



Check out our Aboriginal Job Board!  
[Click here!](#)

Click for great money and work you can be proud of.

[womenbuildingfutures.com](http://womenbuildingfutures.com)



Inform. Impact. Inspire... is what we do. Independent and Indigenous... is who we are.

[Community Access](#) [Contact Us](#) [Our History](#) [Publications](#) [CFWE-FM](#) [Archives Search](#) [In Depth](#) [Home](#)  
[Contest](#)

**FREE SHIPPING OVER \$25!**

search now

Indigo Chapters [indigo.ca](http://indigo.ca)



### Share this with friends

Facebook Tweet LinkedIn Tumblr Pinterest  
ShareThis Email

## Helper works with inner city ministry to reach Aboriginal population

Alberta Sweetgrass

#### Author:

By Paula E. Kirman  
Sweetgrass Writer  
EDMONTON

**Volume:** 22 **Issue:** 11 **Year:** 2015

A newly created position at the Inner City Pastoral Ministry is reaching out to the Aboriginal population.

"As a Cree woman, I see myself and my role in the ICPM as an oskapew to Pastor Rick (Chapman) as well as the inner city community," said Michelle Nieviadomy.



ICPM is an interdenominational Christian outreach that meets in the Bissell Centre in downtown Edmonton.

The position of oskapew, meaning "helper" in Cree, "was created in response to the need to develop more fully Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal relations with in the inner city and wider faith community of Edmonton," said Chapman, director of ICPM.

As nearly half of the people ICPM is in contact with are Aboriginal, the ICPM felt the position would be a fitting response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to forward relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal within the community, says Chapman.

Nieviadomy was involved with ICPM prior to taking up her new position.

"In my own desire to find a faith community, I was drawn to the Sunday service at the Bissell. Quite simply, I started to attend church

**Nous pouvons vous aider à améliorer le logement dans votre communauté des Premières Nations.**

Cliquez ici pour trouver l'information et les outils dont vous avez besoin.

Canada

**94.5 fm Fort McMurray**

**CFWE**  
THE NATIVE PERSPECTIVE  
Sounds like coming home

#### FOLLOW US

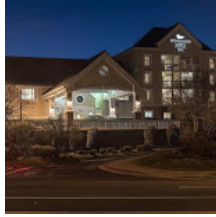
- Follow us on twitter
- Like us on facebook

#### SHARE THIS WITH FRIENDS

Facebook Tweet LinkedIn  
Tumblr Pinterest ShareThis  
Email

#### ESSENTIAL READING


## Homewood Suites Hilton Durham- Chapel...




**\$142.39**

Book Now! Best  
Rate Guaranteed

[Hilton.com](http://Hilton.com)

 Realize the potential™



Enter for your chance to be on the guest list at **AnnaLena.**

Enter now

\*Contest rules apply

which then turned into some volunteering. From that, dialogue between Pastor Rick and myself about the possibility of having a role specifically focusing on the Indigenous community which completely aligns with my own faith," she said.

Nieviadomy duties as an oskapew include being present at ICPM's Sunday services and helping in a number of capacities, including writing and presenting sermons. Once a month, Nieviadomy also leads the Standing Stones service, which is stepped in Aboriginal traditions.

"It is a beautiful service done in the Four Directions. Standing Stones honours the Indigenous way of expressing one's faith," she said. The service always begins with smudging and Nieviadomy sings some drum songs, as well as and sharing stories and teachings.

"I also have the opportunity to build bridges of understanding around Indigenous justice issues with the wider church communities," she said. "I believe our Indigenous way of life, teachings, and voice is a gift to the wider community, not just to the Indigenous community."

Nieviadomy has had a positive reception from the inner city Aboriginal population.

"The Aboriginal community is delighted with Michelle's presence, with many coming forward to offering to share something of their story and spiritual life. The wider community is also very much desirous of Michelle's presence as there is a strong desire within the faith community to learn, reconcile, and heal. Michelle is able to move freely in both communities with comfort," said Chapman.

The oskapew position has been contracted until the end of 2015, with the possibility of further growth being explored. It is not a full-time position for Nieviadomy, who graduated with the BA in Social Sciences at Kings University College and is the assistant director of the Edmonton Native Healing Centre. She also has her own business, Iskwew Health and Wellness, through which she teaches fitness classes.

However, ICPM holds a special place for her.

"It is an absolute honour. To be able to work with Pastor Rick who is truly for the community and the people, has been inspiring! The team also exemplifies such love and care for the inner city community - they are the true heroes!" she said.

### Related Content

- [RCMP conducting search of Bow and South Saskatchewan rivers](#)
- [Helper works with inner city ministry to reach Aboriginal population](#)
- [An emerging Métis voice on the music scene](#)
- [Women's shelters receive additional dollars](#)
- [Money available for wildfire protection projects](#)
- [Littlechild felt survivors' stories deeply](#)
- [Tanya Tagaq: Nanook of the North](#)
- [CPS, divers search pond for clues in Crowshoe homicide](#)
- [Seven Indigenous candidates in federal election](#)
- [Body identified as missing woman](#)
- [CEMA to continue operating September 25, 2015](#)
- [Residential schools need to be marked appropriately](#)
- [Crow Shoe death ruled homicide](#)
- [Bissell Centre to manage supportive housing project](#)
- [BC, Alberta First Nations united against PNW LNG export terminal location](#)
- [Province needs to step up to protect vulnerable children](#)
- [Art project demonstrates reconciliation as a historical process](#)
- [First Fort McMurray-Cold Lake debate attended by only two candidates](#)
- [Bellegarde says First Nations need to be included in foreign policy](#)
- [Grand Chief encourages voting in the federal election](#)
- [Spirit of Our Sisters Gathering at Edmonton](#)

- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Event and Recommendations](#)
- [2015 Community Events Calendar](#)
- [Relationship between Canada's Justice System and Aboriginal People](#)

### KEY LINKS

- [Play Radio Bingo to win!](#)
- [Buffalo Spirit Foundation](#)
- [Western Association of Aboriginal Broadcasters \(WAAB\)](#)

### UPCOMING ISSUES

- [October Windspeaker - Sept. 28](#)
- [October Raven's Eye - Sept. 28](#)
- [October Saskatchewan Sage - Sept. 28](#)
- [October Ontario Birchbark - Sept. 28](#)
- [October Alberta Sweetgrass - Sept. 28](#)

### ADVERTISING

- Download 2015 AMMSA media kits for:
  - \* [Windspeaker - National](#)
  - \* [CFWE-FM - Alberta Radio Network](#)
  - \* [Alberta Sweetgrass - Alberta](#)
  - \* [SK Sage - BC Raven's Eye - ON Birchbark](#)
- [Advertising online: \[www.ammsa.com\]\(http://www.ammsa.com\)](#)

### SUBSCRIBE & DONATE

- [Order a Windspeaker or Sweetgrass digital subscription](#)
- [Order a Windspeaker or Sweetgrass print subscription](#)
- [Make a donation to assist Windspeaker via gofundme](#)

### WRITER GUIDELINES

- [Want to freelance write for us? Click here for all the info. you need.](#)