



REGINA ABORIGINAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION INC.

P.O. Box 3804, Regina, Saskatchewan, CANADA S4P 3N8

“Dedicated to the advancement of Regina’s Aboriginal Community.”

ABORIGINAL HISTORY MONTH – CELEBRATING THE STORIES AND TRIUMPHS OF CANADA’S ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

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NEWS RELEASE

REGINA, SK – June is National Aboriginal History Month – a celebration of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people – and a look at the roles they play in Canada’s past, present and future. The Regina Aboriginal Professionals Association (RAPA) will officially launch and recognize the month of June as National Aboriginal History Month (NAHM) at The First Nations University of Canada on June 1, 2011 from 11:30am – 1:30pm providing a luncheon, tribute to Aboriginal veterans and entertainment for the community and supporters of this cause.

In 2007, RAPA was successful in obtaining a local proclamation from the City of Regina. On June 11, 2007, the Government of Saskatchewan made a formal declaration to support the cause. Nationally, on June 4, 2009, the House of Commons officially accepted the motion to recognize and celebrate the month as *‘National Aboriginal History Month’*.

This year, RAPA included weekly themes into the month’s celebrations which include: Week One: *Honouring Our Veterans*, Week Two: *Youth Empowerment Week*, Week Three: *Embracing Our Culture & Traditions* and Week Four: *The Gathering of Grandmothers*.

“The goal of NAHM is to celebrate the stories and successes of Aboriginal Elders, leaders and youth role models in our communities while acknowledging the great contributions of historic leaders who have made Saskatchewan and Canada what it is today”, said Cherish Deegan, President of RAPA. Deegan believes that without the support of RAPA’s community and business partners that none of these celebrations would be made possible.

“SaskGaming is extremely proud to honour the significant contributions Aboriginal people have made to our province’s history, knowing that they will also play an important role in shaping our bright future,” Minister responsible for Saskatchewan Gaming Ken Cheveldayoff said.

“This month is very important in our community, and FCC is privileged to partner with RAPA to raise awareness of it,” says FCC Vice-President of Human Resources, Greg Honey. “At FCC, diversity isn’t just about different cultures – it’s about encouraging and championing diverse thoughts, ideas and actions.”

For more information about RAPA’s and other June ‘Aboriginal History Month’ events, visit www.rapanetwork.ca. Also, watch your local Global Regina and Aboriginal Peoples’ Television Network stations for public service announcements, listen to your Rawlco radio stations or join the Aboriginal History Month Facebook group for a full listing of June’s themed events.

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