

Ermineskin Newsletter February 23rd, 2022

Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin Mikisowipîsim Nîstanaw Nîstosâp Akimaw Anohc

Update to Ermineskin Hours of Operations

At a duly convened Chief and Council Regular meeting held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, the EOC recommendations were reviewed and approved. The following will be effective February 28, 2022:

- Keeping Ermineskin Cree Nation employees safe is paramount
- Active cases in Ermineskin will be heavily monitored
- A bench Mark of 75 active in Ermineskin will determine whether or not the Chief and Council will dial back the back to work plan.
- Retain and enforce current work place safety proto-
- Weekly work days will be Mondays to Thursdays.
- Weekly work hours will be 9:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.

Safety protocols will remain in effect – wearing of facemasks, social distancing, hand washing and sanitizing. Providing proof of vaccination or negative test results will still be required to enter any ECN public buildings until further notice.

February 19th 2022

Maskwacis Cases: Active: 200 Recovered: 4,181 **Totals:** 4,388 Deceased: 24 **Hospitalized: 8**

Ermineskin Cases: Active: 46 Recovered: 1,318 Totals:

Deceased: 3 **Hospitalized: 4**



TO ENTER ECN BUILDINGS, PROOF OF VACCINATION OR NEGATIVE COVID-19 RESULTS ARE REQUIRED



COVID-19 UPDATES

DATE: FEBRUARY 23RD, 2022

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- Retain and enforce current work place safety protocols
- Weekly work days will be Mondays to Thursdays Weekly work hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Mandatory Rapid Testing Sundays and Mondays
- In-person meetings permitted with limitations
- Travel for meetings is permitted

Safety protocols will remain in effect – wearing of facemasks, social distancing, hand washing and sanitizing. Providing negative test results upon entry to the ECN buildings will still be mandatory.

ERMINESKIN CREE NATION, Maskwacis Alberta T0C1N0 ermineskin.ca

Safety protocols that will remain in effect: wearing of facemasks, social distancing, hand washing and sanitizing.

> (780) 585-3741 ermineskin.ca

FEBRUARY 28TH, 2022*

Maskwacis Elders Mentor Program:

Join the Maskwacis Elders Mentoring Program where Elders from the community support pregnant women, new moms, and their partners. The Elders provide a safe space for you to share your feelings and they give guidance, compassion, and Cultural teachings.



-Lena Cutknife, Local Elder

Send us a message and we can set up a time for you to chat with an Elder on Zoom or over the phone.

The Elders are here to bridge health and culture.

In the words of Elder Muriel Lee: "We teach

you how to take care of your baby, so the transition from womb to the world is as smooth, lov-

ing, and gentle as possible."

-Muriel Lee , Local Elder

You can submit a request to speak to an Elder by either:

Emailing: el-

ders@ualberta.ca Phone: 780-913-5341

Facebook message to: Maskwacis Elders Men-

toring Program

Instagram: EldersMentoringProgram

You can have an open conversation with the Elder who can provide you with support. We hope to have the program back to inperson soon at the Wetaskiwin PCN, and other clinic locations in the Maskwacis area – pending COVID restrictions.

-Article provided by Tyra Lightning

Maskwacis RCMP Incorporate Community Logo with Crest

The Maskwacis RCMP have incorporated their Community Policing logo onto their marked police vehicles to recognize and promote the community they serve. The Community logo incorporates the RCMP crest surrounded by a traditional Cree medicine wheel. Hanging from the medicine wheel are four eagle feathers, each representing one of the four Cree Nations policed by the Maskwacis RCMP Detachment; Louis Bull, Montana, Ermineskin, and



Samson. Below the logo are the Cree syllabics for "Nakateyimowewak", meaning, "protectingly caring for community"; wording suggested by a local community Elder. When asked about the importance of the changes, Staff Sergeant Richard McKay had the following to say, "Incorporating cultural symbols and the Cree language onto our vehicles is a respectful

step in better serving our community, and shows a commitment to honoring the traditions and official language of the Four Nations we serve."

Corporal Holly Porterfield (Maskwacis Community Policing) and Acting Corporal Ron Piche (Watch Commander) with the new design.



NEWSLETTER CONTACT:

NEXT ISSUE: MARCH 9TH,



Submission Deadline: March 8th, 2022



(780) 585-3741



isaac@ermineskin.ca tara@ermineskin.ca marleigh@ermineskin.ca

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www.ermineskin.ca





Ermineskin Cree Nation

SOCIAL SITES



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Ermineskin Cree Nation



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Positions Available for MESC Board of Governors

The Selection Committee (Four Chiefs and one Council member from each Nation) is now accepting applications for the Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission

(MESC) Board of Governors. The new term begins August 1, 2022. To find out more information, please visit: https://www.maskwacised.ca/authority/mescbog-feb22/



CREE CORNER Poster by Janine Wildeat

Pink (NA) wâpikwaniwinâkosiw

Φ· Λ b· σ Δ· Φ d ʔ •

Pink (NI) wâpikwaniwinâkwan

Φ· Λ b· σ Δ· Φ b· ³

CREE COLORS KETASINASTEKIH QC/QOUPI Cree NA-Animate (refers to nouns that are living)

NI – Inanimate (refers to non-living nouns)

GREEN (NA)
OSKASKOSIWÎ'NAKOSIW
D^b^d/À·'ad/o
GREEN (NI) OSKASKOSIWÎ'NAKWAN
D^b^d/À·'ab·

ORANGE (NA)
OSÂWISIW ÞĠΔ-Z•
ORANGE (NI)
OSÂWÂW ÞĠĠ•

RED (NA)
MIHKOSIW ["d/o
RED (NI)
MIHKWÂW ["b·o



KKI Law Lodge Meet and Greet

On February 9^{th,} 2022, Kanawemahwasowin Kamik Inc's Law Lodge had the first meet and greet session that was held online via Google Meets. The session was to cover the introduction of the unit's work, share the operations and vision of the law lodge working group in a transparent and inclusive matter for the benefit of the ECN people and especially the children. The moderator for the event was Former AFN National Chief Candidate, Jodi Callihou Stonehouse, The speakers included Chief Randy Ermineskin, Councillor and Portfolio Holder Jason Makinaw, Kanawamahwewsowin Kamik Law Lodge Law and Policy coordinator Josh Littlechild and Restorative Justice Coordinator Steven Farmer, Drew Lafond From MLT Akins, Amanda Baretta and Danielle Collins of Latitude Family Law and invocation by Elder Pat Buffalo.

The Meet and Greet Event Highlighted Kana-

wemahwasowin Kamik's Law and Restorative Justice unit initiatives and goals to develop the Awasis Wasaweywin (law) with the Ermineskin People, which includes focus groups of Elders, Adults (60's Scoop Survivors, People who were in the Child Welfare System) and the youth of Ermineskin Cree Nation and an introduction of the Restorative Justice services. The Legal council portion of the update was on the new legislation of Bill C-92, Ermineskin's Position as a non-deligated first nation and what it means specifically regarding issues in child welfare concerning the Ermineskin Cree Nation.

The event included an interactive portion to collect data to tailor the Awasis Weyasowin. The event concluded with invitations to the March 2^{nd,} 2022 engagement session. The broadcasted event will be available for viewing on www.kkamik.com For more information please call 780-585-3721 and contact Josh Littlechild.

Ermineskin Youth Mentorship Program

The Ermineskin Youth Mentorship Program is provided to Ermineskin youth and young adults for work experience, but most importantly, a better understanding of the fundamentals when it comes to being employed and the importance of the educational system. Jaylene Janvier, Youth Mentorship Programmer, has said "What I want my youth employees to take away from these programs is a better understanding of the benefits of education, continuing education or post-secondary, and to understand what Labour Marketing

The Mentorship Program has had to make a few changes due to the COVID-19 Cases in the community. gram has adapted to these changes quickly by making and their courses and teachings available online. "Covid has really made it difficult for youth to be approved to work in tions for a Virtual Science and Technology After-School person. We are doing our best to keep our youth safe. I Program for 16 youth, ages 13 - 18. The goal is to promote am happy that they understand that Safety Protocols are the benefits of Science and Technology Education within in place for not only themselves but our staff and commu- the community. The program will have weekly Zoom nity as well. Covid Made the Youth Mentored Program a meetings with science activities, experiment kits students

who are working virtually, learning a number of programs Janvier at the P&R Building across the ECN Administration such as; Literacy Writing Skills, basic Cree classes, comput- Building. You can also either download an application form er coding, mental health awareness, Employment Readi- or fill out a Google Form on the Ermineskin Website: ness, time and stress management, resume writing, as well https://ermineskin.ca/job-opportunities The deadline to as a Money Mentor Training." Jaylene goes on to say, "Our apply youth have even been given the opportunity to learn via Please reach out to Jaylene Janvier or Millie Mackinaw ZOOM from our own ECN Employees and their Depart- (Programmer Assistant) if you should have any other quesments about the programs and services provide to our tions about the program or application process: (780) 585community, along with their policies and procedures." Caylene Wildcat, who is attending the Youth Employment millie@ermineskin.ca



Caylene Wildcat, Student with the ECN Youth Employment Program

Program, says she has enjoyed her experience so far from the cours-"I found es.

that a lot of our events provided for the community are planned and set up by the ECN Departments. I have been learning a lot about the jobs in the community and what they provide to Ermineskin. My favourite part of the program would be how

Work placement has been harder to approve, but the pro- they teach us about the importance of stress management mental

The Mentorship Program is currently taking applica-Virtual reality, We meet, learn, and experience virtually." can do at home, and sessions where they explore Science/ "We currently have two youth groups employed Tech careers. Applications can be picked up from Jaylene is: **MARCH** 3RD, 2022 4006 Email: jaylene@ermineskin.ca Ext.291

Article written by Marleigh Cutarm

What Pink Shirt Day Means to Me

Malcolm Cutarm-Houle likes playing video games, crafting with plasticine, and has recently started making his own card games. He has always loved cats, coffee and spending time with his best friend, Kayla (who is also his older sister). He is funny, helpful, sweet and has always been caring towards other people. "My brother's first day of school was tough," says his sister Marleigh, "I worried about whether the other students or his teachers would be nice to him. If they would listen to him and make him feel safe.



shy when
he was
little, he
hadn't
been
around
so many
people
his own
age before."

"We always wor-

He

was

Malcom Cutarm-Houle

ried about bullying, and it's something we worry about, even today. Unfortunately, we cannot protect our young ones from everything." She goes on to say, "Bumps and bruises from playing outside can be kissed and covered with a band-

aid, but how do you heal a child from words someone has said?"

As Malcolm continued through elementary school, he had encountered his first experience with a bully. "When he first told us, we were heartbroken and asked him what had happened. We told his teacher, and they told us that it will be handled. But it still continued, and got to a point where he would ask not to go to school somedays," says his mother, Helena.

It wasn't only in school he experienced bullying, it was also happening on the bus. "Malcolm will keep to himself when coming home or on his way to school. He would always sit with either me or my sister (Kayla) because we knew others wouldn't bother him, especially if he was already having a bad day. He is also very honest, which means if he saw another student not sitting down, or doing something they shouldn't be doing he will tell them to stop, as well as tell the driver. But there were rare occasions where we (Kayla and I) were unable to ride home with him from school. The most upsetting part about the whole situation was the fact that the kids that bothered him on the bus were older than him. Kids in grades 8, 9 or 10 were teasing my brother, who was only in elementary school. That is something that will never sit right with me," Marleigh says.

What Pink Shirt Day Means to Me Contd.

His



Malcom Cutarm-Houle and Kayla Cutarm sister,
Kayla also had this to say, "I was always nervous that students or staff wouldn't

take the time to un-

derstand him and treat him properly, until he met his TA. She was so caring to him and took the time to learn with him. He was always excited to go to school to see Ms. Stephan, the one person that could see him for who he was and taught him to embrace his little quirks. Never once did she treat him wrongfully. She showed him that there are good people out there looking out for our little ones."

"What Ms. Stephan did for my brother is something I cannot thank her enough for. He is so confident when it comes to meeting people, and trying to make friends. She listened to him and gave him a safe place to laugh, play and just be. He isn't shy anymore and is unapolo-

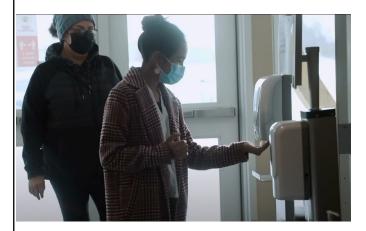
getically himself, which is how all kids should be.

"Pink Shirt Day, to me, means we still have work to do when it comes to anti-bullying. This one day should be practiced every day. From what I have seen, bullying someone who has special needs isn't talked about enough and needs to be addressed more. We have always taught Malcolm to be honest, caring and just be himself. I think what people should take away from this," says Marleigh, "is that your words and actions will have lasting effects. Bullying can happen to anyone, anytime, anywhere. But we will always remember those who helped us when we needed it most. It costs nothing to be kind, and most times we just need to listen. Just because someone is different, doesn't mean they should be treated differently."



-Article written by Marleigh Cutarm

A Statement on Covid-19 From The Community



As of February 16th Ermineskin has released a short series of videos of various members of the community speaking on Covid-19 and the importance of following guidelines and restrictions to keep our community safe. There are three videos in total, one each from the elders, youth, and community as a whole. We would like to share with you a few of the statements given in the videos. We would also strongly encourage those who are able to watch them to do so in order to hear everyone's message and grasp to the full impact of the words that were spoken. You can watch the videos on our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/ermineskin/ videos or on YouTube via searching Ermineskin Cree

Eve Littlechild Rain gave her statement as a rep-

resentative of the Ermineskin youth: "I respect my family and elders and want to protect them from the virus. I always make sure to be kind and stay safe when I'm at home and outside. Please remember to wear your mask, wash your hands, and stay safe! We

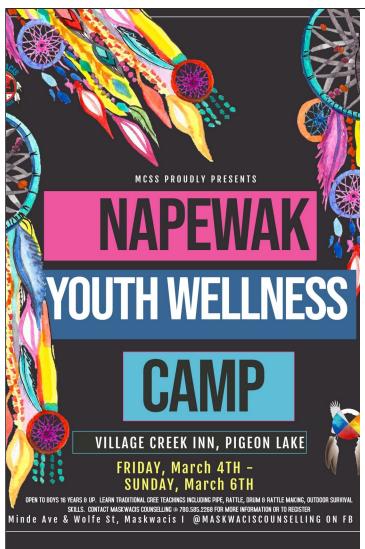
all in this together!" are Representing the elders in the community Mary had this Stoney to say: "Our community must come together to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the Ermineskin Nation. Now it is more important than ever to protect the ones you love. Your elders are more vulnerable to this awful disease. We ask that you do your part to keep us safe."

And as a representative of the community as a whole Chief Randy Ermineskin gave this statement:

"As Chief of Ermineskin Cree Nation, I want to thank every community member for staying strong over these past few years. I understand how tired you may be of this virus, however, we must remain mindful of the current impacts."

"I would like to encourage all who are eligible to get their vaccines, and to stay on the path towards a healthier future. We are here to care for one another. The time is now to put in the work. Stay safe and stay vigilant in the fight against COVID-19. We will get through this. Akimaymok."





POST SECONDARY
FUNDING DEADLINE:
March 15, 2022 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.
- 2. 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.







Neyaskweyahk Human Services and Pre-Employment Support Program

HAIRSTYLING **PROGRAM DIPLOMA WITH** DELMAR COLLEGE. (RED DEER)

IMPORTANT

Successful applicants will need need proof of vaccination to enter the Delmar College Building.

CALL OUT FOR ELIGIBLE NHS CLIENTS!

NHS clients who have Pre-Requisites of English 10-2 and Math 10-3, or have a G.E.D. diploma are eligible to apply for a Hairstyling Diploma Program with Delmar College in Red Deer! (transportation provided)

Apply Now! *6 SPOTS AVAILABLE* Applications are available at the NHS Office for pick-up (Applications can be filled out at the NHS Office)

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









April 26th - 28th 2022

Panee Agriplex Maskwacîs, Alberta Canada

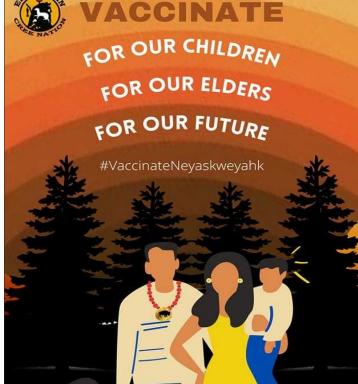
> Fee: \$425 with a \$200 **Deposit Contact TL** @ (780)335-7696

Instructor: Kaila Mussell **CPRA & PRCA Saddlebronc** Rider

IMPORTANT: Must be Double Vaccinated



 Duffy Broncs Buckle for Most **Improved**





ARE YOU INTESTED IN WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING?

WILDLAND FIRE FIGHTING MEMBER TRAINING



TRAINING DATES: MARCH 30 - APRIL 5

CONTACT: TRICIA WILDCAT - (780) 585-3000 EXT. 234 OR EMAIL: TRICIA@NGCINC.CA



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please be advised that there will be

NO DOG FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR MARCH.

until further notice.

We would also like to remind members that the Dog Food Distribution Program is a donation-based program. Meaning we rely on pet food being donated to our program in order to provide what we can to the ECN Members.

We apologize for any inconveniences this may cause. Thank you for understanding.

Leslie Saddleback **Dog Care and Control Program**







The VJKF Program offers Indigenous (First Nation, Métis and Inuit) high school students in grades 10, 11, and 12 an opportunity to spend one week conducting research in the fields of science and engineering during the month of May. As one of our Kirkness scholars, you'll work with university professors and graduate students from a particularing Canadian university on a particular area of science, engineering, technology, or math. Students have the opportunity to indicate which research projects would interest them most.



Students have the opportunity to select which research project they want to learn about.



Universities

The list of participating universities for this year's program continues to grow. See our website for a



Have Fun

This year's program includes, swag bags, prizes, games, science kits and team activities.



Scholarships

Every student who completes our VJKF Program receives a completion certificate and is eligible to apply for a VJKF scholarship.

Become a Kirkness Scholar APPLY TODAY!

Thanks to our generous donors our program is offered to Indigenous students FREE of charge. For complete details about our program and application process, please visit our website.







ARE YOU PREGNANT?



Do you think you might be pregnant?

Do you need support?

What supports are available?

Contact Annette Morin @780-361-8207 Email a.morin@mvmhs.ca

I will connect you with an **Early Years Visitor** who will provide you with support and answer any question that you may have.



DEADLY DADS WEEKLY CHECK-IN

Come meet up at our weekly meetings on zoom. Right now we are planning for the spring.

Tuesdays, 5pm Zoom ID: 966 5115 9204 Passcode/Link: Contact @DeadlyDadsMaskwacis on Facebook Or (403) 878-3186



NOTICE

IN RESPONSE TO THE PROVINCE'S LIFTING OF HEALTH RESTRICTIONS, THE ERMINESKIN CREE NATION WILL **CONTINUE WITH THEIR** CURRENT HEALTH AND SAFETY RESTRICTIONS FOR OUR CITIZENS

We will continue to make public safety our priority



Neyaskweyahk Human Services

ERMINESKIN NHS ISSUANCE **FOR** MARCH

FEBRUARY 24TH, 2022

MAII-NIIT AND PICK-IIP

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 ate MANDATORY when entering any ECN Office.

Neyaskweyahk Human Services (780)585-3835 crystal@ermineskin.ca

NEED Zoom Account and a Google Account(Google Meet)

Goal :To Promote The

Benefits of Science &

Technology Education within the Community

Daily

Incentives +

Supply Kits

KNOWLEDGE

TRAINING

LEARNING

Sessions Every Week Monday, Tuesday

Wednesday, & Friday from 5:30 to 7:30

Start Date March 7th to March 31

ELDER FRING SPEAKERS

with Facilitator(s):

Vickie Currie Wetchie; Carla Listene

Technology After SCHOOL Program

530 to 730

WHO CAN APPLY? ERMINESKIN **BAND MEMBERS AGES FROM** 13-18.

16 PARTICIPANTS AVAILABLE FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS

EXPERIENCE

ABILITY

GROWN Weekly Zoom Meets: Virtual Science Activities, Group

Science Games, Science

Experiments kids can do at home, Learn about the type of

Science Careers, Explore how

science is used in our daily lives.

Apply online send Attachments to

jaylene@ermineskin.ca

