

Distributing across Alberta for over 39 years!



ALBERTA
NATIVE
NEWS





Visit us now at
albertanativenews.com



Athabasca U grad shines light on gaps in Indigenous health care

2023 Athabasca University (AU) Master of Nursing grad, Michelle Monkman, has made it a lifelong goal to improve the health of people in Indigenous communities.

Monkman, a registered nurse from Kinosao Sipi Cree Nation, has spent her entire 19-year career serving Indigenous populations in urban and rural Manitoba.

Monkman’s Spirit Name is Owasdenimakiw, which translates to “light giver” or “bringer of light.”

“My Knowledge Keeper told me that it was my purpose to bring light into dark places and insight into places of uncertainty.” She certainly has.

By incorporating Indigenous Ways of Knowing into education materials and into the delivery of care, she helps ensure resources and health-care systems are culturally relevant and safe.

“I feel like I have a really important job to elevate the voices of my community and I’ve been given the opportunity through AU to elevate

my own voice. I just want health care to be better for people that I love.”

She says her motivation to help runs deep because of her Indigenous identity. She’s improving the lives of families just like hers.

“Working in Indigenous health is where I belong and it’s my passion. It doesn’t feel like work. I was answering my passion.”

A few years ago, while working in a First Nations community whose high school was located in a nearby urban area (Brandon), she realized there were three provincially funded high schools that had access to teen clinic services. The local First Nations school, Sioux Valley High School, did not.

Wanting to fix that inequity, she decided to act. Monkman collaborated with the community, the school, regional health authority, and a primary health clinic to begin the work of creating a teen clinic.

“Most Indigenous people will go to access primary health services when there’s a problem and don’t often have family doctors or that connection to health care. I wanted to norma-lize preventive care for them at a young age.”

Once the clinic launched, Monkman said the services were very successful because they used a community-driven approach.

Monkman said there needs to be more collaboration across the health sector; provincial health authorities often do not collaborate well with Indigenous communities.

“If you look at rural Indigenous communities across Canada, it’s like their own little health system, so people don’t understand that there are community-based pro-



AU grad Michelle Monkman

grams and roles that are specific to the needs of that community.”

Many rural First Nations communities often only have access to a health centre that operates during regular daytime business hours.

“If residents are unable to go during that time, they have to travel to another community that is urban based for treatment,” she said.

This barrier to care is why so many Indigenous people face health inequities, and often experience delays accessing care. Her work involves trying to find solutions to close the care gap.

Not only is Monkman improving the lives of Indigenous communities by better informing health-care providers, academics, and policy makers, she is also using her knowledge and life experiences to guide settlers and non-Indigenous folks on a path toward reconciliation.

In recognition of all her achievements, Monkman was named Athabasca University’s 2023 Governor General’s Gold Medal winner. The award is given to the AU graduate student with the highest grade-point average in their graduating class.

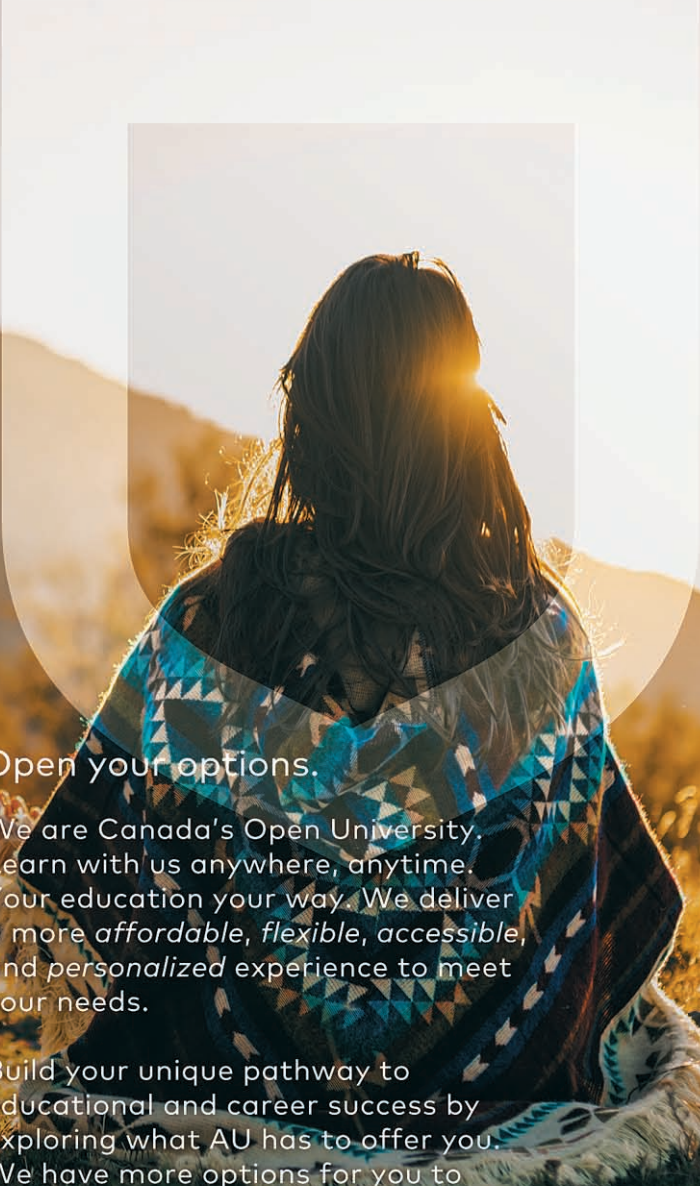
Monkman said her master’s degree has given her a whole new language to use in influencing higher-level policy and building health service solutions for Indigenous communities nationally. Now, she can blend what she learned in mainstream academia with Traditional Indigenous Knowledge and perspectives.

Being an Indigenous advocate has been isolating at times, and her perspective was not always understood. But she’s always maintained that reconciliation is uncomfortable.

“That’s why it was important that I spoke my truth,” she said. “Reconciliation is everyone’s business.”

Learn more by visiting athabascau.ca/health.





Open your options.

We are Canada’s Open University. Learn with us anywhere, anytime. Your education your way. We deliver a more *affordable, flexible, accessible,* and *personalized* experience to meet your needs.

Build your unique pathway to educational and career success by exploring what AU has to offer you. We have more options for you to discover— from degrees to diplomas, certificates and research opportunities, Athabasca University is waiting for you.

timefor.athabascau.ca/indigenous



Reclaiming the stewardship of Skwxwú7mesh stories

LEGENDS OF THE CAPILANO
978-1-77284-017-9 • \$24.95

 UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA PRESS



With some online platforms blocking access to the news upon which you depend, our website is your destination for up-to-the-minute news, so make sure to bookmark albertanativenews.com and follow us on [twitter.com @ABNativeNews](https://twitter.com/ABNativeNews) so we can keep you informed.

Calgary Stampede had something for everyone!

By Terry Lusty Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Calgary Stampede realized a highly successful year in 2023. It took place from July 7-16 and came close to establishing a record attendance year with 1.3 million going through the turnstiles - just a tick off the 1.4 million record of 2012. Thus, it appears that they've finally overcome not just the effects of the pandemic, but the economic downturn as well.

This year they also celebrated a couple of other milestone achievements including the 100th anniversary of the Rangleland Derby, a.k.a. chuckwagon races.

There are many positive changes to experience at the Stampede some of which include the Nutrien Western Event Centre, upgrading the barns, relocating the Indian Village, tearing down the old BMO and Corral buildings and improving the base soil of the rodeo arena and racetrack - making these a safer and easier going for man and animals alike.

Additionally, the entire north portion of Stampede property is continually undergoing new and improved investments, and structures. It's definitely an ongoing process.

Apart from the chuckwagons celebrating 100 years of operation, is the exciting outcome of the championship finals, the Dash for Cash.

As usual, the championship was determined at the conclusion of the final heat on Sunday, July 16th. The final three competing rigs were: 1) Mob Squad driven by Ross Knight, 2) Spray Lake Sawmills with Layne MacGillivray at the reins and, 3) Grey Eagle Hotel Resort and Casino driven by four-time champion Kurt Bensmiller.

Once the horn sounded, MacGillivray shot into the lead from the number two barrel and set a steady pace on what was a bit of an off-track due to the night-before rain. Once the three rigs got into the homestretch, the Tsuut'ina First Nation's Grey Eagle wagon tried desperately to run down the leading Spray Lake rig, but MacGillivray had enough

left in his thoroughbreds to hold off the pressing Bensmiller and win it all in 1:13:24. MacGillivray's effort won him the coveted championship title and the \$50,000 cheque that came with it. Bensmiller was second in a time of 1:13:58, earning him \$20,000, while Knight placed third in the thrilling finale.

"It all came together for us this year," exclaimed the winner who placed second the previous year. The win, he explained, requires "good people, good horses and lots of luck!"

There were three competitors of Indigenous ancestry as drivers: Todd Baptiste guiding the Red Pheasant Cree Nation wagon, Cody Ridsdale steering the O'Chiese Investment & Business Centre rig and Preston Faithful from Frog Lake driving the Natural Law x Global wagon. For Faithful, this was his first run at the Rangleland Derby and he is viewed as an up-and-comer to watch; he has had some credible accomplishments at some meets, including setting a track record and winning most improved driver.

Another highlight at the Stampede is the daily powwow dance demonstrations on the grandstand stage as well as at Elbow River Camp. The camp also features arts and crafts booths, hand games, traditional cooking methods, tea and bannock sampling and sales, teepee raising, and some open teepee viewing.

Alayah Wolf Child, 24, is this year's First Nation Princess. The jingle dancer was chosen as the 2023



The Grand Entry at the 2023 Calgary Stampede Powwow.

princess back in December and said, "It just felt like I was dreaming; it was overwhelming!"

Judging is generally based on such categories as public speaking, attending social events, dance ability and education. As a Stampede tradition, winning as princess, "was the beginning of the bridge being built between two great communities," she explained.

The 2nd Stampede Saddledome Powwow proved to be an impressive array of colour and energy as hundreds of dancers and visitors flocked to the arena on July 12 and 13 to participate in a serious competition for championship jackets, belt buckles and \$2,000 for first place adult categories and jackets, buckles and \$1,000 for teen category winners.

Energetic and talented Drum Groups also competed providing an amazing atmosphere of cultural pride for everyone in attendance.



Follow us at
twitter.com

 **@ABNativeNews**



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.



2023-2024
Back to School
Information

The 2023-2024 school year is just around the corner! Classes will resume on September 5, 2023.

Re-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.

New Student Registration: For new students, parents or guardians will need to fill out a registration form. Click on the website link to access the registration form www.nsd61.ca/students-parents/student-registration-forms.

In addition, parents, and guardians will need to provide one of the following documents: Birth Certificate, Residency Document, Canadian Citizenship Document, Passport

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. Click on the website link for more information www.nsd61.ca/departments/transportation. Please contact your local school for school bus times, pick-up and drop-off locations, and general information. Parents will need to provide a physical address (not a box number).

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

For more information please visit:

www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/2023-2024-back-to-school-information. Please contact your local school on completing the registration process www.nsd61.ca/schools. You can also contact central office at 1-800-362-1360 or 780-624-2060.

ALBERTA NATIVE NEWS

Publication Mail Agreement No. 40050628
Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:
Circulation Department:
#206, 8944 182 Street
Edmonton AB T5T 2E3
natnews@shaw.ca
Tel: (780) 421-7966

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

Volume 40, Number 08, August 2023
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.

Chimo YOUTH RETREAT CENTRE

MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

We are currently looking for outstanding individuals to join our team!

Where what you do matters for a lifetime; assisting children, youth and families achieve their dreams and aspirations.

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

Catch the Magic
Castledowns
Bingo Association

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

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

Our Pots:
Loonie Pot 1 • Loonie Pot 2
Full Card Insurance • Odd/Even
• Double Action • Crazy C • Houdini (Late-Night)

Tuesday is Half-Price,
Wednesday is Player and Guest of the Week!

Last Saturday of every month
is our Bonanza Month-End Special!

Big Bucks Bonanza Blitz played quarterly!
First event takes place on October 6th
and the next will be January 5th!
Play the Starburst to win a \$100 Ticket!

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Alberta Native News
#206, 8944 182 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5T 2E3

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

SUBSCRIPTIONS \$57.75/yr • \$100.80/2 yrs (incl GST)
U.S. SUBSCRIPTIONS \$75.00/yr • \$140.00/2 yrs (no GST)



Treaty 6 Nations reflect on lack of progress since Papal visit

Chiefs and the Grand Chief of the Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 Nations are reflecting on the one-year anniversary of Pope Francis' historic visit to their lands.

"A stronger response from the Church is still needed," says Grand Chief of Treaty No. 6 Territory and Chief of the Montana First Nation, Leonard Standingontheroad. "It's been a year since the visit with very little progress to show for it."

"With his visit Pope Francis created an opportunity for change, but the Church here in Canada needs to catch up," says Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Chief Tony Alexis. "Over the past year, some of our people have found healing, but more have been left in confusion. Just as we should have had a stronger role in planning the Papal Visit, we need to be equal partners in the healing process."



"The apology was a meaningful first step from Pope Francis but it wasn't supposed to end there," says Alexander First Nation Chief George Arcand Jr. who was Grand Chief during the Papal visit last summer. "A year has passed and we still haven't been invited to the decision-making table. We are disappointed in the Church – in the institution. We were supposed to walk together, but instead we've been left behind."

A year later the Confederacy acknowledges "with gratitude that Pope Francis fulfilled his promise to deliver an apology for the actions of his Church in person to our People on our Lands. In good faith we await meaningful action by the Church on the promised journey of healing and Reconciliation."

IRS Investigation Symposium coming to River Cree: Sept. 26-28

By Jake Cardinal, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Acimowin Opaspiw Society (AOS), the First Nation-led organization investigating the missing children and unmarked burials of the Blue Quills Indian Residential School (IRS), has announced its first ever Investigation Methodologies National Symposium.

In an effort to share research methods and protocol, as well as create a network between IRS investigations in Canada, the AOS is inviting all IRS investigation teams across the country to attend the event.

The symposium will provide a series of tutorials by the investigative team on the multiple aspects of the investigative experience — from the line-by-line study of archival documents to governmental diplomacy.

Some of the tutorials included are: how to access restricted Church records; First Nations research ethics; communications and mass disseminations; data sovereign ground penetra-

ting radar surveys; and much more.

The symposium also boasts two keynotes by IRS researchers and academics: Dr. Scott Hamilton, author of 'Where are the Children Buried;' and Tamara Starblanket, author of 'Suffer the Little Children – Genocide: Indigenous Nations in the Canadian State.'

In addition to this — on September 26, 2023 — the event will feature an Opening Gala emceed by Don Burnstick, as well as a performance by comedian Emery Burngrass.

On September 28, 2023 a round-dance will take place with Northern Cree Singers as the host drum.

Attendance for IRS Survivors involved in an investigation is free.

The event will run from September 26 – 28, 2023 at the River Cree Resort in Enoch, AB.

Visit: acimowinopaspiw.ca/symposium

For more information, please email: symposium@acimowinopaspiw.ca

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

T'A LOSI DENE BA NIT'A SI ?EDIRI HA NEZI NI?A HORIL?IH DE T'OK'E T'A YEH NETS' SI BET'ORE?A HA NEGHA ?EJA TSUU T'INA DJNE HARAL?A K'EYAGHE T'A HULTA ?EDIRI 81002494 SI

Ku ?ediri t'a nyl'a k'i Nezi Nija ha ?ediri yeh nets' de negha bet'oredhi ha nilchú hadé ?ediri nyl'a k'i ?ita hut'a neba ho?a hasj, ku t'a ?ediri hobasi bezi nija horel?ih de August 17, 2023 ts'en hawulé la ?eyi dzine t'anadé si ?ediri ha. Yeh Tsuu T'ina Dene ne?e k'e 10 ne?e hots'i January 1, 2026 hots'en.

Ku horelyu ?ediri basi ?erihit'is nyl?ih horil?ih de chu nezi nija horil?ih de, ?eja tsatsane benj huj k'e nyl?ih ?eja <https://canadabuys.canada.ca/en/tender-opportunities> huto Andy Musgrave bets'en dultsi ?eja 780-862-8744 huto email k'e andy.musgrave@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca.

Canada

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

INVITATION TO SUBMIT AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AS TO THE AVAILABILITY OF SPACE FOR LEASE ON THE TSUU T'INA NATION FILE NUMBER: 81002494

Public Services and Procurement Canada is asking interested parties to submit a response by August 17, 2023 with respect to providing office space for lease in buildings on the Tsuu T'ina Nation, for a term of 10 years commencing on or about January 1, 2026.

To view the complete text of the request and to respond to this invitation, please log on to <https://canadabuys.canada.ca/en/tender-opportunities> or contact Andy Musgrave at 780-862-8744 or andy.musgrave@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca.

Canada

AIG: An inclusive sports event for Indigenous youth

By Kinnukana, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Alberta Indigenous Games (AIG) 2023 are taking place in Edmonton, Alberta on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis from August 9-19, 2023, at the Saville Community Sports Centre and at Rundle Park. Over 5000 participants have travelled from all over North America, including Ontario, Saskatchewan, B.C. and Montana, to participate in the various sports. The AIG provides Indigenous youth between the ages of ten and twenty-one, at all skill levels, with the opportunity to participate in seventeen different sports. This year, skate boarding has been added to the list of sporting events.

The AIG evolved from a non-profit organization called Edmonton Native Ball Association (ENBA) formed by Allan Ross in 1999. Allan, the founder of AIG, was a Cree from Timber Bay. He was a star basketball player in high school and college and often said that basketball saved his life. He became a teacher at Edmonton Public Schools and saw the need for Indigenous youth sporting programs. He founded the ENBA, and it grew over time into the AIG with expanded multi-sport games. Allan had a strong vision for the AIG and his goal was to provide sporting opportunities for Indigenous youth in a recreational, welcoming and inclusive way for all levels of athletes. Allan passed away in October 2015, and in his honour, his vision of the games continues to take place each year and youth are continually inspired.

George Houle from Good Fish Lake was a youth participant for four years and was inspired to now becoming an Executive Assistant at the AIG. George said that when he was younger, he

watched his older brother and sister come home from the games. He would see them arrive with their swag and hear them talk about the event and he would say to himself that he is going to attend one day too. That day came when he was fourteen and he participated as a member of the local basketball team. He attended with his friends, and they won a bronze medal. George loved it so much that he attended for the following three years and was a member of a Saddle Lake team and also competed individually in the cross-country event.

There are several divisions for youth: Mites, Minis, Juniors, Intermediate, and Seniors. Some sports are co-ed and others are specific to having male and female teams. A youth can play on a community team or in an individual sport. George shared that the games are open to youth who are beginners in a chosen sport, or they can also be playing at a competitive level.

George said, “We believe that it is a great system. The games are not really about winning first place, it is about giving Indigenous youth at all levels an opportunity to reclaim their inner self because some of them are affected by the impacts of residential schools and it is very intimidating when you sign up for a sports event and you see that it’s all competitive. I think this is a great thing that we’ve done because it gives everyone an opportunity to just grow.”

The AIG takes pride in being a sport development event. The organization believes in the holistic development of athletes, and they offer individual *Circle of Courage* awards. The *Circle of Courage* has four categories: Belonging, Independence, Mastery and Generosity. The Belonging award focuses on kindness to others and good sportsmanship. The Independence award focuses on helping others and volunteering. The Mastery award focuses on being exceptional in a sport, giving best effort and acting as a role model for peers. The Generosity award focuses on problem solving and making thoughtful decisions for others. The *Circle of*



Enthusiastic and friendly volunteers at the 2023 Alberta Indigenous Games.

Courage awards teaches Indigenous youth about important values to focus on.

In order to also instill pride, communities compete for points based on winning gold, silver, bronze and points for good sportsmanship. At the end of the games, points are tallied, champions are identified, and winners receive a trophy and/or a banner to take home.

The AIG also provides scholarships for older athletes entering post-secondary training or trades training to help with initial student costs. To be eligible an athlete must have graduated from high school and must be enrolled in university, college or trade school in the Fall of 2023. Athletes must also have participated in AIG playing a sport and can only apply for the sport that they played in. Some University and College Sport Scouts are also attending AIG to watch the participants and pick up potential players.

The AIG relies on volunteers. George stated that “it is mainly volunteers who help with the organizing. With 5000 participants, it would be really hard to organize without the volunteers. They are the most crucial part of the games. We appreciate our volunteers, and we have a dinner and a round dance to honour them and say thank you. These volunteers are extremely determined, and they are amazing. They show up every morning to where they have been assigned and we appreciate that a lot.” The AIG also has many sponsors who also receive recognition for their generous contributions.

The AIG provides a great opportunity for young Indigenous people to be involved in recreational sports and inspires them in so many ways. George said, “The games have done so much for me. I was inspired by Jacob Hendy, CEO who works so hard and by seeing the games happen every year consistently and always being successful. That inspires me to keep going and each year I have been able to do more.”



AIG Executive Assistant George Houle.



SUNDAY SEP 10 NOON — 4PM
Devon Community Centre
20 Haven Ave. Devon AB

Vendor tables and memberships available
780-652-3304

Discover hand crafted products
like art, trench art, photography,
fabric creations, writing, jewelry,
leather work and ceramics.

Mention this ad for a 10% discount

SAME VALUES.
DIVERSE
PERSPECTIVES.

EPS is hiring the next generation of policing.
visit newEPSrecruits.ca

EDMONTON
POLICE
SERVICE

Register for a free Information Session @ JoinEPS.ca/INFO

Bear Grease wows K Days crowds

By Terry Lusty, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For the second consecutive year Edmonton's K Days featured the Indigenous Experience. One of the larger featured exhibits within its space was a sizeable installation entitled, "We Were So Far Away: The Inuit experience of Residential Schools."

Through the victims' own words flow tales of removal and relocation to southern urban communities in some of Canada's major cities, including Ottawa, Winnipeg and Edmonton.

Like last year's displays about Indian Residential Schools across Canada, *We Were So Far Away* is primarily a series of large display panels that incorporate photographs, documents, informational tracts, and select biographies of some of the northern Inuit people who were sent vary far from their northern homes to communities much further south because of medical issues like tuberculosis.

Many of the displays are the products and property of the Ontario-based Legacy of Hope Foundation - a national Indigenous-led charitable organization that has been promoting healing and reconciliation throughout Canada for over twenty years.

Their goal is to educate Canadians about the history and continuing intergenerational impacts of the residential schools as well as the child welfare system on survivors, their families, and communities. They also encourage people to be aware and address discrimination, inequality and injustices that plague our lives and communities.

The foundation's archives hold approximately 800 individual stories, 22 active exhibitions and visit about 100 cities.

Several other informational and educational exhibits were on display from July 21-30, in the

Indigenous Experience area of the Expo Centre and more were on exhibit around the hall. Numerous arts and crafts booths were also onsite as well as a Native Delights food wagon and a coffee bar.

Lively entertainment also flowed each day and it was all free. This included some very talented dancers, singers and musicians from varying genres.

The one major attraction, that commanded a full-house audience, proved to be a 10-member ensemble known as *Bear Grease*. This amazing group of Indigenous performers presented their delightful spin-off of the iconic 1978 musical production, *Grease*.

The quality of song, dance and humour seemed to be bang-on with a lot of positive reaction. It's no wonder it drew a capacity crowd on both the first and final Saturdays of K Days.

A performance like no other, it encompassed hip-hop, rock n roll, twist, jive, you name it - they did it! *Bear Grease* was initially the brainchild of Crystle Lightning and MC Red Cloud, a duo who, last spring in 2022, electrified its audience at Massey Theatre in New Westminster, B.C. The duo originally scripted *Bear Grease* for students at school on the Enoch Nation, by Edmonton. It was such a hit that the two decided to perform it for the renowned Fringe Festival in Edmonton and, as the old saying goes, "the rest is history." It went on to draw rave reviews and was a hit everywhere they went.

Lightning is an acclaimed actress who was awarded best lead actress for her role as Maggie in the 2021 production of "Trickster." She linked up with rapper Red Cloud in 2014 who established a Guinness world record when he executed 18 hours of the "longest freestyle rap."

Crystle, originally from Enoch Cree Nation, had moved to Hollywood to chase her dream of becoming an actress. The two met down south and as fate would have, wound up in each others' arms, are now married and make their home in Edmonton. The two travel across North America and, as Lightning states, nothing would please her more than to take "*Bear Grease* to Broadway!"

At K Days, *Bear Grease* totally enthralled a



highly receptive full house of Indigenous and non-Indigenous visitors. In short, it really was a howling success!

Another superb performance was from the Stephanie Harpe Experience. This member of the Ft. McKay First Nation has a tight and terrific backup band who performed magnificently.

Harpe cranks out almost anything one might desire - country, blues, R n B, roots, everything! Name it, she can deliver it. And deliver she did on two separate occasions at the Indigenous Experience in Edmonton's Expo Centre.

Also warranting mention were vocalists Beatrice Love, Leanne Goose and Jarrid Lee.

Beatrice Love is a dynamic performer who demonstrates great stage presence, controlled vocals and will undoubtedly be one to watch in the future.

Leanne Goose, originally from Inuvik, NWT, is presently a university student in Edmonton and began singing at age 12. She is an established country singer and has other credentials in film and production.

Jarrid Lee demonstrated on stage why he is a CCMA nominee this year. He hails from east of Edmonton and stems from a many-talented family of singers, musicians and dancers who've made their own marks in the industry. Looks to me like Jarrid will continue that tradition.

The overall entertainment line also included traditional First Nation and Metis dancing.

The production was not only colourful and talent-laden, it was engaging, highly energetic, expressive, fun, and upon its departure left the audience wanting more. Indeed the group sang and danced their way into the hearts of its viewers.



Pete Haggerty FT
780-291-0077
reddawg@hotmail.ca

WTA Chainsaw Training
Wilderness Camps & Workshops
Survival Training
Forestry Consulting

JOIN THE ULTIMATE SUMMER CHALLENGE



Celebrate summer at Calgary Public Library.
Attend free programs, track your reading, and win cool prizes.

Presented by J K L MacLachlan Family Fund

REGISTER NOW • CALGARYLIBRARY.CA/SUMMER



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



Sunchild Cree Nation Powwow: A triumphant return

By Chevi Rabbit, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Sunchild Cree Nation in Alberta has achieved a remarkable feat by successfully reviving their powwow after a 12-year hiatus. Situated in the heart of the David Thompson Region near Rocky Mountain House, the community shares the land with neighboring areas like Stoney Nakoda Nation, and Ochiiese First Nation - reflecting Indigenous history that predates the establishment of Canada.

Alberta Native News reporter Chevi Rabbit was on-site and spoke with powwow participants as well as local leadership from the area, offering a comprehensive view of the event's significance.

A heartwarming moment unfolded as Debbie Baich, the Mayor of Rocky Mountain House, spoke about the significance of the powwow for the community: "Sunchild Powwow is a great asset to the communities of Rocky Mountain House and Sunchild First Nation, contributing to tourism and the local economy." She highlighted the enduring bonds between the communities.

Biach's close friendship with Chief Jonathan Frencheater, a longtime ally, reflects the unbreakable bonds between Sunchild Cree Nation and the surrounding communities.

Acknowledging the shared history that has bound these communities for centuries, Biach stated, "Our shared history is a strength. It is important to recognize that this history predates the 249-year history of our town." She continued by mentioning the historical figure of fur trader pioneer David Thompson, who is celebrated in her town with schools named after him.

Chief Jonathan Frencheater requested that Councilman Joey Pete share his thoughts on his behalf. Pete explained the powwow is revitalizing cultural traditions and uniting the community, and he also returned after a four-year hiatus as a powwow dancer.

He said, "Despite facing significant challenges over the past decade, including high rates of child and family services-related deaths and substance abuse issues, the event serves as a celebration of tradition and a meaningful step toward community... We hope to reintegrate the younger generation into their cultural heritage."

Clint McHugh, a politician for a decade, shared the influence of his grandmother's upbringing: "My grandmother traditionally raised me... through ceremonies and culture, and she taught me the language." This cultural foundation empowers the Sunchild Cree Nation to embrace its heritage and work towards communal healing.

Cindy Jim-Wood, an accomplished multi-disciplinary artist with a fine arts education from the University of Alberta, emphasized the importance of communities that are repatriating

themselves into the powwow community. She said, "Our people are healing from inter-generational trauma." She uses dance to address these wounds and empower marginalized communities, "to heal the stories I encounter along the way of those who are still suffering from intergenerational trauma... and to empower the LGBTQ community" as a mother and ally of the Two-Spirit individuals.

For the Sunchild Cree youth, the revival of the powwow is not just a celebration, it's an embodiment of hope for the next generation. Among these vibrant spirits, one individual shines exceptionally bright - Tisean Redcalf-Cardinal, a young powwow dancer, and a Sunchild, Saddle Lake Cree Nation member, with deep roots in Montana Cree Nation.

Tisean's journey in becoming a powwow dancer has been marked by triumphs over adversity. Battling a rare genetic disorder that affects her kidney, asthma, and left hip, her determination and passion have become a guiding light for others.

She says, "Dancing old-style fancy makes me feel like I can overcome anything, despite my medical conditions." Her commitment to the dance is a source of empowerment and her graceful movements possess a healing essence, resonating deeply with those who encounter her performance.

For the Redcalf-Cardinal-Daychief-Rabbit family, the resurgence of the powwow holds profound significance for their community. Beyond revitalizing cultural traditions, it serves as a living embodiment of the unity the powwow stands for.

Moreover, the entire Redcalf, Cardinal, Rabbit, and Daychief family is deeply grateful to the Children's Stollery Hospital. During the first several years of Tisean's life, she received treatment and resided at the hospital, making it an integral part of her journey and her family's story.

Tisean's connection to her community runs even more profound, as her late mosom, the esteemed Richard Day-



Vibrant dancers at the Sunchild Cree Nation powwow.

chief, held a respected position as a former Councilman of the Sunchild Cree Nation. His legacy as a community leader has undoubtedly influenced and inspired Tisean's journey.

Alanise Wildman, a powwow dancer from Stoney Nakoda Nation, shared a touching story about her father's journey from rodeo to powwow. As he grew older, he transitioned from rodeo events to embracing the powwow tradition. Alanise fondly recalls attending the Sunchild Cree Nation powwow, a significant event for her and her father.

Wildman also is advocating for powwow teachings within Calgary's Catholic schools: "Teaching Indigenous knowledge and the significance of powwows can be a challenging task. There are those within the Catholic school community who push back against incorporating these teachings."

The revival of the Sunchild Cree Nation powwow signifies more than just a cultural event; it embodies the resilience, unity, and determination of a community dedicated to healing and revitalization. Through the strength of their shared history, bonds between neighboring communities, and the power of their cultural heritage, the Sunchild Cree Nation sets a remarkable example for reconciliation, growth, and collaboration.



Injured?
We have answers.

 **CAM LLP**
INJURY LAWYERS

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

GET YOUR MONEY NOW!!!

 **CFS**

WEALTH MANAGEMENT INC.
Invest | Insure | Unlock

WE UNLOCK:

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

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

PAY NO
WITHHOLDING
TAX WITH
STATUS
CARD

* Not Available in QC.

"PROUDLY SERVING ALBERTA'S FIRST NATION
COMMUNITIES FOR OVER A DECADE"

ACIMOWIN OPASPIW SOCIETY PRESENTS: INVESTIGATION METHODOLOGIES



NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

September 26-28, 2023
River Cree Resort
Enoch, AB



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

DR. SCOTT HAMILTON
Archeologist, Researcher and Author: 'Where are the children buried?'

TAMARA STARBLANKET
Lawyer, Researcher, and Author: "Suffer the Little Children – Genocide: Indigenous Nations in the Canadian State."

FACILITATED LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

- Access to restricted Church records
- First Nations Research Ethics
- Communications and mass disseminations
- Data Sovereign Ground Penetrating Radar surveys
- Mental Health First Aid
- Investigator Licensing/Commissioner for Oaths
- Secure IT Infrastructure
- Survivor disclosures and cultural supports
- Translations/Transcribing

September 26, 2023, Opening night Gala: Banquet & Comedy show

DON BURNSTICK (GALA EMCEE)
EMERY BURNINGGRASS (LIVE COMEDY SHOW)

September 28, 2023, Closing ceremony: Round Dance
NORTHERN CREE SINGERS (HOST)

MORE INFORMATION, REGISTRATION & CONTACT

The AOS is inviting all Indian Residential School Missing Children in Unmarked Burials Investigation teams to join us for this 3 day gathering; to learn, engage and collaborate. Each in class learning session will provide registrants with comprehensive learning, and quick reference/ procedure matrix.

Register online: acimowinopaspiw.ca/symposium

For more information please email: symposium@acimowinopaspiw.ca

Conference Fees (Survivors on investigation teams: no fees)

August 2-September 2, 2023: \$200.00/per person (Early Bird) September 3-26, 2023: \$300.00/person

Payment particulars in registration form.

(Fees must be paid before confirmation of registration will be provided)