

# ANISHINABEK NEWS



"To give a voice to the vision of the Anishinabek Nation."

Volume 21 Issue 10 Published monthly by the Union of Ontario Indians - Anishinabek Nation Single Copy: \$2.00 DECEMBER 2009



Mitchell Yellowman, 2, citizen of Aamjiwnaang First Nation.  
– Photo by Greg Plain

## IN BRIEF

### Tribunal starts work

OTTAWA – The work of the new Specific Claims Tribunal has officially begun with the appointment of three judges to this new body. The Specific Claims Tribunal is an adjudicative body mandated to address Specific Claims valued up to \$150 million each. Currently, approximately one thousand claims sit in a government backlog awaiting negotiation or, if these fail, access to the Tribunal. Access to the Tribunal is governed by the Specific Claims Tribunal Act, passed by Parliament in June 2008.

### Nawash honoured

TORONTO – The Ontario Trillium Foundation has recognized the environmental initiatives of the Chippewas of Nawash in naming the First Nation as one of the winners of the prestigious 2009 Great Grants Awards. Chippewas of Nawash Unceded Nation (Neyaashiinigmiing) was recognized for "blending traditional environmental knowledge with scientific expertise in order to lend an indigenous voice to important local land-use planning discussions. Nawash and neighbouring Saugeen First Nation created an Environmental Office and initiated discussions with local industries and governments about proposed development projects and the environmental impact they might have on traditional territories.

## HST 'line in the sand' for First Nation Chiefs

TORONTO – Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee predicts that First Nations will draw a "line in the sand" over the proposed Harmonized Sales Tax that will add 13 cents on the dollar to the cost of most purchases.

"We should have drawn the line when they started to take our land," the Anishinabek Nation leader told an anti-HST rally of about 400 First Nations citizens on the steps of the Ontario Legislature at Queen's Park on Dec. 3.

"We should have drawn the line when they started to take our children to residential schools.

"So we're going to draw it now. We have defended this country as allies of the Crown; we are not subjects of the Crown. Our citizens do not have to pay taxes to any other nations."

Madahbee and other First Nations leaders joined New Democratic Party leader Andrea Horwath in condemning the federal government's plans to harmonize the provincial sales tax and the goods and services in Ontario and British Columbia. NDP members were the only MPs to vote against enabling legislation that passed in the House of Commons on Dec. 3.

"Ending the sales tax exemption will make life

less affordable for First Nations and marks a step back in the relationship between the province and First Nations," says NDP Leader Andrea Horwath.

At about the same time, the rally participants learned of the bill passage in Ottawa, they were told that citizens of Garden River and Batchewana First Nations had erected three blockades on the Trans-Canada Highway near Sault Ste. Marie and that transport trucks were backed up for miles.

"This issue has galvanized First Nations people across this province," said Madahbee noting that it would be on the agenda of a special Assembly of First Nations meeting in Ottawa next week. "If our aboriginal and treaty rights continue to be ignored, the other governments could have 130 fires to put out."

"First Nations are still trying to recover our rightful share of the resource wealth generated from our traditional lands, never mind contributing any more. We are not subjects of the Crown, which since 1763 has recognized us as distinct Nations," he said.

The rally was scheduled on the final day of a three-day special assembly of the Chiefs in Ontario attended by representatives of 134 First Nations in the province.

## Henry recipient of NAAF award

OTTAWA – Doug Henry, a citizen of Aamjiwnaang First Nation and owner of NATSCO – Native American Technical Services Company Ltd. – is one of the 2010 recipients of a National Aboriginal Achievement Award.

Henry, age 44, a Director with the Chippewa Industrial Development Inc. and a tenant – received the award for achievement in the technology and trades category.

The 14 recipients were honoured at a November reception by the House of Commons. The awards ceremony will take place March 26, 2010 in Regina. Featuring performers including international music icon Buffy Sainte-Marie, Crystal Shawanda, Elisapie Isaac, Lorne Cardinal, Michael Greyeyes and Leemai Lafontaine, the 17th annual NAAA will recognize the achievements of the following individuals:

William Commanda, OC – Lifetime Achievement Award

Skawenniio Barnes – Special Youth Award

Kananginak Pootoogook – Arts

Ellen Melcosky – Business & Commerce

Tom Crane Bear – Culture, Heritage & Spirituality

Dr. Raoul McKay – Education

Danny Beaton – Environment & Natural Resources



Doug Henry

Madeleine Kētēskwē Dion Stout, BN, MA, Ph.D (Hon.) – Health  
Donald E. Worme, QC, IPC – Law & Justice  
Kenneth Atsenhainton Deer – Media & Communications

Hon. Eric William Robinson – Politics  
Edith Cloutier – Public Service  
Monica Pinette – Sports  
Doug Henry – Technology & Trades

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation proudly announces Global Television and the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network as the returning exclusive broadcast partners of the 17th annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards.

"Every year the jury selects an extraordinary group of recipients who reveal such outstanding talent and dedicated service," said Roberta Jamieson, President and CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.

The 2010 NAAA focuses on the theme of Potential and, the ability within us all to achieve greatness, despite obstacles.

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation is a nationally registered non-profit organization.



## 39th Annual Little NHL 2010

March 15 – 18, 2010

Sudbury, Ontario

[www.littlenativehockeyleague.com](http://www.littlenativehockeyleague.com)

Host community Whitefish River First Nation

To advertise in the official program please contact 705-863-2542





Dancers at the 2009 Canadian Aboriginal Festival had a smaller arena to navigate, with the festival's move from Toronto to Hamilton's Copps Coliseum. Watch for full coverage in the Jan-Feb. issue of Anishinabek News.

## Pow-wow firsts from Hamilton

HAMILTON – The Canadian Aboriginal Festival's 16th Season was celebrated with a first-time visit to Hamilton and the weekend presented an ongoing "series of firsts" for the Festival.

- Over 11,000 students attending The Festival's Education Day on Friday November 27
- A sold-out crowd for Thursday's CAMA's Gala Dinner and Pre-Awards
- A full-house at Hamilton Place Theatre for the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards
- One of the largest Pow Wow gatherings of Aboriginal performers from across North America, which "Saluted Our Warriors "past and present"

**The 2009 pow-wow competition winners:**  
Men's Golden Age: Larry Gabow, Odawa -

Brantford, ON  
Women's Golden Age: Sharon Roberts, Chikasha - Ada Okla  
Adult 18-54/Women's Jingle Dress: Nitanis Kit Landry, Ojibwe - Whitefish Lake, ON  
Adult 18-54/Women's Fancy: Joyce Bird, Mandan/Hidasta - Brookings SD  
Adult 18-54/Women's Traditional: Tierra Labelle, Nakoda - Morley Alberta  
Adult 18-54/Mens Traditional: Jordan Williams White-Eye, Pottawatomi - Walpole Island, ON  
Adult 18-54/Mens Fancy: Nigel Schuyler, Oneida/Odawa - Detroit, Michigan  
Mens Grass: Quanah LaRose, Northern Ute - Ft. Duchesne, VT  
Teen Men Traditional: Alec Big Canoe, Ojibway - Georgina Island  
Teen Women Traditional: Tarlynn Tom-Pah-Hote, Kiowa/Oneida - CT  
Teen Boys fancy: Jo-Jo Maness, Aamijiwanaang - Sarnia, ON  
Teen Women Fancy: Laryn Oakes, Plains Cree/Meskwaki/Navajo - Saskatoon, SK.  
Teen Men Grass: David Charette, Ojibway - Wikwemikong, ON  
Teen Women Jingle Dress: Rianne White, Lakota/Ojibway - Whitefish Bay, ON  
Girls 6-12 years Jingle Dress: Waskwane Stonefish, Odawa / Chippewa / Delaware -

Peshawbestown, MI  
Boys 6-12 years-Grass: Gavin White-Eye, Ojibwe - Sarnia, ON  
Girls Traditional: Madelina Douglas, Mohawk - Six Nations, ON  
Boys Traditional: Talon White-Eye - Sarnia, ON  
Girls Fancy: Beedaskah Stonefish, Odawa / Chippewa / Delaware - Peshawbestown, MI  
Boys Fancy: Miisheen-Meegwun Shawanda, Sioux Saint Marie, ON  
Golden Age/Men Smoke: Alan George, Cayuga - Steamburg, N.Y.  
Adult Mens Smoke: Jordan Smith, Mohawk - Lewiston, N.Y.  
Boys Smoke (6-12): Keelan Green, Cayuga - Oshweken, ON  
Golden Age Women's Smoke: Renee Thomas-Hill, Mohawk - Ohsweken, ON  
Women's Smoke (18+): Valerie Parker, Tonawanda Seneca - Bason, NY  
Teen Women's Smoke: Jessica House, Oneida - Oneida, WI  
Girl's Smoke: Hannah Jaekle, Cayuga - Buffalo, NY.  
Drums: White Tail Cree Singers, North Bay, Ontario

For more information visit the official festival website at [www.canab.com](http://www.canab.com) or call 519-751-0040.

## CAMA winners

HAMILTON-Buffy Sainte-Marie and Digging Roots big winners in Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards

Twenty-five awards recognizing Canada's top aboriginal artists were presented at the 11th Annual Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards.

Best Female Artist - Buffy Sainte-Marie - Running For The Drum  
Best Female Traditional/Cultural Roots Album - Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson - Lalaxaaygans Beautiful Sound  
Best Male Artist - Don Amero - Deepening  
Best Group or Duo - Digging Roots - We Are  
Best Rock Album - Lucie Idlout- Swagger  
Best Song Single - Buffy Sainte-Marie - Running For The Drum - No No Keshegash  
Best Producer Engineer - Arvel Bird, Tom Wasinger, Chas Williams - Tribal Music Suite  
Best Fiddle Album - Eric Ashdown - Back Home Fiddle  
Best Folk Acoustic Album - Art Napoleon - Siskabush Tales - Little Molly  
Best Instrumental Album - Arvel Bird - Tribal Music Suite: Journey of a Paiute  
Best International Album - Cheevere Toppah & Kevin Yazzie - Awakening of Life  
Best Album Cover Design - Out of the Blue - Garrison Parker  
Best Song Writer - Buffy Sainte-Marie - Running For The Drum - No No Keshegash  
Best Television Program or Special Promoting Aboriginal Music - Joel Goldberg - Dreamcatcher: The 10th Annual Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards  
Best Traditional Flute Album - R. Carlos Nakai - Talisman - Song of Darkness  
Best Blues Album - Pappy John Band - Havin' A Good Time Now  
Best Pow Wow Contemporary Album - Northern Cree - True Blue  
Best Music Video - Shane Yellowbird - Life is Calling My Name - Summer Day  
Best Rap or Hip Hop Album - Lakota Jonez - Beautiful

## BIIDAABAN HEALING LODGE Program Dates

### Anger Management

- December 7-16/09
- March 22-31/10

### Grief & Abandonment

• Jan. 11-20/10

Biidaaban Healing Lodge, P.O. Box 219, Hwy. 627  
Pic River First Nation via Heron Bay, ON P0T 1R0

Via: Heron Bay, ON P0T 1R0

**Ph: 807-229-3592 Fax 807-229-0308**

**Toll Free: 1-888-432-7102**

From all the employees at the  
Blind River refinery,  
**HAVE A SAFE  
AND HAPPY  
HOLIDAY SEASON**



*NATIVE EDUCATION  
SAULT COLLEGE*

*We Wish You  
a Joyous and  
Safe Holiday  
Season*

*From the faculty and staff of  
Sault College*

**Carol Hughes, MP/Députée  
Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing**

*Peace, Joy and Hope  
Paix, Joie et Espoir*

*Bekaada miinwaa Minwaangwod*

*ᓇᐤᓂጀጀ·Δጀ· ፳·ጀጀጀጀ·Δጀ· ፉጀ· ሚጀጀጀጀ·Δጀ·*

*hughes.c@parl.gc.ca • 1-800-463-3335*

# ANISHINABEK

## Monague cited for bravery

**By Sharon Weatherall**

BEAUSOLEIL FN – This summer on behalf of Anishinabe Women – Keepers of the Water – Vicki Monague asked for support from First Nation people from across Canada and received so much more.

"I am living proof that no matter what your past circumstances are, each and every individual who puts their spirit, heart and mind into it, has the power to the change the world," said the humbled recipient of the Beausoleil First Nation (BFN) Seven Grandfathers award for Bravery.

Recipients were recognized Nov. 13 at the 6th Annual Seven Grandfather Awards on Christian Island – a gala presented by the Beausoleil Family Health Centre.

Monague received the prestigious recognition for her role in the Peaceful Protest at Simcoe County Dump Site 41 – a successful effort to protect the water that lasted four months.

"The award for Bravery is presented to a BFN member who has demonstrated and is role-modelling positive values, attitudes and beliefs through their personal lifestyle choices," said BFN Director of Health Val Monague.

"Vicki's work in championing of Mother Earth's life blood – water, has been noted as a significant undertaking as has her passion in collaborative relationship-building."

Monague, 28, been appointed by Grand Council Chief Patrick



Vicki Monague received the Bravery Award for her part in a four month long Peaceful Protest to protect the water at Simcoe County Dump Site 41. On behalf of Anishinabe Women - Keepers of the Water, she called together all First Nation people of Canada asking for their support and got it.

Mahdabee as South East Region Commissioner of the Anishinabek Nation Women's Water Commission – an advisory commission to the Union of Ontario Indians on all aspects related to the management of the Great Lakes.

I'd like to thank all the residents of BFN who were my initial motivation for becoming involved with the Site 41 Movement. I did what I did to ensure clean water for our community and our future generations."

Other recipients of the Seven Grandfather Awards were recognized during the evening – chosen from 28 nominations received from people in the community.

William Jamieson received the Wisdom - culture and teaching award for sharing his knowledge and demonstrating outstanding service during many years on band council, efforts to recognize veterans of the community, participation in Christian Island Church and other energetic contributions to the community.

Leon King and his wife Mary-Jane, received the Love --to have and to hold award for the love they show each other, community and children they have taken in to honour and love as their own.

Christina Copegog received the Humility – volunteer/ambassador of the year award for her work with stray and homeless animals.

Chett Monague received the Truth – success award and was recognized for his enthusiasm for learning and ambition to succeed in his chosen path of acting.

Sid Copegog Jr. received the Honesty-- youth award for his visibility in the community as a volunteer and young person who "thinks outside the box".

The late Deb Peltier was honoured with the Respect-- BFN employee award.

Greatly respected within the BFN community for her dedicated role as band secretary, Deb passed away early this year after losing a courageous battle with cancer.

## IN BRIEF

### Anishinabek promote power

GARDEN RIVER FN – Anishinabek Nation Chiefs in Assembly supported a resolution giving the Union of Ontario Indians a strong mandate to advocate and support Anishinabek First Nations as builders and operators of transmission lines.

"The Green Energy Act and the required expansion of Ontario's transmission network present significant opportunities for First Nations," says Lake Huron Regional Chief and Serpent River Chief Isadore Day. "Treaty, land rights and jurisdiction of First Nations in the Anishinabek Nation must be respected and form the basis of any energy or related infrastructure development within our territories."

### Boxes fly north

RAMA – Cheryle Graham Snache's Northern Project is sending 160 boxes of quality used clothing to Attawapiskat and other northern First Nations dealing with extreme poverty and third world living conditions.

Snache joined forces with Susy Sirois of Brighton, Ontario and Western University student Lyndsay Brett to arrange this year's delivery. Air Creebec is flying the boxes to Attawapiskat to the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church for distribution to the community.

For information contact cherylesnache@hotmail.com



### 20 years of service

Leah Stock was presented a plaque commemorating 20 years of employment with the Union of Ontario Indians. Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee and Chief Operating Officer, Walter Manitowabi made the presentation at the Chiefs Assembly in Garden River FN.

### Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity



### Roy Donia gets new wheels

Roy Donia recently received his Freedom Concepts bike that gives him independence and mobility in the community of Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek. The family of Roy Donia, Malvina and Edmund Echum are very thankful to the people who support the Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity.

– Photo by Malvina Echum



### Giving thanks

Sarah Blackwell – along with children Sarita, Kiigin and Nova – give thanks to Lifetime Elder Martin Assinewe after the Ceremony for Lifetime at the Grand Council Assembly in Garden River First Nation.

Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee said that words cannot express our thanks for Martin's service to our people. He also thanked Martin's family for sharing him with the Anishinabek Nation. Deputy Grand Council Chief Glen Hare said "I want to thank him for his commitment and all of the travel that he has done – on behalf of all of our citizens."

– Photo by Marci Becking

**ANISHINABEK NEWS**

The Anishinabek News is a monthly publication of the Union of Ontario Indians (UOI). Views expressed are not necessarily the opinion or political position of the UOI.

No portion of this paper, including advertisements, artwork, photos and editorial content may be reproduced without written permission of the Anishinabek News Editor or UOI Executive.

Readers are invited to submit letters, articles, and photos for publication. Please include your name, address and telephone number on all material submitted. All submissions will be reviewed for publication based on priority of interest and edited for clarity of thought, taste, brevity and legal implications. Remuneration will be paid for submissions only if a written agreement with the Editor is made prior to publication.

**NOTE:** All formal comments and complaints must be addressed to Editorial Board c/o Anishinabek News.

**Editor:** Maurice Switzer

**Assistant Editor:** Marci Becking

**Coordinator:** Priscilla Goulaie

**Contributors:** Holly Brodhagen, Heather Campbell, Joseph Corbiere, Rick Garrick, Lynn Gehl, Bob Goulais, Christian Hebert, Christine McFarlane, Patricia Migwans, Teviyah Moro, Karen Pheasant, Greg Plain, Laura Robinson, Chad Solomon, Viola Thomas, Jorge Antonio Vallejos, Richard Wagamese, Sharon Weatherall, Shirley Williams

PH: 705-497-9127 ~ 1-877-702-5200

FAX: 705-497-9135

WEB: [www.anishinabek.ca](http://www.anishinabek.ca)

E-MAIL: [news@anishinabek.ca](mailto:news@anishinabek.ca)  
MAIL: P.O. Box 711, Nipissing First Nation, North Bay, ON, P1B 8J8

**PUBLISHING CRITERIA****GOAL**

To publish a quality newspaper and related publications designed to foster pride and share knowledge about Anishinabek current affairs, culture, goals, and accomplishments.

**OBJECTIVES**

To provide information that reflects the Creator's four original gifts to the Anishinabek:

Respect: To welcome diversity and encourage a free exchange of opinions that may differ without being disagreeable. Fair and humorous comments are welcomed, but not ridicule or personal attacks.

Honesty: Debewewin – speaking the truth – is the cornerstone of our newspaper's content.

Sharing: Providing opportunities for people from the four corners of the Anishinabek Nation to tell stories and record achievements, and to keep our citizens informed about activities of the Union of Ontario Indians.

Strength: To give a voice to the vision of the Anishinabek Nation that celebrates our history, culture and language, promotes our land, treaty, and aboriginal rights, and supports the development of healthy and prosperous communities.

**Advertising & News Deadlines**

The current circulation of the Anishinabek News is 10,000 copies, with 9,000 mailed and 1,000 distributed at various events.

**DEADLINE FOR JAN/FEB****Advertising**

Bookings: December 20

Final Art: January 10

**News**

News submissions: December 20

For more information or inquiries to the Anishinabek News related to advertising and circulation issues please call our toll-free number: 1-800-463-6408



CANADA POST CUSTOMER  
#1905929

AGREEMENT #0040011021

**MAANDA NDINENDAM /OPINION****The gloves – no longer from Sears – are off!****Maurice Switzer**

This will be the first time in 60 years that my Christmas will have no connection with a familiar Canadian face.

No, I don't mean Santa Claus – I can't imagine a December without the ever-present images of the chubby man with a white beard and red suit. That's a picture that becomes part of our genetic memory, like the smell of pine-bough wreaths and the warmth given off by a crackling log fire.

The face I'm speaking about is actually a store-front, one whose frosted windows I can recall peering into with hundreds of other children around this time of year. It used to be called Simpsons, and its commercial rivalry with the other Toronto-based giant retailer – Eatons – was as much the stuff of Canadian lore as the competition between the Leafs and the Habs for national hockey supremacy.

It's almost impossible to imagine today, when youngsters can push a button on their I-pods and watch cartoon animations or hear the Jonas Brothers' latest top 40 hit, that children their age used to line up six deep to watch animated elves in department store windows as part of their pre-Christmas ritual.

Parents from small towns across Ontario would plan an annual excursion to Toronto so their kids could see those amazing window displays, and perhaps sit on the huge knee of the most impressive-looking Santa Claus in the world. How many of us got cold feet when it was our turn to recite our Christmas wish-lists and hid behind our parents overcoats after waiting an hour in line for this once-in-a-lifetime chance?

Yes, it was a real rivalry – "Does Simpsons tell Eatons their business?" became part of our vernacular – but, like all things Canadian, a courteous and polite one.

When Eatons, like so many other family-owned businesses, collapsed under the growing pressures of a less congenial mentality that had begun creeping into the Canadian marketplace, the company's new U.S. investor – Sears Roebuck – purged the familiar Simpsons brand from its storefronts and

trucks, purchased its former rival and took over the flagship Eaton Centre in 1999.

Many of us still felt an allegiance to Simpsons – maybe partly due to nostalgia, but also because they stood behind their merchandise – matching lower prices, offering the best warranties – when other retailers didn't seem to worry so much about customer satisfaction.

Over the decades Sears – like Eatons before it – became a trusted friend for many Canadians. We bought their fridges and stoves, then washers and dryers, then dishwashers, then microwaves, then central vacuums, and big-screen TVs, then computers and CD and DVD players.

When we moved to another community, it was reassuring to see a Sears sign at the local mall. We knew we had a reliable place to buy sheets, and reasonably-priced clothing for the kids, and lawnmowers and wedding gifts, and, yes, Christmas presents. There were no more crowds outside frost-edged windows – well, there were no more windows – but the Santa outside the Sears entrance was still the biggest drawing card in the mall.

Children and grandchildren understood this attachment. They shop at the Gap but they buy parents and grandparents Sears gift certificates for birthdays and Father's and Mother's Days and, up until now, Christmas.

The end came when I was redeeming my latest certificates for a badly-needed new electric shaver.

"These are invalid, sir," the Sears clerk said, matter-of-factly.

"Oh, you mean you have to issue me new ones?" I supposed.

"Well no sir, they're no longer of any value."

But, I wondered, if my family paid money for these certificates and Sears was not willing to redeem or refund them, wasn't that the same as theft?

The clerk shrugged her shoulders and turned away.

Another reason for my loyalty to Sears has been their willingness to respect my treaty right to sales tax exemption, so when I called the store manager to appeal my gift certificate loss I asked what the company was planning to do if the so-called Harmonized Sales Tax comes into effect next July as the Ontario government plans.

"We have no direction from corporate, sir," she replied, rather matter-of-factly.

So my old friend and I have gone our separate ways., for the sake of \$100.

As we head into a new year, one of my resolutions will be to ensure that no business that takes my dollars for granted can count on me being a customer. And even if sales tax assumes a new, more clever disguise, I will not accept any excuse for retailers to take advantage of me.

The gloves – which will no longer come from Sears – are off!

Merry Christmas to all, and a Happy(tax-free) New Year.

*Maurice Switzer is a citizen of the Mississaugas of Alderville First Nation. He serves as director of communications for the Union of Ontario Indians and editor of the Anishinabek News. And he is an ex-Sears shopper.*

**Once upon a time: Every culture has stories to tell****Richard Wagamese**

Once upon a time...can you think of any words more powerful or arresting?

I think every one of us has a special attachment to those words. I think every one of us has a little kid in us that still reacts to them. They're magic words. They're the hocus pocus, the abracadabra that conjures mystery and adventure for us.

We begin our lives under the spell of fairy tales. I remember being told the story of Jack and the Beanstalk where the teacher who read it did an awesome job of the giant's voice. It scared me – but it excited and inspired me too.

Stories are elemental. By that I mean that every culture has them. Every person from whatever background has stories as their touchstone. The idea of sitting around a fire with the wood crackling and the sound of someone's voice telling a story is something that excites all of us.

I think it's because stories have the power to transport us. They have the ability to lift us

up and away from the things that worry, confound and perplex us in our everyday lives. They are harbingers of magic, of escape, of vast stretches of imagination where anything is possible. Anything at all.

In the Ojibway world, stories functioned as the peoples' university. When they were told everyone paid strict attention. Within them were all the great themes of literature, tragedy, pathos, romance, joy and struggle. Stories allowed ethics and values to be passed on.

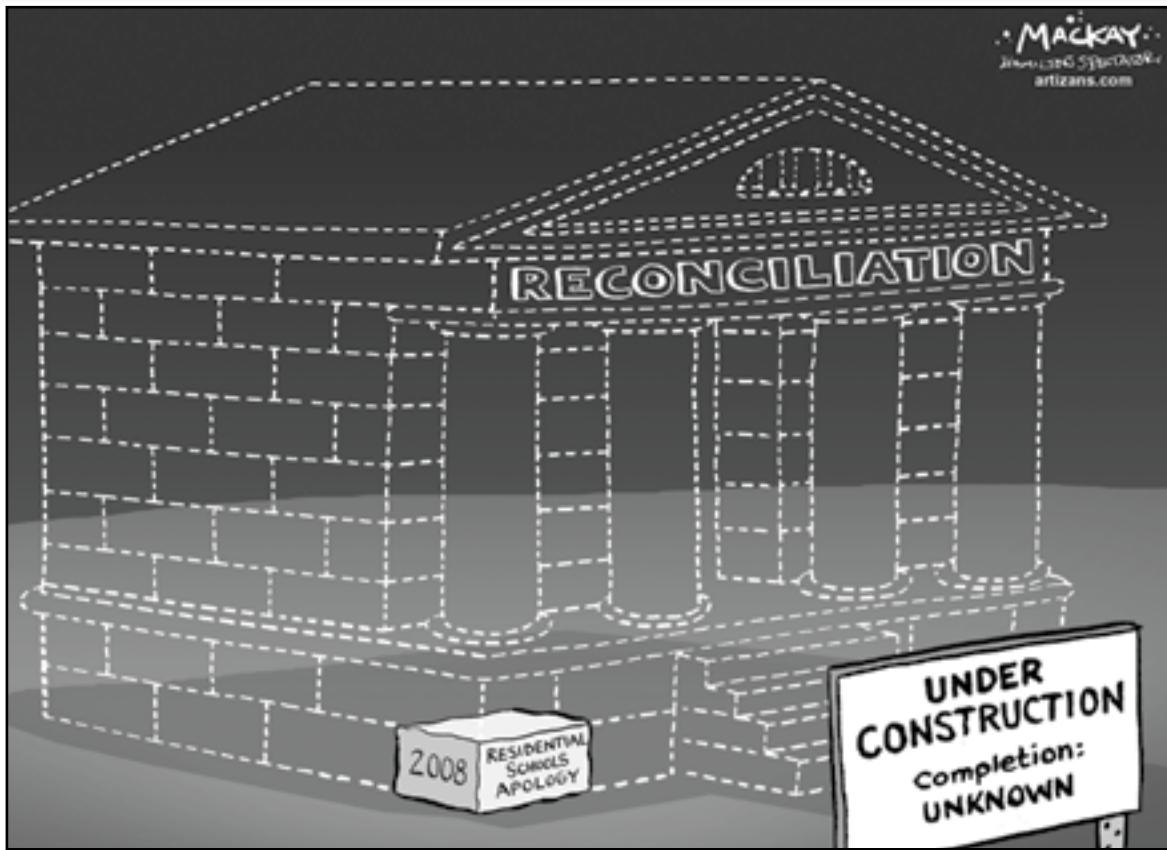
Someone once said that 'in the end, our stories are all we really have.' I think that's very true. The things of the earth are temporary because as another wise person said, 'no one ever pulled into heaven with a U-Haul.' That's very true too. All we truly have are the stories of our time here.

So the power of stories is their ability to teach us things. To take us beyond what we think we know of the world and let us enter other people's journeys. My people put great emphasis on stories and storytelling because they say it is the passing on of great energy.

Once upon a time. Magic. The conjuring of whole worlds out of thin air. When we tell stories we are all Creators and we bring life to the process by giving the only real thing of value that we have – our own story.

*Richard Wagamese is Ojibway from Wabassemong FN in Northwestern Ontario. His novel *Ragged Company* and his collected memoir, *One Native Life*, are in stores now.*

# MAANDA NDINENDAM /OPINION



## Native children still being seen, but not heard



Viola Thomas

**By Viola Thomas**

Children should be seen but not heard.

That was a common sentiment in decades past. Now, however, an entire generation of Canadians has grown up under the auspices of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in November, 1989. For the first time in history, the convention enshrined the right of children to give voice to their concerns: to be heard when they are being abused, to speak up when they are caught in crossfire between warring parents, to state their views about the medical and legal decisions that affect them. Whether enough people have listened is another matter.

Canada was one of the principal players in drafting a convention that would oblige signatory countries to recognize and protect children's rights. Along with the right to be heard, children would have the right to education, to an adequate standard of living, to health and to freedom from harm.

Internationally, some striking gains have followed. More children are being schooled, fewer are dying before their fifth birthday, more are protected from servitude.

Canada's gains, however, have been uneven. On the one hand, the convention has led to one of the world's strongest legal frameworks for protecting children from sexual exploitation and trafficking. To offset poverty, the Child Tax Benefit was introduced. Children are more likely to be consulted in family courts, and about health decisions. Each province has established an independent child advocate to monitor our adherence to the convention.

On the other hand, legislation to protect children has developed inconsistently across the country, and the child-welfare system is being made to bear too much of the burden of assuring children's overall well-being. Access to treatment for mental-health conditions, for instance, borders on fiasco. Only one in five children who need it receives help.

By far the most disenfranchised children, though, remain those of the First Nations, who appear to have benefited very little from Canada's ratification of the convention. According to a report by UNICEF last year, close to 27,000 First Nations children have been removed from their families and are drifting about in care -- more than were placed in the residential schools in a previous generation.

The agencies that serve these children receive 22 per cent less funding from the federal government, via the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, than the provincial child agencies get from their respective ministries.

First Nations children also have the right to an adequate standard of living, good health and freedom from harm, but that right is not fulfilled. Their rates of suicide, disability and obesity far exceed the national average. From a rights perspective, their plight is disgraceful.

The way forward for the next generation of Canadians may well be a private member's bill, C-418, brought forward in June by the MP Marc Garneau. It calls for the establishment of a National Children's Commissioner. Like the auditor-general or the privacy commissioner, the appointed person would act as a watchdog, in this case working for government accountability on children's rights.

This commissioner would also bring more co-ordination and focus to an extremely complex task, enabling Canada to implement the articles of the convention in a way that would genuinely change children's lives.

*Viola Thomas is a residential school survivor originally from the Tk'Emlups Indian Band in British Columbia. She works for Truth and Reconciliation Commission Canada.*

## KENGEWIN TEG EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE Adult Education Programs



### UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

#### University Undergraduate Degree 2009-2010, 2010-2011

- Bachelor of Education (ATEP) (Queen's University)
- Honours Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) (Laurentian University)

#### University Diploma 2009-2010, 2010-2011

- Diploma in Education (ATEP) (Queen's University)

#### University Certificate 2010-2012

- Certificate of Native Studies

\* Pending Approval (University of Sudbury)

## NOTABLE QUOTE

"You will not be forgotten as long as I'm in this White House. Indians will have a seat at the table when important decisions are being made about your lives. Washington can't – and shouldn't – dictate a policy agenda for Indian country. Tribal nations do better when they make their own decisions."



President Barack Obama

### COLLEGE PROGRAMS

#### College Certificate (one-year) 2009-2010, 2010-2011

- Business Administration Certificate (Cambrian College)
- Anishinaabemowin Immersion (Sault College)



# DOHM-NUK/LET'S PLAY

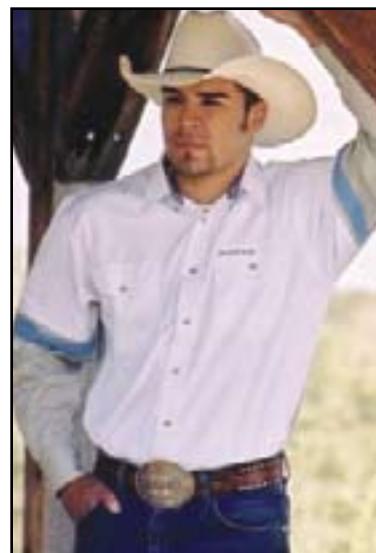
## Shane makes debut at Opry

Shane Yellowbird returns to the forefront of the Canadian country music scene with his highly anticipated sophomore album, It's About Time.

Two full years in the making, and a true labour of love, It's About Time promises an exciting new collection of tunes, both true to the caliber of music that Yellowbird fans have come to appreciate, and yet explorative of a new side of this talented artist not yet seen.

"It's About Time is more about me than my first record, if that makes sense," says Yellowbird. "Going into the studio, I had a real vision of what I wanted this album to be. I've made sure to record songs that really spoke to me. Each lyric and melody says something to me or about me. I'll leave that up to the listener to decide which is which!"

The new album released Nov. 17 (on On Ramp Records / EMI Music Canada) coincided with Yellowbird's first appearance on the hallowed stage of the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. The performance marked Yellowbird's entrance to the US market, with plans to release his music and videos in America in 2010.



Shane Yellowbird

"I look forward to sharing my music with listeners south of the Canadian border," commented Yellowbird. "I have lots of fan's there and it's time I get out and see them."

Yellowbird burst onto the country music scene in 2006 with the release of his debut album Life Is Calling My Name. Garnering four Top-10 radio singles and videos, the CD led Yellowbird to countless awards and accolades, including the coveted CCMA award for "Rising Star of the Year," the "Best Country Recording" award at the Native American Music Awards (for North America), and the "Aboriginal Entertainer of the Year" award at the Aboriginal People's Choice Awards (for North America).

## Job Posting

### Primary Language Immersion Specialist

(Fluent Anishinaabemowin Teacher)

Full-time – Exempt

Salary: \$52,000.00

Open Until Filled



#### Minimum Qualifications:

Must possess specialized unique skills which include a high level of demonstrated fluency, knowledge of age appropriate (18 months to 3 yrs old) teaching techniques; a clear understanding of immersion philosophy and language acquisition, and 5 years experience teaching

Anishinaabemowin. Bachelor's Degree in Education and/or possession of a teaching certificate preferred.

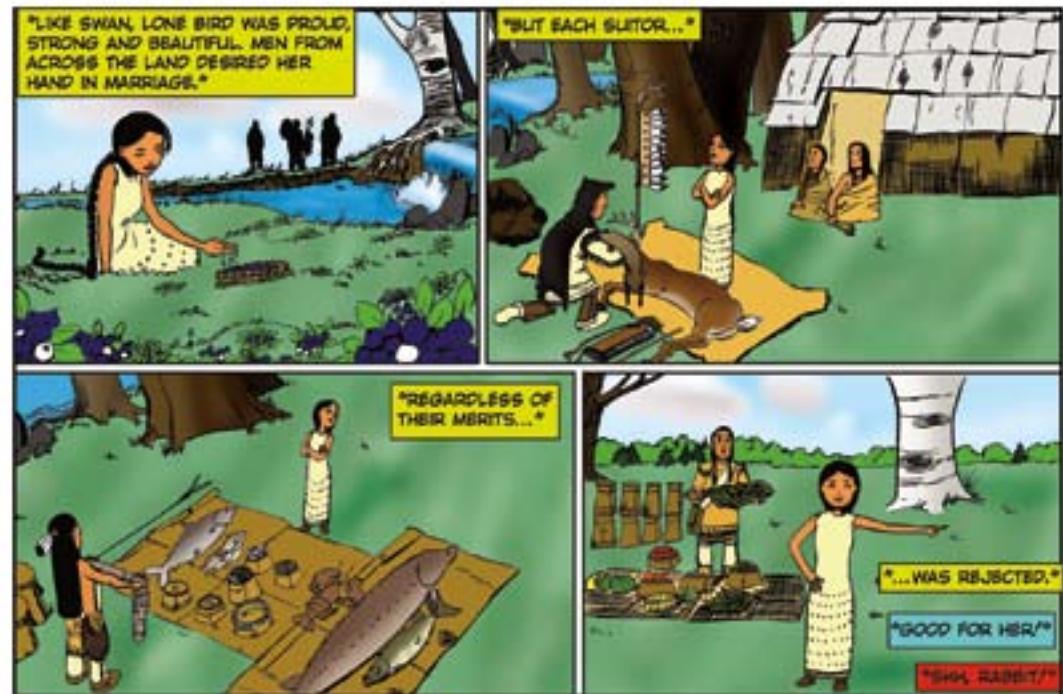
Must complete a criminal records check in accordance with the State of Michigan. Hiring is in accordance with Indian Preference Laws.

Please call Human Resources for more information.



Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan  
Telephone: (989) 775-5600

## Rabbit & Bear Paws



# Season's Greetings

Aamjiwnaang ~ Alderville ~  
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan ~  
Atikameksheng Anishnawbek  
(Whitefish Lake) ~ Aundeck Omni  
Kaning ~ Beausoleil ~ Biinjitiwaabik  
Zaaging Anishinaabek (Rocky Bay) ~  
Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek ~  
Chippewas of Georgina Island ~  
Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point ~  
Chippewas of the Thames ~ Curve  
Lake ~ Dokis ~ Fort William ~ Henvey  
Inlet ~ Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek  
~ Long Lake #58 ~ Magnetawan ~  
M'Chigeeng ~ Michipicoten ~  
Mississauga #8 ~ Mississaugas of  
Scugog ~ Moose Deer Point ~  
Munsee-Delaware ~  
Namaygoosisagagun ~ Nipissing ~  
Ojibways of Garden River ~ Ojibways  
of Pic River ~ Pays Plat ~ Pic Mobert  
~ Red Rock (Lake Helen) ~ Sagamok  
Anishinawbek ~ Serpent River ~  
Sheguiandah ~ Sheshegwaning ~  
Thessalon ~ Wahnapitae ~  
Wasauksing ~ Whitefish River ~  
Wikwemikong Unceded Indian  
Reserve ~ Zhiibaahaasing

# ARTS/EZHOOOSGAGED



## Road kill best bet for quills

*By Marci Becking*

M'CHIGEENG FN – It's much too dangerous to get quills from a live porcupine, so Lillian Debassige says that most artists rely on road kill for the raw material for their treasured traditional boxes.

"I don't know anyone who harvests the quills by throwing a blanket over a porcupine," says Debassige, owner of Lillian's Crafts in M'Chigeeng. "It's not very safe."

The natural colour of the porcupine quills is white with a black tip, different colours being achieved with dye. They are trimmed with sweet grass and completely lined inside with birch bark.

Debassige has quill boxes of all sizes and sells them at Lillian's Crafts – a store and museum that features over 50 artists from all over Manitoulin Island.

Located on Highway 540, the museum has over 400 pieces of quill work on display and is open year-round, seven days a week. For more information visit [www.lilliancrafts.com](http://www.lilliancrafts.com).



## New film explores mercury poisoning

*By Christine McFarlane*

TORONTO – A new film about the impacts of mercury poisoning on Northwestern Ontario First Nations people for whom fish is a dietary staple presents a textbook example of environmental racism.

"The Scars of Mercury" – written and directed by Tadashi Orui – was screened for the first time during October's Planet in Focus International Environmental Film Festival.

The 91-minute documentary explores some of the processes of destruction of the Indigenous way of life faced by Grassy Narrows First Nation because of water contamination created by the effluent of a paper mill at Dryden.

These include educational, economic and environmental racism, including the impacts of the residential school system, relocation of the community, treaty rights violations with a focus on the quota system for hunting and trapping, mercury poisoning of their key food source – fish – and clear cutting of trees on off-reserve treaty lands.

The result of has been severe economic deprivation, extensive



Tadashi Orui

environmental damage, a range of health problems, and loss of key food sources that supplement limited incomes.

Born in Japan, Orui moved to Winnipeg in 1997, and notes that "the dangers of mercury poisoning is not recognized properly, especially in Indigenous communities in northwestern Ontario.

"With fish as the main food in First Nations people's diet, and the fish being affected foremost by mercury, methylmercury poisoning happens through the ingestion of fish. Residents of the communities I have focused on in the documentary have in particular been eating mercury-contaminated fish for nearly half a century.

Health Canada has long stated 'there is no need to worry because their (Grassy Narrows) mercury levels are lower than the 'safety guideline', but evidence suggests otherwise."

Orui argues "If there was no such problem, then why would Health Canada start a mercury-monitoring program for these two particular communities – Grassy Narrows and Whitedog?"

## New Moon leaves fans panting

*By Arnya Assance*

Stephenie Meyer's second installment of the very popular Twilight series, New Moon, came to theatres on Nov. 20.

The movie's main character – Bella – dreams of her visiting grandmother, only to realize that it is actually her aging self, with perpetually immortal 17-year-old love interest, Edward Cullen. During Bella's 18th birthday party hosted by Edward's family, she gets a paper cut, and the drop of blood causes Jasper to be overwhelmed by his hunger for human blood.

Edward realizes that Bella will never be safe with his family of vampires and the Cullens leave Forks.

Bella's depression takes too much time of the movie. We get that she's depressed after Edward leaves her.

This event leads to a friendship with Jacob Black, played by Taylor Lautner who is from both the Ottawa and Pottowatami tribes in Michigan.

Jacob begins to feel more romantic than platonic toward Bella who is still pining for Edward.

The introduction of the were-



Taylor Lautner

wolves is anti-climactic in that we (the audience) were given subtle inference in Twilight, the beach scene where Bella gets Jake to tell of the "Cold Ones" and the treaty that they have with La Push Indian Reservation.

Bella realizes that the only way to "feel" Edward is when she engages in dangerous activity. Selfishly Bella uses Jacob to assist in her pursuit of the feeling of Edward.

The movie pursues this theme quite a bit. In a key scene, Bella cliff dives off La Push. Edward

Nish vampires?

Two Ojibways from Northern Ontario have launched a fun website project about Native vampires, based on a Maliseet Legend.

Inspired by the movie Twilight, Ojibway artist Richard Ogima and filmmaker Jordan Shap realized that it is time to tell a version of a vampire story based upon our legends and cultural insights. The Legend of the Apotamkin was born.

For more information visit [www.apotamkin.rezflow.com](http://www.apotamkin.rezflow.com).

sees through a vision of Alice, and assumes Bella is dead.

He decides he can't "live" without Bella. He goes to the Volturi.

The Volturi is explained as the closest thing to royalty. They enforce the code that vampires adhere to.

Jacob tries to convince Bella to stay with him, but she leaves with Alice for Italy.

To save Edward from exposing himself to humans which is against the Volturi law, this is Edward's way of ending his life.

The Volturi were scene stealing. The character Aro (played by Michael Sheen) and Jane (played by Dakota Fanning) was fantastic! Cold and calculating. The Volturi scenes, while short, were well done.

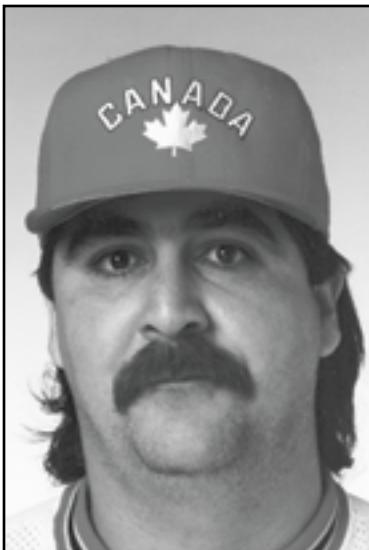
Bella saves Edward from certain death if he exposed himself to the humans. He vows never to leave her again.

The ending left me screaming "nooo" as the credits rolled.

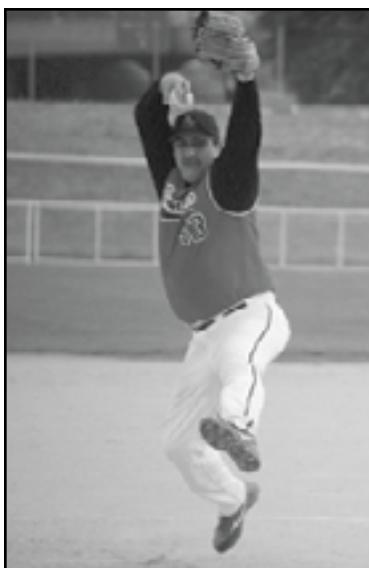
My overall opinion, well worth the nine bucks. I'm Team Edward and Team Jacob.

I can't wait for the next installment, Eclipse.

# DNAKMIGZIWIN/SPORTS



Darren Zack



In action.

## Z-Man joins softball hall of fame

**By Joseph Corbiere, LL.B.**

OTTAWA—Darren Zack — who led the Toronto Gators to the 1995 World Softball Championships without allowing a run in ten games pitched — has been inducted into Softball Canada's Hall of Fame.

Zack pitched for the Garden River First Nation Braves before the six-three, 275-pound right-hander was signed by big-city contenders for world softball supremacy.

Following the induction ceremony, Zack swapped memories with the other 2009 player inductee, Phyllis Bomberry from Six Nations, a catcher on Canadian championship teams in 1967 and 1969, and first woman to win the Tom Longboat Award.

Zack was the pre-eminent Canadian fastball pitcher from 1992 to 2002. Born in Garden River in 1960, the "Z-Man" had the unique ability to be able to learn from anyone, at any time. Stan Solomon, who was the Garden River pitcher, when Zack first tried his hand at pitching was one of the early influences. Darren also traded secrets with Duke Madahbee on Duke's mesmerizing change-up, and also learned from local pitchers such as the late Donnie Newman, Ray Lato Jr., Jake Derosario, Shoeless Jimmy Coulis, Tony Bergman,

Harold Barton, and George Crack.

Even after winning his first World Championship in 1992 Zack was still willing to discuss pitching styles and techniques with every pitcher who would talk to him.

A contingent of about 30 family and friends were included in the crowd of 300 who attended the induction ceremony, including Darren's mother -- Edith, father — John, sister Leslie and brother Mack, wife Charlotte and son Darren Jr. One of Darren's catchers, Randy Peck and his wife, were also in attendance.

Even a number of men who had umpired some of Zack's memorable games were on hand to reminisce about their experiences watching him pitch from behind the plate.

The Big Guy was so nervous, yet his speech was fantastic. A great example of heart speaking! No notes, no carefully-memorized script, yet he accepted the moment and seemed to speak individually to those in attendance. Each person who touched his life was mentioned. The simple eloquence, honesty, respect and sincerity in Darren's words touched all the listeners.

He described how he had left Garden River to play hardball in southern Ontario. After realizing

that his life was meant to go in another direction, he returned home.

His dad, John, told him "Hey, Boy, we need a pitcher!" So John would come home, still wearing his work boots, put his work glove on his catching hand under his ball glove. Darren spent hours practising pitches to his dad, wearing out gloves and softballs.

Described in the induction ceremony as a legendary ambassador for his sport, Darren has dazzled batters and fastpitch fans around the world, travelling to New Zealand, Manilla, Cuba, Argentina, Mexico and all over Turtle Island. His imposing presence and gentlemanly demeanor have made him a fan favourite where ever he goes.

He pitched for three Canadian championship teams, two World Champions, and won three gold medals in Pan American Games competition.



Induction



Phyllis Bomberry



**northeast  
mental health  
centre**

**centre  
de santé mentale  
du nord-est**

NORTH BAY CAMPUS - OPSEU

The Northeast Mental Health Centre (NEMHC) with campuses in Sudbury and North Bay provides specialized mental health services to all of northeastern Ontario. For more information on our services visit our website at [www.nemhc.on.ca](http://www.nemhc.on.ca).

### OUTREACH CLINICIAN

#### REGIONAL ABORIGINAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

**1 Temporary Full-time up to 6 months**

- Successful completion of a University Degree/College Diploma + experience in a health related field in the Social Sciences with proven capability of working with individuals who are seriously mentally ill
- Current registration, in good standing, with appropriate college
- Experience working in Aboriginal mental health
- Must have working knowledge of First Nations/Aboriginal cultures, history and issues
- Must have proven clinical abilities in case management, crisis intervention, as well as abilities in community development/capacity building and public speaking
- Must have experience in building relationships at different levels of community, institutions and/or government
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively with workers in a variety of settings as well as ability to work independently
- Ability to provide culturally appropriate outreach services through clinical case management, and support to Aboriginal clients, their families and community workers
- Ability to promote, support and facilitate Aboriginal mental health education, training and research in various settings
- Must be willing to travel in northeastern Ontario
- Ability to speak Ojibway or Cree is a definite asset
- A valid driver's license and access to a reliable vehicle is required

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS MAY APPLY IN WRITING BY SUBMITTING A CURRENT RESUME QUOTING REFERENCE #NEMHC(NB)030/09 by December 11, 2009 TO:

Recruitment Officer  
Northeast Mental Health Centre  
Box 3010, 4700 Hwy. 11 North  
North Bay, ON P1B 8L1  
Fax: (705) 495-7836  
E-mail: [jobs@nemhc.on.ca](mailto:jobs@nemhc.on.ca)

We thank all candidates for their interest; however only those most qualified will be contacted.

Criminal Reference Check: recent, within two (2) months is a requirement

## Islanders compete at Midland

Grades 7-8 cross-country running team members Landa Sandy (left) and Kyra Cass from Christian Island Elementary School participated in the Simcoe North Elementary School cross-country meet Oct. 14 at Little Lake Park in Midland.

— Photo by Sharon Weatherall



## Teachers organize fitness challenge

OTTAWA — More than 78 teams and 1300 students completed an AFN Fitness Challenge aimed at raising awareness about the positive relationship between diabetes and healthy living.

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo, and AFN Women's Council Chair Kathleen McHugh launched the challenge, which called on teachers to organize teams of First Nations students to engage in 30 minutes of physical activity each day for one month. The challenge wrapped up on Nov. 14th, World Diabetes Day.

Three Anishinabek Nation teams participated: Kiibaaji Waaboozoonsak, Sagamok Anishnawbek, teacher— Becky Toulouse, school.

G.L.C. Volunteers, Batchewana First Nation, teacher – Rick Hamilton, school -- Batchewana Learning Centre; and Soaring Eagles, Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, teacher Mr. S. Fox, school – Wasse-Abin Junior.

"We've had an amazing response from both teachers and students," said Kathleen McHugh. "Diabetes rates are three to five times higher among First Nations than the general population and that means that many of our families are touched by the disease."

NEED A VEHICLE?  
PROBLEMS WITH  
CREDIT?

100's of  
cars & trucks  
to choose from

0%  
Financing  
Available

Contact us Now!!

[www.northernontariolenders.com](http://www.northernontariolenders.com)



# DNAKMIGZIWIN /OLYMPICS

## No Olympic benefits for Aboriginal people

Recent stories about the Vancouver Olympics and the role the federal government is playing are troubling.

Organizers of these Games constantly state that Aboriginal participation is unprecedented, but even Tewanee Joseph, CEO of Four Host First Nations – the organization that is the bridge between organizers and the community – admits he can't name one Aboriginal athlete on our Olympic teams – winter or summer. If there are 200 athletes on the team to these Games, in terms of population ratios, six or seven should be Aboriginal.

Other issues to think about:

- VANOC – the Vancouver Olympic Committee is protesting a planned February 14, 2010 women's march on East Hastings St. Every year people march on Valentine's Day to remember the missing and murdered women of the city's eastside, and to bring attention to ongoing issues of violence against Aboriginal women. VANOC said the march would cause traffic jams. Vancouver disallowed the injunction and the march will proceed.

- Cowichan First Nation knitters had offered to supply their famous and beautiful hand-knit sweaters as an official sweater for the Games. VANOC turned them down. This fall The Bay, an official sponsor, came out with \$350 sweaters copied from traditional Cowichan designs. The nation luckily took the organizing committee to task and settled, but imagine the economic benefits – not to mention the pride – had VANOC gone with First Nation knitters.

- Mi'kmaw Children's Se't A'newey Performance Choir say that in 2007 Premier Gordon Campbell twice invited them to sing at the opening ceremonies. This fall VANOC told them they were not on the program, and the premier had nothing to do with the opening ceremonies. They were then allowed to sing at the "Aboriginal Pavilion at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre" – a tent in a parking lot. They declined.

- There are no plans to ensure that Aboriginal youth have access to Olympic facilities. With the exception of the First Nations Snowboarding Team, an initiative of the Squamish First Nation, and "Chill Out" – a snowboarding program for inner-city youth started by Metis, not VANOC – there are no other programs in the 22 sports for Aboriginal youth to access.

- Participants in the Olympic Indigenous Youth Gathering from Jan. 30-Feb. 14 were asked on the VANOC website, "Want to be part of the Olympic Games?" – yet are sent home the day after Olympic competition begins on Feb. 13. They had to send a photo of themselves in regalia, not 21st century clothing, and must be able to dance, drum, take instruction and perform for an international audience. They must "volunteer" for all performances and can be sent home for even talking to the media should they have a problem with arrangements, such as "dorm-style accommodations" during the H1N1 pandemic, or other restrictions. Such restrictions include having no rights to their own image, or creative work, so if the youth are performing in the opening ceremonies, which bring in revenues of hundreds of millions of dollars, they have no rights to claim a single penny.

- "Authentic Aboriginal Designs" on t-shirts, scarves, toques, vests and other memorabilia is mainly made in China, Bangladesh, Haiti, Honduras, and India.

...and the Games have not yet begun.



Laura Robinson

## People swept off streets to make way for Olympics

By Laura Robinson

VANCOUVER – Baby Lidd is sitting under a "Vancouver 2010 Olympics" sign outside The Bay downtown store in Vancouver.

As usual it's raining, and as usual, says Lidd, he is at his favourite corner. "The rain doesn't get me here" he says and points to the overhanging roof. On his head is a blue cap with the letters "BABY" across the crown. In front of him is a basket that says, "Will Work For Food." There are no more than 20 pennies in it despite the many people walking by. But most don't acknowledge him as he hunches against the wall, smiling away.

Lidd is Inuk and came from Troutland Lake, Greenland to Newfoundland 11 years ago on a fishing trawler.

His wife died 30 years ago of cancer, so he walked across Canada and raised money for a cure. "It took me two years and five months," he says, and once he got the Pacific coast he stayed put, working on trawlers and tourist boats. But at 71 years of age he pan-handles and is a well-known personality in downtown Vancouver – all you have to do is Google him to find that out. His "biblical names" he says are, "Amis, Martin and Abea. But everyone knows me as Baby."

When I tell him he doesn't look 71 he replies that he leads an athlete's life. "I get up at 4:30 every morning and exercise for one hour" he says proudly and points to the corner of Abbott and Water streets where he makes his home at the Winter's Hotel. "But the landlord told me I have to leave before the Olympics. He has new tenants and they pay a lot more...don't know why though 'cause there's lots of rats and mice!" But where will he go?

"I was six months on the street before this, so I guess I'll go back" says Lidd with reluctance. "Or maybe I will camp in the mountains. Where I come from this weather is warm. I know how to



Baby Lidd

be in the cold weather. We walked with a sidearm everywhere we went because of the polar bears and wolverines. I can go to the mountains and camp."

He has a generosity of spirit as he admits that he can't think of how the Olympics will help him out, but says "They're good for the country. It's a good thing to have them in Canada."

After our conversation I enter The Bay. It is an official sponsor of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics and has devoted a huge amount of floor space to official Olympic merchandise. I ask about a kid's sweater that has a "C" with a maple leaf inside it – nearly identical to the logo of the Conservative party – who swear it is a total coincidence.

I ask the salesperson where it is made.

"China" she says, as she double-checks. "There's hardly anything made in Canada." She comes closer. "I went to Men's Wear 'cause they have the U.S. Olympic team t-shirts. Eighty bucks for a t-shirt and they're made in China too! Can you believe it? Eighty dollars for a regular t-shirt. Who's

making the money on that? Not people in China."

Forty-five minutes later I am back to Baby Lidd's corner. He's not there, but I find him along the Granville block, now sitting out in the pouring rain. "A Chinese guy bought me food so I moved over here to eat it" he says.

Pivot Legal Centre advocates on behalf of the people of the Downtown Eastside, many of whom are Aboriginal. Right now they are fighting the "Assistance to Shelter Act" tabled by the B.C. Liberals. Laura Track, Pivot's housing campaign lawyer, says the legislation "represents a return to the vagrancy laws of the 19th century, which saw people criminalized simply for being poor and having nowhere to go."

"The Minister knows this is an unconstitutional law; this is a cynical strategy by the Liberal government to force poor people off the streets for the Olympics before courts strike the legislation down, which will unfortunately take months if not years."

I think of Baby Lidd and hope he has simply decided to take the day off.

## Protest signs

Signs protesting the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver and Whistler are springing up like these on the University of British Columbia campus.



# Social Services

To advocate on social issues affecting our people



## ASK HOLLY

BY HOLLY BRODHAGEN  
askholly@gmail.com



## 'Snow worms' don't gobble up garbage

Winter is on its way!

I can tell this by the accumulation of garbage along sidewalks, roadways and pathways.

In recent years I have noticed a strange trend. For some reason when people (not everyone) think that winter is upon us they feel it is okay to leave their garbage on the ground to be buried by the snow. As if it will magically disappear and never return.

Yet spring arrives, and with it the piles of food wrappers, cigarette butts, coffee cups and, of course, dog poop. It is a wonderful way to welcome spring buds and the return of the migrating animals.

I am not the only one to have noticed this trend. One person mentioned that in their neighbourhood the garbage seems to build up where teenagers hang out, and the piles seem to grow over the winter months. Unfortunately this is not surprising since many times these areas are not supplied with garbage cans. Someone else told me about a pile-up of garbage near coffee shops, which they suspect comes from drivers in the drive-thru who want to get rid of garbage in their cars. Hikers say local trails are overflowing with garbage – especially dog poop – around this time of year.

Is it because we are more likely to have garbage clean-up days during the warm days of summer so we don't see the garbage pile up? Or is there really a belief that the garbage will magically be eaten up by snow worms and not return in the spring? What is going through our heads that we feel it is okay to leave our litter on the ground any time of the year?

Personally I would prefer to pick up crisp new food wrappers in the cold weather then pick up soggy, God-knows-what-has-crawled-into-it wrappers in the soggy days of spring. But then again, I don't really enjoy the idea of picking up other people's garbage at any time of the year.

So rather than leaving surprises for volunteers to pick up, how about we all endeavour to not drop garbage on the ground? Instead how about we crinkle it up, put it in our pocket, backpack or purse and place it in a garbage can whenever we come upon one? And how about we do this every day of the year?

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we taught our children to also do this so that when they grow up and take their own kids for walks, perhaps the surprises that they encounter each spring are more likely to be red-breasted robins than khaki coffee cups?

*Holly Brodhagen, citizen of Dokis First Nation, holds a Masters of Social Work degree.*

## Leadership seeks more funding for child welfare services

TORONTO—Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee along with other First Nations Chiefs in Ontario have met with Laurel Broten, Ontario Minister of Children and Youth Services to discuss the funding cuts being imposed on a number of native-mandated child protection agencies.

"(The announced) \$4.6 million in funding cuts for Native child welfare agencies will put our children at risk," says Madahbee. "Some of our agencies report that they will not have the funds nec-

essary to provide the required services mandated by the Child and Family Services Act."

Madahbee also says that First Nations child welfare agencies were already being funded – on average – at levels 22 per cent below provincial agencies across Canada before the announced cuts.

Child protection is an essential service mandated by the Child and Family Services Act for which Minister Broten is responsible.

Grand Council Chief Madahbee is calling on the Minister to



Deputy Grand Council Chief Glen Hare talks to participants at the Child Welfare Law development community consultation session in Toronto. This was the last of eight sessions over four months. The draft Anishinabek Child Welfare Law will be presented at the Grand Council Assembly in June. — Photo by Christian Hebert

## Child Welfare Law to be drafted

By Christian Hebert

The Anishinabek Nation Child Welfare Law Development (ANCWLD) community consultation phase concluded with a final session in Toronto on November 18-19.

This session, along with the Garden River First Nation session, was well attended and the input received at both followed a familiar theme that has become evident throughout the process.

"Every community offers us new ideas. They all have different stories to tell" said Anishinabek Nation Elder Gordon Waindubence, who has been present at every session, along with Deputy Grand Council Chief Glen Hare. Hare's sharing of his own experience dealing with outside agencies and with the mainstream child welfare laws illustrate his passion for the cause of the child and have served as excellent and well-received motivators for the participants at the sessions to give their utmost effort.

In Toronto, Hare presented an item he long promised to create from the first session in Thunder Bay: a t-shirt with the message: 'Our Kids are NOT for Sale!' This message, promoting the need for our own Anishinabek Child Welfare Law, was aimed at reducing the number of apprehensions of Anishinabek children by outside agencies; a point Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee, who also

attended the Toronto session, was quick to support.

"When we discussed developing our own Child Welfare Law, [the need for it] came as no surprise. For generations, outside agencies have failed our children."

The community consultations were the first part in the development of the law. The next phase in the process is the legal drafting of the law, drawing on all of the information gathered at the consultations. Once the draft law is completed, the draft law will be presented to our citizens to ensure the elements in the draft law correspond what was suggested in the consultations.

This is very important in order to give the communities confidence, stated Madahbee, adding "this is something our people can work with, because it will be their law. They will have ownership and development of our law, since they contributed the bulk of its creation."

When the draft law consultations have concluded, a final revision of the law will be made and the process will near its conclusion with the ratification and implementation phases to follow. The process is expected to move swiftly, and with good reason.

"Our children are our most precious resource" adds Madahbee, "and our children are the most important part of our people's future."

## Leadership seeks more funding for child welfare services

restore the 20% in funding cuts imposed on Native Child Welfare Agencies. He noted that Dilico Anishinabek Family Care based in Thunder Bay is also feeling the effects of the cuts on their current budgets and forecasts more shortfalls in the future should the provincial ministry continue to use the current funding framework.

"The legacy that Jordan River Anderson left was one of equality of services for all children" said the Grand Council Chief. "We urge the Ministry to live up to On-

tario's pledge and restore the \$4.6 million in funding cuts being imposed on our Native child welfare agencies."

Jordan's Principle is a child-first principle to resolve jurisdictional disputes within, and between governments, regarding payment for government services provided to First Nations children. In Canada, there is a lack of clarity between the federal and provincial/territorial governments around who should pay for government services for First Nations

children, even when the services are normally available to other children.

A resolution was passed at the Nov. 25 Grand Council assembly in Garden River First Nation. Chiefs demanded that the Ministry of Children and Youth Services provide the funding requested by Dilico Anishinabek Family Care in the budgets approved by their Boards of Directors for the fiscal year 2009-2010 and other First Nation Chld Welfare Agencies.

# Health Secretariat



Art teacher Mrs. Valerie O'Leary, and Wasse-abin high school student winners of a poster contest on an FASD theme. Winners, whose entries will be published in a calendar, were Kalyn Beaudry, 3rd, Nadia Cheechoo, 1st, and Kelsey Dowdall, 2nd.

## Poster contest promotes FASD awareness

WIKWEMIKONG –The Nahdahweh Tchigehgamig Wikwemikong Health Centre held its 2nd Annual Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Poster Contest to promote awareness among youth about the harmful effects of alcohol consumption during pregnancy

A presentation by FASD worker Robin Assiniwe to Wasse-Abin High School students outlined preventive measures, harmful effects on the fetus, and lifelong challenges for a child born with the disorder. Students were then challenged to create an original piece of art promoting awareness of the harmful effects of drinking alcohol during pregnancy, encouraging others to learn more about FASD. The top 13 posters selected by community members will be published in the 2010 FASD Community Calendar.

# STAY CLEAR STAY SAFE

### Recreational activities near hydro stations and dams are dangerous

For your own safety obey all warnings at hydroelectric stations, dams and their surrounding shorelines and waterways. These facilities operate year-round, affecting water flows. Water that looks safe can become treacherous in minutes and ice forming near, or even several kilometres away, can become dangerous. Signs, fences, buoys and safety booms are there to warn you, but if you see water levels changing, move a safe distance away immediately. Be advised that people trespassing on OPG property face charges, with fines of up to \$2,000.



**ONTARIO POWER**  
GENERATION

Visit [opg.com](http://opg.com) to receive your free water safety DVD or brochure.

## How to help a citizen

Hello my name is Patty Whetung, I am a registered status Indian with Alderville reserve. I have raised my granddaughter since she was 8 weeks old., her father, my son, is registered, but Jessie is not. I have adopted my little girl and have tried to register her. There should be no problem doing this but what I am hearing this is going to take a year. Because my granddaughter was born in the USA she still has no health care in Canada. She can't have her health card until she has her status. We went to Buffalo New York to bring her daddy home. As soon as we got there my little girl was bitten in the face by a bull dog. She had her first surgery on the 20th of October, and she goes in on Nov. 2 for a second surgery. We need to come home as soon as she can travel. She will need follow-up work on her face. I need to find someone who will help me get my little girl a health card, or if you know of anyone in Indian Affairs that will help get her work done sooner. She is a beautiful little girl who loves everyone and everything. She needs her health care. Please help me with this help me make my little girl stay healthy. Thank you !

Patty

From: JimBob Marsden [mailto:[jbmarsden@aldervillefirstnation.ca](mailto:jbmarsden@aldervillefirstnation.ca)]  
Sent: October 30, 2009 9:09 AM  
To: Rinaldi\_Lou-MPP-CO  
Subject: Emergency assistance required for Anishinabek child



Chief Marsden

Good-morning Lou. Is there any way you can set a meeting up with the health officials to try and get this young girl an OHIP card or Health Card? Every citizen of Ontario has a right to health. I realize under this circumstance it might be different but she was adopted some time ago and is living here in Ontario with her

grandma, a member of Alderville First Nation.

The one paragraph that is disturbing is her quote "she cannot get her health card until she has her status". That is completely wrong and I don't know who told her this.

Any help you can do would be much appreciated  
Thanks for your help.  
Chief Marsden

From: Rinaldi\_Lou-MPP-CO  
To: JimBob Marsden ; Patty Whetung  
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2009 10:01 AM  
Subject: Emergency assistance required for Anishinabek child

Dear Chief Marsden,  
Thanks for contacting Lou. We're more than pleased to try to assist and are in contact with our OHIP liaisons now. Patty, please note our contact information (below). It's important that you provide a phone number where I may reach you as I may require more information.  
Kind regards,  
Jennifer Carreira  
Constituency Assistant  
Lou Rinaldi, M.P.P. Northumberland - Quinte West

From: Alderville Health & Social Services Director [mailto:[goveatt@eagle.ca](mailto:golveatt@eagle.ca)]  
Sent: Wed 11/4/2009 9:48 AM  
Subject: Emergency assistance - Patty Whetung

I wanted to let you know that I have sent Patty Whetung an email in regards to her granddaughter's situation and hope to hear from her soon. I have requested various pieces of information from her as our office did speak with her some time ago in regards to getting a health card for her granddaughter (usually should only take about three months).

From what we know, status has never been a requirement in order to receive a health card but perhaps this is related to an adoption and immigration issue - not sure until I get clarification from Patty on a number of items. I do have a link with a health care agency that can work with individuals who do not have a health card so hopefully we can assist in some way.

Jacqueline Goveatt  
Manager - Alderville Health and Social Services

From: Patty Whetung  
Sent: Sun 11/8/2009 3:45 PM  
Subject: FW: Emergency assistance required for Anishinabek child

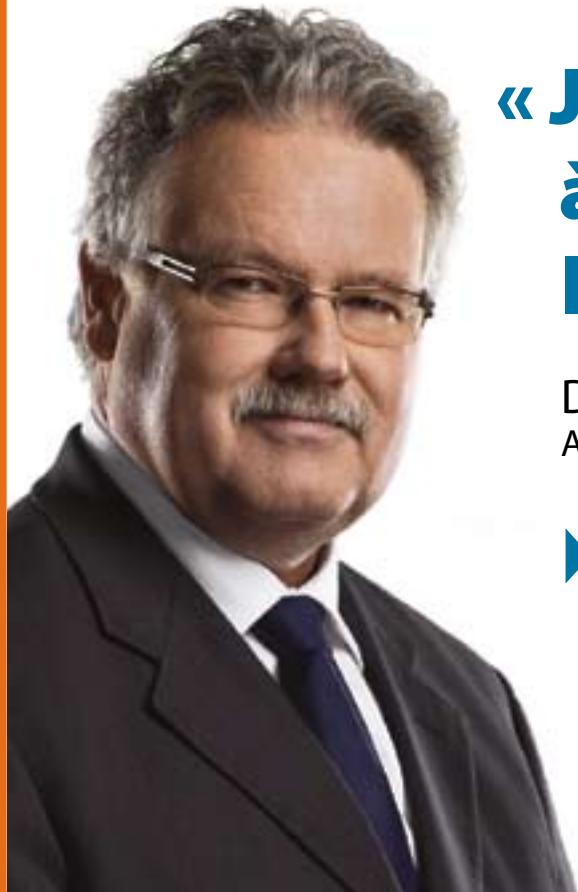
Aanii. Jessie's surgery on Nov. 2 went well. The outside of her face is healing good, the inside was torn pretty bad. The surgeon is pleased with what he had to do on the inside; he said it will take a good year to heal. I see what was there and what he has done -- he is a artist. Jessie is not as outgoing as she was before, but I will help with that, I will never let her be scared to be who she is, a loving beautiful little girl. I want to thank you for caring. That really makes a difference when you feel like you're alone. We are back home now, trying to put some normal back in our lives. Again thank you...

■ **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ■ RENSEIGNEMENTS IMPORTANTS ■**

## **"I encourage every Canadian to get the H1N1 flu vaccine."**

Dr. David Butler-Jones  
Chief Public Health Officer of Canada

- ▶ Getting vaccinated is a safe and effective way to protect yourself and others against the H1N1 flu virus.
- ▶ Canada has enough vaccine for everyone.



## **« J'encourage tous les Canadiens à recevoir le vaccin contre la grippe H1N1. »**

Dr David Butler-Jones  
Administrateur en chef de la santé publique du Canada

- ▶ La vaccination est un moyen sûr et efficace de vous protéger et de protéger vos proches contre le virus de la grippe H1N1.
- ▶ Le Canada a suffisamment de doses de vaccin pour tout le monde.

For information on flu clinics throughout your province go to [www.ontario.ca/flu](http://www.ontario.ca/flu) or call the ServiceOntario INFOline at 1-800-476-9708.

Pour des renseignements sur les cliniques de vaccination contre la grippe de votre province, allez au [www.ontario.ca/grippe](http://www.ontario.ca/grippe) ouappelez la Ligne INFO de ServiceOntario au 1-800-476-9708.

For more information about the H1N1 flu vaccine

visit  
**[www.fightflu.ca](http://www.fightflu.ca)**

or call  
**1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232)**  
**TTY 1-800-926-9105**

Pour en savoir plus sur le vaccin contre la grippe H1N1

visitez  
**[www.combattezlagrippe.ca](http://www.combattezlagrippe.ca)**

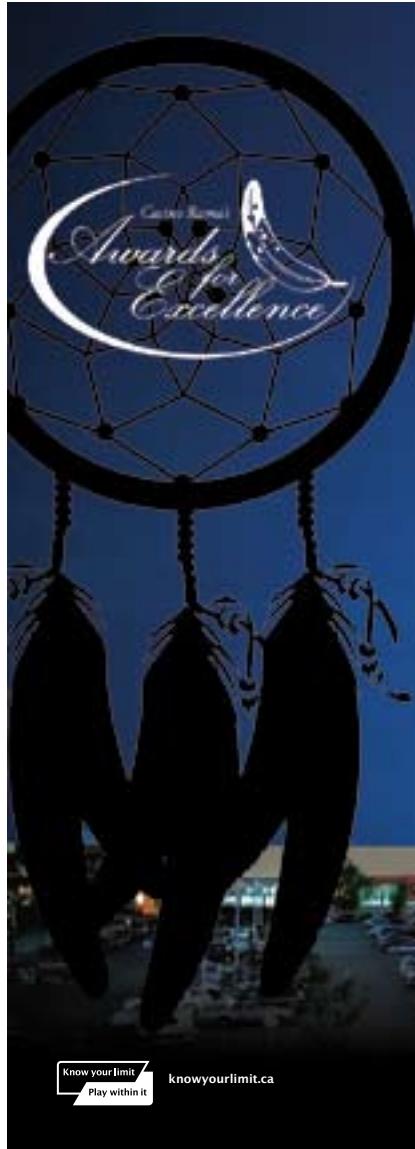
ou composez le  
**1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232)**  
**ATS 1-800-926-9105**



Public Health  
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé  
publique du Canada

**Canada**



**Helping Aboriginal students to capture their dreams.**

Casino Rama's Awards for Excellence program was developed to provide financial support to aboriginal students from Ontario who are pursuing a graduate degree (i.e. Masters or Ph.D.), professional degree (i.e. law, medicine, dentistry, etc.) or post-secondary education (which includes an undergraduate degree). Application deadline for this program is Friday, January 29, 2010.

Applications can be found at: <https://www.casinorama.com/awards4-excellence.html>

**CASINO RAMA**  
operated by:  PENN NATIONAL GAMING, INC.  
[olg.ca](http://olg.ca) 

**Know your limit  
Play within it** [knowyourlimit.ca](http://knowyourlimit.ca)

**KENGEWIN TEG  
KTEI  
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE**

Proudly hosts the annual ...

# Principals|Educators Conference 2010

First Nations Education ...  
A Positive and Proactive Approach!

This conference will provide educators with access to professional development training in the form of networking, sharing, and learning with a variety of workshop sessions. The annual First Nation based conference aims to promote and strengthen networking opportunities and resource sharing between schools and communities that will ultimately increase student success. [OPEN TO EVERYONE!](#)

**Tentative Workshops Include:**

- Numeracy and Literacy
- Anishnaabemowin Immersion
- Using Smart Boards
- Cultural and Traditional teaching(s)
- School Improvement Planning
- And much more!!

A great variety of workshops and networking opportunities for a great price!  
Conference rate is only \$95.00 a day, or \$145.00 for both days! Don't hesitate – register today!

**TEACHER EXCELLENCE AWARDS**  
Do you know a teacher that deserves to be celebrated and honoured for making a difference in a student's life by creating a positive learning environment? Do you know a teacher that inspires students to become teachers themselves?  
Nominate individuals to receive an award at the annual Principals/Educators Conference 2010.

Nominate a Teacher today!!

There are three awards: two teacher excellence awards and one new teacher award.

Awards Presentations & Evening Social on January 28, 2010

**JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2010**

**HOLIDAY INN, SUDBURY ONTARIO**

For more information, contact:  
Shanna Hare, Executive Assistant or Brenda Francis, Director of Operations at 705-377-4342.  
Or, visit [www.ktei.net](http://www.ktei.net) for registration form, agenda, and teacher nomination criteria.

# WAUBETEK

## First Nation businesses win Waubetek awards

CHIPPEWAS OF RAMA FN –The Waubetek Business Development Corporation hosted the 2009 Waubetek Business Awards Gala Thursday, Nov. 12.

"The event celebrates the Aboriginal Business Spirit as well as Waubetek's 20th Anniversary" advised Dawn Madahbee, General Manager of the Waubetek Business Development Corporation.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of four awards to Aboriginal businesses in recognition of their achievements in the following categories:

Youth Entrepreneur of the Year—Derek Debassige, owner of Manitoulin Physiotherapy Centre, located on the M'Chigeeng First Nation, Manitoulin Island.

Entrepreneur of the Year – George W. Sopher, owner of GWS Tree Service and Contracting, located in Parry Sound.

Business Merit Award – Anishinabek Nation Credit Union, located on the Garden River First Nation. ANCU is the first wholly owned Aboriginal Financial Institution ever to be granted a charter by the Province of Ontario.

Business Achievement – Niigon Technologies Ltd. Located in the community of Moose Deer Point First Nation, Niigon Technologies Ltd. is focused on the production of small, high-end products for several industries including automotive, agriculture and consumer packaging.



Georgian Bay area TAABIK drum group performed at the Waubetek Gala Awards. Last year, TAABIK was nominated for a Canadian Aboriginal Music Award. TAABIK means "rocky point or shore".



George Sopher, citizen of Nipissing First Nation, is the owner of GWS Tree Service and Contracting. His business won the New Entrepreneur of the Year Award from Waubetek.



Allan Moffat, manager of the Anishinabek Nation Credit Union, accepted the Waubetek Business Merit Award. The ANCU is located in Garden River FN.



Derek Debassige, M'Chigeeng FN is owner and clinic director of the Manitoulin Physio Centre. He won the award for Youth Entrepreneur of the Year.



Niigon Technologies Ltd., winner of the Business Achievement Award is located in Moose Deer Point First Nation.

# Inter-governmental Affairs

Protecting Aboriginal and Treaty Rights



## Circles dispense justice

By Heather Campbell

SUDBURY – Atikamksheng Anishnabek are taking justice into their own hands.

Chief Steven Miller and his community – formerly known as Whitefish Lake First Nation, located about ten miles west of Sudbury – announced their collaboration with the Sudbury District Restorative Justice, Ministry of Children and Youth Services and local area police services to conduct Community Healing Circles.

Atikamksheng will work with Sudbury District Restorative Justice to develop a program that fits their unique community needs. "We will provide initial consultation including setting up the program and training facilitators," says Amanda Chodura, Executive Director. Chodura says they will also support the referral process by acting as a liaison with Ontario Provincial Police, Crown Attorney and City of Greater Sudbury Police Service to determine types of offences that can be referred to the healing circle.

Under the model, when a youth is apprehended by police for a crime in the community, rather than going through the mainstream justice system they can be referred to the community healing circle. If the victims agree, a circle is organized in the community for parents, youth, victims, neighbours and elders.



Laurie Miller and Greg Brown are program coordinators to facilitate community healing circles for aboriginal youth in Sudbury who are apprehended for criminal activity.

Victims get to share the impact of the crime, while the youth can explain the circumstances leading to the incident and make an apology. All participants have the opportunity to share the impact of the crime on the community.

Everyone in the circle works together to reach an agreement on actions the youth can take to make amends for the crime. This might take the form of community service such as helping out at community feasts, ceremonies and gatherings.

"When I was contacted by Atikamksheng Anishnabek to develop a Community Healing Circle Program for at-risk youth and their families I was thrilled," said Chodura. "The Restorative Justice we use today was initially developed by our First Nations people. Atikamksheng is a very unique community, its member living, working, playing, and growing in circumstances far

closer than your typical town or city." The program was designed in a collaborative way without rigid guidelines, allowing Chief Miller and his community to create the best fit for their needs.

"The criminal behaviour of one person truly affects the entire community. Having the program led by the community rather than an "outsider" agency, is true Restorative Justice," Chodura said.

"We have had several sessions already," said Chief Miller, "we have been successful, and seems like we have struck a chord with the youth." Miller says that he is able to notice the youth who have used the circle are showing more insight on how their actions affect the entire community. Youth are given an opportunity with this type of justice program to reassess their actions instead of facing punitive action that does not help youth realize the impact on community.

## UOI Treaty commission taking new direction

GARDEN RIVER FN—Former Union of Ontario Treaty Commissioner Chief Isadore Day, Wiindawtegwinini, says that the UOI Treaty Commission process will be moving forward in a new direction.

"The treaty commission process will take a new route with a commissioner who does currently not hold a political position in Anishinabek to ensure impartiality," says Chief Day. "The UOI will now elevate its support and assist in the coordination of treaty implementation and treaty commission framework development

for all regions."

"This commission work is a much-needed pillar in the process of asserting rights and responsibilities within our treaty and traditional territories," said Chief Day. "The commission framework development will be charged with the task of ensuring modern and effective relationships between the Treaty Regions and both Canada and Ontario."

Chief Day is looking to the UOI to coordinate the time and resources required to conduct a two-day meeting facilitating discussions on treaty implementation.

During that meeting, the Treaty Commission report would be reviewed to determine a plan forward that Chief Day



will contribute to treaty implementation success in the four regions of the Anishinabek Nation.

Chief Day added that "It is critical at this point in Canada's history that governments now recognize that our treaties are alive and that the original "Spirit and Intent" of these covenants must be respected in order to give adherence to the Honour of the Crown".

## STAFF

**Allan Dokis**  
Director  
dokall@anishinabek.ca  
Ext. 2251

**Kerry Assiniwe**  
Relations Coordinator  
kerry.assiniwe@anishinabek.ca  
Ext. 2320

**Kevin Restoule**  
Treaty Research Coordinator  
kevin.restoule@anishinabek.ca  
Ext. 2264

**Mike Sawyer**  
Treaty Research Clerk  
michael.sawyer@anishinabek.ca  
Ext. 2237

**Nicole Latulippe**  
Project Coordinator  
ipperwash@anishinabek.ca  
Ext. 2253

The Union of Ontario Indians Intergovernmental Affairs department is committed to the protection of aboriginal and treaty rights, ensuring access to land and resources, and supporting the political goals, values and aspirations of the Anishinabek Nation.

## MISSION

## UN document supports Treaty rights: Venne

By Nicole Latulippe

An 'expert forum' was held this July at Kettle & Stony Point First Nation to hear from experts, leadership and citizens on what a possible Treaty Commission in Ontario (TCO) might look like.

Sharon Venne was one such expert. Venne is the Chair/Rapporteur of the United Nations Seminar on Treaties. Her work, internationally and domestically, relates to the promotion of the rights of Indigenous peoples, especially rights related to lands, resources, treaties and to future generations.

The background research on many of the clauses of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples can be found in her book: Our Elders Understand Our Rights: Evolving international law regarding Indigenous peoples. Venne is an Indigenous Treaty person (Cree) and by marriage a citizen of the Blood Tribe within Treaty 7.

Venne says those treaties made with the Crown or European powers were international agreements.

"There is a UN document that supports Indigenous Peoples and treaties," says Venne. "We need it to use it to promote our rights."

Venne says that from a global perspective, Canada is like many countries, not honouring treaties.

"I cannot think of any country that is honouring treaties," says Venne.

"If you have a UN presence – it can be used to push your own agenda and ideas and it also has an oversight provisions. Since there is someone looking over the shoulder of Canada to see about implementation of the treaties, it can be a forceful tool. Look at the OKA crisis and the role of the UN in that process."

"The treaties made by Indigenous Peoples and recognized through the UN study on Treaties - this declaration does not diminish those rights under international law. As a result, treaties recognize that Indigenous Peoples have rights that are outside of the declaration. The declaration is a narrow application - only to the human rights area - Indigenous Peoples rights include our human rights. We have rights as a collective which is different from an individual right which is usually the focus of human rights. We are not limited to human rights."

Venne says that by Canada not signing the Declaration doesn't mean anything.

"Indigenous Peoples can access all the mechanisms of the UN whether Canada accepts or not the declaration. It is an international standard accepted by the General Assembly. As far as I am concerned the colonial state of Canada does not need to recognize it - it keeps a hammer on their heads. The First Nations have to use the UN to push their rights - the UN recognized the right - now how are they going to enforce it? it is a question - First Nations must do the pushing - does not matter what Canada thinks about it."

Venne adds that a treaty commissioner should file all their reports at the United Nations oversight. It keeps in line with the treaties being international agreements.

*The Union of Ontario Indians (UOI) is involved with the overall process to implement the Ipperwash Inquiry Report recommendations, which is coordinated by Chiefs in Ontario. The next step in the formation of a possible Treaty Commission in Ontario is community engagement, which will follow a regional approach that corresponds with the Treaty territories.*

*The goal of the Union of Ontario Indians in its work to implement the Ipperwash Inquiry Report recommendations is to help build healthy relationships between Anishinabek First Nations, government and police services.*

*The Ipperwash Inquiry Report was released in May 2007. The Union of Ontario Indians advocated since that time for the federal and provincial governments to partner with Ontario First Nations to implement the Report's recommendations. Through this effort, a joint implementation process with Ontario was formalized in September 2008.*

# Lands and Resources

*Ensuring access to natural resources*




Moses "Moose-guy" Trudeau was honoured with a plaque recognizing his contributions to sustaining community traditional practices.

## Wikwemikong festival honours water gifts

By Karen Pheasant

WIKWEMIKONG—The 2nd annual Whitefish Festival was held Oct. 24, coordinated by the Wikwemikong Lands and Resources department, with the support of many of the band programs and an army of volunteers.

This year's event recognized the gifts of the water life, in particular, the Whitefish.

The festival served as a community ceremony to honour the vital importance of our fish relatives which provide nourishment, and to some, a viable source of income.

Over 600 participants shared food and heard about the department's special projects, such as the Agricultural Revitalization – Genevieve Eshkibok, Islands Claim Initiative – Rolland Pangowish and staff, Wind Power – Roger Peltier, Land use Planning – John Manitowabi and Norm Assiniwe, Species at Risk – Theodore Flamand and crew, and the New Relationship project – Karen Pheasant and Andrew (Stitch) Manitowabi.

The mandate of the Lands and Resources department is to develop and oversee a strategic, coordinated and culturally-based approach to lands stewardship for Wikwemikong and Point Grondine, as well as advocate the resolution of land-related issues within Wikwemikong's territory.

"Today, we were able to teach our children about hunting, fishing and the cooking practices that were a part of our life generations ago, before there were drive-thru windows," said Lands Director Noella Jacko. "We are glad for the elders that are here with us to share their knowledge and expertise."

A highlight of the festival – which took place at the Wiky arena and Pontiac School across the street – was public recognition of community members who live and practice traditional Anishnaabe philosophies and ways. Moses "Moose-guy" Trudeau was presented a plaque recognizing him as "a band member who dedicated his life and interests to the water and its life", who learned fishing from his parents and enjoys teaching his children and grandchildren.

Nominees included Mona Oshkawbesins – who feeds her family and grandchildren with her hunting, Joe Shawana, (Zoozep) – a well-known community wildlife harvester, the late William Trudeau – a respected community fisherman, skilled bow-hunter Harvey Bell Jr. – who provides wild meat to elders and families, and practices good ecology by using the hides for drum-making, Jerome Pheasant – who this year helped sons, Jonathan and Jona celebrate their first moose, and the late Nelson Shawana – who started the hunting and fishing committee.

## STAFF

**Jason Laronde**  
Director  
[larjas@anishinabek.ca](mailto:larjas@anishinabek.ca)  
Ext. 2263

**Nadine Roach**  
Forestry Coordinator  
[roanad@anishinabek.ca](mailto:roanad@anishinabek.ca)  
Ext. 2234

**Barb Naveau**  
Forestry Assistant  
[navbar@anishinabek.ca](mailto:navbar@anishinabek.ca)  
Ext. 2255

**Rhonda Gagnon**  
Water Resources Policy Analyst  
[bucrho@anishinabek.ca](mailto:bucrho@anishinabek.ca)  
Ext. 2318

**Sarah Louis**  
Water Resources Assistant  
[sarah.louis@anishinabek.ca](mailto:sarah.louis@anishinabek.ca)  
Ext. 2245

**Aranya Assance**  
AORMC Coordinator  
[assancea@anishinabek.ca](mailto:assancea@anishinabek.ca)  
Ext. 2340

## MISSION

The mission of the Lands and Resources department is to foster a better quality of life by ensuring access to natural resources in support of the goals, principles and values of the Anishinabek Nation.



## Noella oversees largest land base

By Karen J. Pheasant

WIKWEMIKONG – In April, 2007, Noella Jacko – current director of Wikwemikong Lands and Resources department – became the first person in Ontario to graduate from the Reserve Land and Environment Management Program.

Since the early 90s, Noella has been a part of the Lands department, initially as a technician staff person when the department only oversaw land allotment issues and

surveys. As the mandate and responsibilities evolved to co-management between Indian and Northern Affairs and First Nations, her role changed to oversee and direct the program's various projects, including: Lands and Environmental Management, Land Use Planning, Species at Risk, the Islands Claim, Agricultural Sustainability and the New

Relationship Project.

Since April of 2008, the department has been responsible for a land base of 54,000 hectares, making Wikwemikong geographically the largest First Nation in Ontario. The land base includes the Wikwemikong reserve, as well as the Point Grondine Settlement lands east of Killarney Provincial Park.

The fall, 2009 Auditor-General's report to the House of Commons acknowledges that "Reserve lands are central to First Nations peoples' history, cultural identity, and day-to-day activities, also noting that "many First Nations are among the most economically-deprived communities in the country".



Noella Jacko

Land management in the past was based on total control under the Indian Act and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) regime of land management.

The Reserve Land and Environment Management Program (RLEMP) transfers responsibilities from the Indian Act to First Nations for community land-use planning, environmental management, natural resources management, compliance monitoring, and administration of land transactions.

Within the mandate of the Lands and Natural Resources department and in partnership with INAC is the development and implementation of a strategy to identify and address environmental issues. First Nations across Canada have come a long way from processing CP's (Certificates of Possession) to being genuine land overseers.

## Water carried 20 km

By Patricia Migwans

SUDBURY – Participants in the 5th Anishnaabew-Kweok Water Journey completed a 20-kilometre walk around Ramsey Lake on Sept. 25.

This year's event was hosted by the Aboriginal Women's Ad Hoc Sharing Committee, in partnership with the Sudbury District Health Unit, Whitefish Lake First Nation, local Métis citizens, N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre, Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre, Wahnapitae First Nation, and Laurentian University.

Ghislaine 'G' Goudreau, founder of the Anishnaabew-Kweok Water Journey, is on maternity leave but attended the welcoming and closing ceremonies. When she launched the initiative, there were a handful of walkers and the White Bear singers helping create public awareness of the sacredness of the water. Over 100 participated in the 2009 event.

Water all over the globe is in great jeopardy, from pollution by unnecessary chemicals through vehicles, motor boats, and sewage disposals and littering of beaches. The Water Journey urges the public to wake up and face the fact



Participants in Sudbury Women's Water Walk at Sunrise Ceremony, from left, Joey-Lynn Wabie, Laura Hall, and Leesa Froman.

that we are literally killing ourselves if we do not look after our waters, and encourages everyone to do their part to help Mother Earth be clean.

Today, water is worth more than gold. Animal and plant life – as well as humans -- all need water to survive, which is why the Anishinaabe regard water as sacred – the Lifeblood of Mother Earth.

Joey-Lynn Wabie, who works at Laurentian University's Native Student Affairs, was the main organizer for this year's event. University of Sudbury's on-campus Elder, Julie Ozawagosh, conducted the sunrise ceremony and started the walk, carrying water in a copper pail. Rose Mary Bobiwash was the traditional cook for the feast, Eagle Staff carriers were Frank Ozawagosh, Darren McGregor, Norm Beauvais, and

Morris Soloman, and there were seven water carriers and a traditional helper among the participants.

Welcoming and closing songs were by the White Bear Singers of N'Swakamok Friendship Centre. The walk began with a Sunrise Ceremony at 6 a.m. At the end of the walk, there was a feast for all participants, staff and volunteers, and a shield presentation was made of a painting of the Sacred Water by Debbie Francis of White Bear Singers.

Just before the walk, Sudbury District Health Unit and the Ministry of Natural Resources showed up to ask if the traditional feast foods were safe to eat and cooked at the right temperature, if the wild meats were butchered by a licensed butcher and produced a special application form that required completion.

# Aboriginal Ontario

## Open for Business

A Special Report on Economic Development



## Munsee-Delaware gets economic development funding

MUNCEY — Chief Patrick Waddilove announced that the Munsee-Delaware Nation has received almost \$600,000 in funding to complete its small business/community centre.

Ontario's Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs provided over \$490,000 towards construction of the facility through the Aboriginal Community Capital Grants Program, and the Union of Ontario Indians Anishinabek Education Institute (AEI) has provided \$100,000.

Munsee-Delaware Nation has put up \$300,000 for the project.

Chief Waddilove says that the business centre will be 100 per cent occupied once it's built.

"We have a broadband business, a coffee shop and restaurant, computer business and AEI coming in," says Waddilove.

He estimates that 20 new jobs will be created.

Construction of the small business/community centre began in 1998 but the project was put on hold due to funding restraints. However, with the new funding commitments, the Nation will now complete a centre designed to create economic opportunities



Chief Waddilove

and enhance the quality of life of the First Nations members. The facility is expected to be complete by summer 2010.

"The completion of the facility will be the result of the hard

work and perseverance of many people over the years," said Chief Waddilove. "It is a great example of how the First Nation must work in a partnership environment with government and the private sector. The opportunity is now available to finish an important community facility that will enable local entrepreneurs to pursue their goals."

It is expected this project will also directly generate new short-term construction jobs and ongoing economic benefits for the broader community.

"This is a great example of

a project that will help build the on-reserve economy and encourage the development of entrepreneurs and leaders," said Brad Duguid, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. "The province and Munsee-Delaware Nation are working together to improve the community and support local jobs and opportunities."

The Munsee-Delaware Nation is located approximately 40 kilometres southwest of London, Ontario and has a registered population of 547 people with approximately 170 people living on reserve.

## Métis miner knowingly employs addicts

*By Jorge Antonio Vallejos*

TORONTO — Henry Wetelainen says it's as important to invest in people as it is in mining equipment.

"I really believe people are worth the time," said Wetelainen, a Métis from Northwestern Ontario who is president and chief executive officer of Bending Lake Iron Group Ltd.

Wetelainen shared his progressive and innovative business strategy of including Methadone therapy during employee training at this year's 17th annual conference of the Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association.

"If I'm trying to employ young Aboriginal men, I know there's a lot of them that are addicted; I've seen it," says Wetelainen, who could very well run the first company in Canadian history to knowingly employ drug addicts. He admits he is taking a chance others would not in trying to create a better, and all-Aboriginal work force.

"We deal with having to function and understand that people are on it and not run 'em off it, and try and make accommodations to work through it with them during the program," he says. "I have an empathy for the issue."

"Two of my sons are addicted to oxies."

Wetelainen freely admits that his 29-year-old twin sons have been addicted to Oxycontin for years, the first getting hooked on what he calls "Hillbilly Heroin" after a weightlifting accident. It wasn't long after a doctor prescribed the highly-addictive painkiller that both brothers were on it.

"They try my patience. And it's hard," says Wetelainen. "It's the toughest thing you'll ever have to deal with. They steal you blind. They've sold my equipment on me, everything. I



Henry Wetelainen

can't trust them around anything. It's hard for me."

The Métis mining executive has always been a patient man. He learned about the land and prospecting in the 1950s from his grandmother, and 50 years after she lost her plot due to financial troubles, Wetelainen pooled \$200,000 from family and friends to buy it back.

Seven generations of his family had been trapping and prospecting the land, his grandparents acting as guides for geologists.

His grandmother, now 97, is listed as co-owner of Bending Lake Iron Group Ltd. Wetelainen plans on opening an iron ore mine within the next four years that he hopes will employ 300 Aboriginal people for at least 50 years.

Chinese consumption of iron ore is driving the market that Wetelainen plans on entering.

"Steel is the basis of any market, any economy," he says. "You look at bridges, buildings, cars, stoves, fridges — everything we buy — it's steel; it's the basis of our modern way of life."

"Without it we come to a grinding halt as a society. They say that China is building a city the size of Houston, Texas every month. There's ninety million Chinese that can afford to buy a

car today that don't have one."

But he also sees a domestic demand to drive the success of his 80-per-cent Aboriginal-owned company.

"The infrastructure of this country [Canada] is crumbling. It was built in the fifties. We have to spend massive amounts of money on infrastructure which requires steel."

North America imports 6 to 8 million tons of steel annually from Brazil and Russia, and Henry Wetelainen plans on helping fill that demand.

"The market is there for us. It's strong, it's solid."

Four years away from production, Wetelainen plans on taking Bending Lake Iron Group public and selling shares.

"A company has to have a philosophy. Our philosophy is that our people are important to us. And we'll be there to help where we can," he says.

Wetelainen partnered with Confederation College in Thunder Bay and a number of Northern Ontario First Nations to sponsor a 15-week geological training course.

The first round of courses saw eight men from different communities do classroom study for three weeks, then learn to

prospect the land for 10 days on and 4 days off. With no geological background, students learn how to use GPS systems and magnetometers. The course can accommodate up to 20 students, usually in their mid-twenties to thirties — at \$15,000 per student.

"It's almost duplicate to what they'd do on a work schedule in a mining camp anywhere," says Wetelainen. "We think it's important to pass on and teach our knowledge. What I was taught by my Grandmother, not too many people have that experience."

"I took the mining course the province [Ontario] offered and I didn't think much of it. It gave you a bit of experience. So I said, 'Let's design something different,'"

It's tough being a disciplinarian, Wetelainen admits.

"It's hard to forgive. It's hard to say, 'Oh, you've got another chance.' I probably err too far on that side but I'm comfortable when I go to sleep at night and I can look in the mirror and say, 'I've tried. I've given my best try.'"

"As Aboriginal leaders you have to step forward and say that's a real thing [addiction] in our communities. And you must tackle it head on. And you must also deal with it in your workforce," he says. "I personally believe the governments aren't doing enough to tackle the issue. I think our First Nations aren't tackling the issue. I think we're quietly observing this epidemic and we're not speaking out and we should be."

With two sons as addicts, and an uncle that drank himself to death, Wetelainen looks to his cousin — an addict who kicked alcohol after killing someone in a car accident — for a source of optimism.

"I've seen that lives are worth saving."



Casino Rama

## Concern about casino future

*By Teviah Moro*

ORILLIA — Progress in talks leading to a deal to extend the operating agreement of Casino Rama beyond the fall of 2011 is unquestionably in the public's interest.

Apart from the direct benefits the gaming operation has provided to the Chippewas of Rama First Nation for more than a decade, it's the single largest employer in this area.

With more than 3,000 people working at Casino Rama, and a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week stream of visitors drawn to the slots, its spinoff is tremendous.

That's why Simcoe North MPP Garfield Dunlop rose in the Ontario legislature to demand answers about a potential deal for the casino.

"We need to know that Casino Rama will be viable and will contribute to the economy of Ontario for many years to come."

Dunlop also told the Speaker of the House that "silence on the agreement is deceiving, and frustration and distrust is mounting."

The current 10-year operating agreement expires in the fall of 2011. That isn't far off. For a region that banks on Casino Rama's existence, it's hard to attract more prosperity here in the form of business and residents if the economic powerhouse's future is up in the air.



**Canadian  
Aboriginal  
Minerals  
Association**

# NAAMKAMIK/MINING



Stories by  
Jorge Vallejos

## Looking for a piece of the billion-dollar mining pie

TORONTO — Hans Matthews' hands are brown, smooth, and well-groomed. If you were to judge him by his clean fingernails and his pinstriped suit you would miss how thick his fingers are, and that you only get fingers like that from working hard with your hands, not pushing pencils at a desk.

Working in the mining industry for over 20 years, Matthews, originally from Wahnapitae First Nation, started his career long before entering a mine. "As a kid I was always interested in collecting rocks. I was always interested in nature and being in the bush. So, I made up my mind to make a career out of it. I stuck to rocks," says Matthews, in town for the annual conference of the Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association which he founded 17 years ago.

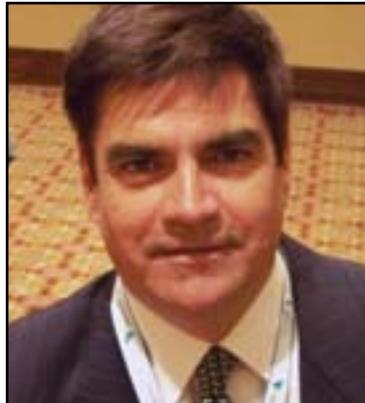
Working for a geologist throughout his summers as a

youth, Matthews later earned a BA from Brock University, with geology one of his majors. He dropped out of a Masters program at Western University before completion.

"I was disillusioned with the education system. It wasn't the end-all. Education is only one piece of the puzzle to really understanding nature and wildlife," says Matthews. "I started to learn about the culture [Aboriginal culture] and worked with Aboriginal groups around the world."

Spending time in Arizona in the late 1980's with the Navajo and Pueblo Nations, Matthews saw first-hand what Aboriginal people could attain by taking back their land. He thought to himself, "If this can happen in Arizona, why can't it happen in Canada?"

Matthews came back home with questions that went unanswered by government, industry,



Hans Matthews.

and Chiefs. Matthews estimates the Robinson Huron Treaty area has produced over 150 billion dollars in mineral wealth over the last 100 years.

"How much did the First Nations in the Robinson Huron Treaty Area get from that? Those mines are still there. They're gonna keep opening and closing like they have for the last hun-

dred years. So, what can we do as a Nation to be more involved in that money, that 150 billion?" Not one to give up, Matthews came up with a simple plan that launched the Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association.

Faxing out a one-page questionnaire to over 300 Aboriginal communities across Canada, Matthews asked four important questions: Would you like to know more about mining? What are some of the benefits of mining? What are some of the issues that you have? Would you like to see an organization created to help you with these questions? Eighty percent of the faxes came back with positive responses.

Around the same time, the Oka Crisis of 1990 — a pivotal moment in Aboriginal history that showed the world that Aboriginal people were tired of land abuses — struck fear into executives in the mining

industry. "They felt threatened. They were in a corner," says Matthews. Mining companies now had to deal with rightful owners of lands they were exploiting."

CAMA was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1991/92 and held its first conference in 1993 with a focus on the Nunavut Land Claim Settlement. Fifty people participated with three sponsors funding the event in kind. This year's conference attracted 500 people from across Canada and around the world — from India, South Africa, and Australia — to participate, with over 40 sponsors funding the event in kind.

Boasting over 300 members, many of them Aboriginal companies, Matthews recalls "If we had told a mining company that we would have Aboriginal-owned mining companies back when we [CAMA] started, they would have laughed at us."

## Youths seeking higher positions

Three panelists brought a youth perspective to the 17th annual conference of the Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association.

They had different views, but a common goal — advancement within the mining industry for Aboriginal youth.

Cheryl Recollet of Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, David Isaac of Stellat'en First Nation, and Louden Hunter of Gitxsan First Nation took centre stage on the final day of the CAMA conference, and reminded participants youth are the best source of information if their interests are the topic of discussion.

Moderated by Sherry Huff of Huff Media Consultants, Recollet, Isaac and Hunter shared their experiences, took questions from the audience, and gave great advice to Aboriginal youth interested in mining:

- 1) take your first week to watch
- 2) find mentors
- 3) keep an open mind
- 4) understand where you are going
- 5) look ahead, have a plan
- 6) look for something you like that suits your interests
- 7) stick it out

All three shared a common concern: most positions held by Aboriginal people in the mining industry are low-level jobs —



Louden Hunter, David Isaac and Cheryl Recollet.

cooks, cleaners, and linesmen.

"Companies should offer higher positions; learn what students are studying and align it with jobs," said Recollet, working on her Masters in Environmental Science and serving as Wahnapitae First Nations Environmental Coordinator.

Audience member Mark Bell, a young miner from Aroland First Nation, said: "We have to look at what our community needs, not what the industry needs." Sharing stories of Aboriginal youth not having the ability to read at as high as a Grade 11 level, Bell proposed that companies should fund early education programs such as Headstart if they want to employ Aboriginal people.

Panelists Isaac and Hunter, both graduates of North West Community College, the School of Exploration and Mining in British Columbia, are happy doing the backbreaking work that most would not want to do. Doing a three-month course split 50/50 between the classroom and hands-on mine training, Isaac, 31, and Hunter, 22, lived during their course like they would on the job.

Housed in tents with 33 other

students, only six of whom were women, students went 21 days straight with 7 days off. Hunter, an experienced hunter since childhood, and Isaac, working in fisheries before mining, love the bush and enjoy their jobs. "I love being outdoors, it's my thing," said Hunter.

Later, Isaac said the conference might have benefited from the presence of some community Elders.

"They might actually have a better understanding, and a better idea, of what's going on. And they might be able to pass it on to our youth because Elders are the main people we look up to. I go to talk to a lot of Elders in my community about the consultations they go to and they don't even have a very good understanding of what consultation is," said Isaac.

Recollet described the challenges and complexities of following traditional ways and being a part of the mining industry.

"It's that fine line between economic development and environmental protection. Which way do you go? Do the economic developments outweigh the environmental impacts?"

## Mining memories bitter ones

Possibly the longest-serving Chief in Anishinabek history, Roy Michano is seldom at a loss for words.

Now in his 19th term in the political field, Michano has a lot of memories of the mining industry, some of them still leaving a bitter taste in his mouth.

"We got dick-all!" the Pic River First Nation leader fumes at the mention of the Hemlo gold find in the 1980s. "It was the largest gold development in North America. We got nothing from it."

Recounting Pic River First Nation's past dealings with Hemlo Gold — including a toxic waste-dumping disaster that killed waters and the life in them — Michano came to the annual Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association conference to bring change to his community.

Accompanied by two youth, one a lawyer, the other a land and research worker, Michano "was amazed at how this [CAMA] has grown" and "was happy to see the young people there." Hosting its first ever youth panel, CAMA showed Chiefs, industry, and government the future of the mining industry. "I look to them to simply bring home the message," said Michano.

Describing the mining industry as a "con game", Michano said, "We're not going to tolerate beads and blankets anymore.



Chief Michano

That's 1850. It's a different ball-game now."

Different? Very much so. CAMA hosted over 500 participants, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, with the message of equal partnership leading to a future of 100%-owned Aboriginal mining companies. Michano holds sentiments shared by many CAMA participants.

"It's no longer sufficient for the wapshkiwe — the mining people — pretending to come and do us good favours. When they come now, they have to come with the clear understanding that we have rights; we have Elders directing us that tell us we should no longer be stickhandling with people who are gonna knife us in the back," says Michano.

It is not only non-Aborigines that are the problem, in Michano's opinion. Sometimes dealing with Aboriginal people can be just as tough a battle.

Going to head to head with Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse in front of hundreds present at the conference, Michano said. "We've got to quit passing resolutions and resolutions which is talk and talk and talk. By golly, let's walk something for a change."

"I'm not against development, but I'm certainly against second-fiddling."

# RESTORATION OF JURISDICTION



## COMMUNITY CONSTITUTION RATIFICATION WORKSHOPS

### IS YOUR COMMUNITY READY TO:

- Finalize your draft constitution?
- Get your citizens' input on their final draft community constitution?
- Ratify your constitution?

The Union of Ontario Indians is hosting three workshops to assist Community Constitution Committees to finalize their draft constitutions and prepare for community consultation and ratification.

### DATES & LOCATIONS

December 1-3, 2009 — Sault Ste. Marie  
January 26-28, 2010 — Rama  
February 9-11, 2010 — Thunder Bay

These workshops will be facilitated by:  
Tracey O'Donnell, Legal Consultant

For more information on these workshops or to arrange a community information and constitution development session, please contact:

Rhea Assinewe, Constitution Development Coordinator,  
by phone at (705) 497-9127, toll free at 1-877-702-5200  
or by email at [rhea.assinewe@anishinabek.ca](mailto:rhea.assinewe@anishinabek.ca)



Chiefs and Councillors,  
Nation Building Councils: Elders, Women and Youth,  
Community Constitution Development Committees,  
Education and Governance Working Groups,  
and interested citizens are requested to attend  
one workshop and two conferences as part of the

## ANISHINABEK NATION COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

... this is about encouraging and supporting Anishinabek to participate and be involved in decisions about the future of the Anishinabek Nation.

... this is about engaging Anishinabek in Nation-building and creating a stronger sense of national identity.

... this is about unifying Anishinabek so that our Nation remains strong and viable in the long run.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

January 20 & 21, 2010—Rama First Nation  
February 2 & 3, 2010—Fort William First Nation  
February 15 & 16, 2010—Sault Ste. Marie

### ANISHINABEK EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

February 17 & 18, 2010—Sault St. Marie

### ANISHINABEK NATION CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

March 2, 3 & 4, 2010—Sault Ste. Marie

At the workshops, community leaders will:

- get training in facilitating citizens' engagement and
- identify best practices to get your citizens involved in the Nation's business.

At the conferences, your leadership training will be put to use.

The conferences will focus on the Anishinabek Nation Constitution and the Anishinabek Education System – two fundamental national institutions.

In 2010-2011, community leaders can then proceed in their home communities with a community engagement strategy and the communication tools and skills to go with it.

Then community leaders can engage even more citizens in our collective Anishinabek nation-building initiatives, and in community decision-making alike.

### NIIGAN GA-ZHAAMIN

For more information contact:  
Lorie Young, Union of Ontario Indians, P. O. Box 711, North Bay, ON P1B 8J8  
Phone: (705) 497-9127 Ext: 2316 ~ Toll Free: 1-877-702-5200 ~ Fax: (705) 497-9136 ~ Email: [youlor@anishinabek.ca](mailto:youlor@anishinabek.ca)

# Anishinabek Nation Credit Union



Winner of the Waubetek  
2009 Business Merit Award

Visit us online at [www.ancu.ca](http://www.ancu.ca)

7 Shingwauk St., Garden River First Nation P2A 6Z8 1-866-775-2628



Allan Moffatt  
ANCU manager

# RESTORATION OF JURISDICTION

## Constitution development gets endorsement at fall assembly

**By ROJ Staff**

GARDEN RIVER FN – Special Projects Coordinator, Rhea Assinewe, and Legal Counsels, Tracey O'Donnell and Fred Bellefeuille teamed up to present a full update on the progress of constitution development to the Chiefs in Assembly at Kete-gaunseebee First Nation on Tuesday November 24, 2009.

Rhea Assinewe told the Assembly of her work in coordinating constitution development on behalf of the Anishinabek Nation.

"I am responsible to provide advice and legal expertise to the First Nation communities to assist them in developing their constitutions and I also coordinate a committee of resource people to review and refine the draft Anishinabe Chi-Naaknigewin (Anishinabek Nation Constitution)."

Fred Bellefeuille explained the legal aspects of the draft Anishinabe Chi-Naaknigewin (Anishinabek Nation Constitution).

"The Anishinabek Nation Constitution describes the citizens of the Anishinabek Nation and creates the Anishinabek Nation Government," said Bellefeuille.

Legal Counsel, Tracey O'Donnell described the upcoming constitutional convention process to the Chiefs and delegates.

O'Donnell stated, "The convention is intended to allow Chiefs, Councillors and attending community representatives a full opportunity to review and debate the articles of the Anishinabe Chi-Naaknigewin before it is formally adopted."

The Chiefs were apprised of the progress made with respect to First Nation community constitu-

tions as well as the work plan to finalize and ratify the Anishinabe Chi-Naaknigewin.

Assinewe presented a progress tracking chart that shows the First Nations who are involved in development of their community constitutions.

The Chiefs were provided with a copy of the draft Anishinabe Chi-Naaknigewin for their review. Once all of the presentations were made and the relevant information provided to the Chiefs, a resolution was presented that requested endorsement of the work plan and timelines for finalizing and adoption of the Anishinabe Chi-Naaknigewin.

The resolution provided that a constitutional convention would be held on March 2, 3 and 4, 2010 to finalize the draft constitution and determine a ratification process.

In June 2010, the Grand Council would be asked to approve the final draft Anishinabe Chi-Naaknigewin and the ratification process. A second constitutional convention will be called in March of 2011 to ratify the Anishinabe Chi-Naaknigewin and a ceremony, proclamation and celebration will be held at the Grand Council Assembly in June 2011 where the Anishinabe Chi-Naaknigewin will be added to the Anishinabek Nation Bundle.

With almost all of the Anishinabek Nations represented by their Chiefs or delegates, the Assembly gave a resounding thumbs-up to the proposed work plan and timelines for the Anishinabe Chi-Naaknigewin – Anishinabek Nation Constitution.

Stay tuned for more exciting news about the nation-building activities that will be happening in the upcoming months.



Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee signs the Anishinabek Nation/Ontario Education System Memorandum of Understanding at the Grand Council assembly in Garden River. Deputy Grand Council Chief Glen Hare witnesses the event.

## Anishinabek Nation and Ontario sign MOU on education

GARDEN RIVER FIRST NATION – The Anishinabek Nation and Ontario formally confirmed their commitment to bilateral discussions and collaboration on common educational issues related to the establishment and implementation of the Anishinabek Nation Education System by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

"Only by working together can the Anishinabek Nation and Ontario deliver improved education outcomes for Anishinaabe students," said Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee, as he signed the Memorandum of Understanding during the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council's fall assembly.

"We must coordinate our systems and provide Anishinaabe students with equal opportunities in education. This means two things: cultivating a strong and proud Anishinaabe identity and preparing our children and youth for success in today's world. This is the reason we are creating a new Anishinabek Education System," Grand Council Chief Madahbee continued.

"This historic agreement is an important step forward to improving the educational outcomes for the youth of the Anishinabek Nation. It also formalizes the strengthened relationship between the Government of Ontario and the Anishinabek Nation," said Ontario Minister of Education Kathleen Wynne.

"There is nothing more crucial for success than education," said Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Brad Duguid. "This agreement will help to ensure real and substantive change to the quality of life of the next generation of First Nation people."

The Anishinabek Education System is being developed by educators and education administrators representing Anishinabek Nation communities as part of bilateral negotiations between the Anishinabek Nation and Canada, regarding the recognition of Anishinabek jurisdiction over education. Through the negotiated arrangement, the Anishinabek Nation intends on creating an education system to coordinate culturally appropriate education programs and services across the Anishinabek territory, and address the chronic underfunding of on-reserve schools by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.



The Union of Ontario Indians will be conducting a series of five (5) two-day Capacity Development workshops between September 2009 and March 2010.

### CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS 2009-2010

These two-day workshops are aimed at providing First Nation communities within the Anishinabek Nation territory with an opportunity to further develop capacity levels in key identified areas.

Participants at each of the workshops will include Leadership, Band Managers, Directors of Operations, Program Managers, Staff and Community Members within the First Nations.

Dates &  
Locations

- Developing First Nation Curriculum and Standards
- December 15 & 16, 2009—Kettle & Stony Point First Nation
- The Use of Technology in First Nations
- January 19 & 20, 2010—Red Rock Indian Band

***There is no cost  
to participate in these workshops***

Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Accommodations and travel are the responsibility of the individual workshop participants.

For more information contact:

Terry Restoule, Capacity Development Coordinator, Union of Ontario Indians, P. O. Box 711, North Bay ON P1B 8J8  
Phone: (705) 497-9127 Ext: 2279 ~ Toll Free: 1-877-702-5200 ~ Fax: (705) 497-9136 ~ Email: rester@anishinabek.ca



# 12th Annual Casino Rama Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Awards and the The Scotiabank Student Excellence Awards

June 24, 2010

5:30 p.m. in the Silvernightingale Ballroom

## Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Awards

The Anishinabek community is invited to submit the names of community members who have made a lifetime commitment to career, community, and the service of others through volunteerism. Every community has someone who deserves to be recognized for their good work or deeds. Take the time to fill in a nomination form for someone who has made a difference in your community.

All nominations must be accompanied by a letter of support or a BCR from the Chief and Council. We also accept posthumous nominations for this event. Try your best to honour someone before they leave on their spirit journey. You can download the nomination form from [www.anishinabek.ca](http://www.anishinabek.ca).

### George Lanouette Memorial Award

This new category will be awarded to one person under the following criteria:

- For Outstanding Community Development;
- First Nation Government Operations: in the areas of introducing systems and processes to enhance First Nations government capacity and accountability;
- Human Resource Development: developing and enhancing First Nation community human resource capacity; and
- Infrastructure Development: establishing or enhancing First Nation community infrastructure i.e. implementation of new computer technology, new community centres, water treatment, roads, etc.

### Deadline for submissions:

Please submit a written nomination with community support. Deadline for nomination is May 25, 2010.

### Send submissions to:

Les Couchie, Manager, AN7GC, P.O. Box 711, North Bay, ON, P1B 8J8, PH: 705-497-9127; FX: 705-497-9135, Email: [ansgc@anishinabek.ca](mailto:ansgc@anishinabek.ca)



# Bell 12th Annual Anishinabek Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament

Hawk Ridge Golf and Country Club, Orillia, Ontario

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2010

**REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN.** \$200 p/person or \$800 a team (includes green fees, cart, prize pack, chance to win a major door prize, and our usual great dinner). Your payment is confirmation to attend, so register early and don't miss out.

Celebrity guests are Johnny Bower, Bobby Baun and other celebrities yet to be confirmed. Our guest MC Peter McKeown will be back to help with the auction and prizes.

Come out at 11:00 a.m. for our celebrity "Meet & Greet". Registration at noon. Tee-off is 1:00 p.m. sharp. Contests on the course for everyone. Prizes awarded for the Men, Women, and Mixed champion teams.

**Aboriginal Businesses** ~ advertise your company by becoming a "Hole Sponsor" and support the Anishinabek Charity that serves your communities.



**carte blanche**  
Promotional Products Inc.



**TransCanada**  
An energy to deliver™

**KPMG**

**NIPISSING**  
UNIVERSITY



To register or find

out more about this great event

contact the charity office

PH: 877-702-5200 or 705-497-9127 ext. 2261

Email [ansgc@anishinabek.ca](mailto:ansgc@anishinabek.ca)

# EDUCATION *Kinoomaagewin*

 A SUPPLEMENT TO THE ANISHINABEK NEWS  
December 2009

## Beausoleil students learn compassion during challenge day

By Sharon Weatherall

BEAUSOLEIL FN —When Rich Dutra-St. John and his team arrive in a community to host their Challenge Days events they expect to see hugs... and lots of them.

The international program provides youth and their communities experimental programs that demonstrate the possibility of love and connection through diversity, truth and full expression.

On Nov. 17 some 40 Beausoleil First Nation citizens participated in the first day of a two-day program that involved interaction with parents, elders and community members.

Day two was for high school-aged aboriginal youth from four area schools, along with some teachers and school staff. All information shared by participants at Challenge Days remains confidential.

The adult session filled the Christian Island community centre with pent-up emotions that were released through tears of fear, sadness and happiness. It was a day of awakening and promises for future improvements involving youth.

"The turnout was great for the adult session; it was amazing to see so many interested community members," said Dutra-St. John, a California motivational speaker who founded the Challenge Day concept in 1987.

"There was a lot of emotion and positive work done. The most

important was the message of safe love and the celebration of the kids — you can really make a kid feel good if you let them know you believe in them."

Dutra-St. John and his wife Yvonne decided to create Challenge Day so their children wouldn't endure the teasing and humiliation they experienced in school, he for being the smallest student in the seventh grade and his wife for being overweight.

"I wanted to kill myself before Junior High School but instead I worked out," he said. "Even though I ended up being accepted into the jock group I still didn't have the courage to speak out against kids that were treating others badly. I graduated with honours and became a teacher because I wanted to make a difference."

Day two of the Beausoleil program drew heightened emotions, tears, personal confessions and apologies from the kids involved.

They learned that hugs and compassion towards others are stepping stones towards healing and not to hold feelings inside where they can damage people physically, emotionally and mentally.

Challenge Day teaches that "being a good listener and feeling what a person is feeling" is the best gift you can give to someone who's hurting — it allows people to connect.

The mission of Challenge Day is to inspire people to be the change they wish to see in the world, starting with themselves, through compassion and service using a formula for change — "notice, choose and act".

"The response this program has brought to our community and the kids is something that is really needed here on Christian Island," observed one young mother. "I just hope what we have learned is not forgotten but continued by the community because that's where it starts."



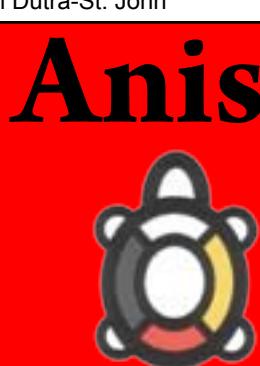
Group hugs help break down barriers between participants at Challenge Day on Beausoleil First Nation.



Students from four area schools participate in Challenge Day in November at Christian Island Community Centre.



Rich Dutra-St. John



## Anishinabek Nation Credit Union

Happy Holidays from the Anishinabek's own  
Full Service Financial Institution  
Visit us online at [www.ancu.ca](http://www.ancu.ca)

7 Shingwauk St., Garden River First Nation P2A 6Z8 1-866-775-2628



Allan Moffatt  
ANCU manager

# Grants, not loans: Hyer calls on government to safeguard education

OTTAWA – Bruce Hyer, MP for Thunder Bay – Superior North is calling on the federal government to honour its commitments to First Nations in Ontario by confirming that it will keep the crucial First Nations Post-Secondary Support Program (PSSP) in place.

According to Statistics Canada, last year the employment rate for Aboriginal people without a high school diploma was only 50 per cent, but it climbed to 80 per cent for those with a post-secondary education.

In the House of Commons, Hyer spoke to the need to maintain the program that serves well over 30,000 Canadian First Nations students annually "Mr. Speaker, many Ontario First Nations are rightly concerned with verified reports that the Ministry of Indian and Northern Affairs is considering removing the Post-Secondary Student Support Program from First Nations management to place it under the Canada Student Loans program or another third party," said Hyer. "There are at least six treaties that grant First Nations rights to manage their own academic support funds. This would also turn the grants given under this program into loans, saddling many of our most underfunded students with debt."

The Program currently provides just over \$300 million per year in financial assistance for students with the cost of

tuition fees, books, travel, and living expenses in some cases.

The program also assists Status Indian and Inuit students achieve the academic qualifications needed to enter into post-secondary degree and diploma programs.

According to Census data from Statistics Canada, 35 per cent of Aboriginal people have graduated from a trade, college or university program, compared to 51 per cent of the general Canadian population.

"We've had great success with our PSSP," said Debi Bouchie, Band Administrator of Pic River First Nation. "It's important that First Nations keep management of this program to ensure a strong foundation for future prosperity.

Pic River Nation members overwhelmingly support this program and we're anxious to hear the government response to our call."

Jean Crowder, New Democrat Critic for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Affairs, added "In 1992, need-based funding for First Nations students ended.

In 1997, the block funding for student support was capped. Since then, the First Nations population has risen by 11 per cent. Why aren't the Conservatives investing more money in First Nations education instead of talking about rationing?" she said.

Roxanne Manitowabi of

the Ontario Native Education Counseling Association said "We're concerned that the government is not consulting First Nations on changes to the highly successful PSSP. We're seeing good results today, and we're concerned the changes proposed may be detrimental to the First Nations education."

Hyer tabled a petition in the House of Commons on behalf of over 50 First Nations from across Ontario, including nine from his own riding, calling for the maintenance of the Post-Secondary Support Program.

## Mike Brown MPP/député

 Algoma-Manitoulin



1-800-831-1899  
mbrown.mpp@liberal.ola.org

**News online**  
[www.anishinabek.ca](http://www.anishinabek.ca)

Over 12 million people benefit from our work ... every day.

From radio operators to research scientists, speechwriters to social workers – more than 60,000 Ontario government employees make a difference across the province every day.

## DIRECTOR, ABORIGINAL AND MINISTRY RELATIONSHIPS *Social/Education*

Consider this exciting, challenging opportunity to champion the establishment of the **Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs' Aboriginal and ministry relationships branch**, and make a unique, significant impact on Ontario's Aboriginal affairs. An effective communicator, negotiator and consensus builder with exceptional political acuity, you will lead the team that provides corporate perspective and expertise to the social and education ministries of the Province of Ontario. Your demonstrated leadership expertise and experience in Aboriginal affairs are complemented by demonstrated engagement with Aboriginal organizations, and proven expertise in innovative strategic planning, with emphasis on the design and development of a strategic partnership framework. Additionally, you bring exceptional issues management skills, and proven expertise in relationship building and management. **Location: Toronto**, with provincewide travel to meet partners.

Please visit our website to view detailed job information, including qualifications and instructions on how to apply. Alternatively, you may send your resume, quoting **Job ID 23591, by Jan. 13, 2010**, to: **Careers Executive, Executive Talent Search Unit, Executive Programs and Services Branch, Centre for Leadership and Learning, HROntario, Ministry of Government Services, 595 Bay St., Ste. 1203, P.O. Box 14, Toronto, ON M5G 2C2. Fax: 416-326-8817. E-mail: [CareersExecutive@ontario.ca](mailto:CareersExecutive@ontario.ca). Only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.**

*The Ontario Public Service is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation will be provided in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code.*

[ontario.ca/careers](http://ontario.ca/careers)



**Master of Education in Aboriginal and World Indigenous Educational Studies**  
Faculty of Education  
Graduate Studies and Bureau of Research  
Room A106, Duncan McArthur Hall  
Queen's University  
Kingston, Ontario K7M 5R7



The Faculty of Education at Queen's University offers a Master of Education degree in Aboriginal and World Indigenous Educational Studies (AWIES) intended for students with experience in Aboriginal communities. The program is directed at increasing research and development capabilities in education in the community and its leaders. Courses are designed specifically to Aboriginal and World Indigenous contexts.

The AWIES program is offered part-time and delivered in a blended format where students are required to be on campus during the first summer for three weeks commencing in July. This provides students with the opportunity to establish a cohort and to be exposed to faculty advisors, librarians, support staff, and learning resources. The balance of the program is completed online.

Our next application deadline is March 1, 2010 for July 2010 admission.

For more information, please visit our website at:  
<http://educ.queensu.ca/prospective/programs/awies/index.html> or contact us by phone at 613 533 6206, email at [educmed@queensu.ca](mailto:educmed@queensu.ca), or fax: 613 533 6057

## Za-geh-do-win INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE

Information about Health,  
Healing and Family Violence  
for Aboriginal communities  
in Ontario



Call 1.800.669.2538 to receive a free catalogue.

P.O. Box 40 | 147 Gabode Dr. | Naughton | ON | P0M 2M0  
T 705.692.0420 | Toll Free 1.800.669.2538 | F 705.692.9039  
[www.za-geh-do-win.com](http://www.za-geh-do-win.com) | [info@za-geh-do-win.com](mailto:info@za-geh-do-win.com)

# Law supports Shingwauk progress

GARDEN RIVER FN – Anishinabek Chiefs at their fall assembly heard the second reading of a draft law supporting formal recognition of Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig as a university in Ontario.

"This is a historic occasion and this is very important for developing our own educational institutions," Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee told assembled chiefs. "This is what we need to develop our own education system."

Darrell Boissoneau, president of Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig, says that it marked an historic day for the Anishinabek Nation and the university.

"The Law Respecting Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig is another positive step in our ef-

orts of Nation-building, governance and institution-building. Today we have asserted our sovereign Anishinaabe rights for Anishinaabe Control Darrell of Anishinaabe Boissoneau Education by enacting this Law. We have honoured the memory of our grandmothers and grandfathers and created a footprint for our children and grandchildren to follow," says Boissoneau.

"The enactment of this Law is a major step forward and strengthens the relationship we

have with the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council, the Garden River First Nation and the Three Fires Midewiwn Lodge. Cultural-based and quality education from the Anishinabek World view will be advanced through Anishinaabe Studies and Anishinabemowin as articulated in Chief Shingwauk's Vision," said Boissoneau.

Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig is an evolving Anishinaabe Post-Secondary Institution that is currently being developed by the Shingwauk Education Trust (SET).

The Shingwauk Education Trust was founded by a vision of Ojibway Chief Shingwauk to create a "Teaching Wigwam," with an overall goal of providing education to Anishinaabe students.



## Register Today for a Full-Time Program Starting in January

**Start 2010 by taking a step in the right direction. Register for a full-time postsecondary program at Canadore College.**

### **Business**

#### **Business**

Business Administration

Small Business Management

Small Business Administration

Business Administration - Marketing

Business Management

### **Hospitality**

Hotel and Restaurant Operations

Hotel and Restaurant Administration

### **Recreation and Leisure**

Recreation and Leisure Services Administration

Recreation and Leisure Services

Recreation Therapy

Sport Conditioning

Ecotourism

Recreation Therapist Assistant

Recreation Programs - Fast Track

### **Office Administration**

Office Administration - General

Office Administration

### **Preparatory**

General Arts and Science

### **Skilled Trades**

Electrical Techniques

Mechanical Techniques - Plumbing

**ONTARIO COLLEGES .CA**

For more information please contact:

Canadore College, Registrar's Office  
100 College Drive, North Bay, ON P1B 8K9  
(705) 474-7600 ext. 5123  
Fax: (705) 494-7462  
TDD (705) 495-2862

AN ENVIRONMENT FOR LEARNING

[www.canadore.on.ca](http://www.canadore.on.ca)

## Welcoming environment at Sault College program

Native Education at Sault College prides itself on creating a welcoming environment for native students from near and far.

This environment doesn't happen by chance, however. As much as there are people employed as counsellors, faculty and administration, there are people dedicated to making Native Education a fun, welcoming place to be.

Anishinabek News spoke with Patrick Hunter (Sault College Native Student Council President) and Noella Boissoneau (Events Officer, Native Education) to learn more about what it's like to be a native student at Sault College, and what there is to do there.

### **So who are you? Introduce yourselves.**

**Patrick:** Patrick Hunter, Sault College Native Student Council President.

**Noella:** Noella Boissoneau: Events Officer, Native Education at Sault College

### **What do you each do?**

**Noella:** Basically, it's my job to keep the Native Centre busy with events for students, and sometimes their families.

**Patrick:** I try to have events that are contemporary. Noella puts on more traditional events, but my role is to spice it up so we have a good balance of the two, traditional and modern.

### **What sorts of activities do you plan?**

**Patrick:** I like to plan things that are fun for students like pubs, and fashion shows, balanced with family oriented and traditional activities. We also try to have events that everyone can come out to, so we can enlighten non-native students what native culture is about.

A lot of our events are joint ventures between Noella and I, so you'll see the Native Student Council and Native Education work together a lot.

**Noella:** We did a survey and there are many different events that students have requested that I try to make happen.

We have language bingo, craft classes, hayrides, sleigh rides and traditional teachings like how to feast a feather.

I'm helping Native Student Council set up a Christmas feast, and I'm also helping with the planning of the annual pow-wow, which will hopefully happen in the second week of November.

Recently, I had a student ask if we can help him book a room to start a drum group, so my role is to help make all these things happen, put up the posters, and get the word of mouth started.

I also work with Algoma University on a project called Love Your Language, where we get all the language teachers from the college and the university together and have a lunch, so the teachers can have a chance to share and socialize.

### **What's it like to be a student at Sault College, specifically at Native Education?**

**Patrick:** It's pretty unique that we have our own native centre, as a lot of colleges don't have one. Ours is pretty active, doing what the students' want and request. The atmosphere is like home, including some home cooked meals,

**Noella:** It's very laid back at Native Ed. Things like the homemade soup makes it feel like home. The food is always something for native people. They come together, sit around, talk, and laugh. It's a place to feel welcome.

### **Is it easy to make friends at Sault College / Native Education?**

**Patrick:** I think it is. I haven't seen anyone sitting alone. A lot of people come from the same places or have the same background. We've had students from as far as Nunavut.

**Noella:** When they come out to events, from what I've seen, they kind of connect right off the hop, with students who've been here before. Second year students will take new students under their wing and help out because they remember what it was like.

### **Patrick, what was it like for you, coming to Sault College?**

**Patrick:** I'm from Red Lake, ON, which is in the north-western region near Manitoba and the demographic is different up there. Not a lot of native students move away for school.

Coming to college, you get to see a lot of native students, all going to school for different things, not just native stuff. I'm in graphic design, there's welding. They all want something better.

The first week was a little disorienting, because you're not sure what you should be doing. You want to go to events, but you're not sure who to go with. It's weird at first, but then you get into your schedule and find a flow.

### **Noella, what specific things does Native Education do to help students?**

**Noella:** Half the time it doesn't feel like work. The way I feel, I think it's just the way everybody works together. There's no judgement, no criticism, and it feels like you're working with a good family.

# NATIVE

## *The V*



Centre for Indigenous Theatre

### FULL-TIME THREE YEAR TRAINING PROGRAM CALL FOR INFO ON OUR SUMMER PROGRAMS

Please contact the office for application and deadline information.

**401 Richmond Street West, Suite 205**  
**Toronto, Ontario M5V 1X3**  
**TEL: 416 506-9436 FAX: 416 506-9430**  
[citmail@indigenoustheatre.com](mailto:citmail@indigenoustheatre.com)  
[www.indigenoustheatre.com](http://www.indigenoustheatre.com)



You'll Love It Here.  
 For more information,  
 ph: 1-888-ALGOMAU  
 e-mail: [info@algoma.ca](mailto:info@algoma.ca)  
 Visit [www.algoma.ca](http://www.algoma.ca)



**NATIVE STUDIES**  
 at the University of Sudbury



The University of Sudbury's Department of Native Studies promotes an understanding of Aboriginal peoples, their traditions, aspirations and participation in local, national and international communities.

Key areas include: cultural studies, political issues, social justice and language.

Native Studies at uSudbury: We Listen to the Spirit

Visit us: [www.usudbury.ca](http://www.usudbury.ca)  
 Contact us: [registrar@usudbury.ca](mailto:registrar@usudbury.ca)

**Native Education and Training, Sault College**  
*Your Community, Your Education*

### Now Accepting Applications for September!

Social Services Worker - Native (2 year diploma)  
 Anishinaabemowin Immersion (1 year certificate)

For more information, contact us at: **1-800-461-2260**  
[www.saultcollege.ca](http://www.saultcollege.ca) <<http://www.saultcollege.ca>>



**AN ENVIRONMENT FOR LEARNING**

**canadore college**  
 CELEBRATING FORTY YEARS

Aboriginal Learning Unit  
 100 College Drive  
 North Bay, ON P1B 8K9  
 Tel: (705) 474-7600 ext. 5481

[www.canadorec.on.ca](http://www.canadorec.on.ca)

*I know where I'm going.*

For information about our  
 50+ programs and life at  
 Loyalist College, contact Paul in  
 the Aboriginal Resource Centre.

**1-888-LOYALIST, ext. 2250**  
 e-mail: [platch@loyalstc.on.ca](mailto:platch@loyalstc.on.ca)  
 T.T.Y. 613-962-0633

**LOYALIST**

[loyalistcollege.com](http://loyalistcollege.com)

Third  
Conse

Get your

- Only Anishinaab
- 3-year Bachelor
- Basic to advance
- Gain a functional
- challenges pose

What can

- Teach the langua
- Apply to gradu
- or Native Human
- Learn more abou
- Increase overall
- analyze Canadian

For more info  
 or call 705-94  
 Ext. 4217

**AL**  
n i

WWW.  
 You'll

*Let your SPIRIT Soar!*

# STUDIES

## *Way To A Strong Future*

Thinking about attending University?  
Consider studying Anishinaabemowin  
(Ojibwe) & Indigenous Studies

BA in Anishinaabemowin!  
Degree program in Canada  
of Arts  
ed level instruction in the Ojibwe language  
l level of fluency and investigate the  
d by the written word

you do with this degree?

te school in the areas of linguistics  
Services  
ut the Anishinaabe heritage  
awareness and the public's capacity to  
n/First Nations policy

Information email [info@algomau.ca](mailto:info@algomau.ca)  
9-2301, toll free at 1-888-AlgomaU

**GOMA**  
versity  
[algomau.ca](http://algomau.ca)  
Love It Here.

*Casino Rama Awards for Excellence*

[www.casinorama.com](http://www.casinorama.com) • 1.800.832.PLAY(7529)



[www.anishinabek.ca](http://www.anishinabek.ca)

**Earn Your Degree in a Supportive Environment**

Lakehead University is committed to helping Aboriginal people further their aspirations. Aboriginal programs at Lakehead offer academic, research, and cultural support services tailored to Aboriginal needs.

Office of Aboriginal Initiatives  
<http://aboriginalinitiatives.lakeheadu.ca>  
807-766-7219

**Specialization & Access Programs**  
Department of Indigenous Learning (IL)  
Native Nurses Entry Program (NNEP)  
Native Access Program (NAP)

**Aboriginal Education**  
Honours Bachelor of Education (Aboriginal Education) (HBEd)  
Native Teacher Education Program (NTEP)  
Native Language Instructors Program (NLIP)

**Administrative & Support Services**  
Office of Aboriginal Initiatives (AI)  
Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services (ACSS)  
Lakehead University Native Student Assoc. (LUNSA)  
Nanibijou Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement  
Aboriginal Alumni Chapter  
Elders Program

**Lakehead**  
UNIVERSITY

Consider your Future at...  
**The University of Western Ontario**  
Explore this unique opportunity created specifically for Indigenous students! You are encouraged to apply to the...

**Access Transition Program**

This program is offered to students in the faculties of Health Science, Science, and Social Science. Each program offers you enriched academic and personal support and all Health Science A.T.P. students receive a \$1,000 bursary from Suncor Energy.

For Information on how to apply contact: Indigenous Services, Student Development Services, The University of Western Ontario, London, ON Toll-free: 888-661-4095 Local phone: 519-661-4095 e-mail: [is.staff@uwo.ca](mailto:is.staff@uwo.ca)

# NISHNAABEWIN/CULTURE

## ECHOES FROM ELDERS

**By Sharon Weatherall**

Indigenous cultures and languages remain buried deep in the hearts and minds of elders who are slowly bringing this precious knowledge back to their peoples.

There is currently an awakening among traditional teachers around the globe to re-educate current and future generations through story-telling, arts, music and ceremonies.

A recent trip to Australia – where the colonial history is similar to Canada's – helped me hear echoes in knowledge shared with me by Anishinaabe Elder Gloria King and Koorie "Auntie" Dot Peters.



Sharon Weatherall



'Auntie' Dot Peters, Koorie Elder and basket-maker.

## Wurundjeri lost their way of life

VICTORIA, Australia – "Auntie" Dot Peters says indigenous people of Australia knew how to live off the land's abundant food supply and to let the land replenish itself. That all changed with the arrival of the Europeans.

The Elder, 79 from Yarra Glen area in Victoria province says the Wurundjeri – now known as "Koorie" – lost their way of life after being forced to live on reserves and missions and when young 'half-cast' (mixed blood) children were taken from their parents in an attempt to control bloodlines.

The Wurundjeri people lived on the land as hunters and gatherers for 40,000 years. After Melbourne was founded, the population of indigenous language groups was tragically reduced by European diseases, tribal massacres and the hunting down of Aborigines for sport. Alcohol and drugs also took a toll. By the early 1930's there were only 61,000 Wurundjeri left and today the population today is half that.

At school Dot Peters was not taught aboriginal history and being aboriginal was never mentioned by her mother who was raised on the Christmas Bush Mission until it closed in 1923.

"In 1967 I realized this and started to think about how hard it had been for my dad and other people," said Peters.

"After my parents married there was no work for my father. My mother went to live with her mother on a reserve with my two older brothers but staying indefinitely was only for those who already lived there. She pleaded with them for me to stay. Over the years the verbal language was lost – my mother never learned it and my grandparents forgot so there was no one left to carry it on."

Having achieved with age the respected status of "Auntie", Peters passes on knowledge about her people to visitors and students at schools. At Wara College she teaches the craft of basket-making taught to her by her grandmother. Other than making reed eel traps, Auntie Dot says the craft was primarily developed to make money from tourists.

When she speaks to children in schools Auntie Dot tells them how loss of culture is something happening to Indigenous people everywhere, as is the disruption of nature.

"I believe that Mother Nature is teaching everyone around the world who is boss right now – if you don't look after the land you are in trouble," she says.

## Gloria King keeps language alive

BEAUSOLEIL FN – Gloria King says her life changed 30 years ago when she found The Three Fires Society Midewewin Lodge.

Since then she has shared The Seven Grandfather teachings with family and Beausoleil First Nation community members, and this past summer played a key role in a successful peaceful protest at Site 41, where Simcoe Township had planned to locate a landfill above one of the world's purest sources of drinking water.

The Anishinaabe Kweag Elder donned her ceremonial belt, sash and water sticks in September when the Midewewin Lodge honoured the protesters with Eagle feathers.

"I didn't know my own culture until I was 46 and went to the Midewewin Lodge," she recalls. "The first one here was in St. Charles, near Sudbury."

"I attended Lakehead University to learn how to teach the language and deliver lessons and



Gloria King

since 1995 I have done workshops and taught in schools to children of all ages," says King. "Anishinabe language and culture go together and have become part of the curriculum for native youth and it is not optional – Beausoleil council wishes them to learn it. I think it is a good idea and something really needed here to guide them so they have respect for their Elders and Mother Earth."

Gloria and her brother Leon King are among several Christian Island residents regarded as knowledge-keepers in their community.

King says many have lost the

Anishinaabe language remember when they hear it.

Raised traditionally, King shared the Seven Grandfathers teachings with her own children and now her daughter Erica Louttit helps her teach summer language workshops.

"I speak Anishinaabe to my grandchildren – a little bit here and a little bit there and they are learning language," she says.

"It is a process that begins with tiny babies that are still safe inside their mother's wombs. Some grandparents place their hands on their daughter's bellies and speak so when the child is born it is calmer and recognizes the language. The babies pick it up the more you talk to them – their little eyes light up and just sparkle. When I speak the language to babies it is almost as if they can understand. We believe that babies are born with the language and it is carried within them."

## Cambrian College

### Go Places

#### Now is the time to think about registering for January programs.

Whether you are entering postsecondary education for the first time, or returning to upgrade skills or pursue a second career, there are many options available to you through Cambrian's full-time certificate and diploma programs.

##### General Arts and Science

- General Arts and Science – College Exploration

##### Health-Related

- Pre-Health Sciences
- Advanced Care Paramedic (Graduate Certificate)
- Personal Support Worker (Espanola)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) – Graduate Certificate

##### Anishnaabe Studies

- Native Early Childhood Education – Oshki-Pimache-O-Win (Thunder Bay)

##### Tourism

- Tourism and Travel

##### Skills/Trades/Technology

- Pre-Trades/Technology
- Industrial Mechanical Millwright Techniques/Technician

##### Business

- Business
- Business Administration
- Business Administration – Accounting

##### Prepare for college, careers and employment:

- Academic and Career Entrance (ACE)
- Academic Upgrading (Sudbury, Espanola, or Little Current)
- English as a Second Language

##### Want to explore your postsecondary options?

- College Exploration

##### Funding Support for Unemployed/Underemployed Persons

Support in the form of tuition, books, living expenses, and other associated costs may be available through government financial assistance programs. For more information, visit [www.cambriancollege.ca](http://www.cambriancollege.ca).



##### Give us a call today!

Find out how you can enrol for a January start date.  
Call: (705) 566-8101, extension 7303 or (705) 525-7367  
Email: [info@cambriancollege.ca](mailto:info@cambriancollege.ca)  
Visit: [www.cambriancollege.ca/second](http://www.cambriancollege.ca/second)

# ANISHINABEMOWIN/LANGUAGE



Shirley Williams

## December

*By Shirley Williams*

December is a beautiful month. In Ojibway we named it Mnidoo-Giizoons, which is referred to as Little Spirit moon!

By the time December is coming around the moon is far away as possible and it is small. It gets dark soon and has shorter days.

To me December has always been good and exciting, for it was the month that I was born.

Before my sisters passed away, they told me that I was born during the day and it was my grandmother who brought me into the world. I never got to ask them what time of the day.

Grandma (Nookimis) was a midwife. I remember Grandma, who was very dark and who had deep lines of wrinkles on her face that I used to run my fingers on. I would say to her that they were the roads that lead to South Bay and she would close her eyes and once in a while she would give a chuckle.

The second thing about December – Santa would be coming soon. We talked about a man in a red suit and with a beard. I didn't know him as Santa.

When I was a little girl, we used to look at the calendars and Simpsons catalogue. We would look at the dresses that the people wore and dream someday that we would maybe dress like that.

We would look at the toys and Christmas things. We would just dream what it must be like out there somewhere where this catalogue came. It was always "Mom, where did this catalogue come from." Mom used to say it came from Moonyaang – Montreal.

One day my mother (ngashi) said, "We will order something warm for you in December and you can wear it on Christmas day (in Niibaa-anamong)"

Maybe I was saying out loud the kinds of clothes that would be warm. So she chose an outfit like a ski outfit for me which I called "December"

I got "December" on Christmas day all wrapped up and it was the happiest day of my life. We never asked for anything in particular in our day.

We accepted what was given to us and we were always grateful. My brother (nsayen) still calls me that name to this day – "December!" It has become like a pet name from him, I guess to remind us about our childhood!

## Shirley Williams: Residential school warrior

*By Shirley Williams*

Aani Kino gwaya!

Just a little about my trip to Hawaii in September and October, 2009.

I was very privileged to be asked to go along with my niece Martina Osawamick and her partner Ron Yellowman to attend a Fall Festival – yes, a pow-wow in

Hawaii!

One of the highlights was to be asked to bring in an Anishinabek Nation flag into the arena both in Kauai and in Waikiki! I have never been asked to do this ever before and it was an honour to do it.

As we brought in the flags, a Canadian flag by Ron and the Anishinabek flag by me, they asked all

the veterans what war they fought in and I never joined an army. So while I was standing there I was wondering what to say and how to introduce myself and what kind of a warrior I was.

So when it came to my turn, I do not know where the words came from but I said that I was a Residential School warrior who fought

to keep our language and culture. I explained that I did not join an army but joined young girls and boys who went to an institution to be taught to deny their language and culture – to be assimilated! But I said I fought hard to keep my language and culture and today I teach the language and culture at a university level.

## 16th Annual Anishinaabemowin-Teg LANGUAGE CONFERENCE

**"Bi-bzindawishinaang ezhi-gchi-piitendaagok jibwaa ngoshkaamgak Anishinaabemowin"**

**"Before the Language is lost, come and hear how we value Anishinaabemowin"**

**March 24 to 28, 2010**

**Kewadin Casino and Convention Centre - Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan**

**1-800-539-2346**

### CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Anishinaabemowin Art and Drama  
Anishinaabemowin Resource Development  
Anishinaabemowin Stories and Music  
Fiddle and Step Dance Night  
Scholarship Awards and Banquet  
DerRic Starlight, Puppet Entertainer  
Anishinaabemowin Bingo Fun Night

Preservation Initiatives  
Children's Activities  
Feast and Social  
Craft Workshops  
Country and Western Music  
Youth Workshops and Evening Socials  
Education and Health Workshops

**Register for the Conference and hear Anishinaabemowin for 4 days!**



**MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS CONTACT INFORMATION** - [www.anishinaabemowin-teg.org](http://www.anishinaabemowin-teg.org)

#### ARTISANS/VENDORS AND DISPLAYS

Displays, language resource materials, crafts, and the promotion of Anishinaabemowin will be available. Vendor fee is \$200.00 CDN/US.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Isadore Toulouse, Chairman  
Anishinaabemowin-Teg Board  
[izzytoul@hotmail.com](mailto:izzytoul@hotmail.com)  
or  
Vicky Corbiere  
Conference Coordinator  
[vicky@manitoulin.net](mailto:vicky@manitoulin.net)  
Phone: (705) 368-3183



Registration forms can be downloaded from the website

**MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO:**  
ANISHINAABEMOWIN TEG

**MAIL REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT TO:**  
Ojibwe Cultural Foundation  
#15 Hwy 551  
P. O. Box 278  
M'Chigeeng, ON  
POP 1G0

#### EARLY REGISTRATION - WEWIIB

**NOTE:** Payment and Registration deadline is **Friday, January 15, 2010**

\$200.00 CDN/US - Adult Registration  
\$125.00 CDN/US - Elder or Student ID  
\$75.00 - Child or Youth

Registrations will not be accepted by fax or email

#### REGULAR REGISTRATION FEE

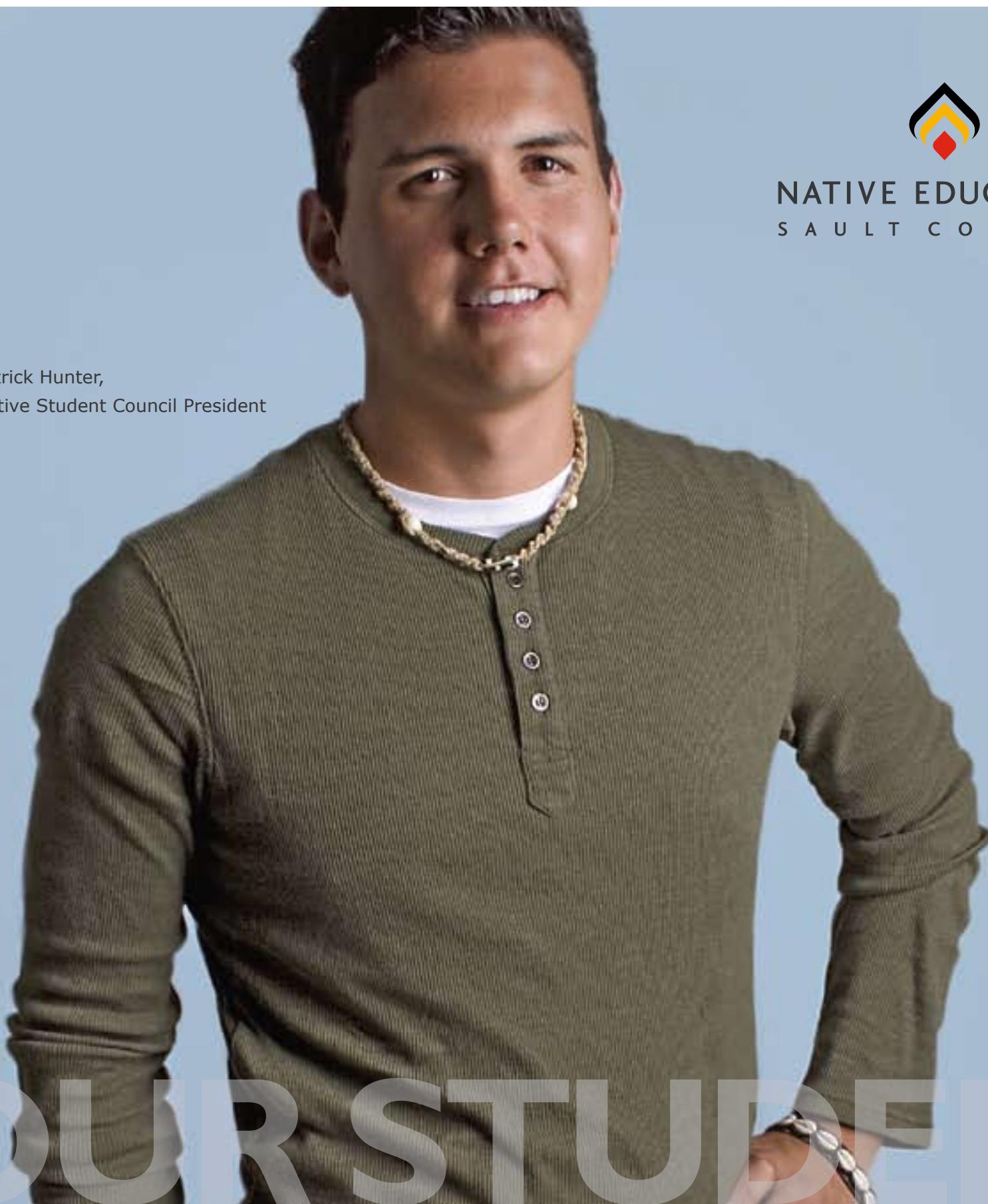
Registrations received **Friday, January 15, 2010** must pay the following:

\$275.00 CDN/US - Adult Registration  
\$200.00 CDN/US - Elder or Student ID  
\$125.00 - Day Rate

**PAYMENT OPTIONS** - Business or organizational cheques, certified personal cheques, or money orders are accepted. All cheques payable to: Anishinaabemowin-Teg. On-site we also accept cash (US or CAN), however, we are not set up for interact, visa or other credit cards.

**BANQUET** - The banquet is not included in this year's registration fee. The banquet ticket is \$35.00 for Adult or Child. Banquet includes dinner, presentation of scholarship awards, keynote speakers, address, DerRic Starlight Puppet Entertainer and Country Music and an evening of fun.





NATIVE EDUCATION  
SAULT COLLEGE

Patrick Hunter,  
Native Student Council President

# OUR STUDENT

"Coming to Native Education at Sault College, you'll see a lot of native students, all going to school for different things. We have our own native centre and the atmosphere is like home. It's easy to make friends and you'll find people who come from the same places or have the same background. We've even had students from as far as Nunavut!"

**We Understand You.** [www.nativeeducation.ca](http://www.nativeeducation.ca) 1.800.461.2260

