

## **Welcome Darcy Lindberg GEN 7 Messenger**

Sliammon is one of four B.C. Aboriginal communities chosen for the GEN 7 Aboriginal Role Model Program. A program designed to build strong Aboriginal communities through active participation and leadership by Aboriginal youth.

Sliammon's GEN 7 messenger is Darcy Lindberg who visited our community briefly on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Darcy's warmth and genuineness helped him create an immediate connection with Sliammon youth. Students commented that Darcy was "cool" and they had a lot of fun participating in the different activities that he organized for them at the Salish Centre.

Darcy commented that he had a great time visiting Sliammon. He enjoyed being welcomed by a dinner with the youth and was impressed by both the student's athletic and leadership abilities. The only thing he didn't like about his visit was that he was on the losing team in the basketball game!

Darcy grew up in central Alberta as part of the Samson Cree Nation. He was very active in many sports while growing up and excelled at basketball while attending Augustana University College. Darcy continues to be passionate about promoting sports with Aboriginal youth and in spite of having two knee operations several years ago Darcy still has lots of moves left on the basketball court!

Darcy also enjoys learning the traditional way of being from the elders of various cultures' around him, recognizing the importance of youth of all cultures to learn these values.

Darcy is planning two more visits to Sliammon. His next scheduled visit is March 20 at which time he will be one of the keynote speakers at a First Nations Parent-Student dinner at Brooks School. He also assures us that he will find some time for another basketball game to see if he can avenge his previous loss!

This program is a joint initiative of Motivate Canada and the Aboriginal Sport Circle and is largely funded by Sport Canada. Thanks to Robbi Wilson and Hugh Prichard who were instrumental in securing the funding for this program.

