



momentum



GET YOUR MONEY NOW!!!

CFS
WEALTH MANAGEMENT INC.

Invest | Insure | Unlock

CALL MARK
toll Free:
1 (888) 451-6133

WE UNLOCK:

- FORMER EMPLOYER PENSION PLANS
- LOCKED IN RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS (LIRA)

PAY NO
WITHHOLDING
TAX WITH
STATUS
CARD

* Not Available in QC.

“PROUDLY SERVING ALBERTA’S FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES FOR OVER A DECADE”

Last Post Fund honours Indigenous veterans

By Glenn Miller

The Last Post Fund continues to see progress under the Indigenous Veterans Initiative in locating and marking veteran unmarked graves. This came through the Last Post Fund Indigenous Veterans Initiative which honours veterans who have no permanent stone, by erecting a military style marker, that includes a traditional name inscription on the marker if desired.

A recently approved marker will be placed in Camrose Cemetery for Private Moise Dumont. He served with the 28 Battalion in WW1 and was born in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. Another recent marker with the Metis symbol was installed in St Albert Cemetery for Elzear Benoit, who was a Sapper with the Edmonton Fusiliers in WW2.

The Alberta branch hosted a dedication ceremony of recently installed military style markers for veterans on the Siksika Nation. Glenn Miller of the branch assisted in organizing the ceremony together with Indigenous researcher Marianne Wolfleg. Four markers were recently installed for Sergeant Mark Wolfleg Senior and Trooper Albert McMaster in Paul Little Walker Cemetery. Corporal Lila Healy in Canon Stockton Cemetery and Private Janey Wolf Leg in Eagle's Nest Cemetery. We look forward to having her write an article for a future edition.

The last Siksika WW2 veteran was Mark Wolfleg who served with the Edmonton 49th Light Infantry Regiment during World War Two and served for an additional number of years

after the war with the Kings Own Calgary Regiment. His son Clarence also served in the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery and has been involved with a number of military ceremonies and commemoration events.

The ceremony took place on June 20 at the Little Walker cemetery at 3:30 pm. A number of family and community members were in attendance as well as military representation including the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major of the Kings Own Calgary Regiment.

During the ceremony, stories were told of the military experiences of Sergeant Mark Wolfleg Senior overseas and back in Canada by his sons. A number of honour songs and war songs were also included during the ceremony to honour the veterans. Of special note, the Act of Remembrance was given in Blackfoot by Clarence Wolfleg.

The Last Post Fund Indigenous Veterans



A temporary marker in St Mary’s cemetery Calgary with a Metis flag marks the grave of Swift Current WW2 veteran Elsie Rouzault. A new marker with the Metis symbol has been installed in St Albert Cemetery for Elzear Benoit, who was a Sapper with the Edmonton Fusiliers in WW2.

Initiative continues to look for and work with local Indigenous researchers to locate and identify unmarked veteran graves. Marianne Wolfleg has taken on this role for the Siksika Nation and continues to work with families of veterans. If you know of a veteran in an unmarked grave, you can contact the Last Post Fund Indigenous Veterans Initiative Project Coordinator Maria Trujillo at 1 800 465 7113 ext 222. To learn more of the Indigenous Veterans Initiative visit lastpostfund.ca.

Sheena Kaine *cont. from p 7*

“It has been a very empowering experience,” said Kaine. She said many Indigenous people in the fashion community encourage each other, are uplifting, and supportive. She uses her previous experiences in modeling to uplift other models. “I try to make sure I am approachable and able to help the newer models build confidence and skills on the runway,” said Kaine. The professional fighter is set to model this September at New York Fashion Week. Kaine offers our readers some advice on stress management and managing pressures in our lives. She says, “I get distraught, frustrated, angry. So I take a moment and count to 10, do push-ups, jumping jacks, squats, anything that gets me moving a little bit because it helps to balance

those chemicals in my brain.” Spirituality is essential to Kaine. “Smudging and praying are very important.” “I acknowledge why I’m upset in the first place, and after I work out a little bit, even 2-5minutes, it becomes easier to manage whatever stressors are coming up.” “I’m motivated by people I don’t want to be like. I’m motivated by lifestyles I don’t want to have,” said Kaine. She ends the interview by saying, “I’m inspired by many people around me who

are constantly working on their health both physical and mental. I’m inspired by the ones who are always finding ways to help each other live happier and healthier.”

20

YEARS OF BUILDING FIRST NATIONS

20TH ANNIVERSARY

CONFERENCE 2003-2022

NETWORKING AT ITS BEST

Join us to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Canada's largest and longest running housing conference dedicated to First Nations!

OCT 25-27 | VALHALLA INN | THUNDER BAY, ON

SHARING STORIES

Join our many hallmark speakers to discuss varied topics, including:

- Sizing Heating Equipment
- Housing Policy Creation
- Construction Contracts on Indigenous Land
- Passive Housing

EARLY BIRD \$1,140

until Sept 9, 2022

VIEW FULL AGENDA & REGISTER ONLINE NOW

FIRSTNATIONSHOUSINGCONFERENCE.COM

RIVER CREE

RESORT AND CASINO

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

WE ARE

HIRING

ARE YOU A CHARISMATIC, OUTGOING, AND ENERGETIC PERSON?

If you are a people person with a flair for exceptional customer service, you are the kind of person that we are looking for. Here at River Cree Resort and Casino, we value our associates. We prepare them to excel, and we recognize a job well done. The River Cree Resort & Casino is committed to helping you reach your personal growth and career goals, while paying you a competitive wage. While we offer careers with a wide range of responsibilities, every role in our organization is valued and recognized as a contributor to our success. We're always interested in dedicated, friendly people who not only want to make a difference in their work lives, but in their personal lives as well.

WHAT CAN YOU ACHIEVE AT RIVER CREE RESORT AND CASINO?

- You can work in a world class entertainment facility
- You can work with motivated individuals who have great customer skills
- You can gain the skills and knowledge that you need to advance in your career
- You can help contribute to an exceptional guest experience

If you are interested in a people-oriented profession and have strong interpersonal skills, consider a career in customer service. Utilize those skills to find fulfilling employment in the Gaming Industry, Food & Beverage and the Hospitality Industry.

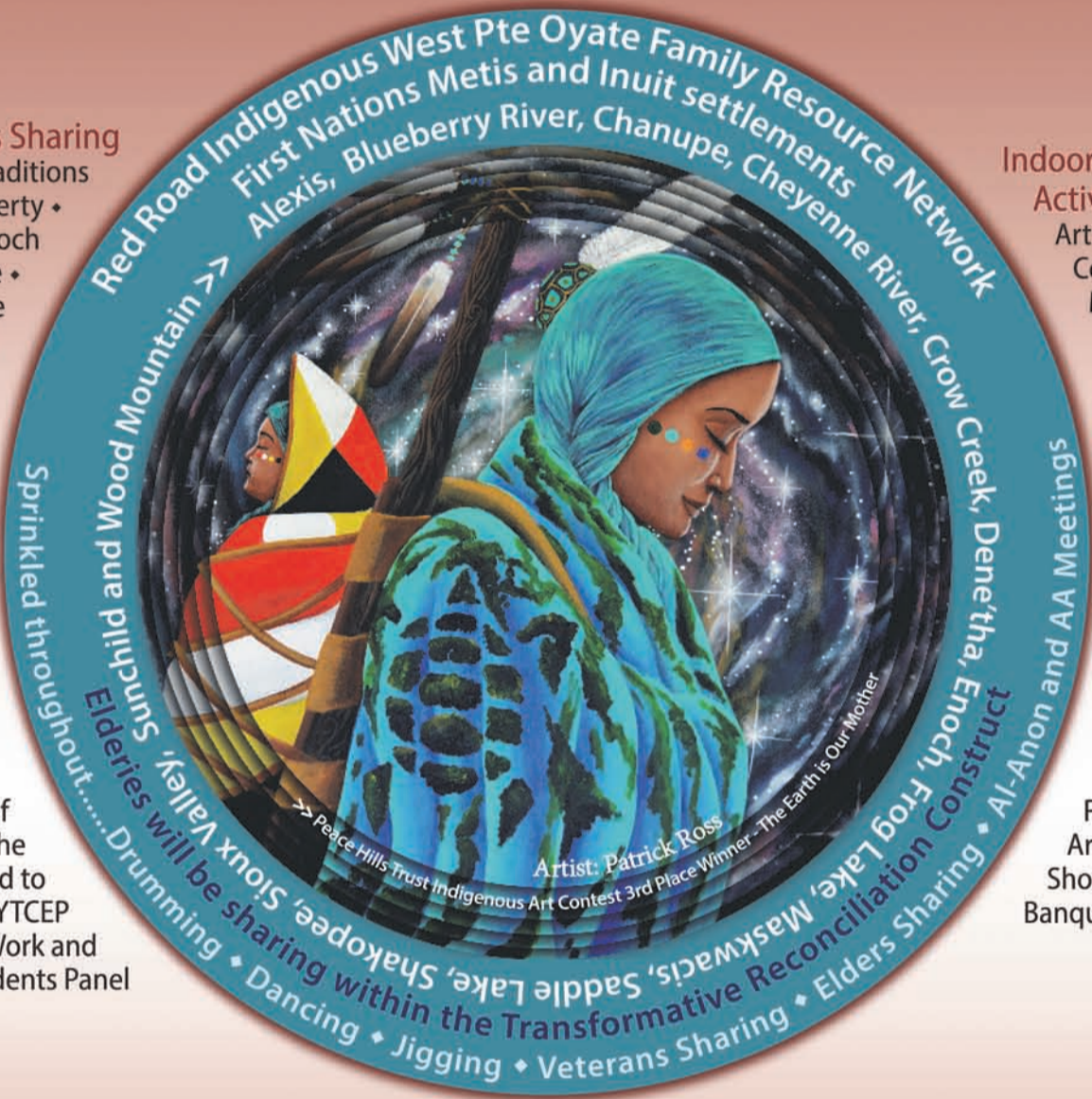
HOW CAN YOU FIND OUT ABOUT CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT RIVER CREE RESORT AND CASINO?

You can view job openings and submit your resume on line at www.rivercreejobs.com. Follow us on Facebook at River Cree Resort & Casino Job Board or come to our office in person and visit our Recruitment Specialist.

Transformative Reconciliation Gathering

River Cree, Enoch, AB
September 25-28, 2022
9am - 4pm

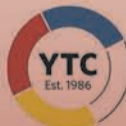
- Elderlies Sharing**
- Indigenous Legal Traditions
 - Intellectual Property •
 - Natural Law • Enoch
 - Restorative Justice •
 - Arvol Looking Horse
 - Proclamation and
 - Protection of
 - Ceremonies¹ •
 - PIPES² •
 - Indigenous
 - Sustainable
 - Development •
 - Cleaning Up
 - Tailings Ponds •
 - Dr Clifford
 - Cardinal with
 - Dene Elders •
 - Engineer •
 - Geologist •
 - Relationship of
 - the Water around the
 - Fetus and to
 - the Earth • YTCEP
 - Indigenous Social Work and
 - Governance Students Panel



- Indoor & Outdoor Activities**
- Artists Showcase •
 - Construction of
 - Moss Bags and
 - Cradleboards •
 - Drums • Regalia •
 - Electric Guitar •
 - Web App
 - construction such
 - as I Bobbly •
 - Tough Enough
 - Sharing • Winter
 - Counts • Making
 - Moccasins •
 - Organic Hide
 - Tanning •
 - Indigenous Games
 - Making and
 - Raising a Tipi •
 - Artist - Community
 - Showcases •
 - Banquet • Keynote



HOSTED BY:



Contact Red Road for more info:

780-471-3221 • www.redroadjourney.ca

\$325.00 per person (Groups of 10 receive reduced rate)

Banquet | Keynote | Entertainment - Tickets - \$75 per person (Groups of 10 receive reduced rate)

A Beginning... we hope that will take off and be an annual event. This is exciting work, LOTS of work and hopefully a way to move our children, youth and families forward to ongoing transformative reconciliation... within and without themselves... on and off reserve.

Please join us!

¹ Protection of Ceremonies 1 - Chief Arvol Looking Horse, 19th Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe

² PIPES - a 30 year old legal concept for Turtle Island Indigenous - Preservation of Indigenous Peoples Ethics & Statutes