

BEST EDUCATION STORY

Heavy metal

Student heavy equipment operators are motivated to succeed in Sabtuan program
by Andi Christine Bednarzig



It was still dark at 6 am when Paul Paquette parked his white pickup truck in front of the Tim Hortons in Mistissini. He did a quick head count. All seven of his students were there, finishing breakfast or lining up for a coffee. This is where Paquette, instructor of the Northern Heavy Equipment Operations program, meets with his students from Monday to Friday.

Absenteeism has never been a problem. "My students are always here, ready to work, and willing to do overtime when they've missed time," he says. "If they are late, they offer to do overtime, even on weekends."

The Northern Heavy Equipment Operations program, offered by the Sabtuan Adult Education Services of the Cree School Board, provides educational opportunities for adults

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ANDI CHRISTINE BEDNARZIG

the Nation

There is some very good writing in this piece. I really liked how the author wove the stories of individual students and their experiences in between information about the program.

I felt, as a reader, as if I was in the community, seeing what was happening first-hand. One thing that would have made this piece stronger, is more on what the drawbacks can be if you take on this type of work. This is mentioned in the piece, but it would have been more well-rounded, and ultimately interesting, to explore what life is like for people who have to leave the community for periods of time to work.

It's open! Brand new Wakefield

Story and photos by Joel Balsam

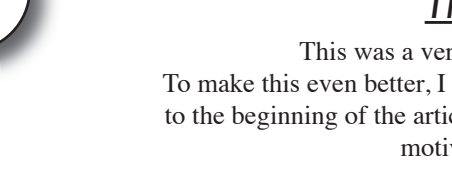
It wasn't easy, nor did it happen without some controversy (lots of controversy), but Wakefield Elementary School is finished. Well, nearly. Principal Julie Fram-Gregg gave the Low Down a tour of the new school on Sept. 2, but even though students were busy putting pen to paper, the school isn't quite complete. In this issue, we highlight the features of the new school, detail the delays, and shed light on some of the issues raised by parents. In these pages, you will find the good and the bad, but soak it all in LD Nation; it isn't too often we get a new Anglophone school to call our own.

Design

For 27 years, Wakefield Elementary stood as a beacon for the Anglophone community in the village.

fall on the second floor, they will only see the sky and Gatineau Hills - the architect's intent was to create a sense of openness and a view of the river. Classrooms are placed in an L-shape and overlook the playground, and the wave-shaped facade is meant to reflect the curve our beloved river. Wooden beams in the halls are made with real tree trunks to give the feeling of walking through a forest, and Quebec artist Andrienne Golin will be painting murals of trees on several walls.

While the architect did well to create a sense of openness to the environment, the building itself is made with the environment in mind. The classrooms are lit with long-lasting, maintenance-free LED lights that can be dimmed by the touch of a button. Best is provided by in-floor radiant geothermal technology. In addition, Fram-Gregg says the paint and building materials are environmentally friendly.



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JOEL BALSAM

The Low Down to Hull & Back News

There was some good writing in this piece that brought the reader inside the school. What I like about this piece is that the controversies are dealt with, making this an interesting, balanced read.

However, it would have been perhaps better to bring the controversies in closer to the top of the story - even as a mention - to make it clear for the reader from the start how complex this story is.

NEWS

Kahnawake's only forensic pathologist moves to Toronto

JACOB ROBERTS
THE EASTERN DOOR

Kahnawake's only forensic pathologist, Kana Williams, is one of only seven Aboriginal forensic pathologists in the country. She moved from Kahnawake to Toronto to take up a position at the University of Toronto.



She has faced a lot of criticism, but she says she is determined to follow her own path.

"We get to see the strangest things, the strangest things. That was immediately appealing." Williams explained as she sat in her office at the University of Toronto. Williams, a forensic pathologist, is one of only seven Aboriginal forensic pathologists in the country. She moved from Kahnawake to Toronto to take up a position at the University of Toronto.

"They showed me things that we've never even heard of and things that I'd only ever heard of in textbooks. Pathologists get to see all

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JACOB ROBERTS

The Eastern Door

This was a very interesting and well-written profile. To make this even better, I would move the definition of what she does closer to the beginning of the article. I would also like to have heard more about the motivations for her career choice.

Judge: Andrea Hunter, Assistant Professor, Concordia University/Department of Journalism, Montreal, QC • Number of entries in the Best Education Story category: 27

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