

# Eagle's Eye News



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## At the 2007 Shawane Dagoosiwin Aboriginal Education Research Forum

The focus of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Shawane Dagoosiwin Aboriginal Education Research Forum was “*Visioning in Aboriginal Education for Seven Generations: Honouring and Living Vision through Research*”. Over 300 delegates, elders and speakers from across Canada, the US and as

far away as the United Kingdom attended this year’s workshops, seminars and ceremonies held at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg May 1-3, 2007.

As many readers are aware, *Shawane Dagoosiwin* translates as “being respectful, caring and passionate about Aboriginal research”. True to this philosophy, topics discussed included *Physical Education Teachers as Allies to Aboriginal Students*, *An Exploration of Omushkigo/ Swampy Cree Restorative Justice* and *Traditional Ojibwa Concepts of Earth Harmony*.

Bringing greetings on behalf of United Way of Winnipeg was Aboriginal Relations Council-member Cathy Woods, who spoke of “United Way’s ongoing efforts to reach out and connect with all facets of the Aboriginal community to promote positive relations and growth for everyone who calls Winnipeg ‘home’”

Another highlight was a group presentation by Sonia Prevost-Derbecker, Executive Director and instructors from the Nadinawemaaganag Endaawaad Youth Transitional Centre, which provides a 24-hour Aboriginal youth shelter in Winnipeg. Ndinawe is one of several Aboriginal agencies, which receive support from United Way. *For more details, please see Page 2.*

Keynote speakers were Dr. Gregory Cajete



Photos courtesy of Scott Stephens.

and Diane Hill.

Currently, the Director of Native American Studies and an Associate Professor at the University of New Mexico, Dr. Cajete is a Tewa Indian from Santa Clara Pueblo, New Mexico and the author of five books including *The Spirit of the Game: Wellspring for Indigenous*

*Renewal*. Dr. Cajete is also an herbalist and holistic health practitioner in addition to being a ceramic, stone, metal and pastel artist.

Diane Hill heads up *Ka'nikonhriyohtshera: Fostering the Emergence of the Good Mind*—a center for healing and learning in Ontario. A member of the Bear Clan of the Mohawk Nation in the Grand River Territory of the Six Nations, the former Diane Katsitasawaks is a traditional healer, counselor and writer who often lectures across Canada and in the US. For the past 20 years, Diane has worked as an instructor and learning facilitator at the First Nations Technical Institute and is pursuing her Ph.D. study in Aboriginal adult education at the University of Toronto.

According to organizers and participants alike, the event was a major success—so much so that preparations are underway for its return to the Victoria Inn May 7-9, 2008.

Sponsors of this year’s event were Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation; Manitoba Hydro; Manitoba Métis Federation; Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians—Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; Tribal Councils Investment Group; University of Winnipeg; University of Manitoba and United Way of Winnipeg.

## A Message from the Director, Aboriginal Relations Council

Welcome to our summer 2007 edition of Eagle's Eye News—which is packed with great stories and informative features all about the Aboriginal community in Winnipeg.

Congratulations to the organizers and participants of Shawane Dagoziwin (See Page 1), the 3rd Annual Aboriginal Education Research Forum that was another great success according to our own Cathy Woods who spoke on behalf of the United Way of Winnipeg. Speaking of ARC members, don't miss our profile of Terry Grey on Page 3. And be sure to check out our



Carla Kematch

snapshot of Nadinawemaaganag Endaawaad (See Below) plus our regular feature More Great Things about the Aboriginal Community on Page 4. Congratulations to our many 2007 Aboriginal high school, college and university graduates!

If you have any comments or suggestions, I'd love to hear from you. You can do so by e-mail at Ckematch@UnitedWayWinnipeg.mb.ca or by telephone at 477-5360. Watch for our fall 2007 edition coming in September. Remember: copies of Eagle's

Eye News are available online at [www.UnitedWayWinnipeg.mb.ca](http://www.UnitedWayWinnipeg.mb.ca)

## Aboriginal Agency Snapshot: Nadinawemaaganag Endaawaad

Another agency supported by United Way of Winnipeg is Nadinawemaaganag Endaawaad or "Our Relatives' Home". It is a 24-hour, 16-bed, safe house that provides basic necessities and a positive alternative to the streets for homeless youth aged 11 to 17; many of whom are at risk for abuse and exploitation. Its Youth Resource Centre and drop-in centre actively encourage youth in areas of education, personal relationships, life skills, parenting and Aboriginal culture.

A dedicated staff provides culturally appropriate counseling, tutoring and recreation programs in addition to cooking classes, computer literacy, sports and the arts. Ndinawe's Transitional School provides a structured, integrated and healthy learning environment that's designed to help students keep up with their education and have fun at the same time.

United Way of Winnipeg supports a volunteer program in Ndinawe's Youth Resource Centre, which offers youth employment-related training, experience and a way of giving to the local community. A key element of Ndinawe's success is the level of its youth participation. Here, youth participate at the board level and



Ndinawe's friendly, dedicated staff

provide direction, development and operation for the Centre's programming.

"A positive spin-off of our work is the increased profile of youth homelessness as a social issue in our community," says Sonia Prevost-Derbecker, Executive Director of Ndinawe. "And as a result of the support we receive from United Way of Winnipeg, we've been able to offer more services and help more youth at risk—which, of course, is what Ndinawe is all about."

United Way's support of Nadinawemaaganag Endaawaad in Winnipeg is an integral part of its strategies to reduce poverty, encourage successful children and youth and build strong, safe neighbourhoods. For more information, please visit our website [www.UnitedWayWinnipeg.mb.ca](http://www.UnitedWayWinnipeg.mb.ca) or telephone 477-5360.

## Profile of ARC Member Terry Grey: How Recreation Brings People Together

When you ask Terry Grey if she has seen positive changes in the Aboriginal community in Winnipeg, her answer is a resounding "Yes!" This is based on her first-hand experience as an Aboriginal Relations Council member with United Way of Winnipeg and as Recreational Coordinator, Aboriginal Services with the City of Winnipeg's Community Services Department.

"Recreation is a vehicle with the power to bring people together," says Terry. "Our programs are designed to build bridges and encourage camaraderie."

During her eight years in the latter role, Terry has witnessed an increase in Aboriginal community involvement and positive changes in perception both among its members and her non-Aboriginal colleagues. "More new ideas are coming from Aboriginal people and being put into action. And it's because both groups realize that neither one has all the answers. People are just people. And together, everyone benefits by building friendships and trust, community-by-community."

Originally, Terry became



involved with United Way in 2004 as a liaison volunteer in the Gilbert Park and Tyndall Park areas. She worked with the Nor' West Co-Op Community Health Centre—one of nearly 100 agencies supported by United Way of Winnipeg. In 2005, Terry was asked to join the Aboriginal Relations Council. "What I appreciate," Terry continues, "is how United Way of Winnipeg reaches out to the Aboriginal community by connecting with them on a regular basis."

A proud member of the Mathis Colomb band of Pukatawagan, Manitoba, Terry is the eldest of seven children. Born in Thompson, she grew up in Leaf Rapids. As an adult, she graduated college in Saskatoon, Brandon and at the University of Manitoba. In the years that followed, Terry honed her skills in community development, administration

and recreation.

Today, Terry wears many hats. First, she supervises a team of recreation technicians who deliver children's programming at facilities in Winnipeg. Second, as Recreation Coordinator, she works with staff and volunteers to develop and implement a range of seasonal programs and projects. She is the Aboriginal Liaison for program planning, workshops, conferences and special events to ensure cultural awareness at grassroots and board levels. Third, Terry advises and assists in program evaluation with key input from neighbourhood members and elders.

The fourth hat she wears is definitely Terry's favourite. And that, of course, is wife to husband Lance and mother to their children Austin, Ian and Carmen—aged 16, 14 and 12.

"We all have a gift," says Terry. "It can be a gift of the gab, music, dance, art, or making a great pot of coffee." That's why Terry believes, "Everyone can contribute to a better day. That's why I love my job and why I support United Way of Winnipeg. It's proof positive that ordinary people can do extraordinary things."

### What do YOU Think the Top 3 Social Issues are in Winnipeg?

Your response to questions like this is what URBAN EXCHANGE is all about. If you want to have your say about your city, you're invited to join URBAN EXCHANGE now!

URBAN EXCHANGE is a United Way of Winnipeg Advisory Panel that provides an opportunity for all Winnipeggers to share their thoughts and ideas to build a stronger, more vibrant city. Here, you can effectively guide and drive United Way as it addresses poverty, personal and neighbourhood safety, youth at

risk and other social issues.

And please spread the word: Ask your family, friends and colleagues — anyone who you feel may be interested in voicing their views and supporting positive change in Winnipeg. For more information, please visit [MyCityMySay.ca](http://MyCityMySay.ca), or contact Pat Harper, Director of Strategic Management Services at [patharper@unitedwaywinnipeg.mb.ca](mailto:patharper@unitedwaywinnipeg.mb.ca) or telephone 477-5360, ext. 260



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