



SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN EQUITY FOUNDATION INC.

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OCTOBER 2022

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Celebrating 35 years of Service

Every year cycles through four seasons.

Each season brings its own opportunities and challenges.

Recognizing how one season is changing to another and aligning with what there is to appreciate and undertake in each season is to live and work in a natural cycle of life.

Each cycle of life begins with birth, growing and maturing as the years progress.

SIEF has grown and matured in its service of First Nation entrepreneurs within Saskatchewan since its start more than 35 years ago.

Celebrating

35 years

of SERVICE

Indigenous Food Truck Festival

An Indigenous Food Truck Festival was held August 24, 2022 at SIEF's office in Saskatoon.

Around 350 people gathered to enjoy the food, watch the dancing and listen to the music. Local elected representatives and SIEF's board chair, Crystal Fafard, spoke to those who joined SIEF's staff and board members at the event that day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Patrons of the event chose Baby Got Bannock as the winner. Kyra Robillard's business has been supported by SIEF, which provided her funding.

"I'm very grateful for this funding for my truck and business. My family really appreciates it," said Robillard.

"This has made our life so much better. This business allows me to be more available to my family. I can't thank SIEF and everyone involved enough."

Thank you to everyone who joined the celebration that day and all who have been a part of SIEF over the past 35 years.





SIEF

SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN EQUITY FOUNDATION INC.

Entrepreneurial Spirit Award

SIEF is accepting applications and nominations for the annual Entrepreneurial Spirit Award.

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This award is given to a First Nation entity that is an individual, business, corporation, organization, or First Nation that exemplifies forward movement and involvement to create sustainable economic development for First Nations of Saskatchewan.

Deadline for submitting completed applications is October 31.

To qualify for this award or to nominate someone, the following criteria must be met:

- be the owner/operator of a business for a minimum of one year and demonstrate that the business is viable and sustainable.
- or be a First Nation community or organization that has a focus on First Nation business/economic development.

Qualifications may include the number of employees; value to the community, the use of various management tools and testimony of the entrepreneur as to the determination, drive, and process to achieve success.

The application form can be found on SIEF's website. Completed forms can be returned to the SIEF office. You may apply for this award yourself or you may nominate another individual, organization or First Nation.

The winner of the Entrepreneurial Spirit Award will receive an award and special recognition at the Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation Annual General Meeting scheduled for Thursday, Nov.10 at the Dakota Dunes Resort, Whitecap, Saskatchewan.



“Chase your dreams because your dreams won’t chase you.”

Blake’s Place

“Chase your dreams because your dreams won’t chase you,” is a phrase you will hear Allie Daisley repeat again and again to staff and customers of her new restaurant.

Owning and operating a restaurant is a dream come true for Daisley, who has been working as a cook for 18 years.

Today, Allie is the head cook and general manager of Blake’s Place. She has hired two waitresses, a prep cook and a dishwasher as well.

Blake’s Place opened June 1, 2022 on Main Street in Hudson Bay. “The restaurant is named after our three-year old son, Blake,” said Allie. “He comes into the restaurant and socializes with the patrons, saying hello and waving to one and all.”

Being a business owner has meant Allie can run her kitchen and dining room according to her own standards. She did not find being an employee to be as fulfilling.

She left her most recent cooking job discouraged and that was when her husband Brad Daisley took action to support her dream. He negotiated the purchase of a building for her to locate a restaurant of her own. They got the keys to the building on May 8, 2022. It needed to be cleaned and renovated, but the purchase came with some kitchen equipment to get them started.

They received grant money from SIEF to help pay for those renovations, and some start-up costs, while also

securing a loan from a local financial institution. Those renovations included installing a small stage and sound equipment to host live performances in support of a charitable foundation the couple is starting. It doesn’t have a name yet, but it does have a purpose that is meaningful to them.

They want to provide support to those who need a fresh start — whether those people are overcoming addictions, leaving an abusive relationship, grieving a death or facing any other circumstances that make life extra challenging.

“People need that boost to take that first step on their own and there isn’t really anything like that in our community,” said Brad. They want to demonstrate to the rest of Hudson Bay that all residents living in their community deserve that dignity and encouragement.

Both have experienced their own challenges in life. Allie was raised in foster care, while Brad was adopted at an early age. Allie was also a student in a residential school who worked to track down her family in the Yorkton area after being separated for a number of years earlier in her life.

She is a member of Kahkewistahaw First Nation, while Brad is a member of George Gordon First Nation. They met and married, blending their children into one family. Allie says she is proud to be an Indigenous business owner and wants everyone in her community to know it.

“We had a float in the parade during Hudson Bay’s Heritage Days event,” said Allie.

“We were blasting our pow wow music for everyone so they knew we were a First Nation business.”

Allie is motivated to encourage others while living her dream.



Blake, the son of Allie and Brad, is the inspiration for the name of the restaurant the couple opened in Hudson Bay.

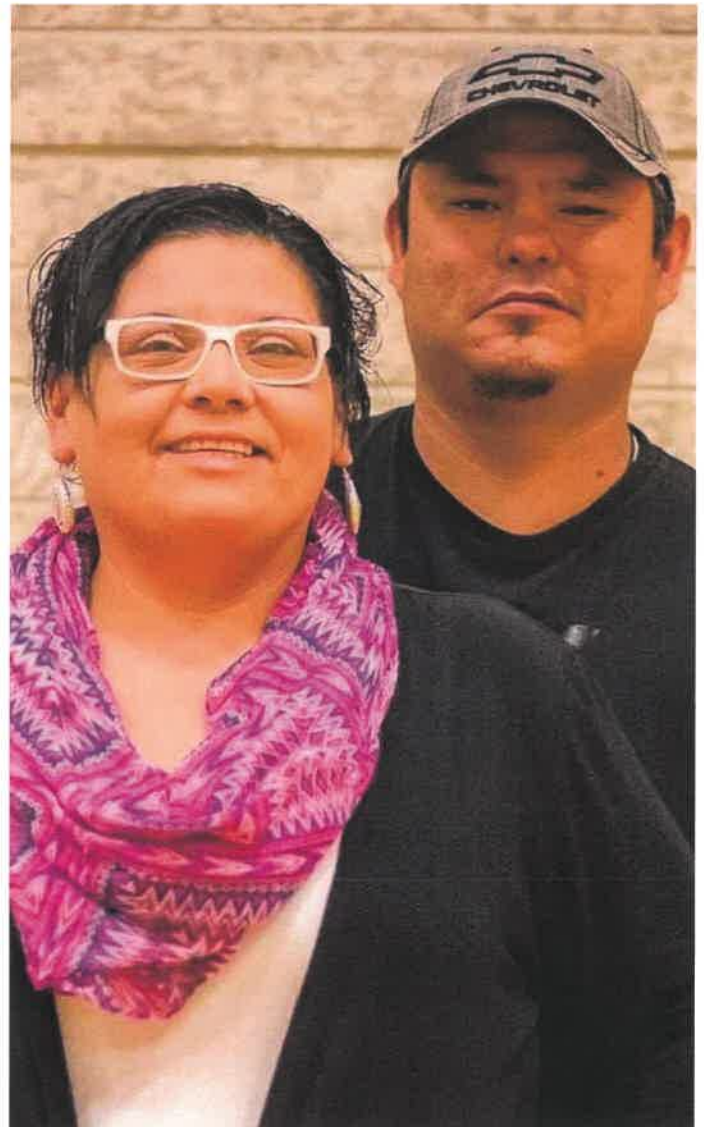
“Everybody who comes here feels very welcomed.”

Brad sees how her pride in her restaurant attracts customers to their business, and they understand the value of what they are offering the community of Hudson Bay.

“Everybody who comes here feels very welcomed. They feel our prices are fair and the service is good,” said Brad. Allie’s menu at Blake’s Place includes burgers and sandwiches, as well as her own soups and pizzas made daily.

Their advice for those wanting to go into business and improve their finances is to keep track of their cash flow and assets closely, and invest in assets that retain their value. That will make it easier to meet the requirements of lending institutions when needing to access credit.

Blake’s Place is something for Brad and Allie to feel proud of now and they hope to see their business grow. Their large parking lot, the friendly staff, the menu, Allie’s great cooking skills—these are all assets that they hope will help develop their enterprise into one with a long future. They are pleased to have a chance to contribute to the community of Hudson Bay through Blake’s Place and grateful to SIEF for helping them get off to a great start.



Allie and Brad



MLA reception

SIEF hosted an MLA reception at the Legislative building in Regina on May 16, 2022.

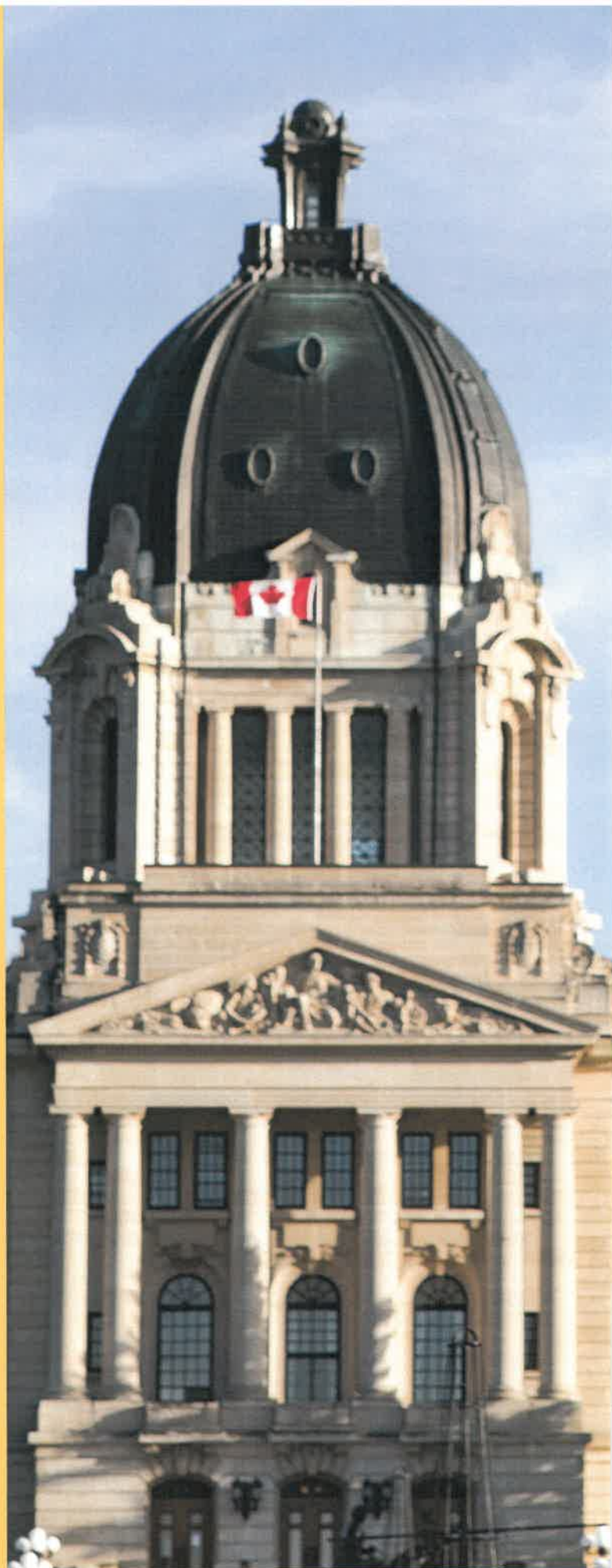
All MLAs from the government and opposition were invited to attend. MLAs from all regions of the province – from the farthest north to the most southern constituencies – were there to learn more about SIEF while also having an opportunity to meet SIEF’s board of directors, staff members as well as entrepreneurs supported by SIEF.

During the event, Board Chair Crystal Fafard as well as General Manager Terry Brodziak spoke to those gathered to thank them for attending the reception and to explain the work being done by SIEF in the province. A video was played explaining SIEF’s history and sharing some stories about First Nation entrepreneurs and their businesses supported by SIEF.

MLAs were reminded that what SIEF does today was not possible in the past. Earlier generations of First Nation people were prevented from participating in entrepreneurship. For Saskatchewan and Canada to be strong, it needs First Nation people to be a part of its future.

Opportunity and financial freedom for Indigenous people and supporting Indigenous entrepreneurs so that they can start their own businesses contributes to Saskatchewan building an even stronger business community in this province.

(Left to right) Jennifer Dubois, owner of Miyosiwin Salon Spa in Regina, SIEF Board Chair Crystal Fafard, Destinee Peter, owner of Tangles Hair and Beauty Salon, and Jake Sinclair, owner of Anytime Fitness.





SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN EQUITY FOUNDATION INC.

New Staff Members

Melanie Sunchild

The Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation is pleased to announce that Melanie Sunchild joins our team as the Business Support Officer for the Indigenous Women Entrepreneur program. Melanie is a traditionally knowledgeable Cree Nehiyaw Iskwew from Thunderchild First Nation. Melanie enjoys working within areas that enhance opportunities to improve the lives of First Nation people and communities.

Melanie obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a concentration in Aboriginal Justice and Criminology from the U of S as well as the Accelerated Administrative Assistant course from Saskatoon Business College. Melanie has participated in the Aboriginal Women Leadership Saskatchewan program. Melanie's experience and education reflects the understanding and sharing of cultures, while creating and promoting social skills which develop awareness and respect in others.



Dale Skibinsky

The Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation is pleased to announce that Dale Skibinsky has joined our team as the Commercial Account Officer for the SIEF lending program. Dale is a member of the Red Earth Cree Nation. Dale has a background in economic development and has worked with numerous entrepreneurs, organizations, and communities to help create jobs and revenue sources.

Dale attended the First Nations University of Canada and obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration; he has specific training and experience in business planning, strategy development, management, and finance. Dale brings substantial knowledge and strong experience to SIEF, helping to provide commercial lending assistance to Indigenous entrepreneurs across the province.



Staff Directory

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Celebrating
35 years
of **SERVICE**



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