

# Carmen Pauls Orthner

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## Skills and Qualifications

Award-winning news reporter  
Experienced in community and media relations  
Skilled photographer  
Strong skills in copy editing and proofreading  
Photo editing and page design skills  
Experienced academic researcher  
Familiar with small business operations and bookkeeping  
Able to effectively use Web resources and e-mail for research and communication  
Thorough and accurate when using sources and background research  
Strong work ethic and organizational skills  
Work well both independently and in a small team environment  
Passionate about learning from other people and telling their stories  
Twelve years of full-time residency in northern Saskatchewan  
Eight years of owning and operating my own communications business

## Education

1996-1998 Bachelor of Journalism (with distinction) – University of Regina School of Journalism, Regina, SK  
1995 International Exchange Program – Lithuania Christian College, Klaipeda, Lithuania  
1991-1995 Bachelor of Arts (English major) – University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, MB  
1991-1995 Bachelor of Christian Studies (theology major) – Concord College, Winnipeg, MB

## Work Experience

May 2009 to **Reporter and Web Editor**

January 2010 Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC Radio), La Ronge, SK

Duties included:

- Gathering story ideas, conducting telephone and in-person interviews, selecting audio clips and writing two or three scripts per story for morning and afternoon hourly news broadcasts
- Editing and combining other reporters' scripts and posting them daily on the news section of the MBC website
- Maintaining the newsroom upcoming events calendar
- Doing occasional feature interviews and commercials for broadcast

- Setting up and maintaining a paper filing system for stories to be followed up on.

(I left this ¾ time contract position to go on maternity leave.)

January 2003 **Self-employed Reporter and Communications Professional**

to present Pen for Hire, La Ronge, SK

Services include journalistic writing, editing/proofreading, research, photography and government/corporate communications work for clients in northern Saskatchewan and elsewhere. Ongoing and recently completed projects have included:

- Communications services for the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, 2006-2008. Duties included preparing all content for and co-ordinating production of several 12- to 16-page newspapers for the First Nation; writing speeches, press releases and letters on behalf of Chief Tammy Cook-Searson; photographing band events; updating content on the band's website ([www.llrib.ca](http://www.llrib.ca)); and serving as the band's media liaison. In July 2006, when several of the band's communities and several northern resort areas were evacuated for nine days due to forest fires, I was responsible for researching, writing and providing twice-daily written reports to the band membership, provincial agencies and the general public.
- Screenwriter, assistant site co-ordinator and on-site interviewer for "Athabasca: Where the Spirit Flies", a short documentary/promotional film about economic development opportunities in the Athabasca Basin. This project was commissioned by the Athabasca Economic Development and Training Corporation.
- Research assistant for Saskatchewan portion of "Resiliency in Rural Settlements that have Experienced Wildfires" ([www.ruralwildfire.ca](http://www.ruralwildfire.ca)), an academic study focusing on community resiliency in Barriere, B.C. and La Ronge, Sask. in the wake of major forest fires. Duties include interviewing local residents and officials about their experience with the 1999 Mallard fire, and assisting with community consultation work.
- Writer/photographer for Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership. Duties included producing all content for and arranging production and delivery of two corporate newsletters updating the Lac La Ronge Indian Band membership on the activities of their economic development arm.
- Communications services for the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities (New North). Duties included writing conference reports (eight to date), annual reports and letters, executive board and roundtable meeting minutes, updating website content and ghost writing conference messages, letters and newsletter columns for agency CEO and board chairs.
- Communications services for northern Saskatchewan MLAs Buckley Belanger, Joan Beatty and Doyle Vermette. Duties included researching, writing, photography and graphic design for constituency newsletters.
- Researcher/writer for NORTEP/NORPAC impact study. Duties included interviewing graduates, senior education officials and community leaders about the teacher training institution's impact over its 30-year history, writing

a series of profiles and reports, and photographing individuals and communities throughout the North.

- Copywriter for *Relevance*, a 32-page career guidance magazine produced in early 2006 by a group of Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions. Duties included researching, writing and editing profiles of students from each institution and writing career guidance articles.
- Communications services for the non-profit northern Saskatchewan technology company Keewatin Career Development Corporation. Duties included writing feature website articles, taking photos, and preparing press releases, reports and a series of monthly newsletters promoting the “Headwaters Project”.
- Conference reporting and photography for Northlands College/Northern Literacy Festival and Visions North Community Futures Development Corporation.
- Promotional photography services for SaskEnergy. Duties included photographing press conferences, surveying work and other activities relating to the expansion of natural gas services to the La Ronge area.
- Writer for the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Head Start website user manual. Duties included providing instruction for website users to navigate the website and use various forms to complete monthly and annual reports.
- Research assistant for author Maggie Siggins on her award-winning 2005 book *Bitter Embrace: White Society’s Assault on the Woodland Cree*. Duties included both on-line fact-finding research for the author, and face-to-face interviews with individuals in the northern Saskatchewan communities of Pelican Narrows and Jan Lake.
- Communications services for Selkirk College in Nelson, B.C. Duties included writing program flyers and copy editing the student program calendar
- News writing and photography for periodicals such as *The Globe and Mail* (national daily newspaper), *Business Edge* (provincial business magazine), *Shout* (aboriginal youth magazine), *Windspeaker* (national aboriginal newsmagazine), *Windspeaker Business Quarterly* (national aboriginal business magazine), *Saskatchewan Sage* and *Eagle Feather News* (provincial aboriginal newsmagazines), *PAGC Tribune* (tribal council newsmagazine) and *The La Ronge Northerner* (weekly newspaper).
- Writing, editing, photography and proofreading services for individual clients in the North and beyond. Projects have included campaign strategies, business proposals, press releases, court affidavits, passport photos and wedding photography.

August 1998- **Reporter, Photographer, Copy Editor and Assistant Editor**

December *La Ronge Northerner*, La Ronge, SK

2002, April- As a general assignment reporter (first as an intern, then full-time), under the  
August 1997 direction of editor Scott Boyes, duties included:

- Sourcing, researching and writing news and feature stories on a weekly basis
- Providing regular editorial features, such as “From pages past” (a weekly retrospective of top news events from past issues), the court docket, birth

- announcements and the community calendar
  - Taking news and feature photographs
  - Copy editing and proofreading editorial and advertising material
  - Laying out pages on a weekly basis, and laying out the entire newspaper when the editor was absent
  - Answering telephones, doing retail work and providing customer service
- Aside from general news coverage, my responsibilities at *The Northerner* included covering La Ronge and Air Ronge municipal council meetings, and all media events involving government activities in the La Ronge area. I have done substantial reporting on northern business (including the uranium mining industry), health, education, politics and environmental issues.

1992 to  
2002

### **Freelance Writer, Editor and Photographer**

Duties included:

- Writing articles and/or taking photographs for various clients, including *Saskatchewan Sage*, *Saskatchewan Naturally*, *The Western Producer*, *Western People*, *Canadian Aboriginal Newsmagazine*, *Regina Leader-Post*, and the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League official website
- Photographing the signing of the Northern Development Accord, on behalf of Western Economic Diversification

September to  
December  
1996

### **Reporter**

*Regina Leader-Post*, Regina, SK

As a general assignment intern reporter, duties included:

- Sourcing, researching and writing news and feature stories on a daily basis
- Filing special news reports from the Saskatchewan Legislature and the Western Canadian Agribition

## **Awards**

Together with my editorial colleagues at *The La Ronge Northerner*, I was honoured with a “Best News Story (circulation under 10,000)” award by the Canadian Community Newspapers Association for our ongoing coverage of the 1999 Mallard fire and its aftermath. I have also received several writing awards from the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association, and artwork I designed was chosen as an “Editor’s Pick” by U.S.-based scrapbooking magazine *Memory Makers* in 2006.

## **Professional Development and Volunteer Work**

Over the course of my career, I have sought out opportunities both to expand my professional skills and to give back to my community.

In addition to doing regular reading and taking on-line classes in the areas of design, photography and writing, I have attended the Canadian Association of Journalists’ National Writers’ Symposium in Saskatoon and their annual conference in St. John’s, Newfoundland, as well as the University of Regina’s

2001 conference “Journalism and Democracy: Reclaiming Public Discourse in a World of Media Convergence”.

I have presented workshops on the job of a journalist and the basics of news writing to students at Minahik Waskahigan School in Pinehouse, Saskatchewan, and have served as a judge for a Canadian Community Newspapers Association Better Newspapers Competition feature writing competition.

Prior to moving into the communications field, I spent four months as an exchange student and another four months as an instructor at a college in Klaipeda, Lithuania. My work as an instructor included providing private English instruction for two children from France, co-teaching evening English language classes for adult learners from the community, and maintaining the college instructors’ teaching resource room. During that time, I sent my Canadian sending institution a series of articles about my experiences. I also spent a week “job shadowing” reporters at the *Siauliu Krastas*, a daily newspaper in the nearby city of Siauliai, Lithuania.

As part of my personal commitment to northern Saskatchewan, I have served in several volunteer capacities, including:

- Pahkisimon Nuyeh Library System board chair (March 2007 to April 2009) and treasurer (March 2006 to March 2007); board member since 2003
- La Ronge Public Library board member, 2002 to present
- Mamawetan Churchill River Regional Health Authority Community Health Action Plan (CHAP) steering committee member, 2002 to 2003
- Cast member for La Ronge’s V-Day 2004 and 2008 productions of “The Vagina Monologues” (fundraiser for Piwapan Women’s Centre)
- La Ronge and Area Crime Watch patroller, 2001 to 2006

## References

Kelly Provost  
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Chief Tammy Cook-Searson  
Lac La Ronge Indian Band  
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(306) 425-2183

Scott Boyes  
Community-Industry Liaison (Mining Sector)  
Saskatchewan First Nations and Metis Relations  
La Ronge, Saskatchewan  
(306) 425-6669

Al Loke  
Northern Development Business Co-ordinator, Saskatchewan Highways  
La Ronge, Saskatchewan  
(306) 425-4268

Audrey Mark  
Director, Pahkisimon Nuye?ah Library System  
Air Ronge, Saskatchewan  
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