

# Word on the Street

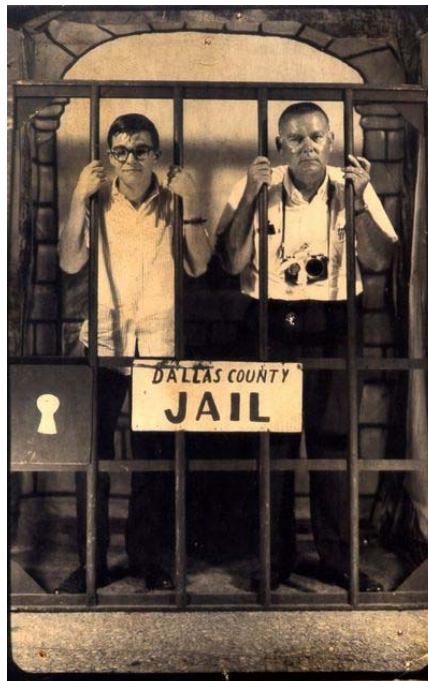
A free Journal for Youth and Urban Saskatoon  
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## The Youth Criminal Justice Act

Why the YCJA is the best bet for today's troubled youth

The Youth Criminal Justice (YCJA) Act is one of the better acts that we youth have today. It governs the youth so that when crimes are committed they are not thrown in jail and sentenced to long periods of time. The YCJA is an act that is supposed to help kids that commit crimes get rehabilitated and reintegrated back into the community. The YCJA is designed to increase the use of measures outside the formal court process that are often more effective in addressing some types of youth crime. I'm not saying that kids who commit crimes shouldn't be punished; I do believe that kids who commit serious violent crimes should be punished and get a jail term. I myself have been in the justice system and have been sentenced under the youth criminal justice act. And I feel if I would have been sentenced under the old young offender act I would have been locked away and not given a chance. But, the YCJA gave me a chance to become a rehabilitated youth. Since the change of acts in Saskatchewan there has been less and less youth in our young offender facilities.

And, noting that Canada has the highest youth incarceration rate in the western world including the United States, this is significant.



*The YCJA has been effective in addressing youth crime by giving youth a chance at rehabilitation.*

The old young offender act lacked a clear and coherent youth justice philosophy, but the YCJA is the act we should stick with for many years to come. I would like to continue to see the youth of today who commit crimes become better people instead of being locked away.

~ Jaguar

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### About Word on the Street

Word on the Street is written by young people in and out of school. It provides a forum for Saskatoon youth to express issues and ideas.

### Writers for this Issue

Jaguar, Kerry, The Guy, Caylan Janzen, Jessica B, Whitney, Sage, Shawn and Anonymous

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# Street Speak



What would you do if you were Mayor for a day?

“I would give myself a big raise, and then take the city’s money and build houses for those who don’t have homes, and everyone would have the day off”  
~ female teenager

“I would do something for the community.”  
~ female teenager

“Build myself a big house.”  
~male teenager

## Saskatoon Streets Aren’t Safe Enough

There are a lot of issues with crime all around Saskatoon. The city’s government should have more officers to patrol the city more often than they do now, just because of all the rebels lurking the streets. Saskatoon is just not a safe city to live in. It is labeled the worst city in Saskatchewan, and is more dangerous than the city of Regina. For that reason, this city should have more officers on the lookout for crime. The crime that goes on in this city is just ridiculous. I blame the parents for some of the city’s crime mainly, for not caring about setting curfews. For example, young teenagers ages 13 to 18 are out roaming the streets. But then again a lot of the crime comes from people between the ages of 18 to 26.

Young teens could also be influenced by so called “gangs.” The activities that go on within the “gangs” help teens get ideas of their own. That’s when some of this crime kicks in place. Young teenagers are easily swayed by pressures that include criminal activity seen or heard in

main stream media. The first thing we usually end up hearing about is the violence or crime that has happened recently, whether it’s the radio you’re listening to or the news you watch on television. All the unnecessary action that revolves around this city is just uncalled for. And, when it comes down to crime it is serious. There is no point in committing crime if all your time will end up being spent in Kilburn or in jail. These teens look at crime like its all fun and games. They end up wasting lots of time from their lives when they could be out having fun and staying away from illegal acts.

~ Kerry



**Hon. Carol Skelton, PC, MP**  
Saskatoon - Rosetown - Biggar

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# What Does This City Need?

One young person's opinion about what we should strive to change

**W**hat I think this city needs is better police officers to keep the drugs, violence, and gangs to a minimum. I think that someone needs to put their foot down and do something about all of these issues because pretty much wherever I go I have to watch my back. So what this city needs is to some how wipe out the drugs, violence, and gangs. Where is a gang going to get you in life? Nowhere. You need an education and after that you can go on to bigger, better things like a deadly job that pays well. Being involved with gangs, violence, and drugs is going to get you a 6 by 6 foot cell and a bunch of court dates. Violence is a load of crap because what is it going to do for you, maybe make you feel tough? But again, you will go nowhere in life. I don't know about you, but I don't want to use violence unless I have to in self-defense for me and or my bros.

There are a lot of drugs floating around this city and there's not much we can do about this because drugs have been around since the hippy days. A lot of it is naturally grown so all we can really try to do



is bust people selling and using the drugs. People that use drugs sometimes tend to do bad things like break and enter, and steal stuff that doesn't belong to them to support their habit. They're wrecking their life if they do illegal drugs. So what I think we need in this city is for police officers to put their foot down and take over the drugs, violence and gangs, to make Saskatoon a better community.

~The Guy

## If I Was Mayor

**M**y name is Caylan Janzen and if I were Mayor the changes I would make would be to get the bad cops in and the good cops out. Bad cops will arrest anyone if they feel like it. Good cops will just ask the name, and tell them to go on their way. Well that's one of my changes, the others will be to build a store right beside the Riversdale skate park, and an indoor park for the winter. I would extend recess in every school or program an extra ten minutes. I would focus on environmental and community health, I would limit the smoking policies to grade ten and people caught with drugs would get a large sentence to make sure they don't try bring it in school again. And every year the schools will have a big BBQ party. I would get rid



of all the old buses and build some more DART buses and put those on the streets, so in the summer the buses won't stink like sweat, because Dart buses have air conditioning.

And if I were the Mayor of Saskatoon those are all the things that I would do, so I could make this city a better place for people to live in.

~ Caylan Janzen

# Speak out against crime, violence & alcohol abuse

There are people who are making women disappear and still everyone turns a blind eye. These women are our mothers, daughters, and friends. These women had lives, families, and friends. Why is it that there aren't special reports running on the news? It is only when they first go missing that they are worth writing anything about, then they become old news. How long does it take the public to forget a missing person? Not long. This is why there are so many women missing, no one is protecting them.

If we are supposed to be a safe city then why do we become blind and deaf when we see violence or something really wrong? I know I have turned away when I should have said something. I am twenty-one and I am terrified to walk home after dark by myself. I am afraid I will be jumped and beat up or that someone will grab me and I would never see my daughter again. A long time ago this was not a problem, I felt safe walking anywhere even, Pleasant Hill. Not on my life today, would I never walk by myself if I have to go somewhere - my husband is always with me. I am still scared that something is going to happen.



Even with police driving around people are still getting beaten up. It is time to stop this (for the lack of a better word) stupidity. The people who are beating up people for no reason are youth and young adults. It is dumb to think that you can be beaten up by six children between the ages of 10 and 21. They are also usually intoxicated, but where are they getting it from?

There are people I know of who drink with thirteen to nineteen year olds, and they are thirty and older! It is gross and dumb, they think that "if they drink with me they are not starting anything". These people should be ashamed of themselves. They are contributing to the deterioration of our culture. They are helping our youth become alcoholics and helping them do stupid things. It is time for a change and we need one soon!!!

~ Jessica B



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## T.V. Show Review: Inuyasha

I'm going to tell you about a show called Inuyasha. Don't laugh, it's a cartoon from Japan. Just a little fact, cartoons from Japan are called Anime.

The whole show revolves pretty much around this little pink jewel that causes big problems. The jewel is called the Shikon Jewel or the Jewel of Four Souls. Its power is immense and can not be compared, but is easily tainted by an evil heart.

One morning a girl named Kagome Higurashi was pulled down a well in her back yard by a centipede demon. When she climbed out she was still in her back yard but it was five hundred years in the past. While in the past, Kagome meets the half demon Inuyasha, who mistakes Kagome, for the priestess Kikyo. At that time Kagome didn't know she was the re-

incarnated form of Kikyo. When Kagome first met Inuyasha, he was pinned to the sacred tree, by a sacred arrow that was shot by Kikyo fifty years ago. A shady demon crow stole the jewel and swallowed it. When Kagome blasted the bird, it exploded and the jewel broke into thousands of pieces that shot everywhere. Now Kagome must work with Inuyasha to find all the jewel shards and put it back together.



## Young Offender Jails

The young offender jails like Kilburn Hall and North Battleford Youth Centre are not fun places to be. They lock you in your room for things like knocking on the door a certain way. If you say slang words like *balla*, staff say it's gang-related. Yeah, that may be because there are a lot of gangs in YO jails and adult jails. It's bad to do a lot of time in jail because you're destined to come out a gang member, and then you keep going back to jail because of alcohol and drugs that change your thinking pattern. When you start to do crime then you do the time and then you regret it. But I think the YO jails are too hard on youth. I did lots of time in all the YO jails across Saskatchewan. At Kilburn Hall they gave me a 23 ½ hour lock down on the east units. It's messed up but there are some alright things to do sometimes (I'm not saying it's a good place to be.) The things that are good are: the traditional ceremonies, sobering up, thinking about positive stuff, and getting enrolled in school. ~Sage

On their journey Kagome and Inuyasha meet the lecherous monk named Miroku who is killed, along with his family, by the evil Naraku. They also meet a demon slayer named Songo whose family and friends were killed by Naraku's demons. On their voyage they fight demons and try to work through their problems. There are a lot of things in this show that teenagers can relate to, like fighting for what is right, doing that right thing, or things to help yourself and others. The show also expresses the feeling of true hurt that comes from wanting something or someone you could never really have. ~Whitney



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# Reviving Respect for Native and Métis Culture

**N**ative and Métis people are mistreated everyday. Although it may seem unreal, it happens all the time. Everyone goes through different obstacles in their lives. All these people know is how they were brought up in this cruel society. I know a lot of people who are more embarrassed than proud to be Native or Métis. I was reading a book based on these situations, and it got me thinking. What makes us this way, and how is it affecting each generation?

Residential schools played a big role in feeling unvalued or unwanted in society. In residential schools you were taught that your religion and your past was a shame. Nobody wanted a dirty Indian, or, as they would say, a crazy half-breed. Métis were treated as bad as the Natives were, and they would get teased because they were lost - they belonged neither to the dark-skinned nor the light-skinned people. Today it is almost as if this hasn't changed. Even though people of different races are connecting, there are still racial based groups. You know, the native group and the white group. That's what I'm talking about. You don't hear anything about a Métis group.

Myself, I am Métis with the status of an Indian. I have dark skin and get treated different. People see my skin and immediately think I'm just a dirty Indian. If I had light skin from my dad's side, it would be easier to get a job, or even get along with new people. Younger generations have it already planted in their heads that it is bad to be Native or Métis. Instead of being raised to accept and love their culture, people are being raised to want to end their culture.

When is the racism going to stop? Personally, I don't think it will. The best thing to do is believe in yourself. Be proud of who you are instead of dreading it. Look at the positive side of being Native or Métis, or any culture for that matter. Most Elders are lucky that they still have enough spirit in them to be teaching us what was never supposed to be taught again. Our language, culture, history and treaties: we are so lucky to have what we have but most people take that for granted. Some are even embarrassed to say that they are treaty, afraid they might get made fun of or loose some friends. You know the stereotype: those Indians get everything for free. I think this is what we deserve, and we don't get everything free. We were taken advantage of and this is how we are getting paid back. The government is even trying to take the only thing we have left.

We'll always know about the treaties, but they are trying to take more than that away. They're sill trying to take away our culture, even today. It all started how many years ago? You would think they would stop trying by now. It didn't happen, and still hasn't. Most importantly, there are fewer and fewer youth who aren't interested in learning new things. We have programs, but maybe not enough. Pow wows

will stop happening and there will be no more Native left in this society. Just be proud, yell it out if you have to (I know I do).

This one girl I knew was a Métis, she had light skin. Her sister was also a Métis, but had dark skin. Skin color can affect people's points of view on the whole situation. For the longest time the light-skinned girl was ashamed of her sister. Later, the sister with dark skin became ashamed of her sister, for being ashamed of her. She tried everything to get her sister to accept her. It wouldn't work. That sister was still ashamed. That is what I don't want happening. The darker sister committed suicide. It seems this part of the cycle we Natives have. It's either alcohol or drugs, or depression.

Where else is there to go when you don't have a soul to talk to? I think this cycle started during the 60's scoop. Children were taken from their families and brought to residential schools or foster homes. Abuse of all kinds took place in these homes. If you had brothers, sisters, or any source of family, you were separated. After the foster homes you have nowhere to go. Most people who come out of these foster homes have such a low self-esteem, and all they want is to be accepted. If it's living on the streets, becoming a gang member, staying with one race (whitewashed), or anything else. Most become addicted to drugs or alcohol. Where else is there to go, especially when you are brought up learning to hate you language and culture? And we are blamed for being burdens. Who put us in this situation in the first place? So they have to fix it, but they won't. So we are going to have to do it alone. Accept who you are, no matter how hard that may be. Don't use the "if you can't beat them, join them" routine, because we can beat these horrible acts and society discrimination.

I am lost, nowhere to go  
Where's my old house, it's covered by weird rocks  
It's gone, I have to speak this weird language  
Scared, lost, alone  
Sit in that dark place  
And wait for the remaining of my race  
To come rescue me  
In my dreams  
Of such insanity  
This world is coming too  
No one to run to  
So I sit, wait  
For the time to come  
When I can reunite with my inner self

~Anonymous

respect

# To bus, or not to bus: that is the question

Saskatoon transit looks good on the outside but on the inside it's still the same old system. All the buses should have bike racks instead of just the DARTs.



*(Right):  
Sometimes it's better to just hop on your bike. Shawn stresses that all Saskatoon transit should have bike racks, not just the DARTs.*



The DARTs are the buses that go across Saskatoon without stopping. There is no need for bike racks on these routes, as they are express routes. If people have to go out of their way to get on these routes, it is my understanding that they will save their money and bike to their destination.

For example if you had to go downtown from Avenue P and the only route with a bike rack is from Confederation to downtown, are you going to bike down town on your own, or bike to Confederation then still pay to go downtown?

~ Shawn

## Politicians at a Glance



### Focus on Youth

"I think about our country's youth all the time. Youth are the future of Canada. As a government we need to support youth, we need to listen to what they have to say, and we need to help youth to be successful. It is my goal to leave youth with an environment and country that will give *their* children the very best."

**Who?** Carol Skelton

### What is your job?

I am the Minister of Canada Revenue Agency. This job includes things like the collection of taxes and distribution of benefits all over the country. I am also the Minister for Western Economic Diversification.

### What do you do for members of your constituency?

I do my best to help with any problems people might have. I deal with many different federal issues, like immigration, employment insurance, problems with passports, student loans and Aboriginal affairs. I also concentrate on people in this riding (Saskatoon- Rosetown-Biggan), by doing things like passing law and order bills, which will help to better everyone in the community.

### What is your background?

I was born in Biggan and grew up and attended school in Saskatchewan. I live on a farm in Harris with my husband to whom I have been married for 41 years. We have three kids - one daughter and two sons, as well as five grandchildren.

For more information, contact the Minister's office at 975-6555.

# Upcoming Events in Our Community

- **November 3rd - 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Round-dance at Joe Duquette High School.**

Date: Friday, November 3, 2006  
Time: 7:00 – 11:30 p.m.  
Location: Joe Duquette High School  
919 Broadway Ave.  
Saskatoon, Sask.

M.C. Sanford Strongarm  
Stickman: Delvin Kanewiyakiho

\*Drummers and Singers will be honoured  
\*Lunch provided                      \*Giveaways  
\*50/50                                      \*Security will be provided

**For more information contact:**

Jeanne Auramenko @ 659-7815  
Elder Simon Kytwayhat @ 659-7814

- **November 13th— The Rainbow Community Centre Grand Re-Opening**

Date: Monday November 13th. Please RSVP by November 8th  
Time: 2:00 pm  
Place: Rainbow Community Centre, 808 20th St West

Guest Speakers, Ribbon-cutting ceremony, entertainment & tours, door prizes & refreshments.

Call 664-8724 or e-mail  
rainbowresourceroom@sasktel.net

*Quote of the Month*

*Self respect and honour cannot be protected by others. They are for each individual himself or herself to guard.  
~ Gandhi*

- **Beginning November 15th—Aboriginal Soapstone Carving Class for Youth aged 15-21**

Date: November 15th -mid April  
Time: Wednesdays, 4:30 - 7:00  
Place: The Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op, located at 905 20th St West  
Cost: FREE!

\*\*Upon completion of the class, students may be qualified to receive a high school credit!

Call Taya at 665-2738 for more information.

- **November 25th - Feast and Healing Rounddance for Robbie Lee Thomas**

Date: Saturday, November 25th  
Time: Feast at 3:00, Rounddance to follow  
Place: Beardy's Rec Centre  
All Drummers and Singers will be paid, and a give-away will follow the midnight lunch.

Contact: Grace Gamble (306) 467-4677  
(306) 467-4493

**Out of School and Out of Work?  
Want to learn some skills and make some \$\$\$ ?**

The Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op is looking for young people between the ages of 15-21 to take part in our job training program.

You can: - Learn carpentry skills  
- Earn a high school credit  
- Make money!

Call 665-3889 or stop by 905 20th St West

## **Planning an exciting community event? Wondering how to let people know about it?**

Contact Word on the Street and we'll advertise it in our upcoming events page for free!  
Call 665-2738

Please have all relevant information ready when you call.  
Information should be submitted by the 20th of the preceding month.