

LOCALNEWS

YOUNG MUSICIANS



St. Thomas School students perform a concert for family, friends and community members Wednesday.



Students sing a song Wednesday.

Community Conversation on Regional Diversity and Inclusion at RRCC

RRCC REPORT

The first Community Conversation on Regional Diversity and Inclusion took place April 20 at Rainy River Community College Theater.

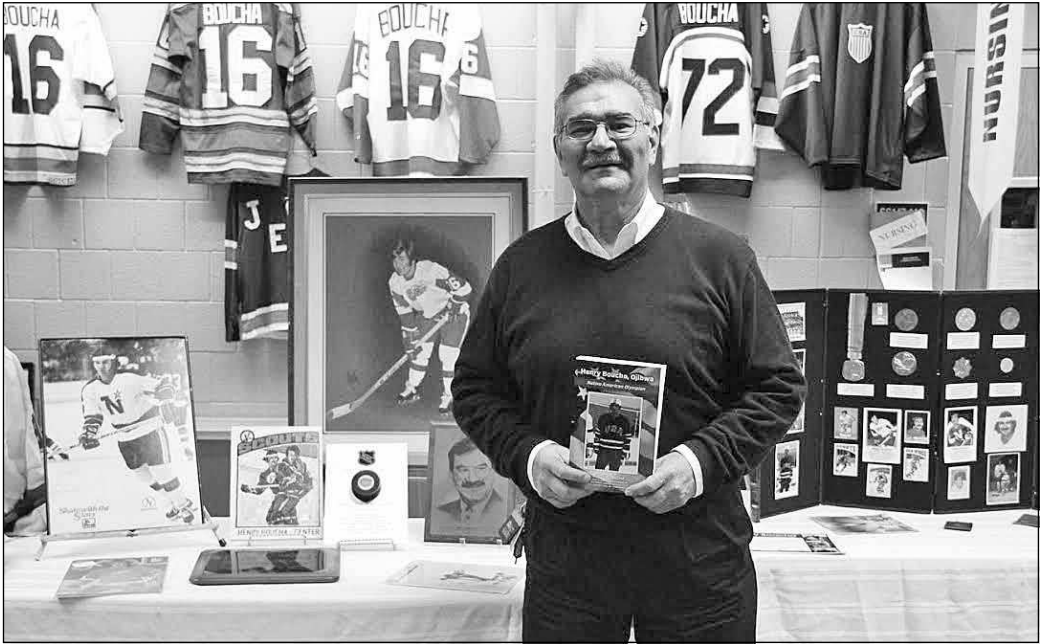
More than 70 community members participated in the event that included a keynote speech by Henry Boucha, followed by facilitated small group discussions. The event was the final of three events planned around the “Why Treaties Matter Exhibit.”

“If we are sincere about growing our community and diversifying our industry, then I believe that holding these conversations is an important first step,” stated Brad Krasaway, director of Student Life, Academic Advising, and Diversity.

Following a book signing in the college library, keynote speaker and former NHL and Olympic hockey star Boucha led the audience through a series of stories about his life.

Boucha entertained but he also dug below the surface of what makes a community supportive and not self-destructive. “If it wasn’t for a few members of my community helping me when I was young, I would have never played in the NHL, and I certainly would not be here today,” he said.

Boucha also referenced a community initiative called “Bridge Builders” located in Anchorage, Alaska, where he lived for eight years. Boucha said that, “Anchorage has over 100 languages spoken in its high schools and the population has exploded from 48,000 in 1970 to well over 300,000 today.



Keynote speaker and former NHL and Olympic hockey star Henry Boucha led the audience through a series of stories about his life.

Bridge Builders was created to encourage and, in some cases, facilitate cross-cultural conversations so that people break down stereotypes and other barriers which help communities grow together.”

Following the speech, RRCC Diversity subcommittee members facilitated nine small group conversations. The conversations were initiated with questions such as, “How could the community celebrate our similarities and differences together more often?” “How can we capitalize on our community’s diversity better?” and “What else can the community do to be more accepting and welcoming toward ‘outsiders’?” A robust conversation ensued and many stories were told.

Following the small group discussions, each group was brought back together and asked to report out what they had discussed

and if any suggestions or conclusions were made. Some observations and suggestions included:

- Individuals who are not from here and look different from a stereotypical I Falls resident are afraid to go out into the community to try new things and meet people.
- We need to personally invite people new to the area to community events.
- “We need to infuse Rainy River Community College’s diverse population into the community.”
- “We need to have more of these community conversations. They helped me immensely.”
- “Now I understand what the problem is. Thank you RRCC for bringing it to our attention.”
- “Increase the number of culturally specific celebrations.”
- We have many people in poverty in the region but also some elitism. It takes

strength to help but just to help one is a start.

■ These conversations must not only be had here at the college but also at the school board meetings, city council meetings, Koochi-ching County Board meetings, service clubs as well as the family dinner table.

During the closing remarks, RRCC Provost Carol Helland stated, “This was an extremely successful event and the message seems to be consistent. We will plan to host more of these conversations. Thank you all for your help in making this such a successful event.”

The RRCC Diversity Committee will further examine the results and create a work plan for the future.

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<p>Cupcake Wines 750 ml</p> <p>6⁹⁶</p>	<p>Cupcake Moscato d' Asti & Prosecco 750 ml</p> <p>7⁹⁷</p>	<p>Miller Lite, MGD, & Miller 64 24 Pack Cans</p> <p>16⁹⁷</p>	<p>Coors Banquet & Light, Molson Candian 24 Pack Cans</p> <p>16⁹⁷</p>	<p>Michelob Golden Draft Light 24 Pack Cans</p> <p>17⁹⁷</p>	<p>Captain Morgan Spiced Rum 1.75 Liter</p> <p>Sale \$19.97 Minus \$4.00 Mail-in Rebate</p> <p>14⁹⁷</p>	<p>Crown Royal 750 ml</p> <p>Sale \$19.97 Minus \$5.00 Mail-in Rebate</p> <p>14⁹⁷</p>
<p>Franzia Chillable Red, Refreshing White, Crisp White, Sangria & Blush 5 Liter Box</p> <p>10⁹⁷</p>	<p>Franzia Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay, White Zinfandel, Moscato, Rhine, Chianti, Burgundy, & Chablis 5 Liter Box</p> <p>12⁹⁷</p>	<p>Busch & Busch Light 24 Pack Cans</p> <p>14⁹⁷</p>	<p>Leinenkugel's Crafts All Available Types 12 Pack Bottles</p> <p>12⁹⁷</p>	<p>Hamm's 30 Pack Cans</p> <p>13⁹⁷</p>	<p>Windsor Canadian Whisky 1.75 Liter</p> <p>Sale \$14.97 Minus \$3.50 Mail-in Rebate</p> <p>11⁴⁷</p>	<p>Petri Brandy 1.75 Liter</p> <p>11⁹⁷</p>
<p>Riunite Wines 1.5 Liter</p> <p>6⁹⁶</p>	<p>Gallo Wines 1.5 Liter</p> <p>5⁹⁵</p>	<p>Grain Belt Premium 12 Pack Bottles</p> <p>9⁹⁷</p>	<p>Grain Belt Nordeast 12 Pack Bottles</p> <p>10⁹⁷</p>	<p>Rolling Rock 12 Pack Bottles</p> <p>9⁹⁷</p>	<p>Ron Diaz Rum 1.75 Liter</p> <p>12⁹⁷</p>	<p>Karkov Vodka 1.75 Liter</p> <p>9⁹⁷</p>