

Ermineskin Newsletter November 17, 2023 Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin lyikopiwipîsim Tepakohp-sâp

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS VETERANS DAY



Indigenous Veteran's Day is a day dedicated to honoring the contributions and sacrifices of Indigenous peoples who have served in the armed forces. It recognizes the unique experiences and challenges faced by First Nations veterans, who often served with a deep connection to their cultural heritage. This day is an opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the individuals who have played crucial roles in defending their communities and nations.

By highlighting Indigenous Veteran's Day, we not only express gratitude for their service but also raise awareness about the diverse stories and backgrounds of those who have served in the armed forces. It's a chance to foster understanding, respect, and recognition for First Nations contributions, reinforcing the importance of inclusivity and cultural diversity in our collective remembrance. Our Four Nations Veterans have made significant contributions to the military efforts of various countries. In many cases, nêhiyawêwin have served in the armed forces with honor and distinction, despite facing challenges and discrimination. On November 8th of every year we acknowledge and remember those Indigenous Peoples that served and gave their lives for our people today.



Maskwacis Veterans

(PAST AND CURRENT)



ERMINESKIN VETERANS

Robert Belcourt Joseph Buffalo Joseph Smith Charlie Roasting Lawrence Wildcat Alex Georgie Minde Ernest Omeasoo Jim Stoney Albert Stoney Lucy Stoney George Minde Dick Lightning Peter (Pete) James Oldpan Peter Ermineskin Joe Young Gordon Lee Wilton Littlechild Patrick Rattlesnake Clarence Wildcat Leslie Dennehy

MONTANA VETERANS

Alex Makinaw Erwin Peigan Malcom Peigan Greg Buffalo Seth Longjohn

LOUIS BULL VETERANS

Joseph Deschamps
Fred Larocque
Henry Larocque
Cecil Lee/Bruno
Henry Floyd Raine
Lloyd Shortneck (Raine)
Andrew Raine
Trevor Larocque
Harry Bull Lightning
Blaine Raine
Jacob (Jake) Raine
Joe Shortneck
Shayla Raine

SAMSON VETERANS

George Applegarth-Foureyes Dr. Elizabeth Lightning Harry (Jackie) Lightning/Bull Arthur (Art) Potts Louis Potts Walter Potts William Samson Narcisse Yellowbird Dan Johnson Lawrence Johnson Michael Lightning Joseph Montour Sr. Wallace Soosay Sr. Archie Northwest Henry (Ducky) Northwest Joe Saskatchewan Gus Bruno Victor Bruno Daniel Joshua Joe Omeasoo Wilfred Sangrett Cory Shane Buffalo Herman Cutknife Adolphus Dennehy Danny Montour Wolfgang (Saddleback) Twoarrows Jim Saskatchewan Ernest Simon

COMMUNITY MEMBER VETERANS

Narcisse Blood
Joe Fraser
Victor Fraser
Wilfred Sangret
Isadore Spence
Josie Spence
Pete Roughfoot

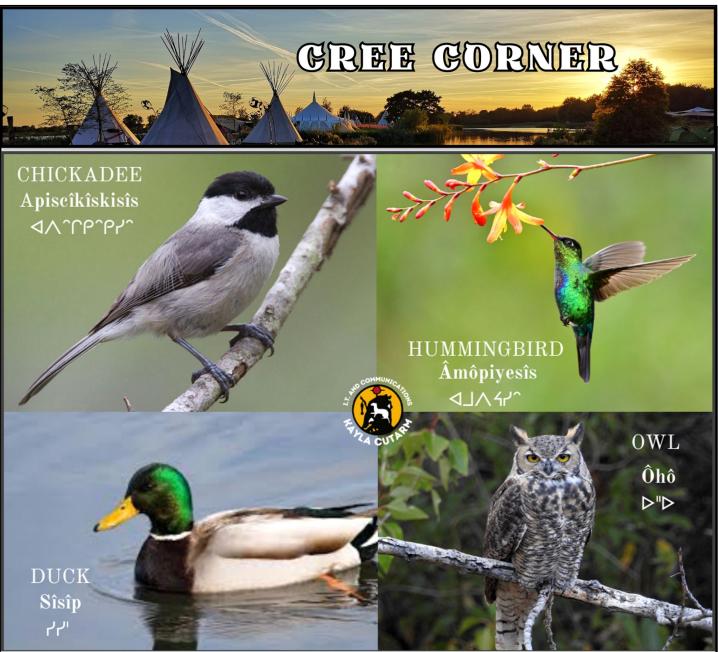




PHOTO OF THE WEEK

SUBMITTED BY: CRYSTAL GUTARM

"The big dipper overlooking my house"



ERMINESKIN GENERAL MEETING

M.N.P. presented a breakdown of the Ermineskin 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget on November 14, 2023 at the Neyaskweyahk Okimaw Kamik Building. The Auditor, Chris Cholak, went over all of the Nations accounts and highlighted areas of achievements and areas of improvement. Mr. Cholak spoke in regards to Covid-19 in our budgets and how they were affected throughout the year. Many questions asked throughout presentation from concerned elders and those members with larger families. M.N.P. also made a presentation for N.G.C.I. for their annual budget for 2021-22 Fiscal Year the day prior. They spoke about the overall revenue of the businesses and future plans on expanding N.G.C.I's franchises.

Our general meetings play a key role in our Nations well-being. Serving as a forum for communication, community engagement, and strong relationships.



The meeting also holds leaders and directors/managers accountable for their decisions throughout the fiscal year. Members can question choices made by our leaders, financial reports, and overall performance, promoting transparency and ensuring Ermineskin finances are being managed responsiblyIt's an opportunity for people to actively participate in discussions, share opinions, and voice concerns of needs for the public. In summary, the general meetings serve as a vital outlet for effective communication and engagement with the Nation.



The evening of November 8th 2023, Kokoms of Maskwacîs held a rally for the war on drugs within the Nations. There were many speakers who talked about bringing our children and young adults' home, creating safer home fires and building a strong bond within the households and Nations themselves. How we need to practice wahkohtowin in our everyday lives and take every step with compassion and understanding. Having an open mind and strong heart to start on the path of healing our home fires.

KOKUM'S AGAINST DRUGS RALLY

The drug war's impact on indigenous communities is complex and often devastating. First Nation populations can be disproportionately affected due to factors like marginalization, poverty, and lack of resources. Additionally, their traditional territories may be used for drug cultivation or trafficking, leading to conflicts and many types of violence.

The Government efforts to combat drug-related issues can sometimes aggravate problems for many First Nation people. Aggressive law enforcement strategies may violate their rights, and displacement can occur as a result of anti-drug operations.

It's crucial to approach the issue with a broad perspective, considering both the immediate challenges and the deeper socio-economic factors at play. Involving our communities and addressing root causes can contribute to more effective and justified solutions.

CONGRADULATIONS M.E.S.C!



Ashley Denney

Tom Crier

Jennifer Nepoose

On Sunday, October 29, 2023, Maskwacis Education Schools Commission (MESC) won a Coup de cœur Award for the MESC Graduation Roadside Banners during the 2023 BRAVO! Awards Gala hosted by the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CACE) in Montreal, QC. "We're thrilled and honored to receive this recognition from the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education," said Tracy Swampy-Sylvester, MESC Superintendent.

"Our communications department is responsible for providing communications support for all of our schools and the various district departments to ensure our various rights holders remain informed of important news regarding MESC." ""We're fortunate to have a communications team to provide effective communications strategies to rights holders across the district. Maskwacîsak and Otatoskewak are the beneficiaries of these efforts," says Tracy Swampy-Sylvester . "It's important to increase awareness and understanding of the critical management role played by professional communicators."

The CACE BRAVO! Awards, presented by SchoolBundle, are the only Canada-wide awards program specifically designed to recognize excellence in school board communications. CACE recognizes and honors exemplary work in all aspects of school public relations, communications, marketing and engagement through the BRAVO! Awards Program each year.

Article Provided by: M.E.S.C

ISKWEWAK YOUTH WELLNESS CAMP

Maskwacis Counselling and Support Services Department hosted a Youth Camp in Pigeon Lake for young Woman. A three-day camp that had covered many topics such as Traditional teachings, women's wellness, grief/loss discussions, dealing with stress, physical fitness as well as many fun activities!

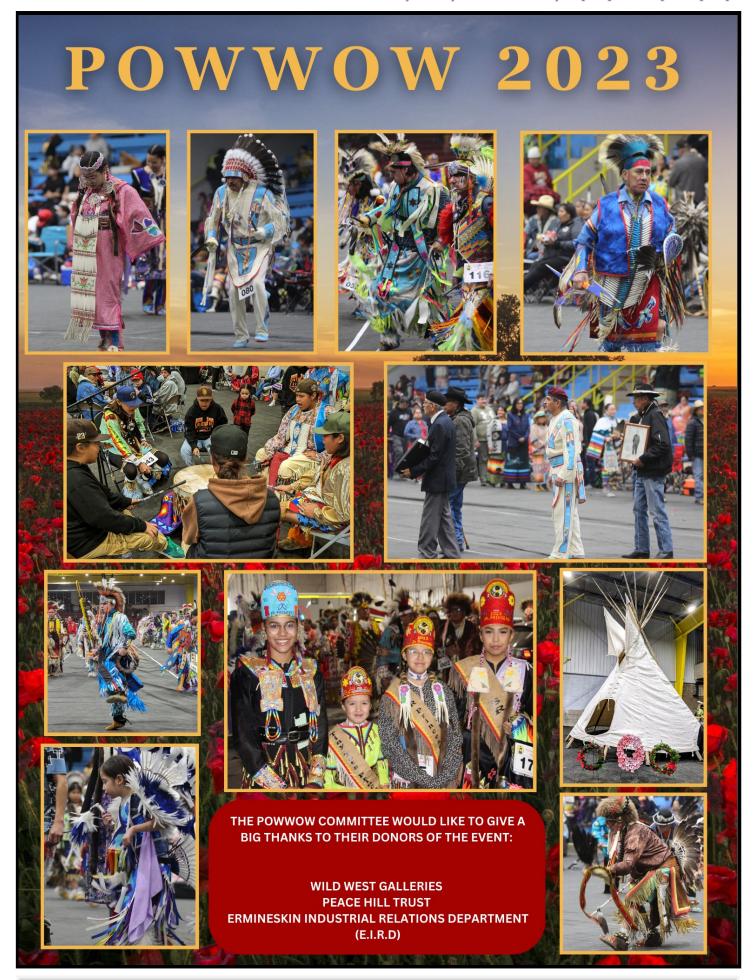
Youth wellness is such an important topic! It's all about taking care of both the physical and mental wellbeing of young people. Encouraging healthy habits, promoting positive self-esteem, and providing support for mental health are key components. Physically, it supports growth and development, laying the foundation for a healthy adulthood. Mentally and emotionally, it's crucial for building a strong sense of self, coping with stress, and navigating the challenges of a youth.

Promoting wellness in youth also helps prevent issues like bad eating habits, mental health struggles, and unhealthy lifestyle habits.



When teaching youth about the importance of their wellness they will learn to prioritize their well-being, they're more likely to carry those habits into adulthood, creating a ripple effect of health and happiness. It's an investment in a future generation that's not just surviving but thriving. It often involves a combination of education, creating supportive environments, and fostering positive relationships. Encouraging open conversations about mental health, promoting healthy lifestyle choices, and providing resources for coping with stress are all valuable pieces of the puzzle. It's about helping young people build a toolkit for navigating life's ups and downs.





Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations





Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations statement regarding Alberta health care announcement

The Confederacy decries absence of consultation

November 14, 2023 (Treaty No. 6 Territory) – The Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations, along with many groups in the province, was surprised and disappointed by the Government of Alberta's November 8th announcement regarding a reorganization of health care in Alberta. While we will take time to consider carefully the full implications of the outlined proposals, we wish to address a number of concerns immediately.

We were not consulted. Despite a duty to consult acknowledged in our 2022 Relationship Agreement with the Province of Alberta, these system-wide changes were developed without our participation or knowledge. This lack of consultation is troubling when responsibilities for issues that impact Indigenous Peoples and communities in the highest proportion – like mental health and addictions – are being shifted. Immediate action is needed, not reorganization.

Creating a new bureaucracy in the midst of the Confederacy's ongoing opioid crisis State of Emergency is a dangerous disruption. Measures to address this crisis that are further delayed, interrupted or slowed by years of implementation will have fatal outcomes.

The Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations also shares a concern with many people about what appears to be a trend toward increasing private provision of health care. Any move toward privatization will endanger First Nations communities already struggling with issues of poverty, chronic underfunding and lack of accessibility of health services. We remind this government that the Treaty Right to Health is enshrined in the Medicine Chest Clause of Treaty No. 6.

For us, any positive change in health care services must include finding Indigenous-led solutions at the community level. We will continue to consider all implications of this plan proposed by the Government of Alberta, and once again remind this government to respect our Treaty and our Relationship Agreement, and to take seriously its duties as a partner in both.

Media Contact:

Jill McKenzie Director of Strategy and Media Relations pipikwan pêhtâkwan jill@pipikwanpehtakwan.com

UPCOMING EVENTS/CLASSIFIEDS





SEMINES AT A SERVICE NA PROPERTY OF THE PROPER

WELCOME

TO THE TEAM!

We give a warm welcome to our new staff members of Ermineskin Cree Nation!

Tyson Johnson

Food Bank Client Intake Worker

Zacheria Yellowbird Arena, Parks and Recreation Ground Maintenance

Lawrence Roasting
Office Administration Security

Lanny Wildcat

Technical Services
Commercial Truck Driver

Marvin Josh Littlechild Lands & Resources Manager

Michelle La Belle NEST Project Officer

. . . .

Oren Rattlesnake
Office Administration
Custodian/Janitor

Earl J. Ermineskin

Arena, Parks and Recreation Programmer

Kyra Mackinaw
Brighter Futures FASD Mentor

Tyson M. Ward

Arena, Parks and Recreation Arena Operator Supervisor

Jerrica Whitebear NEST Project Officer

RAZORBACK

TINTING

AUTO • COMMERCIAL

780-360-6575

monz1078@gmail.com

WINDOW TINTING COURSE

Maskwacis, Alberta December 9-11, 2023 Cost: \$1800.00 per participant

Participant will need to provide own vehicle or borrow a vehicle for tint course.

Bonus: It's a free tint job for the person with the vehicle!

Three Day Course Covers:

- Basic installation; and
- Advanced techniques for installation.

Each participant will receive tint tools (with a roll of carbon tint) and a certificate at the end of course.





Attention ECN Band Members

Christmas Hampers will be distributed at the Panee Starting

December 5, 2023. We will not be distributing on the weekends,

hours will be from 1:00-6:00 PM

Smallboy Camp/Pigeon Lake and Bucklake will be delivered that same week to the usual drop off points as every year.

1 PER HOUSEHOLD. Those who live on other reserves can also pick theirs up as long as you bring in a bill with your name on it. For those living in the Wetaskiwin and Ponoka regions can also bring bills or a lease stating that you're home owners/renters.

Please be advised that for those who had applied for the gift cards, j your names are cross referenced off the hamper pick up list. Lateral violence will not be tolerated.

> Thank you, Management.





ERMINESKIN ELDERS CENTRE

November 30, 2023

Time: 9:30am-3:30pm



PRESENTATION

Right food and Healthy life

Зу

Dr. Minoru Sumimoto (BODO)

Doctor of Acupuncture & Oriental Therapy

In collaboration with the Maskwacis Health Promotions.

Ermineskin Elders welcome

Lunch and refreshments will be served For more information please contact. 780-585-3435

Presented by Nicholas Kootenhayoo

11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

(Call to register)

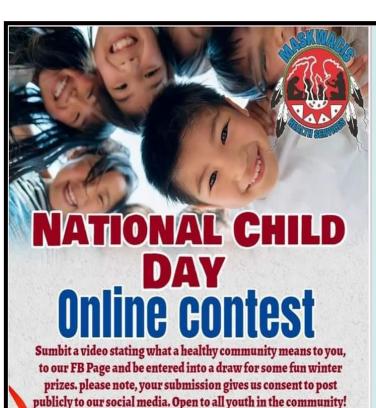
WAXASE 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

Bruce Littlechild – EPM (780) 585-3886 Ext. 237 / Cell (780) 360-1557

Saturday November 25, 2023

Certificate upon Completion



National Addictions Awareness Week

November 19 - 25, 2023

In honor of NAAW week, Maskwacis Counselling & Support Services department will be going onto HAWK Radio to speak on various topics which include; Abuse of drugs, the MHS Nayoskan Detox & Treatment Centre, the weekly AA group, and other items.



On Tuesday, November 21st we will be handing out slices of cake & MCSS information from the parkinglot until supplies last.

To speak to a counsellor, join our weekly AA group or for questions about the Nayoskan Detox & Treatment Centre, call MCSS at 780-585-2268.



SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENT LEARNING PROGRAM

MONDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2023

INDIGENOUS DISABILITY CANA

WHO - Indigenous students of any age, across Canada who have limited financial resources, including Indigenous students living with disabilities. To be eligible, students must be of low-income, enrolled in formal education (online, remote, on-site), and must be actively attending classes

HOW - Submit your filled application along with the supporting documents to the **sislp@bcands.bc.ca** to be considered to receive a laptop and/or related accessories necessary for learning and academic success

WHY - To support and assist Indigenous (First Nation, Métis, Inuit) students in their continued educational success, ongoing studies and eventual career path

Resources are limited - apply today!

Applications will be accepted up to March 15, 2024 or until available resources have been expended.

All information will be verified, applications will be approved or declined based on documented priority need

Visit www.bcands.bc.ca for more information and to apply

*Due to the pandemic and world wide shortages of technology, times to receive computers by approved



Mailing Address: #6 - 1610 Island Highway - Victoria, British Columbia - Canada - V9B 1H8

Toll Free Telephone: 1-888-815-5511 Victoria Capital Region Telephone: (250) 381-7303

Fax: (250 381-7312 Email: sislp@bcands.bc.ca

SHORTLIST 2022



ERMINESKIN ELDERS DEPT

Christmas Dinner

December 4, 2023 Time: 10am-3pm Location N.O.K



The Ermineskin Elders Centre Staff, Assisted Living Program and volunteers invite all Ermineskin Cree Nation Elders sixty (60) plus years of age (spouses welcome) to celebrate Christmas Dinner.

For more information please call 780-585-3435





VAN LEAVE AT
5:00 PM
FROM JIM RS
SPORTS BUILDING

SPOTS ARE LIMITED

NOVEMBER 17TH, 2023

AGES 8-17

TO REGISTER: (780) 585-3088

