

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day is a global observance celebrated annually on March 8th to recognize the achievements and contributions of women worldwide, as well as to advocate for gender equality and women's rights. International Women's Day has its roots in the early 20th century women's movements for labor rights and suffrage. The first National Woman's Day was observed in the United States on February 28, 1909, to honor a garment workers' strike in New York City. The idea to establish an international day to celebrate women emerged during the International Conference of Working Women in Copenhagen in 1910.

Each year, International Women's Day is celebrated with a specific theme that highlights key issues facing women and girls globally. Themes often focus on gender equality, women's empowerment, education, health, economic justice, and ending violence against women. International Women's Day serves as a platform for advocacy and raising awareness about the challenges and barriers that women and girls continue to face, including discrimination, gender-based violence, lack of access to education and healthcare, unequal pay, and underrepresentation in leadership and decision-making positions.

This year the Ermineskin Women's Shelter partnered with Samson Community Wellness to host a celebration for the women of Maskwacis. The event had over one hundred (100) participants, with many speakers such as (E.C.N. Councilor) Nina Makinaw, Lilian Gladue and keynote speaker Katherine Swampy



(S.C.N Councilor). Katherine Swampy explained the importance of taking care of ourselves as women and how our resilience as women is very powerful. ***"No one will understand how much you've gone through and how much you've been through than another indigenous woman. That is why it is so easy to connect to one another. They are also going through the same struggle you are going through. Trauma not only is in our blood memory and we endure it every single day, trauma is something us woman have learnt to become resilient too. To overcome on a daily basis."***

The event came to an end with a powerful and meaningful honor song performed by "Perfect Storm." In honor of all of our strong, resilient women. Today, we celebrate the strength, determination, and resilience of women everywhere!

"It was lovely to see so many woman I admire and appreciate under one roof today." - Peggy Lee



CREE CORNER



EASTER
KIHCI KÎSIKÂ
ᐱᐢᐢ ᐱᐱᐅᐅ

BEE
ÂMÔ
ᐱᐱ

BUTTERFLIES
KAMAMAKWAK
ᐅᐱᐱᐅᐅ

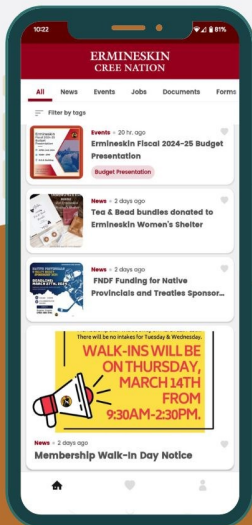
RABBIT
WÂPOS
ᐱᐱᐅᐅ

MIYOSKAMIN
ᐱᐱᐅᐅᐅ

Spring

RAINBOW
PÎSIM WEYÂPIY
ᐱᐱᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ

FLOWERS
WÂPIKWANISA
ᐱᐱᐅᐅᐅᐅ



WANT REAL-TIME ECN UPDATES?

Ermineskin Cree Nation has launched a Mobile App to communicate with our membership! With just a few steps, you can sign-up easily!



DOWNLOAD OUR APP + REGISTER



TURN YOUR NOTIFICATIONS ON



STAY UPDATED INSTANTLY

SCAN QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD



ECN Communications 2024 Survey

The ECN Communications Team is conducting our annual survey on the performance of our Department and would appreciate your feedback on items such as

- ECN Newsletter
- ECN Website, and our recently added
- ECN Mobile App.

Scan the QR Code below to take the survey!



R.E.A GENERAL MEETING &

Ermineskin R.E.A. Ltd. hosted its Annual General Meeting for ECN citizens to keep up with the current operations and plans for the future. Stan Orlesky, representing FortisAlberta, was in attendance where he presented items such as new features on the Fortis website, their new Mobile App, plans for the next year regarding testing and repairs that have been approved within the nation, and a budget for these operations. He also gave some quick tips on how to be more energy efficient within your home such as changing furnace filters, using LED lighting, trying not to use hot water/major appliances like the washer and drying during 3pm-7pm or “peak hours”, switching off/ unplugging smaller appliances that are not consistently in use (nightlights, coffeemaker, toaster, computer, gaming systems, etc.).

Chris Cholak, MNP Member, presented a read-through of the REA Audit Report. He went through the budgets over the past year and the overall financial health of the Ermineskin REA Department.

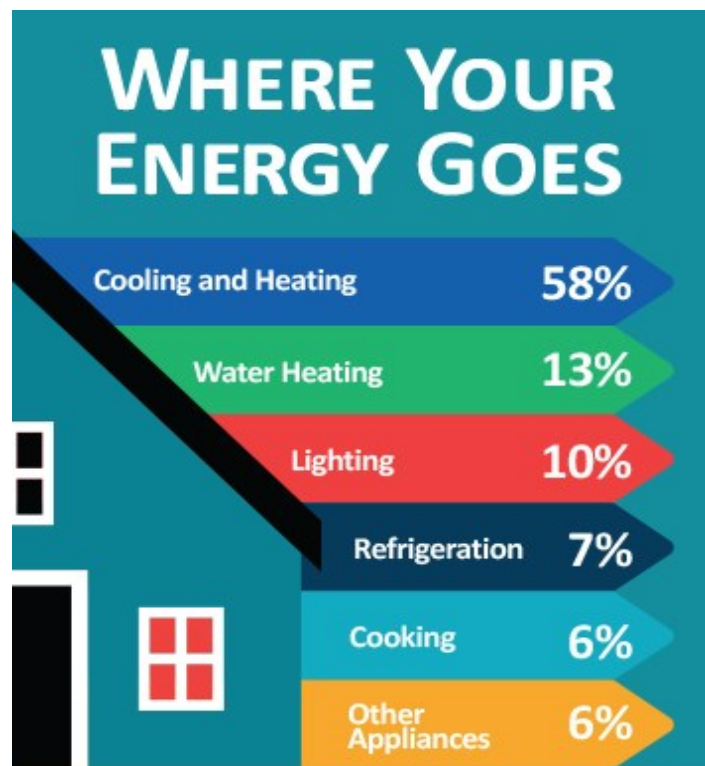
Alberta Federation of REA's Ltd.'s Todd Grayson made a presentation on the AFREA's past year activities such as 2023 AGM & Conference, 2023 Summer Technical Sessions, 17th Annual Golf Charity Classic, Fall District Meetings, and MLA Dinner & Reception. He also gave a walk-through explanation of the Current High Prices of Energy within Alberta, and how in the coming months we may see a decrease in the cost of energy.

“I'll finish my presentation by trying to provide an answer to a very difficult question posed to us by Brenda Ward who asked ‘**Explain the high energy prices**’.

In the past, Alberta used to have some of the lowest electricity prices in North America. However, in 2023, Albertans faced a substantial increase in their electricity bills as prices surged. In 2021, electricity prices in Alberta range from 7 to 10 cents per kilowatt hour. In 2022, prices increased

to between 10 and 17 cents per kilowatt hour. In response, the Alberta government introduced a \$500 electricity bill rebate that was distributed in installments from July 2022 to April 2023. However, residential electricity prices continued to soar, reaching around 29 and 33 cents per kilowatt hour in early 2023, and consistently exceeding 25 cents per kilowatt hour from July onward. Once the rebate expired in April of 2023, consumers were left to handle these high costs on their own.

At the root of the issue is Alberta's deregulated electricity market where generators must compete in an open unregulated market. This means that, unlike a regulated market, there is no guarantee that generators in Alberta earn enough revenue to cover their fixed costs unless they raise their prices. To remain profitable many generating companies have resorted to acquiring other small ones (both in fossil and renewable generation space) which has today resulted in market power being concentrated in the hands of a few major generation companies (i.e.: TransAlta). This concentration means there is a great risk of “economic withholding” being used to drive up market prices.



ALBERTA ENERGY SURGES

Another reason would be a changing environmental and political landscape:

Aside from the deregulated generation market, a few other reasons have been given for the province's high electricity prices. One is the increase in frequency and severity of heat-related weather events like heat waves and wildfires.

Historically, few people in Alberta had air conditioners, but that has changed over the last decade as summers have grown hotter. (You might recall back in 2021, the summer temperature neared 40° C) This new air conditioning load has led to the “summer” peak loads equaling the “winter” peaks.

High electricity prices in 2023 could also be attributed to the increase and natural gas prices, which is Alberta's main source of base electricity generation. Prices surged by more than 60% following the Russian invasion of Ukraine as the European Union sought to transition away from Russian energy imports. This fuel cost increase was passed on to consumers via the energy charges.

The final reason for the higher prices? Expired rebates, deferred repayments:

Under Alberta's affordability action plan, electricity prices were capped at 13.5 cents per kilowatt hour from January to March of 2023, even though market prices were approaching 33 cents per kilowatt hour during that period. To bridge the gap between the market rate and the capped rate, the government provided a \$200 million loan to Alberta utility companies. This loan is expected to be paid back and has added \$10 to \$20 to monthly electricity bills.

While the government of Alberta has said that electricity rebates don't need to be repaid, the deferred costs associated with the price cap are to be recouped over the next 21 months. The higher electricity prices are due to both the expiration of rebates and the deferred repayments kicking off”.



Alberta's government is updating its electricity market rules with new temporary measures it says will help lower consumers' utility bills. The new measures are aimed at the practice of "economic withholding," a strategy regularly used by power generators in Alberta's unique-to-Canada free-market electricity system.

The new rules will limit the offer price of natural gas-generating units owned by large providers, if net revenues cross a predefined threshold. They will also require natural gas-generating assets to be made available, as directed by the AESO, in certain circumstances such as extreme weather and other times of peak demand. The government said the changes will still allow generators to earn revenue while ensuring Albertans have access to affordable and reliable power.

As consumers, there are many ways we can conserve our usage of energy by going green and overall reduce our utility bill. Some green tips for home are using cold water when doing laundry and utilizing clotheslines. You could also do small home repairs like ensuring your house is properly insulated to keep your house cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Every cent counts in creating an energy efficient home, so unplugging those small appliances and gaming systems when not in use, turning off your lights, or fixing those leaky faucets/toilets will save you money in the long run.



MASKWACIS

U18 HAWKS 2024

GAME HIGHLIGHTS

MASKWACIS HAWKS VS. HIGH COUNTRY ROCKIES



GAME ONE- 4 NATIONS ARENA

9 - 7

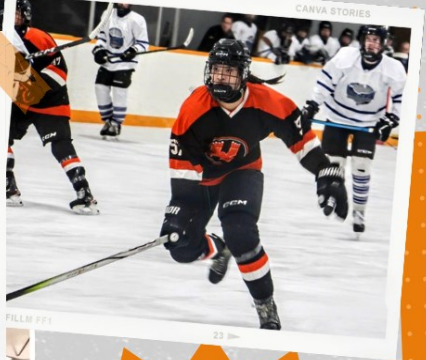


GAME TWO- OILFIELD REGIONAL AREANA

4 - 5

IN TRIPPLE OVERTIME!

FINAL SCORE: 13-12



TAYLOR WHITEBEAR

#57 SCORING CHAMPIONSHIP WINNING GOAL IN TRIPPLE OVERTIME!!

U18 TIER 3 B CHAMPIONS!!

WICKED WHEN YOU CAN TRAVEL OUR COUNTRY, TREATY #7, TO SEE OUR YOUTH PLAY A HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP GAME. DIAMOND VALLEY ALMOST BY THE MOUNTAINS. " **KELLY SADDLEBACK**

THEY PLAYED SUCH A AWESOME GAME. WINNING THIS BANNER IN TRIPLE OVERTIME. OH MY GOSH!! THIS HOCKEY JOURNEY ISN'T OVER YET. THE TEAM PLAYS IN ST. PAUL THIS WEEKEND FOR ZONE CHAMPIONSHIP. IT WAS A GREAT DAY! - **CRYSTAL CUTARM**

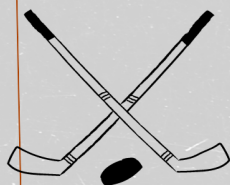
"MASKWACIS U18 HAWKS WIN IN A THRILLING TRIPLE OVERTIME! BEEN SUCH AN AWESOME JOURNEY WATCHING THESE PLAYERS, AND THEY'RE NOT DONE YET! A LOT OF THEM ARE BANGED UP, NOW THEY HAVE SOME TIME TO REST AND RECOVER THEN IT'S PROVINCIALS BOUND FOR THESE AWESOME MASKWACIS ATHLETES " **LEIGHTON RAINE**

WHAT A YEAR AND WHAT AN AWESOME ENDING TO THE YEAR !! ROAD TO U18 PROVINCIALS!REMEMBER THE JOURNEY REMEMBER THE VIBES AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, LESSONS LEARNED WILL GO ALONG WAY!! ONES AGING OUT ,WHEN YOU GO ONTO JRS THIS PAST YEARS LESSONS AND ONES THROUGH OUT YOUR MINOR HOCKEY WILL CARRY YOU. IT'S A TOUGH HOCKEY WORLD OUT THERE, BUTN BELIEVE AS I BELIEVE YOU CAN DO IT . HAVE FUN AND LEAVE IT ALL OUT ON THE ICE, EXCEPT THE BANNER BRING THAT HOME!YAY MASKWACIS HAWKS!" **GAIL RAINE**



MASKWACIS
U18 HAWKS 2024

ALBERTA PROVINCIAL
PLAYOFF TOURNAMENT



MARCH 28-31, 2024
MALLAIG, ALBERTA
(GAME TIMES TBA)



E.C.N YOUTH MADE HISTORY!

#USPHLPlayoffs: Kaedin Larocque-Wolfe sank the hat trick for the OJR 909 to help his team qualify for USPHL Nationals for the first time ever, en route to a 7-3 Game 2 victory.

The Ontario Jr Reign swept the Fresno Monsters, clinching the Pacific Division Championship! Next Stop: USPHL Nationals in Utica, NY.

LETS GO #38 Kaedin Larcque-Wolfe!!



ERMINESKIN CREE NATION SOLAR PROJECT EARNING RAVE REVIEWS

Taking some initial baby steps has allowed the Ermineskin Cree Nation to make some giant strides in the renewable energy sector. Maureen Ward-Caisse, who is the CEO of the Neyaskweyahk Group of Companies Inc., the corporate division of the First Nation in Alberta, enjoys talking up Ermineskin's achievements. Ward-Caisse discussed her First Nation's feats during the Green Energy Success Story Panel, which was part of the national Indigenous Green Technology Conference, held Feb. 26-27 in Gatineau, Que. Ward-Caisse provided details of a one-megawatt solar project titled Sundancer.

"We started small and when we planned this one-megawatt (project) we knew that we wanted to eventually expand," Ward-Caisse said. "So, at the initial stages of the planning we allotted enough land base to twin our one megawatt, which is what we are in the process of doing right now, adding a second megawatt." Ward-Caisse said Neyaskweyahk Group of Companies employees are among those who had to be educated on the renewable energy industry. "We learned along the way," she said. "We've increased our knowledge in this area. We have created empowerment and mentorship for other people in the community to express an interest in renewable energy and wanting to learn more." The solar venture has proven to be rather beneficial. "We've become our own energy sovereign Nation," Ward-Caisse said. "So, it's our project. It's on reserve."

And its impacts are being felt.

"We were able to provide emissions free power to the community and to the Alberta grid as well," Ward-Caisse added. "So, there's been a lot of learning curves along the way. But at the end of the day, the capacity building has been very beneficial for us because it's helped us move into bigger and larger projects that we've been working on and have been successful in moving forward." Ermineskin representatives had plenty of work to do in order to garner support for its renewable energy projects. "I think community engagement involves relationship building and negotiations with different stakeholders, such as our community members, our leadership and funding agencies," Ward-Caisse said. That work includes helping others understand the purpose of projects.



**Maureen Ward-Caisse, B.Com. MBA President & CEO
Neyaskweyahk Group of Companies Inc.**

"It is very important," Ward-Caisse said of keeping area residents informed of initiatives. "And engaging the community through focus group sessions and general things that we had like social media updates, newsletter updates, just providing the updates so the community knows that this is a project that is coming up." Ward-Caisse added Ermineskin officials went door-to-door to certain homeowners within a certain radius of the solar project. This was done to make sure community members were properly informed and provided an opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns if they had any.

Ward-Caisse also said Ermineskin reps integrate Indigenous knowledge and cultural practices into the planning, development and operations of their green energy projects. She said ceremony is a vital part of the Neyaskweyahk Group of Companies' projects. "No matter what it is, we start off a project with the pipe," she said. "That's something that we've done for our (solar) project. We brought in an Elder and we had our pipe ceremony and blessed the ground, the land where the project was going to take place."

Ermineskin Cree Nation is one of four First Nations that make up the community of Maskwacis. The community also includes Louis Bull Tribe, Samson Cree Nation and Montana First Nation. Tours of the Sundancer are provided to community members, even many of the younger ones. "In the four Nations there's a total of 13 schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12," Ward-Caisse said. "And so, we offer educational tours to the students. And the teachers in the schools are beginning to expose the students to things like renewable energy."

By Sam Laskaris, Cando Writer

UPCOMING EVENTS/CLASSIFIEDS

ELEMENTS



FIRETACK MEMBER TRAINING

April 1st - 7th, 2024 Pioneer Ranch Rocky Mountain House

- Physically fit and a hard worker
- Team player and can take direction well
- Class 5 is an asset

Send your resume to elementsfiretack@gmail.com
Call or Text 780.312.6124
Open to until March 15th, 2024



KANAWEMAHWASOWIN KAMIK

Job Opportunities

Open Position : Closing Date:

✓ Chief Executive Officer	Until filled
✓ Three (3) Members Law Development Working Group	Until filled
✓ One (1) Youth Ex Officio for Law Development Working Group	Until filled
✓ Community Engagement and Research Specialist	Until filled
✓ Human Resources Director	Until filled
✓ IT Manager	Until filled
✓ Casual Help for Events	Ongoing



for more information, visit our Job Opportunities page on www.kkamik.com



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@kkamik.com

CLOSING DATE: open until filled

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 ana@maskwacisemployment.ca





@ ERMINESKIN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GYM

KKI ROUND DANCE

SATURDAY
23 MARCH

TIME
6:00PM

TRADITIONAL FEAST @4:00PM

MCs: Elmer Rattlesnake & Dennis Lightning
Stickman: Jamieson Laroque

First 20 drummers will be paid
Bagged lunch
Giveaway

No outside solicitation
No alcohol or drug use tolerated

Security on site

KKI is not responsible for theft, damages, or injury



****ALL MINORS MUST HAVE ADULT SUPERVISION****

CONTACT: ANDREA 780-585-3721
ANDREA.M@KKAMIK.COM

www.kkamik.com



Spring Carnival with Pigtopia!

March 27, 2024

1:00pm-3:00pm @ EY Building in Ermineskin

There will be 2 pigs, 2 tortoises and 1 goat on site. Including Wagon rides! Snacks & Door prizes!



For more information please contact Christy Crane @ (780) 335-1817



APPLY TODAY!

OUTLAND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM



- EARN A WAGE
- GET HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS
- EARN TICKETS/CERTIFICATES



Ermineskin Property Management

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Attention ECN Home Occupants:

Since November 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024, we have had 171 No Heat services calls.

A majority of them have been due to occupants not changing the furnace filter. Not changing the furnace filter regularly causes catastrophic damages to the furnace, in the amount of \$8,000 most often.

EPM does not provide filters to occupants, that is the responsibility of the occupants.

Furnace filters at ;

- Walmart is priced at \$9.48
- Canadian Tire is priced at \$12.99 for a pkg of 2
- Peavey Mart is priced at \$8.49



Thank you
Ermineskin Property Management

ermineskin.ca/property-management

For more info!

780-585-3886

Deadly Dad's Round Dance March 29th, 2024

HBMC - Howard Buffalo Memorial Center
Maskwacis, AB
6PM - Midnight

Emcees: Hal Eagletail & Elmer Rattlesnake
Stickman: Nathan Rattlesnake
First 20 singers will be paid
Giveaway, 50/50's and Bagged lunches at 11PM
No drugs or alcohol/Security will be provided



Contact Sonny Lightning - 780 335 6697
Email: patricklightning@gmail.com

Theft or damage we will not be held responsible outside the Round Dance



NOTICE

Please be advised that the N.E.S.T. Capacity Program is currently **SUSPENDED** until APRIL 2024.

Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

-N.E.S.T. Management



ERMINESKIN CREE NATION

NATIVE PROVINCIALS & TREATY HOCKEY SPONSORSHIP 2024

DEADLINE: MARCH 27TH, 2024

Applicants must provide rosters and coach contact information.

📅 9:00AM - 3:00PM

📍 ECN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

CONTACT:

Eugene Coyote
(780) 585-3741



Ermineskin Fiscal Budget 2024-2025 Meeting

📅 April 3rd, 2024

🕒 10AM - 2PM

📍 N.O.K. Building

*Lunch will be served
*Light refreshments will be available



MARCH 2024 PROMOTION

- Purses and Handbags 10% OFF
- Puzzles 10% OFF
- Hoodies 10% OFF
- Ribbon Skirts/ Shirts 10% OFF
- Wallets 10% OFF
- Youth Athletic Shorts 15% OFF



REGISTRATION STARTS
AT 10:00AM
MUST REGISTER AT THE EVENT

Subject to Change
COVID-19 Protocols in Effect



EASTER Walk & Run

Categories:

MALE & FEMALE

- 7 - 9
- 16 - 18
- 36 - 45
- 10 - 12
- 19 - 24
- 46 - 49
- 13 - 15
- 25 - 35
- 50 - 59
- 60+

Sunday, March 31st, 2024

LOCATION: N.O.K. BUILDING

10:00AM REGISTRATION
10:30AM START
2KM WALK/ 4KM RUN



In collaboration with Ermineskin Recreation, Community Wellness, Brighter Futures and Events Dept.

For more information, Contact ECN Recreation: (780) 585-3088

SUBJECT TO CHANGE
COVID-19 PROTOCOLS IN EFFECT

MINI EASTER CARNIVAL

SPECIAL GUEST:
THE EASTER BUNNY

MARCH
31ST

Jim RS Sports
Building

2024

1:00pm
3:00pm

CANDY BAGS

BALLOON TWISTERS

PHOTO BOOTH

FACE PAINTING

HOTDOGS

POPCORN

OUTDOOR GAMES



In collaboration with Ermineskin Recreation, Community Wellness, Brighter Futures and Events Dept.