

S A S K A T C H E W A N

Aboriginal Storytelling Month

SAS February 2024

"Stories are a living being. By sharing them, we keep them alive - we breath life into the teachings"

Lyndon Tootosis



Circles Close by Leah Dorion

Made possible by our community partners:



SLA
SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

Saskatchewan





GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

Certificate of Recognition

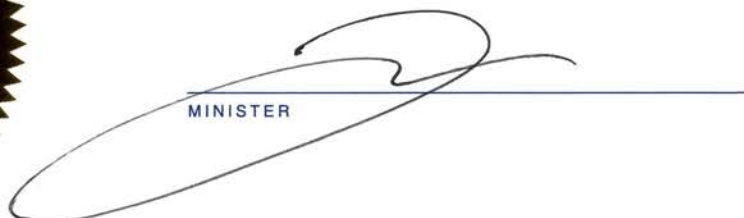
I, Jeremy Cockrill, Minister of Education
in the Province of Saskatchewan
in exercise of the powers conferred upon me,
do hereby designate the month of
February 2024 to be:

"Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Month" in Saskatchewan

And I request the citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan to
recognize this month.

Dated at the City of Regina this 18th day of January 2024.




MINISTER

SAS 2024 Speaking Notes:

Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal People Committee works with knowledge Keepers from Saskatchewan's traditional territories - Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10, which represent the Cree, Dene, Nakota, Dakota, Lakota and Saulteaux Nations as well as the Homeland of the Métis. It is important to recognize that at the very heart of the stories and storytellers, is our Indigenous nations' sacred creation stories and languages. The Creation Stories, and sacred teachings that are contained within, have been orally passed down for generations. Our Indigenous Nations lived in harmony with this land here for centuries where storytelling was, and still is, the primary mode of teaching the young ones, empowering kinship, and preserving knowledge for the strength of future generations.

The Government of Saskatchewan formally proclaimed the month of February as Indigenous Storytelling Month. Wapiti Regional Library is committing to the TRC Calls to Action for public libraries by hosting this year's launch with knowledge keeper Lyndon Linklater in Humboldt. We are sharing a variety of traditional and contemporary stories today from our youth as well as our Elders - all for the common goal of empowering and inspiring our communities across Saskatchewan! Storytellers across the province are connecting with libraries, schools, community organizations and homes in the pursuit of revitalizing our traditional ways as Indigenous peoples in Saskatchewan.

Without further delay, Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal People (LSSAP) is pleased to share the 2024 Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling (SAS) Project. The SAS Project was developed to promote, preserve and protect Indigenous Storytelling in Saskatchewan. It has been running every February for over 20 years in partnership with Saskatchewan public, academic and special libraries and non-profit organizations.

The SAS project is a province-wide event with over 150 volunteers, 70 storytellers, 15 host library institutions and over 200 locations in past years, and growing! Volunteers are essential to the success of promoting Indigenous storytelling and Knowledge Keepers in communities across the province, especially to rural and underserved areas where Indigenous engagement is essential to meeting the TRC Calls to Action in Saskatchewan. Through the project, we continue to build and strengthen relationships across the province that encourage learning about and engagement with Indigenous culture.

All of this is possible with the financial support of:

*SaskCulture, Community Initiatives Fund, SaskArts Board, SaskTel & SaskEnergy, SIGA
Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Education, Saskatchewan Library Association*

Thank you for making this project an integral part of Saskatchewan and for contributing in the promotion and protection of Indigenous storytelling. Please visit our website, www.lssap.ca/storytelling, for more information and how you can join in a storytelling event near you!



HISTORY, COMEDY, POLITICS & MORE BEING SHARED FOR ABORIGINAL STORYTELLING MONTH

"Because of the hard work of our elders and communities, oral histories have kept our knowledge intact. Truth is the power of Indigenous storytelling."

-Tristen Durocher, Artist, Activist & Storyteller

Métis fiddler player Tristen Durocher is passionate about protecting Indigenous people and culture. In 2020 the world found out just how passionate when he walked hundreds of kilometres and set up camp on the lawn of the Saskatchewan Legislature. He wanted to bring attention to the high suicide rate of Northern and Indigenous people. It was a move that led to the passing of the suicide prevention bill. Ever since, he's been sharing his stories and music to inspire others. Durocher will join other storytellers across the province for **Aboriginal Storytelling Month 2024 February 1 - 29**.

"I'm always first a listener, a visitor, a friend, and a storyteller second," says Durocher. "It's up to us as Indigenous people to keep our full, honest accounts of our collective histories alive, not only for us but also the rest of Canada."

Wintertime is a sacred time for Indigenous communities, where knowledge about people and lived experiences are traditionally shared. To celebrate, the Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples (LSSAP) is helping schools, local libraries, and cultural organizations with a mix of online and in-person events that highlight the power of storytelling. The month-long event kicks off February 1, 2024. 67 Storytellers from across the province will share poetry, stories for children, cooking classes, cultural teachings, art lessons and musical performances.

Comedian and actor Cheyenna Sapp feels blessed she grew up in a family of storytellers. Sapp will share her experiences on stage, on tv, and give the audience a try at stand-up.

"When I started in comedy, I instantly saw it as a powerful form of storytelling," says Sapp. "The stories I tell onstage about the Indigenous experience reach a wider audience. Comedy breaks down barriers, fights stereotypes and promotes inclusivity and understanding all through a good laugh together."

Indigenous artist Danii Kehler had no plans of being a storyteller but after becoming the first First Nations person from Canada to join the 2041 ClimateForce Antarctic Expedition (2022) and an Ambassador for the Antarctic she was inspired. She'll be sharing her experiences across the province as part of the month-long celebration.

"Everything is connected in our world. That's the Indigenous perspective," says Kehler. "We must help people see that the land, our environment, our people, we are all connected and must become stewards of the land and humanity."

At the Beauval Public Library elders' stories are being collected into a book that tells the history of the area and it will be launched as part of the celebrations. Librarian Carol Buffin's father Peter was happy to share his own history for the book.

"My dad is a good storyteller and even at 87, he remembers so much about what the community was like when he was growing up," says Buffin. "I hope the book helps people learn the experiences of their ancestors. It's important to gather them before they are no longer with us."

With most libraries across Saskatchewan taking part in the event, there is truly something for everyone.

You can find a full schedule for the month on the LSSAP website lssap.ca.



**FOR INTERVIEWS CONTACT: BRITAINY ZAPSHALLA
BRITAINY.ZAPSHALLA@GMAIL.COM OR (306)291-7927**



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Partnerships

50 Storytellers @ 65 Locations
February 2024



Lyndon Tootoosis **Daphie Pooyak**
Curtis Peeteetuce **Randy Morin**
& **Dickie Yuzicapi**
Virtual Province-Wide



Leah Dorion
Ron Burnouf, Philip Gauthier
Peter & Elaine Malbeouf Alexina
Laliberte Daryl Robson, Rick
Laliberte Pauline Aubichon
Marlene Nichols
Beauval / Buffalo Narrows / Green Lake



Lakeland Library Region
Your Community.
Your Library.

Richard Van Camp
Curtis Peeteetuce
Darwin Atcheynum
Chad Solomon
Floyd Favel, Joan Galat
North Battleford,
Battleford, Medstead,
Meota & Meadow Lake



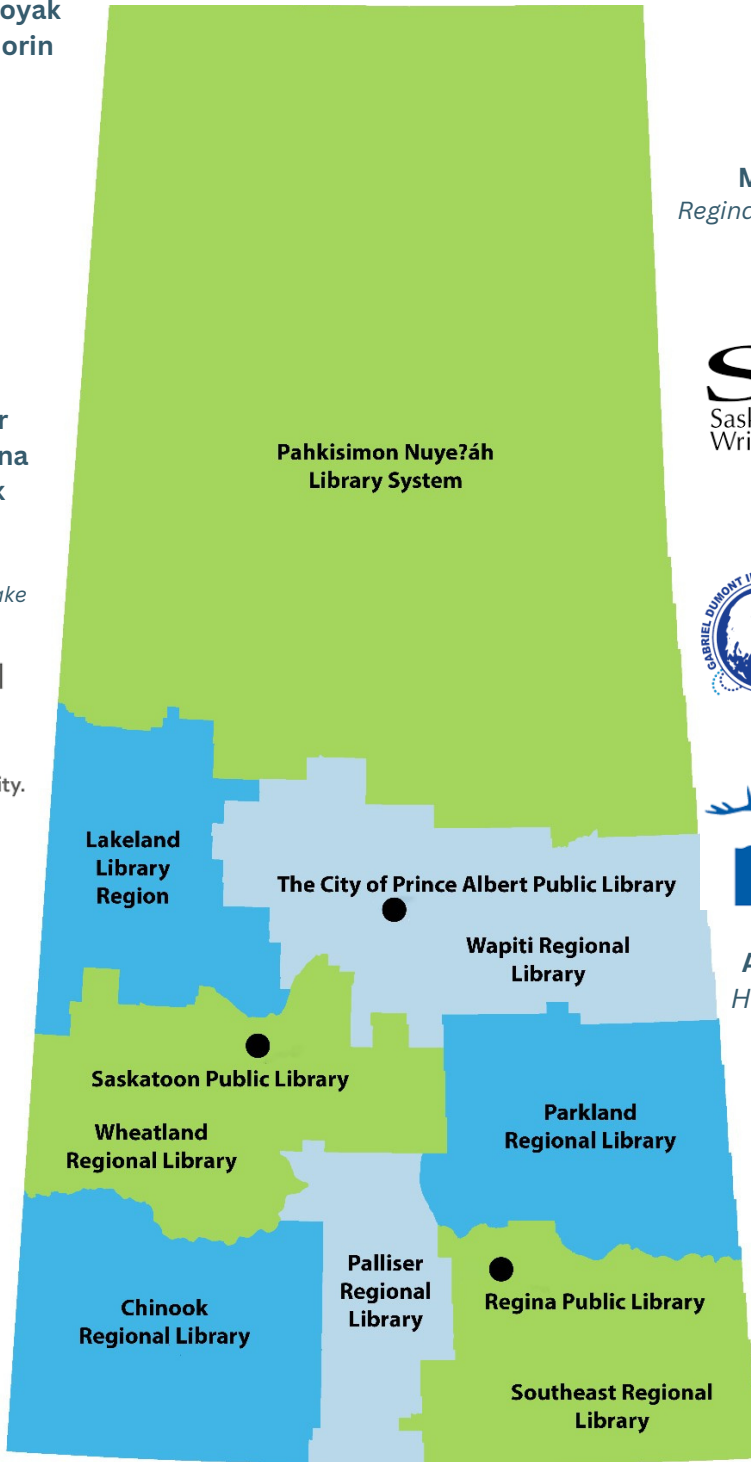
Curtis Peeteetuce
Randy Morin
Aberdeen, Biggar, Outlook
& Osler



Chinook Regional Library
Kim Soo Goodtrack
Kokum Eloise Mosquito & Taneshea
Francis, Carol Rose GoldenEagle
Swift Current, Maple Creek
& Gravelbourg



Dickie Yuzicapi
Moose Jaw
Moosbank
Bethune,
Elbow/Loreburn
Rouleau &
Assiniboia



Tristan Durocher
Jason Chamakese
Cheyanna Sapp
Carol Rose GoldenEagle
Mary-Ann Daywalker-Pelletier
Regina/Moose Jaw/Prince Albert/Saskatoon
& *Virtual*



Rita Bouvier
Michelle Good
Solomon Ratt
Mika Lafond
Virtual
Province-Wide



Gabriel Dumont Institute
with SUNTEP
Murray Hamilton
Roger Pelletier
Joe Welsh
Regina / Saskatoon



Wapiti Regional Library
Serving Central Saskatchewan
Marcel Petit, Lyndon Linklater
Alexandra Jarret & Wilfred Burton
Humboldt, Marcelin, Melfort, Blaine
Lake, Duck Lake, Spiritwood



Harmony Johnson-Harder
Prince Albert



Sundance Robson *Regina*



NOT THE LIBRARY YOU REMEMBER

Danii Kehler, Sequoia Yellowhair, Irma Klyne
and Heather O'Watch

Arcola, Carlyle, Lake Alma, Oungre, Radville, Stoughton,
Balgonie, Indian Head, Pilot Butte, Qu'Appelle, Vibank,
White City, Bengough, Broadview, Kennedy, Lumsden,
Ogema, Regina Beach, Wawota, Weyburn, Whitewood,
Yellow Grass, Bienfait, Carnduff, Estevan, Lampman,
Manor, Maryfield, Midale, Moosomin, Oxbow, Redvers,
Rocanville, Wapella

& Reid Thompson Public Library

S A S K A T C H E W A N

Aboriginal Storytelling Month 2024



**Provincial launch of
Aboriginal
Storytelling Month!**

Lyndon Linklater

**Knowledge
Keeper
& Storyteller**

**Humboldt &
District Gallery**

**Thursday, Feb 1,
6:30pm to 8pm**

Knowledge keeper and storyteller Lyndon Linklater will share some of his stories with us about Treaty, ceremonies, and First Nations worldview. His stories are poignant, humorous and affirming.

Join us in learning about the Indigenous tradition of Storytelling!



Made possible by our community partners:



LSSAP.CA/Storytelling

Saskatchewan

SaskTel

S A S K A T C H E W A N

Aboriginal Storytelling Month 2024



Virtual Series

Everyone is Welcome!



Personal and Professional Resilience with Randy Morin
February 12 @ 7:00 PM via Zoom: 822-0496-2378



Native American Flute with Dickie Yuzicapi February 14 @
2:00 PM via Zoom: 841-0748-5954



Cree Creation Stories, Protocols & Natural Laws with Daphie Pooyak
February 19 @ 7:00 PM via Zoom: 865-2550-4797



Led by Curtis Peeteetuce, mahihkanak Dance Troupe is a celebration of youth and culture. Students, grade 6 - 9, will showcase their style while sharing teachings and stories of the dances.
February 29 @ 1:30 PM via Zoom: 846-0942-3135

lssap.ca/storytelling sas.coordinator3@gmail.com

Made possible by our community partners:



1

Cheyanna Sapp 11:00 AM & 2:00 PM
Sask. Polytechnic Library, Saskatoon

Jason Chamakese 11:00 AM
Sask. Polytechnic Library, Prince Albert

Carol Rose GoldeEagle 12:30 PM
Sask. Polytechnic Library, Regina
Auditorium - Rm 336

Lyndon Linklater 1:30 PM
Humboldt Museum

Danii Kehler 2:00 PM
Southeast Regional Library

Lyndon Linklater 6:30 PM
Thompson-Reid Library, Humboldt

2

Curtis Peeteetuce 11:00 AM
Medstead Library

Danii Kehler 2:00 PM
Southeast Regional Library

5

Joe Welsh
SUNTEP Students

6

Harmony Johnson-Harder 7 PM
Prince Albert Public Library

Tristen Durocher 11:00 AM
Sask. Polytechnic Library, Virtual

Irma Klyne
Southeast Regional Library

Randy Morin 1:00 PM
Wheatland Regional Library, Osler

Heather O'Watch
Southeast Regional Library

7

Darwin Atcheynum Feb 7 - 9
Saskatchewan Hospital, North Battleford

Rita Bouvier 12:00 PM
Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, Virtual

Floyd Favel 7:00 PM
Meadow Lake Library

Elder's Storytelling Project
Beauval Public Library

Danii Kehler
Southeast Regional Library

Heather O'Watch
Southeast Regional Library

Wilfred Burton
Wapiti - Spiritwood

8

Pauline Aubichon
Wisewood Library, Buffalo Narrows

Randy Morin 7:00 PM
Wheatland Library, Aberdeen

Irma Klyne
Southeast Regional Library

February Events

20

lssap.ca/calendar

9

Hurray Hamilton & Roger Pelletier
GDI - SUNTEP, Saskatoon

10

Eloise Mosquito 2:00 PM
Swift Current Branch Library

Lucas Welsh 2:00 PM
Meadow Lake Library

12

Marlene Nichols
Wisewood Library, Buffalo Narrows

Randy Morin 7 pm
LSSAP - Virtual

13

Mary-Ann Daywalker Pelletier 10:30 AM
Sask. Polytechnic Library, Moose Jaw
Macoun Lounge

Curtis Peeteetuce 1:00 PM
Wheatland Library, Biggar

14

Solomon Ratt 12:00 PM
Sask. Writers' Guild, Virtual

Chad Solomon 4:00 PM
Meadow Lake Library

Dickie Yuzicapi 2 PM
LSSAP - Virtual

15

Sundance Robson 6:30 PM
U of R, Riddell Centre - Shumiatcher
Open Stage, Regina

16

Daryl Robson
Wisewood Library, Buffalo Narrows

Irma Klyne
Southeast Regional Library

19

Daphie Pooyak 7:00 PM
LSSAP - Virtual

Lillian Chatelaine
Meadow Lake Library

Curtis Peeteetuce 7:00 PM
North Battleford Library

Irma Klyne
Southeast Regional Library

Dickie Yuzicapi 10 & 2 PM
Palliser - Assiniboia & Mossbank Library

21

Michelle Good 12:00 PM
Sask. Writers' Guild, Virtual

Dickie Yuzicapi 10 & 3 PM
Palliser - Bethune & Elbow Library

Richard Van Camp 11 - 6 pm
North Battleford Library

22

Duane Iron 7:00 PM
Meadow Lake Library

Dickie Yuzicapi 2 PM
Palliser - Rouleau Library

26

Leon Matchee
Meadow Lake Library

Community Storytelling Event
Wisewood Library, Buffalo Narrows

Alexandra Jarret
Wapiti - Blaine Lake

Danii Kehler
Southeast Regional Library

27

Joan Marie Galat 6:30 PM
Meota Community Hall

Kim Soo Goodtrack 10:45 AM
Chinook Regional Library

Heather O'Watch
Southeast Regional Library

Carol Rose GoldenEagle 2:00 PM
Chinook Regional Library

Danii Kehler
Southeast Regional Library

28

Elder's Stories - Open Sharing
Meadow Lake Library

Mika Lafond 12:00 PM
Sask. Writers' Guild, Virtual

Heather O'Watch
Southeast Regional Library

Darwin Atcheynum 28 - 29
Registered Schools, Battleford

29

Curtis Peeteetuce 1:30 PM
LSSAP, Virtual

Aboriginal Storytelling Month

2024



Virtual Events

lssap.ca/storytelling
sas.coordinator3@gmail.com

Indigenous Storytelling with Tristan Durocher - February 6 @ 11:00 AM
via Zoom: Meeting ID # 950 4789 1016

Wordsongs of a Warrior with Rita Bouvier - February 7 @ 12:00 PM
via Zoom Meeting ID # 819 2749 0548 Passcode: 640028

Personal and Professional Resilience with Randy Morin
February 12 @ 7:00 PM via Zoom: 822-0496-2378

What do our Traditional Stories tell us? with Solomon Ratt
February 14 @ 12:00 PM
via Zoom Meeting ID # 871 4933 3365 Passcode: 542709

Native American Flute with Dickie Yuzicapi
February 14 @ 2:00 PM via Zoom: 841-0748-5954

Cree Creation Stories, Protocols & Natural Laws with Daphie Pooyak
February 19 @ 7:00 PM via Zoom: 865-2550-4797

Underneath the Myth of Canadian History with Michelle Good
February 21 @ 12:00 PM
via Zoom: 851 6887 6489 Passcode: 418461

Reclaiming Storytelling with Mika Lafond
February 28 @ 12:00 PM
via Zoom: Meeting ID # 862 8214 1132 Passcode: 500342

Curtis Peeteetuce & mahihkanak Youth Pow Wow Dance Troupe
February 29 @ 1:30 PM via Zoom: 846-0942-3135



Story of Astusini with Lyndon Tootosis
[YouTube.com/@lssap415](https://www.youtube.com/@lssap415) <https://youtu.be/qP7BjzLBXQ4>

Made possible by our community partners:





Lyndon J Linklater is a traditional knowledge keeper and storyteller. He has an educational background in Indian Social Work, Indian Studies and some law. He is a citizen of the Thunderchild First Nation (Plains Cree) in Treaty 6 and has roots in Couchiching First Nation (Fort Francis, Ontario) in Treaty 3. Presently, Lyndon shares work with the Remai Modern Art Museum in Saskatoon as their Indigenous Relations Advisor providing advice to their board and staff and delivering cultural programming. He is the longest serving member of the Office of the Treaty Commissioner's Speakers' Bureau, since he was appointed in 2000. Over the years, he has spoken to tens of thousands of people, delivering awareness and enlightenment on Treaty and First Nation worldview. Lyndon is a powerful story teller that utilizes First Nation teachings that involve knowledge of ceremonies and mixes humour to deliver a poignant message.

Wapiti Regional Library - Humboldt



Lyndon Tootosis has been a working artist for 27 years. His journey started long before he created his first piece. As a child he was taught traditional ways of making Cree ceremonial pipes. Lyndon's late father was a traditional person, partaking in Our ceremonies. As he grew he was brought in to the circle, learning the teachings that have sustained his People. These life lessons have been a part of what he does. For 11 years, he worked with the Allen Sapp gallery as the cultural lead in the development of shows and programs. His job included getting Elders to come and share their memories, which were used to tell the story of reservation life as they grew up. These elders encouraged Lyndon to share what he has learned. They emphasized that it is through sharing that understanding is fostered. By using traditional games, he started to share his beliefs in respect, cooperation and survival. These were delivered to guests and students who came through the gallery for programs. In 1993, Lyndon started creating Art. He returned to high school. During the art class he was introduced to soapstone. He combined the stories of his People with stone. What Lyndon shares he has permission from his Elders. He engages in the proper protocol as he has been taught.

LSSAP Virtual Series



Curtis Peeteetuce is an award-winning theatre artist from the Beardy's & Okemasis Cree Nation. Since 2001, he has had the honour of working with many talented people in the theatre, radio drama, music and film. He is a storyteller, actor, writer, director, dancer, musician and the playwright for the popular rez Christmas story series and the recently published plays nicimos, kihew and Popcorn Elder (nominated for 2 Saskatchewan arts awards). Curtis has also served as an MC, cultural arts consultant and advocates for mental health and suicide awareness. He dedicates all his accomplishments to his son Mahihkan.

LSSAP Virtual Series, Wheatland Regional Library & Lakeland Library Region



Identifying as a Nakota Cree traditional teacher and cultural advisor, Daphie Pooyak comes from Sweetgrass First Nation located and is a mother of 5 children and grandmother of 5 grandchildren. Over the course of 20 years she has worked as a professional educator specializing in cultural education, and land based learning. Working in the area of addictions, healing and trauma. In recent years she has facilitated several presentations through out Canada, USA and Mexico on healing trauma, natural law and traditional medicine. Some notable of which happened in 2015 where Daphie was asked too join in prayer and speak and “World Peace & Prayer Day” in Oregon. “The Parliament of World Religion” hosted by the United Nation in Salt Lake City. Her passion remains to her roots, in hosting traditional survival camps over the past 10 years in her community Sweetgrass First Nation. Daphie’s stories will focus on Natural Law and Cree Creation Stories.

LSSAP Virtual Series



Randy Morin empowers audiences with stories and language as an educator, author, and English-Cree expert. He is a Cree language keeper and a traditional Indigenous Knowledge keeper. Randy works with Universities, teaching Indigenous Studies, and devoted to Indigenous language revitalization. Randy Morin is leading the culture and Language revolution by bringing traditional Indigenous language, knowledge, and perspectives into the 21st century.

LSSAP Virtual Series & Wheatland Regional Library



As many Indigenous people are today, Dickie Yuzicapi comes from a culturally diverse heritage. His heritage represents the majority of the Plains cultures found in Saskatchewan to this day: Ojibway, Cree, Métis, and Dakota. Dickie is unique in that he was raised by his great grandparents who never went to residential school. They raised him pre-reservation style until it was his turn to go to residential school. Dickie is a residential school survivor, and a multi-generational trauma survivor. He is a master storyteller and experienced speaker who can provide his own ancestral context and historical connections in ways that bring the Truth and Reconciliation recommendations to practical reality. His workshops are led with great care to his family's stories and to where workshop participants are at in the T & R process. It is about creating understanding with care to lay the groundwork for what needs to be done to heal. Dickie is experienced in leading workshops, speaking to groups of all sizes, and keynote addresses. Dickie is also a traditional Pow wow dancer and singer, an artist, a storyteller, a Red Seal Chef, and the owner of Sioux Chef Catering.

LSSAP Virtual Series & Palliser Regional Library



Harmony Johnson-Harder is the daughter of the late Harold Johnson. In 2018, Harmony and Harold had collaborated on a storytelling project for SaskCulture's Resilience & Respect: Canada 150 & Beyond event. Funded by SAWCI and Carfac Harold wrote a short story, called *Kookum Magic* that retells a story about his mother as a child and her grandmother, and explores the magic of storytelling and consequence. Harmony had interpreted this story and the connection to current day. In this presentation, Harmony will read the short story "Kookum Magic" written by her father Harold Johnson and display the painting. She will lead a conversation with the audience and encourage participants to share their thoughts and stories that are inspired by the presentation. Her art weaves symbolism, storytelling, and her world view as an indigenous woman into vibrant powerful images.

Prince Albert Public Library



Leah Marie Dorion, of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, is a Métis artist, author, curriculum developer, lecturer, researcher, and community activist. She is an award-winning children's book author and a highly acclaimed children's book illustrator. For twenty-five years, she has been an educator, and has dedicated her professional and personal life to promoting her Métis heritage. For eight of those years, she was employed in the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI)'s Publishing Department as a Curriculum Developer and as a Publishing Coordinator. There, she developed, edited, or was the project leader for several books and cultural resources. She was also a professor at GDI's post-secondary college, the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program in Prince Albert, where she has instilled a strong appreciation of Métis history and culture in her students. She has also taught at First Nations University of Canada, the University of Saskatchewan, St. Michael's College (Duck Lake), and St. Peter's College (Muenster). She has coordinated the development of Métis-specific educational resource projects for K-12 schools and post-secondary programs across Canada.

Leah Dorion works closely with school children to promote Métis culture through readings, and cultural and artistic workshops. By doing this work, Leah hopes to not only inform children about Métis culture, but encourage them to realize their creative potential as artists and authors.² Leah Dorion is also a talented visual artist. Her artwork hangs in galleries and private collections across Canada. As with her children's books, Leah's artistic practice focuses on the vibrancy and timelessness of Métis culture, and in particular, focuses on the strength of Métis women as the keepers of Métis culture.

Pahkisimon Nuyegáh Library System

Northern Lights School Division - Veronica Sinclair Library



Kim Soo Goodtrack, from the Lakota Nation Wood Mountain in Southern Saskatchewan, will share traditional teachings of ceremonial life from the Star Nation as well as engage the students through an art project with pastels through virtual classrooms.

Chinook Regional Library

Partnerships with Chinook School Division and the Prairie South School Division



Carol Rose GoldenEagle was appointed Saskatchewan's Poet Laureate in 2021. She was named a Member of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in 2022 for her years of cross-cultural work within the arts and culture community. Carol has several books on the market. Her latest novel, "The Narrows of Fear," won a 2021 Saskatchewan Book Award. Other titles, including "Hiraeth," "Essential Ingredients," "Bone Black" and "Stations of the Crossed," have been shortlisted for a Saskatchewan Book Awards. Another collection of poetry, "Singing to the Moon - Indigenous Poetry for Children," will be released by Medicine Wheel Publishing in 2025. Carol is Cree and Dene with roots in Northern Saskatchewan.

Chinook Regional Library

Saskatchewan Polytechnic Library, Regina Campus



Kokum Eloise Mosquito from Neekaneet First Nation along with helper and artist Taneshae Francis will host a casual sharing circle gathering to provide a space for connection through storytelling, discussion, beading and sharing of food (bannock and tea). The event would start with a land acknowledgment, opening prayer/blessing from the elder, followed by a storytelling and beading workshop.

Chinook Regional Library

Partnership with the Art Gallery of Swift Current

Joe Welsh is a Metis author and playwright originally from Lebret, Saskatchewan. His father was Joseph Edmund Welsh (b. 1900)¹, his mother was Marion Eleanor Amyotte (1911-19 50), and he is Norma Welsh's younger brother. He is a direct descendant of Norbert Welsh, the “last buffalo hunter.” After his mother died, he and seven of his siblings were raised in an orphanage in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Joe Welsh was born in Lebret, Saskatchewan. He has worked for the Department of Social Services as well as with the Armed Forces. He presently collects Metis stories and works as a writer, actor and workshop leader in Regina. His written works include: *Joseph Welsh, Jackrabbit Street*, Saskatoon: Thistledown Press, 2003, and *Norman Fleury, Gilbert Pelletier, Jeanne Pelletier, Joe Welsh, Norma Welsh, and Janice DePeel, Stories of Our People: Lii zistwayr di la naasyoon di Michif: A Metis Graphic Novel Anthology*. Saskatoon: Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2008.



Murray Hamilton and Roger Pelletier are storytellers who have been friends for decades. Their knowledge and banter make for a very engaged and humorous event. Their stories stem from their shared experiences while growing up in the Metis community in the Qu'Appelle Valley. During their time in the community of Lebret, they shared about the importance of nicknames in the Métis community. Lebret is a Métis settlement that was started in 1941 by the Oblate Fathers, Father Duplain; the Lebret Farm employed many Lebret Métis. The Lebret farm was sold to the government in 1945 meaning that the Métis had no control or influence on how the farm was run. After selling it to the government, the church stayed involved, and it became a struggle between church and state. By the 1970's the farm ended up closing production. 1987 The farm was sold back to the Lebret Farmland Foundation Inc. for a \$1. The town is still a Métis settlement and is now being restored to make it sustainable for many Métis generations. In the Métis community traditions are at the core of every family unit. A tradition that has stuck around for years is that of giving people nicknames. It demonstrates the value of kinship and is a sign of respect to the person that you are speaking to. Most people in the community do not ever get called by their real names and are known mainly by their nicknames. Usually, nicknames are given to the person either because of how they act, something that has happened to them, or because they remind someone of an older member of the family unit



Richard Van Camp, of the Dogrib (Tłıchǫ) Nation from Fort Smith, NWT. He is graduate of the En'owkin International School of Writing, the University of Victoria's Creative Writing BFA Program, and the Master's Degree in Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia. He is an internationally renowned storyteller and best-selling author. His novel, *The Lesser Blessed*, is now a movie with First Generation Films and premiered in September of 2012 at the Toronto International Film Festival. He is the author of five collections of short stories, six baby books, three children's books, five comics and much more. [#honouringindigenouwriters](#)

Lakeland Library Region

Partnership with Battleford Agency Tribal Council



Darwin Atcheynum is from Sweetgrass First Nation. He was raised on Sweetgrass where he resides with his wife Kimberly. He was raised doing artwork as a child. When doing his artwork with his late mother he would listen to the old traditional stories to pass the time while working. Then when he got older he traveled on the Pow Wow trail for 15 years until his boys were old enough to travel on their own. While traveling he met lots of different Elders from all over and listened to their stories. He still does artwork for a living and sometimes shares his stories that were passed down. While doing his artwork he became lifelong friends with late Henry Beaudry. Henry passed down his life story with him over the years while visiting and having tea.

Lakeland Library Region



Chad Solomon, a citizen of the Henvey Inlet First Nation, located in Ontario, Canada, is an author who writes and draws a series of graphic novels, picture books and puppet stories based on traditional Native teachings called *Rabbit and Bear Paws*.

Lakeland Library Region

Partnership with North West Friendship Centre



Favel is a fluent Cree speaker, traditionalist, cultural activist, theorist, playwright, essayist, journalist, actor, and theatre director. He is also the organizer of artistic events in his community and is the curator of the Chief Poundmaker Museum and the director of Miyawata Culture Inc. Favel will present his documentary *Ashes to Embers*, followed by a discussion.

Lakeland Library Region, Meadow Lake Library



Sundance Robson is a status Indian and of First Nation heritage and descent. He is a band member of Peguis First Nation. In relation to Sundance, his father attended Brandon residential school and through experience with family has become vastly aware of the legacy of the residential schools, both historically and intergenerationally. Sundance is a stand for Truth and Reconciliation in his community and utilizes the 94 calls to action as a catalyst for change. His upbringing in Regina as an urban Indigenous person led Sundance to find ways to better understand his heritage and lineage which underscores his commitment to creating unity and collective awareness that leads to action through truth and reconciliation. Sundance is co-founder, Sacred Sound Facilitator, Executive Coach and Indigenous Relations at Sacred Compass Journey located in North Central, Regina. Sacred Compass Journey acts as a transformative space that provides people with an atmosphere to experience each other cross-culturally. This is demonstrated through ceremony in both traditional and nontraditional ways through the use of Sacred Sound in small or large group settings. Sundance's grounding in traditional values and coaching creates a healthy way for people, indigenous and non-indigenous to experience each other that moves the needle toward greater sense of reconciliation.

Sundance is the curator of White Feather (an intergenerational story). Sundance speaks on a selected call to action and the origins of that action, how it applies to being in relationship with indigenous people and a first hand account from his own life. Within the body of the event Sundance also conducts an open conversation with an intergenerational survivor followed by a Q&A to help the audience integrate the understanding of truth and reconciliation so it can lead to people taking action in their respective organizations and communities. Sundance has created a partnership at the Newo-Yotina Friendship Centre by creating inclusive sharing circles for Indigenous youth, fathers, and two-spirited individuals from all backgrounds; he provides a way for stories of struggle and resilience to be shared through active listening. The group provides a way for people to reclaim their inner wisdom and also speak from it, while providing an outlet for self-discovery, and restoration of identity.

Sundance has facilitated at Ranch Ehrlo by providing the kids with a smudge, drum work and song followed by integration through conversation. This helps to confront the far-reaching impacts of intergenerational trauma, institutional systemic racism, and interpersonal hostility between youth and Youth Care Workers. His efforts in service leave an understanding of possibility in a place of adversity.



Cheyenna (Shy) Sapp, Plains Cree from Little Pine First Nation, is an accomplished storyteller with a Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Studies and a wícehtowin Theatre Certificate. As a dedicated advocate for accurate Indigenous representation, she excels in stand-up comedy and acting, notably in the CTV series "Acting Good." Shy's commitment extends to sketch comedy, where she portrays Mrs. Honeycomb on "The Feather News." Her dynamic performances have graced stages across Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, including "The Deadly Aunties Comedy Tour" in the summer of 2023. In 2022, she took on the role of Sir John A MacDonald in the comedic production "Sir John A: Acts of a Gentrified Ojibwe Rebellion" by Drew Hayden Taylor.

Saskatchewan Polytechnic Library, Saskatoon



Jason Chamakese is from the Pelican Lake First Nation and a fluent speaker of the Cree language. He began playing flute as a hobby in 1998. Jason then started to compose his own music, leading to recording "Midnight at Clearwater: Native American Flute Songs, volume 1" in 2007. He has been nominated for numerous awards and won the Best Traditional Flute CD category at the 2001 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards. Jason experienced serious health issues in 2015 and despite a low probability of survival, he is on his way to a full recovery. Jason weaves storytelling with flute playing in his presentations, sharing important lessons about mutual respects and understanding among all people.

Saskatchewan Polytechnic Library, Prince Albert



Tristen Durocher knows that even small positive changes can lead to great things – and he has been instrumental in creating those changes. Inspired by the defeat of a suicide prevention bill in the Saskatchewan Legislature, Tristen created the "Walking with Our Angels" campaign to raise awareness of the disproportionately high rate of suicide among Northern and Indigenous peoples, walking 635 km from his home in Air Ronge, SK, to the Legislative grounds in Regina, SK. He set up a teepee and started a 44-day ceremonial fast to convince the provincial government to adopt the bill it had recently voted down. The bill ultimately passed in April 2021.

Saskatchewan Polytechnic Library, Virtual Event



Marie-Anne Day Walker-Pelletier is the longest-serving elected chief in Canadian history. She was chief of Okanese First Nation, located near Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, from 1981 to 2020. During her long career, Day Walker-Pelletier accomplished many goals, including establishing the structure, instruments and policies of governance for Okanese First Nation. She also took part in numerous projects related to wellness, social reform and education, focusing primarily on providing support to vulnerable women and children. Day Walker-Pelletier has been a strong advocate for preserving the language, traditions, and treaty rights of Okanese First Nation.

Saskatchewan Polytechnic Library, Moose Jaw Campus

Please join host Erica Violet Lee and Saskatchewan Writers' Guild every Wednesday at Noon on Zoom as she chats each week with a different Storyteller!



Rita Bouvier is a Métis poet who was born and raised in Île-à-la-Crosse (Sakitawak) in northern Saskatchewan. Her poetry combines English with Cree and Michif words and phrases. Her first book of poetry, *Blueberry Clouds*, was nominated for the 2000 First People's Publishing Saskatchewan Book Award. As a teacher and advocate, she has focused her efforts on issues of Aboriginal education and social justice. What is poetry? How do I explain this affliction to my mother in a language she understands, words strung together, woven, pieces of memory, naming, and telling the truth in a way, that dances, swings, and sways..(papîyâhtak, 2009)' Interspered with a reading of her poetry, Rita will share her love of writing and storytelling & the importance she ascribes to the arts, in general, and the power they hold.

SWG Virtual

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_o5wzcgo4TnKRrbyCwSAv7Q



Solomon Ratt was born on the banks of the Churchill River just north of the community of Stanley Mission. His parents were hunters and fishers who lived off the land, spending their winters on the trapline and summers fishing in La Ronge. Solomon spent the first six winters of his life with his parents who didn't speak English. They knew the ways of the land They also knew the traditional stories passed down through generations, which they told to Solomon and his siblings. At the age of six Solomon was abducted from his home and taken to the residential school in Prince Albert where he began his schooling. He had the first three grades in the residential school then starting at grade four he attended Queen Mary School, a school in the community of Prince Albert while living at the residential school. After the residential school he was part of INAC's boarding out program, living in a family's home, and a group home, while attending Riverside Collegiate. After high school he attended the University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus, which became the University of Regina in 1976. He has two BAs (one in English literature and another in linguistics), and an MA in English Literature. He is a recipient of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit (2021) and The Queens's Platinum Medallion (2022). He has been teaching the Cree language and Cree Literature at the First Nations University since 1984 (as a sessional) and full time since 1986. Solomon has done numerous translations from English to Cree and in addition has several publications in Cree including *nîhithaw âcimowina - Woods Cree Stories* (2014) and *mâci-nêhiyawêwin - Beginning Cree* (2016), *âhkami-nêhiyawêtân - Let's Keep Speaking Cree* (2022), published through the University of Regina Press.

SWG Virtual

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CiKe2KYzSqqmkyXeoKkeug



Michelle Good is a Cree writer and a member of the Red Pheasant Cree Nation in Saskatchewan. After working for Indigenous organizations for twenty-five years, she obtained a law degree and advocated for residential school survivors for over fourteen years. Good earned a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia while still practising law and managing her own law firm. Her poems, short stories, and essays have been published in magazines and anthologies across Canada, and her poetry was included on two lists of the best Canadian poetry in 2016 and 2017. Five Little Indians, her first novel, won the HarperCollins/UBC Best New Fiction Prize, the Amazon First Novel Award, the Governor General’s Literary Award the Rakuten Kobo Emerging Writer Award, the Evergreen Award, the City of Vancouver Book of the Year Award, and Canada Reads 2022. It was also longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and a finalist for the Writer’s Trust Award, the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize and the Jim Deva Prize for Writing that Provokes. On October 7, 2022 Simon Fraser University granted her an Honorary Doctor of Letters. Her new work, Truth Telling: Seven Conversations about Indigenous life in Canada was released May 30, 2023 and on October 4 2023 was shortlisted for the Writers Trust Balsillie Prize for Public Policy.

SWG Virtual

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uBC0qOkDSYGzPHAl2vk1IA



Mika will share how she explored poetry and nêhiyawêwin in her book nipê wânîn and then went on to teach creative writing to help others tell their stories. She uses life experiences and stories that she has heard from elders/knowledge keepers to reclaim the nêhiyaw way of transmitting knowledge through story. Mika Lafond is from Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. She completed her B Ed at ITEP, followed by her MFA at the University of Saskatchewan. She published her first book of poetry: nipê wânîn in 2017. She has had poetry and short stories published in several anthologies, and her script was presented by the Indigenous Ensemble. Since completing her MFA, she has taught at ITEP and for the Department of English at the University of Saskatchewan. She teaches Creative Writing classes to adults, youth and children. She recently published 20 children’s books for Muskeg Lake to share community history with the children of the community. Mika is currently enrolled in her PhD in Educational Administration and teaching Grade 9 at St. Frances Cree/Bilingual School in Treaty 6 Territory.

SWG Virtual

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8yENUP1_TOqyMc33JS9a1g



Danielle Kehler is a Plains Cree woman from the Kawacatoose First Nation on Treaty 4 territory. She is an Indigenous artist focused on the resiliency of Indigenous people healing from intergenerational trauma by deconstructing colonial structures and reclaiming an Indigenous narrative. Danielle was the “first” First Nations person from Canada to join the 2041 ClimateForce Antarctic Expedition in March 2022 becoming an Ambassador for the Antarctic, charged with making a stand in the fight against anthropogenic climate change. She is also the Manager of SevenGen, an Indigenous youth lead organization aimed at creating space where Indigenous youth and communities are mobilized to advance in the energy and sustainability sector.

Southeast Regional Library



Heather O'Watch (she/her) is a Nakodaand Cree woman from the OkaneseFirst Nation in Treaty 4 Territory. Heather currently works for a globalIndigenous Rights organization, and isalso currently enrolled in a MastersDegree in Public Policy (MPP) at theUniversity of Saskatchewan. When networking or studying, Heather spendsher time creative writing. Heather will be sharing her storytelling journey and her recently published children's book, *Auntie's Rez Surprise*.

Southeast Regional Library



Sequoia Yellowhair, from Pasqua First Nation. I originally learned the craft of Indigenous beadwork through my mother, an Indian Residential School Survivor-Thriver! At age two, I would sit in front of my mom and string bigger beads on a piece of yarn for hours on end in front of my mom while she would bead. As I grew, my mom would teach me how to do different projects, and from there, I was encouraged to continue with my own style and ideas. Beading has become a form of therapy and meditation, and I will often embrace good thoughts and feelings throughout my projects; that is what I love about watching my projects come to life!

Southeast Regional Library



Irma has worked the majority of heradult life either with or for Indigenousorganizations. This was the ideal forumfor her as she has always been a proudMétis woman and every opportunity toshare that pride and culture with therest of the world could not be missed. She will be sharing stories, Michiflanguage, and culture.

Southeast Regional Library



Marcel is an Multidisciplinary Métis Artist. He has several film/video works to his name, from short dramas to feature documentaries, and his photography has been featured in multiple publications. His 2 most recent short films are “Parking lot” 2021 & “Jean’s War” 2022. His recent theatre work includes Salt Baby, Reckoning and Blow Wind. In 2022, he directed Willow Stew for Gordon Tootosis Nikaniwin Theatre 2022/2023 season. Also in 2019 for GTNT, he directed the Circle of Voices production of Hospitals, Broken Piano’s: Compassion not Included by Jennifer Dawn Bishop. With Gordon Tootosis Nikaniwin Theatre he wrote Reclaim (2016, Circle of Voices), and four 3-minute plays in 2018 for Performers Playhouse. Marcel has mentored innumerable youth over the past several decades through a number of community workshops.

Wapiti Regional Library



Alexandra Jarrett is a highly skilled photographer and graphic artist with ten years of experience in the industry. As the owner of Axis Imagery Ltd., she has established herself as a visionary entrepreneur and a passionate advocate for creativity, entrepreneurship, and wellness.

Wapiti Regional Library



Wilfred Burton is a Métis author originally from the area around Glaslyn, Saskatchewan. He has been a teacher since 1979. His first elementary teaching position was in La Loche, Saskatchewan

Wapiti Regional Library



Community Event - Elder’s Storytelling Project with Rick Laliberte will have his story walks video presentation. Bobby Buffin will have his presentations on herbal medicine and assorted teas. Elders include Philip Gauthier, Peter & Elaine Malbeuf and Alexina Laliberte.

Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System - Beauval Public Library

Community Events with Local Storytellers:

Feb 8 - 9 Ribbon Skirts & Storytelling with Pauline Aubichon

Feb 12 - 13 Medicine Bags with Storyteller Marlene Nichols

Feb 16 Hunting Teachings with Storyteller Daryl Robson

Feb 26 Making Bannock with Storytelling on Community History

Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System - Wisewood Public Library

