

Contents

JUNE 2020

Retirement has its rewards 1

Board Member Recruitment 3

Support for Indigenous Businesses 4

A career path in focus 5

Sutherland enjoys educational employment 6

Aubichon a perfect fit for SIEF 7

Staff contact information 8



Harry Cook

Retirement has its rewards

Harry Cook sees a lot of golf clubs and fishing rods in his future.

Now that he’s fully retired from his political ventures, Cook, who proudly sits on the SIEF board of directors, has more time to dedicate to two of his favourite pastimes – golfing and fishing.

“Everybody has plans. How you fulfill them ... the opportunity might be there and if it is then you should take advantage of it,” said the 76-year-old Cook.

It was a sunny and warm spring day in early May and Cook had his golf clubs sitting at the door. He was excited for his first round of the year. He hoped it was the first of many outings on area golf courses this summer.

Cook was born on his family trap line in Stanley Mission in northern Saskatchewan. Following his education in residential schools, Cook became a journeyman welder

“ It’s a fun sport ... You can’t depend on anyone other than yourself. It’s your own ability as a golfer against the course you’re playing on. ”

and worked for Westank Willock in Regina for 13 years.

It was during his time in Regina when Cook explored his passion for golf. He has enjoyed the sport for nearly 40 years and routinely scores between 90-100.

In addition to golf, Cook hopes to spend time fishing on the lakes in northern Saskatchewan.

In the meantime, Cook is enjoying the peace and quiet on his acreage near Spruce Home, approximately 20 kilometres north of Prince Albert. He said he's independent from others and doesn't have many neighbours close by.

Though he is a short drive from the city, which he visits frequently for medical checkups to care for his diabetes and mild arthritis.

Many of the tools from his days as a welder still occupy shelves in his garage should he feel the urge to take on any home improvement projects.

His options for the future appear plentiful. Plus, he still draws satisfaction from seeing young, aspiring business owners pursue their goals.

"Making entrepreneurs out of people who have a plan for their lives," Cook said, when asked what he enjoys most about his role with SIEF. "Someone that wants to carry on their own life their way and needs a little bit of assistance to help set up their dreams and goals."

"It's a great organization and it's there to help out entrepreneurs that have a plan of their own. If you're healthy and given an opportunity, you can make it in this world and contribute to it."

In fact, much of Cook's life has been dedicated to helping others. He served as Lac La Ronge Indian Band Chief for 26 years. During that time, he led an initiative to improve basic water and sewer infrastructure in homes.

As his community's leader, he advocated for his membership and ensured the band's directors operated their programs effectively and efficiently. During this time, the LLRIB became known for its economic development initiatives, which Cook lists as one of his proudest achievements.

His work was recognized by the University of Saskatchewan in 2018. Cook was the recipient of an honorary law degree, the highest honour the U of S can bestow, to acknowledge worth and unique contributions that people have made in their communities.

Even in retirement, Cook still finds a way to help others. Cook built an insulated doghouse for his dog, who lives

with him on the acreage, along with an enclosed dog run for exercise.

"He's a spoiled dog," Cook said. "He got leftover pizza and chunks of steak for breakfast today. He's living a pretty good life."

And so is Cook.

“I’m trying to be as healthy as I can,” he said. “I’m just going day to day. Hopefully things will open up a bit more so we can visit the parks and maybe get out on the lake and do a bit of fishing and more golfing.”



Make sure to mark your calendar for the **Upcoming SIEF Annual Meeting**

Our next annual meeting is scheduled for
Friday, Nov. 20, 2020
at the Saskatoon Inn and Conference Centre
in Saskatoon. See you there.



SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN EQUITY FOUNDATION INC

Board Member Recruitment

Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation Inc. (SIEF) is currently seeking qualified professionals who are interested in serving as a member of the Board of Directors.

The Nominating and Governance Committee will endeavour to select individuals with the following areas of expertise: Governance, Business and Financial management and specific knowledge in the Agriculture sector (Livestock). The selection committee will review the candidate applications and contact those short-listed for an interview. The applicant should include a cover letter clearly stating the areas of expertise and reasons for interest along with a curriculum vitae or resume.

Attributes:

Individuals seeking a position to the SIEF Board of Directors should be required to meet at least one or more of the following competencies:

- Risk assessment and management, particularly for a financing organization;
- Financial skills including the knowledge of best lending practices and the ability to understand business plans and financial projections;
- Aboriginal culture and communities;
- Strategic planning;
- Legal, tax and regulatory environment;
- An existing entrepreneur with start-up experience.

Qualifications:

- Applicants must be residents of Saskatchewan.
- Applicants shall have a strong understanding of the Saskatchewan First Nations business environment, economic landscape, challenges and issues along with First Nations culture and values.
- An individual is not eligible if they have been convicted of an indictable offence that would result in them being unable to be bonded.

Term:

Three (3) year term in accordance with the Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation Inc. Bylaws. Directors are required to meet on a quarterly basis.

Closing Date for Applications:

September 13, 2020

SIEF is committed to good governance in a non-political environment. For a further description of SIEF with background information and financial statements, please visit www.sief.sk.ca.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please send a letter describing how your experience is relevant to the areas of expertise described along with your resume to:

Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation Inc.

202A Joseph Okemasis Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 1B1
Email: tbrodziak@sief.sk.ca
Telephone: 306-955-8570 Fax: 306-373-4969



SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN EQUITY FOUNDATION INC

Support for Indigenous Businesses

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation Inc. (SIEF) through assistance provided by the Government of Canada, is taking action to ensure that Indigenous business owners impacted by Covid-19 have access to the support they require.

The emergency loan program is a component of the Indigenous Business Stabilization program.

The Emergency Loan Program (ELP) is designed as an emergency measure to support small business owners in meeting their immediate operating cash flow needs. These funds are not intended to replace or duplicate government or other bank/lender emergency financing/funds that are available to businesses in Canada. Maximum assistance is \$40,000 comprised of a 75% loan and 25% non-repayable contribution.

Loans are:

- up to 48 months
- interest free
- no payment for the first 12 months
- loan payments begin in month 13 and are fully amortized over the remainder of the term

Indigenous owned businesses negatively impacted by COVID-19 can apply for this funding to support their immediate working capital and operational needs. Eligible expenses could include rent, payroll, utilities, insurance, property taxes and regularly scheduled debt service.

If you have an existing loan with SIEF and are struggling to make payments, please reach out to our account officers to discuss your options.

If you are an Indigenous-owned business and have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, call the SIEF office for more information at 306-955-4550 or email info@sief.sk.ca or visit our website for the application at www.sief.sk.ca

www.sief.sk.ca



Alexandra Jarrett

“SIEF made it so much easier for me to get started,” Jarrett said. “They were great to work with and very supportive of me and my business through everything.”

Her camera gift that Christmas was icing on the cake. “I was always interested in photography, but we didn’t have a lot of money growing up and living on the reserve, so we didn’t really have the funds for something like (a camera),” Jarrett said.

Axis Imagery Ltd., opened in 2018 and Jarrett has been busy ever since. She shoots weddings, school graduations and family reunions and was scheduled to be the primary photographer at an FSIN event this spring. However, the COVID-19 pandemic forced FSIN to cancel the event.

Jarrett credits the Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation for playing a significant role in launching her business. Jarrett paired the grant that SIEF provided with a monetary prize she won at the Indigenous Youth Idea Challenge. The premise of that competition is to help young entrepreneurs turn their business idea into a business opportunity.

One initiative close to Jarrett’s heart is the Indigenous Portrait Project she created. Within this project she asks people in her communities to share their stories of what their culture means to them and how they would describe their visual identity. Accompanied with the words are photographs of the storyteller taken by Jarrett.

“I started the Indigenous Portrait Project as a way to search through what I knew about my own visual identity,” she explained. “I know that there are all walks of life in Indigenous communities, so I feel it’s important for people to challenge what they believe Indigenous means.”

Jarrett hopes to grow her business by becoming more plugged into her community. She is set to network with youth at Saskatoon’s Art and Hip Hop show later this summer. This event will showcase eight workshops over four days.

Jarrett said the goal of the show is to provide the youth with an art fair geared towards making connections to resources for youth. Local art business like Axis Imagery will showcase their resources and platforms for youth to connect with.

A career path in focus

Christmas 2014 was a special one for Alexandra Jarrett.

Under the tree that year was a Canon Rebel camera, a gift she still plays with today. That gift has been the centrepiece of Jarrett’s business – Axis Imagery Ltd. Her Saskatoon-based company provides a variety of artistic visual services, including photography, videography and graphic and web design. Though the 28-year-old Jarrett said her favourite aspect of her business is conducting training workshops at local schools, working with youth and lending a hand at the Boys and Girls Club of Saskatoon.

“I’ll do workshops at reserve schools too,” Jarrett said. “Some schools have cameras for students to use, but of the schools don’t (have cameras), so I’ll get them to use their phones instead. Most phones are just as good as some cameras ... I just want them to get started and maybe it’s something they’ll want to do.”

That’s exactly how Jarrett fell in love with photography. Born in Meadow Lake and raised on and off the Eagles Lake First Nation, Jarrett said she always had an interest in the creative arts. A black and white film class in high school took her interest in photography to a new level.

Sutherland enjoys educational employment

Jennifer Sutherland never thought she would have gained so much knowledge about farming in Saskatchewan.

She credits her role at the Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation (SIEF) for her educational experiences.

Now in her fifth year as Agricultural Accounts Officer at SIEF, Sutherland is responsible for helping her clients secure loans that will be used for purchasing seed or cattle or machinery for farm use.

“People starting their own farms is not as common as some would think because of the costs involved,” Sutherland said.

She added that a lot of her clients are content with operating a small hobby farm, but require financial aid for upkeep because it’s a family-owned property that has been passed through several generations.

Despite not having an agricultural background, Sutherland is well-versed in all aspects of farming. She knows the price for a head of cattle and typically when calving season is in full swing. Thanks to her knowledge of the current market for cattle, fuel, seed and machinery, Sutherland is a trusted voice for her clients.

Though much of her insight can be attributed to her clients.

“I had never been to a farm before I started working (at SIEF),” Sutherland said. “I’ve driven past a lot of farms when I’ve been out on the highways, but I’ve never seen one up close.”

“I’m very grateful to my clients. If I ever had a question, they would educate me on processes for breeding season or seeding, those sorts of thing. It was a steep learning curve for me, but thankfully I have some really great clients who helped me along the way.”

Sutherland said she regularly visits her clients’ farms across the province as part of her job. She’ll meet with clients, especially during the summer months, when the pace of farming has slowed and crops and livestock are in the growing stages.



Jennifer Sutherland

“ It doesn’t get much better than that. ”

While she’s appreciative of all of her clients, there’s one that always brings a smile to her face.

One client in northern Saskatchewan, who grew up on a small farm and had a modest cattle herd, encountered financial struggles because he was a small operator and couldn’t easily afford new machinery and equipment.

Sutherland said she helped him grow his herd to the point where he was in position to buy a brand new haybine fresh off a dealership lot.

“He was so unbelievably excited,” Sutherland remembers. “He was so happy that day that the dealership where he bought (the haybine) called to tell me they had never dealt with someone who was so kind and so happy.”

Sutherland said this client invited her to his farm to show off his newest and proudest piece of machinery.

She said she tries to visit her clients at least twice a month, depending on her workload in the office.

“My job has been really rewarding for me,” she said. “My clients are such amazing people. They’re very down to earth and kind and generous. They invite me into their homes and introduce me to their kids and tell me about their grandchildren.”



Melvina Aubichon

Aubichon a perfect fit for SIEF

Melvina Aubichon is a strong advocate of community sustainability.

She believes sustainability has to come from entrepreneurs and from business development at the community level in order for communities to persevere.

Economic development is something she is passionate about and it is what led her to the Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation.

Elected to SIEF's board of directors in November 2019, Aubichon brings with her a wealth of experience and knowledge in business and community economic development.

"I've always had an interest in community economic development and throughout my career and work experience I have come into contact with a lot of Indigenous entrepreneurs," Aubichon said. "Some of them face different challenges, particularly with finance and business development services. Not a lot of them are in urban centres and have access to business resource centres. This caught my attention and I felt there was some sort of gap there."

Last year, Aubichon was the recipient of the Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority Indigenous Economic Development Scholarship, one that recognizes leaders in the Indigenous community and who is actively enrolled in the Master of Business Administration in Community Economic Development.

Prior to her enrollment in the MBA program, Aubichon earned a Business Administration diploma from Saskatchewan Polytechnic, followed by a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Saskatchewan.

Aubichon spent nine years on the board of directors with the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (Cando), the only national organization that focuses on education and professional development for economic development officers working in Aboriginal communities or organizations.

During her time with Cando, Aubichon engaged in partnership with Federated Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and launched a community economic development initiative project. This project aligns First Nations communities with neighbouring municipalities to create partnerships to eliminate redundancy and stretch resources.

Aubichon also has a background in human resources. With her undergraduate degree, she majored in human resources and through a good portion of her career has worked in labour force development.

She currently works as an HR advisor at the Prince Albert-based Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority.

The second-oldest sibling of six children, Aubichon is from English River First Nation territory, which is approximately two hours northwest of Meadow Lake.

Aubichon's involvement in business and economic development was sparked at a young age by her father, who was an avid hunter, commercial fisherman and harvester.

Many of his qualities were absorbed by Aubichon.

Upon her completion of her MBA in Community Economic Development, her goal is to engage more employers and industries in meaningful, long-term employment opportunities for Indigenous people, particularly in northern Saskatchewan.

A statement from Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation Inc. regarding Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

**SIEF hopes that everyone reading this newsletter,
along with their loved ones, is safe and healthy.**

As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, SIEF continues to closely monitor the situation and is taking preventative measures to ensure business continuity and service, while prioritizing the health of our employees and clients.

SIEF will continue to monitor this situation and follow the advice and recommendations of provincial and federal health authorities. We plan to continue service to our clients and partners with minimal impact.

NAME	TITLE	DIRECT	EMAIL
Terry Brodziak	General Manager	306.955.8570	tbrodziak@sief.sk.ca
Judy Lafond	Commercial Account Officer	306.955.8573	jlafond@sief.sk.ca
Jennifer Sutherland	Agriculture Account Officer	306.955.8693	jsutherland@sief.sk.ca
Cree Cheechoo	Business Development Officer	306.955.8574	ccheechoo@sief.sk.ca
Diane Peepeetch	Business Development Officer	306.955.8577	dpeepeetch@sief.sk.ca
Trevor Morin	Lending/Program Officer	306.955.8579	tmorin@sief.sk.ca
Barb Tawpisin	Office/HR Manager	306.955.8572	btawpisin@sief.sk.ca
Ray Jones	Accountant	306.955.8571	rjones@sief.sk.ca
April Sanderson	Administrative Assistant	306.955.4550	asanderson@sief.sk.ca

During this crisis, we take solace in the solidarity we are experiencing as a team and our extended community that includes you. Thank you from the Board of Directors, Management and Staff.

Please use every precaution and practice physical distancing and stay safe.



SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN EQUITY FOUNDATION INC.

Asimakaniseekan Askiy Reserve
202A Joseph Okemasis Drive, Saskatoon SK S7N 1B1
Tel: (306) 955-4550

www.sief.sk.ca