



**North Central Canada Centre of Arts & Environment
INSPIRATION SERIES 2.0 January 21 - 23, 2019**

Final Report

Following the presentation of the Feasibility Study for the North Central Canada Centre of Arts and Environment in 2017 the Executive Council decided to host an annual Inspiration Series to continue exploration and discussion on this project.

In the fall (Culture Days) of 2017 the first Inspiration Series 1.0 – Building Knowledge was offered in the community with knowledge keepers from across Canada in addition to renowned geomtrist and architect Jon Allen from London, England. This course explored our boreal and pre-cambrian environment. We learned about how we are connected globally and the unique qualities that our region has to offer including our Cultures and our Environment.

In January 2019, The Flin Flon Arts Council coordinated a second North Central Canada Centre of Arts and Environment Seminar called INSPIRATION SERIES: KNOWLEDGE AND DEVELOPMENT 2.0

This seminar followed a first academic experience entitled the NCCCAE Building Knowledge Course held in September 2017. www.ncccae.ca

For this occasion three influential women were invited to our community to speak with a variety of arts organizations, municipalities, the Flin Flon School Division and The Flin Flon Aboriginal Friendship Centre about how arts and culture has become a vibrant tool for economic diversification in our communities, especially in light of the potential transition that might be experienced due to the potential mine closure.

Our guests were Janice Price - Banff Centre CEO, Dorothy Dobbie - Pegasus Publishing and Jean Giguere - Order of Canada. These women have a vast array of experiences including working with all levels of governments, running national organizations and creative projects that involve new capital infrastructure, starting national festivals and collectively are on many National Boards. (See attached)

SCHEDULE and ITINERARY

The INSPIRATION SERIES 2.0: Knowledge and Development took place from Monday January 21 to Wednesday January 23rd, 2019.

The women were flown from Winnipeg to Flin Flon on Monday January 21, 2019 where they were brought directly to the NorVA Centre for a Wine and Cheese - welcome reception. North of 53 Consumer Coop provided a lovely selection of fruit, cheese and cold cuts for the reception. The Flin Flon Arts Council purchased wine for the event. It was a lovely evening with

attendance of 103 people from the Arts community and the City of Flin Flon in attendance. Crystal Kolt introduced the women and each were invited to share a little about themselves and why they were happy to come to Flin Flon. Prior to their arrival Crystal shared the National Film Board short-film created of Jean Giguere in honour of her receiving the Governor's General Award. <https://ggpaa.ca/award-recipient/2014/giguere.-jean.aspx>

Rather than opting for a one day conference-style experience for our communities, The Flin Flon Arts Council decided to offer a more personalized experience for each party interested in networking with our guests. The Flin Flon Arts Council was eager to share information with our municipalities, school division, organizations and our guests about possible economic opportunities for our arts community and the region as a whole through the support of arts and cultural initiatives.

TUESDAY January 22, 2019

Tuesday morning January 22nd began with a Heritage Tour led by Arts Council/City Councillor Ken Pawlachuk. He was able to arrange use of the new City bus to tour the women around in comfort. We sincerely appreciate the City of Flin Flon for allowing us use of the bus for this purpose. Our guests thoroughly enjoyed this experience which started at the Flin Flon Station Museum. Museum President Tom Heine and Arts Council Board member Beth Heine had opened the museum specially for this visit and the women soaked in the stories and unique flavour of our community so succinctly displayed through the museum artifacts. From there the women were escorted throughout the city, learning about the early days of the mine and town. They also had an opportunity to see beautiful vistas available on First Avenue and the quirky mining architecture found in the area. Ken Pawlachuk, as always did a great job sharing the colourful stories of our past and present so that by the end of the journey the women had a much better sense of what our community is all about. The troupe stopped for a coffee at the Orange Toad before heading to their first official meeting of the day with the NorVA Centre.

MEETING WITH NorVA Centre

Present: Linda Eryou, Jan Modler, Karen Clark, Mike Spencer, Crystal Kolt, Elly Spencer, Lynn Burroughs, Lois Pettersen, Betty Fitzsimons, Libby Stoker-Lavelle

Discussion with the women started with the acknowledgment that NorVA is connected to artists in northern Manitoba and Northern Saskatchewan. They are proud to have started an Inclusion Committee with a local Elder.

Discussion included:

- How do you sustain growth?
- What is the vision for the future?
- Long term goals- NCCCAE, use Banff Centre as a model, 'ignore FFAC and all other things that get in the way' (be independent?)
- Strengths: NorVA as a hub, Talent is amazing, Model is amazing
- Weaknesses: lack of confidence,
- Find Partnerships: Culture Days, Winnipeg Art Gallery, Arts Vest, Business for the Arts, SaskCulture, Banff Centre of Art and Creativity

- Digital Media: explore opportunities
- Volunteers: use as real workforce
- Acquire private funding: 'shared-services' discuss with WAG
- Try to build a larger regional network of partnerships eg. SK, Thompson, The Pas
- Capitalize on unique northern culture and needs
- UCN and Northland College great contacts re: post-secondary education
- Important to tap into reserve communities. How to outreach and support Indigenous Artists
- Take product to International Peace Gardens and Stratford Festival gift shops
- New ideas: Artists Ghetto of Flin Flon and Forest Bathing (Japan)

Final Note: The arts are a saleable item, Banff works and Flin Flon would work. We don't need the countryside/water/fishing theme to be the only item of interest.

LUNCH at the Victoria Inn with the Flin Flon Arts Council Board of Directors

FESTIVALS MEETING

Present: Crystal Kolt (Culture Days), Linda Eryou, Tom Heine (Flin Flon Museum), Beth Heine, Vaness Unrau (Band Festival), Colleen Arnold (Trout Festival) Mike Spencer (Blueberry Jam) Mark Kolt (Blueberry Jam) Ted Elliott (Blueberry Jam), Elfriede Reimer (Blueberry Jam), Edgar Wright (Blueberry Jam and Denare Beach Winter Festival), Mary Wright (Blueberry Jam and Denare Beach Festival), Elly Spencer (Blueberry Jam)

Blueberry Jam Music Gathering

Discussion:

- Description of events successful first year, hours of operation, no charge entrance
- Obtained \$60,000 in grants for new stage build
- 60 acts 120 performers, 1,500 daily audience attendance
- Newly formed Board of Directors
- Intention to build on vendor and arts fair piece
- Looking for funds for upcoming event in 2019

Suggestions:

- Sell premium seats/places (memberships) giving those patrons early admission and choice of viewing places
- Curation of event very important to maintain quality
- Successful first year = great potential
- Headliner might be good to bring in a corporate sponsor

Trout Festival

Discussion

- 50 year history but struggling for past 10 years
- Added dinner and casino last year with live 'ambiance' music which changed to rock music for the dance portion of the evening.
- Organizers managed donations for prizes at the gaming tables

- Main Street Days - performance stage, barbecue, fair rides, youth performance stage
- Canoe races on Ross Lake
- No real fishing derby associated with Festival any more

Suggestion

- Redefine 'fish' and 'fisherman'
- Bring back the fishing theme in a different way: Honour the fish.
- Bring in a culinary festival with celebrity chefs

Winter Festivals

Discussion

- Denare Beach has 3 day festival with ice fishing and snow drag races
- Length of Festival changes from year to year
- Organizers feel it is well attended considering size of village

Suggestion:

- Could Indigenous component help the festival

Creighton Community School Band Festival

Discussion:

- New Band Festival idea - well received in Creighton when presented to School Board
- Start date: 2020

Suggestion:

- All 3 women gave much support to the ideas of variety in festival concept
- Americans love bands so might come to northern Saskatchewan to participate if marketed to large schools

Flin Flon Museum

Discussion:

- Hurbay gives significant financial support
- Whitney House and Staff House are of interest to the Museum as Legacy Buildings
- Challenges in maintaining them: financial
- Current layout of the Museum receiving praise

Suggestion:

- Make list of buildings/things that the town needs to keep that currently belong to the Company
- Approach the Company for support

General Discussion

- Youth are interested in adventure and scenery

- Whitehorse is a case in point, they painted the buildings in the city to match the natural environment
- They now use their natural environment and emblems like cariboo to market the city
- Flin Flon has potential to be Fogo Island West - take it out there and market it; but we have to complete the Main Street revitalization projects
- The whole town must become a piece of art
- Winnipeg Art Gallery Executive Director Steven Boreys has been discussed at an earlier meeting and his wife is a city planner - get a 2 for 1 deal if he comes here for NorVA
- Muralize the sewerboxes
- Philadelphia Mural Arts project led to reconciliation with the African American community
- Jane Golden in the lead on that project
- Talk of the company buildings being saved; not really able to happen
- Talk of contract between City and Company
- Apply to Still Standing for a show in FF; they have an application form online
- Explore the Great Canadian Race to be a site

MEETING with FLIN FLON ARTS COUNCIL Board Members

Present: Ken Pawlachuk, Margie Gibson, Beth Heine, Linda Eryou, Crystal Kolt, Margot Gray, Gwen Eggert, Sheri Pearson, Nora Fontaine, Linda Allen, Elly Spencer, Carrie Hume

The Arts Council Board of Directors introduced themselves and shared information about the Flin Flon Arts Council's mission, vision and goals for the future.

Discussion:

We are the cultural hub of northern Manitoba and North East Saskatchewan but how do we move to the next level of being recognized as 'the' professional destination in the region?

Suggestion:

- The Flin Flon Arts Council is a hybrid model that both produces and present cultural produce for the region. Perhaps the word 'Council' is a stagnant name for our organization and we may need to rebrand ourselves to reflect our diversity.
- Start with a Strat Plan and see what develops for a name
- Hold onto 'Creators' as a concept
- Make a new tag line: eg. Create, Participate, Enjoy
- Marketing issue: being the Umbrella -
- Crystal connect with Lucille Pacey (past - CEO Arts Umbrella)
- Create a brand then get it out into the world: Elly Spencer writing article for Lifestyle 55
- Flin Flon was even more professional than the women imagined

Special Note: Dorothy Dobbie has a passion for supporting Manitoba and advancing the Manitoba Brand around the world

TOURISM MANITOBA SUMMIT

Our guests were invited to attend the Tourism Manitoba Summit at the Creighton Community Hall on Tuesday evening.

This summit was an opportunity for the community and partners involved in the consultation regarding the new Brand in Flin Flon to review the brand campaign and explore ways to expand on the brand. Travel Manitoba CEO Colin Ferguson was in attendance and was happy and surprised to see Dorothy Dobbie, Janice Price and Jean Giguere at the meeting.

Note: there was a surprising amount of attention and comment expressed during the Tourism Summit meeting about the limited incorporation of the arts in the brand campaign.

VISIONARIES MEETING

Present: Syd Tippett, Raphael Saray, Susan Gunn, Anna Harrison, Daniel Dillon, Crystal Kolt, Elly Spencer, Mike Spencer, Courtney Campbell,

The Visionaries Committee is a group derived from the North Central Canada Centre of Arts and Environment Committee. The NCCCAE has decided to re-think the governance model for the project and give the up and coming leaders of our community have a 'real' say in the direction of the project. This group has met to discuss how the NCCCAE could move forward and what it might look like at this point in time.

Crystal Kolt introduced Jean, Dorothy and Janice to the group and explained what the purpose of the Visionaries is and why the North Central Canada Centre of Arts and Environment Committee has chosen to move in this direction.

DISCUSSION:

The women listened to the Visionaries and the project, as well as heard their concerns about the possible mine closer and potential infrastructure challenges. They also heard the enthusiasm and saw the energy and strength of this group.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Learn from other communities: such as Whitehorse which has a very active art community.
- Need to do further study and present a strong case for the project
- There had been a suggestion that should the mine close the art community may want to acquire some of the buildings for projects (such as artwork with metal)
- Women suggested that they make a list of everything that they want. Find all the component parts that will lead you to your next step. You will need to find the patterns yourself. You could use the 'mine' issue as an asset. "It could be quite extraordinary"
- There are many in the world who are asking 'how do we deal with environment in a proactive way'. 'Need creative energy like in Flin Flon'
- Janice Price has names of great consultants
- "When the Berlin wall fell down the arts filled in"
- Important for members of the group to go to Ottawa to share their case. Could speak to Economic Development, Heritage and Infrastructure Ministries.

- Soon there may be a new budget or government and will need to get the money out the door.
- Need more representative from the Indigenous Community
- What degree is the 'buy-in' from HUDBAY? Could there be a partnership in terms of clean up? Have an informal discussion with HUDBAY. Give them the gift of being 'the good guys'. Collaborate with HUDBAY. As HUDBAY members to be part of the discussion.
- What are some of the other visions. Where are the gaps? Eg. Digital or Film eg. Stonewall is doing internet training on how to make videos.
- We really want to be recognized for what we offer and the quality that we offer not only because we 'do more'
- Re-brand: Professional Destination of Art and Learning
- Make more of a 'professional push'. Expand to the north. Need to think of the 'big-picture'. Together we can make it work but separately it will be a challenge.
- Governments love partnerships
- Flin Flon Brand: set Flin Flon apart from other communities. Not too soon to market what this is. In marketing campaigns - tweak to include the arts
- 'We can message this' Make it suit our community. We have the creative ability to change.
- IMPORTANT to include 'Environment' in Art and Environment. The environment is vitally important. Eg. Whitehorse - mining town, the colours of the environment are reflected throughout the community. Natural blending
- Paint the 'utilidors' sewer boxes
- Spoke about 'Iceshacking imagery' - everyday experience here
- Luminato LuminaTO (Toronto) - Highlighting Toronto when it had SARS. This was a massive hit to the city. Billions \$ were lost and the city just invested a billion dollars in cultural infrastructure. Luminato was a civic project to act as a solution for the SARS epidemic. SOLUTION: THE ARTS
- "We're the software that's going to animate the hardware".
- Suggestion to speak with Hazel Borys - City planner to discuss Main Street. It needs to be revitalized.
- Bring in the youth
- Include other communities: advisory committees encourage buy in
- Art Scene - Business for the Arts - Board Links - getting on Boards
- Who to ask for money: Shaw,
- Speak with Colleen Sinclair (Sclar) Executive Director of MB Capitalism Region. Finds synergies to connect communities
- 'Connections make connections'
- Banff 'Creative Entrepreneurship' make a living as an artist
- STEP 1: Set it up, Outreach, Other groups
- STEP 2: Create a wish list
- STEP 3: Choose a consultant for the next feasibility study. Feasibility of Art Centres in Communities
- Meet with Minister Jim Carr about the project: Call them or their staff
- Make sure your pitch is clear and concise. Go over it over and over again.

- Keep meeting with people, ministers, possible partners etc.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 23 2019

RADIO INTERVIEW: Arctic Radio CFAR announcer Raphael Saray PRESENTATION VIA ZOOM with HILARY McDONALD

Crystal had coordinated a meeting with Archaeological photographer Hilary McDonald to discuss the past NCCCAE Building Knowledge Course and to discuss her passion and knowledge of Birchbark Bitings.

Hilary McDonald (originally from Flin Flon), an archaeologist and museum professional has a dedicated passion for Birchbark Biting, its memory and its future. She has collaborated with historians both in Flin Flon and in Ottawa to start to develop a research network in collaboration with local museums, community members, contemporary artists and family members of artists from long ago. She has been working together with the Birchbark Biter Half-Moon Woman, Ms Pat Bruderer, in a concerted effort to share this story. Hilary is currently working in Luxor Egypt with the University of Chicago as an Archaeological Photographer, but with a little scheduling luck and some good wifi connections, we will connect with her so that she can share some of her deep and fascinating subject matter on this medium. Birchbark biting is an important piece of this region's arts heritage and can connect the region's landscape into a larger Canada-wide network of active Birchbark Biting artists making world-class work from the boreal forest."

During this fascinating discussion the women were introduced to the works of artist Pat Bruderer, who currently resided in BC but is a birch bark biter from the region, and master artist Angelique Merasty. Angelique Merasty is widely regarded as a world class artist and since her decease, her bitings have been recognized as a unique and valued Cree artform. Hilary explained that she has been given permission by the Royal Ontario Museum to photograph the Bitings of Angelique Merasty that are in storage and expressed disappointment that they are unavailable for Canadians to enjoy and appreciate.

MEETING WITH THE FLIN FLON ABORIGINAL FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

Janice Price, Jean Giguere and Dorothy Dobbie with Crystal Kolt visited first the Friendship Centre gift shop, where the ladies purchased Birchbark Biting then were invited to meet with Director Shelly Craig and Recreation Director Vanessa Campbell.

The conversation moved from reviewing the artifacts, and artwork at the centre, including beading, caribou hair tufting artworks by Theresa Wride and Jingle dresses to a question asked by the ladies about how things were going with Truth and Reconciliation.

This ended up become a deep and interesting conversation. Vanessa Campbell had shared her own experience as a young Cree woman and expressed that it is moving very very slowly. She thought that one of the issues causing this is language. Some of the Elders are unclear of the definition of some of the english words used to discuss this topic which creates confusion.

All of the women were impressed with Vanessa's ability to communicate and share her thoughts so clearly. It was suggested that she attend one of the Banff Centre's Indigenous Leadership Courses.

MEETING WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES

Present: Bruce Fidler; CalHuntly; Eve O'Leary; Glenna Daschuk; Colleen McKee; Laurence Gillespie; Margot Grey; Linda Eryou; Colleen Arnold; Lyn Brown; Carl Lentowicz; Crystal Kolt; Elly Spencer Paula Mench; McCullum; young woman from Denare

Guests: Dorothy Dobbie; Jean Guigere; Janice Price

Introductions:

- Jean thanked everyone for their work on Culture Days and tooted Flin Flon's horn as a beacon for the whole country
- Dorothy spoke of how we build community and the spirit of FF and offered to help in any way that she can
- Janice talked of Crystal's accomplishments in Culture Days and the engagement of the people in Flin Flon but noted that we don't seem to recognize our own skills
- Product is here and we now have to get it out to the rest of the country

Advice:

- There is arts and culture here that is not high-falutin' or unreachable
- Flin Flon and area Keep it authentic and real,
- Everyone contributes and volunteers to help out
- Can expand our reach with Sask Culture: CEO is Rose Giltz
- Have tremendous opportunity here even if the Company goes; need to negotiate the 'assets' in the buildings; they could be a tourist draw like the silver mine in Hong Kong

NCCCAE - North Central Canada Centre of Arts and Environment

- Crystal explained the current focus: Visionaries - the 30-somethings; Keepers - wisdom and experience; they are solution-focused; they have a plan and a strategy

Questions/Discussion:

- Talked about the uptown area and the need to create cohesion within the redevelopment strategy Dorothy can connect us with City Planners and designers
- Important to hear an external perspective that confirms the regional planning process around the 'Banff of the north'
- Good to hear outside encouragement for beauty; we are optimistic here and want to use the arts to support economic development; we need a centre of the arts to go along with the quality of the product; there is a lack of ego that lets you get to the point; 'elbows in' philosophy throughout the various groups that are involved with the process
- You don't have the Flin Flon lifestyle anywhere else (Johnny's, NorVA); there is a reasonable cost of living; advised to market the artists colony

- How did the municipality help in Banff: the town does not support financially but they agreed to put the descriptor back into the name of Banff Centre of Arts and Creativity (changed from 'The Banff Centre')
- There is more integration in Flin Flon than Banff and the tourism capacity within a 5 minute drive of everything is remarkable
- Visual arts should be featured more frequently in every public venue
- Visual Art should also be in each of the hotels and stores
- We can develop ourselves as an 'art city'
- We could benefit from the fuller integration of sport, mining and art

Final thoughts:

- Arts Council focus on Professional Destination got some support
- How do we export musicals - invite theatres up here to show them what we do; Prairie Theatre Exchange only do Canadian Plays and our guests can help contact them for us; can use them to get writers noticed

LUNCH AT MUGSY's with THE FLIN FLON ARTS COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

MEETING WITH THE NORTH CENTRAL CANADA CENTRE OF ARTS & ENVIRONMENT (NCCCAE)

Present: Dean Grove; Katy Anderson; Nora Fontaine; Dianne Russell; Marlene Gogal; Beth & Tom Heine; Lori Laurence; Deb Odegaard; Margie Gibson; Linda Eryou; Linda Allen; Gwen Eggert; Carrie Hume; Crystal Kolt; Elly Spencer

Guests: Dorothy Dobbie; Jean Guigere; Janice Price

- Introductions

DISCUSSION:

- The FFAC wanted to develop the tools to support professional arts programming in the north
- The NCCCAE idea began in earnest in 2010
- Canadian Heritage rep was very helpful and we began to talk to politicians about the project
- We amassed the funding to produce a feasibility study which turned into a scope of project
- Terms of Reference/Vision Statement circulated
- We wanted an actual building to 'live' in
- Infographic was presented and the Minister was interested (now in Environment and she mentors the current Minister of Culture; talk to Cliff Cullen?)

Now:

- FFAC has determined that we need to move forward and to that end we have created the Visionaries group
- They have a real voice and real needs (13 members) smart, ambitious and creative

- Older group have become the Keepers who can share wisdom, guidance but we need to flesh out their role
- Spotlight group would be charged with setting up events
- Other groups highlighted

A New Beginning:

- Structure very sound
- Vision is wonderful
- Centre of Arts and Environment is great title
- Knowledge and Development (Title of this Inspiration Series) is particularly timely given the mine closure
- Former industrial infrastructure can be used as arts venues for performances or art-making spaces sounds current
- We have the software so we need to just build the hardware: do we need a building?
- If the mine is closing can/should we acquire the buildings
- Talk first to HudBay
- Tightly crafted document to demonstrate what the next steps are
- Kelly Grindle from Thompson is the Provincial Govt person we need to contact
- Jim Carr is the MB representative to Cabinet and the Federal Govt so should be contacted as well
- Plan a critical mass of meetings before we travel to just one
- Meet with ministers often and from all parties
- Talk to Pat Bovey in the Senate
- The Met bar in Ottawa; Drummer Boy lounge in Winnipeg are the best places to meet up with gov't types informally

Ideas Generated from Discussion:

- Corporate side is also important so talk to the Company (Richard Trudeau)
- Business for the Arts do corporate sponsorships; Jean and Janice on the Board
- Chuck Davidson is Chamber of Commerce MB
- Need an exact idea to present to all these
- Politicians know they serve the public; we have to let them know what we need/want
- What other work do we need to do to show them we are an economic driver?
- Tell them what you need for support
- Where do we go and what do we do-we have the ideas and all the knowledge, they can move stuff out of the way to get things done
- We don't need permission but we need to show growth and enterprise
- Ask government who we should talk to about the project
- We need Indigenous people at every table to represent their own needs
- Grant programs like Thomas Sill will help rural communities with studies to show what the economic development opportunities are
- Whenever there is cultural activities, people stay (HudBay used to hire musicians)
- Culture is life

MEETING WITH FLIN FLON SCHOOL DIVISION

Present: Constance Mcleese, Murray Skeavington, Steve Lytwyn, Crystal Kolt, Linda Eryou

Guests: Janice Price, Jean Giguere, Dorothy Dobbie

The group had a full discussion about the importance of the Flin Flon School Division to the community at large and specifically to the art community.

Many teachers are especially connected to the art community and the Flin Flon Arts Council would like to do whatever is required to support the Flin Flon School Division.

It was mentioned that the Department of Education will be making some radical changes in the province and there is concern as to how this will affect the community.

Discussion about making more use of the digital infrastructure that is already available for French Immersion classes etc.

It was mentioned that the Flin Flon Arts Council is especially appreciative of the joint services agreement shared with the Flin Flon School Division. Many of our projects would be in peril without this supportive connection. Eg. rehearsals. (The women had popped into a Mamma Mia choreography rehearsal the evening before at Hapnot Collegiate).

The women were also impressed with MANY FACES and the alternative educational opportunities that are provided through that institution.

FINAL RECEPTION at JOHNNY'S SOCIAL CLUB

A final reception was held at Johnny's Social Club prior to our guests' departure.

Victoria Inn catered the reception. Hot hors d'oeuvres with wine and cheese were available and the event was well attended.

Janice, Jean and Dorothy had a quick opportunity to also speak with Jordana Oulette about PRIDE and Mark Kolt about a Performing Arts School

The evening concluded with entertainment coordinated by Mark Kolt which included:

C.C. Trubiak

Lane Laderoute

Jennifer Mclean

Jacob Harvie

Janeve Masson

Kristen Imrie and Kim Jones

And a short example of Culture Days Pictures at an Exhibition.

Our guests were given farewell gifts that included Batik scarves, the Graphic Novel: FLANN by Danita Stallard, jewelry for Dorothy Dobbie and Jean Giguere and a jewel curling rock for Janice Price.

INSPIRATION 2.0 KNOWLEDGE and DEVELOPMENT PRACTICAL OUTCOMES

1. Lifestyle 55:

Dorothy Dobbie owns Pegasus Publications and is the owner of several national magazines including Lifestyle 55. She has written a 2 page article called Magical Flin Flon which celebrated our vibrant community. Not only that she has invited Elly Spencer (Elly on the Arts) to write a regular monthly column in the newspaper celebrating Flin Flon and its accomplishments.

2. Birchbark Biting: Hilary Macdonald

Jean Giguere is on the Board of the Museum of Civilization. Since learning about Angelique Merasty's birchbark biting, she has connected with the Museum of Civilization and the Royal Ontario Museum and has started the process of sharing these important national artworks with Canadians. She is hoping to have them brought also the Winnipeg Art Gallery for an exhibition.

'Hillary McDonald and I have been in touch and I have connected her with Talena Atfield , a curator at the Canadian Museum of History . They are both keen on continuing the conversation about birch bark biting . I am sure Talena will be a great asset as Hillary pursues her PHD . I was in Ottawa on Monday (colder than Flin Flon) and was pleased to discover one of Angelique's pieces is being rotated into the History hall . Now if we can only do the same with the ROM collection .I will be connecting Hillary with the Manitoba Museum when she is here in May'

Jean Giguere

3. Indigenous Leadership Course: Theresa Wride

Janice Price has invited Theresa Wride to attend a Leadership Course at the Banff Centre of Art and Creativity.

4. Indigenous Leadership Course: Vanessa Campbell

Janice Price has invited Vanessa Campbell to attend a Leadership Course at the Banff Centre of Art and Creativity. The course Vanessa has chosen is Economic Develop and she is excited to share what she learns with the community at large.

'I need the name and contact of the young woman who is the program manager at the Aboriginal Friendship Centre . She and 9 members of her family came to see the ballet Going Home Star . I told André Lewis about her and her positive comments and he wants to drop her a thank you note .'

Jean Giguere

5. New Music Festival - Mark Kolt

After experiencing Mark's talent and Pictures at an Exhibition Jean Giguere and Dorothy Dobbie are lobbying to have this experience in Winnipeg as part of the WSO's New Music Festival.

6. NCCCAE - VISIONARIES

' I am still in a daze in all that we encountered in Flin Flon .The commitment to the community as a whole is beyond impressive but especially to the artists .I haven't stopped thinking and talking about it .You are so far ahead of the game in your plans in moving forward . A great example is the establishment of the Visionaries .All the large institutions in Canada and the US are trying to find some way to engage the next generation and you have done it with the Visionaries .And there is just so much talent in Flin Flon .I am haunted by what I left behind'.

Jean Giguere

7. Business for the Arts - Crystal Kolt

Jean Giguere has connected Crystal with Nichole Anderson CEO Business for the Arts. Crystal met with her in Toronto in September 2019

8. FLIN FLON STATION MUSEUM - Tom Heine

'could {you} send me the one for the gentleman who did the museum tour please . I was telling the CEO of the Canadian Museum of History about your museum and he wants to connect .

Jean Giguere

We would like to acknowledge our sincere appreciation to all of our partners, sponsors and supporters for this event including: The Town of Creighton, The City of Flin Flon, Victoria Inn, North of 53 Consumer Coop, Arctic Radio CFAR, Calm Air, NorVA Centre, and Johnny's Social Club.