



Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin ᑭᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ ᑭᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ

# Ermineskin Newsletter January 26th, 2021

Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin Kise Pîsim Mitâtât Nîstanaw Nikotwâsik Akimaw Anohc

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## An Important Message From the Chief on Rising Covid Cases

Recently the Chief has released a short statement about the current dramatic increase of active covid cases in our community. He started by saying “As of January 16th, 2022, in light of the rapid increase of positive cases in Ermineskin and surrounding communities, ECN operations will be shut down for a period of two weeks from January 17th to January 28th, 2022. Essential services will be available for emergencies only.” He continued “Reminder that all ECN offices are closed to the public. No entry will be permitted without proof of negative Covid-19 test results. This is for the safety of our nation members, as well as our staff. We would like to encourage our members to stay safe by social distancing, sanitizing frequently, wearing a mask while in public places, and continuing to get tested.”

On the topic of testing and testing availability he had this to say “Maskwacis Health Services does 7-days a week testing at the ambulance authority, located beside the Jim Omeasoo building. There has been an additional two days approved for staff testing at the N.O.K. Building. If staff should have any symptoms, even mild ones, do not attend the N.O.K. staff testing site. You are recommended to go to Maskwacis Ambulance Bay Maskwacis Health Services also does weekly vaccine clinics at the N.O.K. Building. Every Tuesday, 9:30 am – 2:30pm. “

As for Vaccinations and hampers he advised, “It is strongly recommended to get your vaccine or booster

shots when possible. In regards to the quarantine hampers, we ask that you remain patient. Staff have been experiencing high call volumes and are doing their best to prepare the hampers and sanitization kits in a timely manner. If you do not get through to an operator, please wait for voicemail and: 1) leave a message 2) provide a contact number. An intake worker will call you back. Please allow up to 48 hours for deliveries.”

He concluded by saying “ We would like to send prayers out to the families and community members during this difficult time. Covid has taken a toll on our physical health, as well as our mental health. So just keep our members in your thoughts. Also, would like to express gratitude for the staff that has continued to work throughout a global pandemic. Thank you for working together for our Ermineskin Nation Members.”



# NEWSLETTER CONTACT:

**NEXT ISSUE: FEBRUARY  
9TH, 2022**



**Submission Deadline:  
February 8th, 2022**

(780) 585-3741

isaac@erminekin.ca  
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marleigh@erminekin.ca

ECN I.T. and Communications  
PO Box 219  
Maskwacis, AB  
T0C 1N0

[www.erminekin.ca](http://www.erminekin.ca)



Neyaskweyahk Human Services

## **ERMINEKIN NHS ISSUANCE FOR FEBRUARY JANUARY 27TH, 2022**

### **MAIL-OUT AND PICK-UP**

Clients are to send in any paperwork such as; bank statements, utility bills and updated contact information.

Pick-Up will be available at the NHS Office  
10:00am - 4:00pm

Reminder that masks are MANDATORY when entering any ECN Office.

**Neyaskweyahk Human Services (780)585-3835**

**[crystal@erminekin.ca](mailto:crystal@erminekin.ca)**

## In This Issue

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## An Update on the Ratification

The Ermineksin Settlement process is still progressing as it should be, however the process is a slow one. The ratification results have been shared with the Crown and we are now awaiting dates from the Federal Court to finalize the proceedings.

We still anticipate receipt of the Settlement Agreement sometime in the Spring of this year. The Settlement Agreement Planning Com-

mittee will be posted by the end of February and will follow the ECN selection procedures for Committees.

Not too much has changed, but if there are further questions or comments please feel free to contact the External Affairs department or Colin Wildcat via phone at (780) 585-3741 Ext. 260



## Celebrating the Success of Indigenous Women in Local Business

We recently interviewed two local indigenous business women on their successes and the challenges they overcame in their careers.



-Danielle Baptiste

Sage Beauty is an indigenous-owned and operated business that is opening a new location in the Wetaskiwin Mall! Danielle Baptiste is a member of Samson Cree Nation, who opened up Sage Beauty Salon in Leduc back in October of 2020. She originally worked for the Oil and Gas Industry and eventually wanted to

open her own consultation business. Then COVID happened, which was a blessing in disguise for her. “It made me rethink which career path that I wanted to take and I started my journey with cosmetology”.

She has opened up a new location for Sage Beauty that offer a variety of cosmetology services such as permanent makeup, lash extensions, skincare (microdermabrasion, micro-needling, chemical peels, dermaplaning), and tiny tattoos as well! When choosing the name Sage Beauty, she had this to say, “I wanted it to represent me as an indigenous woman and, Sage is a traditional women’s medicine and I thought that it fit well. I wanted my business to be advertised as Indigenous owned and operated.”

Danielle is 15 times certified in Skin Care, Lash Extensions, Permanent Makeup, Tiny Tattoos and a Certified Classic Lash Instructor. “I will be eventually be getting certified to train people in volume lashes, and permanent makeup! My goal is to expand in into a Sage Beauty Training Academy.” We asked Danielle some of the successes and chal-

lenges she has faced, “I believe that challenges are something to build a strong business. There are not a lot of female, indigenous owned-businesses, and I wanted to connect with not only non-indigenous people, but first nation’s peoples as well. Which is why I wanted to open a second location in Wetaskiwin, because it is close to the community and has a pretty close equivalent of indigenous and non-indigenous population. Some successes would be that I am my own boss, being able to obtain the certifications that I have and having the many supporters that I do. My children and family have been the biggest support I have needed, as they have made many sacrifices in the process of the businesses.”

She also says, “If you are looking to start a business, it is important to really look into the career field and industry you want to pursue. Take the time to do your research, and be sure it is what you really want to do.”

Danielle also helps run Sweet Treats Kitchen at the 4-Nations Arena with her Husband.

You can follow Sage Beauty on her website, Facebook or Instagram:

Website: [www.sagebeauty.online/](http://www.sagebeauty.online/)

Facebook: Sage Beauty

Instagram: [sagebeauty\\_00](https://www.instagram.com/sagebeauty_00)



## Celebrating the Success of Indigenous Women in Local Business Contd.



L-R  
Osamuskwasis  
Roan, Wiser  
Wood, Tatiana  
Montour, White  
Buffalo Boy,  
Askiwkayatota.  
Photography by  
Curtis Cameron.

Osamuskwasis Roan, is an ECN Member from Pigeon Lake Alberta Canada. “I am Nehiyaw and Tsuu T’ina also known as (Cree and Dene). Ever since I was a little girl I’ve always been interested in fashion and art. I was taught how to beadwork by my Great Grandmother Sarah Meguinis, my Grandmother Lily Anne Roan and my Mother Bear Roan. I’ve also had numerous aunts, uncles and mentors who inspired me in creating my own pieces of traditional art-work.”

She states that her main focus around her art is the land, culture, and language. “I always try to incorporate who I am and where I come from, as an indigenous woman, into my beadwork, sewing, paintings, digital art, photography, and makeup.”

She has just announced her new Solstice Collection, available for pre-order February 5th 2022 at 7:00 pm MST on her website: [www.osamuskwasis.com](http://www.osamuskwasis.com) “So far I have created 5 collections and I try my best to do one each season. This collection was actually inspired by one of my grandfathers on Nimosoms side. His name was Chief Francis Bull of Louis Bull. He wore a headdress that had the stars like the ones in this collection; of course his photos were black and white so I just came up with my own colour combinations. I also really love the colour green and wanted to incorporate this beautiful colour in my collection. I recently learned how to do caribou tufting, I actually taught myself and I was able to create a few pieces for this collection that I am very excited about.”

With COVID-19 rising in the community, we asked Osamuskwasis how she has been affected and how she has adapted to these changes. “I faced a lot of challenges during the pandemic that I never really shared or talked about online. One challenge I faced was not being able to attend in-person art markets and galleries across turtle island, but in 2021 we were able to travel a bit and I was able to go to Santa Fe Indian market which was a juried art show and only a select number of artists were selected to go. I had the opportunity to share some of my work on my very first runway at Minnesota Fashion Week 2021. Another challenge I had was losing loved ones due to Covid-19 and other

reasons, which has caused a lot of grief for me and put a huge toll on my creative aspect and I wasn’t able to create with a good mind or heart. It’s very important for me to work on projects with a good mindset so it comes out exactly how I wanted.”

She also goes on to say, “My biggest supporters have been nikawiy (my mother), nimosom ekwa nokom (my grandparents) and entire immediate family. As well as my friends who have helped me a lot, along with my Instagram and Facebook supporters. I also have a few members from my home community in Pigeon Lake who have supported me along the way.”

“I give back to my community in BIG and small ways, it’s very important to me to give back. When I think of my community I think of everyone who has taught me, guided me and helped shape me into the person I am today, and everything I do is for my community. I have donated funds towards the Residential School Society and also have gathered funds to help my mosom build a ceremony building for our community in Pigeon Lake. I have worked with women, men and 2S (Two-Spirit) aspiring models to help them gain confidence modelling my clothing. A huge part of my brand is to bring cultural awareness across the globe to show people that we are still here and to gain recognition not only for myself but for my community in Pigeon Lake, Alberta 138A. I hope to keep giving back to my community and to create change within it. It has always been a dream of mine.”

When it comes to starting you own business, Osamuskwasis has this advice to give, “Do your research, put in effort towards your business, and take advantage of free online classes or seminars regarding business. Find your passion for business and take that leap of faith because you never know where it will take you.”

Osamuskwasis has made a huge impact on Indigenous youth/young adults in the community and beyond, “I hope to be good role model for Nehiyaw and indigenous youth so they will have someone to look up to, and I hope to keep paving the way and creating opportunities for youth who are willing to do the same.” You can follow Osa on her website, Facebook or Instagram:

Website:  
[www.osamuskwasis.com](http://www.osamuskwasis.com)  
Facebook: Osamuskwasis  
Instagram: osamuskwasis



—Articles Written by Marleigh Cutarm

—Osamuskwasis Roan

## What the Assist Fund Means To Me: Lauren Crane

Local mother Lauren Crane has provided the following article.

As a mother, I want to make my kids happy. Hockey makes them happy, and they have grown so much on and off the ice.

Without the Hockey Canada Foundation Assist Fund, hockey wouldn't be a possibility for two of my children and I am so grateful for the support.

My 16-year-old son Quavis and my 14-year-old daughter Patricia have received the funding for their registrations this season. We previously used the Lace 'Em Up Foundation, but learned they partnered with the Assist Fund, so I filled out the forms and we received the funding.



(L-R) Patricia Crane, Lauren Crane, Quavis Crane

Both play goalie and both are ambitious in their dreams – hockey and otherwise.

Quavis wants to be known for playing hockey. He has struggled with his self-confidence, like any other goalie, but he takes every win and loss as a learning lesson. He hopes to continue to play hockey once his U18 season is over, but he will always love the game. If he can't continue with hockey, he wants to be a veterinarian. Patricia's dream, ever since she started playing goal, was to play for Team Canada. She idolizes Shannon Szabados, a two-time Olympic gold medallist. She is still figuring out who she wants to be, but playing hockey at a high level is her dream.

My kids love hockey and playing with their friends, and I want them to be active and to stay on the straight path.

As a single mother, I work hard to keep them in the sport they love and having access to the Assist Fund allows me to do just that. With how expensive hockey is, it is really a godsend to me because I wouldn't be able to afford to put either of them in hockey.

Getting this assist means a lot to us. Both Quavis and Patricia understand what it means for them to receive this funding so they can continue to play hockey. They are always talking about hockey – what happened last season, when the new season is coming up and how the next season is going to go. They love it.

When I was growing up in Onion Lake, Sask., hockey was a big thing. When I had my older kids, they weren't interested in hockey, but were into other sports. When I had my younger kids and moved back to Maskwacis, Alta., a friend suggested I sign up my son Bradley for hockey. Quavis and Patricia quickly followed in his footsteps.

They love making friends, travelling to new places and seeing new people through hockey, and they are gaining skills on and off the ice. Through the game, they are learning how to be approachable and friendly, listen to their coaches and build their self-confidence.

The Hockey Canada Foundation Assist Fund helps all hard-working parents so we can keep them in hockey instead of telling them we can't afford it. It helps us financially, of course, but it also helps us watch our kids grow and develop into the people they are.

Thank you to the Hockey Canada Foundation, partners and those who have donated to the Assist Fund. To be able to share our story and our experience – we are so grateful. It is such a great resource for many to keep kids in hockey.

## Traditional Medicine and Working With the Vaccine

Covid has taken its toll on everyone and in recognition of this we would like to share a story submitted to us by someone who has had a difficult experience with Covid and how they've dealt with it. Here is their story: My name is Ernestine Saulteaux. One year ago in January of 2021- I had covid. I had to take a 3 month leave of absence from my teaching job. I was lucky that I didn't need to be hospitalized.. But I suffered all symptoms of Covid. I was in bed for 3 months at home and I had nightmares while I suffered. I lived on boiled lemons with ginger and



chicken noodle soup. I relied on our Cree herbs (natawahpokan). My common law and friends constantly prayed for me in our Cree ceremonies. To this day I still suffer 2 mild symptoms- coughing and short term

memory. I recovered! I returned to my job. I love teaching our local Cree kids in academics and about our Cree language and culture. If you haven't been vaccinated-get your shots! It will give you a longer life span. It will allow you to live longer and to enjoy the love of your family. Even pets! Our Cree language and culture was granted to us by our Creator-Kise Manito. Our beautiful Cree language and culture will save you too. Smudge daily-in the mornings and at the end of each day. Tapwe! Akosi!



## A Quick Reminder on Covid Isolation Requirements

Staying home and avoiding others if you have COVID-19 symptoms or test positive is the best way to keep others safe. You are legally required to follow isolation requirements:

- + Fully vaccinated (2 doses or 1 dose Janssen): isolate for 5 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer, if symptoms are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition. For 5 days following isolation, wear a mask at all times when around others outside of home.
- + Not fully vaccinated (1 dose or less): isolate for 10

days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer, if symptoms are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition.

+If you test negative and have symptoms, you should still stay home and away from others until symptoms resolve.



## On the Rumor of Covid Parties

One of the troubling stories that's been making the rounds about the coronavirus is related to so-called "COVID parties." While the name itself is absurd—there's nothing at all festive about COVID-19—it hasn't stopped reports from circulating that young people are recklessly gathering to expose themselves to the coronavirus on purpose. Some reports suggest it's "to get it over with," others that it's to help build herd immunity, and still others state that there's a financial bet involved to see who "wins the pot" by getting the virus first.



Whether or not COVID-19 parties are really going on, here are the facts: Canadians are getting together in large groups, many for activities that could be easily avoided. And just like COVID parties, they're far from safe.

Large gatherings can lead to COVID-19—even for people who weren't there. Around the country, large groups of people of all ages and all walks of life are gathering—by choice. This is going on despite the strong call by health officials and medical experts to maintain social distancing and heed their warnings about the very real health dangers of the virus.

Dozens of video clips show scenes from all over: packed bars, full churches, and even an entire small town chockablock with motorcycle enthusiasts.

There's no doubt that people are engaging in behaviors that put lives at risk for getting COVID-19—even the lives of people who weren't at these gatherings in the first place.

**"IRRESPONSIBLE AND DANGEROUS"**

Dr. Hinshaw offers stern warning about COVID-19 parties

That's why social distancing is so essential.

Think of social distancing, also called "physical distancing," as being in the same category as not texting and driving. It's all about making a choice that will help you avoid harming yourself and others.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, when infected people sneeze, cough or even talk, they produce droplets from their mouth or nose. These droplets fly into the air and land in the noses or mouths of people nearby. The lungs may also inhale the droplets. This is why COVID-19 spreads among people who are within about six feet of each other for an extended time.

Research shows that people infected with COVID-19 but who don't have symptoms (also known as "asymptomatic") also help spread the virus. Since people can spread COVID-19 before they even know they're sick, it becomes even more vital to stay at least six feet away from others whenever you can and always wear a mask, especially when you're not able to stay physically distant.

*-Article Taken From Frisbiehospital.com*



# Upcoming Events/Classifieds



*Early Years  
Valentines Craft  
Draw*

*\*MUST BE EY PARTICIPANT  
\*SEND PHOTO SUBMISSION TO  
EY VISITOR FOR PARTICIPATION*

*THREE CHANCES TO WIN A \$50  
BOSTON PIZZA 🍕 GIFT CARD*

*WINNERS PICKED AT RANDOM*

**DRAW DATE  
FEBRUARY 11TH 2022**

*Happy  
Valentine's  
day*



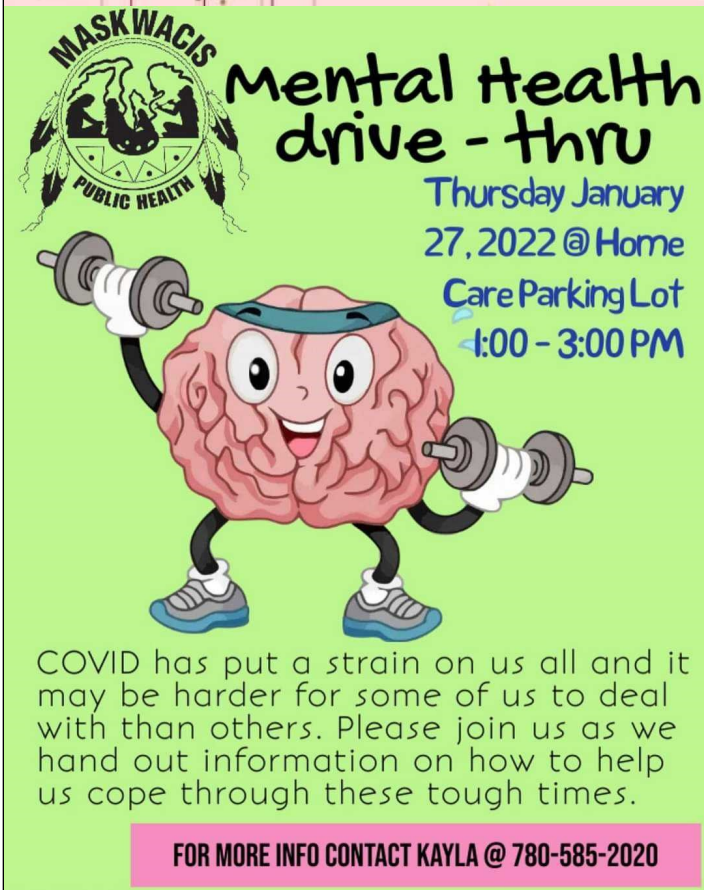

**(780)335-0652 or  
(780) 335-6048**

**DUE TO HIGH DEMAND AND  
DELAY IN STOCK  
DELIVERIES WILL BE ON  
HOLD UNTIL FRIDAY JANUARY 28TH.**

*We thank you for your patience*

**ERMINESKIN QUARANTINE FOOD HAMPERS**

**YOU CAN ALSO TEXT! Call hours 12 noon 7pm**



**MASKWAGIS  
PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Mental Health  
drive - thru**

**Thursday January  
27, 2022 @ Home  
Care Parking Lot  
1:00 - 3:00 PM**

COVID has put a strain on us all and it may be harder for some of us to deal with than others. Please join us as we hand out information on how to help us cope through these tough times.

**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT KAYLA @ 780-585-2020**

**Steps to schedule a call  
with an Elder  
with the Elders Mentoring  
Program**

- Send us a message on Facebook/Instagram/Email or Call/Text.
- We will get back to you right away and set up a time and day that works best for you.
- You will have a call with the Elder.
- You can schedule another one anytime.

**Phone Number: (780) 913-5341**





NEYASKWEYAHK GROUP OF COMPANIES INC.  
NIWIHCIAW ACCEPTANCE LTD.

**JOB OPPORTUNITY  
INTERMEDIATE ACCOUNTANT**

**SUMMARY**

The Intermediate Accountant is required to understand full cycle accounting from the most basic of operations to the most complex, primarily processing loans and other financial services. Further this individual will be responsible for financial accounting and administrative services required to meet legislative requirements at the operations of Niiwihcihaw Acceptance Ltd. The Intermediate Accountant will report directly to the General Manager of NAL. This individual must possess good public relation skills and demonstrate professionalism in dealing with the business public. Other responsibilities include the overall understanding of accounting standards, implementation and adherence to company programs, policies, and procedures as it pertains to the role of the position.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Degree with a major in Accounting Preferred or College Diploma in accounting
- Minimum 5 years' experience in a financial position
- Strong computer skills in Microsoft Office
- Familiarity with News Views Loan program and SAGE 50 Software is an asset
- Ability to speak and understand Cree Language
- Excellent Interpersonal and Communication skills
- Ability to work independently on routine tasks and as part of a team
- Organizational skills – prioritizing tasks
- Valid Class 5 driver's license and own transportation

Intermediate Supervisor:  
NAL General Manager

**SALARY:** Dependent upon education and experience  
**DEADLINE:** February 2, 2022

**INTERESTED PERSONS ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:**  
Cover Letter, Resume, 3 Updated/Current Letters of Reference,  
and an updated Criminal Record Check

**SUBMIT VIA EMAIL / FAX TO:**

Tricia Wildcat, VP Operations - Neyaskweyahk Group of Companies Inc.  
P.O Box 1320 Maskwacis, AB T0C 1N0  
Email: [tricia@ngcinc.ca](mailto:tricia@ngcinc.ca) Fax: (780) 585-0721

**\*\*\* Incomplete Applications will be screened out \*\*\***



MCSS PRESENTS:



**ANGER  
MANAGEMENT**

**PROFESSIONAL CONFIDENTIAL  
EFFECTIVE**

Six (6) classes - 1pm to 3 pm - February 7, 14, 22, 28th & March 7 & 14  
Join by telephone or via Zoom: dial 1.855.703.8985 - Meeting id-  
990.8658.0440# -passcode- 903985# - space is limited - call to register

@maskwaciscounselling // PH: 780.585.2268



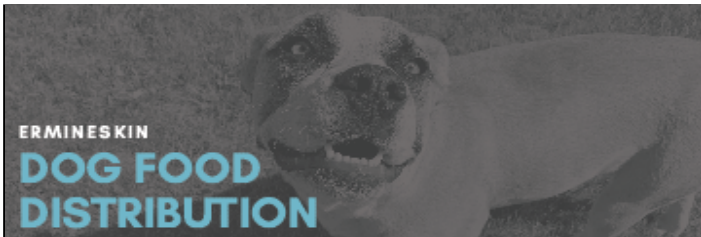
MCSS PRESENTS

SHARING CIRCLE  
**FIGHT  
CANCER**

**PEOPLE IMPACTED BY CANCER**

Join Marilyn Rowan on the 3rd Thursday monthly for our sharing circle - this month -  
Thursday January 20 from 5 to 7pm via Zoom - dial - 1.855.703.8985 -  
Meeting id - 930.1706.2140# - Pass code - 130407#

**1.855.703.8985**



ERMINES KIN  
**DOG FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

**ECN SECURITY COMPOUND**  
**FEBRUARY, 16TH, 2022**  
1PM - 4PM

**PIGEON LAKE REC CENTRE**  
**FEBRUARY, 17TH, 2022**  
1PM - 4PM

Please be advised that there have been a few updates in regards to the ECN Dog Food Distribution Program:

- There will be **NO DELIVERIES**
- If you missed the distribution, you will have to wait until the next distribution date
- No picking up for others
- If you have tested positive for COVID-19 and need dog food during distribution, you will have to **CALL AHEAD OF TIME** and must give a **WRITTEN NOTE WITH YOUR BAND NUMBER, HOUSE NUMBER AND PHONE NUMBER**

Dog food is given to the band by donation and will only be handed out on set dates. Due to shortage of donations, **maximum of 2 bags** of dog food or cat food per household

Leslie Saddleback  
Dog Care and Control Program  
780-585-2004



**MASKWAGIS COUNSELLING & SUPPORT SERVICES**  
**ISKWEWSIS WELLNESS CAMP**  
JAN 28, 29, & 30TH

10 female youth ages 15-17 are invited to join our Wellness Camp at the Pigeon Lake Village Creek Inn. The camp will include:

- Beading & Medicine Bag making
- Wellness Presentation
- Tipi Teachings and Creation Stories by Kenneth Saddleback

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, CALL 780 585 2268 OR JUSTIN FRASER-BRUNO @ 780 335 8857**

Canadian Heritage Sport Canada

**INDIGENOUS SPORT COUNCIL OF ALBERTA**

**2022 A WINTER FITNESS CHALLENGE**

OPEN TO ALL FIRST NATION, MÉTIS AND INUIT PEOPLES RESIDING IN ALBERTA

**ZERO COST**

JAN 24TH START 10 WEEK PROGRAM

- must be 10 yrs+ to participate
- male and female divisions
- ALL LEVELS OF FITNESS WELCOME
- work out at home (virtual program)

Weekly Prizes | Guest Fitness Leaders | Nutritional Leader

WESTERN VARIETIES WHOLESALE

[www.indigenoussportsalberta.com](http://www.indigenoussportsalberta.com)  
[www.facebook.com/indigenoussportcouncilofalberta](https://www.facebook.com/indigenoussportcouncilofalberta)



Neyaskweyahk Human Services

**G.E.D PROGRAM WITH NORQUEST COLLEGE (WETASKIWIN)**

**\*IMPORTANT\***  
Clients will need need proof of vaccination/72 hour Rapid Test to enter the Norquest College Building.

**NOW ACCEPTING NHS APPLICANTS!**

P.E.S.P. and Neyaskweyahk Human Services are looking for NHS Clients interested in taking **ONLINE** G.E.D. prep classes next winter (Feb 1st - April 22nd, 2022) Evening Classes are available!

Apply Now!  
Applications available at the NHS office for pick-up

Contact Loralyne Cutarm or Kenneth X. Roan: (780)585-3835

