

Ermineskin Newsletter February 25, 2021

Kanawehmawasowin Kamik, INC., Hosts AGM

February 24, 2021

The Kanawemahwasowin Kamik (KKI) team presented their Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Neyaskweyahk Okimaw Kamik (NOK) to a small gathering, and also offered the meeting on WebEx (an online meeting app), and Facebook Live (where it can still be viewed)

Councillor Steven Ermineskin gave an and Josh Littlechild opening prayer chaired the meeting. Councillor Tyler Makinaw gave opening remarks: "There's 2 things going on today; the KKI AGM and anti-bullying day... It provides us to have a conversation about bullying and how it has an impact on all of us. We...each need love. When bullying happens it... can negatively [affect] relationships and relationship building... We wake up each day with that opportunity, to spread love, and that's so invigorating... I want to commend KKI for the work that they're doing... and what their

program is transcending to... Our children are out there, but we're bringing them back and it's the [staff] at KKI that have that immense responsibility to carry that out and they're doing it in a way that's grounded in the Nehiyaw way... When the pipe was lifted... It set off motions that no one can get in the way of.... Our children are coming back... They'll get to know us and they'll really build that connection with Neyaskweyahk with their roots, they'll know







where they come from."

Executive Director Chrystal Littlechild-Hill gave opening remarks, as well: "KKI is one of the social service programs in ECN, previously known as Children services..." Just over a year ago "there was a "renaming ceremony." A name that was "given to us by our elders." KKI is "working on bringing back that original group; past Councillor Cheryl Montour, Ken Roan, Rosie Roan,

Muriel Lee, and Karoyle Weinhandl" and with those Elders KKI is "in the works of... making a video" that "dispels the mistaken understanding of the name (KK), the colonial one, with an updated narrative and meaning" for the new name. We have an "excellent communications strategy in place" which is focused on "transparency" and shows off the growth of the department.

The staff of KKI, including Chrystal Littlechild-Hill, Tennille Makinaw, Anissa Omeasoo, and Stephanie Littlechild each gave updates on the Operations Update, Infrastructure, the Annual Work Plan in Review, their Policy, Law, and Practice Framework, new Program Initiatives, especially those regarding Family Violence and Jordan's Principle, and their After Hours contact number (780-335-1778).

They also showed their Notice (The Act Respecting Inuit, Metis, and First Nations Children and Families), which focused on ECN exercising their jurisdiction over our own children in care.

They then showed their Statistics, with a data pull from the past year. They saw that with statistics that their primary concern is neglect. First Nations Designate, Anissa Omeasoo, then spoke, giving updates on KKI's Culture and Language Programming, and the Children's

Christmas Gift giving event of 2020.

Prevention Specialist, Vanessa Omeasoo wasn't in attendance, so Chrystal Littlechild-Hill gave her update. Vanessa participates in the weekly HUB program in Ermineskin, which is a multidisciplinary meeting where different entities work together to provide services to the community. She also provides a Traditional Parenting program. A new opportunity is upcoming in the upcoming Train the Trainer Program, which gives job opportunities to local Nation citizens.

Chrystal also presented the Letter of Intent Process. As well as calling attention to the KKI Information Sessions, many of which focus on prevention, such as the ongoing Kinship and Foster Homes Information Sessions in partnership with Wetaskiwin CFS. Recent Resources Information Sessions that are family, child, and youth focused include Zebra Centre, SACE, and Family Violence. Also on offer is a Psychoeducational Virtual Series focused on Mental Health and Impacts on Children. They are also offering support for Prenatal and Post-Partum care for parents.

KKI also gave an Update on the KKI Virtual Conference, their Upcoming Year (2021-2022) and hosted a quick question period.

~article/photos by Sara Lee~

Community Wellness Hosts Drive-In Movie Event for Family Day

February 15, 2021

After a freezing week of weather with wind chill factors around -45°C the weather warmed up in time for the Community Wellness hosted Family Day drive-in movie event. Hot chocolate and snacks were provided to the attendees who remained in their vehicles to watch the 2017 Pixar hit "Coco," with the sound conveniently broad-

cast to 102.5 FM. "We have about 7 volunteers" said Jerry Saddleback, as he loaded up snack boxes to bring out to waiting vehicles. The event started a bit late, as the portable drive-in movie service suffered a flat tire en route to Neyaskweyahk. Following the event





there was a fireworks display. Josephine Small commented on the ECN Facebook post, that "My grandkids and I had a great time thanks to everyone who helped put this family event on." ~Article by Sara Lee, Photos by Tara Cutarm, and Violet Konchinew~



ECN Program Operations Update



This is to inform all, that at a duly convened Chief and Council meeting, held on Monday, February 22, 2021, a motion was approved that the ECN Adand Program Operations ministration will remain as currently operating until The operational March 31, 2021. days and hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This schedule will be followed until further notice by Chief and Council and depending on AHS restrictions/bans. This schedule is for the essential staff members that have continued to work during this pandemic.

All safety protocols will continue to be followed – wearing of facemasks, social distancing, frequent handwashing and hand sanitizing in all public buildings. It is also important that Leadership, employees and members continue to be tested on a regular basis. All public buildings are closed to the public and members will be seen by appointment only.

Thank you to the Leadership and EOC members that have continuously strived to meet the needs of all ECN members. I appreciate the constant work that has been done in keeping Ermineskin Cree Nation employees and members safe.

Respectfully. Geraldine Hill

Administrator, Ermineskin Cree Nation



Updates from ECN

Ermineskin Cree Nation staff and volunteers are finishing up their two week endeavor to assemble and deliver hampers to all ECN on reserve. The hampers included fresh produce, dry goods, and frozen meat and pierogis.

Ermineskin Cree Nation has been working hard to support our citizens during the State of Emergency called at the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis.

For off reserve Nation citizens and continued support for on-reserve citizens, keep informed of upcoming resources and events in upcoming editions of the Newsletter, on our Social Media sites, and on our website; Ermineskin.ca, as well as all the posters in this current edition of the Newsletter.



Maskwacis Begins Second Dose Vaccinations

February 23, 2021

The Neyaskweyahk Okimaw Kamik (NOK), was a busy and exciting place to be as Elder's and Essential staff who had already received their first dose of the Moderna vaccine were scheduled for their second dose. Anne Wildcat, the Director of Infrastructure in





ECN, was very pleased with the orderliness of the vaccination progress, as they found the event consistently on schedule as lunch began. Anne stated that the first round of vaccines had been hectic, with cancellations and phone calls throughout the day. Following the first round of vaccinations and the planning required, the team were familiar with the rhythm of their setup and seemed more at ease.

Elder Rose Makinaw spoke about her experience following the first dose, "I was okay. I

had no problem... I felt safe because you never know when you're out and about whether the person you run into or meet has it (COVID-19) or not. Especially after the 14 day period (for the first dose to reach it's full protection) I felt safe enough to go to the City (Edmonton)... I still have a little concern about the variants. I've heard that this protects (people) from it." (*Pictured: Left,* Rose Makinaw. *Right,* Effie Janvier.

~article/photos by Sara Lee~

KKI Host Valentine's Day Drive-thru Event

February 12, 2021

Kanawemahwasowin Kamik, Inc. (KKI) held a drivethru Valentine's day event at the Neyaskweyahk Okimaw Kamik (NOK) to spread the positive message of the program, which seeks to nurture our citizens. Goodie bags, Valentine's with important resource numbers on the back, and snacks were provided and available to Neyaskweyahk children in care and the rest of the community. The full text on the Valentines read: "I hope this Valentine's Day brings you love, smiles and laughter. Miyosakihitowin-kisikanisik... Happy Valentine's Day from the Kanawemahwasowin Kamik Team.... We here at KKI send Love, Care, and Compassion this Valentine's Day as it looks very different in these unprecedented times. We want all our children, youth and families to celebrate Valentine's Day knowing the team here at KKI send our Valentine's Greetings and continued supports to attend to your health; holistically. We are truly in this together. Maskwacis Mobile Mental Health (780-362-2150), Maskwacis Health Services (780-585-3830), KKI After Hours Cell (780-335-1778)." Chrystal Littlechild-Hill spoke on the message imparted by the gifts: "we want our people to come and...see that they're cared for... We change the narrative and discourse" of



our nation "when we do that," that it's "different than what our grandparents and parents" experienced and it's "meaningful and intertwined." Chrystal's focus on creating a more positive environment is in response to concerns about lateral violence in the community and is an actionable way to spread love and healing, using the traditional Cree values of Sakihitowin (love) and Wahkotowin (kinship). On hand to give out treats while staying warm around the fire were Jason Makinaw, Tyler Makinaw, Stephanie Littlechild, Tennille Makinaw, Anissa Omeasoo, and Chrystal Littlechild-Hill (above).

~Article/Photos by Sara Lee~

NGCI Announces New General Manager of Niwihcihaw Acceptance Ltd.



MASKWACIS, AB – The Neyaskweyahk Group of Companies Inc. (NGCI) Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Mr. S. Collin Wildcat, is the new General Manager of Niwihcihaw Acceptance Ltd (NAL), effective February 8, 2021.

Mr. Wildcat brings over 20 years of executive experience, which consists of three terms as an elected member of ECN leadership, various roles in executive management, governance and administration. Collin joins NAL with a great understanding of the vision, the drive and capacity to steer this important aspect of the NGCI business portfolio.

"The opportunity I see with NAL, is to help re-establish, then maintain what NAL has already successfully been recognized for, but to also evolve and bring NAL to new levels of revenues and markets," said Mr. Wildcat.

While NGCI have been providing support and direction for NAL over the past two years, the company went without a General Manager for one year. The main objectives to seeking a new General Manager is to ensure the responsibilities of proper support, leadership, accountability and liability issues are delegated. With a strategic plan and managerial work plans in place for one designated individual, NAL will have the full capacity to move forward in a direction of growth and sustainability.

With updated policies and strategic plan in place in the beginning of the new fiscal year, our new General Manager and staff will surely accomplish the goals set out in the next few years.

On behalf of the NGCI Board of Directors, we are pleased to have Mr. Wildcat join our team and look forward to his building on the strong foundation we already have at Niwihcihaw Acceptance Ltd.

For Immediate Release

February 24, 2021

Maskwacis RCMP Members Embrace and Support Pink Shirt Day

Maskwacis RCMP Regular Members, Community Tripartite Agreement (CTA) Members, and support staff were proudly wearing pink on Wednesday's Pink Shirt Day. Members are focused on working together with the community to promote treating people with respect, and kindness. Community Policing members have been engaged in the community with virtual Pink Shirt Day presentations to Schools within the Community of Maskwacis.

"It's a positive experience for the community." said Cst. Stephen Taylor with the Maskwacis RCMP who was proudly wearing a Pink Shirt on his uniform.

Maskwacis RCMP have 13 Members within the CTA who serve the Four Nations within Maskwacis devoting 100% of their working hours to the policing needs of the Nations. Pink Shirt Day is an Initiative that was supported by the RCMP members and members within the community to raise the issues around bullying.



-30- Media Contact: Cst. Andrew Deme Maskwacis RCMP

RCMP Message Regarding Criminal Record Checks

Good Morning,

Over the past few weeks we have seen an increase in requests for criminal record checks and it appears as though there has been some confusion with the process and meaning of "essential". I have come up with a solution to this issues as the process as it seems to have gotten cumbersome and confusing for everyone. Here is my solution to the problem of criminal record checks

Criminal Records checks will be **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. Please call ahead to book a time (We are opening to all criminal record checks no longer essential only, no letter required)

Hours of operation for Criminal Record Checks Mon —Thurs 830-430pm — Please do not come to the detachment without an appointment as we cannot have people standing around in the lobby area

Phone number 780-585-4600 to book your appointment

The turnaround time will be 48 hours no longer 2 weeks

Bring 2 pieces of government identification -1 with a picture and current Maskwacis address.

I hope that this is a satisfactory resolution to the criminal record check issues that we are experiencing. Please understand that this is subject to change as we continue through the pandemic and keep an eye on the number of COVID cases we experience. Please feel free to share this email with your communities so that we are all on the same page.

Please give me a call if you have any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,

Leanne
Insp. Leanne MacMillan
OIC Maskwacis RCMP
PO Box 490
Maskwacis, Alberta TOC 1N0
Telephone: 780-585-4620

Job Opportunities

	Employment Opportunity	
	Maskwacis Health Services	
	ard Resume and Supporting Docume	
Persor	nnel Department Maskwacis Health S	
	Box 100 Maskwacis Alberta TOC 1NO	
Phone: 780-585-383	0 ext. 2412, Fax: 780-585-2203, Ema	
Job Description	Documents required	Closing Date
Custodian/Maintenance at	Diplomas & Certificates	Friday February 26, 2021 @
Pigeon Lake Satellite Health	Criminal Record Check with	4:00PM !!!
Office	Vulnerable Sector	
	Child Intervention Clearance	
	(CWIS)	
Payroll Clerk	Diplomas & Certificates	Friday February 26, 2021 @
	Criminal Record Check with	4:00PM !!!
	Vulnerable Sector	
	Child Intervention Clearance	
	(CWIS)	
Maintenance Assistant (Casual)	Diplomas & Certificates	Friday February 26, 2021 @
	Criminal Record Check with	4:00PM !!!
	Vulnerable Sector	
	Child Intervention Clearance	
	(CWIS)	
	Copy of Valid Driver's License	
	Current Driver's Abstract	
Night Shift Security (Casual)	Diplomas & Certificates	Friday February 26, 2021 @
	Criminal Record Check with	4:00PM !!!
	Vulnerable Sector	
	Child Intervention Clearance	
	(CWIS)	
	Valid Class 5 Driver's License	
Custodian – Early Years (MFI)	Certificates (Janitorial	Friday, March 5, 2021 @ 4:00
Program	Training/TDG/WHMIS/CPR, etc.)	PM
	Criminal Record Check with	
	Vulnerable Sector	
	Child Intervention Clearance	
	(CWIS)	
	Current First Aid & CPR	
	certification are an asset	









Canupawakpa Dakota Nation 2019

WWW.CHASEOT.COM

Chase Operator Training Ltd. is proud to announce our 2021, 10 - week training program, partnering with Neyaskweyahk Employment & Skills Training.

We are providing one on one supervised hands-on training, receiving 64 hours of seat time per piece of equipment to prepare and assist you for employment as a Heavy Equipment Operator on or off-reserve.

Siksika 2020



Contact: Neyaskweyahk Employment & Skills Training (NEST) Phone: (780) 585-0191 Training date: TBD Only accepting 8 applicants

Heavy Equipment Training: Backhoe, Dozer, Excavator, Grader, Skid Steer, Wheel Loader & more

CHECK OUT OUR VIDEO FROM OUR TIME AT SIKSIKA FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE!



Siksika 2020

CHASE OPERATOR TRAINING HAS BEEN PROVIDING CUSTOM ON SITE SAFETY TRAINING FOR *YOUR* POWER MOBILE EQUIPMENT SINCE 2008!



ERMINESKIN CREE NATION



WE NEED YOUR

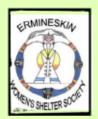
HELPINFORMATION REQUESTED

FOR SOME TIME NOW, THE PROVINCIAL SHERIFFS AND SOMETIMES PEACE
OFFICERS HAVE BEEN SITTING AT THE ERMINESKIN RESERVE AND WETASKIWIN
COUNTY BOUNDARIES. THEY SIT WAITING TO STOP THE MAJORITY OF OUR
CITIZENS WITHOUT CAUSE. SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SHERIFFS
PROGRAM IN MARCH 2009, COUNCIL HAS RAISED THEIR CONCERNS OF JURISDICTION
AND PATROLLING TACTICS BUT THE CONCERNS HAVE FELL ONTO THE DEAF EARS
OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

THE ERMINESKIN CHIEF AND COUNCIL ARE NOW TAKING THE POSITION TO DOCUMENT THEIR PROFILING TACTICS. IF YOU SEE A SHERIFF OR PEACE OFFICER PARKED ON THE COUNTY LINE, PLEASE FORWARD THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO ANY MEMBER OF YOUR COUNCIL.

(1) DATE AND TIME; AND (2) THE CAR NUMBER AND/OR LICENSE PLATES. PHOTOS OF CAR NUMBER OR LICENSE PLATE WILL BE ACCEPTED BUT SPECIFIC DATE AND TIME MUST BE INCLUDED. FORWARD TO COUNCIL MEMBER, EMAILS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE ECN WEBSITE

CHIEF AND COUNCIL
ARE NOT ASKING
YOU TO SHOW
ANY OVERT
DISRESPECT.
SIMPLY FORWARD
THE INFORMATION
REQUESTED AT
YOUR EARLIEST
CONVENIENCE.



CREATE A POSTER WITH THE THEME: #SEEN AND HEARD #CHILDREN HAVE RIGHTS



CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT AT MMIW VIGIL MARCH 25TH 2021 ON THE HAWK RADIO



FOR MORE INFO: SHEILA JOHANSEN ERMINESKIN WOMEN'S SHELTER 780–585–4470 E-MAIL POSTERS TO SHEILA@EWSSHOPE.CA OR DROP OFF IN BLUE TUB AT SHELTER



Poster Deadline: March 17th 2021 PRIZES: 1st- \$150 2nd- \$100 3rd- \$50 age groups: 6-12 & 13-17

We are pleased to announce that

Maskwacis Parents Place funding has
been secured for another 2 years
through Alberta Children Services!!!!

For information purposes:

Maskwacis Parents Place is a <u>Four Band</u> support program for **Special Needs Children ages 0-18**. Although we are not currently transporting clients to appointments at this time, we support families in the following ways:

- ◆ Nutrition food program for those children requiring special diet requirements
- ◆ Access to all Integrated Family Services programs (online and in-person)
- ◆ Assistance for families to travel to out of town appointments for special needs appointments (ie: gas voucher + food voucher)
- ◆ Assistance navigating assessments for your child when concerns arise
- Mental & emotional support when requested
- ◆ Support accessing Jordons Principle funding

For information, please call 780-585-2254 or email to Integratedfamily@yahoo.com



FREE TO PARTICIPATE!

MASKWACIS VIRTUAL JOB FAIR

CONNECTIONS | OPPORTUNITIES | KNOWLEDGE

VIRTUAL JOB FAIR SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS JOB SEEKERS THURSDAY MARCH 25, 2021 | ONLINE: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

REGISTER ONLINE AT: MASKWACISVIRTUALJOBFAIR.CA & UPLOAD YOUR RESUME



WHY ATTEND?

- Apply for jobs
- Meet Hiring Companies
- 1 to 1 Meetings with Recruiters
- Meet with Job Coaches
- Live Presentations
- Educational Workshops
- Chance to Win Prizes

Remember to upload your resume! Dress to impress!

Sponsors:





Funded by:





FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MASKWACIS EMPLOYMENT CENTER INFO@MASKWACISEMPLOYMENT.CA | 780-585-4450



ATTENTION MASKWACIS ARTISTS



The Maskwacis RCMP is opening a competition for Maskwacis artists to create a design to be put on a wall in the Detachment. The Detachment has never had something like this. The artist will have a wall approximately **12 feet by 10 feet to paint**.

Guidelines:

Must be from Maskwacis

If there are words they must be in Cree and English

Please submit samples of your artwork and art intended for this space.

Prizes:

1st Prize – You can paint your design on the wall and you will be compensated.

2nd Prize - \$100 cash prize

3rd Prize - \$50 cash prize

The submitted artwork will be judged in partnership with community members.

Designs can be submitted to the Community Policing Members of the Maskwacis RCMP, by dropping them off at the RCMP detachment.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 30, 2021

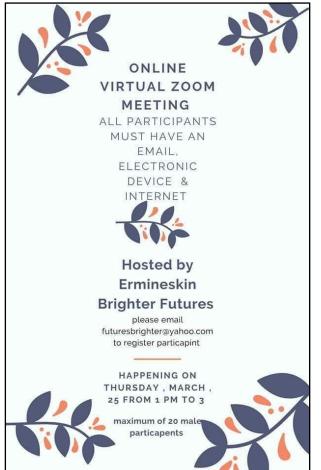


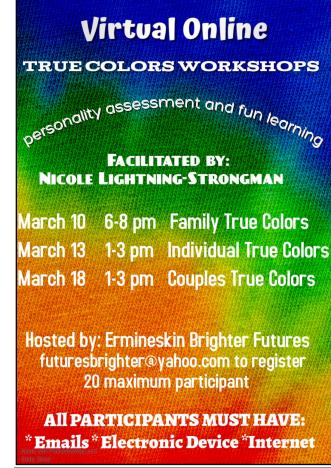


(780) 585-4444 Ermineskin Women's Shelter Society shelter owned and operated by Ermineskin Women's Shelter in Hobbema. Although owned by one First Nation, shelter offers services to all First Nations in the area. Shelter opened in 1992.













For Safety reasons
Cemetery Road
behind the School Is
Closed. Please take
alternate routes.
Thank you

Neyaskweyahk Human Services



For <u>NEW APPLICANTS</u> or <u>EXISTING</u>
<u>CLIENTELLE</u>; If you are <u>CURRENTLY</u>
receiving CRB (Canadian Recovery
Benefits), <u>YOU DO NOT QUALIFY FOR</u>
INCOME SUPPORT.

All NHS clients are REQUIRED to submit monthly bank statements for the Approval Process.



POST SECONDARY FUNDING DEADLINE: March 15, 2021 FOR SPRING Term (May-June) For 3rd & 4th Year students

- A student must take a course requirement that is offered only in spring or summer.
- Students who would like to finish their degree in April of the following year.
- Students in situations where prerequisite courses need to be taken for the September start and must have faculty advisor confirmation.

Contact: Elinor at 780-585-4006 or elinor@ermineskin.ca or application can be downloaded at the Ermineskin Cree Nation Website under the Administration.



ERMINESKIN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT NOTICE





For Health and Safety of Staff

There will be no Service Calls to Homes under Quarantine, those homes in Self-Isolation, those First Contact of a Positive Covid case. Thank you for your understanding.

"Please be careful and mindful in your water usage and septic systems as there could be lengthy waits for an Emergency service provider during this time of the year"

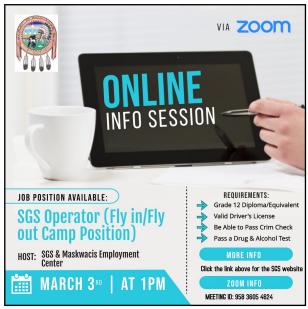
Emergency Service-Call: Jenelle Lightning (780) 335-6161

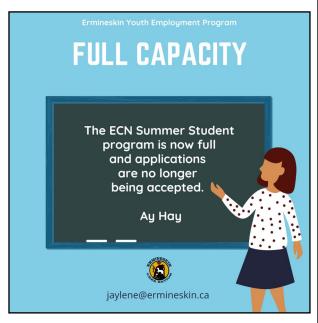












MASKWACIS COUNSELLING & SUPPORT SERVICES



Feeling stressed? Depressed?

Have anxiety? Need addiction support?

We have Counsellors available for appointments via phone.

This is a difficult time, and our Mental Heatlh team is here for you.

CALL 780-585-2151 OR TEXT 780-312-5268

You can also message our facebook page @maskwacishealth to reach a Mental Health Counsellor

COVID-19 TESTING SCHEDULE

MONDAY MASKWACIS AMBULANCE BAY 10:00 - 4:00 HOME TESTING FOR "SPECIAL CASES" 10:30 - 2:30

TUESDAY MASKWACIS AMBULANCE BAY 10:00 - 4:00 LOUIS BULL FIREHALL 10:30 - 2:30

WEDNESDAY MASKWACIS AMBULANCE BAY 10:00 - 4:00 MONTANA GYMNASIUM 10:30 - 2:30

THURSDAY MASKWACIS AMBULANCE BAY 10:00 - 4:00 PIGEON LAKE REC CENTRE 10:30 - 2:30

FRIDAY MASKWACIS AMBULANCE BAY 10:00 - 4:00 HOME TESTING FOR "SPECIAL CASES" 10:30 - 2:30

MASKWACIS AMBULANCE BAY 10:00 - 4:00

COVID-19 Testing is weather permitting.

"SPECIAL CASES" means you don't have a vehicle and you cannot find a ride to get tested. We only home test if you're a confirmed close contact showing symptoms OR you have symptoms and you share a home with an elder or at risk persons.

/OU MUST PROVIDE A WORKING PHONE NUMBER

PLEASE SELF-ISOLATE after you had been tested to reduce the risk of spread or contracting the virus somewhere else. A COVID-19 test result can take up to 2-10 days.

WEAR A MASK & PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING.

BRING YOUR HEALTH CARD/NUMBER - Not doing so can delay your test results or your specimen can be rejected at the labs.

Follow on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

COVID-19 HOTLINE

(780) 335-3744

We will be taking the initial inquires with the following headings:

 A concern about a person that is NOT following isolation or self-isolation requirements.

2. A concern about a mass gathering (Will be forwarded to the RCMP at 780-585-4600.

3. A concern about a business or public place that is not following restrictions.

4. A concern about a workplace that is not following health and safety restrictions to protect employees.

5. A concern or question related to Schools and COVID.

6. For General information about COVID-19 such as information about events/activities.

7. A request or complaint to Environmental Public Health that is NOT realted to COVID-19 restrictions.

8. A request for information about an EPH program or services (water sampling, education courses, inspections, etc.).

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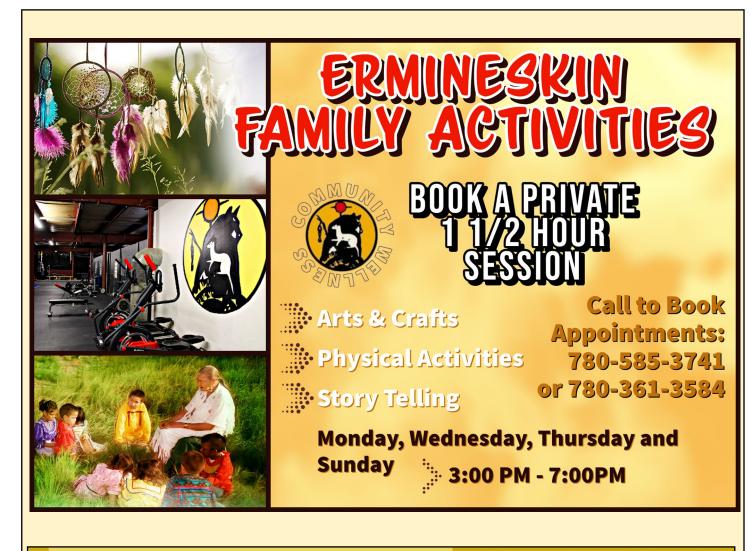


KNOW YOU'RE NEGATIVE

#STOPTHESPREAD

FACEBOOK,

INSTAGRAM OR







Pigeon Lake/ Buck Lake

780-335-0627

Townsite

780-335-0653

Rural/Country

MON-WED

780-335-0652 780-335-6048 THURS-SUN

> 9 AM - 6 PM **CLOSED AT 12 NOON**