



Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin ᓂᓴᓃᓴᓴᓴ ᐱᓴᓴᓴᓴ

# Ermineskin Newsletter March 9th, 2022

Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin Niski Pîsim Kekâymitâtât Akimaw Anohc

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## ECN Women’s Shelter Celebrates International Women's Day!

The ECN women’s shelter recently held a very successful drive through to celebrate International Women’s day. The drive through was held on the 8th of march and they distributed both goody bags and delicious lunch. The goody bags contained elaborate origami art with positive messages hidden inside, water, mini sanitization kits, and a notebook. They also contained an informational document about the **Clare’s Law Act**, an act that aims to allow people to make informed choices about potentially harmful relationships.

In effect Clare’s Law gives Albertans the right to formally request information on their current or former partner’s potential risk for domestic violence. A person can apply on behalf of someone



else if they have their consent, are a legal guardian of the applicant, or have legal authority of the person. Applicants must provide a reason for why they are requesting the information, and the person who is the subject of the disclosure will not be informed that an application was made in regards to them. In order for the application process to go through you must live in Alberta, have a reason for applying that details why you may feel at risk, and be willing to talk to, and meet with police to receive disclosure information. For more information please go to <https://alberta.ca/Clare’sLaw>



## INDIGENOUS CANADIAN TIKTOK INFLUENCERS SPREAD GOOD MEDICINE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

The following Article has been written and provided by Chevi Rabbit

(ANNNews) – Canada’s Indigenous TikTok Creators are using their platform to educate mainstream Canadians on Indigenous culture and customs. Each is unique in their TikTok style. We chat with two TikTok Influencers about spreading that good medicine on social(s) and we discuss how they have been able to capitalize on TikTok.

**Jayroy Makokis is a 29-year-old nehiyaw (Cree) man from Saddle Lake Alberta living in amiskwaciwâskahikan Edmonton).**

-Jayroy Makokis



Cree TikTok creator Jayroy Makokis, started reconnecting with his Cree culture and through his culture, he has been able to break intergenerational trauma for his children.

Quick fact: The Cree or Nehiyawak (neh-HEE-oh-wuk) in the Cree language, are the most populous and widely distributed Indigenous peoples in Canada. (The Canadian Encyclopedia)

“A lot of youth are lost and they want to come home, they don’t know how to come home, they need to be shown the beauty of our culture and the healing aspects,” said Makokis.

“My Cree culture has brought me a lot of healing...I grew up in a family with alcoholism and dysfunction and once I found my culture it has been a beautiful

life. My kids have never seen the things I have seen.”

According to Makokis, being able to share Cree culture with people who are not connected with their culture is a privilege he can do through the TikTok platform.

“A lot of Indigenous people don’t know how to take that first step into reconnecting with their culture. So, that is why I want to share my experiences of practicing my culture on TikTok.”

Makokis uses a lot of humour, sobriety talks, and moose hides for his TikToks.

“TikTok is a great platform to share my story,” he added. “Elders always say when you share your story – there is healing in it”

Follow [jayroymakokis](#) TikTok.

**Sherry Mckay is an Ojibway Anishinabe woman from Treaty 1 Territory. Born and raised in Winnipeg Manitoba, she is a member of Sakgeeng First Nation.**

“My style is focusing on Indigenous comedy with a sprinkle of awareness,” said Sherry Mckay, Canada’s top TikTok Influencer.

Quick Fact: The Ojibwe (also Ojibwa, Ojibway, and Chippewa) are Indigenous people in Canada and the United States who are part of a larger cultural group known as the Anishinaabeg. (The Canadian Encyclopedia)

Mckay said she considers her work in multi-media a form of decolonizing the digital TikTok space as Indigenous peoples. When she first started TikTok she used the platform to educate non-Indigenous communities.

“When I first started on TikTok, I was a little bit more in your face content,” she explained.

Mckay initially focused on creating awareness but found it to be emotionally very taxing. She said that she's backed away from that style just to protect her peace, although she does incorporate it now and then.

Mckay describes her TikTok technique as a mix of unconventional audio clips. She explained, "I would use audios from a movie that everyone is familiar with, where people are arguing and then it's like Indigenous people in Canada... it blows peoples minds when it fits so perfectly."

She also added that she is not a "gatekeeping" person and she isn't even fond of the word "gatekeeping" but rather there are Indigenous people who are "protecting" cultural knowledge and authentic traditional knowledge keepers. "I don't want to cross other boundaries with other Indigenous content creators too."

Mckay loves the idea of safe spaces to learn about Indigenous culture and languages. "We as Indigenous people have had a lot taken from us, a lot of stuff we could not learn from our relations."

TikTok is a great safe space to learn about Indigenous identity, said Mckay. Although she is Ojibwe, she first learned about Cree culture. "I was taking from anywhere I could get it because I didn't grow up with that," she explained.

For example, "I lightly went through powwow etiquette on TikTok because there were a lot of white people that would comment on my videos and there wasn't a huge Indigenous presence on social media."

Mckay said "What is okay in the Cree community might not be okay in the Ojibwe community or vice versa. Take everything with a grain of salt and be respectful."

She added that sometimes TikTok isn't a safe space. So, just be aware that there is another side to it. Some people online are not your friends.

When asked whether she's been able to capitalize on TikTok, Mckay said she hasn't been able to make an income from TikTok viewers or followers. However, she has been able to get opportunities from corporate sponsorships, guest speaking, and workshops.

She noted that she doesn't shame other Indigenous TikTok influencers who accept corporate sponsorship.

Rather she encourages other Indigenous

influencers to find ways to capitalize on the popular social media app. Over the course of the pandemic many Indigenous influencers received contracts from large corporate campaigns such as Canadian Tire and Royal Bank of Canada.

"We deserve a piece of that pie too, a big piece of that pie. Some people shame us for taking that money, but I am a mother and I have a family to feed," said Mckay.

"This is the first I am self-employed. I can legit feed my family and pay my bills."

Mckay ends the conversation by noting, that "people are watching us and if we are treating each other bad they think they can do that to us too."

"Also, remember the youth are watching," added Mckay. "Remember, not everyone is online for your interest. Some are more concerned about view rather than making a difference."

Follow Sherry.Mckay on TikTok.



-Sherry McKay



# NEWSLETTER CONTACT:

NEXT ISSUE: MARCH  
23RD, 2022



**Submission Deadline:  
March 22nd, 2022**

(780) 585-3741

isaac@erminekin.ca  
tara@erminekin.ca  
marleigh@erminekin.ca

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

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



## Ermineskin Cree Nation

SOCIAL SITES



Ermineskin Cree Nation



@erminekincreenation



@ErmineskinCree



Ermineskin Cree Nation



erminekin Cree

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

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### PSA To Cat Owners

**Attention Maskwacis Residents:**

**S.N.I.P.** (Spay/Neuter In Parkland) has a Unique opportunity for Maskwacis Residents to have their cats Spayed or Neutered. The cost is 25.00\$ per cat. For more information or to book an appointment please call:

Brenda: (780) 721-0523  
or Stephanie: (780) 335- 9569



**Parkland Humane  
SOCIETY INC.**



# CREE CORNER

Poster by Janine Wildcat

## Time

kîkisepah  
morning

apihtâ-kîsikâw  
It is Noon



epônâpihtâkîsikak  
afternoon

sâkâstêw  
sunrise

epewâpahk  
dawn

ekîsikâk  
daytime

pahkîsimowin  
sunset

etipiskâk  
night

otâkosin  
evening

apihtâ-tipiskâw  
midnight

Nehiyawewin

Tânîspi

When? At what  
point in time?

# Goose Month March

niski pîsim ᓄᓐᓂ ᐱᓂ





## Maskwacis Hawks Going for Gold!

There was a great turn out of fans and supporters at the Four Nations Arena on March 6th, 2022. Maskwacis Hawks U13 played against Athabasca and came out on top with an amazing win of 9 – 2! With this win, the Hawks U13 move into the finals and will be playing 9:15am on Saturday March 12th in Wetaskiwin against Tofield. If the U13 Team



wins, they'll win Gold and be the League Champs! They will also move on to play for Zone Championships in Slave Lake at a later date. Come out and show support to our youth this Saturday!

Also, Ermine-skin Support Services is currently taking applications for sponsorship of Ermine-skin Hockey Players competing in either the upcoming Provincial Tournament or the Treaty Tournament. Please be advised that the sponsorship is ONLY available for one tournament, NOT both. Dead-

line to apply for Provincial Tournament sponsorship will be March 28th, 2022. Deadline for the Treaty Tournament sponsorship will be April 6th, 2022. Applications can be dropped-off / picked-up at the ECN Administration Building with Security. For more information contact Maureen Wildcat at: (780) -585-3741 Ext.268



## A Brief Ratification Update

In regards to our ECN Settlement (60M), this is still in the final stages. We are still waiting for a date to be set for the final Federal Court hearings. This is where the Crown and ECN, together, go to the Federal Court and seek the FINAL court order of payment to Ermine-skin Cree Nation. Once this order is made, ECN will receive our settlement funds within 60 days from this. At this time we do not have this date set (by the Federal Court) and thus have NOT received any settlement funds YET. In regards to the Agricultural Claim (Cows and Ploughs), ECN has submitted its application to the Specific Claims division of Canada, and we have re-

ceived from them confirmation of receipt of our application. This process won't have an update from the Specific Claims until they review the application. Canada has up to 6 months to review and then we will have more information on this important item. If there is a request for further information please contact Collin Wildcat via email or by phone during our Hours of Operation.

S. Collin Wildcat, Ec.D  
 Director– External Affairs and Law  
 Phone: (780) 585-3741  
 Email: collin@ermineksin.ca

## **A Reminder on Day School Survivor Claim Forms**

The Due date for the Indian Day Schools Class Action Lawsuit is rapidly approaching and we thought it was important to remind those effected that they are able to apply. The settlement breaks things down into two separate groups: Day School survivors and Descendants of survivors. Each Day Scholar who attended an Indian Residential School during the day only (but did not sleep there overnight) is eligible to apply for a \$10,000 Day Scholar Compensation Payment. In cases where the Day Scholar died on, or after, May 30, 2005, the deceased Day Scholar’s estate Executor/Administrator/Trustee/Liquidator or if there is none, highest priority heir may apply for the Day Scholar Compensation Payment. Survivor and Descendant Class are eligible to draw from A \$50 million Day Scholars Revitalization Fund to support healing, wellness, education, language, culture, heritage and commemoration activities for the benefit of Survivor and Descendant Classes. You are a member of the Descendant Class if you are a natural or adopted child of a Survivor Class Member. Only Survivor Class Members are eligible for the \$10,000 individual compensation payment.

Funding will be available under the Day Scholars Revitalization Fund which is currently being established. There is not a process for applying for benefits at this time. Both Descendant and Survivor Class Members will be able to apply to access funding from the Revitalization Fund.

Descendant Class Members will be eligible to apply for funding in the future from the Day Scholars Revitalization Fund to support healing, wellness, education, language, culture, and commemoration.

The Revitalization Fund will be used to support healing, wellness, education, language, culture, heritage, and commemoration, and will be managed by an independent not-for-profit society that is independent of Canada and Class Counsel. Canada or Class Counsel are not involved in making decisions on who receives funding through the Day Scholars Revitalization Fund.

Application forms are available at the ECN Administration Building. If you are looking for year book photos, you can check the “**4 Band Indian Day School Page**” Facebook Group. You can also try the **Samson Museum and Archives at (780) 585-4530** or the **ECN Jr./Sr. Highschool at (780) 585-3931**

### **CLAIM FORM**

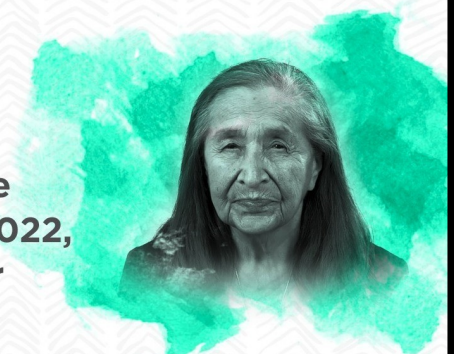
#### **INDIAN DAY SCHOOLS CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

This Settlement is applicable to all students who attended and suffered abuse or harm at a Federal Indian Day School or Federal Day School operated by the Government of Canada.

**Claim Due By: July 13, 2022**

**Class Counsel and available legal advice:** legal advice with respect to eligibility and harms experienced is available **at no cost to you** from Class Counsel, Gowling WLG, by contacting [dayschools@gowlingwlg.com](mailto:dayschools@gowlingwlg.com) or 1-844-539-3815.

Telling your personal story takes time.  
**Claimants have until July 13, 2022, to submit their Claim Form.**





## Masking Mandate and Gather Restrictions To Remain in Effect



As of March 9th, 2022; the masking & gathering restrictions are still in place in Maskwacis until further notice.

Due to

Maskwacis still being below the 70% (first and second dose) and cases become more stable, the Directors of Emergency Management for the 4-Nations and Maskwacis Health Services agree that restrictions remain in place until further notice. This means that masks are still to be worn in all public places and buildings. Mask use is not required if the individual is under the age of 2 years, or the individual qualifies for a medical exception.

Indoor Social Gatherings:

- Vaccinated: Indoor private social gatherings are limited to 2 households (yours plus one other) up to the maximum of 10 Vaccine-eligible, vaccinated people and no restrictions on children under 12 years old
- Unvaccinated: Indoor gatherings are not permitted for vaccine-eligible people who are unvaccinated
- The restrictions does not apply to mutual support groups, or to workers who need to access your home to pro-

vide caregiving support or home repairs and maintenance

Outdoor Social Gatherings:

- Outdoor private social gatherings limited to a maximum of 20 people, with 2 metre physical distancing between households at all times

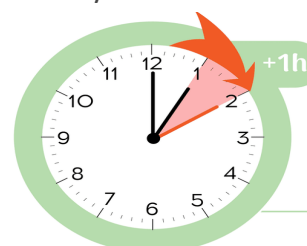
Your co-operation is appreciated. A message from Maskwacis Health Services.



### Daylight Savings Time is Almost Here!

This Sunday March 13th will be Daylight Savings time so don't forget to set your clocks ahead by one hour. When local standard time is about to reach Sunday, March 13, 2022, **2:00:00 am** clocks are turned **forward** 1 hour to Sunday, March 13, 2022, **3:00:00 am** local daylight time instead.

Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour later on Mar 13, 2022 than the day before. There will be more light in the evening.



**SPRING FORWARD**  
Daylight Saving Time  
March 13, 2022

# Upcoming Events/Classifieds

## Mussell Bronc Academy

April 26th - 28th  
2022

Panee Agriplex  
Maskwacis, Alberta  
Canada



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

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

**IMPORTANT:  
Must be Double  
Vaccinated**



- Duffy Broncs
- Buckle for Most Improved

## Adult Literacy Program

Your education journey begins with MCC!

**About the Adult Literacy Program:**

- Mon-Thurs 9-3PM
- 12 week program
- Online / Virtual Classroom
- 12-15 students

- Basic Math and English
- Cree Instruction
- Life Skills Development

Sign Up  
Today!

Adult Literacy Program offers:

Spring Start Date  
Contact: Shane Strongman  
780-585-3744

shanestrongman@montanafirstnationn.com



## ERMINESKIN RECREATION PRIVATE BOOKINGS

Facility Open  
BOOK NOW!!



Now Available for ECN Members to Book a Private 75 min Time Slot

### GYM & WEIGHT ROOM TIME SLOTS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
3:00pm	3:00pm	3:00pm	3:00pm
4:30pm	4:30pm	4:30pm	4:30pm
6:00pm	6:00pm	6:00pm	6:00pm
7:30pm	7:30pm	7:30pm	7:30pm

### QUESTIONS?

Call Ermineskin Recreation at  
(780)585-3088 after 2:00PM



Must have Negative  
Covid-19 Test Result

## Opportunity For Indigenous High School Students

**2022**  
Applications Open

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 participating 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.



### Research

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 complete list.



### 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.](#)



info@vjkt.org  
[www.vernakirkness.org](http://www.vernakirkness.org)

587.814.0444  
1.888.647.1701



**Raffle** (\$5 minimum EMT) **\$1**

You could win a pair of **OILER TICKETS**

Plus a \$50 gas voucher

EMT: cabull@mccedu.ca  
INCLUDE: "Raffle" & Phone #

Game Day March 17 @ Rogers  
DRAW March 16th on MCC Facebook page




PICK-UP / DROP OFF REGISTRATION FORMS WITH ECN ADMINISTRATION SECURITY



**ERMINESKIN PLAYER SPONSORSHIP FOR HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**  
For players competing in either upcoming Provincial or Treaty Tournaments

**\*\*SPONSORSHIP MONEY IS ONLY AVAILABLE FOR ONE TOURNAMENT, NOT BOTH\*\***

PROVINCIAL TOURNAMENT DEADLINE: MARCH 28TH, 2022

TREATY TOURNAMENT DEADLINE: APRIL 6TH, 2022

For more information, contact Maureen Wildcat: (780) 585- 3741 Ext.268

**MASKWACIS CREE TRIBAL COUNCIL has new team members!**

**PLEASE WELCOME**

Craig Makinaw, Executive Director  
Charmaine Roasting, Technician  
Emily Roan, Office Assistant

*they join staff:*

Cheyenne Louis, Resource Coord.  
Christina Aguilar Sanchez, Technician

**CONTACT US**

info@mctc.ca

780-585-0016

Mon-Thur: 9am - 4pm

**TUS NUA**  
BREATH & SOUND HEALING  
Instructor Seanna Kelly

**HEAL THE BODY, MIND, AND SOUL WITH THE POWER OF BREATH & SOUND**

HOSTED BY ERMINESKIN BRIGHTER FUTURES

MARCH 17 1-3  
MARCH 24 1-3  
MARCH 29 6-8  
MARCH 31 1-3

LOCATION: BRIGHTER FUTURES BOARD ROOM

PLEASE CALL ERMINESKIN BRIGHTER FUTURES TO REGISTER (780) 585-2000 OR EMAIL FUTURESBRIGHTER@YAHOO.COM





ECN EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS ONLY




**COVID RAPID TESTING FOR ECN EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS**

• THOSE EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS ARE NOT TO BE TESTED AT THE NOK, AND ARE REFERRED TO GO GET TESTED AT MASKWACIS AMBULANCE AUTHORITY (MAA).


**Rapid** Test Clinics every SUNDAY and WEDNESDAY from 4:00 pm to 6:00pm at the NOK.

NEW DATES!

Friendly reminder for ECN employees that it is mandatory to provide weekly negative tests. Once result is provided, immediately notify your respective Director and Manager.

• Please note the testing is strictly for ECN Employees and Contractors, and is only work purposes within ECN.

# COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC FOR MARCH 2022



**March 8th, 2022 and March 22nd, 2022**

**@ N.O.K. BUILDING**

**WALK IN AVAILABLE**

**YOUTH VACCINES ARE AVAILABLE FOR AGES 5-11. THIRD BOOSTER SHOT IS AVAILABLE FOR AGES 18+ AND FLU SHOTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL**

**9:30AM - 2:30PM**

## A layered approach to protect against COVID-19

Even if your vaccination is up-to-date, it's still possible to contract and spread COVID-19. That's why it's important to use multiple layers of public health measures to protect yourself against COVID-19.



Like wearing layers to avoid the cold in the winter, there are many ways to protect against COVID-19.



# A HEALING JOURNEY

Hosted by Ermineskin Brighter Futures



Sharing Circle  
Blanket Ceremony  
A residential school workshop

March 25, 26, 27 2022

Courtyard Marriott west  
Edmonton

Maximum 17 participants

PLEASE CALL~ 1-780-585-2000 TO REGISTER



MARCH MID-MONTH ISSUANCE

MARCH 10TH, 2022. PICK-UP & MAIL OUT.

30-day bank statements, Utility Bills and any other paper work can be dropped off at office.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\***

No new intake packages will be given out or handled on Issuance Days.

Also a reminder that it is **MANDATORY** to wear **FACE MASK** when requiring Services.

Neyaskweyahk Human Services: (780)585-3835

Email bills: crystal@ermineskin.ca or kenneth@ermineskin.ca

# Ermineskin Community Wellness Presents Easter Drive Thru

Sunday, April 17, 2022  
1pm - 3pm

Location: Neyaskweyahk  
Okimaw Kamik Building

Easter  
Bunny

Candy  
Bags

Survey  
Draws

Popcorn  
Hot Dogs



FIRST  
1000 PEOPLE  
RECEIVE A  
FREE CANDY  
BAG

COMPLETE A  
SURVEY TO  
ENTER A DRAW  
TO WIN A  
\$100 GIFT  
CARD & EASTER  
BASKET!

EVENT  
SUBJECT TO  
CHANGE

In collaboration with Ermineskin Tribal Services & Ermineskin Recreation