



Saskatoon Nutana  
**Rotary**  
Club



March 23, 2021

Editor: Jim Blackburn

## March 2021 Theme: Water and Sanitation

**Program Chair: Jim Gillis**

Date	Desk	Greeter	Rotana Editor	Cheer Captain	Speaker/Topic	Intro	Club Thanks
March 30	NA	NA	Jim Blackburn	Dorothy Hudson	Robert McGuire	Jim Gillis	Asit Sarkar

President Lorne called the meeting to order at 12 Noon, welcoming all members and Guest Speaker Marilyn Poitras.

"WE LIVE ON TREATY 6 TERRITORY, HOMELAND OF THE METIS".

Betty Arscott played and sang "O Canada" and the Rotary 4-Way Test song.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Lorne indicated the Sioux Lookout Rotary Club has applied for a Global Grant to provide ophthalmology services to the poor in Peru. Help "Give the Gift of Vision". Brenda Banbury is accepting donations of old or unused eyeglasses over the next two months which she will send to the Sioux Lookout club. Call Brenda at (306) 260-0768 to make arrangements.

Candace had forwarded an email to all members with the details of the Saskatoon Rotary Club's Golf Pool, please refer to that email for all the details.

Colin Taylor from the Riverside Club is organizing a "Virtual Food Drive" in support of the Saskatoon Foodbank. His phone number is (306) 292-8952 to call for a pick-up.

Mike Gramiak was sad to say the Adventures in Technology program has been cancelled for this year. He is very hopeful it will resume next year.

### **Guest Speaker – Marilyn Poitras**

Jim Gillis introduced Marilyn Poitras, the Director of the Indigenous Law Centre and a senior faculty member (not in age) with the Faculty of Law at the University of Saskatchewan. She began as a Native court assistant and decided being a lawyer was for her. She graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree from the U of S and then went on to receive her Master of Laws degree from Harvard University. She has worked with a great variety of indigenous self-governments, both in Canada and internationally. Her passion is inclusion of the indigenous voice in Canadian Society. She continues to refer to herself as a "Half-Breed" rather than Metis.

She is committed to teach everyone the value-added credentials of the aboriginal society.

What are we grateful for? She is grateful for the privilege of working with many elders as well as family and the environment. The elders are the "knowledge keepers". The aboriginal approach is to bring people together with a pipe ceremony or a prayer and we all come together with good intentions, to understand and learn. They then visit together; in the Cree culture the elders and "babies" consider what is important in the lives they lived and recognize what indigenous women have gone through over the generations – "managers of the family and continuous giving".

The Indigenous Law Centre is shifting its emphasis to begin to honor the elders who bring so much in recording the rich history of the aboriginal people and how to maintain it in the Law Centre. Forty-eight years ago, Dean Roger Carter visited California to view a summer indigenous law program that had produced a large number of graduates. He came back and created the certificate program in indigenous law where grads can develop a crucial role in the community as paralegals. Our 4 way test song has many similar principles with the truth and reconciliation report. Murray Sinclair offers 4 questions:

1. Where do I come from?
2. Why am I here?
3. Who am I?
4. Where am I going?

Jim Gillis started off the discussion period indicating he had read the Reconciliation Report and quickly realized how little he knew. Will Grant asked what Marilyn's goals were for the future. This question brought forth an emotional response from Marilyn. She is proud of the matriarchs in her life. Those proud, strong women inspired her to achieve academic success and leadership roles in family, law and business. Marilyn also participated in the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls committee. The resulting MMIWG document lists 231 individual calls for justice. Marilyn's hope is that this leads to legal and social change. That Indigenous and especially indigenous women's voices are heard and are woven into the fabric of Canadian society.

Walt Pawlovich thanked Marilyn for a stimulating, informative and entertaining presentation!

### **CHEER CAPTAIN – Kim Horan**

Cheer Captain Kim Horan asked a series of 7 questions on the environment from the latest Rotarian magazine and only Betty and Norm were able to answer one of the questions (proved Betty does more than play the piano and Norm must have done a lot of reading during his recuperation!!) Norm donated \$ 50 to be home; and the following also made donations for Marilyn's presentation and a variety of other topics: Jim Gillis; Asit Sarkar (Community Hero); Will; Ravi; Candace; Bob MacG; Walt and Kim (and anyone else I missed).

Kim thanked all the donators on behalf of the Rotary Foundation.

Lorne noted that Mike Gramiak will chair next week's meeting as he will be moving back to Pike Lake.

### **Officers**

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### **Rotary International**

RI President - Holger Knaack

District Governor – Gail Marie Anderson

Assistant Governor - Asit Sarkar

### **Contact Information**

Rotary Club of Saskatoon Nutana

Club No. 1380

Founded May 31, 1961

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District 5550 <http://www.clubrunner.ca/portal/home.aspx?did=5550>

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