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AU student using virtual reality to teach Traditional Knowledge

You might not expect someone to do a sewing project for their master's thesis in a computing program... but this isn't your average sewing project.

Twylla Soosay is a student in Athabasca University's Master of Science in Information Systems program and member of the Samson Cree Nation. She's bringing together her computer skills, her experience as an educator, and her Cree background for her thesis work, which will help teach cultural traditions to a new generation.

Her project, *Creation and Investigation of Virtual Spaces* for Community Learning and Sharing, involves creating a virtual reality (VR) experience that will teach people how to make a ribbon skirt, which is an important garment in Cree culture. In this way, students could put on a

VR headset to get an immersive first-person view of how to make a ribbon skirt, with the voice of a teacher guiding their learning.

This was partly inspired by Soosay's own efforts to reconnect more with Cree culture, which she said wasn't a significant part of her own family's experience while she was growing up in Maskwacis, Alta. She knew ribbon skirts were important, and as an adult wanted to learn how to make one but found it difficult to find resources.

"I tried to ask people can you send me instructions, and they're just like, 'Well, maybe you could just watch me,'" she said. "They don't have anything written down. Everything is visual."

Soosay said ribbon skirts are an important piece of cultural clothing in the Cree culture.

Beyond the practical uses as a garment, they have a deeper meaning in Ceremony and help connect Cree people to the Earth. She thought this would make an interesting project that blends her interests into a master's thesis that helps her to reach her learning goals—both academic and other-wise.

Because of her background as an educator working with Cree students, including students with a wide variety of learning abilities and styles, Soosay said there's huge potential for a virtual reality lesson about Cree culture without the distractions that come from a more typical learning environment.

"When I did the literature review, I found that when you cover everything else, when you're not being distracted by anything because you have the goggles right on your eyes, you're totally immersed," she said.

While the project's cultural components were inspired by her desire to learn more about Cree culture, the technical side was inspired by her own personal interests in science fiction, gaming, technology, and filmmaking.

The thesis work began by reviewing existing academic literature over



Twylla Soosay's thesis blends virtual reality with centuries-old cultural practices.

winter 2022-23, in which Soosay read as much as she could about the potential for 360-degree video technology and how it can be used, and then moved on to the technical aspects.

"I did the literature review, and now I'm doing the actual camera work with virtual reality. I'm learning how to do a 360-degree video and load it into Adobe Premiere Pro," she said.

The logistics of working with the technology have also another learning opportunity. Figuring out where to set the cameras to create a first-person perspective, without having the camera in the way of the work she's doing, has been a challenge.

Soosay's educational and career journey has had several stops before ultimately leading up to her taking the Master of Science in Information Systems program at AU, and she draws on many different sources for inspiration for this ribbon skirt project.

She completed an undergraduate education degree, focused on math and social studies, from the University of Alberta. She spent several years teaching at both the Maskwacis Cultural College and at a local high school.

After several years, she changed direction in her career and earned a one-year college diploma focused on electronics and computer technology and spent close to a decade in IT oversight and management position before being laid off.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Soosay decided to continue her education and pursue a master's degree. One of the advantages to the AU Master of Science in Information Systems, for Soosay, is the flexible delivery. Being able to stay in her home community with her family has been inspiring in many ways.

For example, the experience of simply being in the home and working has made her realize the opportunities for authentic cultural representation in this project, right down to some of the little details, like including the sounds of women talking and children playing as part of the background noise in the immersive virtual reality lesson she's creating.

Continued on page 3



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Symposium will focus on IRS investigation methods: 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 penetrating radar surveys; and much more.

The symposium also boasts 2 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 emcee’d by Don Burnstick, as well as a performance by comedian Emery Burningrass. 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 be running from September 26 - 28, 2023 at the River Cree Resort in Enoch, AB.

To register online, visit:
acimowinopaspiw.ca/symposium

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

AU student *cont. from p 2*

“That’s basically how a Native household is. It’s organized chaos. Everybody’s running around, doing their own thing, and we’re all having fun and laughing at the same time,” she said. “I figured that would be a good to use that audio, kind of muffled noise in the background while I’m sewing.”

Soosay said accurately reflecting different elements of Cree culture in this project is important to her because she has not always felt rooted in her culture in the same way some of her peers have.

Her family did not actively participate in cultural events like Powwows and other ceremonies. Her father, who was Cree, left the family when she was young. In his youth, he attended the Ermineskin Indian Residential School. Her mother, who grew up in the Tsuut’ina Nation near Calgary, Alta., attended a day school and was likewise disconnected from her roots.

“My mom never knew her culture and never knew her language. And my dad was told as a kid that he couldn’t speak his language,” she said. “It affected not just them, but it affected their children and their children’s children.”

“So that was part of my goal, being able to learn something that I can do that’s cultural.”

Being an educator as well as a lifelong learner, Soosay said she’s also focused on the benefit this kind of project can bring to others in her community. As the title of her thesis implies, her work is not just about creating a virtual reality experience, but also about it being an asset that can promote cultural learning and sharing within her community.

And this benefit can be especially poignant for others who, like her, who have struggled with learning and understanding what it means to be Cree. Her experience working in the local high school as brought this potential benefit for students sharply into focus—being aware of and developing pride in Cree culture.

“It’s good to give the kids something they can learn that they’re proud of,” she said. “I spoke with the sewing teacher at the high school, and she said watching the kids making something for themselves, makes them proud of not just themselves, but proud of being Cree.”

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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.”*

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

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For more information please email: symposium@acimowinopaspiw.ca

Conference Fees: (Survivors on investigation teams: no fees)

Aug. 2-Sept. 2, 2023: \$200/per person (Early Bird) September 3-26, 2023: \$300/per person

Payment particulars in registration form.

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

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A message from Chief Greg Desjarlais

By Chevi Rabbit, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As the 2023 Pow Wow season came to an end, it ushered in a profound sense of unity and cultural celebration within Indigenous communities across Canada. The highly anticipated 2023 Samson Cree Nation Powwow, spanning three days from August 11 to 13, took centre stage at Maskwacis Bear Park, radiating palpable excitement.

This remarkable event not only showcased the vibrant brilliance of Indigenous powwow dancers who journeyed from across Canada to participate but also resonated with the powerful voices of several of Canada's most distinguished Chiefs. Among them were Chief Rob Louie of West Bank, Chief Tony Alexis of Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, and Chief Greg Desjarlais of Frog Lake First Nation.

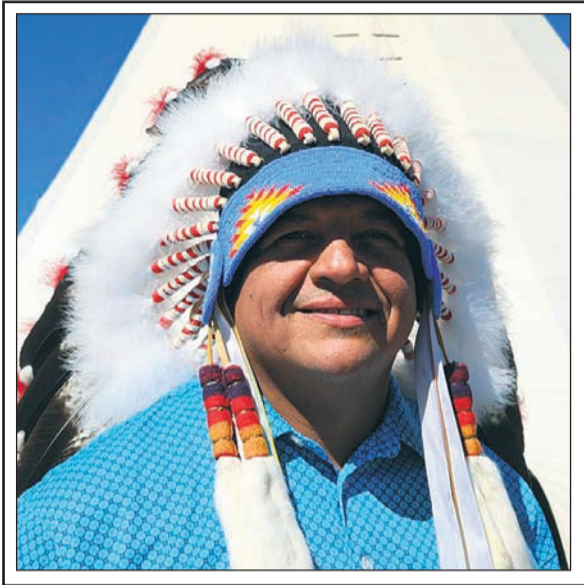
Amid this extravaganza, Chief Desjarlais emerged as a visionary leader, unwaveringly committed to uplifting Frog Lake First Nation through a multifaceted approach that encompasses economic self-sufficiency, cultural preservation, and holistic well-being. His exceptional journey and dedication position him as a symbol of hope for his community.

"This is our moment," Chief Desjarlais boldly proclaimed to thousands of attendees and in the company of his peers who also attended Samson Cree Nation Powwow.

With a rich history of service to Treaty 6 peoples and his community of Frog Lake, Chief Desjarlais transitioned from three terms, as a council member to the position of Chief. This experience provided profound insights into the community's needs, bolstering his determination to lead effectively.

"My message to youth is that our people have been through a lot. It's time for young individuals to aim high, reaching for the pinnacle in various fields, be it doctors, lawyers, or judges," he said, urging the youth to break new ground.

At the core of his mission is the pursuit of own-source revenue for First Nations. This empowers communities to liberate themselves from external financial constraints, charting a path toward economic autonomy. Frog Lake First Nation sets an inspiring precedent for other Indigenous



communities through this approach. Equally impactful is Chief Desjarlais' commitment to promoting a healthy lifestyle within the community, recognizing the significance of physical, mental, and emotional well-being. He champions initiatives that foster a wholesome way of life for all members.

"Go to an Elder if you have issues, or go to the power, pray to the Creator, pray, and use the smudges of Mother Earth," Chief Desjarlais emphasized, highlighting the importance of seeking guidance from Elders and connecting with spiritual traditions during challenges.

"We are each unique in our own way," Chief Desjarlais proudly affirmed.

His overarching goal is to secure long-term value for Frog Lake First Nation. Beyond this, he tirelessly advocates for his people's voice across governmental levels, ensuring their concerns shape pivotal decisions.

Furthermore, Chief Desjarlais extends his empathy to those struggling with addiction, recognizing the impact of intergenerational trauma and aggressive assimilation tactics. He notes the importance of supporting those on the path to recovery and addresses lateral violence as

Continued on page 6

It is time for an Indigenous P.M.

By Xavier Kataquapit

I feel like a survivor at times and there is good reason for that. As an Indigenous person living in this time and country, I have seen so much happen over the past four decades of my life. The sad reality is that I have lost many young and Elders close to me over the years through tragic situations.

No doubt about it I can point to colonization with issues like residential schools, racism, poverty, addictions and violence as the cause for all of the hardships Indigenous people have had to deal with over the past few hundred years. The problem is that things are not getting better fast enough. Too many of my people are still living very difficult lives and we have to move more quickly to make things better over the next decade.

It is up to all of us to be aware of the problems and challenges we are facing and to put in place real solutions that help us heal from the injustices of the past and focus on changing our world and in doing so making life for everyone on Mother Earth better for everyone. In a report by Amnesty International it is pointed out that Indigenous peoples have a life expectancy that is 20 years lower than non-Indigenous population. The reality is that we have high rates of poverty, malnutrition, unemployment and we suffer from all kinds of addictions that are more like epidemics in our First Nation communities right across Canada.

The fact is that a lot of these issues result in

Continued on page 7



Amazing role models inspire youth at YTS 2023

By Kinnukana, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The *Youth Teepee Summit 2023* took place at the Poundmaker’s Lodge powwow grounds in St. Albert, on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Metis, from August 24-26, 2023. The Summit is an annual event organized by the *First Nations Health Consortium* and is aimed to inspire youth from Alberta in Treaty 6, 7 and 8 territories to become strong community leaders. The Summit featured an amazing lineup of Indigenous role model speakers and learning activities to the two hundred youth in attendance.

The summit was emceed by Ashley Callingbull, a Cree woman from Enoch Cree Nation, and well renowned model, actress and host. Ashley became the first Canadian and Indigenous woman to win the Mrs. Universe title in 2015. As emcee, she shared her experiences and offered great advice to the youth.

“One thing that I have learned, especially chasing all the things that I have chased, I have learned that it is true that you are who you hang with. That’s why it’s so important to spend time with people that want to uplift you, that want to bring out the best in you, people that want to see you rise. Those are true friends. People that want to hold you back, and live in the moment, and do things that aren’t going to better you as a person, are people that will just drag you down,” said Ashley.

Ashley spent time at the summit interviewing other role models and began by speaking with Kiya Bruno. Kiya is a young Cree woman from Samson Cree Nation in Maskwacis Alberta. She is an actress, artist, Indigenous Rights advocate, athlete, entrepreneur and the co-owner of *Stay Rooted Apparel*. Kiya is also a traditional vocalist and everyone at the summit had the pleasure of

hearing her perform the Canadian National Anthem in Cree. Kiya told the youth, “If I didn’t push myself forward, it would have stopped me a lot from doing the things that I wanted to do. So, my advice is to keep pushing yourself because if you stop, you never know where it could actually take you. Indigenous people are all are very talented and have different kinds of skills that are rooted into our culture. I just think that if we stop what we’re doing, we’ll never find out what we have hidden in our talents.”

The youth also heard from Naela Thunder Chief, from the Blood Tribe, Kainai Nation. Naela is Miss Blackfoot Canada and a young advocate for the Blackfoot people. She comes from a strong bloodline of Blackfoot Chiefs and Matriarchs and has support from Elders, and both her maternal and paternal families. Naela encouraged the youth to stay connected to their culture. She said, “It is really important as young people that we find our cultural identity and know who we are as people.” Naela said that Indigenous teachings, stories, values and ways of life matter and that one way of preserving the Indigenous culture is by listening to Elders.

Amanda McLeod, a Fort Albany First Nation member from Mushkegowuk Territory of Treaty 9, and Professional Ballet Dancer also provided a presentation to the youth and spoke about her experiences leading up to her dancing career. Amanda auditioned for and was accepted into Canada’s National Ballet School’s *Professional Ballet Program* in Toronto, Ontario. She left home at the age of ten to study ballet and stayed there until she completed grade twelve, where she graduated with academic honours. In 2022, Amanda received a short term contract with the

National Ballet of Canada company to perform in James Kudelka’s *The Nutcracker*. Amanda is a strong advocate for including individuals of all abilities to participate in dance and she uses her dance platform to build greater awareness about Indigenous matters. Amanda eloquently performed a short routine on the small stage for everyone to enjoy.

Youth had an opportunity to learn about opioid addictions & treatment and they participated in Naloxone training. They also had a presentation by Dr. Esther Tailfeathers, Family Physician and Opioid Crisis Specialist. Dr. Tailfeathers said, “[One] of the positive childhood experiences, which we should be engaging in, is being able to talk about feelings with family. Our children should be able to openly say ‘Mom I’m scared. Mom, you’re scaring me when you’re talking to me like that. Mom, I don’t feel safe around this person.’ Our children should feel safe talking to us about how they feel, and we shouldn’t shut them down. They need to feel supported by family in difficult times.”

Over the three days of the Summit, youth were inspired by the wonderful Indigenous role models. They had time to listen, ask questions, participate in various activities, including traditional hand games and a round dance. On the closing day, youth were able to participate and laugh during a fun improv session with actor Telly James Hunt and Aaron Marion-Dron. The Summit closed with an interactive activity led by Conrad Plews, Metis Artist and Owner of Black Market Tattoo, where participants worked together to complete a mosaic painting that depicts the highlights of their wonderful time together.



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CAREERS: Employers can get money to hire motivated high school students

Like so many high school students, Caleb Alexander was unsure what he wanted to do with his life. He knew he liked working with his hands and enjoyed science classes, but that only led to more questions: What careers fit his interests? Would he be able to make a good living? How could he make it happen? There just didn't seem to be a clear path forward.

Caleb was attending Grade 10 at Holy Trinity high school in Fort McMurray when his future began taking shape. He was introduced to a non-profit organization called CAREERS: The Next Generation. Team members work with schools across Alberta to connect students to employers for paid internships. Students have the opportunity to fast track their training in a skilled trade through the Registered Apprenticeship Program, or get hands-on experience in many different occupations through the Indigenous Youth Internship Program. CAREERS helped Caleb learn about different options that fit his interests and lifestyle. Instrumentation and

Controls Technician jumped out at him, so he decided to take advantage of the opportunity and give it a try. CAREERS matched him with an employer, helped him with his resume, prepared him for the job interview, and before he knew it, he was starting his first day as an apprentice at Syncrude Canada.

"It was a little bit daunting when I went to my safety orientation," explained Caleb. "It was just me, a 16-year-old, in a room full of adults."

It didn't take Caleb long to feel respected and part of the team. He also discovered a passion for what he was doing.

"Not only was I making money, I was also earning credits and fast tracking my training towards something I love. Juggling high school with an apprenticeship wasn't always easy, but it was worth it. I was able to push through because I had a goal and a future I was excited about."

Syncrude is one of many Alberta companies that believes in supporting youth through CAREERS: The Next Generation.

"Indigenous youth like Caleb are a vital resource for employers like Syncrude, operated by Suncor. Like everyone else, they just need opportunities to develop their skills and abilities," remarked Jerry McPherson, Vice President, Projects & Regional Synergies, Syncrude, operated by Suncor. "Syncrude supports the Indigenous Youth Career Pathways program because it is helping us build our future workforce with



Caleb Alexander is achieving success with help from CAREERS: The Next Generation.

people who have the skills we need and want to contribute to our success. By every measure, it continues to be an excellent investment."

"When you provide meaningful employment for Indigenous youth, you are increasing their confidence and skills, which lays the foundation for success and ripples through their communities," added Rebecca Kragnes, Indigenous Business Relations, Bird Construction.

Over the next two years, Caleb continued to gain experience and hours towards his apprenticeship. Now, at 21-years-old, he's already become a certified journeyman.

"My advice to high school students is, you've got nothing to lose," he said. "Just pick something that interests you and give it a try. If I can do it, so can you."

Whether you're a student like Caleb, a parent helping a child navigate their future, or an employer looking to grow your workforce from the ground up, CAREERS: The Next Generation is an excellent resource to get you started. And right now, qualified employers can get up to \$7,500 to help cover the costs. Go to CAREERSnextgen.ca.

Chief Greg Desjarlais *cont. from p 4*

a symptom of historical injustices.

"Lateral violence is not our way," said Chief Desjarlais.

"We have to work together," he asserted, emphasizing unity over divisiveness within the community.

Chief Greg Desjarlais' wisdom and commitment echo profoundly among community members and beyond. Under his leadership, Frog Lake First Nation is poised to achieve new heights, underpinned by compassion, and understanding. His reminder that one should not judge those who have faced addiction resonates deeply.

Chief Desjarlais exemplifies Indigenous leadership at its finest, transcending a challenging past to become an influential and high-profile Chief. His journey embodies the principles of unity, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to the well-being of his people.



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

Book Review: Reclaiming Anishinaabae Law

Reviewed by Rob Houle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For many communities across Turtle Island the struggle for self-determination includes the removal and replacement of foreign practices. Until recently, the solution to these problems was purported to be a recreation or enactment of new Indigenous laws. Additionally, many government programs and funding streams have focused on creating new and modern relationships, seemingly casting the foundational relationships of Canada to the wayside. In his book, *Reclaiming Anishinaabae Law: Kinamaadiwin Inaakonigewin and the Treaty Right to Education*, Dr. Leo Baskatawang encourages the reader to look to the past for answers to future questions.

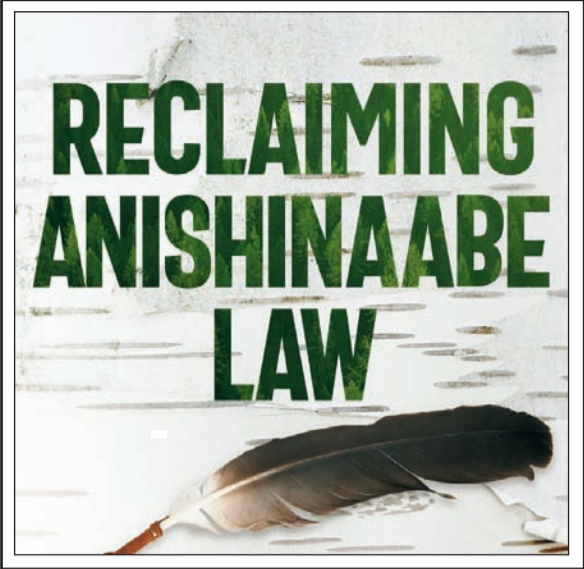
Guiding the reader through decades of history while paralleling his own experiences in Education work, Baskatawang manages to not only humanise the information but reflect how connected things are in Indian Country. By drawing these comparisons, he begins to put forward the argument that a prosperous future for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians lies in a reinvigoration of Treaty terms, and specifically Treaty No. 3. Separated into four distinct chapters, *Reclaiming Anishinaabae Law* serves as not only an education tool, but also a roadmap for other communities wishing to reclaim and understand their Treaty Right to Education.

As has become a standard process for those wishing to educate non-Indigenous people, Dr. Baskatawang begins with a brief history of

Colonisation, Western Expansion and the Treaty making process in Canada. This approach seeks to not only bring the reader up to speed as to how we got to where we are, but also introduce them to scholars who have written about the issues for some time. Namely the likes of Fanon, Friere, Burrows, Cardinal and Simpson to name a few. In doing so, the author not only provides the reader with a laundry list of future required readings, but also solidifies his position as one that is rooted in deep thought and scholarship.

Progressing through the book is very much a journey through the eyes of a Treaty person. The perspectives offered paint imagery of more happening behind the scribbles on the parchment, and that a deeper connection existed at the time of negotiation. Dr. Baskatawang once again hammers home that the written text of Treaty No. 3 is not the only authority, but that a holistic approach to interpreting our Rights is necessary to fully achieve *Kinamaadiwin Inaakonigewin*, or an Anishinaabae Education Law.

Throughout his book, Dr. Baskatawang approaches many important topics and issues with a double edged approach. While positive in some circles, situations and achievements may be viewed with some scrutiny by others. Reconciliation remains one such topic, and by reflecting on the events of recent years, the author highlights how often First Nations must take the good with the bad. As a shining example,



Baskatawang highlights the “[irony] that the pope’s apology came on April Fools Day”. Regardless, it is often this lighthearted approach to our history and mistreatment that has allowed Indigenous people to continue to push forward.

With foundations and scholarship like that of *Reclaiming Anishinaabae Law*, the journey towards self-determination appears closer at hand. The days of Government and non-Indigenous people prescribing our next steps seems like a less viable option. Indigenous people can begin to lean and rely upon each other once again, as they had prior to Colonisation. It is within this sense of community that we can truly begin to understand *Kinamaadiwin Inaakonigewin* and like laws, breathe new life into old practices and reestablish tradition at the centre of our governance models.

For information visit uofmnpres.ca.

It is time *cont. from p 4*

people making mistakes and bad choices which ends up with breaking the law and ending up with incarceration. Our jails in Canada are filled with Indigenous people at higher rates than those who are non-Indigenous. What could we possibly expect if our young people are growing up having to deal with extreme poverty, racism, addictions and a feeling of hopelessness?

One of the most important quotes I have ever seen came to me when reading *Les Miserables* by Victor Hugo so many years ago. That quote hit me like a lightening bolt and has stayed with me ever since. It is “If the soul is left in darkness, sins will be committed; the guilty one is not he who commits the sin but he who causes the darkness.”

If you think about it this quote really challenges us to think more deeply as human beings to consider why things are like they are for so many of my people who have made and are making bad decisions. The problem is that we do not as a society really do our best to produce democracies that are dedicated to making life better for everyone. Most of us just don’t care as long as we are comfortable and have everything we want.

Although we are making some progress for Indigenous people over the past few decades we still have not seen most treaties settled by

governments and we still don’t have clean drinking water in many remote Indigenous communities across this country.

To add insult to injury we have had to deal with impostors in the arts, business and academics claiming to be Indigenous to reap any rewards that have been afforded to my people by governments and organizations over the past few decades. It bothers me so much and saddens me to see these pretendindians reaping the benefits of their deception and without governments, businesses and organizations bothering to check the validity and proof of their connections to claiming Indigenous heritage. It is infuriating.

How are my people ever going to heal if this

kind of situation continues. I see now that there is a movement all across the planet where more right-wing and even fascist types of government are taking over and that really scares me. We see signs of this creeping far right-wing fascism all across this country and I can’t imagine how things are going to get better for any of us with these, nasty, racist, homophobic power brokers in place. What we really need soon is an Indigenous Prime Minister and members of parliament representing fair minded and generous parties. Let’s get behind that idea.

For more columns by Xavier Kataquapit visit underthenorthernsky.com

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Pilot project brings sports to First Nations youth

By Kinnukana, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

On August 25, 2023, the *First Nations Health Consortium* (Consortium), in partnership with *NHL Street*, *HEROs Hockey*, *Rocks and Rings*, and *Rock Solid Productions Inc.* officially launched a new pilot project at the annual *Youth Tee Pee Summit* in St Albert, Alberta. The pilot project focuses on providing two programs: *NHL Street Hockey* and *Egg Farmers Rocks & Rings Floor Curling* to First Nations children and youth across Alberta, with the goal of providing fun and healthy physical activities. Rob Kerr, Sport Advocate and Consortium organizer says that “people are excited about this! Sport recreation is right there with mental health, which is right in there with education, which is right in there with regular health, our health, and we need to be active.”

Traditionally, Indigenous peoples led healthy, active lifestyles that included daily activities such as hunting, fishing, food gathering and preparation. These activities helped Indigenous peoples maintain physical strength, fitness and health throughout all life stages from childhood to old age. Although these types of activities are still practiced in communities, many First Nations children today have become less physically active. The loss of traditional lifestyles has gone hand-in-hand with a decrease in physical activity and an increase in health problems that were unheard of in the past, such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease, addictions and substance abuse. There is also a high incidence of poor mental wellness and youth suicides. Research shows that physical activity is associated with better overall health, including better mental health. These new sport programs will provide more opportunities for First Nations children and youth to participate in physical activities in their communities in order to address these serious health issues.

The new pilot project will provide First Nations youth with an opportunity to become volunteer leaders in their communities. Youth Leader

Volunteers, with the assistance of leadership support, will establish and deliver one and/or both of the new programs available: *NHL Street Hockey* and *Rocks & Rings Floor Curling*. Kevin Hodgson, Executive Director HEROs Hockey and 2021 NHL Willie O’Ree Award Winner, inspired the youth at the summit, and said, “Young people in this room, we can’t do this without you. This program is built to allow you to show the leaders that you could be. We know you can’t be leaders without something to lead. This is your chance to take this back to your community, be those leaders and we will be there to support you and assist you. We are so excited to be able to work with you.”

One of the programs that youth will have the opportunity to lead is *NHL Street*. This is a new street hockey league launched by the National Hockey League (NHL). The league is designed to provide kids and their families with the best of what youth sports can be: having fun, staying active, making friends, and creating great memories. The *NHL Street* program aims at breaking down barriers of accessibility and affordability. It is designed to appeal to today’s kids and their families with low-cost, low-pressure, and culturally relevant programming.

The other program that will be made available to First Nations communities is the *Egg Farmers Rocks & Rings* program. It is presented by Curling Canada and is Canada’s acclaimed elementary school program that connects students to the Olympic sport of curling and the Paralympic sport of wheelchair curling. *Rocks & Rings* brings curling into schools with interactive physical education programs and classroom resources. Using *FloorCurl* custom curling equipment designed for use in gyms, the program gets students curling right in the school with no ice required. The equipment and programming also includes an introduction to wheelchair curling for a truly inclusive experience.

Abbie Damley, Director of Operations, *Egg Farmers Rocks & Rings* presented to the youth at the launch and stated, “The great thing about *Rocks & Rings* is that we can engage people of all ages and of all abilities and we can put them together in one game. We reach kids who are 3-4 years old, but we also deal with 55 plus crowds. We engage families and persons with disabilities.”

Greydon Yee Louison, a Saskatchewan First Nations Curler and Partner at *UnitedWeCurl* also spoke at the launch. Greydon started curling at the age of eight years old and has been curling



Abbie Damley and Greydon Yee Louison.

for the past fifteen years. When he started, he struggled to throw the rock and had to use two hands and still couldn’t get it over the hog line, but he liked to sweep. At the end of his first year of curling, he was finally able to get over the hog line. It was a huge accomplishment for him, and he wanted to keep going to see what more he can do.

Greydon’s interest in curling also led him to an opportunity to create a First Nations designed curling broom. When he was at a professional event in Yorkton, he had the opportunity to meet Erin Flowers from *Goldline Curling* while purchasing new shoes. They chatted and shared contact information. A year later she contacted him to see if he would like to design a unique First Nations broom. Erin wanted a curler with a First Nations background to make the design. Greydon’s broom design has symbols for *Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women*, an eagle and a circle, feather, peace pipe, sweet grass, and he added the number 16 in honour of his grandfather who had past away. It means a lot for him to curl with it. Other people always ask him questions about it, and it allows him the chance to share his First Nations background with them.

The youth at the summit had the opportunity to try out the new programs and meet Andrew Ference, *NHL Street*, *NHL Alumni*, *Former Oilers Captain*, and *Stanley Cup Champion ’11* winner. Andrew believes that hockey should not be limited to the version that is played on the ice and that some of the best hockey memories come from off-ice play, with nothing more than a stick, a ball and open space. The great thing about these new programs is that they will allow First Nation communities to participate in sports that don’t require ice rinks and families can participate together.

The Consortium will work with interested First Nations communities to implement this pilot project. The Consortium Sports and Recreation Coordinator will reach out to each First Nation regarding provided equipment, training, program outlines and expectations. Interested First Nations can email sportsandrecreation@abfnhc.com for more information.



Andrew Ference at the Teepee Summit.

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Devon Councillor inspires at Treaty 6 Day Celebration

By Chevi Rabbit, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

During its third annual Treaty 6 Day celebration, the town of Devon reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to Indigenous culture and the pursuit of reconciliation. Mayor Ray Ralph officially declared August 23rd as Treaty Six Day, recognizing the historical significance of Treaty Six and the enduring connection between Indigenous Peoples and Settler-Canadians. In an exclusive interview, ANNews spoke with Mitch Wincentaylo, the Organizer and Town of Devon Indigenous consultant, and Devon Councillor Mike Hanly, both of whom played central roles in this year's event.

For Mitch Wincentaylo, the day is an opportunity for education, learning, and the celebration of the Treaty relationship, with a strong emphasis on Devon's role as a treaty partner in this sacred covenant. He also envisions this event evolving into a broader regional partnership, encompassing municipalities, First Nations, and various organizations.

Councillor Mike Hanly took the spotlight during Devon's Treaty Six Day celebration. His story is a testament to Canada's rich shared history, deeply rooted in both Métis and Indigenous heritage.

Hanly began by reflecting on the day's activities. "Today, we delved into land-based education," he said. "Allow me to share a bit about my personal history as a proud Métis man. Exploring my heritage has been a lifelong aspiration. My father, who shared the same desire to learn and pass on our traditions, embarked on a challenging journey."

Hanly continued, "Throughout his life, my dad worked tirelessly to impart knowledge whenever he could. He took the initiative to study Cree, ensuring that whenever we encountered Elders, I had the privilege of meeting them and acquiring valuable skills. This was invaluable to me, as it allowed me to uncover the story of how our culture had gradually eroded over time."

He then shifted the focus to his second great-grandfather, Antoine Lhronnelle, who stood as a courageous figure in their family history. "Antoine was the brave soul who chose to take legal action against the Crown," Hanly explained. "He implored them to uphold the law and prosecute those committing fraud against the Métis people. While he received permission to go to the Supreme Court, he was thwarted by exorbitant fees and intimidation tactics."

Hanly delved deeper into the historical context, recounting the challenging circumstances faced by his family and the Métis community in

Edmonton. "In the days before World War Two, Edmonton was a place marred by sectarian violence brought by colonialism," he shared. "Tensions between Anglicans and Catholics ran high, and the French Métis community faced strong prejudice, essentially being pushed out of the city."

Métis scrip, intended to empower the community, was manipulated, and turned into a fraudulent system, he explained. "People were permitted to exploit and steal the scrip, using it to build up Edmonton's economy falsely," Hanly said. "This abuse of power led to the vilification and shame of the Métis people, with influential figures like Frank Oliver consistently demonizing them while profiting from their struggles."

Hanly reflected on the negative impact of prominent, historical figures like Frank Oliver in Edmonton's relationship with Indigenous Peoples. Oliver, who held office as a Member of Parliament and Minister of the Interior in the early 20th century, implemented policies such as forced relocations of Indigenous communities and dispossession of their lands, which had lasting detrimental effects on Indigenous Peoples in the region.

Hanly then turned to the present, noting the ongoing efforts to uncover the truth about the past. "The truth is coming to light, particularly regarding individuals like McDougall, Oliver, and Secord, who played a role in the misappropriation of my family's ancestors' scrip," he revealed. "Historical research is strengthening our case, providing vindication for our claims."

Hanly spoke passionately about his family's experiences as he shared his own journey. "When I take my kids to Fort Edmonton, I used to explain the history and the significance of the places where individuals like McDougall, Oliver, and Secord operated," he said. "Sadly, these figures are no longer acknowledged, as they have chosen to ignore the dark history they represent."

He continued, "Contrary to some assumptions, I've never been ashamed of my culture in my daily life. While there were times when I held back, I share the same sentiment as my grandmother, Alice Lhronnelle. I don't believe she ever felt shame. When she passed away, and the pictures depicting her native heritage were taken down, hidden as best she could, her beadwork remained concealed within a picture frame on the wall, visible only to herself. In her heart, she never abandoned who she was, and I believe fear, not shame, played a role in her actions."



Devon Town Councillor Mike Hanly.

Hanly concluded with a call to action. "For Métis and all communities, we must strive for truth and reconciliation. This process begins with uncovering and sharing the truth about our history. Once we establish this foundation of honesty, we have a solid platform upon which to build reconciliation."

He emphasized the shared desire for justice and a better future. "I genuinely believe that everyone who comprehends the reality of our history wants to make things right," Hanly stated. "They can see how our communities continue to suffer due to the failure to fulfill our treaty obligations. By honouring these commitments, such as the Medicine Chest clause, we can address the challenges faced by communities like downtown Edmonton. Embracing the truth benefits us all."

In closing, Hanly acknowledged the importance of the promises made in the treaties and the wisdom of the Elders who were part of those agreements. "These treaties, if genuinely honoured, would already be guiding us toward the solutions we need to address the issues we face today," he concluded.



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Dr. Tyler White was destined to be a leader in health services

By Kinnukana, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.

Dr. Tyler White, a member of the Siksika First Nation in Alberta, is an inspirational, visionary leader and advocate for his Nation. Tyler is also known as NaaatoyiiPiitawotaan, his Blackfoot name meaning *Holy Eagle Shield* which was gifted to him by Blackfoot Elder Tom Crane Bear. Tyler has passionately served as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Siksika Health Services, a second-generation Senior Manager of his Tribe, for the past twenty-three years and does a lot of work to inspire youth. He is also President of the *First Nations Health Consortium of Alberta*, and he sits on numerous boards and committees.

Tyler was raised on the Siksika First Nation by his amazing mother and father, Melvin and Freda White who had a strong influence on his life. His dad was the Finance Division Manager for the tribe back in the 70s and 80s and his mother was a teacher and principal in the local school for 35 years. His parents were also proud foster parents for many of those years. Tyler said that his late parents impacted him tremendously and he was very fortunate to have them and other positive role models in his life, such as his grandparents, great grandparents, aunts and uncles. Tyler comes from a very large family and credits them for correcting him when he was out of line and giving him direction and guidance. This helped him to build a foundation of respect and values, and a bit of a blueprint for how to live his own life.

Tyler is married to Krista White and together they have two children, Alexis (passed) and Drew White. Tyler's wife Krista is also one of his biggest supporters. Prior to becoming the CEO for the Nation, Tyler worked as an analyst, negotiator and manager for the Siksika Indian Self-Government Process. He was encouraged to apply for the CEO of the Siksika Health Services by his wife and family. The first time he applied for the position, Tyler was not successful. The new CEO did not last long in the role, and it was advertised again. Tyler reapplied but was not successful the second time either. His wife told him to be patient as it will probably be advertised again. At the time, Tyler did not want to pursue it a third time. However, when it reopened again, he applied, and his persistence paid off as he got the job.

Tyler often thinks about how he ended up working in the health field as his background was in political science. He moved into the health field at the encouragement of his wife and family who saw that he had potential as a leader. They knew that he would have a vision, develop a

process and be good at building and leading teams. His family believed in him and that gave him the confidence to pursue the job. Health is so complex and is one of the most demanding areas within First Nations across Canada. Tyler felt that it was up to him to embrace the opportunity and stated that "it's really up to you what you do with that opportunity, you can squander it, you can be status quo, or you can push hard." Tyler's mother always told him that you are never promised another day, so he really maximizes his days by working hard.

Tyler recalls his first week of work which was an orientation for him. Two of his biggest influences in his new job were Elders. He was surprised that they were the ones giving him an orientation and not his manager or any other professionals or politicians. He remembers going in to the first meeting as a young whipper snapper, wet behind the ears, and a know-it-all just out of University. He felt like he was going to dazzle the Elders and started to talk lots. He said that right away they interrupted him and told him to stop and just listen – *just listen!* Tyler said that to this day, that's probably the best advice that he has received, and he has used it in many different circumstances.

Tyler was also guided by Chief Leo Pretty Young Man who was a Chief on his Nation for almost 30 years, which is pretty rare to find nowadays. After he retired, the Chief would go into Tyler's office regularly and share all his life experiences with him. Tyler would listen and not ask him why he was spending time with him. The Chief would stay for a couple of hours every week talking to Tyler for over a nine-month period before he passed away. Afterwards, Tyler realized how profound it was to hear all his stories and teachings. They culminated in shaping Tyler's career. Tyler believes he was able to listen and really build on the great work that people before him, like the Chief, were able to do.

As CEO, Tyler was the first Indigenous person to sit on the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta and the Alberta Recreation Parks Association. One of Tyler's hallmarks is building strong relationships. Tyler works with sports and professional teams to educate them on Indigenous people and create partnerships. He speaks at all kinds of events and functions to people of all levels from government and industry. He assisted



Tyler and Krista White. (Photo supplied).

the Nation to form a partnership with Nike, 15 years ago, that offers a variety of activities and events for the community, including sports, fitness, and cultural activities. The Nation uses sports as a platform to address health and mental wellness challenges.

Tyler says his personal life is very different than his professional life. At home, he is ultra conservative and enjoys just spending time with family. At work, he is very social and likes to take risks. He gets the biggest motivation from taking on issues and challenges. Tyler says when he walks into the health centre, it's like a switch goes on. He thinks very proactively, takes calculated risks, creates teams and builds partnerships to address issues. He recognizes the skills, experiences and potential of others. Tyler says that "people at times dwell too much on the negatives and don't really look at all the positives. I really come from a strength based position and like to inspire others."

Tyler said he always tells people: "I have had more failures than I have had successes, more heartache than I have had happy days. But I think those are all the things that shape you. I think they give you the experience, the confidence and at times where moments of doubt are darkness, those are the things that get you through those periods." Tyler feels fortunate to be in his position of influence where he can make an impact. His advice to anyone who wants to take a leadership role in their Nation is to listen, be respectful, be grateful, don't be afraid to move forward or make those hard decisions, build strong relationships and teams and create an environment where everyone has opportunities to be empowered.

On September 22, 2021, Dr. Tyler White was granted an honorary Doctorate of Law Degree from Old Sun Community College to recognize his exemplary service to the community. He is also the recipient of many awards including the Health Management Award of Excellence.

Canadian music icon, Robbie Robertson, singing with angels

By Terry Lusty, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The last member of the much-heralded group, The Band, has left Planet Earth.

Jaime Royal Robertson, better-known as Robbie Robertson, is gone. Gone to Big Sky Country to join the likes of other huge legends in the music industry; people like Buddy Holly, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Elvis and a raft of other icons - all giants in their own right. They each put their own indelible stamp on the music scene and, indeed, on music history.

Robertson, at age 80, passed away August 9, 2023, surrounded by family members after a lengthy bout of pancreatic cancer, according to American media sources.

Along with the other greats, he was at the heart and soul of a generation that mined, defined, shaped and altered an era of generational

musicology in the genres of folk, country, roots, gospel and blues.

It was a time when America was struggling to find some sense of self-identity while mired in an encompassing cloud of smoke (pot) and drugs (heroin). It was a changing time, a transitional period during which the hippie movement, free love and individuality prevailed.

It was also a time when a young eastern Canadian of Jewish and Mohawk/Cayuga parentage was feeling his own way around - establishing himself in his recently-adopted adult world which, co-incidentally, included his passion for music. Not knowing quite where and how he fit into the scheme of things,

It was in the early 1960's that Robertson hooked up with one of Canada's foremost

entertainers. That man was the legendary Manitoban, Ronnie Hawkins and his band, The Hawks. By and large, the popular rockabilly group performed mostly around the honky tonks and pubs of fast-paced Toronto where Robertson lived. It was a natural fit, so he threw in with the group.

But Robertson tired of the gigs and a few years later, an inner desire drove him to move on to other pastures.

So it happened that he picked up three other Canadian musicians and songwriters to form his own group. They were: Rick Danko (singer/songwriter), Garth Hudson (multi-musician) and, Richard Manuel (keyboards). He also added Arkansan drummer, Levon Helm. The new group struggled but managed until the latter 1960s when they were recruited as backup for a then-rising artist by the name of Bob Dylan. Dylan, at the time, had been added as a featured entertainer for a highly publicized concert labelled Woodstock. It was terrific exposure for

Continued on page 11

Community healing across First Nations

By Chevi Rabbit, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

In First Nation communities, the rhythmic pulse of the powwow resonates as an inviting heartbeat, welcoming all to partake in the sacred circle of life that defines this vibrant community. Within this circle, Chiefs from across Canada frequently gather, offering guidance and wisdom to powwow families.

At the Samson Cree Nation Powwow last month, before a crowd of nearly 900 enthusiastic powwow dancers, Chief Tony Alexis stepped forward, representing the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation. "On behalf of my people, I extend my heartfelt wishes for the success of this remarkable celebration here in Samson," he said. Chief Alexis carries forward a legacy of Cree leadership, being a fifth-generation leader and a descendant of Mitaushin Aranazhi, known as 'Alexis Akanas' in his Treaty Government name.

"It's truly remarkable to witness the power and enthusiasm of this event," Chief Alexis remarked. "I hope to express my heartfelt appreciation for the warm welcome and remarkable success of the Samson Cree Nation celebration."

Chief Alexis conveyed his gratitude to the powwow community, including the talented singers and dancers who infuse this event with vibrancy. He also recognized the dedicated individuals who painstakingly craft the beautiful regalia that enhances the splendor of this occasion.

He acknowledged the significant contributions of seamstresses, beaders, and numerous Indigenous families who have cultivated a thriving industry centered around crafting authentic regalia for powwow families. These skilled artisans play a crucial role in creating the distinctive appearance that we all admire. Their work elevates the grandeur of gatherings like the Samson Cree Nation Powwow, where thousands of people come together to witness a cultural renaissance and experience living history firsthand.

Chief Alexis also extended his appreciation to Chief Saddleback and his council, the people of Samson, esteemed elders, ceremonial leaders, knowledge keepers, and all those who uphold their community in a positive light. He assured them that their efforts were not overlooked, and his thoughts and prayers were with them.

"The theme for the Samson Cree Powwow is a path of healing and welcoming. This resonates deeply with all our communities as we grapple with various forms of trauma and hardship. Whether it's the loss of loved ones, struggles with addiction, or other challenges we face, our prayers and hopes are united. We think as one, as if we are all children of the same mother, standing together in unity."

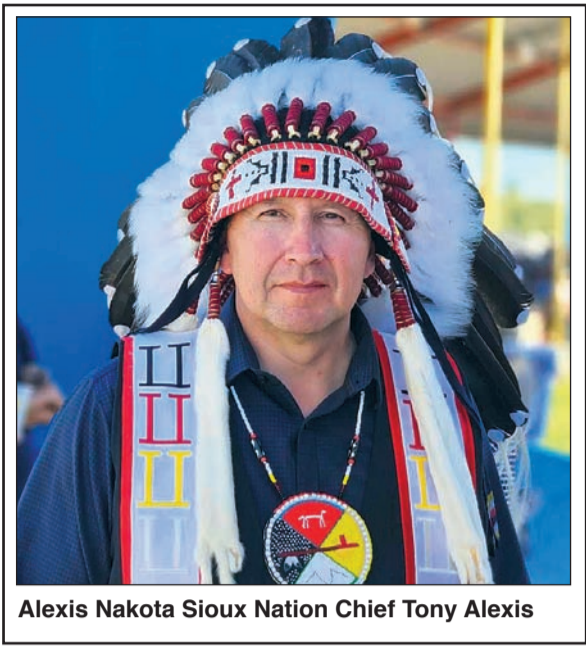
"I stand here to offer my prayers and ask my Elders and fellow community members to do the same, not just for you but for all of us confronting these issues in our respective communities. Most importantly, I am here to show my support. My uncles have roots here, and I have family ties to this place. It's essential always to make time to remember and stand by our loved ones. With that said, I am deeply thankful to be here. In Alexis, we always extend an open invitation for you to join us during the second week of July. We hope to see you next year," concluded Chief Alexis.

Following his impassioned speech, Chief Alexis engaged in an interview with on-site reporter Chevi Rabbit. By his side was his First Lady Stephanie Alexis, who exuded positivity as they represented the Alexis First Nation community, embodying generational leadership with inclusive traditional family values.

"For us, it was always a time of celebration, a time to reflect on making it through the tough winter and ceremony time," said Chief Alexis. These gatherings symbolize gratitude, recognition, and honour for their heritage and achievements.

Indigenous traditions, like powwows, are inclusive, regardless of one's role within the community, he asserted. "When you're there, there's a place for everybody." His message was clear: young people should recognize their place within these cultural events. "Once you get there," he added, "you'll find someone to provide you with the teaching and guidance you need to become part of it."

Chief Alexis also emphasized the crucial role of youth development within Indigenous cultures. He described the rites of passage, commencing with physical development at age 12, followed by emotional, mental, and spiritual growth. "By the



time they emerge," he explained, "we hope they are contributing members of the community, society, and the tribe." Nonetheless, he acknowledged existing gaps in this process and stressed the importance of addressing these gaps to heal the community from trauma and mental health challenges.

Chief Alexis concluded the interview by underscoring the importance of self-care and maintaining balance across mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of life.

Throughout Canada, powwows continue to serve as a powerful catalyst for cultural pride, resilience, and unity among Indigenous communities. Chief Tony Alexis's words will undoubtedly be remembered as an inspiring call to honour their traditions, support their youth, and strengthen their communities in the face of challenges.

A Glimpse into the Alexis First Nation's Rich History:

The Alexis First Nation boasts a rich history, with Chief Alexis signing the adhesion to Treaty Six in 1877 on behalf of the Nakota people. Established in 1880, the Alexis Reserve (No. 133) is nestled near the sacred Lake Wakamne, with headquarters some 85 km west of Edmonton. While maintaining strong ties to their traditional hunting territories, the community has evolved with contemporary lifestyles over the years. Despite intermarriage with neighboring Cree communities, Alexis preserves its Nakota cultural uniqueness, celebrated through rich oral traditions.

Robbie Robertson

cont. from p 10

Dylan - and also, for Robertson and his band.

Both he and Dylan were talented songwriters as well as self-taught musicians who got along well with one another. Quickly, Robertson established himself as the group's lead guitarist and songwriter. Following Woodstock, they continued as backup to Dylan and, consequently, concert goers began referring to them as "the band," meaning Dylan's band. In the process, the name stuck and the group went on to adopt and be known throughout music's circles as, The Band.

In the late '60s, they put together three albums - *Music from Big Pink* (1968), *The Band* (1969), and *Stage Fright* (1970). A few of their better-known singles were: *The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down*, *Up On Cripple Creek*, *The Weight*, and *It Makes No Difference*.

They toured for a while with Dylan but eventually split and hit the road to tour on their own. Occasionally, they'd regroup to back some of Dylan's concerts. In '74, for example, they helped Dylan in a 40-show tour which also resulted in a later album, *Planet Waves*. In 1976, he worked tirelessly, helping produce a San Francisco concert at the Winterland Ballroom that included such luminaries as Neil Young, Bob Dylan, Muddy Waters, Van Morrison, and others.

Dylan and Robertson remained close friends. And Dylan truly admired Robertson's talents. In fact, he once proclaimed that Robertson, "was the only mathematical guitar genius I've ever run into!" And Robertson always availed himself to assist Dylan when called upon.

Aside from their influence on the general music scene, Robertson and The Band were also an influence on such world-renowned icons as Eric Clapton, George Harrison, Elton John and many more. At one time, Clapton left his very successful group, Cream, to travel to the U.S.A. with an intense desire to join up with The Band. It never happened though; it wasn't in the cards.

Speaking of greatness, many of Dylan's and Robertson's compositions were covered by high profile icons in the industry, people such as Joan Baez, Aretha Franklin, The Staple Singers, among others.

When The Band split up in the mid-70s, Robertson remained very active and it regrouped in the '80s to back Robertson as a solo artist. He produced a debut solo album in 1986, made another album in '91 and helped produced others for Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, The Grateful Dead, Neil Diamond and Ringo Star. His last solo album, *Sinematic*, was released in 2019.

In 1994 The Band was inducted into the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame.

Renowned filmmaker Martin Scorsese produced a documentary entitled *The Last Waltz*

that featured The Band. He followed that with a 1991 documentary about the American music scene, entitled, *Once Were Brothers*. It's been subject to a lot of airing on TV stations and particularly on APTN television over the last couple of years. Needless to say, Robertson played a big role in that production. How involved on projects together were the two? Consider this: Robertson developed musical scores for many of his established productions including: *Casino*, *The Color of Money*, *Gangs of New York*, *Killers of the Flower Moon*, *Raging Bull*, and *Wolf of Wall Street*. One repeatable compliment about Robertson that came from Scorsese is, "He was a giant [and] his effect on the art form was profound and lasting."

As for Dylan, he wasn't the only artist to lean on and rely on Robertson's talents. After The Band broke up and Robertson toured solo, he was known to often help out his former bandmates with special projects of their own - concerts, recordings and other productions.

No, he never really left the music business. He was always dabbling in it in some manner or other. After all, it really and truly was his passion.

Robertson leaves behind: First wife, Dominique Bourgois and three children - Alexandra, Sebastien, and Delphine, and second wife, Janet Zuccarini, and five grandchildren.

R.I.P. Robbie.



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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.



**Injured?
We have answers.**



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



SEPTEMBER 30
**NATIONAL DAY FOR
TRUTH &
RECONCILIATION**



Indian Residential Schools
Day Scholars

Day Scholars, you have until
October 4, 2023
to submit a claim

Find out if you're eligible using our online tool at
JusticeForDayScholars.com
1-877-877-5786

**Day Scholars attended a Federal
Indian Residential School during the
day only and did not stay overnight**

