



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 Office of the Treaty Commissioner continues to work with First Nation's, provincial school systems, and other educational institutions to raise the awareness and understanding of Treaties and First Nations People

Quarterly Newsletter

Also available on our website at
www.otc.ca

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October 2014

Annual
Woodland
Cree Gathering

By: George E. Lafond

This year's theme for the Woodland Cree Gathering was, "Strengthening Unity, Celebrating Culture, Promoting Community and Recognizing History."

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Livelihood –
Challenges in
the 21st Century

By: Milton Tootoosis

There is an urgency to defining what "pimâcihisowin" means as we move forward in the new age

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Livelihood –
Saskatchewan First
Nations Economic
Development
Network

By: April Roberts

Participants also learned about 'branding' and communicating their communities; business planning; and financial literacy

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OTC
Education

By: Brenda Ahenekeew

The community of Stanley Mission hosts a spectacular three day event called the River Gathering. The Gathering is held next to the oldest Church in Saskatchewan

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OTC
Speakers
Bureau

By: Jennifer Heimbecker

"The people of Saskatoon, you walked with us when the load was heavy, and for that we will always cherish you,"

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All Nations
Traditional
Family & Youth
Gathering

By: Robin Bendig

The "Gathering" focused on preserving and strengthening First Nations culture, traditions and identity by offering various ceremonies and workshops.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Reconciliation with our sister province - OTC commends the Mayor of Calgary for declaring 2014 the year of Reconciliation with First Nations people. OTC commends Treaty 7 Cultural Society for the "Making of Treaty 7" play. The play is 3 hours long and quite powerful. This play has substantial input from the Elders of Treaty. The play also met the approval of the Elders before being publicized and performed on September 11th, 13th and 14th.

<https://www.heritagepark.ca/plan-your-visit/event-calendar/making-treaty-7.html>


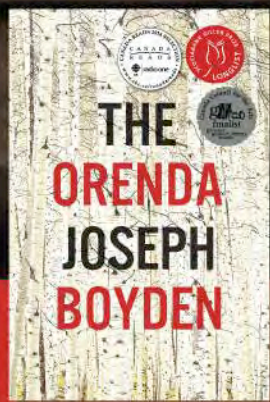
The OTC welcomes Rhett Sangster as Director of Reconciliation and Community Partnerships.



Beginning in September Rhett will coordinate the OTC's efforts to facilitate trust and partnerships among all residents of Saskatchewan. Rhett grew up in Treaty 6 territory (Tisdale) and is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan (B.A. Political Studies). He moved to Ottawa in 2000 to become a Foreign Service Officer and has spent the brunt of his career working on issues of international conflict and peace building. He spent three years posted in Turkey, led a successful effort to improve dialogue and cooperation between Afghan and Pakistani border officials, and coordinated Canadian international policy on mediation, peace processes and the effects of war on women and girls. (Continued Page 3...)

W E A R E A L L T R E A T Y P E O P L E

UPCOMING EVENTS

**AN EVENING WITH
JOSEPH BOYDEN**
Interview by Yann Martel

The Remai Arts Centre
October 14, 2014
7:00 PM

Tickets for the Presentation: \$20

Tickets available at:
 • The Wood Life The Wood Festival Indigenous Summit
 September 21
 • Monthly Indigenous Bookclub
 • Presentation Book Club
 Contact saskatoon@thewoodlife.ca for more details.

IN CELEBRATION OF



PRESENTED BY



OTC is proud to co-host Canadian novelist Joseph Boyden, October 14th. Boyden's latest novel, *The Orenda*, was named the winner of the 2014 edition of Canada Reads. Boyden on reconciliation: "We're on the verge of change," Boyden said, adding that one of the reasons he wrote *The Orenda* was to tell a story about the complex societies here before Confederation. "That excites me very much." Visit otc.ca as we update this exciting event!



OPPORTUNITY - ARE YOU READY?

October 15, 2014

Reception - 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Cafeteria, Lakeland College, Lloydminster

October 16, 2014

Summit - 7:30 am - 4:30 pm Lloydminster Exhibition Grounds

Chamber Connect - 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Lloydminster Exhibition Grounds

October 17, 2014

Summit Continued - 8:00 am - 1:00 pm Lloydminster Exhibition Grounds



Some Great Speakers Include:



Kendal Netmaker, CEO
Neechie Gear



Todd Hirsh,
Chief Economist with ATB Financial



Robert Louie
Chief of Westbank First Nation

Registration Forms Available

Online - www.ieps.ca

Forms can be printed and faxed to (780) 875-0755

Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce (780) 875-9013

Early Bird Tickets

(Before Sept. 15)

Individual Ticket \$100

Corporate Table \$800

Regular Rates

Student Ticket \$25

Individual Ticket \$125

Corporate Table \$850



2015 Teacher Workshops Treaty Catalyst Teacher Training

Workshop #1 - Regina

Date: Thurs January 22 & Fri January 23, 2015

Time: 9am - 3:30pm

Place: Regina Catholic School Division The
Gratten Room 3120 14th Ave, Regina

Workshop #2 - Saskatoon

Date: Tue February 3 & Wed February 4, 2015

Time: 9am - 3:30pm

Place: Office of the Treaty Commissioner
Boardroom 2553 Grasswood Road East Located
west of the Petro-Can Service Station just south of
Saskatoon on Highway #11 to Regina.

****Lunch will be provided for both workshops****

Pre-registration required for Teacher Workshops

Please email: receptionist@otc.ca or call (306) 667-5654

Thank you for pre-registering for this workshop. If for some reason you are unable to attend, please contact the Office of the Treaty Commissioner so we may take the first person on the wait list.



ANNUAL WOODLAND CREE GATHERING



LLRIB Community of La Ronge Hosts Annual Woodland Cree Gathering

Treaty Commissioner George E. Lafond



The LLRIB community of La Ronge proudly hosted the 2014 Woodland Cree Gathering, August 26 – 28, 2014. The Gathering was an opportunity for the three Woodland Cree First Nations: Montreal Lake Cree Nation, Peter Ballanytne Cree Nation and the Lac La Ronge Indian Band to gather and collaborate on common issues and to build on their strengths. Organizers of this year's event mentioned an excellent turnout largely in part to an expanded itinerary including cultural activities, trapping events, recreational events (golf, fish and poker tournaments), children's festivities, music and dance showcases and a political forum that took place at two main venues, Kiskinwuhumatowin Reserve (the new Urban Reserve in downtown La Ronge) and Jonas Roberts Memorial Community Centre (JRMCC),.

As part of the Gathering, a legacy monument was unveiled at the old residential school grounds on the new urban reserve. This year was also significant as it is also the 125th Anniversary to the adhesion signing of Treaty 6, signed on February 11, 1889 by Chief James Roberts and Chief William Charles at Molanosa, located on the north end of Montreal Lake. This year's theme for the Woodland Cree Gathering was, "Strengthening Unity, Celebrating Culture, Promoting Community and Recognizing History." The theme positively captured the overall meaning and vision of the events and activities throughout for the three day event.

The Lac La Ronge Indian Band is a Woodland Cree First Nation, with a membership of 10,000 on and off-reserve and comprised of 19 separate reserve lands in the communities of La Ronge, Stanley Mission, Grandmother's Bay, Sucker River, Hall Lake and Little Red Reserve.

(Continued from Page 1)

... Rhett accepted a Rotary Peace Fellowship in 2012 and graduated this past May with a Masters in International Development Policy from Duke University. His thesis focused on conflict prevention and reconciliation in Saskatchewan. Rhett is very excited to be back in Saskatchewan and living so close to family and friends. Rhett is married and has two children, a daughter who has just started kindergarten, and a two-year old son.



LEADS Summer Short Course

"Breaking New Ground Across the Ministries: Working Together for Students and Families- importance of partnerships and the need to work more effectively with other ministries and organizations in order to make a difference with the students and families in Saskatchewan. This was a vital way to achieve the outcomes and hoshins identified in the education sector strategic....a renewed framework for working with each other. Other featured speakers included a keynote by Dale McFee, Minister of Policing and Corrections, a keynote from Treaty Commissioner George E. Lafond and perspectives from Bob Pringle, Children's Advocate, an interactive Ministry Panel with representatives from Social Services, Health and Education and a showcase of best practices and ideas from six school divisions. Approximately 150 people were in attendance.

Shad Valley – Summer Enrichment Program

Treaty Commissioner George E. Lafond

Shad Valley – George Lafond gave an inspiring lecture to our Shad Valley group on July 8, 2014. Shad Valley is a summer enrichment program in science and entrepreneurship for talented high school students from all over Canada. Each year, 48 of the best and brightest students spend an entire month working together in academic, social and athletic activities.

George's lecture was exciting and dynamic, beginning with a discussion of First Nations traditions at the rubbing stone in front of the Wanuskewin Heritage Park, before moving to continue the lecture inside. George eloquently and convincingly covered the history of European/first nations relationships from the 1700s up until today.

Muskeg Lake Survivors Declaration – TRC Legacy Project – Muskeg Lake Survivors Memorial Monument and Commemoration Events

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation has embarked on a process that will help it's members and all participants understand and deal with the effects of a dark era in the history of this country. Through this process the community hopes to foster understanding of the intergenerational effects, Cree Culture, values and world view. Muskeg Lake commemoration project will highlight and celebrate the achievements of our people.

Objective - To involve and educate the decedents in a process of reconciliation that honors the memory of all. To celebrate achievements in the Arts, Education and to encourage community involvement. To build a commemoration monument design that best depicts the sacrifices of all those children who endured the Residential School Era. To develop a database of Muskeg Lake Residential School students. To construct a community fire pit monument in memory of the children taken and the parents left behind...



Livelihood – Challenges in the 21st Century

By Milton Tootoosis, BA, PAED, Director of Livelihood

At the turn of the last century when the numbered Treaties on the prairies were being negotiated there was a tremendous focus on the concept of “pimâcihisowin” or livelihood. In a quote from the book *Ahtahkakoop* by Deanna Christensen, “*Ahtahkakoop and many of the other leaders could envision what lay ahead. Justifiably, they were concerned about the future, not so much for themselves but for their children and their children’s children...they were willing to learn a new way of life and were confident that with adequate help during the transition period they could succeed. Negotiating Treaty Six had been a first step towards this end.*”

Knowing change was in the air and with the dwindling bison herds, the First Nations leaders knew that there had to be an inclusion of a promise to a new livelihood in the Treaty for the benefit of future generations. In short, the culture

of the plains Indigenous peoples was to encounter rapid change to their ancient culture.

Not long into the Treaty relationship the original intent of the Treaty promise to a livelihood took a turn for the opposite direction. The *Indian Act* was introduced that altered the Treaty relationship. The attitudes of the day in Ottawa were not conducive to the wishes of many Indian people who aspired to be farmers. The Indian agent was given powers by the Queen’s representatives to issue “passes” and it is widely known that the Indian Agents such as Hayter Reed (known as Iron Heart) in Battleford and the pass system would essentially stall the economic potential economic growth of Indian nations.

Speeding it up to the current decade, the feds have introduced programs with the goal of improving the economic development on Indian reserves.



There have been signs of progress with organizations such as the Canadian Council for Aboriginal People reporting that over thirty-four thousand aboriginal owned businesses now exist and that Indigenous peoples now control about twenty percent of the land across Canada. However, the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board has reported that the most common ongoing barriers to economic development across Canada include access to capital, provisions of the *Indian Act* and human resource capacity.

Opportunities do exist but geography, human resource capacity, access to capital and the archaic *Indian Act* remain as major barriers for any substantial, meaningful and sustainable growth. To add to the complexity, the assumption that the natural resources we depend upon will last forever is also a serious flaw in the thinking of resource exploitation policy promoters. There is an urgency to defining what “pimâcihisowin” means as we move forward in the new age.



Photo: SFNEDN Annual Forum, story next page...

**Mâwâchitowin/Working Together For Great Ideas – Developing Diverse Economic Opportunities 3rd Annual Forum:
Speakers talk about Economic Development and Self-Sufficiency**



By: April D. Roberts, B.A, MBA (candidate), Economic Development Coordinator

The Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Network hosted its 3rd Annual Forum on September 25 & 26 at Dakota Dunes Casino. Amongst the exceptional roster of speakers were Commissioner George Lafond, who talked about the importance of relationships and trust; and FSIN Chief Perry Bellegarde, who asserted that “you can’t talk about self-determination until you talk about economic self-sufficiency.”

Some of the highlighted successes were the Peter Ballantyne Group of Companies, which has grown steadily through gas bars, pharmacies, hotels and other ventures to a current net worth of \$34 million; Muskowekwan Chief Reg Bellerose spoke of their ground-breaking efforts to build a multi-billion dollar potash mine on First Nations territory; and Robert Morin from Enoch Cree Nation told the crowd how they attracted \$245 million worth of investment to its world-class resort and casino in Edmonton.

Participants also learned about ‘branding’ and communicating their communities; business planning; and financial literacy, and were offered a host of new opportunities for SFNEDN members such as a mentorship program and complimentary investment readiness assessments. Title Sponsor Federated Co-Operatives Limited invited participation in their Cooperative Innovation project.

New awards honoring leaders in First Nations economic development were introduced at the Forum. Vern Bachiu, formerly of MLTC and BRIDG and currently CEO with Muskowekwan Resources, was named the 2014 Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Developer of the Year for his 30+ years of service and leadership. Whitecap Development Corporation was named the 2014 Saskatchewan First Nation Community Economic Developer of the Year for its tremendous growth, progress and vision over the past two decades; it is now synonymous with First Nations success.



**SASKATCHEWAN FIRST NATIONS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
network**

Quote from TD Chief Economist, Derek Burleton

“All Canadians have a vested interest in the economic prospects of Aboriginals, given that they represent the youngest and fastest growing segment of our population and will therefore make up an increasingly larger portion of our workforce. Our economy’s future is inextricably linked to their future.”

Education Program Report Fall 2014

Community Highlights

The North West School Division and the Meadow Lake Tribal Council held their annual Student/Teacher Cultural Camp in September. The agenda included Elder Teachings and Treaty Simulations.

Stanley Mission – AMACHEWESPIMAWIN River Gathering, July 2014

By: Brenda Aheneke, Director of Education Programs



The community of Stanley Mission hosts a spectacular three-day event called the River Gathering. The Gathering is held next to the oldest Church in Saskatchewan, located at Stanley Mission. Among the numerous activities are: Elder teachings, a fish derby, tours to

Nistoiyak Falls, demonstrations of moose hide tanning, drying meat, birch bark biting, birch bark basket making, beading, square dancing and jigging contests, as well as educational and health displays.



Photo: Stanley Mission Church



Photo: Drying Meat, Stanley Mission River Gathering



Photo: Flora & Zachary McKenzie, Stanley Mission River Gathering



Photo: Lorna Arcand & Denny Morrison II, Folk Fest



Photo: Lorna Arcand, Rob McDonald, Brenda Aheneke, CTV News

Treaty Learning Network

Treaty Education Workshops continue to be in demand at First Nations Schools, Public Schools and the French School Board. The OTC is slowly devolving the delivery of the workshops “History of Treaty Making” and “Teaching Treaties in the Classroom” to the School Divisions and Tribal Councils. There are now several Treaty Catalyst Teachers in the Province that are OTC certified to deliver training. The Treaty Catalyst Teacher training will remain with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner.

The University of Regina, Faculty of Education have coordinated the OTC workshops for their Pre-Service teachers. Several Education

Professors have made attendance a course requirement. This Fall will be the third year in a row that all pre-service teachers will receive the two day training in delivering Treaty education in the classroom. The OTC Treaty Learning network will have trained more than 2400 teachers since June 2012! This does not include the training that School Divisions, who have trained Catalyst teachers, have been doing on their own.

The Saskatchewan Teacher’s Federation also includes a four day Teaching Treaties in the Classroom as part of the annual Teacher Summer Short Course sessions held in August.

Busy and Exciting Time for OTC's Speakers Bureau

By: Jennifer Heimbecker, BA Honours, Director of Speakers Bureau



Summer 2014 was a busy and exciting time for OTC's Speakers Bureau! On July 18th in partnership with the City of Saskatoon, the OTC coordinated and carried out a Saskatoon event to honor Nelson Mandela International Day. As told in Nelson Mandela's biography, [A Long Walk to Freedom](#), his work and his life stood for equality, compassion, kindness and so much more to the people and country of Africa. The day was started with a writing workshop for youth at the Saskatoon Indian and Metis Friendship Center followed by a unity walk to Civic Square at City Hall where lunch was served and the day ended with local artists performed on stage. City councillor Charlie Clark and MLA Rob Norris also attended the festivities.

"Mandela was always someone who spoke up for Indigenous people in Canada and we all know there's still work to be done to create more togetherness to overcome problems," Clark said.

Johnny Ramrock, who was imprisoned in South Africa before coming to Saskatoon as a refugee wrote to us from South Africa, as he was told of our work on the event: "The people of Saskatoon, you walked with us when the load was heavy, and for that we will always cherish you," "But the march is



Photo: Prairie Northern Dancers

not over. For as long as there is oppression, for as long as there is injustice, for as long as there is intolerance, we should walk."



Photo: Desi & Dayson Walkingbear

In July, OTC was also invited to offer Treaty Awareness and demonstrations in making dream catchers to the public and to the athletes of the North American Indigenous Games in Regina. With well over 1000 visitors to the tipi village per day, we were never short on participants. We had the

opportunity to speak about Treaty to people of a variety of ages, cultures and backgrounds. The atmosphere was tremendously uplifting and the responses to our discussions were positive and

admirable. Congratulations to all the athletes, organizers, volunteers and to the general public for showing support and offering encouragement to the games and athletes. This event is one of the most powerful in building self-esteem, confidence and strength in our youth today.

On August 23, 2014, OTC teamed up with Prairieland Exhibition/Marquis Downs to celebrate the commemoration of the signing of Treaty 6. Treaty 6 was signed August 23rd, 1876. Four First Nations within Treaty 6: Ahtahkakoop, Little Pine, Mistawasis and Muskeg Lake Cree Nations sponsored a horse race. The winner of each race received a horse blanket signifying the signing of Treaty 6 and the Chief of each First Nation presented the blankets to the winners. There was also entertainment between races including Phil and Dallas Boyer and the Prairie Northern Dancers. This event was also an opportunity to reach a new audience to expand the message that We Are All Treaty People.



Photo: Chief Darryl Watson of Mistawasis with Treaty Metal

All Nations Traditional Family & Youth Gathering

By: Robin Bendig



The “All Nations Traditional Family & Youth Gathering” was held August 28-31, 2014 at the Whitecap Dakota First Nation. The participants began arriving throughout the day on August 27, 2014 to set-up their camps while others chose to come and go over the four days. Overall, there were over 150 participants that came from as far away as Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta with the majority of the participants from Saskatchewan.

The “Gathering” focused on preserving and strengthening First Nations culture, traditions and identity by offering various ceremonies and workshops. The “Camp Elders” included Walter & Maria Linklater, Nancy Linklater, Ron Thompson, Senator Melvin Littlecrow and Henry Gardipy, all of whom provided guidance and planning for the gathering.

All participants had the opportunity to take part in morning pipe ceremonies as well as daily Sweat-Lodge ceremonies. There were also various workshops offered during the gathering that included the following: Significance of Protocol, First Nation Traditional

Worldview, Pow wow Dance Demonstrations, Cultural Teaching: acquiring wood for ceremonies, Medicine Wheel Teachings, Moss Bag Teachings, Canada & Treaties with First Nation people, Flute making, Bannock making, beading and sewing. In addition, there were daily hayrides, evening campfires, a “mini round dance” and our grand finale was a traditional feast and giveaway.

As a direct result of the generosity of our sponsors, such as the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, families were able to camp on the land, participate in ceremonies, workshops and traditional teachings, which will ultimately preserve and strengthen First Nations culture and traditions.

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Photo: ANTF & YG Committee



Photo: Lydon Linklater Sr & Family



Photo: Richard Dube, Flute making