

## **Cumberland House Get Noticed at the Provincial Drama Festival with *The Perils of Chief Cimägasiw of Ciciganihk***

Charlebois Community School Drama Group from Cumberland House recently represented Region 12 (northern Saskatchewan) at the Provincial Drama Festival at the University of Regina on May 6-8, 2010 under the capable direction of Lana Patterson and Mary MacColl-Buck. The Cumberland House Drama Group performance *The Perils of Chief Cimägasiw of Ciciganihk* did not go unnoticed.

“We were told at our adjudicator’s workshop that they were amazed at how much our kids had improved their acting skills. They said that they had improved by leaps and bounds since last year (this was Cumberland House’s second year at the Provincial Drama Festival). We got many compliments on our stage set and costumes as well. The adjudicators also said they loved the way we had the guards jig and powwow dance onto the stage. We were told that our energy and joke delivery was good as well. The kids had to pause several times in the play to wait for the laughter to die down!”, said Lana Patterson, Director and tutor at Charlebois Community School. “Mary and I also learned so much by being at both of the festivals (Northern and Provincial). There is always so much to learn. We were given several good ideas for improving our performances while in Regina which we eagerly look forward to implementing next year.”

The drama group also won some awards. Asagewin Carriere won a Certificate of Merit for acting, Jordan Shaw won a certificate for his work with the light and sound, Drew Thommes was awarded the Debbie Baker Cheer Award and the group won the Saskatchewan Drama Association Dr. George Falk Challenge Cup award. The Dr. George Falk Challenge Cup was established in 1997 and was dedicated in 2008 in memory of Dr. George Falk. It is given at the discretion of the Front of House Adjudicator to a play that represents a great challenge for students and adds immeasurably to the quality of the Provincial Festival. There were twelve performances over the weekend from all over the province.

An adjudicator/playwright in attendance at the provincial festival noticed Cumberland House as well. Bradley Hayward wrote a blog about the festival reviewing all the plays. He wrote a very favourable review of Cumberland House’s work and said he would have awarded their play Best Visual Performance and Jules Carriere would have won one of the top acting awards. Check out his blog at [bradleyhayward.blogspot.com](http://bradleyhayward.blogspot.com).

“I think all of our students were glad they had the opportunity to participate in such a large and exciting festival. Thank you to the Saskatchewan Drama Association, the Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District for making this experience possible for our community – and to our community for their support to drama and the arts for our youth.”, Lana Patterson.