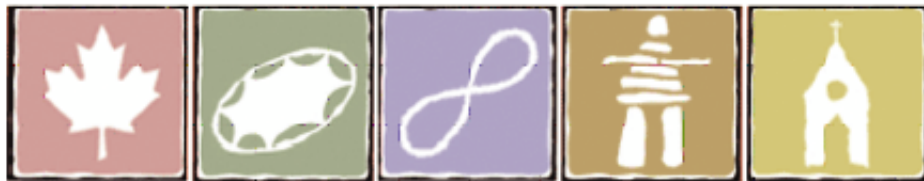


**Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada
Media Clips**



**Résolution des questions des pensionnats indiens
Canada
Manchettes**

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Table of Contents/ Table des matières

IRS ARTICLES-ARTICLES D'IRS

1. **Cowichan News Leader** (6 Jan 07) "Strongeagle a role model: lifetime achievement: Saskatchewan First Nations award a fitting tribute"

Cowichan News Leader (6 Jan 07) "Strongeagle a role model: lifetime achievement: Saskatchewan First Nations award a fitting tribute"

By Peter Rusland

Education is number one in Herb Strongeagle's world.

A keen mind and a curious nature edge out sports — especially hockey — as the main passion of the hard-working Cowichan Bay resident who earned the Saskatchewan First Nations lifetime achievement award Nov. 9.

"This award gives me a really good feeling. It means a lot in recognizing hard work," the Pasqua First Nation's elder says of his honour. He comes back to books and knowledge as the key to success for him and his people.

"Education did it for us," the former NHL and Junior A hockey scout says.

He's flattered about letters recommending him for the award, including a testimonial from National Chief Phil Fontaine, and Vancouver Canucks' head amateur scout Ronald Delorme.

Delorme salutes Strongeagle as a role model for "breaking the stereotype, myths and perception of Native people that is constantly reinforced by hockey people and the media."

Strongeagle, 72, holds a bachelor of commerce degree from the University of Ottawa, one of the country's first commerce degrees presented to a native student.

His degree propelled Strongeagle into an array of business and financial ventures during his long career.

The father of five is currently president of the Aboriginal Financial Services Corporation that provides business services to Aboriginal ventures concerning audits, business plans, marketing plans and more.

Strongeagle created the business plan for Cowichan's proposed LeVI-athon recreational trail system.

He's also a director of Many Nations Benefit Cooperative Ltd. providing health and pension benefit to Native communities across Canada.

Honour as the first lay-bencher for the Law Society of Saskatchewan is another on a list of accomplishments from a humble start in Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask.

Strongeagle credits family support for his early discipline and commitment to hard work, honesty and kindness.

"I had support from my parents and grandparents," he says.

Those virtues helped Strongeagle through bleak years in the Native residential school at Lebret, Sask.

"I don't want to talk about that time," he says softly. "I was at that school 12 years and that's it.

" I was a lucky one, not to say things didn't happen to me. We just put those days out of our heads."

Strongeagle has fonder memories of days playing a roster of sports, from track and field to baseball, and especially hockey as a right-winger on midget and juvenile teams.

Gentlemanly conduct earned Strongeagle the 1953 Ton Longboat medal for best native athlete in Saskatchewan as he graduated from high school.

That's also when other natives began emulating Strongeagle's morals of conduct and courtesy while he attended Saskatoon Business College.

He landed work with Regina's Co-op Oil Refineries while playing for the Fort Qu'Appelle Sioux Indians hockey team that won the provincial crown in 1957.

He also played first base for the Sioux Indians baseball club.

After gaining his commerce degree, Strongeagle continued playing hockey with the Raymore Rockets, as some of his buddies landed positions on NHL teams, including Bill Hay, Bob Turner, and Jackie McLeod.

But racism stopped many good native players from reaching the big leagues. "It goes back to prejudice," Strongeagle states.

In 1996, he was inducted into the Indian Head Sports Hall of Fame, and a year later into the Saskatchewan First Nations Sports Hall of Fame.

Solid friendships in hockey gained Strongeagle 12 years scouting work with the Regina Pats club and three years scouting duty for the Vancouver Canucks.

Strongeagle evaluated tons of players, ranking skating, positive attitude, and educational goals as priorities.

He also recommended players for hockey scholarships, including the Cowichan Capitals' Jonathan Calla who's now a lawyer.

Scouting work has ended for Strongeagle who's busy helping Native youths through violence workshops and more.

"Scouting would take me away from my wife, Joyce," he says.