



Jacko's views have also been expressed by proxy for Tsuut'ina Nation Regena Crowchild at numerous AFN assemblies. She voiced her concerns once more during the assembly. "Those resolutions that affect our treaty and inherent rights, how do you deal with those separate from the rest of the resolutions that affect all other chiefs?" she asked. "Because we do not give our consent and Tsuut'ina Nation has instructed AFN that you do not speak to our treaty and inherent rights." "Let's figure out why AFN exists. (It) is to uphold and promote our treaty and inherent rights and we've got off focus way too much in the last few years," said Ermineskin First Nation Chief Randy Ermineskin.



"That is one of the focuses that proposed changes to the charter is hoping to address," said Khelsilem, chair of the chiefs' committee. "We, in our country, have First Nations, and we, over the last 40 years, have all as First Nation communities grown and shifted in who we are. So, one of the things we are looking at is how do we create representation for groups like treaties," he said in reference to a question about modern treaties. "There's a number of nations that have done that nation rebuilding work and there's no representation or spot (for) those types of arrangements in our structure. We want to look at ways to include that."

Among the first questions on a survey that the committee is asking First Nations participants to respond to is whether, under the current charter, the AFN provides an "inclusive governance model" and "provides representation for all nations." In 2005, the AFN created a renewal commission which tabled a report with 57 recommendations. Only the recommendations that required minor modifications were implemented. Khelsilem said the chiefs' committee used those recommendations to inform their work in order to bring "viable recommendations" forward. Recommendations fall under 12 categories, the majority of which deal with the governance of the advocacy organization.

"We believe it's governance, governance, governance that will enable us to redirect the work of the Assembly

of First Nations. We're not here to tear the place apart. We're here to rebuild and maybe do better. I call it build better," said the committee's newest member Brendan Mitchell, interim regional chief for Newfoundland. For ratification, each change will be presented individually. This process will allow individual aspects of the charter renewal to move forward even if others require further consultation. Now, said Mitchell, funding is required to undertake the extensive work that is still required to get feedback from past and present chiefs and councillors, community members, regional councils, technical staff, advisory council members and more. "There's a lot of work left to be done in a little while," said Mitchell. He pointed to the resolution that was on the floor which directed the AFN Secretariat to "seek adequate resources ... to facilitate the necessary engagement."

Feedback will be incorporated into a final AFN charter report, which will be provided to both the executive committee and presented to chiefs at a future assembly. While the resolution calls for the engagement on charter renewal to conclude by the December 2023, there is no timeframe as for when the work on the charter will be completed. The resolution passed with a strong majority.

*Article Provided By: Shari Narine, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Windspeaker.com*



## Equine Horse Therapy ~ Manaciso “Way of Life”



**Summer Work Experience Students**

“If you are in need of trauma release; truly recommend you sign up for Manaciso “Way of Life.” “Definitely beneficial and extremely interesting to be involved in a significant impact on someone’s life perspective.”- says Millie Mackinaw (Youth Employment Strategy Coordinator).

“I really liked it! I thought it was very informative and intriguing! One of the main takeaways from this workshop was the idea of introspection and how to interpret thoughts, feelings, and intuition for the benefit of yourself. To avoid any self-defeating statements that may harm your sense of identity/culture.

I’ve learned how to be consciously aware of my feelings through a spiritual aspect which was definitely new to me because although I did learn about the psychology of self-defeating statements during university, it lacked cultural or spiritual influence with it. This workshop introduced another side of psychology that I wasn’t aware of. And it was really good to be with the horses all day too,” explains Kihew Bailey-Lee.

“I’ve gained knowledge behind our history with someone else’s experience before government was in the picture. I found that really interesting about how we got these labels/titles. Because I thought those “names” were ours because people normalized it. Names I’m talking about is ( First Nations, Indian, Indigenous etc.) I also picked up that healing doesn’t have to be a hard journey to start, and there is many ways to heal. I wouldn’t have thought healing through horses was an actual thing. But I found it very therapeutic.” says Shanae Littlechild.

On July 27th & 28th of 2023, the Post-Secondary Summer Work Experience students and Coordinator Millie Mackinaw attended Equine Horse Therapy - Manaciso “Way of Life” with Patrick Buffalo. *There’s only one problem in our community, and that is the way we think the thought of our own beliefs. Everything starts with a thought. The way we think is what we create for life.*

Post-Secondary students and Coordinator experienced healing through energy and knowledge with how to release stress and trauma in a safe and non-intrusive way. Healing was described as “letting go.” They learned about how thoughts are energy, as energy is a language. All participants were taught that the opposite of fear is trust. The hurt, pain and trauma we are taught and given to us growing up or from conception and it is not our stuff to carry when someone is judgmental towards us, caused harm or trauma, as that is their own personal opinion or thought and not ours to take on that heaviness. This is why it may be hard to trust, so we live in fear.

All participants were asked how could they make changes? The answer was by starting with ourselves by healing from our traumas. The program was mainly hands-on, they were taught to connect with the horses and set intentions with prayer by offering tobacco, asking the horse spirit to help. Whether it’s for physical health, mental health, depression, anger and grief or feeling hopeless/lost.

Overall, it was a beautiful experience and very beneficial for the post-secondary students and coordinator. Students went there carrying the heaviness they were not aware of and left feeling good, happy and light.



# DEADLY DADS FAMILY CAMP



Recently “Deadly Dad’s Camp” hosted their second (2nd) annual camping trip on July 25th to July 29th, 2023. This year's camping trip was in Jasper, Alberta. The camp is meant to bring fathers and their families closer while also creating fun camping memories. On the camping trip, all families had the chance to swim, adventure and even try cliff jumping at many great lakes such as Beauvert and Horseshoe Lake. Although the weather conditions called for rain, many of the children and parents braved the cold to enjoy some swimming together. There were many other activities that had everyone involved such as cultural teachings, sharing circles and even white water rafting! Throughout the time that was spent in the camp, facilitators had many lessons on self awareness, good relationships,

accountability and building a connection.

“This year's camp was possible because of our consistency over the past few years and the effort of everyone involved. Next year, our plan is to look early and book as soon as possible. We plan to choose a more suitable weekend for families that does not interfere with holidays and local events. There are lots of insights to build on and learn from as we continue to build connections and support families in Maskwacis. We’d like to thank our partners and sponsors including Videa, the Indigenous Peoples’ Resilience Fund, Ermineskin Cree Nation, and the Maskwacis Maternal, Child, and Family Wellbeing Research Group.”

*Photo's/Highlights provided by: **Deadly Dads: Maskwacis Men's Support Program***

## MASKWACIS POPE ANNIVERSARY: ONE YEAR LATER



One year ago, Peyasu Wuttunee stood at a sacred fire in Maskwacis, Alta., next to residential school survivors and their family members. He was there to offer support as people dried their tears with tissues, placed them in paper bags, and burned them. It was a symbol of healing for some after they listened to Pope Francis speak at length about the lasting harms of residential schools for Indigenous people, and tell the assembled crowd: "I am deeply sorry."

Wuttunee, the manager of Maskwacis counseling and support services, said there was a significant increase in people reaching out for mental-health resources in the two months after the Pope's visit. It was something the organization prepared for, knowing many people would feel the impact of trauma resurfacing. "My sense is that the younger people had more of a struggle with it," he said of the aftermath of the Pope's apology. "The older people, or the survivors, at least the ones in attendance, were open to that healing. Whereas the younger generation were a little bit more angry about it, the colonial past."

As a year passes since the pontiff made his

"penitential pilgrimage" to Canada, Wuttunee said the apology was one step in a healing journey for some. But it was also just one of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 calls to action, and "there's a whole bunch more to go." After the Pope spoke in Maskwacis on July 25, 2022, he visited the Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples in Edmonton, and travelled to Lac Ste. Anne, a sacred site for several First Nations and nearby Métis settlements, during the annual pilgrimage to the lake. Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Chief Tony Alexis said the Pope's apology, and the subsequent repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery this year, fulfil some of the long-standing demands of the head of the Catholic Church. The Doctrine of Discovery is a legal concept, backed by 15th-century papal bulls, that justified Europeans' claiming of Indigenous lands. But a year later, "I don't see the true impact of it," Alexis said. "The Church could do more of building that bridge of that reconciliation." As a chief, he said his responsibility is to reflect the varied reactions and mixed emotions that persist among his people. "We can go on any one of those paths and each one would have its own story," he said.

"For the Catholic faith, a miracle has happened that Pope Francis came here. For the ones that are harmed, we could say that it's not enough, and so there's much work that needs to be done. And for the ones that practice their ceremonies and so on, for them, they will not be told how to behave again." Ermineskin Cree Nation member Josh Littlechild watched the Pope's address remotely with his father, a residential school survivor. Littlechild is also the nephew of Honorary Chief Wilton Littlechild of Ermineskin Cree Nation, a former Truth and Reconciliation Commission member who was among the Indigenous delegates who travelled to Rome last spring to ask that the Pope apologize for the Church's role in the residential school system in Canada. Josh Littlechild said it took time for him to process his own reaction to hearing Pope Francis's words last year. But he imagines children studying the impact of the visit decades from now, and says he feels optimistic about change for the future. But he points to another significant moment — when the Pope was about to fly back to Rome, and he acknowledged that the forced assimilation of Indigenous children in residential schools was genocide.

"I didn't use the word genocide because it didn't come to mind but I described genocide," Pope Francis told reporters.

"We did survive a genocide," Littlechild said. "So that acknowledgement that comes with truth and reconciliation — the truth came out. "In my opinion, more and more people in Canada just have to plainly call it what it

is. It's a genocide."

Luci Johnson, a Samson Cree Nation member and day school survivor, attended the pontiff's apology in person. She spoke up against the Pope's presence at the time, and she still feels the apology came far too late for many who suffered at residential schools, including both her parents, who are now deceased. But she said ultimately, she needed to be there for her family. "The same day, I went to both where my mom is buried and where my grandmother is buried and I said, 'I saw the Pope for you.'"

Luci Johnson, left, with her oldest daughter Paula Johnson-Jefferson, at Pope Francis's address in Maskwacis, Alta., on July 25, 2022. Johnson said she remains focused on tangible action that will help the generations of Indigenous people still suffering from the deep, lasting harms of residential schools. She said she still doesn't see nearly enough support for desperately needed prevention programs and efforts to help people reconnect with their culture and language.

Littlechild, too, said there are more concrete steps he'd like to see. Lately, he said he's been thinking about how it should be a priority for services at the Catholic church in Maskwacis to be done in Cree.

"I'm thinking, moving forward, the people who destroyed the language, that took it away, they should be responsible for putting it back now." Johnson said there will never be justice for what her parents experienced at residential schools. But she won't stop raising her voice about the work that she says the Catholic Church and the Canadian government still have to do. "Keep that 'sorry' going through the communities," she said. "If the people of the magnitude and power came in and say, 'I know the Pope came in ... but how can I help you?' "We don't see that. Once the fanfare's done, it's done."



*Article provided by: Madeline Smith- CBC NEWS*

## A.I.G OPENING CEREMONY

"In Recognition of Ermineskin Athletes As we are well into summer months, there are always sporting activities, training and tryouts and for all of our students your school/college choices are important whether it be for sports or academics. It takes a lot of determination and commitment to reach personal goals. As an athlete I can say that it also took a lot of sacrifices. Today I wish to commend all our Ermineskin member athletes who are reaching a milestone. Those NAIG athletes who represented Maskwacis in Halifax and now those who will be competing at the Alberta Indigenous Games. Good luck, play hard and have fun. On a personal note, I wish to congratulate my grandson Kaiden Larocque Wolfe for signing to the Ontario Junior Reign

team and also to his parents Cayla and Kyle for all their fundraising to help him reach his goal. Stay committed Kaiden. To all Ermineskin parents and caregivers, continue to support and encourage our youth. Enjoy the rest of the summer!" says Chief Randy Ermineskin.

On behalf of Ermineskin Cree Nation, we would like to express our excitement for all of the youth who will be competing in this year's Alberta Indigenous Games! You are all so talented, and we know that you will make your friends, family and Nation very proud in these coming weeks. We encourage you to do your best, play your hardest, and most importantly, HAVE FUN!



Alberta Indigenous Games 2023



Opening Ceremony



# UPCOMING EVENTS/CLASSIFIEDS

OPEN TO AGES 11 TO 17!




## POWWOW SINGING PROGRAM

**THURSDAY'S**  
(STARTING AUGUST 10TH)  
5PM - 7PM

JIM RS SPORTS BLDG.

TO REGISTER:  
(780) 585-3088



ECN REC



## YOUTH GOLF CAMP 2023

AGES: 8-17

TUESDAYS AUG 5:30PM - 8:30PM  
JIM RS SPORTS BLDG.  
Register now:  
(780) 585-3088

8TH, 15TH, 22ND AND 29TH



## MASKWACIS MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

### GOLF FUNDRAISER TOURNAMENT

HELP SUPPORT OUR YOUTH

AUG 21 2023  
**9AM**  
REGISTRATION  
10AM SHOTGUN

DORCHESTER RANCH GOLF COURSE


50/50  
DOOR PRIZES  
KP  
LONGEST DRIVE  
MULLIGANS



**\$800 PER TEAM, 4 MAN BEST BALL.**  
EACH TEAM MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE YOUTH AND/OR ONE FEMALE  
REGISTER DEADLINE AUGUST 15, 2023  
CALL THE 4 NATIONS ARENA  
780-585-3771

Join us for

## EETF CHILD/YOUTH AWARDS CELEBRATION



**MONDAY, AUGUST 28 AT 4PM**

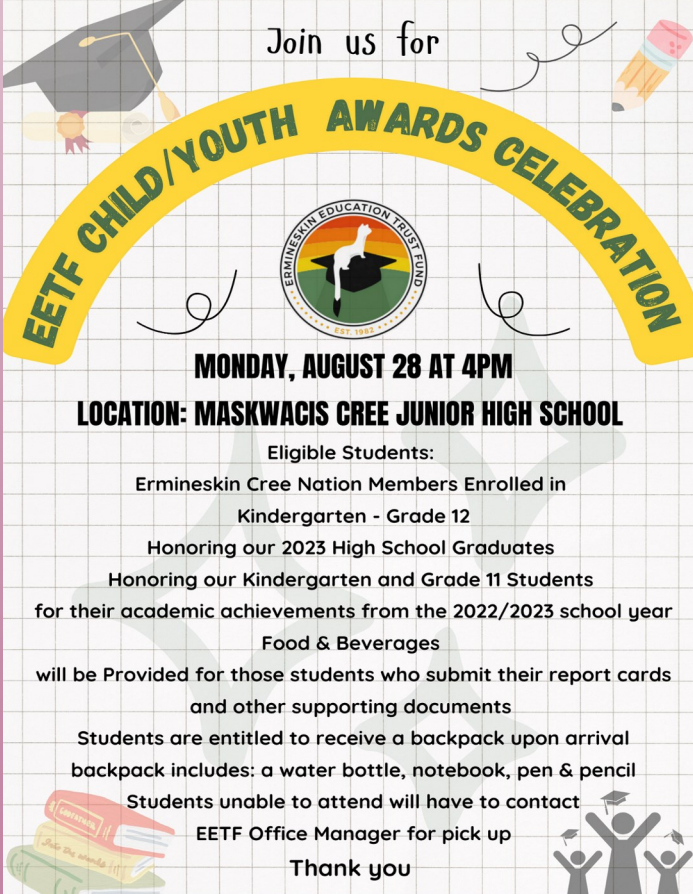
**LOCATION: MASKWACIS CREE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

Eligible Students:  
Ermineskin Cree Nation Members Enrolled in Kindergarten - Grade 12  
Honoring our 2023 High School Graduates  
Honoring our Kindergarten and Grade 11 Students for their academic achievements from the 2022/2023 school year

Food & Beverages will be Provided for those students who submit their report cards and other supporting documents

Students are entitled to receive a backpack upon arrival  
backpack includes: a water bottle, notebook, pen & pencil  
Students unable to attend will have to contact EETF Office Manager for pick up

Thank you



**NEXT ISSUE**

**August 25, 2023**

Submission Deadline: August 22, 2023

[newsletter@ermineskin.ca](mailto:newsletter@ermineskin.ca)

**THE FIRST NATIONS  
HEALTH CONSORTIUM  
PRESENTS:**

**2ND ANNUAL  
YOUTH TEE PEE SUMMIT 2023**

August 24, 25 & 26th, 2023

Poundmaker's Grounds  
25108 Poundmaker Road  
St. Albert, Alberta, T8T 2A2

[teepee.summit@abfnhc.com](mailto:teepee.summit@abfnhc.com)

**MASKWACÎS EDUCATION  
SCHOOLS COMMISSION**

See You Again ...

**WE SEND OUR THOUGHTS AND OUR PRAYERS TO THE MORIN, SOOSAY, ARNOLD AND MAKINAW FAMILIES IN THE LOSS OF BETTY AND ARLENE. WE ARE ONCE AGAIN REMINDED HOW PRECIOUS LIFE IS, HOW VITAL IT IS TO LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER, TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**

**IN THE DAYS AHEAD LET US PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS, THE MASKWACIS COMMUNITY AND FOR THOSE WHO LIVE AWAY FROM HOME. WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO TREAT OUR ELDERNS WITH HONOUR, RESPECT AND WITH DIGNITY. AS WE COME TO THE END OF THE SUMMER, ENJOY YOUR FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND RELATIVES AND TREAT EACH OTHER WITH KINDNESS. WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR OUR NATION,**

Chief Randy Ermineskin

# Welcome Back

Welcome back MESC Students! We hope you had a fun filled summer! We are excited to have awasisak fill classes & halls!

**Important Dates:**

- New student registration deadline is **Friday, September 1, 2023**
- First day of school for K5 - Grade 12 will begin on **Tuesday, September 5, 2023**
- First day of school for Headstart & K4 will begin on **Monday, September 11, 2023**
- First day of school for Theresa C. Wildcat Early Learning Centre will begin on **Monday, September 25, 2023**

**Upcoming Events:**

**MESC Parent Portal Draw:**

Update your MESC Parent Portal NOW for a Chance to Win a 75" TV! MESC Transportation and Student Services would like to ensure that Parents with students attending MESC Schools update their demographic information on their **MESC Parent Portal**.

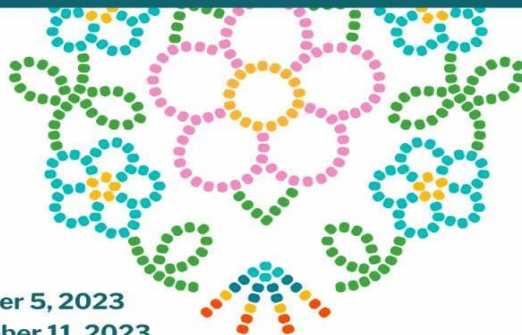
Updating your MESC Parent Portal is essential for MESC Returning Students. Not only does it Register your child(ren) to a MESC School, it also gives MESC Transportation important student information such as: house number, land location and emergency contacts that is needed for busing services. For MESC Parent Portal Assistance, please contact Candace Swampy at (780)585-3243.

**Draw Closes on Friday, September 1, 2023**

**MESC Back to School Celebration:**

**YOU ARE INVITED** to the MESC Back to School Celebration & BBQ on **August 18, 2023** at the **Meskanahk Ka Nipa Wit School in Montana** from **11am - 2pm**. Come bring your awâsisak & oskâyak and get back to school ready. Come enjoy a day of Fun family activities and meet our Special Guest Edmonton Oilers **Evander Kane!** We will be also offering the following services for families:

- School Registration/Parent Portal Assistance
- Transportation Registration Assistance
- Transportation First Rider Program
- Airbrush Face painting
- Cree Beauty Services
- Petting Zoo
- Free Haircuts
- and much more!



**Ermineskin Cree Nation Presents**

# ANNUAL STAFF GOLF Tournament +

**Hole in One Grand Prize \$10,000**

\$10 mulligans 2 MAX Per player

**31ST AUGUST 2023**

**BLACK BULL GOLF RESORT**

- ECN Staff \$100
- 1 Guest \$125

Permanent Staff are covered by their Department

**WIN PRIZE**

- Mens KP
- Ladies KP
- Longest Putt
- Longest Drive
- Hole in one

**AGENDA**

- 8:00 - 8:45 AM Golf Registration & Lite Breakfast
- 9:15 AM Shotgun Start for 80 Golfers
- 12:00 - 1:30 PM Lunch (Hot dog and Cold Beverage)
- 3:30 PM Steak BBQ Dinner, Awards

Register Now (PAY AT FINANCE) 780 585 3741 EXT 237 Contact E.J (Earle@Ermineskin)  
 DEADLINE to REGISTER AUG 29th FOR ERMINESKIN CREE NATION MEMBERS ONLY

# BBOQ

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

Friday | AUGUST 18TH | 11AM - 2PM

MONTANA *Meskanahk Ka Nipa Wit School*

Special Guest **Evander Kane**

For Further Information Contact (780)585-3333

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES: AUGUST 9TH

Apply at ECN Personnel Dpt. 780-585-3741

## Ermineskin Education Trust Fund

**Assists Off Reserve Tribal Citizens K-12**

**School Supplies**

**School Fees**

**Bussing**

**Tutoring**

**Field Trips**

**Tours**

**School Supply funding is as follows:**

- Kindergarten - \$35.00
- Grade 1-3 - \$50.00
- Grade 4-6 - \$70.00
- Grade 7-9 - \$75.00
- Grade 10-12 - \$50.00/Semester

A maximum of \$75.00 will be covered by EETF for Scientific calculators

Ensure the student meets the eligibility criteria

Complete the appropriate form

Provide the proper documents

Submit the application & documents to the EETF Coordinator for review and processing

for more information please contact Abby with the Email below

coordinator@eetfund.com

Position	Closing Date	Required Documents
Manager with the Ermineskin Land & Resources department	August 14th	Resume, Cover Letter, Three (3) Letters of Reference and updated Criminal Record Check.
Commercial Truck Operator with the Ermineskin Technical Services & Capital Management department	August 17th	Application/Resume, updated Criminal Record Check, Driver Abstract and copies of Certificates
Administrative Assistant with the Neyaskweyahk Employment Program (NEP) department	August 16th	Application/Resume, Three (3) Letters of Reference and updated Criminal Record Check
Security with the Ermineskin Technical Services & Capital Management department	August 16th	Application/Resume, updated Criminal Record Check, Driver Abstract
Tribal Administrator with the Ermineskin Administration department	August 25th	Application/resume, Cover letter, Three (3) Letters of Reference, updated Clean Criminal Record Check/Vulnerable Sector Check, Driver Abstract and copies of Certificates
Security with the Ermineskin Office Administration department	August 17th	Application/Resume, updated Criminal Record Check, Driver Abstract
Security with the Ermineskin Office Administration department	August 30th	Application/Resume, Cover letter, Three (3) Letters of Reference, updated Clean Criminal Record Check and copies of Certificate
Custodian/Janitor with the Ermineskin Office Administration department	August 17th	Application/Resume, updated Criminal Record Check



# Ermineskin FORUM for Councillor Candidates:

Candidate Nomination:  
**AUGUST 23RD, 2023**  
Council Election Date:  
**AUGUST 30TH, 2023**

**AUGUST 25TH, 2023**  
**STARTING AT 9AM**  
**LOCATION: N.O.K. BUILDING**

Contact Robert Smallboy,  
External Affairs  
(780) 585-3741 or  
robert.smallboy@ermineskin.ca

Come meet the Candidates!

Elections Officer:

Loretta J Pete Lambert  
Chief Electoral Officer  
1-306-343-7383

[petelambert@shaw.ca](mailto:petelambert@shaw.ca)



# Ermineskin ELECTION for (4) Councillor Positions

**AUGUST 30TH, 2023**  
**9AM - 6PM**  
**LOCATION: N.O.K. BUILDING**

Candidate Nomination:  
**AUGUST 23RD, 2023**  
Council Election Date:  
**AUGUST 30TH, 2023**

Contact Robert Smallboy,  
External Affairs  
(780) 585-3741 or  
robert.smallboy@ermineskin.ca

**VOTE**  
**FOR YOUR COUNCIL**

Elections Officer:

Loretta J Pete Lambert  
Chief Electoral Officer  
1-306-343-7383

[petelambert@shaw.ca](mailto:petelambert@shaw.ca)