

First Nations Opens New Pavilion & Hosts Rodeo Night at Agribition

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REGINA -- The Cowessess First Nation and Kawacatoose First Nation are proud to present the first-ever First Nations Pavilion at this year's Canadian Western Agribition (CWA).

"It has long been a goal of mine to share our culture," said Elmer Eashappie, a member of Carry the Kettle Nakoda First Nation and architect of the Pavilion. "For example, we will teach people to say a few words in the five major languages of southern Saskatchewan: Cree, Dakota, Lakota, Nakoda and Saulteaux."

CEO and General Manager Marty Semour says CWA is pleased to see this increased presence at the show. "Both First Nations participants and CWA believe strongly in the power of education," he said. "This pavilion offers visitors ample opportunity to learn, ask questions and participate."

The Pavilion, which covers nearly a quarter of the hockey arena will feature:

- Hands-on learning by elders and story-tellers
- Description of teepee making in a real teepee
- Demonstrations of dream catcher design and other traditional art pieces
- Entertainment by drummers, dancers and other performers
- Displays of cultural items from the Royal Saskatchewan Museum

To celebrate the inaugural pavilion, CWA will be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony. Details are as follows:

Date: Tuesday, November 22
Time: 10 am
Place: Arena 3, Cooperators Centre

As well, for the first time ever, CWA will present First Nations night at the Rodeo that evening at 7 pm.

Supported by Cree Land Mini-Mart and Canadian Pacific, Yellow Quill First Nation and File Hills Tribal Council, the kickoff to the CCA Finals Rodeo on Tuesday night will begin with unique and exciting First Nations presentations, including the singing of "O Canada" in Cree.

Rick Poznikoff, Manager Community Relations and Aboriginal Affairs, with Canadian Pacific said his company is please to support this event. "We value the role First Nations people have in our

community. This is an excellent opportunity to share their culture with visitors from around the world.”

“CWA prides itself on tradition,” says Seymour. “This may be a new venture, but the traditions of First Nations people are an important part of our province’s cultural fabric.”

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