

# Fighting on in memory of Makayla Rain

By Jonathan Garlow

**NEW CREDIT** - Since Makayla Sault's passing in January 2015 it has been a tremendously difficult time for her family and for her community as they deal with the loss. Although she died from a stroke the Sault family maintains it was the early stages of chemotherapy treatment for Leukaemia that weakened her body from which she could not recover. They are now honouring the memory of Makayla by letting her legacy live on.

"Because she was such a fighter we have to keep fighting on," Sonya Sault said from her home on the New Credit First Nation "She loved the community and her heart was here. She loved when people came together - being one."

On June 15, the Sault family celebrated Mak's 12th birthday in her absence. They remembered how Makay-



Makayla Sault won her battle for rights affirmed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which Canada has yet to recognize. She has been remembered and honoured by many nations.

la loved celebrations and connecting with other people. "We really appreciate our community who stood with us, our Chiefs, our leaders all across Canada," said Kenny Sault. "Makayla built bridges between many different people of different backgrounds and that's something we want to continue to do."

From June 21 to June 28 the Sault family

will be hosting a week-long tent meeting which they call the "Gathering of the Nations" outside their church on New Credit. Many of Makayla's favourite singers and speakers will be there including the award winning southern gospel vocalist and recording artist Adam Crabb. The events will be held at 2829 First Line Road near Highway #6. The Sault's welcome everyone to attend.

The family and community members also plan to wear pink in honour of Makayla at the Pan-Am Games Torch Relay which passes through New Credit First Nation on Friday June 19th.

A week after that on June 26 they will be releasing lanterns in memory of Makayla after an evening ceremony outside their home. June seems to be the month of Makayla Rain or as the world remembers her, "...the girl with the warrior spirit..."