



# Office of the Treaty Commissioner

## NEWSLETTER

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC) is mandated to advance the Treaty goal of establishing good relations among all people of Saskatchewan. The OTC continues to work with First Nations, provincial school systems, other educational institutions and the rest of Saskatchewan to raise the awareness and understanding of Treaties in Saskatchewan.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Also available on our website: [www.otc.ca](http://www.otc.ca)

Issue 5 May 2015

An Aboriginal Awareness event at CANE in Ottawa and a look at the Forum for Young Canadians.

Page 2 and 3

The Land is Everything: Treaty Land Entitlement launch at Station 20 West.

Page 4

What Does Reconciliation Mean to You?

Where Will You Start?

Page 5

SFNEDN to Co-Host the World Indigenous Business Forum in Saskatoon!!

Page 6

Have you registered for the SFNEDN-ABM Partnership Golf Tournament?

Page 8

### Upcoming and New Events!

#### UPCOMING EVENTS...

**May 28, 2015** – Potash Corps Presents: Women of Distinction Awards 2015 – TCU Place  
[www.picatic.com/2015wodsaskatoon](http://www.picatic.com/2015wodsaskatoon)

**OTC wishes to congratulate Tasha Hubbard on her nomination for a 2015 Women of Distinction Award! (see ad on back page!)**

**June 1, 2015** - SFNEDN/ABM Golf tournament - Dakota Dunes Golf Links [www.sfnedn.com](http://www.sfnedn.com)

**October 14-15, 2015** - Indigenous Economic Partnership Summit- Lloydminster [www.ieps.ca](http://www.ieps.ca)

**August 23-25, 2016** – World Indigenous Business Forum 2016 [www.wibf.ca](http://www.wibf.ca)

#### **Did you see our new reconciliation commercials on CTV?**

The OTC recently worked with CTV to produce two 30 second commercials on the topic of reconciliation. We're super excited with how they turned out!! They're upbeat and hopeful and feature Saskatchewanians from all walks of life. You might even see someone you know! Have a look at [www.otc.ca](http://www.otc.ca)



*On February 11th, 2015, Treaty Commissioner Lafond accepted an invitation from the Committee for the Advancement of Native Employment (CANE) Headquarters Executive to deliver a talk as a special Aboriginal Awareness event. The event began with a warm welcome and introduction of the Treaty Commissioner by Senior Assistant Deputy Minister Françoise Ducros. The approximately sixty AANDC employees spent the next two hours listening to stories about the rich and largely unknown history of the Indigenous peoples of the prairies. The Treaty Commissioner discussed more recent history about the evolution of the political organizing of the prairie Indigenous Nations in the 1940's.*



Senior Assistant Deputy Minister Françoise Ducros

*He talked about the challenges faced by the leaders of the time in holding the government to account for the Treaty promises; the promises of rights and benefits for their people in exchange for agreeing to share their lands. He talked about the Crown and Indigenous relationship as it has evolved and as it is supposed to be according to Treaty. The group was also treated to stories of vibrant Indigenous communities, many demonstrating their resiliency, strength and pride through the teaching of sport and elite athleticism to the young people; this helps to build healthy individuals and healthy nations. The Treaty Commissioner was well received as was his message of the need for reconciliation among our peoples and communities in this country. CANE looks forward to further opportunities to host Treaty Commissioner Lafond.*

***“Reconciliation is a conversation that starts with exploring who we are, and what we have inherited from our ancestors. It is a personal journey.” Jessica Bolduc, 4R’s Youth Movement***

*On March 23rd, Treaty Commissioner Lafond facilitated a workshop with “Our Whole Society: Bridging the Religious-Secular Divide”, a conference in downtown Vancouver that featured 140 participants. The purpose of the conference was to bring people together to investigate the process of reconciling secularism, religion and the common good. Commissioner Lafond presided over a workshop on promoting respect and understanding between Canada’s Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.*

*Treaty Commissioner Lafond’s workshop presenters were Jessica Bouluc and Sukhvinder Kaur. Ms. Bolduc is a member of the 4R’s Youth Movement, an emerging initiative founded by fourteen national organizations across Canada. They are working to change the country by changing the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth. They are gathering together Indigenous youth leaders with non-Indigenous youth within an Indigenous and anti-oppression framework to have conversations that result in social change in support of justice for all.*

*Ms. Kaur is currently the Executive Director at World Sikh Organization of Canada. Ms. Kaur has incorporated her walk on the path of reconciliation into her work as a member of the United Religions Initiative North America Leadership Council. She brings a wealth of experience in fostering trust and understanding between diverse faith communities. She has directed and produced several short films including “It Matters: The Legacy of Residential Schools”. In partnership with Reconciliation Canada, she also designed and delivered “Through Our Eyes: Changing the Canadian Lens”, a dialogue-based program focused on fostering relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal young adults.*

### **Forum for Young Canadians Engages on Reconciliation**

March 10th, 2015 The Forum for Young Canadians was honoured to welcome Commissioner George Lafond to speak to young Canadians from across the country. Coming from all walks of life and corners of the country, the youth aged 14-19 gathered in Ottawa in March to experience the Canadian federal political system first-hand.

Bringing to life the slogan of his office “We are all treaty people”, Commissioner Lafond shared not only the history and reality of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada, he also set the scene for the participants to engage in and become active solution seekers in the upcoming time of reconciliation in Canada.

According to Group Leader Andrew Clapson: “Commissioner Lafond was a brilliant speaker for our Forum participants; he gave a balanced, well-rounded perspective on First Nations issues in Canada. He challenged our students on their opinions, asked tough questions and encouraged them to think critically about their answers, keeping them 100% engaged.”

An alumni of Forum himself, the Commissioner had a significant positive impact on the youth and will be remembered long after the experience has become an event of the past. Alumni Jared Miller wrote: “I wanted to share my thoughts about Treaty Commissioner George Lafond, I would express the absolute power of the words that he conveyed. Throughout his speech I found him to be a very powerful and personable speaker. Truly he was an inspiring person, both to me as a Métis person, as well as a student. I would gladly listen to him speak again, and I am sure that the message that he provided to the students will resonate throughout their academic and professional careers. I know it will for me.”

Forum for Young Canadians is the flagship nine month program of the Foundation for the Study of Processes of Government in Canada. The foundation is celebrating 40 years of bringing youth to Ottawa for a week to expand their knowledge on democracy and then supporting their efforts to become engaged and active leaders in their communities once they have returned home. To learn more about the Forum program please visit [www.forum.ca](http://www.forum.ca).



### **Learning about Governance and Nation-Building**

On March 26, 2015, File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council (FHQTC) in partnership with the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS) at the University of Regina and Brown Governance delivered the third module of a four module Director Education and Certification Program for Board Members of corporations, partnerships and joint ventures associated with FHQTC and its member First Nations. In the first session, the Treaty Commissioner Lafond and Tribal Chairperson Edmund Bellegarde presented about the issues and challenges facing Tribal Councils and First Nations. Tribal Chairperson Bellegarde spoke on the principles of Nation Building and the Treaty Commissioner spoke about the process of being a good board member and the high duty of care that is required to be one.

The successful participants of the program will receive a certification in a university level, professional designation of Professional Director.



*The Land is Everything: Treaty Land Entitlement* On March 2, 2015, 150 people gathered at Station 20 West in Saskatoon to listen to the introduction of the latest publication by the Office of the Treaty Commissioner. The editors, Tasha Hubbard and Marilyn Poitras described the process of collecting stories surrounding the development and eventual signing of the Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement 1992. This is the newest resource for the high schools of Saskatchewan and Mika Lafond introduced the teachers to the potential of introducing the TLE story through the grade 10 to 12 English Language Arts, History and Native Studies curricula.

Former Treaty Commissioner Bill McKnight spoke movingly about the contributions to the TLE story by the first Treaty Commissioner of Saskatchewan: Cliff Wright. The audience heard about the key role Cliff Wright took in bringing the parties to agree to 'willing seller willing buyer' model and the positive value of this agreement to all the people of the province. The events led up to Prime Minister Mulroney arriving at Wanuskewin on September 22, 1992 to meet with FSIN Chief Roland Crowe and Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow to sign and to witness the signing of this 'game changing' agreement for the people of Saskatchewan.



The Land is Everything: Treaty Land Entitlement book introduction at Station 20 West – March 2, 2015.

Jennifer Heimbecker, Director of Speakers Bureau



The Speakers Bureau members continue their journeys across the province to present on Treaties and other topics and activities that educate and inform the public on the Treaty relationship. In the last fiscal year the speakers presented to over **5500** people from all over Saskatchewan! The speakers will continue to educate the public as well as take part in cultural events that bring communities together. The Speakers Bureau arm of OTC has also recently partnered with Dance Saskatchewan to bring the performance **Silent Survivors – The Story of Residential Schools told through the Power and Beauty of Traditional Dance**. Stay informed of show dates and times and other Speakers Bureau information via our website [www.otc.ca](http://www.otc.ca) or like our facebook page!



### **Reconciliation: What does it mean to you?**

Treaty Commissioner Lafond recently published an article on reconciliation in the March-April edition of Policy Options. He argues that reconciliation is about building a common understanding of the treaty relationship, treaty history and the spirit and intent of treaties:

“Reconciliation is the restoration of a friendship after an estrangement. It does not require agreement on every aspect of how to live together. It is not an apology that has been accepted once offered. Rather, it is about the process of coming together—a conscious choice that the future will be better if we work through difficulties and differences with an openness to hearing about, and responding to, the harm that has occurred. On some levels it is about partnership, but it has also come to be synonymous with healing individuals and relationships.” (Read the full article at [www.otc.ca/main/reconciliation](http://www.otc.ca/main/reconciliation))

Chief Wilton Littlechild, Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), translates reconciliation into the Cree word “miyôwâhkôhtowin,” meaning “having good relations.” The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance defines reconciliation as a process “through which a society moves from a divided past to a shared future.” It is about building a new relationship built on “respect and a real understanding of each other’s needs, fears and aspirations.”

### **What does the OTC do to promote reconciliation?**

The OTC leverages its position as a neutral facilitator and educator to work on enhancing trust and building a common vision for a mutually-beneficial future. We strive to bring people together, to educate, to engage, to facilitate partnerships and encourage difficult but necessary discussions.

We believe there exists in Saskatchewan an appetite for change in the historic relationship between First Nations and non-First Nations people. This relates to the extremely high cost of the status quo, but also to real and emerging opportunities for change, such as Saskatchewan’s strong economy, a new legal context empowering Aboriginal people, and an Aboriginal population in Saskatchewan which is young, growing, and demanding change.



Grade 4 Class - College Park School



Terry Craig, Superintendent of Ed. NWSD



OTC Speaker Ruth Cameron



Fitness 2J2 Owner Joel Osteen

We are all Treaty People. There exists now an opportunity and a responsibility for all of us to seek and develop relationships based on understanding, trust and mutual benefit.

**Reconciliation: Where will you start?**



Milt Tootoosis, Director, Livelihood and Economic Independence

## SFNEDN TO CO-HOST THE WORLD INDIGENOUS BUSINESS FORUM 2016

The Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Network (SFNEDN) was recently awarded the rights to host the World Indigenous Business Forum (WIBF) in August, 2016. A formal announcement was made in Saskatoon on March 24, 2015 at a press conference. The SFNEDN is partnering with the City of Saskatoon and the founders of WIBF the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute Inc. (ILDII).

The inaugural WIBF was launched in 2010-2011 and held in New York City. The forum has since travelled to Sydney, Australia, Windhoek, Africa, Guatemala City, Guatemala and is heading to Honolulu, Hawaii in October, 2015. This will be the first time the WIBF is held in Canada.

Leaders in Indigenous politics, community economic development, entrepreneurship and economic policy in general from around the globe will be invited to attend the gathering to be held at Saskatoon's TCU Place. The event will also include an Indigenous music festival featuring local and international artists that will entertain the community along the banks of the South Saskatchewan River.

The Guatemala Protocol, signed and witnessed by hundreds at the WIBF 2014, Article 1 reads: "This Protocol is to establish implementation for the coordination of a Global Network of Indigenous People seeking an opportunity for dialogue to exchange ideas in order to generate proposals, investments, market research and business linkages for economic, social and cultural development of Indigenous People in the world."

Milton Tootoosis will chair the local planning committee and Curtis Standing will be chairing the music festival committee. Honourary Co-chairs of WIBF 2016 include: Chief Tammy Cook-Searson (LaRonge Indian Band), Chief Darcy Bear (Whitecap Dakota First Nation) and Mr. Marty Klyne (Métis Nation).

Planning is underway. Visit [www.sfnedn.com](http://www.sfnedn.com) and [www.wibf.ca](http://www.wibf.ca) for details and more information.



# World Indigenous Business Forum

**CONNECT  
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INSPIRE**

**World Indigenous Business Forum**  
WIBF.CA

HOSTED BY  
**INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE**

**August 23-25  
2016**  
Saskatoon, Canada

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#WIBF2016



*April Roberts, Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Network*

### **First Nations Economic Development in Saskatchewan: Going Mainstream**

*The dominant narrative of the province of Saskatchewan for the past decade has been one of prosperity, with a lot of hype about the “Saskaboom” accompanying global demand for our natural resources, especially in the agricultural, energy, and mining industries.*

*The other half of that story, which has not gotten as much attention outside of the province but certainly has within it, is the province’s changing demographics. First Nations are the fastest growing portion of the population, and have been for some time. The on reserve population has effectively doubled since 1986, and grew by 15.7% between 2006 and 2011. The overall, ‘booming’ provincial population by comparison grew by only 6.7%. This means that in 30 years’ time, Aboriginal people will compose about a third of the workforce.*

*The fact is, Saskatchewan will surely enter a long decline if its leaders do nothing about the terrible gaps that now exist between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in health outcomes, educational attainment and employment rates.*

*What does it mean to have a single economy and society in Saskatchewan? In the past few years every educational institution in the province have been refining ways to recruit and attract Aboriginal students, record numbers of First Nations students are enrolling - and graduating! The largest corporations and firms in the province have proactive Aboriginal human resource development strategies. Urban reserves with traditional business structures are proliferating. Resource extraction companies are actively seeking First Nations and Aboriginal partners. One can only conclude one thing: First Nations economic development in the province has gone mainstream.*

*While prospects have improved, many communities remain poorly positioned to take advantage of the economic opportunities around them. This is particularly true for on reserve and rural First Nation people.*

*The mandate of the Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Network (SFNEDN) is to support all First Nations communities and individuals to grow and direct their economic livelihood and future. There is no magic bullet, no panacea that will help this to happen overnight. Capacity building, professional development, networking, good governance and strategic planning may sound like buzz words, but they are tried and true ways to effect community development. The Network is one place to link into to move further down a path of prosperity and self-sufficiency. – Written by Heather Exner-Pirot, SFNEDN Board Member*

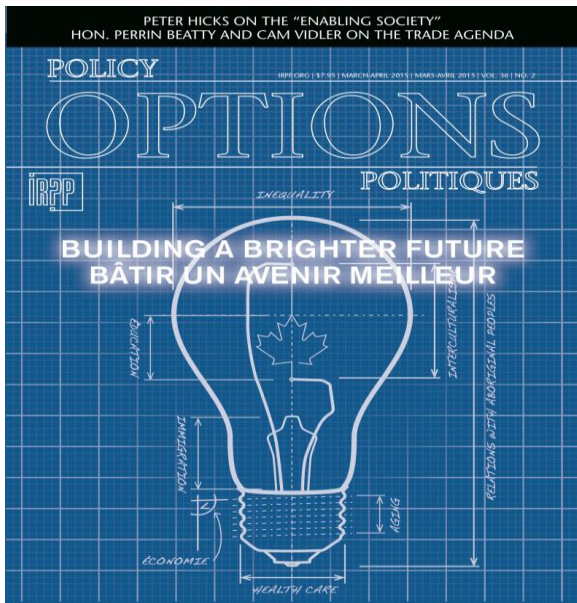
*For more information about the Network, go to [www.sfnedn.com](http://www.sfnedn.com)*





**Reconciliation 2015 Campaign Participants: Bobcat Heat Atoms**

Read Commissioner Lafond's recent article published by the Institute for Research on Public Policy, "Healing can only come from reconciliation" at [www.otc.ca/main/reconciliation](http://www.otc.ca/main/reconciliation)



**PRIZES FOR:**

1. Best Score & Most Honest Team
2. Closest to the pin for ladies & men (cash prize of \$100 each)
3. Longest Drive for female & male (2 prizes)
4. Skins
5. 3 Hole-In-One Prizes

Proceeds go towards SFNEDN delivery and the 1st ever Scholarship for First Nations University of Canada student pursuing business and economic development.

REGISTER: [www.sfnedn.com](http://www.sfnedn.com) ph: April 306.667.5661 email: [aroberts@otc.ca](mailto:aroberts@otc.ca)

**REGISTRATION: 8:00AM | SHOTGUN: 10:00AM**



**2015 SFNEDN - ABM  
PARTNERSHIP GOLF  
TOURNAMENT**

**June 1, 2015**  
Dakota Dunes Golf Links

PotashCorp  
**WOMEN OF  
DISTINCTION  
AWARDS**  
YWCA

**Awards  
Dinner**

**MAY 28, 2015 AT TCU PLACE**  
Get your tickets today  
Early bird deadline May 8, 2015

You're my  
**INSPIRATION**  
[ywcaskatoon.com](http://ywcaskatoon.com) (306) 244-7034 ext 122

