

#### **Ermineskin Newsletter October 20, 2023**

Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin Kaskatinowipîsim Nistanaw

# E.C.N TURKEY TROT 2023 PIZZA SPECIAL PROPERTY OF TROPING AND THE PROPERTY OF TROPING

During the early morning of October 9th, 2023 Ermineskin hosted its Annual Turkey Trot. Over a hundred (100) community members participated in this year's turkey trot from many different age categories. Participants from each category competed for the top five (5) places. With eleven (11) age categories; a total of 55 prizes were given away with items such as, turkey, ham, stuffing, potatoes, pies and neckbones! The purpose of the turkey trot is to allow members of our community to engage in a healthy environment as they walk/run the routes, promoting movement and exercise at any age. Community engagement is like the heartbeat of the nation—it keeps things alive and thriving. When people

actively participate in our community, it creates a ripple effect of positive change. It's not just about being physically present; it's about being involved, and working together towards common goals; promoting health. Whether it's volunteering, attending our local events, or collaborating on community projects - engagement strengthens social bonds, fosters a sense of belonging, and promotes shared responsibility as well as having fun in a safe environment! Thank you to all staff, volunteers and participants for another great turn out at the E.C.N Annual Turkey Trot. Our numbers grow every year, and we appreciate everyone who comes with their families to join us on your holiday!

#### "A STEP TOWARDS RECONCILLIATION"



Ermineskin was the first stop on a Tour of the Nations with City of Leduc. Chief Joel Mykat and a few of our Councillors got the amazing opportunity to welcome the City of Leduc Leadership and Councillors, along with their City Manager & CEO to Ermineskin Cree Nation. The representatives from Leduc got to take a walk-through of our Administration Building and introduce themselves to the staff. They later met in the chambers, where they presented our Chief with protocol and a beautiful painting done by Leduc local artists.

Following, the tour went to visit the Panee Agriplex and Bear Park Powwow Grounds, where we have a rich and historical background, showing where many nations and visitors come from across Turtle Island to gather and celebrate with us as a Nation. The Leduc Council and representatives also had the opportunity to visiting the Four Nations of Maskwacis (Samson Cree Nation, Montana First Nation and Louis Bull Reserve) in hopes of building better relationships and strong future partnerships with one another.



## THERESA C WILDCAT LEARNING CENTRE OPENS IT'S DOORS!

"We are so excited to be welcoming our awasisak into our new building on Monday, October 16, 2023.Our staff has been hard at work over the past week getting the space ready for our awasisak to play, learn, and grow in a good way! In order to help with a smooth transition, we have developed the following plan for morning arrival:

- For students arriving on buses, staff will greet buses and help direct students to the new school. We will have staff in the building helping students find their classrooms.
- For students who are dropped off, staff will meet students at the front doors and will ask for families to follow our Hug-and-Go procedure. This means goodbyes are said at the front door and staff will help students find their classrooms from there.

We know you want to see the new building, and we are planning an event to show off the new space to families soon! At this time, however, and for the safety of our students and staff, we will not be allowing anyone into the school during morning drop-offs. Our admin, counsellor, teachers, and EAs will be on hand to help students with the transition and to help with any student needs. We will be spending a lot of time getting students used to the new space and exploring all the incredible new features our school has! We are so excited for this new beginning and can't wait to share in the joy of it with our families soon! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us."

Article/Photo provided by: Theresa C Wildcat Early Learning Centre



## âhkamêyimok

Keep going, keep trying.

## sâkihisowin

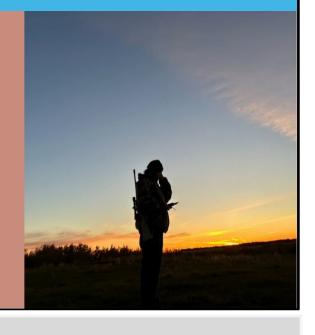
self-love



# PHOTO OF THE WEEK

SUBMITTED BY: JOSH LITTLECHILD

"My son Conner hunting and scouting"





# STR8UP

#### **Healing for Gang Members**



Deep down there is a good person in all of us. If you take a second look, maybe you will see it!

#secondlook

On October 12th Str8up, an organization that provides outreach and support to gang members seeking reform, gave a heartfelt presentation at the Howard Buffalo Memorial Centre (H.B.M.C.). Str8up was founded in 1990 in Saskatchewan and has always used a self referral policy, meaning those seeking help have to come to them and they don't seek them out.

The organization is founded on the principles of personal accountability and providing support to those who are looking to break free from the cycles of self harm and addiction that kept them in these gangs. While Str8up does emphasize personal accountability they also make a point of what we as a community can do to provide a support system to those in need so we can help prevent people from taking a darker path when they feel powerless and isolated. Several former gang members who had been through the program told their personal stories and consistently what drove them to join these gangs was having no one else to turn to during the lowest points in their lives.

They outlined several major steps someone needs to take before the can be accepted into the program and move forward. Those steps were as follows:

- Dropping their gang colors
- Give up any addictions.
- Be honest
- Be humble.

Str8up has stated that they find most people who find themselves in gangs often struggle with some form of substance abuse and a large portion of the healing process is to acknowledge their faults and any suffering they may have caused. They use the teachings of the medicine wheel to try to heal mind, body, heart, and spirit. The full name of the organization is Str8up Ten Thousand Little Steps to Healing. "We got the name because when we were coming up with the name, we didn't want something like 'anti-gang strategy," said one of the groups founders Stan Tuinukuafe.

"I believe the ten thousand steps also refers to the long road ahead for those struggling with addiction, for many it's a lifelong battle and the risk of a relapse is always present. It's important to recognize you cant force change out of someone but you can support them when they pursue it.

Article by: Isaac Ginter (E.C.N Research Assistant)

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# PREGNANCY & INFANT LOSS AWARENESS WALK

The month of October has many awareness topics such as Breast Cancer, Autism, Mental Health, and Pregnancy & Infant Loss. October has a long tradition and significance as a month to remember children who passed. Several Canadian provinces have recognized October 15th as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day – a time to support the thousands of people across Canada whose lives are tragically altered by the loss of a baby as a result of an ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage, stillbirth or death in infancy. This topic is a hard discussion, but a very real experience for many mothers and parent's within the Four Nations.

Tanya McDougall-Cutarm spoke with a heavy heart about her grief and how she started her journey of healing. "When I lost my baby, I think it was a calling to start a support group for other mothers who were also going through the same thing I was, and we came up with the name Kisewatisiwin. We were helping our hearts through sharing. This support group is to help uplift one another in a compassionate, meaningful way. With guidance of our elders and teachings, we can heal together. It is facilitate by other survivors and supported by many other local facilities and groups like Maskwacis Health Services, Early Years, Maskwacis and Maskwacis Elders Program. You don't have to go through it alone. We have our elders, we have the resources, we have Early Years and the counselling servies, and we have so many different wellness programs in the community."

Father's are also affected by loss, Montana's Leadership Brad Rabitt shares a bit about his experience with infant loss. "My wife and I have gone through two miscarriages. I believe Creator had brought me here for a reason. Sometimes the hustle and bustle of society that we live in today makes us forget these experiences that we go through as parents.

Con'td .....



As I grow older, I realize that I have had dreams of my children that I never got to meet. They are in the spirit world, and I will ask them to look over us as they sit with creator. We need to keep supporting eachother, we need to be there for eachother, because there are so many of us that go through this loss, and we never fully process it it happening."

Kisewatisiwin Support Group, along with many other supporting organizations, hosted a Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Walk. They started the afternoon with some opening remarks from Tanya McDougall-Cutarm, thanking those who came and what Kisewatisiwin Support Group means to her, and how it helped those in the community.

The walk led to Bear Park, where many guest speakers such as ECN Leadership Cheryl Littlechild and Trudy Whitebear, elder Marilyn Yellowbird and Kisipatnahk Health and Wellness support Cherrisa Twins spoke on what this day means to them, and how it is meant for healing. Finishing the ceremony, Cheryl Littlechild sang the Grandmother's Song. We thank those who came to show their support for those who have experienced loss or have been affected by infant & pregnancy loss.

Article by: Marleigh Cutarm (E.C.N Website Coordinator)

# POST SECONDARY AWARDS CEREMONY

Education is like the key that unlocks countless doors in life. It's not just about memorizing facts and figures; it's about developing critical thinking skills, gaining perspective, and understanding the world around you. Education empowers you to make informed decisions, opens up opportunities, and enhances your ability to contribute meaningfully to society. It's a lifelong journey that not only shapes your career but also shapes you as an individual.

A celebration and awards ceremony was held on October 14th, 2023 for all graduating post secondary students this year! With over thirty (30) plus graduates this year, each student was present and honored with a Certification of Completion and a beautiful E.E.T.F medallion hand crafted by a local artist. In addition, the ceremony also honored past and present Chiefs, Council Members, Board of Trustee's, Portfolio Holders, Elders, and Grand Chief of the Confederacy of Treaty Six (6) Dr. Wilton Littlechild. We wish all the students the best of luck whether it be pursuing further education or entering the workforce! Congratulations!

#### 2023 Post Secondary Graduates

<u>Aaliyah Beebe- Wolfe:</u> Bow Valley College- **Grade 12 Diploma** 

Jonathan Potts: Lokken College- G.E.D Diploma

Georgina Wildcat: Lokken College- G.E.D Diploma

Alaura Fraynn: Red Deer Polytechnic- Health Care Aide

Certificate

<u>Cassandra Morin:</u> Red Deer Polytechnic- **Health Care Aide**Certificate

Randolph Morin: N.A.I.T- Office Administration Certificate

Elias Rain: S.A.I.T- Medical Device Reprocessing Tech

Certificate

<u>Candace Rattlesnake:</u> Maskwacis Cultural College- **ECD**Level 2 Certificate

Richard Small: University of Regina- Indigenous Social Work Certificate

<u>Tricia Wildcat: Mount Royal University- Project</u>

Management Certificate

<u>Layla Wolfe: University of Alberta- TIP Program Certificate</u>
<u>Skye R. Ayewastin: Maskwacis Cultural College</u> Indigenous Social Work Diploma

Sara Babich: DelMar College- Hairstyling Diploma













# Congratulations Graduates!



<u>Agnes Buffalo:</u> Maskwacis Cultural College-Indigenous Social Work Diploma

<u>Krista Cutarm:</u> S.A.I.T- **Professional Cooking Diploma** 

<u>Jaylene Janvier:</u> *Maskwacis Cultural College-*Indigenous Education Diploma

<u>Dale Littlechild:</u> *DelMar College-* **Hairstyling Diploma** 

Shevay Littlechild: Portage College- Practical Nurse Diploma

<u>Carley Littlechild-Morin:</u> *DelMar College-* **Hairstyling Diploma** 

<u>Janine Rattlesnake:</u> *Maskwacis Cultural College-* **Social Work Diploma** 

<u>Lorna Stoney:</u> *Maskwacis Cultural College-* **Indigenous Social Work Diploma** 

Allie J. Young: Maskwacis Cultural College-Indigenous Social Work Diploma

<u>Jerry Young:</u> Red Deer Polytechnic- **University of Arts Diploma** 

<u>Delwiliah Brown:</u> *University of Alberta-* **Bachelor of Education Degree** 

<u>Harvey Coyote:</u> Maskwacis Cultural College-

Bachelor of Indigenous Social Work Degree

<u>Alyssa Ermineskin:</u> *University of Alberta-* **Bachelor of Recreation/Sports & Tourism Degree** 

<u>Kaliya Minde:</u> Dakota College- **Associate of Science Degree** 

**Zora Roan:** University of Alberta- **Bachelor of Elementary Education Degree** 

Jamie L. Smallboy: Langara College- Associates of Arts in Aboriginal Studies Degree

<u>Marissa Smallboy:</u> *University of Alberta-* **Bachelor of Science RN Degree** 

<u>Cree Stoney:</u> *University of Alberta-* **Bachelor of Secondary Education Degree** 

Kera Wolfe: University of Alberta- Bachelor of Education in Secondary Degree

<u>Kyle Wolfe:</u> Maskwacis Cultural College- **Indigenous**Social Work Degree

<u>Tennille Ermineskin:</u> *University of Victoria-* **Masters of Social Work** 

<u>Tanya McDougall:</u> Maskwacis Cultural College-Indigenous Social Work Masters

Vince Omeasoo: University of Montana- Business of Administration Masters

Gina Wildcat: University of Calgary- Social Work

Alexandria Wolfe: Walden University- Masters of Science

<u>Susan Wolfe:</u> Australian Institute of Business-Masters of Business Administration





### ERMINESKIN CHIEF AND COUNCIL RELEASE DATE:

October 4th, 2023

# COMMUNITY WATER UPDATE

Chief & Council and senior staff met on April 17 to review and discuss input from the Elders Meeting and Community Meeting held in March regarding the waterline project and related matters. There were many comments and questions at the meetings but in general terms the opinions expressed were in three categories that were more or less equally supported:

- 1) Some opposed the waterline project and related agreement with Alberta;
- 2) Others wanted changes to the related agreement with Alberta, with a focus on removing the sections that deal with water wells on Nation reserve lands; and
- 3) Other elders and community members supported the waterline, see it as key to future generations, and want the Nation to proceed with the project.

In an effort to respect each of these perspectives and make a balanced decision, Chief and Council made the following decisions on April 17 by way of strong majority. In light of the seven expert studies over the past two decades confirming significant issues with the declining quality and quantity of groundwater at Ermineskin, Chief and Council decided to proceed with the waterline project but with important changes to Ermineskin's path forward. This was revisited after the Nation's recent election and continues to be supported by Council.

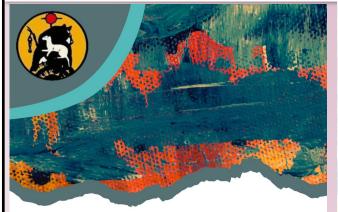
Ermineskin will re-open negotiations with Alberta to remove all sections of the agreement that relate to groundwater and water wells at Ermineskin. Those negotiations will be time limited and will have only until the waterline is connected to Ermineskin to satisfy the changes that the Nation requires.

If the negotiations with Alberta are not successful by the time the waterline is connected, Chief and Council have made a binding formal decision in advance to terminate the agreement with Alberta. If termination is necessary, it will not impact Ermineskin's ownership share in the regional water system, the Nation's seat on the commission that governs the regional water system, or Ermineskin's legal entitlement to the 890,000 cubic meters of water annually from the Red Deer River (an amount that roughly doubles the Nation's currently available water supply and ensures Ermineskin's water security for many years).

For information, regional water systems are not uncommon, nine other First Nations have joined regional water systems and are now benefitting from improved water security and quality. As part of funding for operation and maintenance of water systems, ISC fully funds the cost of using water from regional systems.

Finally, as part of these decisions, Chief and Council have committed to further consultation with elders and the community as additional steps and decisions need to be made about new water infrastructure at Ermineskin or related matters.

## UPCOMING EVENTS/CLASSIFIEDS



**Ermineskin Brighter Futures presents:** 

#### WORKING THROUGH ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (FOR YOUTH)

**AGES** 

16-24

October 26th-29th 2023

• Location: TBA

REGISTER NOW

futuresbrighter@yahoo.com 780-585-2000 ECN SMALL BUSINESS GRANT

Behind every small business, is a person with a dream.



DEADLINE: TUESDAY OCTOBER 31ST



ECN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS



CONTACT US (780) 585-3779

ermineskin.ca/economic-development









Nicholas Kootenhayoo WAXASE 2023 ON ORWING THE TRAINING **OPPORTUNITY CERTIFIED HOSPITALITY** TRAINING-TO-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM -

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT Bruce Littlechild - EPM (780) 585-3886 Ext. 237

#### **APPLY NOW!** Program Starts **November 2023!**

**REMOTE CAMPS** 

The latest training-to-employment program developed specifically for Ermineskin NEST, provides learners with in-depth knowledge, hands-on practical skills training and industry insights that supports their career goals, specifically within this sub sector of the hospitality industry - Remote Lodging and/or Camps.

Presented by

This training is created to support both those entering this industry or those within the industry wanting to up-skill.

This training program starts with cultural teachings led by Ermineskin community members, setting each learner up for success. Then learners are then led through the fundamental skills employers are looking for from a successful employee in the busy remote camp industry, as well as essential skills that will give learners the foundations for professional and personal development.

This 12+ week training program includes inclass learning and facilitated workforce integration and/or job matching with one of our employment partners

- Royal Camp
- Aramark Clean Harbors
- And more!

For training inquiries, please call: N.E.S.T 780-585-0191 Deadline to Apply: October 23, 2023



Certificate upon







and Workshop Safety.

Light Supper will be provided 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM (Call to register)

**Attention: Home Occupants** Thursday October 26, 2023 - NOK Bldg.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

Bruce Littlechild - EPM (780) 585-3886 Ext. 237

Presented by Nicholas Kootenhayoo

WAXASE 2023

Certificate upon Completion

# ART SCRAFF SCRAFF CLUB





\*LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE\*

**WEDNESDAYS, 5PM-7PM** 

200

PaintingCrafting

**⊘** Drawing

Ages **C\_12** 

**REGISTER NOW** 

**③** (780) 585-3088

river@ermineskin.ca





Ermineskin Brighter Futures Presents:

# HEALING FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

#### 15 max participants

October 23th-25th 2023 Courtyard Marriot, Edmonton, AB Ages 18+

futuresbrighter@yahoo.com | 780-585-2000

Maskwacis Counselling & Support Services

Painting
Beading
Games
Collages
and more...





October 16-17 October 23-24 4pm - 7pm

Ages 11-17

Call MCSS at 780-585-2268 to register.



WITH JERRY ROASTING

EXTERN CHECKED AND THURSDAY

STARTING OCTOBER 25TH & 26TH 6:00PM - 8:00PM

> Located at the ECN Mall: N.E.S.T. Classroom

For more information or to apply contact:
Neyaskweyahk Employment Skills & Training
(780) 585-0191



# JOB OPPORTUNITIES: OCTOBER 20TH



Apply at ECN Personnel Dpt. 780-585-3741

#### **Job Titles**

Financial Analyst with the Ermineskin Finance Deparment Researcher with the Ermineskin Membership Department

#### Requirements

Be positive, self-motivated, and adept at learning new technologies and techniques, Ability to work alone or in a team environment, Exceptional leadership, organizational, communication and time management skills, Well organized and efficient with time management, Pursuing an accounting designation is an asset

MUST be a Ermineskin Cree Nation member and be/over 18 years of Age, Knowledge of the Cree Language is an asset, Experience in conducting research, Certificate in Research preferred, High School Diploma preferred, Knowledge of Word Perfect and Excel, Knowledge of File Maker Pro, Knowledge and experience of working with the Indian Registry system, Must have good writing skills Knowledge of ECN Membership Codes, Be able to deal pleasantly and effectively with the public, Valid class 5 license and own vehicle, Must sign Oath of Confidenticility, Ability to take direction

#### **Other Documents**

Application/Resume, Copies of Certificates and updated Clean Criminal Record Check

Application/Resume and updated Criminal Record Check

#### **Closing Date**

October 20th

October 25th

# \$200 CASH PRIZE

Want to get up-to-the-minute notifications from the Band Administration AND enter to win a cash prize of \$200?



Download the mobile app!

#### **DRAW TIME**

Wednesday November 1st 2:00PM

#### **HOW TO ENTER:**

- Scan the QR code or visit the App Store or Google Play Store and Search: 'Ermineskin Cree Nation'
- 2 Tap 'Register' under 'Member Login'
- 3 Fill out your information and press 'Register'
- Click the verification link in your email inbox
- Login to the app, navigate to the entry form, and fill it out! Now you're entered!





On Call Post Office Assistant in MASKWACIS

A Stronger Canada – Delivered.



All qualified candidates will be considered however preference will be given to an Indigenous person (First Nations, Metis or Inuit) or a person with a disability. This is a special measure employment equity initiative and candidates from this group who wish to qualify for preferential consideration must self-identify.

#### Job responsibilities include:

- Sell postal products and service to the business community and public
- Sort, distribute and process mail
- Provide customers with information and forms
- Address delivery and service difficulties to resolve problems thoroughly and quickly

#### Qualifications:

- High school diploma/provincial equivalent and/or experience in business administration
- Training and/or experience in a retail environment, including sales and cash transactions
- Be able to lift 50 lb, push or pull boxes and stand for extended periods of time

回用部间 To find out more and apply, visit www.canadapost.ca/careers and reference Job ID 169125

Posting closes October 29, 2023

