



Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin ᓂᓯᓗᓂᓗ ᓂᓴᓴᓴᓴ

Ermineskin Newsletter February 10, 2023

Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin Mikisô Pîsim Mitâtaht Akimaw Anohc

ᓂᓯᓗᓂᓗ ᓂᓴᓴᓴᓴ ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ

🌟 ⚡ Boy's Pow Wow Singing ⚡ 🌟



February 1, 2023

There was Boy's Pow Wow singing practice at the Jim Rattlesnake Sports Building and you could hear the drum outside of the building before walking in. Once inside it sounded like a pow wow was taking place. In the middle of the floor, surrounding the drum was 8 male youths along with Gerry Roasting and some other instructors, singing a song. The timing of hitting the drum was

good as well as the sing-ing. It is good to know that there are up and coming pow wow singers in the community. That tradition will remain alive and well in Neyaskweyahk for a long time and it is good to see the youth and instructors working together.

Contact Ermineskin Recreation if your interested: 780-585-3088.

Alberta Indigenous Games 2022 Trophy Celebration



February 2, 2023

Congratulations Ermineskin Athletes and Coaches for your participation and achievements at the AIG 2022 Games.! Ermineskin was awarded for a trophy for participation numbers and medals awarded. Good luck in AIG 2023! Photo to the left- some of our athletes and coaches that entered into Lacrosse, Running, Soccer and Baseball.

First Nation Dancer Performs at Super Bowl Pre-game Festivities

An Indigenous dancer from Saskatchewan is preparing for a performance of a lifetime, taking the stage at this year's Super Bowl.

Patrick Mitsuing is a fancy dancer from the Makwa Sahaiehcan First Nation, about 300 kilometres northwest of Saskatoon.

He's one of several Indigenous dancers performing on Sunday, but the only one from Canada.

"I'm anxious. I'm nervous ... I feel like I've been preparing for things like this my whole life," Mitsuing told CTV News in a Zoom call from Phoenix.

"I love my culture. So to be a part of this big platform to represent my people, my community is such an honour. I'm just going to do the best that I can."

Mitsuing has been dancing since he could walk. He's danced at major powwows and the New Orleans Jazz Festival, but performing on Super Bowl Sunday at the State Farm Stadium— with an estimated 70,000 people in the stands — will be his biggest stage yet.

Mitsuing landed in Arizona on Sunday.

On Monday, he danced at Super Bowl Opening Night at the Footprint Center in downtown Phoenix.

"It was totally out of my realm of what I'm used to," Mitsuing says.

"Right now, it feels like Phoenix doesn't sleep because there's



Photo courtesy: Patrick Mitsuing

so much going on all night. It's just been unreal the amount of people we're meeting and seeing. Tonight we're hanging out with Snoop Dogg and Shaq!"

This Super Bowl, the NFL is shining the spotlight on Indigenous culture.

Indigenous artist Lucinda "La Morena" Hinojos was commissioned to create the official artwork printed on all the tickets.

For the first time in Super Bowl history, the NFL will read a land acknowledgement.

"To have us included as Indigenous dancers is really cool. This is the first step," Mitsuing says.

"Pretty soon maybe there'll be an Indigenous person doing a big thing with a halftime show. We'll see where it goes from here."

- Article from CTV News Saskatoon

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CONFEDERACY OF TREATY SIX NEW GRAND CHIEF

January 20, 2023 The Confederacy of Treaty Six issued a news release statement announcing the New Grand Chief .

The Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations is proud to announce Chief Leonard Standingontheroad as their new Grand Chief. Chief Standingontheroad is also serving as Chief of Montana First Nation.

“It is a great honour to be appointed Grand Chief of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nation”, said Grand Chief Standingontheroad. “I have always been passionate about upholding our rights as Treaty People. During my tenure, I will focus on the issues such as health, education and economic development.”

Further to government relations, Grand Chief Standingontheroad aims to build a stronger relationship between the Assembly of Frist Nations and the Confederacy. He will continue his work in the areas of addictions and the opioid crisis, early childhood education and economic development in the central Alberta region, respectively.

-Excerpt from the from the Confederacy media release



Traditional Knowledge & Inherent Right Gathering 2023



January 30-31, 2023

Samson HBMC: All four bands were present for the presentations by Jerry Saddleback and

Wilton Little-child. The event was scheduled for three days but was only 2 days in duration. The MC was Brian Lightning and there were male and female pipe ceremonies each day in the morning. Breakfast and lunch were served as well. There was a lot of information on the United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by Wilton Littlechild. Article 32 in particular deals with the mainstream media and how they should be made to “...respect and pro-

mote native languages.” It was also noted in Article 32 that the media should not discriminate against native cultures or languages.

Elder Jerry Saddleback talked about the Plains Cree History of Creation or the Long Story. The Long Story by tradition, is told in only in the Winter time. It is about the Cree language, Cree syllabics and stories from our ancient past. I recommend people to hear the complete story from Jerry if you can.

The gathering also touched on the legacy of the residential schools and what it did to our communities. There was discussion about reconciliation on how people and organizations can go about it.

Also, people were having private discussions about everything that deals with native people. It was an affirmation that we are still here. In the end Chief Saddleback thanked everyone for showing up.

-Article and Photo by Guide Fleury

Alberta Lawyers Launch Petition Against Mandatory Course on Indigenous History

Jan 31, 2023: Fifty lawyers are calling on the law society to repeal the rule, saying it's an issue of professional autonomy.

A group of lawyers in Alberta is pushing back against a rule mandating professional development, which currently only applies to a course focused on Indigenous history and contemporary issues.

The petition, signed by 51 lawyers, calls for a special Law Society of Alberta meeting to vote on repealing Rule 67.4, which requires all Alberta lawyers to take an Indigenous cultural competency course called "The Path" or face penalty of suspension.

Toronto Star

Koren Lightning-Earle, an Indigenous lawyer from Maskwacis, said she is troubled by the petition, but heartened by the fact she and four colleagues were able to convince 400 active lawyers to sign a counter petition in around 48 hours.- Edmonton Journal

Jan. 27, 2023: "Fifty one Alberta Lawyers signed a petition for a Special Meeting for Law Society to vote on Mandatory CPD specifically 'CPD including any specific cultural, political, or ideological education'. The Law Society of Alberta recently required Mandatory Training for Lawyers on Indigenous Cultural Competency, it wasn't hard! It was the bare minimum for Lawyers, my 16 year old probably knows more than any of these people. You can read between the lines of the petition. Don't tell me it's not about this course, it is a slippery slope and its dangerous thoughts that do nothing for the profession or humanity.

I been teaching courses like this for years, I started with the LSA on this journey, I heard all the complaints and reasons why people do not feel it's necessary for people to learn about Indigenous history. I have been challenged by white privilege time and time again on this issue. I pushed and continue to push to change the culture of Law in Canada BC it wasn't built for Indigenous people it was built with the idea of keeping us in a box.

But I know there is people out there that want to do the work to ensure the TRC calls to Action are implemented and many of you amazing people are my friends.. So while these 51 people think they can take action and demote our profession, YOU can take Action. YOU can ensure every lawyer at your firm registers and votes. If you are non-lawyer you can bring this attention to your Lawyers and Lawyer friends." Koren Lightning Earl

Feb, 2, 2023 National Indigenous Law Students' Association is-

sues out a formal statement on their website, and social media. "The National Indigenous Law Students' Association stands in support of the Law Society of Alberta's (LSA) mandatory continuing education requirement on Indigenous culture, history, and legal issues in Canada."

Friday Feb. 3, 2023 "Yes! 400 Active Members of the Law Society of Alberta, along with 124 others, including Non-Active LSA members, Legal Academics, Articling Students, Law students and Organizations, have signed a letter to express support for the existing Indigenous cultural competency requirement. This letter is now public and has been sent to the Benchers. THANK YOU to all those that signed, sent kind words, you really showed up for this important issue. To the amazing team Anna Lund Hadley Friedland, Sarah Kriekle and Hero Laird." Koren Lightning Earl

Feb, 3, 2023: Thousands of Alberta lawyers are expected to take part in an online debate Monday morning over the issue of mandatory Indigenous history training. The law society will host a special meeting Monday to vote on the fate of Rule.

At least 400 active lawyers have signed a letter supporting the Indigenous cultural competency requirement, while 51 others have signed a petition stating that they oppose mandatory training, ahead of Monday's meeting of the Alberta Law Society where those opposed are looking to repeal Rule 67.4, which board members of the law society passed in 2020, making cultural sensitivity training mandatory.

All Alberta lawyers had 18 months to complete the training, or risk suspension. EIGHT SUSPENDED

According to a spokesperson for the Alberta Law Society, close to 10,000 active lawyers were required to take the course, and only a handful didn't.

"There were 9,769 active lawyers required to complete The Path by the initial deadline. Of those, only 26 lawyers were administratively suspended for failing to complete the requirement and were included on the public notice to the profession.

"As of today, only eight of these lawyers remain suspended," said Law Society acting communications manager Avery Stodal-ka, in an email to CTV News.

Alberta Lawyers Launch Petition Against Mandatory Course on Indigenous History Cont'd

The issue to be debated (at Monday's meeting) is the authority of the Law Society of Alberta Benchers to mandate specific professional development activities for Alberta lawyers in the public interest," it said. "The Law Society is dedicated to protecting the public interest by promoting and enforcing standards of professional and ethical conduct by Alberta lawyers.

The Monday meeting will take place online. Over 4,000 lawyers are expected to participate and the majority vote will determine how the Alberta Law Society proceeds. -CTV Calgary News

Feb. 6 2023: 3,400 voted Monday in Law Society of Alberta special meeting

Indigenous course to continue after lawyers vote to keep Alberta law society rule for mandated education

Alberta lawyers have voted to keep the rule allowing the law society to mandate legal education which has, so far, only been used for an Indigenous course.

The law society released a brief statement saying it's "pleased" that Rule 67.4 was affirmed by the vote.

"Clearly, the issues discussed at the special meeting have captured the attention of many Alberta lawyers and the wider public," said president Ken Warren. "This rule is significant for the law society to continue to carry out our duties of self-regulation in the public interest."

The mandatory course was developed in direct response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action 27. It asks the Federation of Law Societies of Canada to "ensure that lawyers receive appropriate cultural competency training."- CBC News Calgary

Feb, 6, 2023: "I was one of the few able to make a statement in today's meeting. Here is my statement. Also it does feel good to have a win.

My name is Koren Lightning-Earle. I am a status Indian as defined by the Indian Act. I am Blue Thunderbird Woman from Samson Cree Nation in Treaty Six as defined by me. My adopted grandfather Late Louis Sunchild signed the adhesion to Treaty 6 in 1944. My parents attended Indian Day Schools, I attended Ermineskin Day School while it was under control of Indian Affairs. I am not in favor of the motion and petition put forth.

I quote Justice Murray Sinclair when I say "Education is what got us here and Education is what will get us out. While Indigenous

children were being mistreated in residential schools by being told they were heathens, savages and pagans and inferior people, that same message was being delivered across public schools of this country".

For those that think the History of Indigenous Peoples is "woke culture" or "fake news". My grandmother Alice Carter (Angus) when she was 6 years old went to Delmas Indian Residential Schools in 1935 along with her sister Caroline Angus, 1936. Caroline died in the school and her body was never returned to Thunderchild First Nation. We believe her body is among those being found at the school sites today. I am alive today because my grandmother made it home

I close with a statement from the TRC "To the Commission, reconciliation is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in this country. In order for that to happen, there has to be awareness of the past, acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted, atonement for the causes, and action to change behaviour. We are not there yet. The relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples is not a mutually respectful one. But, we believe we can get there, and we believe we can maintain it.

75% of Lawyers voted down the petition. 3470 people voted.

We sent those negative views back to the abyss. Proud of my team and my friends. We showed up stood strong in spirit of our ancestors and with our allies. Thank you to those that voted it down and signed our letter." Koren Lightning Earl



Coping with Loss Program - Brighter Futures

Over the weekend, February 11th and 12th, Brighter Futures hosted a workshop that focused on healing from loss and methods/tools that will help with the healing process. Two sources, who wish to remain anonymous (as the workshop was a therapy session for themselves and their families), wanted to share their experience with the program.

First participant shared with us, "I wanted to be apart of the program for myself and my family. We have suffered loss after loss, it seems, and most days it becomes too much. I was hoping to find healthier outlets for my emotions and get a better understanding of how to cope with the losses."

They continue to say, "I learned healthier coping mechanisms



- Participants Tribute Rock

and how to identify my own feelings. It helped me look inward for my healing. We talked a lot about where we were coming from mentally and emotionally as individuals, and ended with art therapy. We

got to paint a healing rock, whichever rock spoke to you, was yours. They were called Tribute Rocks, and we got to talk about who it was for and why we chose that person to pay tribute to.

I would recommend this program to everyone who has suffered from loss. Whether it be family, friends, pets, relationships or even a loss of self. It had a lot of cultural aspects to it that really spoke to me. The facilitator was also amazing and helped me to understand a lot about myself."

The second source had this to say; "I'm struggling with depression and knowing that I cannot help my immediate family members with their inability to cope with our loss. I needed to start somewhere.

I learned that the answers are in our culture and practices, we need to continue to smudge and pray every day, no matter what. We need healthy supporters, family members that are trying to get well or friends to talk to.

We would listen to the facilitator speak on the medicine wheel and the meaning behind it. How the medicine wheel within ourselves has missing parts and how to work on getting them back.

Whenever Brighter Futures has healing programs like this, register as soon as you can. We want them to bring back the resources and do more sessions with our people."

Brighter Futures has an upcoming program called "Love Yourself As Is", focusing on self-love, starting February 21st, 2023. **If you are interested please contact: (780) 585-2000 or futuresbrighter@yahoo.com**

- Article by Marleigh Cutarm

National Girls & Women in Sports Day

February 1st was National Girls & Women in Sports Day! We acknowledge the awesome girls on the Maskwacis U11 Hawks! #23 Kailee Bull,



#38 Jalayna Baptiste-Quinney, #7 Carolyn Stoney, #14 Bri-anna Lightning.

Photos by Leighton Raine.



NGCI Welcomes New Board of Director



MASKWACIS, AB - mom to two daughters and 3 grand daughters. Ruby As of January 16, 2023, is a life-long learner and has completed a Bachelors Neyaskweyahk Group of of Arts, a Masters of Education and a Masters of Busi- Companies Inc. (NGCI) ness Administration Degrees. and Ermineskin Cree Na- Ruby has experience working with the First Nation’s tion Chief & Council, offi- tribal governments, the Government of Alberta, the cially announce the new- Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscien- est Board of Director, tists of Alberta, NorQuest College and is now the Na- Miss. Ruby Littlechild. tional Director of Indigenous Relations for SNC- Lavalin.

The NGCI Board under- She has also served on the many government and stands they are accounta- national boards, including Alberta Child and Family Services Board, Alberta Historical Resources Founda- tion and a former National Student Board Member for CANDO a national organization involved in com- munity economic development. She is currently a Citizens Appeal Panel Member for Community and Social Services, sits on the Red Deer Polytechnic Board of Governors and the Alberta Indigenous Op- portunities Corporation. Ruby’s passions are promoting healing, higher educa- tion, First Nations awareness, inclusion and equality for First Nation’s people in Canada’s infrastructure industry and our economy. She believes shifts in so- cial consciousness and ethical practice are vital to sustainable socio-economic development in First Na- tion’s communities. It is our pleasure to welcome Ruby Littlechild to the NGCI team while serving the community of Ermine- skin Cree Nation as a Board of Director. We also ex- press our sincere gratitude to the outgoing Board of Director, Conrad Young. Conrad completed a 5-year term with great support and dedication to NGCI.

Ruby is a strong believer in traditional ceremony. Ru- by was raised in a highly transitory upbringing be- tween the city of Edmonton and her First Nation’s community of Ermineskin Cree Nation, Maskwacis, Alberta, the First Nation where her parents, siblings and extended family still resides. Ruby is a proud



M.E.S.C. Nehiyawewin Celebration Week

Nehiyawewin Celebration Week: In recognition of skirt day, rock your moc's day and beaded jewelry day. The week ended with a round dance for the children and their families at their schools. Mîywâsin!

Photos provided by the MESC and Mimiw Sakahikan School Facebook Page

of Nehiyawewin and Cahkipehikewin activities such as bannock making, kohkom scarf day, ribbon shirt and



Upcoming Events/Classifieds



Ermineskin Cree Nation

WE ARE HIRING!

As of February 10th, 2023

OPEN POSITIONS:

- ✔ One (1) Early Child Development Worker Level 2 with Ermineskin Daycare
by: February 13th, 2023
- ✔ One (1) Accounting Clerk with the Ermineskin Finance Dept.
by: February 27th, 2023
- ✔ One (1) Member with the Ermineskin Pow Wow Committee
by: February 27th, 2023
- ✔ Executive Assistant with the Ermineskin Arena, Parks and Recreation Dept.
by: February 27th, 2023
- ✔ Equipment Maintenance with the Ermineskin Arena, Parks and Recreation Dept.
by: February 27th, 2023
- ✔ Administrative Assistant with the Ermineskin Elders Centre Dept.
by: February 27th, 2023
- ✔ Temporary Intake/File Clerk with the Ermineskin N.E.S.T. Dept. (1 Year Term)
by: February 27th, 2023

APPLY NOW

Please submit applications, resume and criminal record check to:

faith@ermineskin.ca

LET'S END BULLYING TOGETHER

February 22nd, 2023

Sákihitók mina wicíhitók

"LOVE ONE ANOTHER AND HELP ONE ANOTHER"



PRESENTS

AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP

FEBRUARY 23, 2023

4:00 - 6:00 PM

N.O.K. BUILDING - ERMINESKIN



Families with Autistic children are welcome to join us to network and share resources & experiences

Transportation Provided

- Snack and Drinks provided
- Incentive for those that attend
- Please call the office to book a ride for transportation by Feb. 21, 2023

Join us!

MORE INFO

Carmella @
780-585-2254

Integrated Family Services



MASKWACIS COUNSELLING & SUPPORT SERVICES

Youth Online Talent Show

FEBRUARY 03 - MARCH 02

SINGING, DANCING, VISUAL ARTS & TRADITIONAL ARTS



If your child has a talent in any of the categories listed, submit a video or picture to our MCSS event page "MCSS Youth Talent Contest".



1st place

TBA

2nd place

TBA

3rd place

TBA

1st, 2nd & 3rd prizes for each category along with additional prizes for participation.

WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED MARCH 03, 2023. GOODLUCK!
For more information, contact Rebecca @ 780-585-2268



ERMINESKIN CREE Nation



(780) 585-3741 @ermineskinrecreation
Ermineskin Cree Nation @ErmineskinCree

ERMINESKIN.CA

MASKIWACIS Youth Gathering

February 16th & 17th, 2023

Theme: Inspire The Future

@HOWARD BUFFALO MEMORIAL CENTER

DAY 1: 9:30AM - 10:00AM (BREAKFAST)
10:00AM - 4:00PM (BREAKOUT)

DAY 2: 9:30AM - 10:00AM (BREAKFAST)
10:00AM - 4:00PM (BREAKOUT)
4:30PM - 5:00PM (SUPPER)
5:00PM - 8:00PM (CONCERT)

Join Us!

- First 150 youth registered get an incentive.
- It's open to ages 11 - 24.
- Food will be provided on both days.
- Youth will get to hear inspirational stories.
- Attend **FUN** interactive sessions and get resources.
- **WIN BIG DOOR PRIZES & Listen to a Live Concert!**



Register Here!

Register Online: scwprograms.com, (780) 585-3634
Call: (780) 585-3088 or (780) 585-3012



Family Day

2023

Sunday, February 19th, 2023
3:00pm - 7:30pm



Sponsored by :
ECN Community Wellness
ECN Recreation
ECN Headstart
Samson Youth & Sports Development
SCN Community Wellness
SCN Headstart

- 3:00 PM** Skating
ECN Arena
- 4:00 PM** Wagon Rides/ Outdoor Activities
NOK Building
- 5:00 PM** Family Magic Show (First 75 Registered)
N.O.K. Building
- 6:00 PM** Family Magic Show (First 75 Registered)
Jim RS Sports Building
- 7:30 PM** Drive-In Movie
N.O.K. Building

PHOTO BOOTH

3:00PM - 6:00PM
Location: N.O.K. Building

FIREWORKS TO FOLLOW!

* SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

Covid-19 Protocols in Effect: We ask that you practice social distancing, wear masks, sanitize frequently, and stay home if you are feeling unwell.

To Register for Events Contact:
ECN Community Wellness (780) 585-3741
ECN Recreation: (780) 585-3088
SYSD: (780) 585-3012



Ermineskin Communications Dept.:

Tara Cutarm, Manager
tara@erminekin.ca
(780) 585-3741 Ext.250

Marleigh Cutarm, Website Coordinator
marleigh@erminekin.ca
(780) 585-3741 Ext.228

