

Health Quality Ontario was created in 2010 by a Liberal government that was deep in the red. The current cost to operate this agency is a cool \$43 million, which includes an ombudsman for patients and "quality improvements projects on the front-lines."

Meanwhile, there is the Northern Health Travel Grant, which offsets some of the costs when Northerners must travel to get the care they need, sometimes as far as Toronto, Hamilton or Ottawa. Last year, the total payout in grants was just shy of \$50 million.

In the short term, those grants are necessary. But down the road, we could do away with the other two agencies and put that money directly into boosting services at hub hospitals like Thunder Bay Regional. This is what most people want and need.

Letters to the editor, exclusive to The Chronicle-Journal, are most welcome.

Email: letters@chroniclejournal.com (no text attachments please)

Mail: Chronicle-Journal Letters, 75 S. Cumberland St., Thunder Bay ON P7B 1A3

Please supply your full name, address and day telephone number. Letters kept to 300 words have priority and may be edited for space, style and clarity. Please cite page and date for articles mentioned. Letters may appear on our website and on our Facebook page.

City must consider truck bylaw's effects

HIGHWAY 102/Dawson Road and the highway portion of Arthur Street have always been the main truck routes in and through the city. In accidents on these highways people generally survive the crash. On the expressway people die.

A single truck pays \$4-5,000 a year for a licence. Insurance is well upwards of \$5,000 per year.

Trucks generate a lot into the economy and help pay for the repairs and upkeep of these highways. Banning trucks from these roads would be like banning lake freighters from Lake Superior so that sailboats could sail freely. It makes no sense.

...attention in the House of Commons next month. I believe our MP for Thunder Bay-Superior North has a duty and obligation to vote in favour of electoral reform. She was elected on the basis of this promise and needs to show she respects the wishes of her constituents. Representing the clear wishes of those who elected her takes precedence over political ambitions.

Barry Beaupre
THUNDER BAY

Barnardo children had trouble in Canada

AT Patrick Chapin's suggestion (*CJ letters, April 18*) I have read Gail Corbett's Nation Builders: Barnardo Children in Canada, and

innocent children staying there. There was no preferential treatment; the same rules applied to all.

My mother still has pleasant memories of the friendships made and how the sisters cared for them.

It is always sad to hear of the bad in these residential schools, but this was truly good. There are those alive to verify this.

Sen. Beyak's opinion regarding the good done in some of these schools is true. She was not denying the bad, just showing the other side for a change. I don't agree with the disciplinary action taken against Sen. Beyak for her opinion. The last time I heard, we still have the right to freedom of speech.

Edith Macnell
NEEBING

'Leaders without titles' needed to champion respect

BY LEE-ANN CHEVRETTE
FOR THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL



ONE CITY
MANY VOICES

Thunder Bay's Anti-Racism and Respect Advisory Committee produces this monthly column to promote greater understanding of race relations in Northwestern Ontario.

While it is important to recognize outstanding efforts when it comes to exemplifying respect in Thunder Bay, it is also critical to encourage all residents to champion efforts that will create a culture of respect. A wise woman I know recently spoke about the need for "leaders without titles" — that no single individual or organization is capable of addressing the complex issues of racism, discrimination and marginalization. We must also look within ourselves to reflect upon the ways in which we can individually contribute — through our thoughts, words and actions, to make Thunder Bay better for everyone.

THE City of Thunder Bay's annual respect award recognizes an individual or organization that promotes attitudes, beliefs and behaviours that recognize the importance of human dignity, and demonstrates leadership to foster respect for others.

The 2017 respect award was presented to Farhan Yousaf, an international student at Lakehead University, who is committed to creating an environment and culture that is inclusive of all people.

Farhan started Culture Days at Lakehead University to recognize and celebrate campus diversity, and has worked as a mentor for racialized youth. He is a founding member of the Racialized Young Professionals Network (RYPn), which is dedicated to breaking down racial barriers and helping racialized youth network and achieve success. Farhan is also involved in initiatives to address food insecurity and access to clean water in remote northern communities.

This is the fifth year that the city has presented the annual award. Previous winners include Dianna Atkinson (2016); the Regional Multicultural Youth Council (2015); Larry Baxter (2014); and Thomas MacDonald (2013).

If the respect initiative seems overly simplistic to you, I invite you to take a deeper look. Its nine principles encourage us to reflect on our actions and our thinking to:

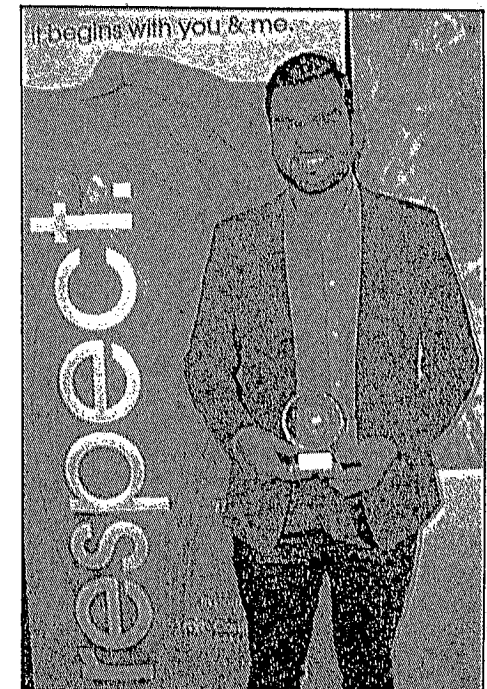
- check our biases
- value our differences and embrace diversity in all its forms
- model appropriate behaviour
- listen deeply to others
- have conversations that matter
- be accountable for our actions
- step in against bullying and discrimination, and support others with compassion
- take pride in our community
- reach out for help when we need it.

Creating a culture of respect begins with a personal commitment to explore our own thoughts and actions. Embodying these nine principles will help to support the development of these "leaders without titles" that our community needs, and to collectively create a culture of respect and the community we all know Thunder Bay can be.

For more information on respect, visit www.thunderbay.ca/respect

Lee-Ann Chevette is the co-ordinator of the Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council.

The views and opinions expressed in this column are those of the author.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Farhan Yousaf is this year's winner of the respect award.