



Ermineskin Newsletter May 18th 2023

Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin Opiniyâwewipîsim Ayênânêwosâp Akimaw Anohc

A Brief News Recap and a Return to Regular Publishing



As we move towards the end of May , we wanted to take a moment to look back at some of the major events that have taken place over the past few months. On a local level, these events have had a significant impact on our community, and we're excited to relive these moments with you.

One of the most notable recent events was our MMIWG2S+ Gathering + Walk. There was a substantial turnout as the community walked in support of the friends and families effected by this movement and to honor those who have passed.

Another significant event in our community was the screening of the documentary "Bones of Crows", which explored the history and culture of the Cree people. The screening sparked important conversations about Indigenous culture and the history of residential schools. It was

an important step forward in promoting understanding and reconciliation in regards to our community.

Finally, we had our local job fair, which brought together employers and job seekers from our community. The event was a great opportunity for local businesses to connect with potential employees, and for job seekers to explore new opportunities in our area.

As we move forward into the coming months, we'll continue to keep a close eye on upcoming major events in our Nation, and we'll be sure to keep you updated. We hope that you find this recap of the past months informative and helpful, and we look forward to returning to more a more regular publishing schedule largely in part due to our newly hired Newsletter Editor Kayla Cutarm!

Bones of Crows Screened Locally

On Friday, April 14, 2023 Ermineskin Cree Nation Events Department hosted the movie: **BONES OF CROWS** is told through the perspective of Cree Matriarch Aline Spears as she survives a childhood in Canada’s residential school system to continue her family’s generational fight in the face of systemic starvation, racism, and sexual abuse that took place in the residential school system. Aline Spears uses her uncanny ability to understand and

free event & had special guests Michelle Thrush & Jerome Turner to take questions and talk about the making of the movie.



BONES OF CROWS was written, directed and produced by Marie Clements and produced with Trish Dolman, Christine Haebler and Sam Grana. **Bones of crows** is the **FIRST ALL** indigenous produced film to get a theatrical release!



translate codes into working for a special division of the Canadian Air Force as a

Cree code talker in World War II. The story unfolds over 100 years with a cumulative force that propels us into the future. We had 68 community members attend the

Ermineskin Offices Celebrate Employee Recognition

The Ermineskin Events and Personnel department worked in partnership to host the 2022-2023 Employee Recognition Event, held on Friday March 25, 2023 at the NOK Building. This event was to show appreciation and honor the employees of Ermineskin Cree Nation for their hard work and years of dedicated service to the nation and citizens. There was a total of eighty-eight employees recognized in a variety of categories ranging from five to forty plus years. The celebrations were kicked off by honoring the staff with powwow dancers and honor songs by Mountain Kree. A

luncheon from A1 catering was held followed with a presentation and words of honor from leadership while gifts of certificates, mini backpacks and a monetary reward were handed out by leadership. A plaque was created and placed in the Administration front reception area to showcase all the employees who were recognized. Ermineskin Cree Nation would like to thank all the employees



for their hard work and dedication. With employees like you it becomes easier to achieve the organizations goals and continue providing the best service to the nation!



CREE CORNER

He asked kikawinâw-askiy, our mother earth, if she would be willing. She agreed, but stated that she couldn't do it alone. She called upon piyêsiw, the thunderbird, who arrived in the form of a translucent light blue creature soaring through the sky. She exhaled yôtin, giving rise to the wind. The sun was already here.

Years ago, during a sweat ceremony, the grandfathers revealed to us what the future held. They told us that our mother earth was hurting and that she would begin healing herself. The grandfathers of wind, fire, and the thunderbird declared they would stand up to support her. What people refer to as "natural disasters" are simply our mother earth healing. When planning a special day for a ceremony, you can pray to our father first and ask our mother earth, the wind, the thunderbird, and the sun to bless the day. You should raise a pipe four days in advance and sing their songs. If you do not possess a pipe or know the songs, seek someone who does. It is not our way to proceed alone without the proper knowledge or tools.

ASKIY
YÔTIN
ISKOTÊW
NIPIY @iamnehiyaw

Facebook profile for @iamnehiyaw with 9,959 likes and 693 talking about this. Exploring modern day issues...

Earth okawimaw askiy ▷bΔ·L◦ ◁^P+

Wind yotin ◁^P

FOUR NATURAL LAWS

Fire iskotew Δ^dU◦

Water nipiy σΔ+

Cree Provided by Betty Simon



Annual ECN Foodbank Highway Cleanup

The Ermineskin Food Bank and several volunteers held their eighth annual highway cleanup on May 13th, 2023. There was quite a lot of volunteers and all together they managed to canvas a massive stretch of road and were even able to split off to cleanup some back roads that otherwise wouldn't have been reached. Their fruits of their efforts were plain to see with a trail of orange

for these events from the community has been



bags dotting the highway to be picked up at a later date. The growing support and recognition we've seen

truly outstanding. We hope to see the same level of success and turnout for next years cleanup, and are looking forward to them hitting the 10 year milestone with their efforts! A huge thank you to the Ermineskin Foodbank for hosting this yearly clean-up and of course the volunteers who spent the day cleaning the community of Ermineskin Cree Nation! Ay hay.

MEC Job Fair



Maskwacis Employment Center recently hosted a largely successful job fair.

us off in a good way with his prayer, Kiara Johnson of ATB for her land acknowledgment, HBMC and staff, our funder and sponsors, Hawk Radio, Toni Potts for catering, our industry partners and especially all of the job seekers and Maskwacis members for helping us make the Maskwacis Spring 2023 job fair a huge success. Hai Hai."

Attendance was high and there was a large variety of companies hiring for a wide selection of potential jobs. Lana Johnson, Executive Director Maskwacis Employment Center had the following to say "On behalf of the Maskwacis Employment Center, I would like to thank Brian Lee for starting



Local Designer Featured in Vogue

Osamuskwasis is a Pigeon Lake resident, Ermineskin Band Member and First Nations artist who has gained national attention for her work in promoting Indigenous culture and raising awareness about the issues facing Indigenous communities in Canada. "I hope to offer education, storytelling, and authenticity," says Roan. "It's important to take up space authentically in fashion, especially since a lot of non-Indigenous folks tend to appropriate our designs and artwork. I hope to bring recognition of my tribal and family designs in fashion, to educate through storytelling, and to let the people know that we are still here and thriving."



shares her experiences growing up in Pigeon Lake and how her connection to her culture and heritage has shaped her worldview which bled through into her designs.

Osa has had the amazing opportunity

to have supermodel Quannah Chasinghorse and *Prey* star Amber Midthunder, model pieces in her collection at the Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week. Her art is also a celebration of Indigenous culture and a way to honor the traditions of her ancestors. "I got into design through generational teachings that were passed down to me," Roan told *Vogue*.

"I was taught how to design and do beadwork by my mother, Bear Roan, and great grandmother, Sarah Meguinis, at the age of seven."

The feature in *Vogue Magazine* is a well-deserved recognition of Osamuskwasis's talent and the important work she is doing. We hope that as time goes

on more and more indigenous artists and designers can get the recognition they deserve for their work as well.



VOGUE

Recently her designs garnered enough attention to earn her a prestigious article in *Vogue Magazine*. In the *Vogue* article, Osamuskwasis speaks candidly about her personal journey and the inspiration behind her designs. She


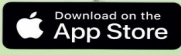
Ermineskin Official App has been Released!


The Ermineskin I.T. and Communications team is happy to announce the launch of the official Ermineskin app! The app is now currently available for both Android and Apple IOS. Search up “**Ermineskin Cree Nation**” on either app store. This new technology will give users faster and more direct access to news and updates, and you will be able to enable notifications in the event that something urgent pops up. For any further suggestions or requested features for the app, please contact our Communications Team via email. Once you download the app you’ll have to make an account, we also encourage our members to verify their Band Member Status if you’re able to. In order to do so follow these steps:


- Step 1: Sign into the Ermineskin App with your User Name and Password
- Step 2: Click the "Forms Tab", the last tab on the far right
- Step 3: Click on the form called "Ermineskin Band Member Verification"
- Step 4: Enter your FULL NAME, Band Number and Birthdate


YOUR NATION
in the palm of your hand


DOWNLOAD NOW





 Instant Notifications

 Easy sign-up and Login

 User-Friendly

 Accessible Information



Chief Travels to Coronation

The Chief of Ermineskin Cree Nation, one of the Four Nations of Maskwacis, Chief Randy Ermineskin, was among the representatives from Treaty 6 Territory at the coronation of King Charles III on May 6, 2023.

Chief’s from across Treaty 6 land attended the coronation of His Majesty, as well as Her Majesty the Queen, in Consort London, England to honour their Treaty relationship.

The other two Treaty 6 Chiefs to attend were Chief Trevor John and Chief Tony Alexis.

“The Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations congratulates His Majesty King Charles III on his Royal Coronation,” said Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Chief Alexis in a press release.

“We look forward to working with King Charles III in ensuring the Crown’s responsibility to Treaty 6 are upheld.

“The Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations expects King Charles III to commit to visiting Treaty 6 Territory to foster friendship and cooperation and to address unfulfilled Treaty obligations.”

-article taken from

<https://www.reddeeradvocate.com/>



Maskwacis Area Fire Ban

As the warm and sunny days of summer approach we should take time to remember the importance of maintaining safety and preserving our natural surroundings. In light of these priorities, the Ponoka, Maskwacis, and Wetaskiwin area fire ban has been implemented. This article aims to shed light on the reasons behind the fire ban, its significance, and what residents should be mindful of during this period. The imposition of the fire ban stems from the need to prevent the occurrence and spread of wildfires.

Wildfires pose significant risks to both human life and the environment, and their potential for destruction cannot be underestimated. By implementing a fire ban, we aim to minimize the chances of accidental fires and protect the safety and well-being of its residents. Maskwacis and its surrounding area is blessed with an abundance of ecosystems that provide habitats for various wildlife species. The fire ban acts as a precautionary measure to safeguard our environment from the devastating consequences of wildfires. It helps prevent the loss of vegetation, loss medicines such as sweetgrass or sage, destruction of animal habitats, and potential long-term damage to our ecosystem.

During the fire ban, it is crucial to be aware of activities that are strictly prohibited. These activities typically include open fires, throwing cigarette butts out of vehicles, campfires, and the use of fireworks or firecrackers. It is important to respect these restrictions to prevent accidental fire ignition. While



the fire ban restricts open fires, it does not necessarily mean you have to forgo outdoor cooking altogether. Gas or propane barbecues can still be used, but caution must be exercised. Ensure proper maintenance, keep a close eye on the barbecue while in use, and have a fire extinguisher nearby. It is also essential to place the barbecue on non-combustible surfaces and away from any flammable materials. Stay vigilant and report any signs of smoke or fire immediately to the local authorities.

Prompt reporting can make a significant difference in preventing small fires from escalating into major incidents. The faster the response, the better chance we have of minimizing the impact on our community. By respecting and adhering to the fire ban regulations, we can collectively reduce the risk of wildfires and ensure the safety and well-being of our fellow residents. Stay informed and exercise caution.

CHIEFS RANDY SPEAKS ON UPCOMING EVENTS


Over the past month, Chief Randy Ermineskin has released a few statements on ongoing and upcoming events within the nation. The first statement he made was released on May 4th, 2023.



To start things off he spoke on the warmer and dryer weather and how that resulted in the current fire ban we're experiencing. He also spoke at length about Red Dress Day and the importance of raising awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people. Importantly, he mentioned the end of month Annual Powwow that would be taking place on the 26th to 28th of this month and the excitement felt throughout the community as the date approaches. Lastly in his first statement he spoke on the approaching graduation ceremonies and the importance of celebrating their success.

A week later in light of even more impending large events the chief released another statement speaking on mothers day and the N.R.T.A. summit at the end of the month. In regards to Mothers Day Chief Randy expressed the im-

portance of honoring our mothers for the work that they've done to bring us into this world, support, spiritual advice, amongst many other ways that they enrich our lives. With the National Resource Transfer Agreement or N.R.T.A. summit happening at the end of the month he praised the efforts of the people within the external affairs department and any others who are assisting to realize this monumental event. The event itself will feature several key speakers such as Sylvia McAdamns and Sharon Venne who will be presenting on topics such as traditional perspective and History of First Nations and Crown Relations. The summit is largely focussed on reforming the act below.



The Alberta Natural Resources Act
 Assented to April 3, 1930, Chapter 21, Alberta
An Act Respecting the Transfer of the Natural Resources of Alberta
 Also referred to as the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (N.R.T.A.)

And confirmed as **Schedule (2) Alberta, Memorandum of Agreement** made this fourteenth day of December, 1929, between The Government of the Dominion of Canada and The Government of the Province of Alberta in the *Constitution Act, 1930* [20-21 George V, c. 26 (U.K.), given effect on 10th July 1930]. *An Act to confirm and give effect to certain agreements entered into between the Government of the Dominion of Canada and the Governments of the Provinces of Manitoba, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan respectively.*

Commentary

- As set out in section 10 of the *NRTA*, Alberta is obligated to transfer unoccupied Crown lands back to the federal government so that Canada can fulfil its obligations under the treaties with First Nations.
- Since 1986, Alberta has settled 11 different land claims, contributed 178,281 acres of unoccupied Crown land to Canada in trust for First Nations and also \$57.6 million in compensation.
- Section 12 of the *NRTA* limits Alberta's right to make laws applicable to First Nations concerning hunting, trapping and fishing. In Alberta, Indians are guaranteed the right to take game and fish *for food*—an important limitation—during all seasons of the year on unoccupied Crown lands and on any other lands to which Indians have a right of access.
- Under the *NRTA*, the Government of Canada agrees that provincial laws respecting game shall apply to the Indians within provincial boundaries in order to secure the continuance of the supply of game and fish for the support and subsistence of Indians.
- The term "Indians" contained in the *NRTA* has been interpreted by the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench in the Ferguson case (1994) to include non-treaty Indians and even Metis, with respect to harvesting rights so long as that person is of "Indian blood" and following "an Indian mode of life". However, in the Blais case (2003) the Supreme Court of Canada held that Metis are not Indian for the purpose of the *NRTA*.

The video statements are all available to watch on the official Ermineskin Facebook page.

Upcoming Events/Classifieds



Manitoba Keewatinowik
Okimakanak Inc.

PRINCE ALBERT
GRAND COUNCIL

WESTERN TREATY Nations

NATIONAL SUMMIT ON THE NATURAL
RESOURCE TRANSFER AGREEMENT 1930

External Affairs: (780) 585-3741

Maskwa Park, Ermineskin Cree
Nation, Alberta, Canada



FEES

DAILY: \$35

YOUTH/STUDENTS: \$10
ELDERS: FREE

4-DAY PASS: \$100

EETF provides the following supports



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

School Supply - Grade 10-12 \$50/Semester. (Off Reserve Only)

Scientific Calculator - EETF Covers \$75.00 (Off Reserve Only)

High School Credit Incentive - (Everyone)
• Alberta Official Transcripts Required

Graduation Support - (Everyone)
• Must Provide confirmation letter of Graduation from school

High School Completion Incentive - (Everyone)
• Must provide official copy of Diploma

Student/Guardian/Caregiver are responsible to apply
and submit required supporting documents to the
EETF Coordinator

coordinator@eetfund.com

780-585-2135

PIGEON LAKE

DOG FOOD

DISTRIBUTION

RESCHEDULED

MAY 24TH, 2023

1PM - 3:30 PM

PIGEON LAKE
RECREATION CENTRE

DOG FOOD IS FOR
REGISTERED DOGS ONLY
IN ORDER TO GET DOG
FOOD YOU NEED TO APPLY
BEFORE THE DAY OF THE
DISTRIBUTION.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO PICK
UP A REGISTRATION FORM
PLEASE CALL ECN SECURITY
TO FILL OUT THE FORM
OVER THE PHONE 8AM-4PM



(780) 585-2004

Maskwacis Counselling & Support Services



Nayoskan
Detox &
Treatment
Centre



Our next intake for Detox & Treatment is open now starting May 25 to June 30, 2023. Contact Brailon to apply. Spaces are limited so contact us early.

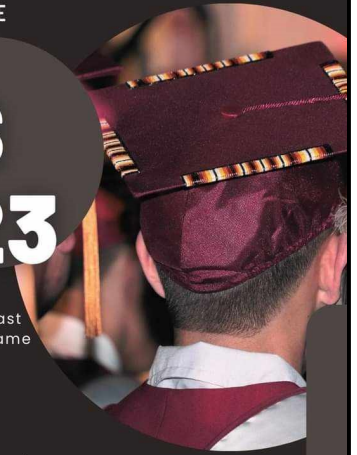
Contact us at 780.585.2268 for more information



CLASS OF 2023

GRAD PHOTOS

Must include students First and Last name, as well as their School's Name



ECN is taking submissions of 2023 Grads in their cap + gown, formal wear or their favorite outfits! Open to Ermineskin students, on and off reserve

- Kindergarten Graduates
- Highschool Graduates (consider sending a baby picture/kindergarten picture along with your grad photos)
- Post-Secondary / University Graduates

DEADLINE:

JUNE 15TH, 2023

Submit Via Google Form

Send submissions to :
tara@erminekin.ca
marleigh@erminekin.ca
isaac@erminekin.ca

Google Form:
<https://forms.gle/112hVmfguDVUrah48>



For more info contact ECN Communications:
 (780) 585-3741



Class of 2023!



KKI is having a Grad Cap beading class. Classes are scheduled for three (3) sessions in May



Classes done by Bear Roan



Dates: May 11, 18 & 27, 2023

Location: KKI Building

Time: Thursdays 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM and Saturday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM



Ermineskin Cree Nation

Limited space, priority given to ECN Graduates and/or families of Graduates

Please register using QR code. If you have questions please contact Andrea @ (780) 585-3721 or email andrea.m@kkamik.com

Ermineskin Tribal Support Support Services

Imporant Notice:

THE TRIBAL SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM IS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

What this means:

ECN Tribal Support Services will not be accepting applications or providing services until further notice. It is advised to utilize supports available in the community such as the Local Foodbank.

Apologies for the inconvenience, and thank you for understanding.



Membership Status Card Update



ECN Membership will be assisting Indigenous Services Canada with Indian Status Cards. They are processing both

- CIS (Laminated) and
- SCIS (hard plastic) Cards

It is open to anyone in need of an Indian status card FREE OF CHARGE, as long as you have the requirements.



May 17th - 19th, 2023

9:00am - 3:00pm

Location: RIVER CREE RESORT

Requirements:

Birth Certificate, Alberta Health Care Card, Driver's License, Alberta ID, Firearms License, Student ID.

150 PARTICIPANT CAPACITY



SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COVID PROTOCOLS



ERMINESKIN AND SAMSON

Father's Day Celebration

THIS EVENT IS FOR FATHERS ONLY.
NO CHILDREN OR SPOUSES PLEASE.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

-PHOTOBOOTH-

FOOD - GAMES - MUCH MORE!

**ERMINESKIN
ARENA**

**JUNE 15TH
10:30AM - 2:00PM**

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER,
CONTACT COMMUNITY WELLNESS:

(780) 585-3741

This event is sponsored by:



Neyaskweyahk Employment Program

KIDS PLAYHOUSE

RAFFLE

\$20.00 / TICKET

Draw will be done when all tickets are sold



TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASE AT THE N.E.P SHOP!

PHONE: 780-585-2101

EMAIL: NATHAN.RATTLESNAKE@ERMINESKIN.CA



ERMINESKIN CREE NATION

2023 POWWOW CELEBRATIONS

"KISTEYIHCIKATEW WAHKOTOWIN"

"Honoring Kinship"

May 26th - 28th, 2023

Bear Park, Maskwacis, AB

Canada

SECURITY ON SITE 24/7
RCMP AND MASKWACIS AMBULANCE AUTHORITY WILL BE ON STANDBY

MASTER OF CEREMONY:

HAL EAGLETAIL, TSUU
 TINA, AB
 ELMER RATTLESNAKE,
 MOUNTAIN KREE, AB

HOST DRUM:

SHOWTIME, PINE RIDGE
 SOUTH DAKOTA, USA

ARENA DIRECTORS:

NATHAN LITTLECHILD,
 MASKWACIS, AB
 NAVARONE
 THUNDERCHILD,
 THUNDERCHILD, SK

SOUND SYSTEM

PROVIDED BY:

CHUCK PAPIN

DRUM JUDGE:

GAVIN BEGAY,
 WARMSPRINGS,
 OREGON, USA

TABULATION:

C&T TABULATORS

POWWOW

PRESIDENT:

ANDREA MACKINAW

POWWOW VICE

PRESIDENT:

KENNETH X. ROAN

POWWOW

SECRETARIES:

SHINEA SMALL
 TERESA WHITE

POWWOW

VOLUNTEERS:

SONNY MACKINAW
 CHARLOTTE ROAN
 ANNA ROAN

MEN'S BUCKSKIN, GOLDEN AGE (60+)

MEN'S: TRADITIONAL, FANCY, GRASS AND CHICKEN :
 \$1400.00 - \$1000.00 - \$800.00 - \$600.00
 WOMEN'S: TRADITIONAL, FANCY, CONTEMPORARY
 JINGLE AND "OLD STYLE" JINGLE:
 \$1400.00 - \$1000.00 - \$800.00 - \$600.00

JR. ADULTS (18-39) AND SR. ADULTS (40 - 59)

MEN'S: TRADITIONAL, FANCY, GRASS AND CHICKEN :
 \$1400.00 - \$1000.00 - \$800.00 - \$600.00
 WOMEN'S: TRADITIONAL, FANCY, CONTEMPORARY
 JINGLE AND "OLD STYLE" JINGLE:
 \$1400.00 - \$1000.00 - \$800.00 - \$600.00

TEENS (13 - 17)

BOY'S: TRADITIONAL, FANCY, GRASS AND CHICKEN :
 \$500.00 - \$400.00 - \$300.00 - \$200.00
 GIRL'S: TRADITIONAL, FANCY, CONTEMPORARY
 JINGLE AND "OLD STYLE" JINGLE:
 \$500.00 - \$400.00 - \$300.00 - \$200.00

JUNIORS (6 - 12)

BOY'S: TRADITIONAL,
 FANCY, GRASS AND
 CHICKEN :
 \$400.00 - \$300.00 -
 \$200.00 - \$100.00
 GIRL'S: TRADITIONAL,
 FANCY, CONTEMPORARY
 JINGLE AND "OLD STYLE"
 JINGLE:
 \$400.00 - \$300.00 -
 \$200.00 - \$100.00

TINY TOT'S (0-5)

TINY TOT'S MUST BE IN FULL
 REGALIA TO RECEIVE
 HONORARIUM: PAID DAILY

DRUM COMPETITION:

\$14,000.00 - \$10,000.00 -
 \$8000.00 - \$6000.00 -
 \$4000.00, DRUM SPLIT.

DANCE REGISTRATION FEE: \$5.00

DANCE SPECIALS:

- TEEN GIRLS FANCY SHAWL (13-17): \$800.00 - \$600.00 - \$400.00
 - JR. BOYS PRAIRIE CHICKEN DANCE (6-12): \$800.00 - \$600.00 - \$400.00
- HOSTED BY ERMINESKIN CREE NATION POWWOW COMMITTEE
- TEEN BOYS AND TEEN GIRLS TRADITIONAL SPECIAL (13 - 17)
- HOSTED BY NEYASKWEYAHK GROUP OF COMPANIES INC.
- ONE-DAY PAYOUT FOR TINY TOTS (FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 26TH, 2023)
- SPONSORED BY: NEYASKWEYAHK GROUP OF COMPANIES INC.
- JOE-JACKSON ROAN OLD STYLE GRASS DANCE SPECIAL
- HOSTED BY: KENNY AND PENNY ROAN FAMILY
- RUSTY COYOTE AND OWEN BAPTISTE MEMORIAL GRASS DANCE SPECIAL (18+)
- HOSTED BY: PATTI COYOTE AND FAMILY

VENDOR INFORMATION:

ANDREA MACKINAW: APMACKINAW@GMAIL.COM

SPECIALS AND INITIATIONS:

KENNETH X. ROAN: (780) 335- 5129

HANDGAMES/STICKGAMES:

ARBOUR OPEN TO FAMILIES WHO
 WOULD LIKE TO HOST

TERESA WHITE: (780) 839-9944

**FIRST 20
 REGISTERED TIPI'S
 WILL BE HONORED
 THROUGHOUT THE
 WEEKEND**