



Ermineskin Newsletter February 21, 2024
Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin Mikisiw Pîsim Nîstanaw Peyakosâp
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FAMILY DAY CELEBRATION 2024



Games, movies, wagon rides, skating, fireworks and even goats! There were many choices of things you wanted to do on Family Day here in Ermineskin. There were multiple locations with various activities, snacks and photo ops for the entire family! Jim Rattlesnake had balloon animals, face painting, a photo booth, and outdoor fun such as s'more making and bean bag toss! "I like the balloons, I got to make s'more too with my brother which was awesome!" says Maya, one of the youths at the event.

Over at the N.O.K. Building they had popcorn and movies showing like Super Mario Bros. Movie, Trolls: Band Together and Elvis! Everyone was greeted with a drink and popcorn, and then seated to watch the movie. Our ECN Events Coordinator was excited to have this

volume of activities and participants, "It's really for the kids, we want to make it a family-friendly environment for everyone. By having different activities at different locations, you just get more out of the day, and get to experience more as a family," He also adds "I think the movies are a good way to spend some quiet time together and enjoy each other's company while seeing a movie they probably haven't seen before."

The evening finished with an amazing fireworks display, where rows of cars lined up, filled with kids, parents, and even grandparents.

This event wouldn't have been possible without ECN Community Wellness, Recreation, Brighter Futures, ECN Events, and of course all of the volunteers who helped make this event a success!

E.C.N. YOUTH SETS SEASON RECORD

Congratulations to W.C.H.S Alumni Kaedin Larocque-Wolfe who set the franchise single-season goal-scoring record!

We congratulate this young man who has shown himself to be an amazing talent and incredible force on ice as one of the key players on the Ontario Reign.

Good luck with this season and all future seasons with your bright hockey career! Kaedin is playing in the USPHL Ontario Jr. A Reign which is the affiliate of the Ontario Reign and LA Kings!



TC Energy
BUILD STRONG

2023 INDIGENOUS LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

TC Energy is pleased to share that Tyler Ermineskin, has been awarded an Indigenous Legacy Scholarship. Tyler is attending the University of Alberta, and is a second year law student.

I am from the traditional territory of Treaty Six, Neyaskweyak/Ermineskin Cree Nation. My English name is Tyler Ermineskin, and my Cree name is Nihkamo Pehyehis, meaning Singing Bird. I am empowered by a strong connection to my culture and a vision bestowed upon me by Kisemanito (God), I am a committed advocate for the rights of Indigenous People.

I am driven by my ethical belief in public service, and approach my work from a trauma-informed perspective, emphasizing reciprocity, love, and a refusal to remain silent in the face of injustice. My spiritual teachings reinforce my commitment to sacred medicines, the preservation of the Cree language, the passing down of wisdom to future generations, and continuous learning.

Upon completing the Juris Doctor program, I endeavor to practice in the following areas of law: Access to Justice for youth, International Law, Treaty Law, Environmental Law, and strengthening laws in Canada that will protect all women from violence and discrimination. I am dedicated to these areas as they are rooted in my beliefs about the importance of protecting the rights and well-being of children, youth, women and families. I am also dedicated to: Upholding treaty obligations; Promoting sustainable clean energy opportunities and contributing to the development of equitable legal frameworks that are Indigenous-led.

To learn more about the TC Indigenous Legacy Scholarship please visit:
tcenergy.com/scholarships





CREE CORNER

DAYS OF THE WEEK

MONDAY

Peyak Kîsikâw

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TUESDAY

Nîso Kîsikâw

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WEDNESDAY

Nisto Kîsikâw

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THURSDAY

Newo Kîsikâw

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FRIDAY

Nîyânan Kîsikâw

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SATURDAY

Nikotwâsikîsikâw

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SUNDAY

Ayamihew Kîsikâw

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK

**SUBMITTED BY:
CAROLYN OMEASOO**

Nokum Carolyn and my two
grandchildren Mila P. and Zekaiyes O.

My family ❤️



Confederacy of Treaty No. 6



PRESS RELEASE

Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations celebrates Supreme Court's decision on Bill C 92

February 9, 2024 (Treaty No. 6 Territory) – The Confederacy of Treaty Six is glad to acknowledge and celebrate the recent decision by the Supreme Court of Canada declaring Bill C-92 as constitutional. This landmark victory represents a significant step forward in recognizing First Nation Jurisdiction and upholding the rights of Indigenous children and their families.

Bill C-92, also known as the Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth and families, was enacted with the aim of affirming Indigenous jurisdiction over child and family services. It seeks to establish a framework that respects the distinct cultural practices, customs, and traditions of Indigenous communities while prioritizing the best interests of Indigenous children. In doing this, it empowers us in the sacred duty given to us by the creator to honour our ancestors and to care for the young ones of future generations.

The Supreme Court's decision to uphold the constitutionality of Bill C-92 reinforces and recognizes the establishment of self-governance and the right to self-determination for Indigenous people across Turtle Island. It recognizes the inherent right of Indigenous communities to exercise jurisdiction and control over child and family services, ensuring that decisions are made in a manner that reflects the unique needs and circumstances of each community.

"This is a historic moment", stated Grand Chief Cody Thomas. "The Supreme Court's ruling recognizes our inherent right to care for our children with our own cultures, traditions, and languages, and it affirms the principles of reconciliation and our inherent right to lawmaking and self-governance."

We acknowledge the Supreme Court of Canada for their recognition of the importance of Bill C-92. This decision paves the way for meaningful collaboration and partnership between Indigenous communities and government agencies, fostering a system that is grounded in cultural sensitivity, respect, and understanding.

Media Contact: Brian Golightly | Media Relations
pipikwan pêhtâkwan
brian@pipikwanpehtakwan.com

A Historical Change

"We see the work of what we have been doing. Putting the tobacco down, singing our sacred songs. The song they are going to sing is for the children. Where not only now, but in the future, will they be properly cared for, including those that we have lost. We can bring them home with this decision from the Supreme Court of Canada, which is the highest decision that Canada has the ability to make. It's a really big victory for us, for the children, to protect our children. I am thankful." Says Chief Wilton Littlechild.

The morning of February 9th, 2024, The Supreme Court of Canada released their historic decision on An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, formerly Bill C-92. The Supreme Court of Canada has found that the Act, including the recognition of First Nations' inherent right to self-government and jurisdiction over children and families, is entirely constitutional. Chief Wilton and Ermineskin Leadership celebrated with a Victory Song, welcoming this decision made for First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families.



LAND BACK RECORDS

Pisim Smallyboy, a local artist and music creator from Ermineskin Cree Nation, is making waves throughout the music industry with his fellow members of "Land Back Records". Pisim is creating a positive change and inspiring many by sharing his music, stories and journey.

"We are a collective of indigenous artist and creatives. We use our past traumas to fuel inspiration, we bring motivation, for the next generations. unique presentations to lift up the youth of your nations. reclaiming our culture, and using our voices to promote healthy choices. our mission is to create meaningful impacts that are long lasting. we are more than artists.. We are entrepreneurs, facilitators, storytellers, sharing our



gifts and our talents directly with your community. bring healing through our stories, our music and our medicine. your community, your youth, your future. Let's celebrate together, we are Land Back Records."

PINK SHIRT DAY- ANTI BULLYING AWARENESS

Pink Shirt Day, or Anti-Bullying Awareness Day, is an annual event dedicated to raising awareness and taking a stand against bullying in all forms. The day is marked by wearing pink clothing as a symbol of solidarity and support for those who have been affected by bullying. The origins of Pink Shirt Day can be traced back to an incident in Canada in 2007. While Pink Shirt Day has Canadian roots, its impact has spread globally. People in various countries participate in the event, emphasizing the universal need to address and prevent bullying. Pink Shirt Day is typically observed on the last Wednesday of February each year. (February 28th, 2024) On this day, people around the world wear pink shirts to show their commitment to preventing and addressing bullying.

Anti-bullying awareness is crucial for fostering safe and inclusive environments in schools, workplaces, and communities. Bullying can have serious and lasting effects on individuals, impacting their mental and emotional well-being. Promoting awareness helps create a culture of re-

spect, empathy, and kindness, ultimately working towards preventing bullying and supporting those who have experienced it. Participating in Pink Shirt Day provides an opportunity for individuals and communities to actively engage in creating environments that promote respect, inclusion, and the well-being of all. It serves as a reminder that each person can contribute to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

IMPORTANT FACTS!

- Seven in ten (7/10) youth experience some form of bullying. According to the 2019 Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth, the majority of Canadian youth aged 12 to 17 (71%) reported experiencing at least one form of bullying in the past twelve months.
- Among youth who experienced bullying, about two in five (2/5) (42%) reported experiencing it monthly or more frequently, while 58% reported experiencing bullying a few times a year.

PINK SHIRT DAY 2024

**WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 28TH**

**SÁKIHITÓK MINA WICÍHITÓK
"LOVE ONE ANOTHER AND HELP ONE ANOTHER"**



HEART HEALTH MONTH

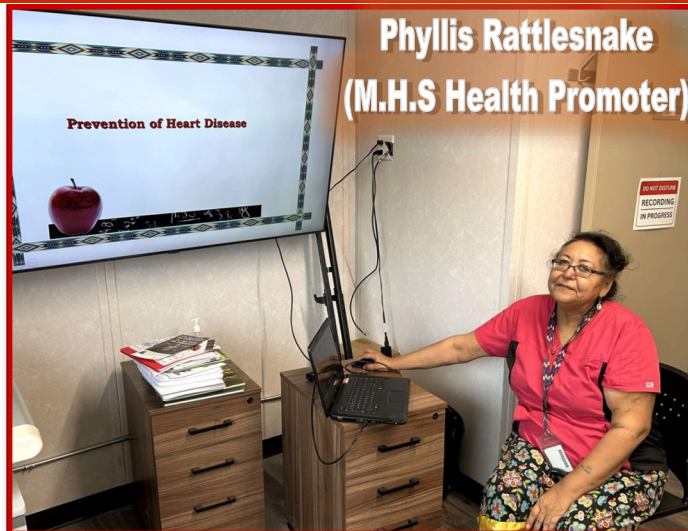
“Heart disease is on the rise and is the leading cause of death for women worldwide. According to the World Health Organization, since 2015, Canada (amongst other countries) has reported an increase in the death for women from heart disease. Join the campaign to help raise awareness for women's heart health by wearing red on February 13th” said Phyllis Rattlesnake M.H.S Health Promoter.

As many of us know, February is Heart Month, a time to bring attention to the importance of cardiovascular health, and what we can do to reduce our risk of the disease. Heart disease affects approximately 2.4 million Canadian adults, and is the second leading cause of death in Canada. Maskwacis Health Services hosted a Heart Health Info Session on February 8th, 2024 at the Health Promotion Trailer covering many topics of Heart Health, Prevention and awareness.

Some of the information that was shared is that heart health refers to the well-being of the cardiovascular system, which includes the heart and blood vessels. Maintaining good cardiovascular health is vital for overall well-being, as the heart system plays a fundamental role in supplying oxygen and nutrients to the body's tissues and organs. Here are several reasons highlighting the importance of cardiovascular health:

1. Heart Function:

The heart is a muscular organ that pumps blood throughout the body, delivering oxygen and nutrients to cells and removing waste products. Maintaining cardiovascular health ensures the heart's effective functioning.



Phyllis Rattlesnake
(M.H.S Health Promoter)

2. Blood Pressure Regulation:

The cardiovascular system helps regulate blood pressure, ensuring that it remains within a healthy range. High blood pressure (hypertension) is a significant risk factor for cardiovascular diseases.

3. Brain Health:

The brain relies on a healthy blood supply for optimal function. A well-functioning cardiovascular system helps prevent conditions such as stroke, which can have severe consequences for cognitive health.

4. Disease Prevention:

Cardiovascular health promotion often involves lifestyle modifications that contribute to overall well-being, including the prevention of other chronic conditions such as diabetes and certain types of cancer.

We can all reduce our risk of heart disease by making healthy lifestyle choices, including quitting smoking/vaping, eating a healthy and balanced diet, getting enough sleep, exercising regularly, and monitoring blood pressure as well as cholesterol levels. Heart health awareness is an ongoing effort that involves the collaboration of individuals, healthcare professionals and community organizations. By increasing awareness and promoting preventive measures, the goal is to reduce the burden of cardiovascular diseases and improve the overall heart health of Canada's populations.



OTTAWA FIRST NATIONS FIGHT TO INCREASE TREATY ANNUITY PAYMENTS



lion, Schachter said, and the plaintiffs plan to call Nobel prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz to calculate the value of the resources taken from the territory. The court split the case into three stages due to its complexity, with stage one concerning whether the Crown is duty-bound to increase the annuity. Stage two concerned whether defendants Canada and Ontario could claim Crown immunity. The plaintiffs have won so far, but the future of the case is far from certain. Stage three concerns liability: who should pay and how much.

The final stage of a complex trial over the payment of treaty annuities in northern Ontario kicked off Monday with one group of plaintiffs pursuing negotiations and the other in court panning the provincial government. The case concerns a clause in the 1850 Robinson Huron and Robinson Superior treaties between the Anishinaabe of the upper Great Lakes and the Crown, which promises to increase the annual payment, or annuity, as the territory produces more wealth.

The annuity hasn't increased since 1874, when it was capped at \$4 per person. In the previous stages of the trial, the Anishinaabe successfully argued this breaks the treaty, a ruling the Ontario government appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada. While that's scheduled for the fall, the trial continues in Ontario's Superior Court of Justice in Sudbury.

Harley Schachter, lawyer for the Robinson Superior treaty signatories, argued in court Monday that Ontario's experts have dreamed up a "counterfactual world that doesn't exist" by suggesting the modern-day value of the resources taken from the land is negative \$11 billion. This would mean the Anishinaabe are owed nothing in compensation for resources taken from their territory for 173 years.

"Ontario's vision remains an impoverished vision of the ongoing future treaty relationship, and that does not bode well," he said. "There can be no assurance that any healing is on the horizon."

Alternative accounting models go as high as \$193 bil-

Schachter filed a claim in 1999 on behalf of Red Rock Indian Band and Whitesand First Nation. Twenty-one other Anishinaabe First Nations formed the Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund and filed their own case in 2012. While separate, the two groups participated in the same trial. The Robinson Huron group however is now in settlement talks mediated by retired senator and former Truth and Reconciliation Commission chair Murray Sinclair. Sinclair stepped down recently for health reasons, but the group said in a Monday statement they "will continue to work together at the negotiation table to try to reach a negotiated outcome outside of the courts."

Meanwhile, inside the court, Schachter urged Justice Patricia Hennessy to view the Crown's purported newfound embrace of its treaty duties with skepticism.

"The past 173 years provide no comfort that any negotiations with the Crown would result in a fair result for the Anishinaabe," he said, arguing that trusting Crown governments to uphold the treaties now would be like trusting a fox to keep guarding the chicken coop.

"After 173 years of government neglect and inattention, it is only fair and just for the chickens to come home to roost." Ontario and Canada are scheduled to respond with their opening statements Tuesday.

-Brett Forrester- CBC NEWS OTTAWA

UPCOMING EVENTS/CLASSIFIEDS



Ermineskin Cree Nation

WE ARE HIRING!

February 9th, 2024

OPEN POSITIONS:

- ✔ Case Management Worker with the Ermineskin Neyaskweyahk Human Services (NHS) Department by February 23rd, 2024
- ✔ Client Intake Worker with the Ermineskin Food Bank department by February 23rd, 2024
- ✔ I.T. Support Specialist with the Ermineskin Administration Department by February 26th, 2024

APPLY NOW

Please submit applications, resume and criminal record check to:

faith@ermineskin.ca



CALL OUT FOR THREE (3) MEMBERS FOR LAW DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

RE: Invitation To Join the Ermineskin Cree Nation's new Child and Family Services Law Development Working Group

In the weeks and months ahead, Ermineskin Cree Nation will embark on a collaborative, Nation-driven initiative to develop a new, custom-made Child and Family Services Law. This law will govern how our Nation cares for and supports our Children, Youth, and Families.

This law will aim to capture and reflect the unique history, culture and wise practices of the people of the Ermineskin Cree Nation when it comes to caring for our Nation's children and youth. It will ultimately become the paramount law that governs how child and family services can be delivered for Members of our Nation.

The new Law Development Working Group will plan and undertake extensive community engagement to create a vision for our Nation's new law and a unique Child and Family Services program that serves our needs under the new law. Members of the working group will provide guidance to expert technicians and legal counsel who will provide drafting support.

ECN members or others with relevant connections or experience in these areas are encouraged to apply and/or express their interest in being a part of the working group. Three positions are available to interested ECN Members. Relevant background, experience, and skill sets might include (but are not limited to):

- Experience working within the Child and Family Services system or supporting ECN or other First Nation children and youth in care.
- Experience supporting ECN or other First Nation children, youth, and families with their health, mental health, educational, or social services.
- Experience providing programming that supports for ECN or other First Nation children, youth, and families (i.e. wellness and recreational programs)
- Experience and knowledge in the revitalization and preservation of the language, culture and traditions of the people of the Ermineskin Cree Nation.
- Understanding of traditional kinship knowledge and practices.
- Experience ensuring the safety of ECN or other First Nation community Members.
- Any other relevant knowledge or experience that could add value to developing a law that keeps ECN children, youth, and families strong, healthy, safe, and together.
- Fluent in Cree is an asset

Interested ECN Members and others can apply by sharing a copy of their resume and/or sending an email that outlines your reasons for wanting to become involved to law.development@2kkamik.com.

CLOSING DATE: February 23, 2024



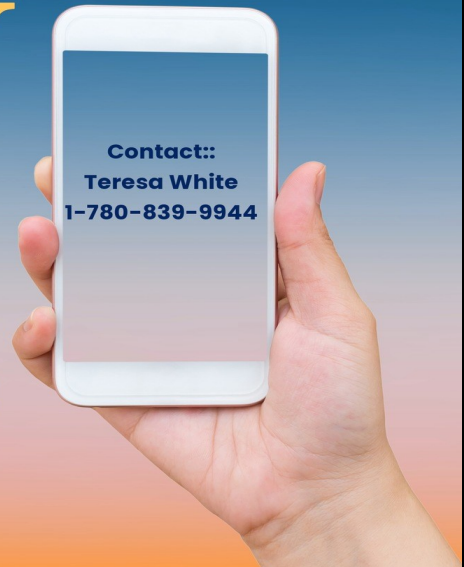
Ermineskin Pow-Wow Committee:

CALL OUT FOR: SECURITY

Ermineskin Pow-Wow Committee is accepting bids for a security team to be present at our summer competition pow-wow.



Dates:
May 31st - June 2nd.
2024



Contact::
Teresa White
1-780-839-9944

ermineskinpowwowcommittee@gmail.com



PIGEON LAKE RECREATION CENTRE



CULTURAL TEACHINGS: STORYTELLING WITH ELDER LESTER BROWN



STARTING FEBRUARY 5TH EVERY MONDAY 5PM TO 7PM



4 NATIONS BAND MEMBERS OF PIGEON LAKE. JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF CULTURAL TEACHINGS. FOOD PROVIDED



WE ARE HIRING

OPEN POSITIONS :

- ▶ Crew Leaders
- ▶ Sub Leaders
- ▶ Buckers & Fallers
- ▶ Crew Members



WILDLAND SEASON 2024

Crew members must have: SFA; WHMIS; ICS100

Leaders / Drivers must have: TDG Air / TDG Ground

SEND YOUR RESUME :

tricia@ngcinc.ca



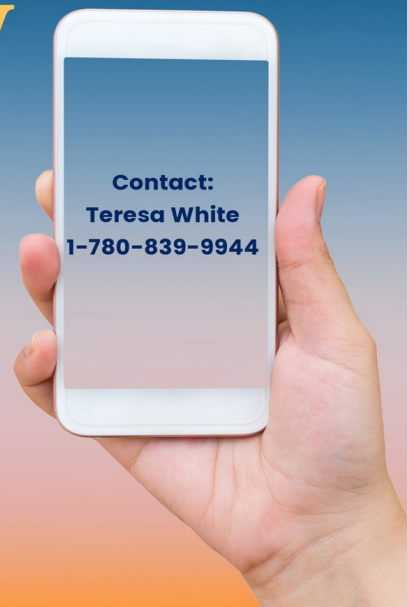
Ermineskin Pow-Wow Committee:

CALL OUT FOR: CLEANING CREW

Ermineskin Pow-Wow Committee is accepting bids for a cleaning crew to be present at our summer competition pow-wow.



Dates: May 31st - June 3rd, 2024



Contact: Teresa White 1-780-839-9944

ermineskinpowwowcommittee@gmail.com



MASKWACIS COUNSELLING & SUPPORT SERVICES

AMBIGUOUS LOSS

For Women
FEBRUARY 26-28, 2024

For Men
MARCH 11-13, 2024

Have you been affected by someone missing in mind or body, or perhaps feel in limbo?

Join our 3-day support program to share how Ambiguous Loss has affected your life. Telling your story can be healing, as can listening to other people's experiences. You are invited to share yours.

Our goal is to offer comfort through this grieving process, provide information and coping mechanisms to try.

VILLAGE CREEK COUNTRY INN, PIGEON LAKE



To Pre-Register or for more information, call MCSS at 780-585-2268

REA LTD. Annual General Meeting

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 13, 2024

10:00AM START
N.O.K. BUILDING

*DOOR PRIZES
*LUNCH WILL BE SERVED



Topics of Discussion →
Fortis Alberta Year-End Report, Alberta Federation of REA's, REA Budget and REA Audit Report

SPEAKERS:

Stan Orlesky
Supervisor Indigenous Relations FortisAlberta

Brenda Ward
REA Manager

For more details, contact us:
(780) 585-4037



REA LTD. GENERAL MEETING

Taking Flight International Corporation

Healing Personal and Family Grief WORKSHOP

facilitated by Dr. Jane Simington, PhD.


MARCH 18-20, 2024

Best Western Wayside Inn
4103 56 St, Wetaskiwin, AB T9A 1V2


Gain the information you require and the intervention you need to work on and heal your grief, from whatever source, and to support and help each of your family members to also heal from their losses.

To register, please contact Brighter Futures office @ 780-585-2000

Each will receive a copy of HEALING PERSONAL AND FAMILY GRIEF

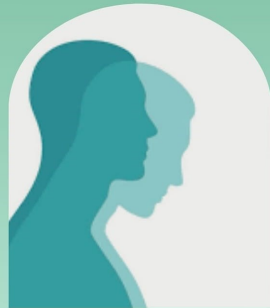


Dr. Jane Simington is an educator, author, and therapist, specializing in grief and trauma.



Ermineskin Brighter Futures Presents: ✨

Men's Wellness




Topics include:

- TB (tuberculosis)
- Prostate cancer
- Cultural teachings

March 13-14, 2024
9am-3pm

18 Participants Max
Ages: 18 and up

Location: TBA



Contact the Brighter Futures office for more info @ 780-585-2000

New Date

Ermineskin Cree Nation & Kanawemahwasowin Kamik, Inc.

OPEN TO ECN CITIZENS ONLY:

ECN/KKI Law-Making Information Session

with Dr. Wilton Littlechild and Andre Bear, Indigenous Nation Rebuilding



Monday February 26, 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 at 780-585-3721

Lunch will be provided at 12:00PM

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



Ermineskin COHI & PCAP/FASD Program

present:



COHI DAY Ages 0-4

February 28th, 2024

@ The Jim Rattlesnake Building

Begins at 10AM. Ends at 3PM

Hot lunch will be provided for participants
Noon-1PM

Fun

Crafts!

Bouncy Castle

Movie

Goodies!

Prize Draw!

For more information, please contact:
780-585-4088

or the Brighter Futures office @ 780-585-2000

Ermineskin Cree Nation

Native Provincials & Treaty Hockey Sponsorship 2024



FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT EUGENE COYOTE AT 780-585-3088

Forms available at:

Locations:

-ECN Admin Office

-Jim Rattlesnake Building

9AM - 4PM

Drop off forms at

Location:

Jim Rattlesnake Building

10AM - 3PM

Please provide Rosters and Coach contact

Sponsorship Cheques pick location Jim Rattlesnack Building. Contact: Eugene Coyote for Dates

