

# Music program a hit with First Nations youth

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NACO brass warmed up the crowd with short snippets from recognizable pieces like the William Tell Overture, The Star Wars and Hockey Night in Canada themes sent a murmur of appreciation through the young audience.

The students who were about to perform sat quietly, wearing bright blue T-shirts given to them by the NACO brass. At last, they took the stage and first played then sang the words to the Largo theme. Several students provided accompaniment with drums. When the last notes faded, most of the young musicians took a bow along with the brass players, but some were more

exuberant and triumphantly raised their recorders high above their heads.

A gift presentation for NACO brass followed the concert and many students went up to the microphone to thank their special guests in Cree.

Students filed out of the auditorium and onto their buses, leaving a trail of recorder music in their wake. Most said they plan to keep right on playing their new instruments.

Morningstar Ross-Ballentyne, a Grade 6 student at of Little Red River school, summed up whole experience in three short words — "It was fun."

Sonya Ermine thinks the program's legacy will continue at Sturgeon Lake central school.

"Since I've had this opportunity and we have some dedicated students, I wouldn't mind continuing the program, now that I have a little bit of an inkling on how to teach it," she said.

A student matinee on Nov. 8 was co-hosted by NACO conductor Boris Brott and Woodland Cree storyteller and singer/songwriter Joseph Naytowhow of Sturgeon Lake First Nation.

The performance, which saw the students accompanied this time by the NACO string section, also featured a solo by double bass player John Jaques, a classically trained Aboriginal musician who belongs to the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra.



Students from Prince Albert Grand Council schools play their recorders alongside members of the National Arts Council Orchestra.

The second half of NACO's November tour takes place in Alberta. The project, which was

first implemented last year in British Columbia, will be held in Quebec in 2006.

## Map explores history

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Brian Scribe is a professional archeologist who is Cree/Nakoda from Norway House, Man. Scribe contributed to the map project and said it is important for First Nations to combine oral tradition and history with modern archeology.

Scribe said there are about 20,000 archeological sites listed on the map and that about 600 are sites that are of a special nature, including medicine wheels, wall paintings, burial sites, and altars for ceremonies.

"We can use (the map) as a tool to look at our history and our past," said Scribe.

Kim Weinbender said that not all sites included on the map are open to the public but the map does include sites and interpretive centres in every region of the province.

"We wanted people to be able to use the map and take it with them and say 'I'm going to spend my Sunday and visit this place,'" said Weinbender.

The purpose of the map is to both educate and inform, Weinbender added.

"We want people to know that Saskatchewan has archeological sites, and has lots of them, and people can go and visit them."

The map is essentially full of dots that represent archeological sites as well as interpretive centres and museums. It is two feet by three feet in size but folds up to the size of a road map. On the back of the map is information such as frequently asked questions about archeology and how to get involved with archeology. The information also includes a First Nation's perspective on archeology that was contributed by Scribe.

Copies of the map will be distributed to schools across the province. Members of the public will also be able to buy the map for \$2.50 a copy.

**Community  
Action  
Against  
Crystal  
Meth  
Conference**

**November 28, 29 & 30, 2005**

**Saskatoon Inn Hotel  
& Conference Centre**

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### What to expect?

The Community Action Against Crystal Meth conference will provide the information you need to take an integrated approach to crystal meth use, production and distribution — from individual addiction to family intervention, community response, prevention and environmental hazards.

### Keynote Speakers

**Richard A. Rawson, Ph.D.**  
Methamphetamine: New Knowledge about the Drug: New Knowledge about Treatment and Recovery

**Gerald Block, Ph.D.**  
Methamphetamine, the Brain, and Recovery: A Neuroscience Perspective

### When is this taking place?

**Monday, Nov. 28th, 2005**  
Registration opens at 9:00 am  
Plenary session 1:00 pm

**Tuesday, Nov. 29th, 2005**  
Registration opens at 8:00 am  
Plenary session 8:30 am

**Wednesday, Nov. 30th, 2005**  
Registration opens at 8:00 am  
Plenary session 8:30 am

For further information please contact Karen or Liz at 306-683-3663.