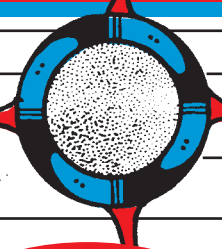


Distributing across Alberta for over 40 years!



ALBERTA NATIVE NEWS



Visit us now at
albertanativenews.com



Grad rediscovers Indigenous roots, becomes first in her family to earn a degree



Athabasca University grad Kethra Stewart.

Athabasca University (AU) is committed to making education more accessible, no matter where you live, work, or learn from. With a mission to remove barriers and open doors, AU provides flexible programs and support services designed to help every learner succeed.

Kethra Stewart is an Indigenous scholar, musician, triathlete, and role model to her daughter.

Every morning for the past five years, Kethra Stewart (Master of Health Studies '25) has woken at 6:30 a.m. to make breakfast and pack lunch for her daughter, Keira, before rushing out the door to make the daily school drop-off. Once the school bell rings and goodbye hugs are exchanged, Stewart shifts focus from full-time mom to full-time university student.

“When she’s at school, I’m at my desk. Even after she goes to bed, sometimes I’m up until 11 or 12 o’clock at night working,” she says.

When she wasn’t studying, the single mom from Saddle Lake Cree Nation who now lives in Kelowna, B.C., was likely busy with other family activities such as teaching Keira cello—a lifelong passion she’s proud to share—or shuttling to and from swimming lessons, ballet, powwow dances, or kung fu. On top of it all, Stewart trains as a triathlete.

In other words, the days are full and evenings are long, but she wouldn’t have it any other way as she strives to create the best life possible for the family. And Athabasca University (AU) played a big role in making it happen.

“I’m the first of my family to get a degree. I’m the first of my family to do a master’s degree, to be brought up in both Western views and also learning the Indigenous Worldview,” Stewart says.

Everything Stewart has achieved, including her recent Master of Health Studies degree from AU, would be unrecognizable to her younger self. The decades in between have been marked by healing and self-discovery, including a reconnection with her Indigenous roots, and gaining knowledge to help ensure that Indigenous People have access to timely, culturally safe health care.

In search of self

Stewart is one of three children, but she was separated from her birth family at six months old and placed with a foster family and later adopted. She grew up in the Edmonton region as an only child and excelled in music, especially cello, which she started playing at age three.

During her early teens, she started struggling with self-identity and turned to drugs and alcohol to “mask how I was feeling.” The road to recovery wasn’t easy, but she persevered and eventually went back to school and became an emergency medical responder, later upgrading to become an emergency medical technician.

Stewart’s interest in health care grew, and she earned a health-care aide certificate and later a diploma in massage therapy. By 2017, Stewart decided to build on her education and pursue a bachelor’s degree in health sciences.

Rediscovering Indigenous Knowledge and Traditions

Two years later, Stewart and Keira moved to the British Columbia interior where they started exploring their heritage, attending powwows, meeting Elders, raising awareness of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and joining The Women of Turtle Island.

“I’ve been really blessed to meet a lot of people along the way who have helped us and inspired us to become part of this community.”

The combination of worldviews—Two-Eyed Seeing—also influenced Stewart’s education. She started learning about Indigenous health, health policy, and health promotion during the final year of her bachelor’s degree and decided to make that the focus of her research at AU through the Master of Health Studies program.

Working to improve health care for Indigenous People

In addition to the flexibility of online learning, which allowed her to study and raise a child, one of the appeals of the thesis program was that she could choose a research topic that combined her life experiences as an Indigenous woman but also 20 years of professional experience in health care. Her research focuses on Indigenous health and health equity to improve cultural safety training among all health professions, particularly in massage therapy.

“There are a lot of inequities happening still within hospitals, clinical settings, even massage therapists, pharmacists, acupuncturists, and holistic providers. The more I looked into that, I found that a lot of people aren’t even aware.”

Stewart credits AU and the Master of Health Studies program for providing opportunities to engage with Indigenous communities, especially when it came to her capstone project—the culmination of two years of research into health equity and promotion.

The work can’t—and won’t—stop. Thanks to her master’s experience at AU, Stewart hopes to take another step academically and professionally by going to medical school.

Through it all, Stewart’s inspiration to succeed continues to be Keira. “I knew that if I just applied myself, I could get the highest education possible. And here I am getting a master’s degree. It’s crazy. It’s unbelievable. It’s amazing. I’m very blessed and very grateful.”

Your future can start here. Learn more about AU’s programs, flexible online study options at athabascau.ca.





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.





The Grand Entry at the 2026 Calgary Stampede Powwow was viewed by thousands. Photo by Terry Lusty.

Indigenous presence strong at 2026 Calgary Stampede

By Terry Lusty, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Calgary Stampede grounds and events have experienced considerable growth and new developments over the past few years. The old Corral Building is gone, so is the old BMO structure that was recently reconstructed and is now an impressive facility which houses large spaces and halls for functions and events of all sorts. It provides a great deal more space than

in previous years for its market area, exhibits and arts and crafts displays. Immediately northeast of the BMO Centre, the new arena is rapidly undergoing construction to replace the older Saddledome, home of the Calgary Flames hockey club and serves as a concert hall for numerous big names in the music industry. This year it played host again to the annual Stampede Powwow, a colourful and high-energy event that is especially magnetic, drawing innumerable foreign tourists as well as a bevy of Canadians from throughout the country. And while the midway rides and games strongly appeal to the adventurous souls out there, the chuckwagon races, rodeo events, grandstand show, and Indigenous Relay Races (horseback) are so captivating that the grandstand seating at GMC Stadium is so packed and

bursting at its seams, that even ‘standing room only’ is overwhelming. Indeed, it provides a popular and exciting afternoon and evening to all sorts of Stampede goers! As well, the Stampede, since Day One back in 1912, always welcomes the annual return of the First Nations people from Treaty Seven territory of southern Alberta – The Blackfoot, Kainai, Peigan, Stoney and Tsuut’ina tribes. A formidable attraction when competing with others during Stampede Week, the Elbow River Camp in Stampede’s northeast section of the grounds, never fails to attract thousands of curious and supportive individuals. Some visit the camp to see “real” First Nations people, many for their first time ever. And there’s much to take in. Aside from some of the documented history of

Continued on page 12



Ty Taypotat riding Flap Jack in Calgary. Photo by Terry Lusty.

YOU BELONG

AT CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Get a free Library card - FREE for all residents of Calgary and surrounding Indigenous communities.

- Indigenous Services
- Books and eResources
- Arts and Culture
- Programs
- Events
- And more!

calgarylibrary.ca/join

Support Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary — Help Us Build Hope, Healing, and Home

At the Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary (AFCC), we believe in the power of community, culture, and connection.

Every day, AFCC provides vital programs and services that support Indigenous individuals, children, youth, families, and Elders—creating culturally grounded spaces for healing, belonging, and opportunity.

Your donation helps us:

- Support Indigenous housing initiatives for those facing homelessness or fleeing violence
- Provide cultural programming, ceremonies, and Elder supports
 - Deliver wellness, outreach, and wraparound services
- Create safe spaces where Indigenous people can thrive

100% of your donation goes directly back to the community. Every dollar makes a real and meaningful impact.

Donate today by scanning the QR code. Together, we can build stronger futures.

Many Nations. One Family.™

www.afcccalgary.org
403-270-7379
Mon-Fri: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

BRANDED CONTENT



FortisAlberta expands its wildfire prevention efforts with new public safety measures

Extreme wildfire conditions are becoming more common across Alberta, with recent years seeing an increase in both the frequency and scale of wildfire activity. While the risks are a growing concern, there is positive work underway to help reduce the risk.

FortisAlberta takes a proactive approach to wildfire safety

FortisAlberta’s wildfire preparedness efforts combine advanced technology, real-time awareness of local conditions and coordination with local authorities. This approach supports year-round wildfire mitigation measures, including regular inspections, vegetation management around power lines, early-warning technology to detect issues and infrastructure upgrades to improve resilience in wildfire-prone areas.

In rare cases, if conditions such as strong winds, low humidity and dry vegetation create extreme wildfire risk, FortisAlberta may implement a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) as a last resort safety measure. A PSPS involves temporarily turning off electricity in targeted areas where operating power lines could increase the risk of wildfire during these extreme conditions.



Although a PSPS event would be a rare occurrence, it’s important that individuals and businesses are aware and prepared.

If conditions warrant, we will notify customers and coordinate with municipalities and emergency partners. We would also leverage social media to help warn residents and businesses that we will be shutting off power.

Denis Andre, Manager, Land Environment & Sustainability at FortisAlberta



This advanced notice helps residents and businesses prepare, particularly customers who rely on medical devices that require electricity. To stay informed, update your contact information with the retailer that issues your utility bill.

A community approach to wildfire mitigation

“Preparing for wildfire risk is a shared responsibility,” says Lorena Charest, Crisis and Wildfire Communications Strategist. “Staying ready helps everyone. Steps such as keeping devices charged, assembling an emergency kit and staying informed about wildfire conditions and potential power outages can make a meaningful difference.”

Alberta’s provincial government advises individuals to take proactive steps to build wildfire resilience for their properties and be prepared.



Clear dead wood, pine needles, debris and firewood within 1.5 metres of your home to reduce wildfire risk.



Stay informed about local conditions and update your contact information with the retailer that issues your utility bill.



Build an emergency kit with water, non-perishable food, a flashlight, radio, medications and important documents.



Have an evacuation plan for your household, including pets and livestock.

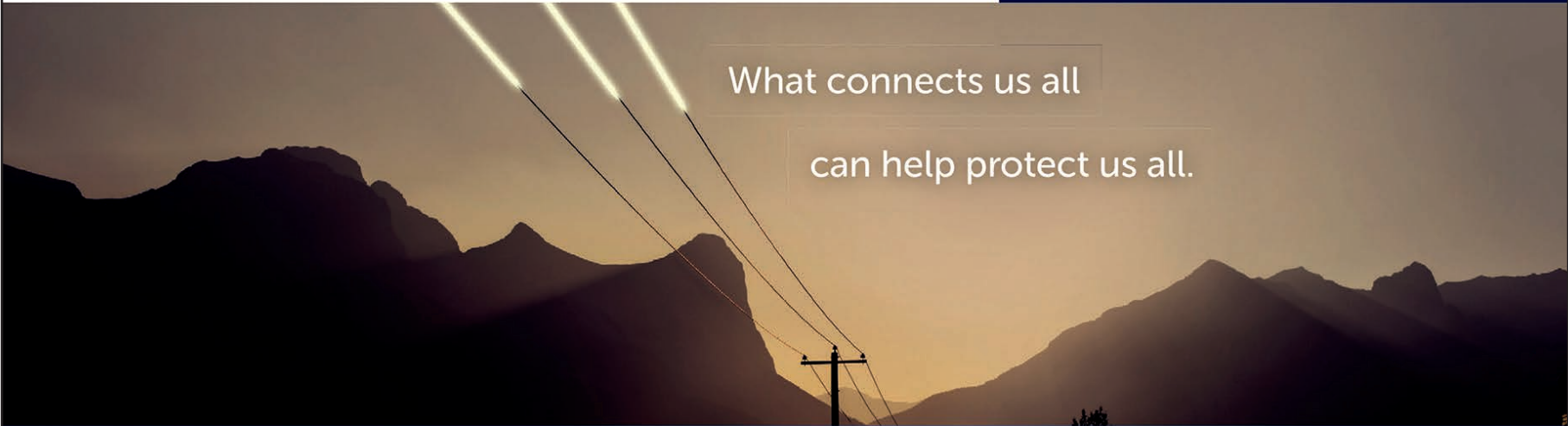


Keep devices and medical equipment charged and check on neighbours who may need help.



Follow Alberta Wildfire fire bans and restrictions. When permitted, fully extinguish firepits and burn barrels.

Visit alberta.ca/wildfire-preparedness for more.
This is intended for general information only.



What connects us all
can help protect us all.

For more information on PSPS and how to stay safe this season, visit fortisalberta.com/psps

These images are for illustrative purpose only. Remember to keep a safe distance away from power lines. For more information visit fortisalberta.com/safety

**FORTIS
ALBERTA**

The line that connects us all

EPSB honours Indigenous graduates

By Regan Lipes, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A high school graduation is a truly magical time, full of hope, inspiration, and forward-gazing dreams. Even the most cynical of young people cannot deny the intoxicating atmosphere of endless possibilities. Achieving this milestone might not be as cheesy as depicted in classic teen-movies, but this really is a moment in life that signifies so much more than just completing high school; it is a right of passage.

Edmonton Public Schools has begun an annual tribute to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis graduates. Clarice Anderson, EPSB’s Supervisor of Curriculum and Learning Supports, told *Alberta Native News* that this initiative, which showcases a work of art dedicated to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis graduates, not only celebrates their accomplishments but supports local Indigenous talent as well.

“We know how important it is for students to see themselves authentically reflected in their environment. The artists are Indigenous and their work reflects their cultures, communities, and everyday realities that students can relate to. It’s essential that we provide them with these solid role models, especially as we send them out into the world,” she explained. “The work that is selected honours the students and their communities.”

What is heartfully moving about this undertaking is that the work is displayed prominently in EPSB schools. "This year, we provided a print of the art piece to all of our schools so that students, staff, and families can enjoy it," she noted. "Students can see themselves meaningfully represented, which helps to create a sense of belonging." This initiative empowers students who may not have graduated yet, as they begin to see themselves reflected in the environment. "We even noticed that graduates were taking selfies in front of this year’s work," added Anderson thoughtfully.

This year’s selected piece was created by local artist Linda Wright. In a separate interview with *Alberta Native News*, she commented on the inception of her journey stating: “I first saw the call for proposals on Facebook of all places; somebody had tagged me, and I was excited by

the prospect. I am Nihtat Gwich’in from Inuvik, but Edmonton is a city that has embraced me, and where I’ve made my home and cultivate community, so doing something like this for EPSB Indigenous, First Nations, Inuit, and Metis graduates was incredible!”

Wright graciously expressed how humbled she was to have been selected as the showcased artist of 2026. “I think that if there had been a programme like this when I went to high school, it would have been something I’d have appreciated.” She elaborated further noting: “It’s not just our Indigenous, First Nations, Inuit, and Metis students that my work hopes to speak to. The piece is displayed in a way that everyone can see, engage with, and enjoy it. I think that part of what is accomplished is more than inclusivity, but the strengthening of larger communities.”

Wright’s painting is aptly titled: *The Journey and Path Forward*. In a speech to EPSB, Wright described her piece: “The beaded graduation cap and floral stole honours the graduate’s journey but also highlights the diversity of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people and their art. The Edmonton skyline and teepees acknowledge place, inclusion and community. An honour eagle feather connects the graduate to the Creator, symbolizing strength and wisdom. The Inukshuk sun represents hope, safety and guidance for the path ahead.” During her interview, Wright reflected on her repeated motif of the Edmonton skyline in many of her works as representative of what the city means to her.

The painting also includes Medicine Wheel teachings, and in her speech to the Board, Wright expanded on the added significance of each detail. “The animals of the Medicine Wheel act as spiritual guides, each teaching a core value that supports physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual balance. The Eagle represents Love and spiritual vision, helping us rise above challenges. The Bear represents Courage and healing, guiding introspection and emotional strength. The Wolf represents Humility and learning, reminding us to think clearly and make wise decisions. The Bison represents Respect and gratitude, symbolizing wisdom,



abundance, and community responsibility. Together, these teachings reflect the circle of life and our connection to all living beings, encouraging us to live with balance, humility, and respect.”

Wright had this advice for the class of 2026: “Be proud of who you are as you journey to find yourselves.” Wright herself began exploring her own cultural identity much later in life. "I find connection by learning traditional knowledge and creating art that reflects stories, people and culture," she explained. Wright hopes that this year’s graduates, and those to come, will have the freedom, support, and encouragement to discover their own identities.

A hearty congratulations to this year’s impressive graduates! Your families and communities are so proud of your accomplishments, and are all eager to see what amazing things you will achieve next. For local artists interested in submitting a proposal for the piece that will be dedicated to the graduates of 2027, a call has been posted on social media and can be accessed on Facebook and Instagram.



ABOUT US

The First Nations Housing Professionals Association (FNHPA) is a national, professional association exclusively serving the needs of individuals working for or aspiring to positions in housing with First Nations organizations.

We are the only Canada-wide centre for professional standards, certification and other services for existing and future First Nations housing professionals.

FNHPA SUPPORTS EXISTING AND FUTURE HOUSING PROFESSIONALS IN SERVING THEIR COMMUNITIES BY:

- Setting national standards
- Providing education and certification programs
- Encouraging communication and knowledge-sharing
- Offering real, personal support and availability to First Nations housing professionals in Canada

We also create and support programs designed to strengthen First Nation housing departments and advance their goals, including our sponsorship and upskilling programs.

Learn more about FNHPA and how we support First Nations housing professionals.



SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

(613) 702-4498 1-800-360-6114 info@fnhpa.ca





SMILEWORKS

Dental Excellence with a difference

WELCOMING NEW PATIENTS

OUR SERVICES

- 1) SMILE DESIGNING
- 2) DENTAL EMERGENCIES
- 3) CROWNS AND BRIDGES
- 4) DENTURES
- 5) ROOT CANAL TREATMENT
- 6) EXTRACTIONS
- 7) CLEANING, EXAM

NEW



PHILIPS sonicare 2300

Power Toothbrush
Brosse à dents électrique

Professional Professionnel

Available exclusively from your Dental Professional
Disponible exclusivement auprès de votre professionnel dentaire

Gentle yet effective cleaning
Un nettoyage doux, mais efficace

1 HANDLE, 1 CHARGER, 1 BRUSH HEAD
1 MANCHE, 1 CHARGEUR, 1 TÊTE DE BROSSÉ

ALL NEW PATIENTS WILL GET A FREE ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSH / FREE TEETH WHITENING

ACCEPTING CDCP, NIHB AND ALL OTHER INSURANCES

WHY CHOOSE US?

- Experienced & Caring Team
- State-of-the-Art Technology
- Comfortable Environment
- Flexible Payment Options
- Emergency Appointments Available

Book your appointment now:

(403)-255-7833

Suite #101 506 71 AVE SW
Calgary, AB T2V4V4

OUR SMILE IS OUR PRIORITY

Alberta legal group cuts reconciliation programs

By Chevi Rabbit, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

An Alberta Cree lawyer is raising concerns about the future of Indigenous education, mentorship, and equity initiatives within the legal profession following recent changes announced by the Law Society of Alberta.

Koren Lightning, an Alberta lawyer regulated by the Law Society of Alberta and a Cree lawyer with Thunderbird Law, said she was disappointed after learning several programs supporting Indigenous lawyers, law students, and equity initiatives would be ending or changing.

It's disappointing "when you see your work and work of other amazing lawyers disappear before your eyes," Lightning wrote.

The Law Society of Alberta announced in its July newsletter that "The Path: Your Journey Through Indigenous Canada" would no longer be mandatory for new lawyers joining the Law Society. The organization also announced that the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee was not re-established for the 2026-27 committee year, and that the Indigenous Mentorship Program and Indigenous Law Student Summer Employment Program would conclude at the end of their current program cycles in summer 2026.

Lightning said the changes were expected following provincial legislative changes, including the Regulated Professions Neutrality Act and amendments connected to the Legal Profession Act.

However, she said the announcement was still disappointing, particularly because of the lack of consultation with members of the legal profession.

"It was just wondering how the Law Society was going to respond and what they were going to remove," Lightning said. "So it was still disappointing that there wasn't a lot of consultation with their members."

When asked how lawyers can continue advancing reconciliation without mandatory Indigenous cultural competency training, Lightning pointed to differences between Alberta and other jurisdictions.

"It's mandatory in other provinces," Lightning said. "Ontario just made it mandatory."

She explained that Indigenous cultural education continues to be part of legal education in some areas, but additional training requirements can help address gaps for lawyers who may not have received that education.

"It's still taken in law school, but to fill that gap of people who haven't done the training, there's nothing we can require them to do," Lightning said.

Without a mandatory requirement, she said the responsibility shifts to individual lawyers to seek out education and better understand Indigenous

histories, communities, and experiences with the justice system.

"It would be up to them and their own personal accord to want to take that additional training," she said.

Lightning said she understands the legislation created limitations around mandatory cultural competency requirements. "The cultural competency training was mandatory, and the new Regulated Profession Neutrality Act does say that you can't make certain training mandatory if it affects their profession," she said.

However, she said her concerns extend beyond the removal of mandatory training and include the ending of programs that provided direct support to Indigenous students and lawyers. "There was the removal of the mentorship programs, the Indigenous Mentorship Program stopped abruptly, and then there was the removal of the Equity and Diversity Committee, and then there was the removal of the Indigenous Law Student Summer Employment Program," Lightning said.

She said members were not given advance notice before those decisions were announced. "We didn't know about the removal of those until we got a letter from the Law Society," she said. "There was no heads-up to Indigenous members or any other members of the profession at all."

Lightning said the Indigenous Mentorship Program was an important resource for Indigenous law students navigating the profession. "It was a place for them if they didn't have connections to be able to make connections with the mentor program or find a placement that was safe for Indigenous law students," she said.

The program helped students connect with experienced lawyers and mentors, find summer placements, and gain professional experience in supportive environments. It helped students throughout their careers, Lightning said.

With the program ending, Lightning said more responsibility may now fall on Indigenous lawyers, law firms, and other members of the legal profession to create those opportunities. "It'll have to go on the back of Indigenous lawyers to do some more work and support them," she said.

She said having the Law Society support the program provided important recognition and structure. "It was nice to have it supported by the Law Society and have a specific program for

that," Lightning said.

Lightning also emphasized that these changes are not limited to lawyers.

Regulated professions are occupations overseen by professional regulatory organizations that set standards for education, ethics, licensing, and public accountability. These include lawyers, doctors, nurses, social workers, engineers, and many other professions.

She said Albertans should consider how other professions will respond to changes involving cultural competency, equity, and diversity training.

"We just happen to be the ones that are talking about this profession exactly," she said.

Lightning said reconciliation cannot be viewed as a short-term initiative or something that can simply be completed. "I think we have to reflect

back on the Calls to Action and looking at them as a whole and what do they mean," she said.

"It's not just about checking a box and then saying, okay, we did this, we can remove it now. We did this for two years, so now we don't need to do it anymore. That's not what reconciliation is."

For Lightning, reconciliation requires long-term change. "It's about a process," she said. "It's about changing the foundation."

She said reconciliation is not limited to professional responsibilities. "It's not just from a day job, but for a whole — it's a 24-hour thing," Lightning said.

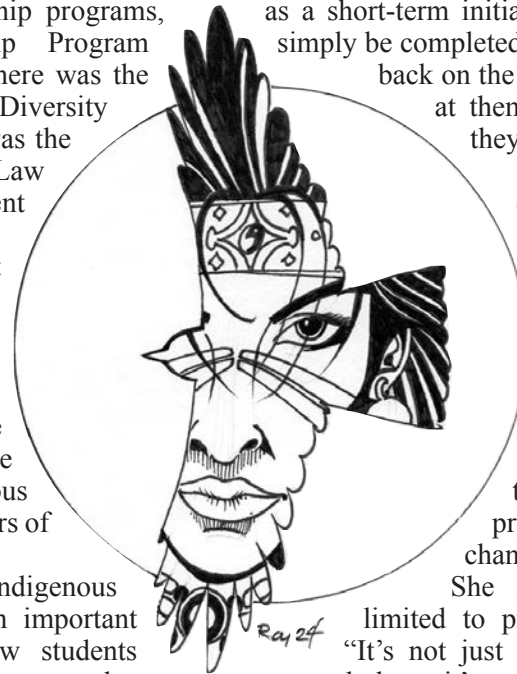
Lightning said one concrete action the Law Society could take is engaging directly with Indigenous lawyers, students, and other equity-seeking members. "I would say they should engage with Indigenous lawyers and students about how this is affecting them," she said.

She also pointed to the upcoming Law Society of Alberta bench election. Benchers are elected members who serve as the governing board of the Law Society and help make decisions about the regulation of the profession.

Lightning said candidates should be asked how they plan to address the gaps created by removing these programs. "What are your thoughts on this and how are you planning to fill the gap that you removed, that you created?" she said.

Despite the changes, Lightning said she does not believe Indigenous advocacy within Alberta's

Continued on page 11



UNDERGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS BUILT ON EXPERIENCE

Delivering water and wastewater systems from concept through completion

Phone: (780) 447-2222
16910 129 Ave NW,
Edmonton AB

waterstone.ca



Angela's HAIRSTYLING

Complete Hair Services for the Whole Family!

Specializing in Colours

Mon - Sat 10:00am - 9:00pm

Sun 11:00am - 6:00pm

"We welcome our many friends and clients when you visit Edmonton."

West Edmonton Mall

(lower level phase 1)

780.444.1346

www.angela'shairstyling.com

Arsene Arcand: Carrying Cree teachings through stone

By Chevi Rabbit, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For *nêhiyaw* (Cree) artist Arsene Arcand from Alexander First Nation (Kipohtakaw) in Treaty 6 Territory, art is not simply a practice of creation – it is a continuation of teachings, relationships, and responsibilities passed down through generations.

Rooted in the guidance of his family, including the teachings of his grandfather and his uncle, acclaimed sculptor Leo Arcand, Arsene Arcand’s artistic journey has been shaped by ceremony, community, and lived cultural knowledge.

For Arcand, art reflects who he is, where he comes from, and the teachings that have guided him throughout his life.

“I think just being raised traditionally around the ceremonies and just having that experience of being around lots of elders shaped me a lot,” Arcand said. “It’s shaped my practice over the years, but also who I am as a human being and individual.”

Those teachings are not separate from his artwork — they are woven into his identity. “Overall, more than that, that’s kind of just who I am as a person,” he said. Through his work, Arcand continues to carry forward the values, stories, and relationships that have guided him, creating pieces that reflect a connection between

the past, present, and future.

Stone has been at the centre of some of the oldest artistic traditions in the world, and for Arcand, working with the material is about more than carving – it is about relationship. He says stone carries a connection that feels different from other artistic mediums. “There’s a certain level of relationship there that I don’t really feel with other mediums like paint or even sketching or anything like that,” Arcand said.

He describes stone as a raw and natural material that connects the artist back to the land. “I think it’s kind of like a wild material, like raw and rough,” he said.

For Arcand, transforming something from the land into a finished piece of art is part of what makes the process meaningful.

“That’s part of the attraction to it,” he said. “It’s like just getting something from the land and then having the skills to transform it into a piece of fine art is just fascinating.”

As the Edmonton Arts Council’s Indigenous Artist-in-Residence, Arcand has focused not only on developing his artwork but also on contributing to opportunities for future Indigenous artists. “My whole goal throughout this residency was to practice my artwork and to keep growing as an artist, but also as a human being,” Arcand said.

He hopes the program continues to grow and provide opportunities for future creators. “I’m hoping to do my part to grow this program in a way where it’s more likely to be funded in the future and more likely to have an impact on other future artists,” he said.

Arcand believes the residency has been meaningful and encourages other Indigenous artists to pursue similar opportunities. “I would encourage any Indigenous artist to apply for this program,” he said. “It’s wonderful.”

Much of Arcand’s work reflects kinship, ceremony, and Indigenous identity. However, he understands the responsibility of knowing what teachings can be shared and what must remain protected.

Arcand says finding that balance can be challenging. “Sometimes, as an Indigenous person who grew up around the ceremonies, there are things around ceremony that I want other Indigenous people to understand and to know,



Sculptor Arsene Arcand.

just because of how beautiful it is,” he said.

However, he believes some teachings are meant to be experienced personally. “I know that it’s better that they go through those experiences on their own and experience those things as individuals rather than somebody sharing it to them,” Arcand said.

“It’s kind of like the Creator sharing that with them instead of some artist trying to share whatever piece that I understand about it.”

That understanding continues to guide his approach. “I don’t want to overshare as an Indigenous artist,” he said.

Arcand has also created significant public works connected to experiences of residential school survivors and community history.

He believes artists carry a deep responsibility when creating work connected to collective memory and healing. For him, art is not simply something created for recognition or financial gain — it carries stories forward. “It’s something that’s going to carry parts of history of a nation forward,” he said, “and amplify those things so that other people can connect with that.”

Arcand says being an Indigenous artist comes with responsibilities to community. “Being an artist, an Indigenous artist, is one of those things that you can equate with those responsibilities and obligations to your people — to do your best to carry our whole narrative forward,” he said.

Arcand hopes his artwork can inspire the next generation of Indigenous creators and “that things just keep going and keep getting better for our people,” he said.

“I think that’s all I can really hope for as an artist.”



Carving by Arsene Arcand.

The next **ALBERTA NATIVE NEWS** prints on **September 15, 2026**

and the deadline is **September 11, 2026**

To book an ad for your business or community event contact Dan at natnews@shaw.ca or call 780-421-7966.



Welcome back to school!

Hon. Adriana LaGrange,

MLA for Red Deer-North
Minister of Hospital and
Surgical Health Services.

#202, 5913 - 50 Avenue
Red Deer, AB T4N 4C4
Phone: 403.342.2263
RedDeer.North@assembly.ab.ca

[AdrianaLaGrangeRD](#) [@AdrianaLaGrange](#) [@Adriana_LaGrange](#)



Contact 211 Alberta Know Your Options

Find mental health, addiction
and community supports.

Free. Confidential. Available 24/7.

Learn more at ab.211.ca

ALBERTA
RECOVERY
MODEL





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 43, Number 08, August 2026
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.

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!

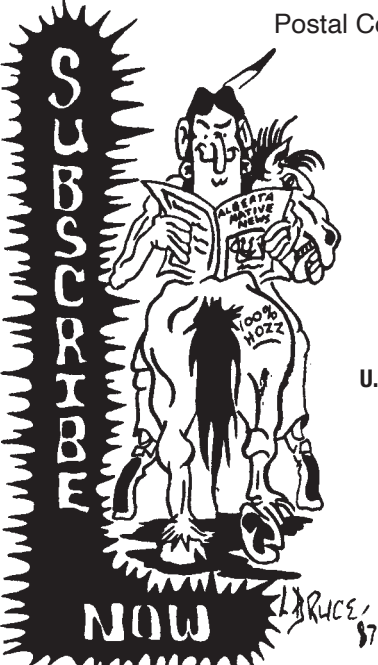
Last Saturday of every month
is our Bonanza Month-End Special!

Play the Starburst to win a \$100 Ticket!
Ticket for our \$20,000.00 Bonanza Blitz.
The next Blitz will take place
on October 2, 2026.
Tickets are on sale 4 weeks prior
to the day of the event.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

Name _____
Address _____
Postal Code _____



SUBSCRIPTIONS

\$67.20
per year

\$116.55
for two
years

(includes GST)

U.S. SUBSCRIPTIONS

\$86.25
per year

\$161.00
for two
years

(no GST)



ACFN chief joins B.C. First Nations to oppose new pipeline

By Jeremy Appel, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The chief of Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation is backing the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs’ call for Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and Alberta Premier Danielle Smith to “immediately halt” plans for a new oil pipeline to the West Coast.

“If the B.C. chiefs say no, I respect what the B.C. chiefs want,” Athabasca Chipewyan Chief Allan Adam told *Alberta Native News*.

In July, Carney and Smith signed an agreement that committed the federal government to fast-tracking a new one-million barrel a day tar sands pipeline to B.C.’s southern coast, following a similar route to the existing Trans Mountain pipeline.

“This proposal threatens both the inherent rights of First Nations and accelerates the expansion of the fossil fuel industry at a time when communities across the country are already experiencing devastating climate disasters,” reads an Aug. 9 open letter from the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) to Carney and Smith.

The letter is signed by UBCIC Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Gitxaala Nation Chief Councillor Linda Innes and Heiltsuk Tribal Council Chief Councillor Marilyn Slett.

As they penned their open letter, 20,000 people were being forced to evacuate from communities near Okanagan Lake, which is at its lowest level on record due to drought conditions, in B.C.’s southern interior.

Carney plans to submit the proposed pipeline to the Major Projects Office for approval as a “national interest” project by Oct. 1, which would then force the project to proceed.

The UBCIC argues that this is a violation of the duty to free, prior and informed consent enshrined in multiple sections of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which Canada adopted as law in 2021.

“Canada and Alberta claim that their engagement is early and meaningful, but they have already developed a project concept and corridor, submitted the proposal, named prospective development partners, established an October 1 target, and begun publicly promoting the project’s economic case,” wrote the chiefs.

“Consultation cannot be meaningful if First Nations are invited only to discuss how a predetermined project will proceed.”

The UBCIC added that the “destructive and disastrous consequences of expanding fossil fuel production extend far beyond any single territory.”

“Greenhouse gas emissions do not recognize territorial boundaries, they contribute to a climate crisis that affects every First Nation, every

community, and future generations alike,” reads the letter.

In Treaty 8, Chief Adam of Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) has his own concerns with a new pipeline.

“Where do they plan to expand or to get all that oil from once they go ahead and do it? Because if they’re coming from our area here in Fort McMurray where the oil sands are, that ain’t going to happen,” he said.

“We will start launching court cases, and we will tie them all up in court for the next 20 years.”

Adam cited the health impacts of tar sands extraction on the downstream community of Fort Chipewyan, which he fears will be exacerbated by plans to release treated tar sands tailings fluids into the Athabasca River.

“I don’t care what pipelines they dream of,” he added. “They ain’t going to get no approval from ACFN on any further expansions of the oil sands to fill those pipes.”

Neither Alberta’s Ministry of Indigenous Relations nor the Premier’s Office acknowledged requests for comment.

Indigenous Relations spokesperson Karen Folk told The Canadian Press that the pipeline will provide “long-term benefits” to First Nations communities, who will be consulted through “ongoing dialogue ... as this work continues.”

This newspaper reached out to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada for comment, which redirected the inquiry to the Privy Council Office.

Spokesperson Pierre-Alain Bujold said that consultations are underway with “potentially impacted Indigenous communities,” as well as the relevant

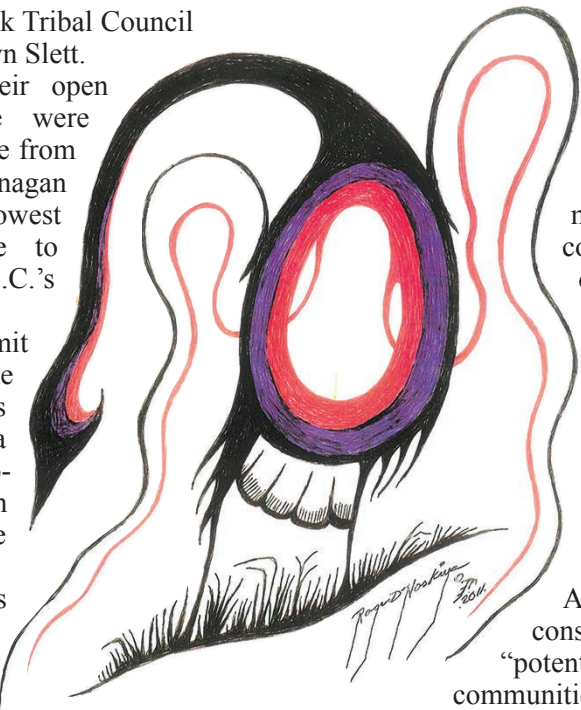
provincial and territorial governments, to determine whether the pipeline should be designated as a national interest project.

If approved by the Major Projects Office, he added, “the project would undergo a streamlined review that upholds rigorous environmental standards and fully respects the rights of Indigenous Peoples.”

In a statement, federal NDP leader Avi Lewis said a new pipeline “defies common sense.”

“You can’t approve a project and then engage in consultation: that is just a pipeline to the courts,” said Lewis.

“And for Canadians across this land, it is a kick in the teeth to call this climate bomb of a project ‘in the national interest.’ It is in Big Oil’s interest for sure. But it doesn’t do a damn thing for people struggling with the cost of food and housing, increased costs from privatized healthcare, and of course the daily anxiety of climate breakdown.”



How ‘Soul Symphony’ brings Alex Janvier’s legacy to life

By Chevi Rabbit, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For generations of artists, collectors, and community members, the work of world-renowned Denesuline and Saulteaux artist Alex Janvier has represented more than colour and design. His paintings carry stories of identity, resilience, land, memory, and the way he experienced the world around him.

Now, through *Soul Symphony: The Art of Alex Janvier*, audiences are invited to experience his artwork in an entirely new way, not simply by viewing his paintings, but by stepping inside his artistic vision through immersive technology.

The 360-degree film experience combines large-scale projection, sound, storytelling, and digital innovation to bring Janvier’s artwork beyond the traditional gallery setting.

For his daughter, Jill Janvier, the project represents a continuation of her father’s lifelong impact.

“I feel very honoured to be one of his representatives,” Jill said. “I started working for my parents full-time at their gallery in 2012, and from that time I really got to be familiar with their clients and the general art market, and I got to be familiar with a vast array of Alex Janvier original paintings.”

Through her work with Janvier Gallery, Jill has gained a unique perspective on the scale of her father’s artistic contribution. The gallery database contains more than 6,000 entries connected to Alex Janvier’s original works, including paintings, murals, and sketches.

But for Jill, her father’s legacy cannot be measured only by numbers.

“I feel like it’s open to one’s story, what they interpret as Janvier,” she said. “That story that they have comes from their experience, from their time visiting him, or from seeing the art and their connection to that piece of art.”

Whether someone encounters his work in a museum, public installation, gallery, or private home, Jill said each person develops their own relationship with his art.

“We all get to see it somewhere some days, and that’s part of what we experience and treasure, I think, anywhere in Canada, because it’s everywhere.”

A New Way to Experience Art

The idea behind *Soul Symphony* began when director Bernard Duguay encountered Alex Janvier’s work and immediately felt a connection.

“I really fell in love with his work during the exhibition in Ottawa,” Duguay said. “And I wrote to him, asked him if he would like to do something with me as a visual artist. And he

said yes.”

That conversation eventually led to a collaboration between Duguay, Lucion, Janvier Gallery, and the Janvier family. Together, they developed a proposal for the Canada Council for the Arts to create an immersive dome film celebrating Janvier’s life and artwork.

“We wrote for a grant for the Canada Council to produce a dome film, an experiential dome film, and then the grant was granted,”

Duguay said. “So then we had the funds to produce a film about the works of Alex Janvier.”

Duguay said one of the biggest challenges was finding the right way to tell the story of an artist whose life and career were so expansive. “At first I didn’t quite know how to talk about the whole thing because it’s a huge family, a big family, the history of Alex Janvier,” he said.

The creative team ultimately focused on the foundation of everything, the artwork itself. The production team filmed Janvier while he worked, capturing his creative process and recording interviews that became central to the film.

“We filmed him as he was painting, and we did many, many interviews with Mr. Janvier,” Duguay said. “These interviews were used to feature his art, the beginnings of his artwork, how he got to be so good, and then how it changed his life.

That was basically the core of the story.”

While technology is central to *Soul Symphony*, Duguay said the goal was never to overpower Janvier’s original artwork.

The team wanted audiences to feel immersed in the paintings while maintaining respect for the artist’s original compositions and intentions. “We didn’t want to desecrate

the picture and make it a 3D rendition of his paintings and fly inside this,” Duguay said. “This would have been a technological whiz, but not interesting.”

Instead, the team chose a more subtle approach. “We kept it flat,” he said. “His drawing is his drawing, and just a camera sort of floating around the canvas.”



‘Soul Symphony’ enables audiences to experience Alex Janvier’s art through immersive projection technology.

That decision allows viewers to experience details within Janvier’s paintings that may not be visible from a traditional viewing distance. “Then you get a really close-up view of the details, and somehow, hopefully, you get past the canvas and behind.”

For Duguay, the technology is not the focus. It is the tool that allows audiences to connect more deeply with the artist. “The fact that it’s immersive, the dome film, is very different,” he said. “I felt I wanted to get inside them, to go, to get immersed in them.”

Redefining Indigenous Art in Canada

Alex Janvier’s career represented a major shift in how Indigenous artists were recognized in Canada.

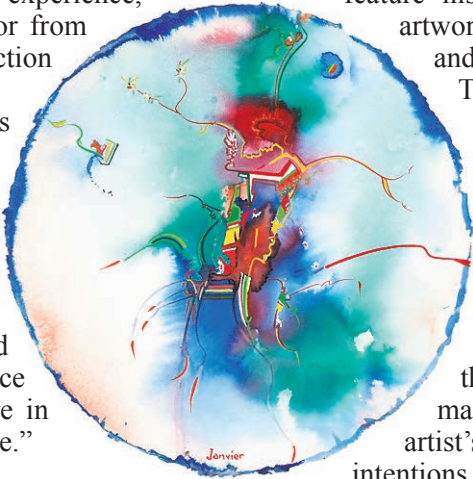
Beginning his career in the 1960s and pursuing art full-time in the 1970s, Janvier was part of a generation of Indigenous artists who challenged stereotypes and fought for recognition as contemporary artists.

Jill said artists such as Janvier, Daphne Odjig, and Norval Morrisseau faced barriers when trying to have their work accepted by mainstream art institutions. “They could create art, but they had no venue,” Jill said. “They could approach a gallery, a museum, or some kind of professional art place, and they would get closed doors.”

The artists wanted their work recognized beyond narrow expectations of Indigenous art,” Jill said. “They wanted to elevate it to ‘We are modern artists.’ Whether Indigenous or not, they just wanted to be artists.”

She emphasized that the change came through collective action. “It wasn’t because of him,” Jill said. “He was one of a few working together on it. It’s because of all of them who did it together that they opened the doors for themselves.”

Continued on page 10



BIG SALE

GET 50% OFF ROOM RENTAL

Host your next meeting, training session, celebration, or gathering at DoubleTree by Hilton Calgary North and receive 50% off room rental fees for events in 2026/2027 when you mention this ad.

Plus, enjoy preferred guest room rates starting from \$129/night including complimentary parking and Wi-Fi.

BOOK NOW

catering@doubletreecalgary.com | 403-250-6059



NSD shares its commitment to Truth and Reconciliation

Northland School Division recently shared how listening to students, families, staff and communities is shaping its work on Truth and Reconciliation and student success. The division presented at the Canadian School Boards Association’s (CSBA) 2026 Trustee Gathering on Education, Innovation and Reconciliation. The July gathering took place in Whistler, British Columbia.

Superintendent of Schools and CEO Cal Johnson, Deputy Superintendent Scott Meunier and Associate Superintendent Mark Owens delivered Northland’s presentation, *Responding to the Calls to Action: Northland School Division’s Governance-Driven Approach to Indigenous Student Success*.

The presentation showed how community feedback helped shape Northland’s Education Plan. Shared priorities included language, culture, land-based learning and a stronger understanding of the past.

More than 90 per cent of Northland students are

First Nations and Métis.

Northland also shared how it moved from listening to action. Examples included the Superintendent’s Elder and Knowledge Keeper Advisory Council, the Superintendent’s Youth Council, cultural and land based learning and stronger community partnerships.

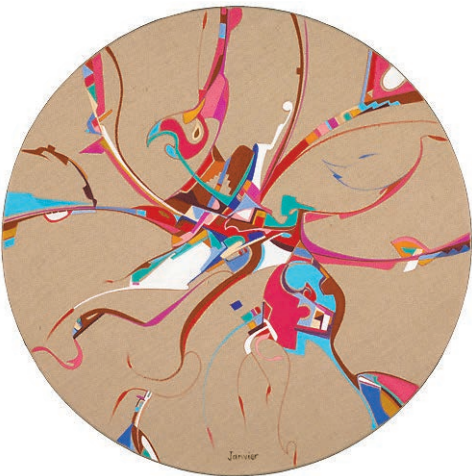
The presentation emphasized that responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action is a shared responsibility. Attendees were asked to consider their own progress. They also discussed how to measure changes in student experiences, staff practices, community trust and learning outcomes.

Northland connected this work to more hands-on and career-based learning opportunities for students.

The division also highlighted improvements in high school completion, with its three-year result increasing from 12.6 per cent in 2021 to 47.1 per cent in 2025.



NSD Superintendent Cal Johnson at the Canadian School Boards Gathering.



‘Soul Symphony’ cont. from p 9

A Legacy of Seeing Differently

For Jill, one of the greatest lessons her father shared was his unique ability to see beauty and meaning in the world around him. “He really showed me a sense of seeing,” she said.

She recalled her father asking if she could see “42 shades of green.” “I’m like, ‘I don’t see that, Dad,’” Jill said. “I might have seen four in front of me.”

She also remembered him pointing out purple tones in the mountains. “To me they’re great tones with whites and greens and browns,” she said. “So I was like, ‘Where’s that purple?’ But he saw that.”

there’s a lot of appreciation and a sense of inspiration that comes from the film,” Jill said. “He led a life that’s an example to follow. He led a life of triumph and perseverance and truth to his own story.”

Duguay hopes audiences experience the heart behind the artwork. “It’s full of love,” he said. “The soul of Alex Janvier is so rich.”

“The way he sees life is unique, I think,” he said. “We’re really blessed to have had an elder so close to us like this.”

He believes Janvier’s artwork carries a feeling that technology alone cannot create. “We can all draw beautiful things, but he felt it from the heart, and I think it says heart on the painting,” Duguay said. “So it’s very full of life and full of intent.”

Soul Symphony: The Art of Alex Janvier was presented as a 360 Film Screening in Cold Lake, Alberta from Aug. 1 to 10 allowing audiences to experience Janvier’s artwork through immersive projection technology in Janvier’s home region.

Jill said the response from supporters has been meaningful. “I’m very grateful for all my supporters and contributors back home who have helped bring it to our community,” she said. “That’s been an important part of everything.”

For Jill, the greatest success of *Soul Symphony* is that every viewer can create their own relationship with the artwork.

“The film and the art and the words that go with it, that is something for [each] person to experience and interpret,” she said.

For more information visit hubblo.ca/en/soul-symphony-the-art-of-alex-janvier/

Duguay experienced a similar sense of wonder while learning about Janvier’s creative process. “We found out that this was inspired from a tree stump,” he said. “It’s interesting to see how he saw a tree stump. How the reality is his reality very, very different from us.”

Both Jill and Duguay hope audiences leave *Soul Symphony* with a deeper connection to Alex Janvier’s way of seeing the world. “My biggest hope is that



2026-2027 Back to School Information

The 2026-2027 school year is just around the corner! Classes will resume on September 8, 2026.

Re-registration

Parents and guardians can re-register students by contacting their local school starting the week of August 31st, when all staff return.

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

To complete the registration process, please contact your local school starting the week of August 31st.

School Bus Information

Is your child taking the bus next school year? Save their seat today with Northland School Division transportation. If your child attends a non-Northland school, please complete the online bus registration form www.nsd61.ca/departments/transportation/school-bus-registration.

If your child is a Northland School Division student and hasn’t registered for busing yet, please contact the school during the week of August 31st.

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:

<https://www.nsd61.ca/departments/transportation/bussing>.





The Minister of Mental Health and Addiction is seeking applications from individuals interested inserving as lawyer, physician, and public members of the Compassionate Intervention Commission established under the Compassionate Intervention Act (the “Act”). This ad will close on September 25, 2026.

For more details on eligibility and how to apply, visit: <https://public-agency-list.alberta.ca/PublicAgencyOpportunityList/GetOpportunityById?opportunityId=888>

Visit us online or follow us at  @ABNativeNews

Treaty 8 First Nations announce name change

By Jeremy Appel, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta has voted unanimously to henceforth be known as Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations, which the organization attributes directly to the “unprecedented political climate being fostered by the current Alberta government.”

Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations announced its new name the day after the 2026 Honouring Our Treaty Gathering and Annual General Meeting wrapped up on July 30 on Woodland Cree First Nation territory.

A July 31 news release from Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations states that the modified name better “reflects and reinforces the sovereignty held by every First Nation throughout Treaty No. 8 Territory,” noting that the Treaty was signed in 1899 – six years before Alberta came into existence.

“This historic change sends a clear message that we will stand together and defend our Treaty, our people, and our future,” said Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi in the news release.

In addition to approving the name change, the gathering included the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Dene Nation “to protect, preserve, and steward the waters that connect our Territories,” and the re-election of Chief Sheldon Sunshine of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation as deputy grand chief.

“The challenges before us are significant, and we must continue the momentum we created,” said Sunshine. “Over the next year, I look forward to continuing to demonstrate the power Treaty No. 8 holds when we stand together.”

The Yellowknife-based Dene Nation signed the MOU with Treaty 8, which concerns the Mackenzie River Basin, on July 29, the gathering’s second day.

The Dene Nation represents about two dozen ethnically Dene First Nations, mostly in the Northwest Territories, but Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and Dene Tha’ First Nation are members of both Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations and Dene Nation.

“Our waters are sacred with a living memory that is central to the wellness of our people and cultures. This partnership reaffirms our shared responsibility to protect our waters, guided by ancestral laws, Treaty rights, and Indigenous Knowledge,” Dene National Chief George Mackenzie said in a July 29 news release.

“Together, the Dene Nation and Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta stand united to ensure the health of our waters for future generations and to hold governments and industries accountable for their actions.”

The agreement commits both organizations to creating shared environmental monitoring databases, expanding the role of traditional Indigenous knowledge in water-related policies, regulations and governance, pushing for accountability from governments and industry for the environmental and health impacts of tar sands tailing ponds and examining the impact of proposed lithium, hydroelectric and nuclear projects on the Peace River.

“Water does not recognize provincial or territorial boundaries, and the effects of decisions made upstream are felt by First Nations peoples



"I follow you down" by Linus Woods - available at wakinagallery.com

from the heart of Treaty 8 Territory to the Arctic Coast,” said Grand Chief Mercredi.

“Our partnership with the Dene Nation strengthens our collective voice and our shared responsibility to defend the lands and waters that sustain our people.”

Both groups are seeking Treaty First Nations’ full involvement in the development of an updated Mackenzie River Basin Transboundary Waters Master Agreement, which the federal government signed in 1997 with the B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, N.W.T. and Yukon governments.

They’re also calling on Alberta specifically to backtrack on changes to the Water Act, which now permits transfers of water between watersheds without legislative debate.

Bigstone Cree Nation will be the setting of the next 2027 Treaty 8 Gathering and AGM.

Programs cut cont. from p 6

legal profession is ending. “I don’t think it’s the end of an era,” she said.

She noted that many lawyers continue to support Indigenous cultural competency training. “I’m confident and I know that the majority of the lawyers in Alberta have taken this training but also support this training,” Lightning said.

Lightning encouraged lawyers and law firms to continue this work even without a mandatory requirement. “How can they mandate it in their own practice? Like in their own firms and spaces,” she said.

For Lightning, the future of reconciliation will depend on how professionals choose to

act. “Even if it’s not mandatory, how do we be better lawyers, provide better service to Indigenous clients?” she said.



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 Manager.



**TO HONOUR
TO EDUCATE
TO REMEMBER**

- ✓ JOIN THE OVER **17,000** Students and Youth
- ✓ Proudly honouring over 124,000 veterans in Canada and around the world since 2011
- ✓ Help us honour more **Indigenous veterans**. Get your community involved
- ✓ **YOUTH - SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE!** Write a Reflection Letter about your participation for a chance to win the **Jamie Lantz Award!**

REGISTER

Your school or community event today!
www.nostoneleftalone.ca/register



**NO STONE LEFT ALONE
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**
LA FONDATION COMMÉMORATIVE
AUCUNE PIERRE DANS L'OUBLI

Jennifer Taylor, National Coordinator
jtaylor@nostoneleftalone.ca
<https://www.nostoneleftalone.ca>
780.917.8855



Free in-person Claim support in Edmonton

Claims Helpers will
be available at:

**Royal Hotel West Edmonton:
August 18 - 22**

If you have questions about the Federal
Indian Hospitals Settlement or would
like help with a Claim, you can come
to a free in-person session.

At these sessions you can:

- ask questions about the Settlement
- learn about the Claim Form and
what information is required
to complete a Claim
- receive support going through
the Claim Form at your own pace

Sessions are free and your information
is secure. Learn more at
www.IHSettlement.ca/Edmonton.

Members of surrounding
communities are welcome.



FEDERAL
Indian Hospitals
SETTLEMENT

To learn more about the Settlement, call
1-888-592-9101, choose your language and press 2 to
speak with a Claims Helper or visit
www.IHSettlement.ca

Mental health and wellness support is available
24 hours a day at the Hope for Wellness Helpline:
1-855-242-3310 or www.HopeForWellness.ca



Calgary Stampede Powwow Grand Entry. Photo by Terry Lusty

Indigenous presence cont. from p 3

the various tribes in the 20-plus lodges onsite, there are also powwow dancing demonstrations, outdoor smoking of dried meat and bannock making, handgames, flag raising ceremonies, dozens of arts and crafts booths and a food area where one can sample bannock and tea or coffee. The general friendship and hospitality permeates the village, the participants are always willing to share varying aspects of knowledge and wisdom about their culture and history. And, certainly, it is a fine means by which to understand First Peoples, and maybe travel that ‘reconciliation road’, an aftermath of the shameful Indian Residential School period.

Speaking of sharing , the powwow segment of the camp also invites audience participation in some of the dancing. This incorporates the Intertribal Dance, which goes clockwise in a circle with First Nations dancers on hand to assist the public in learning how to easily “do their thing” and learn a simple dance step that they can then repeat time and again at any other powwow, and Round Dance.

Billed as the Greatest Outdoor Show in the World, the Calgary Stampede also incorporates the world-famous chuckwagon races, and more recently, the Indigenous Relay (horse) Races. It’s a well-deserved monicker, known to be the “greatest” such event with prize money too. The rodeo alone shells out a whopping \$217 million altogether, with an additional two million for chuckwagon racing. That, dear reader, equates to no less than \$300,000 dollars to each of the seven core events in rodeo alone. Which is why so many world and former world champions return time and again, travelling great distances and giving up other rodeos, to take their “shot” at some of rodeo’s best livestock and money payouts.

The 2026 year witnessed a heightened increase of Indigenous participation in both rodeo events and chuckwagon racing, in addition to the thrilling and recently added Indigenous Relay [horse] Races which are featured right on the heels of the world-famous Rangeland Derby, also known as the chuckwagon races every evening during the entire ten days.

Two particular Indigenous rodeo contestants who proved their mettle were: Ty Taypotat originally from Saskatchewan but know residing at Nanton, Alberta, and Trisyn Kawalaia from Hawaii, did quite well. With three rounds in bareback bronc riding competition, Taypotat clinched a first place and fifth place finish for no less than \$9,000 take home pay, while Kawalaia scooped up a total of \$31,000 in the steer wrestling competition. The later, actually advanced to the final championship round.

Taypotat, incidentally, had bronc riding scores of 82.5 on his first placing , but came back with an 86.5 on his second ride and a No. 1 win for that day. Also, the man who is regarded as having “one of the strongest arms” in the business, placed first overall at this year’s prestigious Ponoka Stampede with an amazing 89.75 point win in bareback aboard Agent Lynx. That rodeo earned him \$12,491.

The ever-popular Rangeland Derby witnessed jam-packed seating again over the entire ten day run. In the end, however, it was the meets hottest driver, Jamie Laboucane who persevered to win the coveted crown, earning a cool \$50,000 in doing so. All told, he earned \$98,800 over the ten days winning five first place days in the process. This Metis competitor who hails from St. Walburg, Saskatchewan , won with a sizzling running time of 1:10:12 guiding the Panorama Advisory Group rig in the Dash For Cash final heat on Sunday, July 12.

Coming second was Jason Glass who pocketed \$66,550 dollars, while Chanse Vigen, a Calgary-based Metis, placed third. Not too shabby, eh; two of the three top drivers were Metis.

Additional Indigenous drivers included Preston Faithful, Dallas Dyck, brothers Dustin and Logan Gorst, and Ryan Baptiste. Most all of them come from generations of driving competitors.

For winner Jamie Laboucane, it was his first Rangeland Derby title win at Calgary Stampede. He also posted the fastest times in five days of running.

Laboucane assured people that he was “excited” and “confident” of his chances to win the title upon his first entering the track. In like manner, he’d experienced running for the title before and was actually the runner-up in both 2024 and 2025.