



Ermineskin Newsletter January 24, 2024

Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin Kisepîsim Nîstanaw Newsôp

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CALL FOR A PERMANENT CEASE FIRE IN ISRAEL-GAZA CRISIS



The Assembly of First Nations hosted a Special Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa from December 5th-7th, 2023. The AFN hosts at least two Assemblies each year, where mandates and directives for the organization are established through resolutions directed and supported by the First Nations-in-Assembly (elected Chiefs or proxies from member First Nations). The AFN is also guided by an Executive Committee consisting of an elected National Chief and Regional Chiefs from each

province and territory. One of the resolutions moved and carried was a Call for a Permanent Ceasefire in Israel-Gaza Crisis by Chief Wilton Littlechild, proxy for Ermineskin Cree Nation, and seconded by Chief George Ginnish, Natoaganeg First Nation, NB. He has this to say on the matter; "I want to underscore the fact that, I'm sure everyone in the room has been watching; Israeli and Palestine conflict. A sad revelation when we see so much killing going on. **CONT'D...**

We see and hear that thousands of children have been killed, thousands of elders have been killed and sometimes used as human shields. This horrific tragedy impacts each of us, especially when it relates to and includes or involves Indigenous Peoples. I know that the debate that is going on over the term Indigenous People. But from an international context, it's important that we acknowledge this situation from the phrase Indigenous Peoples.

The Saami Parliament has issued a statement recently about this matter, very similar to what you see on the screen. The International Indian Treaty Council also has issued a statement in this regard. So Madam Chair, through you, I appeal to all Chiefs in assembly, the Grand Chiefs, Proxies and Delegations from all our nations across Turtle Island. This matter, it's so serious and we relate to it, from the perspective of our own treaty. Our own treaty calls on us to promote

peace and friendship, and under that context, we can't help but get up and speak out against something that's contrary totally to peace. We want to advance the protection of Indigenous Peoples globally as well.

That's why we propose this particular resolution. Yes, it's an international scope, but it touches on our own territories. When there's a disposition of life, dispossession of language, dispossession of territory, contrary to our international treaties, then we must say something Madame Chair.

I appeal to all Chiefs to support this resolution and put an end to this conflict. Let's live our Treaty and live in peace, promoting protection for all people. With that Madame Chair, I move that we adopt this resolution. Thank you."

You can read details about this Resolution on the on the AFN Website: www.afn.ca

MASKWACIS CREE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL FLOOR HOCKEY TEAM UNDEFEATED

Maskwacis Cree Junior High School floor hockey team travelled to Edmonton for the Treaty 6 tournament held at Amiskwaciy Academy. They went UNDEFEATED and took the championship! The amiskwaciy principal contacted Mr. Larocque congratulating him on the school's win; "Very respectful and great ambassadors for Maskwacis".
Way to go and thank you for being so deadly!

2023-2024 TEAM:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| KELSEY CRANE | KENNETH CUTARM |
| HUNTER CUTARM | LENLAND LITTLECHILD |
| JEROME MONTOUR | JENOAH MOONIAS |
| ACETON SADDLEBACK | RYLAN WOLFE-WARD |
| LIDDELL MAKINAW | ETHAN MORIN |
| SUURE DIXON-YELLOWBIRD | |





CREE CORNER



MOTHER NIKÂWIY ᑎᑕᑦᑦᑭᑦ



FAMILY NĪTSÂNAK ᑎᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ

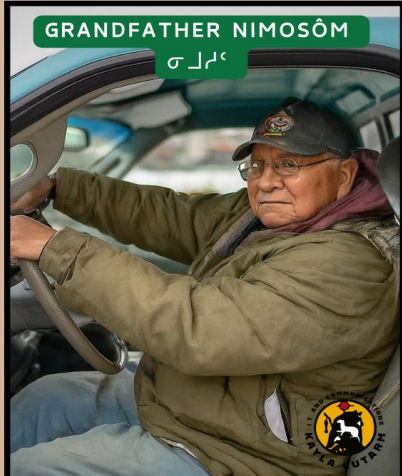
KINSHIP WÂHKÔHTOWIN ᑎᑦᑎᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ



GRANDMOTHER NOHKÔM ᑎᑦᑎᑦᑦᑦᑦ



FATHER NÖHTÂWIY ᑎᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ



GRANDFATHER NIMOSÔM ᑎᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

SUBMITTED BY: MISTY SMALL-ALEXANDER

“The landscape down 611 😊”

N.E.S.T HOSPITALITY AND

A career in hospitality can be diverse and rewarding, as it encompasses a wide range of roles within the service industry. Whether you're interested in hotels, restaurants, travel, events, or other related fields, there are various opportunities to explore. When following this career path you gain practical experience through internships or entry-level positions to build a strong foundation in the industry. Developing excellent communication, customer service, and organizational skills is crucial in this field. Networking

and staying updated on industry trends are also valuable for this career advancement.

Neyaskweyahk Employment Skills Training department would like to congratulate the graduates of the Channer Hospitality and Tourism program . This program ran from November 2023 until January 2024. .E.S.T collaborated with Samson Human Resource and Training Department to allow for both Nations to participate in the training program. In total we had eleven (11) graduates from Ermineskin and Samson.



TOURISM GRADUATES

The graduates go as followed:

Isaiah Buffalo, Cody Copenace, Dreyton Dennehy, Maizon Dennehy, Ian Durocher, Ian Ermineskin, Roshelle Giroux, Anferney Lightning, Richard Patenaude, Daelynn Roasting and Julius Smallboy. Congratulations to all graduates and we wish you well in your future endeavours.

N.E.S.T also has a “Frontline and Administrative Support” training program available that allows for fifteen (15) partici-

pants to take, if you are interested please call the N.E.S.T. department at 780-585-0191. Deadline to apply for this training program is February 16, 2024. Any other program details or questions, you may contact the N.E.S.T department directly.



ROSHELLE GIROUX



ISAIAH BUFFALO



RICHARD PATENAUDE

**Confederacy of
Treaty No. 6**



PRESS RELEASE

Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations meets with city and province to solve housing and addiction issues

January 16, 2024 (Treaty No. 6 Territory) – Today, the Edmonton Public Safety Committee, including Grand Chief Cody Thomas, met with the City of Edmonton to address housing and addiction issues. We continue to advocate for a move beyond temporary shelters toward lasting, transformative solutions for the well-being of Indigenous Peoples.

In the spirit of unity and collaboration, Grand Chief Thomas spoke with the City of Edmonton and the Government of Alberta today, working towards a goal of establishing a long-lasting collaborative action plan. This meeting was a good start, and a move in the right direction. We expect many more conversations and encourage the Government of Canada to join us at the table and in the work that will follow.

Housing is a right for all humans. An endless cycle of eviction defeats the purpose of healing and drives people into precarious, unsafe conditions. We have arrived at a critical juncture in our united commitment to address the challenges of housing, mental health and addiction in the streets of Edmonton.

We must share our strengths to develop a wide scope of supports – providing increased access to mental health and addiction services and ensuring comprehensive and sustained pathways toward healing, empowerment, and long-term well-being. Together, we can create lasting change that goes well beyond emergency interventions, fostering a future where every individual can thrive with dignity and stability.

We urge everyone to remember our strength lies in these collaborative efforts, guided by the wisdom of our Elders. At this time of overwhelming need, we have the opportunity to foster understanding and address pressing issues with all available resources at the table. Through open communication and genuine collaboration, we can pave the way for positive change and the realization of reconciliation.

Media Contact: Jill McKenzie | Media Relations
pipikwan pêhtâkwan
jill@pipikwanpehtakwan.com

CREATING HEALTHY HABITS AND HOBBIES

With the cold months upon us, comes a lot of down time. Being at home can increase the chance to create unhealthy habits; poor eating, not being very physically active, or having lack of motivation to do daily tasks. Its common for everyone to experience these habits but there are various hobbies and activities that you can do to change from unhealthy to healthy. Finding productive hobbies is a great way to improve your overall well-being, both physically and mentally. Below, you will find some suggestions for engaging, interactive and positive activities:

Exercise: Whether it's going to the gym, taking a yoga class, taking yourself or the kids swimming, or practicing a sport, regular physical activity is crucial for maintaining good health.

Outdoor Activities: Explore nature by hiking, biking, or simply taking a walk in a nearby park. Being outdoors has numerous benefits for your mental and physical health.

Attending Ceremonies: Take time to immerse yourself in culture by attending ceremonies. Whether you are looking for guidance or just in need of social interaction, ceremonies can help the spirit heal. You can attend round dances, feasts, giveaways or even just sitting, having tea and talking with an elder.

Gardening: Cultivate a garden, whether it's flowers, vegetables, or herbs. Gardening is not only a physically engaging hobby but also a therapeutic and rewarding one.

Cooking: Experiment with cooking healthy and delicious meals. This not only improves your nutrition but also allows you to develop a useful skill.

knowledge as well as keeping the brain active.

Art and Creativity: Explore your creative side through activities like drawing, painting, writing, or playing a musical instrument. Creative expression is an excellent way to relieve stress.

Mindfulness and Meditation: Practice mindfulness and meditation to reduce stress, improve focus, and enhance overall mental well-being. This can be done through guided sessions, apps, or group classes.

Volunteering: Contribute your time and skills to a cause you care about. Helping others can be incredibly fulfilling and can provide a sense of purpose and belonging.

Photography: Capture the beauty around you through photography. It encourages you to pay attention to details and find joy in simple moments.

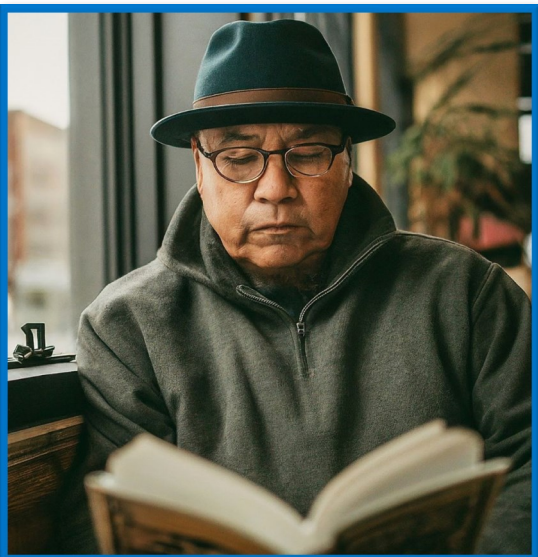
Socializing: Spend quality time with friends and family. Social connections are essential for mental well-being, so engage in activities that allow you to connect with others.

Traveling: Explore new places and cultures. Traveling can broaden your perspective, provide new experiences, and create lasting memories.

Puzzle Games: Engage your brain with puzzles, group problem-solving games, crosswords, Sudoku, or other brain teasers. These activities can be enjoyable, build teamwork and beneficial for cognitive health.

Dance: Whether you join a dance class or just dance in the privacy of your home, it's a fun way to stay active and release stress.

Remember, the key is to find activities that you enjoy and that align with your interests and values. Experiment with different hobbies until you find what suits you most, and bring you a little happiness throughout the day.



Reading:

Dive into books, articles, or audiobooks on topics that interest you. Reading can be a great way to relax and expand your

INDIGENOUS WINTER FEASTS

The most significant difference between Indigenous and mainstream worldviews is in how the land, itself, is regarded. Indigenous people view themselves as part of an ecosystem that relies on a symbiotic interconnectedness; we take care of the land, and in turn, we are taken care of. This attitude toward the land extends to the way we have historically managed conservation, harvesting, and sharing of Indigenous foods. The land doesn't belong to us; we belong to the land. Celebrating the power of the collective is essential to our well-being. In tribal societies, where everyone has a place in the village, has gifts to share, and is valued, the honour of one is the honour of all. Feasts have traditionally marked occasions such as weddings, coming of age, funerals, and other spiritual ceremonies.

For many Indigenous cultures, winter is a time to connect with the spirits of the past. But, for many, it's also a time to recognize everyone's fundamental interconnectedness—with each other, nature, and all that is. According to many Indigenous teachings, in understanding the interconnectedness of all things, human and nonhuman, we recognize that the cosmos—the sun, moon, stars, and other planets—affect us and connect us in undeniable ways. A winter feast empowers individuals and circles. Fostering a deep connection to a curated collective and breaking bread together is uplifting and healing. There is benefit to all, inclusion, acceptance, even reconciliation. It's the deep connection for which we are universally deeply longing. Traditional Indigenous foods nourish in every way. Wild food connects us to the land we're on; gratitude for what earth, water, and sky provide is a medicine. Traditional Indigenous foods are rich in nutrients, trace elements, and antioxidants; lean, clean, and rich in healthy fats; high in protein; and low in carbohydrates.

Winter celebrations are a consistent feature of Indigenous cultures everywhere. At the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre in Whistler, BC, the Spo7ez (spoh-ez) Winter Feast offers Indigenous-inspired



fusion cuisine and rich culture—fusing traditional ingredients and chef genius, along with Indigenous crafted wines, storytelling, performers in regalia sharing songs, and even museum tours. If you can't travel to Whistler, you might find winter gatherings in your area. Check with your local Indigenous friendship centre, where powwows, tournaments, winter feasts, and tea or round dances may be offered—and are usually open to everyone. You can also create and experience your own winter feast by planning a feast for dear ones to mark the winter solstice. Create a tradition to mark the shortest day of the year and the coming return of the sun.

Enjoy fostering camaraderie and belonging, the sheer beauty of the power of a circle. I have witnessed the power that is in a circle and feast, the priceless intimacy of community. There was room for all, those who had done harm to themselves, or family. All were treated with kindness and love. Misunderstandings were forgiven because the circle is greater than our hurts. All of us long to belong; know the priceless intimacy of community. Source traditional ingredients and create dishes in your unique way. There are hundreds of Indigenous-owned food businesses across the country that can provide inspiration through their online menus. You can also find inspiration from the interactive recipes published on the website of a unique cooking show called Moosemeat and Marmalade (APTN) at Moosemeatandmarmalade.com

Karen Lee White— <https://www.alive.com/>

UPCOMING EVENTS/CLASSIFIEDS



Ermineskin Cree Nation

WE ARE HIRING!

January 23rd, 2024

OPEN POSITIONS:

- ✓ Receptionist with the Neyaskweyâhk Employment Skills Training (NEST) Department by February 1st, 2024
- ✓ Accounting Clerk with the Ermineskin Finance Department by February 1st, 2024
- ✓ Part-Time Custodian/Janitor with the Neyaskweyâhk Employment Skills Training (NEST) Department by February 1st, 2024
- ✓ Case Management Worker with the Ermineskin Neyaskweyâhk Human Services (NHS) department by February 6th, 2024
- ✓ Front Security with the Ermineskin Office Administration department by February 1st, 2024

APPLY NOW

Please submit applications, resume and criminal record check to:

faith@ermineskin.ca



NEYASKWEYAHK ART & CRAFT CLUB



LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE

WEDNESDAYS, 5PM-7PM

✓ Painting

✓ Crafting

✓ Drawing

Ages

6-13

REGISTER NOW

(780) 585-3088

river@ermineskin.ca



EETF
ERMINESKIN EDUCATION TRUST FUND

SELF-FUNDED FULL-TIME POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS

2023-2024 FALL TERM

If you are a registered Ermineskin Cree Nation member that is a self-funded Post-Secondary Student, you qualify for the budgeted 2023-2024 incentive for the Fall Term.

YOU WILL NEED TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:

- Official Transcripts for the 2023-2024 Fall Term
- Proof of receipts for tuition paid

coordinator@eetfund.com

780-585-2135

Service Canada



MASKWACIS EMPLOYMENT CENTRE

SERVICE CANADA IS ON-SITE AT MASKWACIS EMPLOYMENT CENTRE

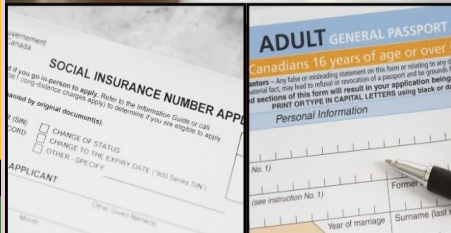
WEDNESDAYS
9:30AM - 3:30PM



THEY CAN ASSIST WITH:

- Employment Insurance
- Canadian Pension Plan/Old Age Security
- Guaranteed Income Supplement
- Social Insurance Number
- Passport Application Intake

THEY DO NOT OFFER STATUS CARDS OR INCOME TAX/CRA/GST RELATED SERVICES



PO BOX 2470, MASKWACIS, AB, T0C-1N0
780 585 4450 OFFICE
780 585 4456 FAX

REGISTER TODAY

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PIGEON LAKE NEHIYAW ATISOWIN

Have you been out of school for awhile? Thinking of returning back to school? Want to refresh your Math and English? Looking to develop some basic life skills and build up your confidence? Maskwacis Cultural College is offer a 12 week program in Pigeon Lake March –June 2024:

- ✦ Math and English Refresher
- ✦ Cree Instruction
- ✦ Life skills (personal and professional)

Apply at www.mccedu.ca >> Application Forms >> Online Academic Application for Admissions >> select Adult Literacy Program

For more information
 Phone: 780-585-3925 ext 247
 or Phone: 780-586-2211
 Email: vaomeasoo@mccedu.ca
 Visit: Maskwacis Cultural College Literacy Coordinator Vanessa Omeasoo




SECURITY

Want to be a **Security Guard?**

ALBERTA BASIC SECURITY GUARD TRAINING

WHAT YOU NEED

JAN 29, 2024 - FEB 2, 2024

- Vulnerable Sector Check
- Member or Resident of Maskwacis
- 18 years or older
- Government ID

Limited Seats and Selection Process done on completed applications

CONTACT Location: Maskwacis Employment Center

MEC JOB COACHES
lacey@maskwacisemployment.ca
patrick@maskwacisemployment.ca

PHONE NUMBER
780-585-4450



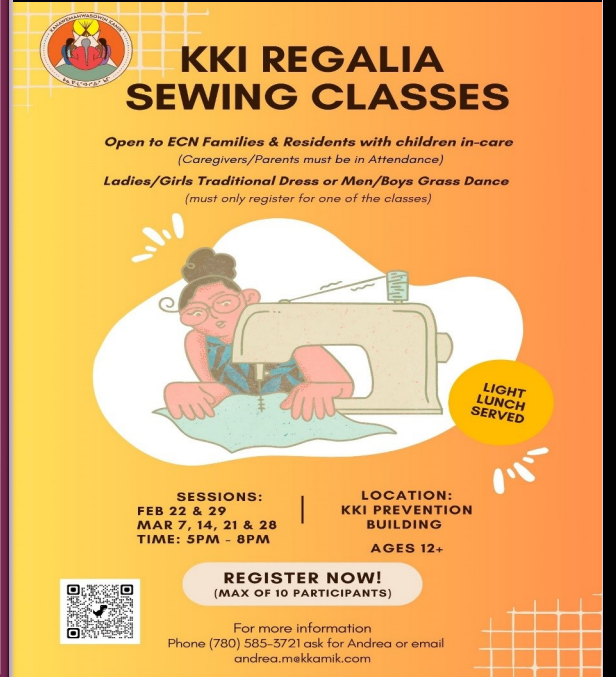
Neyaskweyahk Human Services

Walk-In Appointment

Neyaskweyahk Human Services will be having walk-in appointments to **RE-SIGN FOR February 2024**

January 23rd
 January 24th
 & January 25th
9:00am - 4:00pm


For more information:
 (780) 585-3835



KKI REGALIA SEWING CLASSES

Open to ECN Families & Residents with children in-care (Caregivers/Parents must be in Attendance)

Ladies/Girls Traditional Dress or Men/Boys Grass Dance (must only register for one of the classes)



SESSIONS:
 FEB 22 & 29
 MAR 7, 14, 21 & 28
 TIME: 5PM - 8PM

LOCATION:
 KKI PREVENTION BUILDING
 AGES 12+

REGISTER NOW!
 (MAX OF 10 PARTICIPANTS)

For more information
 Phone (780) 585-3721 ask for Andrea or email andrea.makkamik.com

LIGHT LUNCH SERVED



Baby Clothing & Accessories are on Promotion for the month of January @ 10% off!

- Animal Plushies
- Onesies
- Sleepers
- Fleece Jumpers
- Blankets
- Diaper Bags (Comes w/ Shoulder Strap, Pad & Zipper Pouch)



MIYOPIMATISWIN YOUTH CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 02, 2024 | 8AM-8PM

H.B.M.C. MASKWACIS, ALBERTA

Miyopimatiswin: To live a good life.
Join us for a day of learning within the
medicine wheel teachings.
Ages 12-19

Door Prizes

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner provided



MORE INFO: 780-585-2268

Follow MCSS on Facebook
@MaskwacisCounselling



KANAWEMAHWASOWIN KAMIK

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Open to Ermineskin families & Residents
with children in-care

FOUR
EVENING
SESSIONS

MITT MAKING SEWING CLASS

MATERIAL
PROVIDED

JAN 25, 2024
FEB 1, 2024
FEB 8, 2024
FEB 15, 2024
5:30 - 8 PM

LIMITED ONLY FOR
10 PERSON - AGES 12+

LUNCH WILL BE
PROVIDED

KKI PREVENTION BUILDING

BEGINNERS ARE WELCOME

Register with the QR Code



For More information: Phone (780) 585-3721 ask for Andrea
or email andrea.mekkamik.com

OPEN TO AGES 11 TO 17!



POWWOW SINGING PROGRAM

TUESDAYS

(STARTING JANUARY 16TH 2024)

5PM - 7PM

JIM RS SPORTS BLDG.

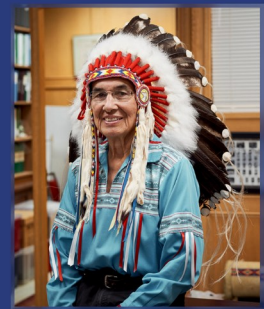
TO REGISTER:
(780) 585-3088

Ermineskin Cree Nation &
Kanawemahwasowin Kamik, Inc.

INVITE ALL ECN CITIZENS TO ATTEND:

ECN/KKI Law-Making Information Session

WITH DR. WILTON LITTLECHILD AND
ANDRE BEAR, INDIGENOUS NATION REBUILDING INC.



Tuesday January 30, 2024
1:00PM-4:00PM

@ **Neyaskweyahk Okimaw Kamik (NOK)**

Ermineskin Cree Nation - Maskwacis

AN EDUCATIONAL SESSION ON BILL C-92 AND THE
PRACTICE OF TRADITIONAL LAW-MAKING BASED
ON OUR INHERENT RIGHT TO SELF GOVERN

Contact: Michelle - 780-585-3721

Lunch will be provided at 12:00PM

Please be aware that this session will be recorded to preserve all information



MASKWACIS EMPLOYMENT CENTER

SPRING JOB FAIR

MARCH 21, 2024 THURSDAY

**HOWARD BUFFALO MEMORIAL CENTER
MASKWACIS, ALBERTA
10AM-3PM**



- ✓ Be Prepared
- ✓ Bring Your Resume
- ✓ Dress to Impress

EVERYONE WELCOME!

INDUSTRY REGISTRATION
www.maskwacisemployment.ca

For more information, contact 780-585-4450 or email iana@maskwacisemployment.ca



MASKWACIS ANONYMOUS ANIMAL CONTROL SURVEY

Open to Band Members from Samson Cree Nation, Ermineskin Cree Nation, Montana First Nation & Louis Bull Tribe on & off reserve

Maskwacis Cree Tribal Council (MCTC) has launched a survey to gather opinions from nation members on safety and animal bylaws within the 4 nations. The feedback received will be instrumental in making informed decisions about animal care services in the 4 nations of Maskwacis. Your participation in this survey will help shape the future of animal welfare in the area, and your valuable insights are greatly appreciated.

TO COMPLETE SURVEY



[HTTPS://FORM.JOTFORM.COM/233236378056257](https://form.jotform.com/233236378056257)

CLICK HERE

INQUIRIES?

Contact Us
780-585-0016

Visit Our Facebook
Maskwacis Cree Tribal Council



IMPORTANT NOTICE: MASKWACIS MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

To be more in detail of the tryout process for the Alberta Treaty Hockey Championships 2024 held February 17, 18, 19, 2024:

1. All OFF-RESERVE players who are Band members of either 4 bands **MUST** register with the MMHA Registrar to tryout.

Email to maskwacishockey@gmail.com

- A. Name
- B. Date of Birth
- C. Band Number
- D. Division
- E. Respect in Sports Number
- F. HCR Number (Hockey Canada Registry Number)

2. All on- reserve LEAGUE players are automatically registered.

3. If you are of Treaty Status and are a non Band member but have lived on or near the community of Maskwacis for at least 12 Consecutive months, then you can REGISTER, tryout and play for Maskwacis.

4. If you are of Treaty Status and your community does not have a team, is full or not participating in the ATHA 2024 and are in good standings with ATHA, and live near Maskwacis, we would be Considered your nearest community and you can REGISTER, tryout and play for Maskwacis.

5. ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER WITH MMHA REGISTRAR prior to tryouts.

6. We are asking all female players to register as well as we are expecting female teams in the U13F, U15F, U18F, and U21F divisions.

7. This registration process will help with our numbers in the tryout process, and to start a database that will help aid in individual funding, team funding, practice notices and team correspondence.

So far, we have close to 70 off reserve players registered and are expecting at least 2 to 3 teams per division.