

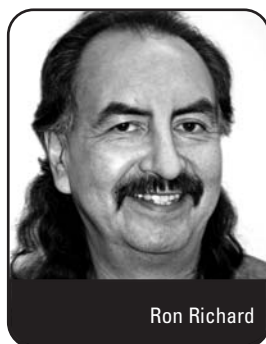
Eagle's Eye News



www.UnitedWayWinnipeg.mb.ca

Profile of ARC Member Ron Richard: Specializing in Employment Opportunities

For Ron Richard, being a member of United Way of Winnipeg's Aboriginal Relations Council (ARC) and a Aboriginal Employment Relations Specialist with Manitoba Hydro have much in common. As he puts it, "both share a sincere, long-term commitment to the growth and development of the Aboriginal community and the community at large."



Ron Richard

One of ARC's newest members, Ron Richard has long been impressed with United Way's community vision and accomplishments and has been a supporter of its annual campaign since he joined the Manitoba Hydro's Employment Equity and Recruitment team in 1999.

So what exactly does an Aboriginal Employment Relations Specialist do? Year round, Ron and his two dozen Employment Equity and Recruitment colleagues, as he puts it, "reach out to both departments within the corporation and communities across the province to achieve our human resource and Corporate Strategic Plan goals. This includes seeking out, training, hiring and retaining more women, visible minorities, people with disabilities and Aboriginal employees."

In 2000, Manitoba Hydro employed just 250 Aboriginal members — including Status and non-Status Indians, Métis and Inuit men and women. Today, that's grown to a grand total of 800; a figure which Ron and his fellow recruiters are justly proud. But he points out that there's still more work to be done.

"Currently, we're making a concerted effort to increase the number of Aboriginals in management positions through a variety of career development programs," continues Ron.

Here's how the process works. First, external connections are established when Ron negotiates

official Memorandums of Understanding with four key Aboriginal organizations: the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, the Manitoba Métis Federation, the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg and the Northern Association of Community Councils. This, in turn, leads to the creation of working groups, which develop strategies that focus on education, training and

employment opportunities. As Ron says: "This is where supply and demand meet, or where labour meets workplace — the result of which is a roster of first-rate, work-ready candidates."

"Since Winnipeg is home to the largest Aboriginal population in Canada and Manitoba Hydro is one of the province's top employers," Ron says, "I see tremendous opportunities and potential. Especially since so many Aboriginals are rediscovering their identities by learning more about their spiritual and traditional ways. Many are preparing to leave the reserves to go to where the work is. Attitudes are changing. There's less 'Us versus Them' mentality among Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals, today. Not only is that good news, it signals a promising future for everyone."

Ron Richard is a Métis who grew up in Camperville and graduated from Assiniboine College's Parkland campus in Dauphin. A true outdoorsman, Ron makes it a point to enjoy his passions, which include boating, ice fishing, snowmobiling and spending quality time with his family — especially his children and grandchildren.

"For me, becoming a grandparent is the best growth experience ever," according to Ron. "Now I'm more aware of the challenges facing our youth today — which is why I love being a part of United Way's family and why I'm happy to contribute to ARC in any way I can."

A Message from the Chair, Aboriginal Relations Council

Welcome to our winter 2008 edition of Eagle's Eye News—which is glowing with great stories and features about the Aboriginal community in Winnipeg.

For starters, there's our profile of Ron Richard—one of our newest ARC members who is an Aboriginal Employment Relations Specialist with Manitoba Hydro (Please See Page 1). Don't miss our Agency Snapshot showcasing the great work and staff of the Eyaa-Keen Centre (Please See Below).

Page 3 features our introduction of Bruce Miller, our new Program Manager of Aboriginal Relations and our salute to Pat Turner, the 2007



recipient of the Excellence in Aboriginal Leadership Award. Rounding out this issue are More Great Things about the Aboriginal Community including United Way of Winnipeg's 1st Annual Media Day of Caring: Lighting Up Selkirk Avenue to spark the start of the holiday season (Please See Page 4).

Watch for our spring edition coming in April. And finally, on behalf of the entire membership of United Way of Winnipeg's Aboriginal Relations Council and staff, I wish all of you a safe, healthy and wonderful 2008!

If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Bruce Miller at bmiller@UnitedWayWinnipeg.mb.ca or by telephone at 477-5360.

Aboriginal Agency Snapshot: Eyaa-Keen Centre

Eyaa-Keen is an Aboriginal-led, non-profit charitable organization that, with support from United Way of Winnipeg, provides Aboriginal traditional psychological rehabilitative programs for Aboriginal adults. Co-founded in 1999 by Aboriginal Traditional Behavioural Health Specialists Mel and Shirley Chartrand, the Centre is guided by a volunteer Aboriginal Board of Directors.

In the Ojibway language, Eyaa-Keen means "being self" or "being natural." With this principle in mind, the Chartrands created the Being Me, Being Free Program Series—a spiritual-based, Aboriginal Traditional psychological approach to address debilitating trauma and major loss on an outpatient basis through both one-on-one and group sessions of three, five or 10 days. "Our main purpose is to assist our people in becoming more of who they are in safe, healthy ways," says Karen Swain, Eyaa-Keen's Office Manager.

"Aboriginal people are affected by residential schools, abuse, trauma and loss in many ways,"



continues Karen. "We help them overcome pain, fear and address the effects of such negative experiences in a gentler, easier way. The best part is that they decide the direction and solutions come from their own lives as they get the support they need."

United Way of Winnipeg's support of the Eyaa-Keen Centre is an integral part of its strategies to reduce poverty, encourage successful children and youth and build strong, safe neighbourhoods through Aboriginal-led organizations. For more information, please visit our web site www.UnitedWayWinnipeg.mb.ca or telephone 477-5360.

Introducing Bruce Miller Program Manager, Aboriginal Relations

Recently responsible for the youth agency portfolio in the Community Investment department at United Way of Winnipeg, Bruce Miller officially began his position as Program Manager of Aboriginal Relations on December 1, 2007.

Presently a Master of Arts degree candidate at the University of Manitoba, Bruce is a citizen of the Cree-Matachewan First Nation in James Bay, Ontario. He is also a former staff and U of M faculty-member, Senate member and the past president and current member of its Alumni Association. In addition, Bruce is the volunteer chair of the U of M's current 6.7 million dollar capital campaign to build an Aboriginal Centre that is slated to open in the fall of 2008.

As a student, Bruce was an energetic two-sport athlete who won numerous awards at the Division One Collegiate level. He also has a strong business background and is the author of *Our Original Games: A Look at Aboriginal Sport History in Canada*. Inspired by the legendary Native American Olympic champion Billy Mills, Bruce embraces the five Olympic ideals of vision, focus, commitment, persistence and discipline both in his sports pursuits and his work at United Way.

"I believe in United Way because it's all about community," says Bruce. "And I definitely believe in giving back to this great city of Winnipeg that we all share. That's why I look forward to supporting the work of the Aboriginal Relations Council as it continues to grow and flourish."

If you have comments,



Bruce Miller

suggestions and/or for more information, please contact Bruce Miller, (Program Manager, Aboriginal Relations) by email at bmiller@UnitedWayWinnipeg.mb.ca or by telephone at 477-5360.

Pat Turner Honoured by 2007 Leadership Award

Congratulations to Pat Turner, who received the Excellence in Aboriginal Leadership Award at a gala dinner at the Hotel Fort Garry on October 11, 2007.

A past president and founding member of the Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce as well as the head of her own successful trucking and construction firm, Pat Turner served as Chief of the Grand Rapids First Nation for three years during the 1980s. She is the first and only woman elected Grand Chief of the Manitoba Keewatinook Ininew Okimowon (MKO), an



Pat Turner

association of 25 northern First Nations. Pat's remarkable career also includes 18 years as a civil servant for both Employment and Immigration and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Ms. Turner's fellow nominees were Andrew Clarke, head of his own financial planning and insurance firm and Errol Ranville, a Manitoba Aboriginal Music Hall of Fame inductee, 25-year member of the popular C-Weed country band, founder of the popular C-Weed cabaret and executive producer of the Manito Ahbee Festival. Congratulations to you all!

UNITED WAY OF WINNIPEG'S ABORIGINAL RELATIONS COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE:

ANNA FONTAINE

Chair, and member of United Way of Winnipeg's Board of Trustees, Member Standing Committee, Community Investment, Director of Government (Manitoba Region), Indian & Northern Affairs Canada

DR. JUDITH BARTLETT

Past Chair, United Way of Winnipeg's Board of Trustees and Aboriginal Task Group which produced the *Eagle's Eye View* environmental scan, and Associate Professor, University of Manitoba, Director, Health & Wellness Dept., Manitoba Métis Federation

DANIEL PAUL BORK

Owner/President, Cook Consulting & Associates and Member of the Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce

HAROLD COCHRANE

Partner, D'Arcy & Deacon LLP

DR. JINO DISTASIO

Director, Institute of Urban Studies, University of Winnipeg

KRISTY GREEN

Manager, Administration & Member Service, Median Credit Union

TERRY GREY

Recreation Coordinator/Aboriginal Service, Community Development & Recreation Services Division, Community Services Department, City of Winnipeg

LYNA HART

Elder/Spiritual Advisor/Consultant

CRYSTAL LABORERO

CEO, Aski Financial

LISA MEECHES

President, Eagle Vision Productions, Host/Producer, *The Sharing Circle*

RON RICHARD

Aboriginal Employment Relations Specialist, Manitoba Hydro

ELADIA SMOKE

Recorder

SUSAN SWAN

Sergeant, Winnipeg Police Service

JAIMIE VEILLEUX

Chief Financial Officer, APTN

CATHY WOODS

Aboriginal Liaison Representative, MGEU

CARLA KEMATCH

Director, Aboriginal Relations

BRUCE MILLER

Program Manager, Aboriginal Relations



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If you wish to receive Eagle's Eye News by email, please contact Bruce Miller, Program Manager, Aboriginal Relations at bmiller@UnitedWayWinnipeg.mb.ca or by telephone at 477-5360.

We.

Each one of us brings something special, something necessary to making Winnipeg a better place to live. When "We" work together, our individual contributions multiply into the strength and confidence of "We". And "We" all benefit. United Way makes "We" happen.

More Great Things to Know about the Aboriginal Community

1 United Way of Winnipeg's 1st Annual Media Day of Caring: Lighting Up Selkirk Avenue took place on Friday, December 10, 2007. Scores of enthusiastic neighbourhood members of all ages celebrated with media volunteers and United Way Aboriginal-led partner organizations including Ndinawe and the Aboriginal Visioning for the North End as well as other groups such as the North End Community Helpers Network.

2 Over 200 Manitobans attended the annual Louis Riel commemoration services at St. Boniface Cathedral on November 16, 2007. Present were the Manitoba Métis Federation's President David Chartrand and the Honourable John Harvard, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba who said, "Louis Riel worked to bring together Métis and First Nations people with the new settlers. He reached out to English and French and Catholics and Protestants. The memory of this great Manitoban should remind us that a great society is created when we also put our gifts and talents to work for neighbours near and far, presently living and yet to be born." The inauguration of Louis Riel Day—Manitoba's newest public holiday—is coming up on February 18, 2008.

3 Ovide Mercredi, Chief of the Mispawistik Cree Nation, was installed as the first Chancellor of the University College of the North in The Pas on November 6, 2007. With emphasis on community, northern and Aboriginal development, the UCN offers trades, certificates, diplomas, and degrees via locations in 12 northern communities. For more information, visit www.ucn.ca

4 Dr. Don Robertson received an Honorary Doctorate for his commitment to Aboriginal education from the University of Manitoba on October 18, 2007. A member of the Cree First Nation from Norway House, he is a former Chair of the Council on Post-Secondary Education, a past Executive Director of the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre and a member of the Order of Manitoba.



5 A total of 24 teams competed at the 11th Annual Southeast Tribal Council's Challenge Cup 2007 First Nations Hockey Tournament held at the Notre Dame Recreation Centre on December 1-2, 2007. Trophies and nearly \$5,000 in prize money were awarded to players in four divisions. Organizers Val Flett, Joe Malcolm and Garry Houle have been attracting top First Nations hockey teams from Manitoba and northwestern Ontario since 1996. For details, contact the Southeast Tribal Council at 956-7500.

6 Between 1996 and 2006, Manitoba's Aboriginal population increased by 36 per cent; reaching 175,395 including First Nations, Métis and Inuit according to new data released by Statistics Canada on January 15, 2007. For more details, please contact Tara Petrie Duff, Communications Officer (Western Region and Northern Territories) at (204) 984-4419 or at Tara.petrieduff@statcan.ca

7 Over 350 Employment Opportunities are listed on-line at the Aboriginal Job Centre. This employment e-tool was developed to assist Aboriginal job seekers find employment and available to employers interested in finding Aboriginal staff. For more information, visit www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca or dial Toll-Free at 1-888-399-0111.



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