



VICE CHIEF BRIAN HARDLOTTE

Tansi, Edlanete, Washte

Welcome to Treaty Six Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation Territory.

Welcome to the Chiefs, the Councillors, the Elders, the delegates and families, the First Nation and PAGC staff and the Women's Commission.

The PAGC Annual Gathering is a powerful event that brings us together in a proud confident way. We participate in business but we also get together to renew friendships and meet new people. It is this sense of being one people that gives us strength and motivates us to achieve a better future for all our communities and families.

Individually we can be strong and confident but as a group we become a powerful force with a voice that speaks for all. For that reason I am proud to be here with you and pray that our many minds and eyes will find the best path for our people.

Over the past two years I have listened to the leadership and I have listened to the membership. I believe I heard your voices and I believe I have acted as a leader to make our peoples' needs a reality.

Each year is a challenge for us as First Nation people. Whether we call for a Missing and Murdered Womens' Inquiry in support of the Women's Commission, call for better health care, call for better education for our children, youth and adults or we have to take on the role of supporter during disasters like the fire and smoke emergency we faced this past summer. This year has been challenging but each of our First Nations stood up and faced the challenges without fail and the Prince Albert Grand Council stood with you.

I say again our strength is found in the unity of our First Nations.

We have strongly maintained the belief we have in education as the foundation for our future. The

words from our past leaders "Indian control of Indian Education" will always be our guide. These words were crafted by one of members, Carol Sanderson, who based them upon the Rights of Treaty. Our Education staff has worked tirelessly with our First Nation staff to ensure that we will have the best possible opportunities to access all manner of education and achieve success. We know the best path to the future and will always be wary of outside interests dictating our path.

In Health the First Nations of the Prince Albert Grand Council are leaders. Each of our communities has established a history of providing culturally appropriate care. You created a second level and direct support health system, the Prince Albert Health and Social Development. You have created the only First Nation third level health support system in Saskatchewan, the Norther Inter Tribal Health Authority. We are discussing the creation of a First Nation Hospital, a Dental Therapist School, taking control of all third level delivery in Saskatchewan and stating that we are tired of the total lack of commitment from federal and provincial governments to the quality of care they are prepared to support. We know what is best for our people. We will take the path that ensures we will manage our own health care. Our Treaty Medicine Chest will be one that we design, develop and deliver.

We have many resources in our territory. Forestry is one that has long provided much work for our people. We intend that this continues. To manage this resource we signed First Nation Fire Crew tripartite agreements so that we can train fire fighters to protect our ancestral resource.

To achieve a just and fair society is the objective we want for all our people. Our history tells a sad tale of injustice but today we will not sit by and allow history to repeat itself. We have a dedicated and committed staff that has struck agreements to ensure our communities and urban members are treated with respect and dignity. We opened the Men's Spiritual Healing Lodge. We have 12 federal relatives there who receive a wide range of



Our First Nations have wisely required us to provide a program of Sports, Culture and Recreation. ***Congratulations to Team Woodland for winning the Saskatchewan Indian Summer Games!***

These activities help keep our children in school and develop a sense of pride for our First Nations by being successful in events outside of our communities and PAGC Territory. We host and participate in all summer and winter games. We host special cultural events. We represent the interests of our First Nations in meetings and agreements with other organizations. We have been and will continue to be very successful in protecting and enhancing all manner of Sports, Culture and Recreation.

We see success in our culture. We support the traditional pursuits of our people whether it is hunting, trapping, fishing or gathering. We worked with our First Nations to be part of the North American Fur Auction and have hosted two such events. We have dealt with individual cases where Treaty Rights were threatened.

You have told us to protect our way of life and our culture. The land and the resources of the land are the foundation of our First Nation cultures. We will continue to protect our ancestral and inherent rights to all land based resources by following the lead of our past leaders when they signed the Treaties. We have a responsibility and obligation to protect their vision.

I am proud to have the privilege to serve our people. I respect the confidence you had in me when you gave me this opportunity and responsibility. I pray that I will always choose the right path to be successful in pursuing our challenges.

Ninaskimon, Pidaymaya, Marsi Cho and thank you. Let's go forward with confidence and strength. Together we will succeed.

programs and support to help them re-enter their home communities. Our Justice Department struck agreements to Renew the Alternative Justice Program for our communities, we have gained the trust of the provincial system in that they have asked us to assume some of their community delivery related to justice and court workers, we have initiated an anti-bootlegging strategy, we are re-negotiating Community Policing Tripartite Agreements so that weaknesses will be corrected, with community involvement, in searching for the best path so that our people will trust the justice system.

Our Technical Services Department participated in support and organizing the fire and smoke emergency many of our First Nations faced this past summer. They established a command centre that was essential to our response to the multiple disasters our First Nations were confronted with. We will ensure our First Nations occupy a major role in future challenges. We will be dedicated to establishing our own Emergency Measures Organizations. We are also aware of the risks our families face in their homes related to house fires. We have lost too many lives, many were children. We are putting smoke and fire alarms in every house in the Tribal Council Territory. We will work toward ensuring that we have the permanent ability to fight house and other fires in our communities.