



Ermineskin Newsletter May 19, 2022

Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin Opiniyâwewipîsim Kekâc Nîstanaw Akimaw Anohc

Honouring Dr. Wilton Littlechild



Wilton with Samson Councilor and former Chief Kurt Buffalo

On May 16th, the 4 nations of Mâskwâcîs, dignitaries and friends gathered to honour Dr. Wilton Littlechild (Mahihgan Pimoteyw) for his lifetime achievement of leadership and his dedication to advocating for Indigenous rights.



Wilton with Ermineskin Chief Randy

Wilton Littlechild, Ph.D., is a Chief, residential school survivor, and lawyer who has worked both nationally and internationally including with the United Nations to advance Indigenous rights and Treaties. He has also been appointed a commissioner for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, he raised awareness of former Canadian policies that decimated the livelihood and culture of Indigenous Canadians. Littlechild has the distinction of being the first Treaty First Nation person to acquire his law degree from the University of Alberta in 1976. He also holds Bachelor and Master's degrees in Physical Education, and several honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from various Universities

in Alberta and Saskatchewan. An avid sportsman and athlete, he has won more than 70 provincial, regional, national and international championships, was a founder of the North American Indigenous Games, and was selected as a torch bearer and ambassador for the 2010 Olympics. He has been inducted into seven sports Halls of Fame. Wilton served as a Member of Parliament for Wetaskiwin-Rimby, served on several senior committees in the House of Commons, and served as a parliamentary delegate to the United Nations. (continued on next page)



Rick Lightning



Artist: Shawnee Buffalo



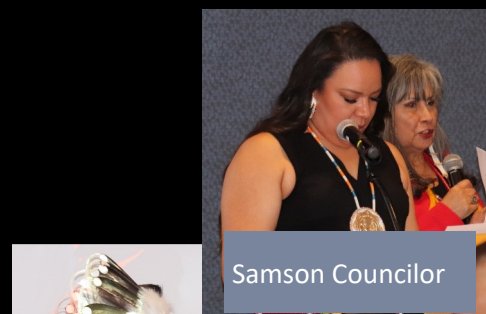
Marlene Buffalo



Chief Victor Buffalo



Minister Rick Wilson



Samson Councilor



Natalie Minckler EOCF Director



Wilton with his wife Helen

The 2022 AFN Delegation to Vatican City

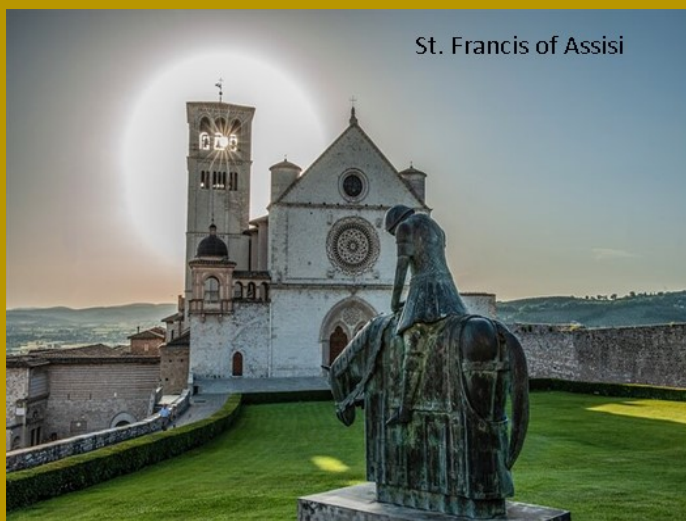
Indigenous leaders from across Canada – some also survivors of residential school, flew to Rome (March 28th to April 1st) to meet with Pope Francis in hopes of securing an apology for the atrocities and forcible integration of Indigenous children into the Canadian society. The Inuit and Metis delegates meet with the Pope for an hour, while the First Nations delegates meet with the Pope for two hours.



C Lorne Green

On May 11th Therapist C Lorne Green did a presentation at the (NOK building) on his experiences while visiting the Vatican, he was chosen as a support person for the delegates. Green began his presentation talking about how he felt “honored” to be part of this historical event, and as part of his healing journey he was planning on taking the time and opportunity to make “peace” with his past, being a survivor of Residential school himself for about seven years.

Upon arrival Lorne went on a tour of the Basilica of St. John, the Mediterranean Sea, and then onto The Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi and The Basilica of Saint Mary. Green described the churches as “majestic” and were adorned with gold, silver and silk. At one point in his tour of Saint Francis of Assisi, Green laid tobacco down, prayed, and chose to leave the bitterness and resentment, to “let go” and to forgive the wrong done to himself and to other Indigenous peoples. It was a personal experience and he was glad he took the opportunity to go and say his peace there.



After the delegates spoke with the Pope, he gifted them an olive tree branch, which is a symbol of “hope & peace”. The delegates then gathered at Saint Peter's Square. While a drum group played a victory song, Chief Wilton Littlechild danced and there was a feeling of celebration. The meeting with the Pope gave a sense of “hope” on moving forward with healing. The Pope is scheduled to arrive in Edmonton in July, 24th to 29th. The location of meeting with the Indigenous community has not been confirmed

CREE CORNER



Crocus

Max FineDay - North Battleford, SK

In nêhiyawewin this flower is called *moostos ohtsi*, the Buffalo bellybutton, and it is a promise from *mâdaw-ôhtâwîmâw*, creator. The *moostos ohtsi* is among the first to begin blooming in the springtime, a sign that life is returning. *Kayâs*, long ago, young men would go out and look for this flower as soon as the snow was gone. Once they had found it, there would be pipes raised, and feasts had. The people would rejoice, it was a sign that medicine was soon to return. This is the promise *mâdaw-ôhtâwîmâw* has made to us, for so long as the *moostos ohtsi* returns, we would continue to be provided for through the bounty of *askîy*, the land. I was out hiking today at home, & smiled as I came across the first *moostos ohtsi*. Still new, not entirely bloomed. With tobacco in hand I remembered the power of our stories, & gave thanks.

We are blessed. Medicine is on the way.

According to Solomon Ratt, the Cree word for pussy willows is *acimosihkânisak*, literally, little pre-

Spring Words in Cree

askiy – earth

ati-sâkipakâw – leaves begin to bud

cahcahkâyos – blackbird

cahcahkiw – pelican

cihcupayapisikanis – bicycle

niska – goose

piyêsîs – bird



Indigenous Fashion

Osamuskwasis Roan



Osamuskwasis Roan (Cree and Dene) ECN member was recently at The Native Star Light Fashion Show—Fashion Week in Minneapolis Minnesota. The fashion show spotlights authentic Indigenous designers. Osamuskwasis and her models showcased her Spring 2022 collection.

Quanna Chasinghorse (Oglala Lakota and Han Gwich'in) model wearing one of Osa's creations.

Photos: Retrieved from Facebook and www.osamuskwasis.com

Deindre Makinaw owner of Dre'z Designs, also an ECN member, created this beautiful beaded hat and matching earrings for the lovely Ashely Callingbull (first Cree swimsuit model to be featured in Sports Illustrated and first Indigenous woman to win the Mrs. Universe title)

Photos: Retrieved from www.facebook.com/deidre.makinaw

DEIDRE MAKINAW

Indigenous Bead
Designs



Dre'z Designs

AntelopeWomenDesigns

Lenise Omeasoo | BeadArtist
Handmade Statement
Earrings & Indigenous
Regalia



Lenise Omeasoo (ECN member) owner of Antelope Women Designs, is a bead artist of handmade statement earrings and regalia. One of her pieces was recently worn by Quanna Chasinghorse at the Met Gala (an annual fundraising gala held for the benefit of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute in New York City)

No More Stolen Sisters



May 5th is the National Day of Awareness for The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people

The Maskwacis community and friends came together on May 5th to honour and support the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ campaign. Red is the official color of the MMIWG2S movement, originated in 2010 by Jaime Black (Metis) born in Thunder Bay Ontario, a Canadian multidisciplinary artist-activist. The "REDress Project" was an art installation at the University of Winnipeg. The display of empty red dress-

es was to bring awareness, to honour and to symbolize the lost lives of Indigenous women. Every year on this day each participant is encouraged to wear their red dresses/ ribbon skirts or to display an empty red dress in a public place to show support for the hundreds of MMIWG2S who have gone missing from their communities and remain unsolved.











 The RCMP only recognize
18/40
 estimated Indigenous deaths on
 the Highway of Tears.

Missing and
Murdered
Indigenous
Women &
Girls: Data
From 71 Cities

THIS IS AN UNDERCOUNT.
WE KNOW THERE ARE
MORE VICTIMS.

506 MMIWG cases were identified across 71 selected urban cities
 128 were cases of missing Indigenous women
 280 were cases of murdered Indigenous women
 98 were cases with an "unknown status"
 29 The median age of MMIWG victims

Urban Indian Health Institute



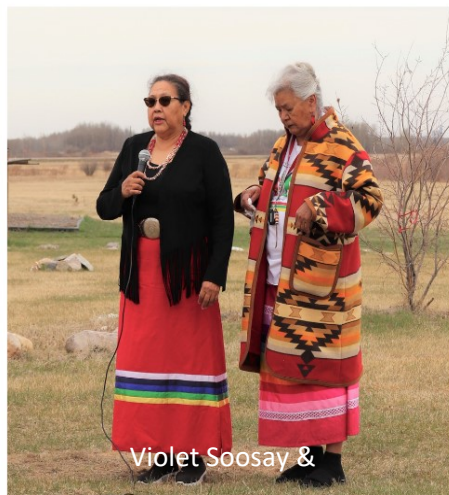
84% OF **NATIVE WOMEN**

have experienced violence in their lifetime.

SOURCE: National Institute of Justice

#NotInvisible

Indigenous Women Are Sacred



Violet Soosay &



Samson Chief
Vernon Saddleback
& Laverna Cutknife
(holding photo of Savannah Buffalo)



Chevy Rabbit &



Recently the National Inquiry into the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls & 2SLGBTQQIA+ presented its final report it was released in June 2019. The report reveals that persistent and deliberate human and Indigenous rights violations and abuses are the root cause behind Canada's staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls and two Spirited. The two volume report calls for transformative legal and social changes to resolve the crisis that has devastated Indigenous communities across the country.

Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls can be viewed at <https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report>

In 2021 the National Action Plan to end violence against Indigenous Women, Girls & 2SLGBTQQIA+ was released, it can be viewed at <https://mmiwg2splus-nationalplan.ca/>



Dawn Ermineskin



Mountain Kree



Colin Raine



Terry Jr. Saddleback

MOTHERS DAY DRIVE THRU



Chanel White



Naslund



Karlene Cutknife

Juakeen Minde
Tyrone Ermineskin
Ron Ermineskin
Nathaniel Mykat
Preston Whitebear
River Minde
Claudie Bull

Okâwîmâwk kîsikâw

The Ermineskin Community Wellness held a Mother's Day drive thru at Neyaskweyahk Okimaw Kamik Building (NOK) on May 6th. The first 150 mothers who attended received a gift, a roast beef dinner and a rose. The drum group Mountain Kree performed, other performers included, women's fancy & jingle, and men's hoop, chicken and grass dancers. Thank you to the organizers and the volunteers who made this happen, your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed.



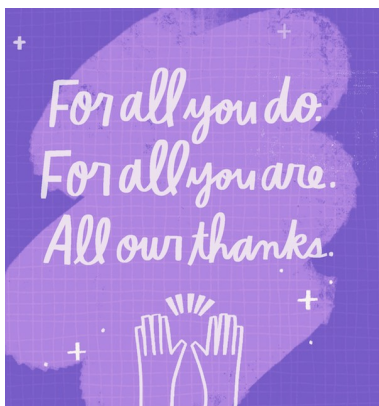
Kevin Deschamps



Destiny Soosay



Gordon Minde—Community Wellness Facilitator
Elvin Wolfe—ECN Events Coordinator
Toni Potts—Caterer
Kevin Deschamps—
Gorilla
Janine Wildcat
Natalie Whitebear
Destiny Soosay
Gisselle Minde
Teresa White
Chanel White
Ellis Rattlesnake
Tj Minde



Ermineskin Food Bank 7th Annual Highway Clean up



Allie Young & Andrea Young



Ellie Lightning & Brandon Saddleback



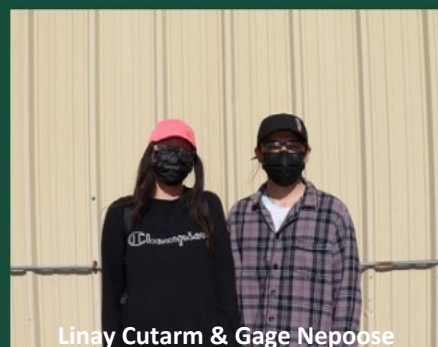
Jason Saddleback & Spirit Minde

L-R: Joanne Potts, Audrey Ward,
Maureen Ward, Beryl Oskatamin

DeAnne Lightning & Jenelle Lightning



Nathan Deschamps & Ty Applegarth

L-R: Jess Ghostkeeper, Ellie Lightning,
Brandon Saddleback, Kayden

Linay Cutarm & Gage Nepoose

On Saturday May 7th, the Ermineskin Food Bank hosted the 7th Annual Provincial Highway Clean-up. There were 43 individuals from the surrounding reserves that assisted with this event. The areas that were cleaned included, QE2, 611 West, part of Highway 2A, Smallboy Road and Minde street, the total amount of highway of highway cleaned was approximately 37 km's. DeAnne Lightning—Manager of the Ermineskin Food Bank stated that “this is our way of paying our respect to Mother Earth on the Mother’s Day weekend, while providing a fundraising opportunity for the local Maskwacis members and friends”, Lightning then goes on to say that she was very grateful for the beautiful day and for all the hard work put forth to make their endeavor a great success.

Listed are the workers who made this possible:

Jonah Applegarth
Tyrone Applegarth
Alyssa Buffalo
Crystal Cutarm
Kenneth Cutarm
Linay Cutarm
Toni Cutarm
Daylene Deschamps
Elaine Deschamps
Nathan Deschamps
Chevean Dumas
Megan Ermineskin
Jess Ghostkeeper
CJ Headman
Janeah Headman
Tyson Johnson
DeAnne Lightning
Jenelle Lightning
Talon Lightning

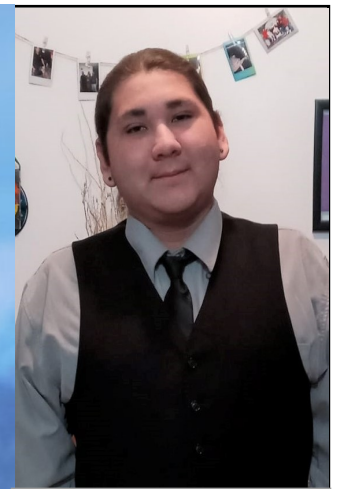
Gage Nepoose
Sarina Nepoose
Berly Oskatamin
Joanne Oskatamin-Potts
Jordan Plaineagle
Kenneth Roan
Elizabeth Rowan
Branden Saddleback
Cecilia K. Saddleback
Mason Saddleback
Melayna M. Saddleback
Mike Saddleback
Tyson Saddleback
Sirene Samson
Brian Small-Buffero
Audrey Ward
Jimmy Ward
Maureen Ward-Caisse
Justin White

Ellie Lightning-Omeasoo
Maddi McMaster
Spirit Minde

Tyra Wolfe
Allie Young
Andrea Young



Still I Rise
 By Dezzmen Whitebear
 You may think you know me
 With your rough opinions
 You may tell lies behind my back
 But still, like sweetgrass in spring, I'll rise.
 Just like the early morning sun,
 With certainty of day
 Just like sage in the summer
 Still I'll rise.
 You may call me savage
 You may look down on me with your eyes,
 You may act like you don't see me,
 But still, like smoke from a peace pipe, I'll rise.
 Out of the ashes of our story I rise up
 from the trauma of our ancestors I rise
 I'm the grass that moves in the early morning,
 A dancer spinning in the wind.




Dezzmen Whitebear wrote this poem for his English class. He will be graduating in June from grade 9 from the Sacred Heart School in Wetaskiwin

Maskwacis RCMP Town Hall Info Session

The Maskwacis RCMP hosted a town hall information session on May 17th in Louis Bull. The RCMP Detachment Commander, Inspector Leanne MacMillan provided updates and answered questions. There was also a presentation from the local Crown Prosecutors. Some topics covered were, current initiatives, cultural teachings, reconciliation



efforts and relationship building with the community. The 2022-2023 Policing Priorities include: Crime Reduction – Substance Abuse Focus on reduction of substance abuse through community education and enforcement actions, Crime Reduction – Violence in Relationships Focus on domestic violence investigations and community and police officer education, Contribute to Relationship Building with Indigenous



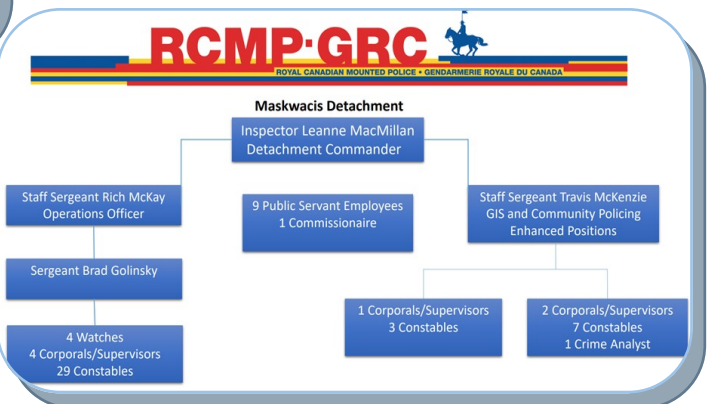
RCMP-GRC
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE • GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA

Maskwacis Detachment
Who we are

The Maskwacis Detachment provides 24 hour policing done by 4 watches working 12 hour shifts. They work on a rotation of 2 day shifts, 2 night shifts, then 4 days off.

In addition to the general duty policing the Maskwacis Detachment also has 14 enhanced positions created under the Community Tripartite Agreement also known as the CTA. These officers make up the Community Response Unit (CRU) which is divided into a Community Policing Unit and a General Investigations Unit.

Communities – Reconciliation Focus on engaging with the community and taking part in cultural awareness and education opportunities.



Upcoming Events/Classifieds

☎ (780) 585-3741 ✉ trishia@ermineskin.ca
ext #266



ERMINESKIN NEWSLETTER
NEXT ISSUE: JUNE 2ND, 2022

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
MAY 30TH, 2022

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

POST SECONDARY FUNDING DEADLINE: May 30, 2021 FOR Summer Term (July-August)

For 3rd & 4th Year students

1. 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.
3. Students in situations where prerequisite courses need to be taken for the September start and must have faculty advisor confirmation.

**Deadline is June 15/2022 for Fall
Term (September 2022)**

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

Join us for a
3 Day
Workshop

Success In Sobriety Promoting Sober Living

**May 25th-May 27th,
2022**

Wednesday: 1-4pm Session
Thursday: 9-12pm & 1-4pm Sessions
Friday: 9-12pm Session

Location: Ermineskin Brighter Futures

Boardroom

Must be 18+ to attend
**Limited space, Register
early!**

Facilitator: Kristen Wildcat-Many Bears

*To Register: call Ermineskin Brighter
Futures @ 780-585-2000*



HOME MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP

AGENDA

Why Home Maintenance? Traditional past and present similarities of home care, Grading around your home, Roof elements, Windows and Doors, Interior components, Minor Plumbing repairs, Fire Safety, Mold information and Cleaning and Mechanical components. Hand-on training to learn repairs.

Light supper will be provided
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
(Limited Seating)
Call to register

Attention: Home Occupants
Thursday May 26, 2022

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
Ermineskin Property Management @ 780-585-3886

AHS GUIDELINES FOLLOWED
Presented by
Nicholas Kootenayoo

NK2022

Certificate upon
completion

ERMINESKIN ANNUAL CEMETARY FEAST

at
**June 5th Ermineskin
12:00 noon Cemetery**

In the event of rain, Feast will be moved to
the N.O.K Building.

All safety protocols to be followed.
We encourage attendees to bring their
own lawn chairs





2022 FOUR NATIONS
EXHIBITION GAME
JUNE 4TH, 2022

TEAM INDIGENOUS ALBERTA **VS** CANADA SUMMER GAMES TEAM ALBERTA

LOCATION: FOUR NATIONS ARENA
TIME: 2:00PM

LIVE POWWOW PERFORMANCE

SPECIAL GUEST CHIEF WILTON LITTLECHILD



ERMINESKIN CREE NATION

YOUTH JUDGES NEEDED Paid gig \$300.00
FOR SKATE PARK COMPETITION

25TH JUNE 10AM-5PM @ MASKWACIS SKATE PARK

TO APPLY EMAIL: STEVEN.F@KKAMIK.COM OR CALL: 780-585-0215



Ermineskin Cree Nation

2019 - 2020

VIRTUAL AUDIT REPORT

May 31st, 2022 @ 10:00am

Presented via: **zoom**