



Ermineskin Newsletter March 6, 2024

Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin Niskipîsim Nikotwâsik

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TREATY LAW INFORMATION SESSION



“Indigenous Nation Rebuilding: Exploring ways of implementing our laws, Creator’s Laws, within our daily lives and strengthening our governance through our traditional governing systems.”

Kanawemahwasowin Kamik hosted a Law-Making Information Session to learn more about **Bill-C92: An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families**, as well as information on our inherent rights to self-govern.

With the Supreme Court of Canada affirming the inherent right of First Nations to pass laws in relation to child and family matters and the right to self-govern, this information session is a step forward in

empowering our nation to continue on the path of reconciliation and implementing new, traditional teachings in our own governing systems.

“Our Child Welfare Law should be our top priority, the first law guiding our constitution, along with the land,” says Josh Littlechild.

He goes on to say, “Moving forward, I think it would be a historic decision our leadership could make, putting our children first by making a Child Welfare Law our first priority. It would honour our past, present and future. We have had forced assimilation put upon us for centuries,” **CONT’D..**

“Now we have a chance to take back what was ours, bringing our children home and protecting them.”

Andre Bear was also a keynote speaker, talking about ceremonies being apart of our governing systems, and how natural law is still important in how we make decisions. “I’m speaking from experience, I was in foster care. I was apprehended when I was a kid, I was taken from my mom twice. I was never raised in our culture, I was never raised in our ceremonies. I went into my first sweat when I was 18 years old and I lived a really hard life because my mother was an alcoholic and a residential school survivor. We were homeless and as a teenager I was kicked out of high school because I was kicked out of three other schools prior. It wasn’t until I went into our ceremonies, I was able to change my life around. I got sober, I quit partying, I quit fighting and it was like a miracle; going into our sweat lodge. My mother ended up getting cancer and

they told me that I could dance for her, that it would help her with her sickness. I turned to ceremonies and made the decision to be my best self by actively pursuing my culture and the natural law. I went from being homeless and being kicked out of three schools for three years, to being appointed by the Federal Government to be an advisor to one of the ministers in Ottawa. I have my own assistant now, I have staff, I have my own office and I was only 21 years old. By healing my spirit with ceremonies, I was able to change my life around for the better. This is why I believe that ceremonies are so important. I truly believe that’s what’s going help the welfare of our children, because that’s what helped me. I speak from my own experience and I try to make it known, that ceremonies and culture of life is really going help our kids flourish in the future, by them the tools they need to heal from past traumas and grow into strong members of our Nation.”

E.C.N. YOUTH INVITED TO SPAIN FOR FOOTBALL PROGRAM!

*Congratulations Kaiden Roan Shirt!
Kaiden was scouted and invited to participate in a European Football Exchange with Real Oviedo, Asturias Spain. This opportunity was extended to him and other top soccer players throughout Canada where he will play and train with their academy.*

This exchange will be happening from March 9-18th, 2024.

Kaiden will be representing Canada and his Nation at this European Football Exchange where he will be competing against other top European soccer players as well as training with Real Oviedo, which is a prestigious academy.

We wish you all the best Kaiden in your training experience in Spain! Safe travels!



EURO FOOTBALL EXCHANGE

INTERNATIONAL

EUROTOUR

TO A PRESTIGIOUS FOOTBALL ACADEMY



NIWIHCIAHAW ACCEPTANCE LTD.

www.ngci.ca/niwihcihaw-acceptance-ltd

NEW POLICY FRAME WORK

You may qualify for a substantial benefit if you are a NAL borrower with an outstanding loan. In September 2023, the NGCI board of Directors and the ECN Chief & Council approved a new policy called the "Write Down and Write Off Policy Framework." This Policy aims to help borrowers who are struggling to repay their loans by offering ways to reduce their financial burden by providing payment or pay-out options.

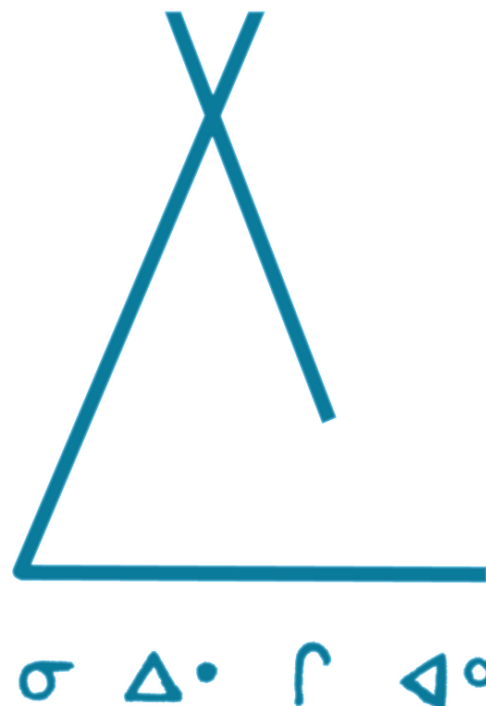
HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- **100% Accrued Interest forgiveness**
If you fully repay your loan by March 31, 2024, you won't have to pay any accrued interest, just the amount you borrowed.
- **90% Accrued Interest forgiveness**
If you fully repay your loan by March 31, 2024, you will only have to pay 10% of the accrued interest, along with the amount you borrowed.
- **75% Accrued Interest forgiveness**
If you fully repay your loan within 24 months, you'll only have to pay 25% of the accrued interest, along with the amount you borrowed.
- **50% Accrued Interest forgiveness**
If you fully repay your loan within 36 months, you'll only have to pay 50% of the accrued interest, along with the amount you borrowed.
- **25% Accrued Interest forgiveness**
If you fully repay your loan within 37 months, you'll only have to pay 75% of the accrued interest, along with the amount you borrowed.
- **If you choose not to participate**
You won't be able to borrow more money NAL, and you'll have to repay your existing loan as originally agreed.

GOAL

This policy aims to help NAL borrowers manage their repayment plan and to help pay their loan in full. Whether they are able to repay on time or facing difficulties, this policy is here to make borrowing fair and supportive.

"Helping Hands for the Community"



AT A GLANCE

CHALLENGES

- Paying clients
- New clients
- Non - Paying clients

BENEFITS

- Loan pay outs
- Bring in new clients
- Fair and supportive lending

CONTACT US TODAY!

If you want to learn more or see if you're eligible, contact the NAL office to schedule an appointment. We're here to help you through the process.

Telephone: (780) 585-2970

HOURS OF OPERATIONS:
MON - FRI : 8:30A.M - 4:30P.M



NEW LOAN POLICY GUIDELINES

AS OF JANUARY 1, 2024, NAL HAS RAISED ITS PREVIOUS INTEREST RATES TO ALIGN WITH THE CURRENT MARKET RATES IN CANADA

NAL OFFERS THREE TYPES OF CONSUMER LOANS

Secured Employment Loan
(Return to the original policy guidelines)
11% Interest

- Maximum loan based on 10% of employee annual income.
- Employer secures 100% of the loan with an FNFSAs.
- First time borrower's must repay the loan within 1 year.
- Borrower's payroll deduction (PRD) shall not exceed 30% of their payroll.

Unsecured Employment Loan
(Return to the original policy guidelines)
12.2% Interest

- Maximum loan based on 10% of employee annual income.
- The loan is not secured by the employer.
- First time borrower's must repay the loan within 1 year.
- Borrower's payroll deduction (PRD) shall not exceed 30% of their payroll.

Asset - Secured Loan
(New Policy Guideline)
9.5% Interest

- Secured assets must have a serial number for PPSR and able to be transportable for resale.
- Security value based on the asset's current market value pledged as loan security.
- Loan limit is 75% of the secured asset value.
- Loan repayment term maximum is based on the useful life of the secured assets but cannot exceed 60 months.

(MUST BE WORKING WITHIN ERMINESKIN OR ONE OF NAL'S FNFSAs AFFILIATES, AND WORKING FULL TIME FOR 1 YR TO APPLY)

Get in Touch with Us

+1(780) 585 - 2970

Box 838 Maskwacis, AB TOC 1N0

www.ngci.ca/niwihcihaw-acceptance-ltd





DRINKING WATER CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

ELIGIBILITY

Tansi Neyaskweyahk;

I have been asked to provide information in regard to the Drinking Water Class Action, which has received a lot of media attention recently.

The class action settlement does not compensate all First Nations and their members that have suffered from unsafe or inadequate drinking water. Only those First Nations who were subject to a drinking water advisory for longer than one year on centralized systems (water treatment plants) between November 20, 1995, and June 20, 2021, are eligible for compensation. Ermineskin Cree Nation did not experience a drinking water advisory longer than a year on its water treatment plan during this period, which means Ermineskin members are not eligible for compensation under the class action settlement. If you would like to learn more about this more information is provided below.

The class action settlement has been badly understood and misrepresented in the media. The compensation available under the class action settlement is not \$8 billion – in fact the compensation is capped at \$1.85 billion nationally. All applications from individuals at eligible First Nations will be collected until March 7, 2024, and then based on the number of applicants individual compensation will be calculated and paid. Depending on the number of individuals who apply, the compensation may be quite low – around \$1300 per person per year of drinking water advisory or lower.

External Affairs
ERMINESKIN
CREE NATION
Box 219
Maskwacis, Alberta
T0C 1N0
P. 780-585-3741



It is important to understand that \$6 billion dollars of the so-called “\$8 billion” settlement reported by the media is actually a long-term commitment by Canada to increased funding for First Nation water systems. Ermineskin has confirmed in writing from Canada that the \$6 billion water infrastructure fund is available to meet the water system needs of any First Nation, not just those First Nations under the settlement.

Ermineskin commenced its own legal action in 2004 about safe drinking water. However, the goal of Ermineskin’s action is to confirm that Ermineskin and its members have a right to safe drinking water and funding that can support water systems to ensure all our members have access to safe drinking water. Settlement negotiations between Ermineskin and Canada are advanced and could conclude next year. The result would be a multi-million dollar investment in our water systems.

The Chief and Council are reviewing and monitoring the class action settlement closely. It is our view that it is unfair to many First Nations, including Ermineskin. Less than half of First Nations in Alberta (22 of 47) qualify for the settlement. Of the Maskwacis Cree Nations, only Samson is eligible. There may be a basis for a new class action for First Nations that do not qualify for the class action settlement but that has suffered from chronic unsafe drinking on both rural and central water systems.

Respectfully Yours,

S. Collin Wildcat, Ec.D
Director - External Affairs and Law
ERMINESKIN CREE NATION

External Affairs
ERMINESKIN
CREE NATION
Box 219
Maskwacis, Alberta
T0C 1N0
P. 780-585-3741



MASKWACIS

HAWKS 2024

GAME HIGHLIGHTS

PLAY-OFFS



U15 VS. CAMROSE
WON! 8 - 4



U18 VS LACOMBE
WON! 7 - 4
HEADING TO THE CHAMPIONSHIPS



U11 VS NEW SAREPTA
LOST 9-3

CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

U18 GAME #1 - SATURDAY MARCH 9, 2024
@11:15AM (OLDS AB)

U18 GAME #2 - SUNDAY MARCH 10, 2024
@5:30PM (4 NATIONS ARENA)

U15 GAME #1 - SATURDAY MARCH 9, 2024
@5:30PM (4 NATIONS ARENA)

U15 GAME #2 - SUNDAY MARCH 10, 2024
@1:45PM (ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE)

DREZEN RAINE

#22 U9 HAWKS TEAM BLACK, GOALIE: SHUT OUT VS. THORSBY

LILA WARD

U18 GOALIE: NAMED PLAYER OF THE GAME VS. LACOMBE

ROMAN SOOSAY-BUFFALO

#7 U9 HAWKS TEAM BLACK: NAMED PLAYER OF THE GAME VS. THORSBY

UPCOMING EVENTS/CLASSIFIEDS



Ermineskin Cree Nation

WE ARE HIRING!

March 5th, 2024

OPEN POSITIONS:

- ✔ **DATA ENTRY CLERK** with the **ERMINESKIN PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT**
Closing date: March 11, 2024
- ✔ **TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR** with the **ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT**
(3 Year Contract)
Closing date: March 11, 2024
- ✔ **JR. ENTRY FILE CLERK** with the **ERMINESKIN TECH SERVICES DEPARTMENT**
Closing date: March 19, 2024
- ✔ **FUNDING AGREEMENT OFFICER** with the **ERMINESKIN FINANCE DEPARTMENT**
Closing date: March 19, 2024

APPLY NOW

Please submit applications, resume and criminal record check to:

faith@ermineskin.ca



MASKWACIS EMPLOYMENT CENTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY JOB COACH

The Maskwacis Employment Center (MEC), located in Maskwacis, Alberta, is a First Nation's organization committed to employment and career advancement for Maskwacis residents. MEC is seeking a candidate for the position of Job Coach.

Summary:

Under the supervision of the Executive Director, the primary tasks of the Job Coach is to assist MEC Clients to prepare for, obtain and maintain employment through one-on-one coaching with the Clients to address employment barriers.

Duties

The following are duties the Job Coach may perform when working with clients individually or in groups:

- Provide one-on-one coaching and problem solving to address barriers to employment
- Provide individual safety ticket training as required through client's employment plans.
- Using various assessment tools to help clients identify their interests, values, beliefs, lifestyle preferences, aptitudes and abilities, and relate them to the world of work.
- Follow up with Clients to monitor progress, troubleshoot and support continued employment.
- Facilitate Personal and Career Development Workshops.
- Network with potential employers and market clients for potential employment
- Other duties as required

Skills

- Proficient computer skills and familiar with Microsoft Office, Google Docs and other online platforms such as Zoom, Google Meets and Microsoft Teams.
- Comfortable facilitating communication to groups of 8-20 in-person or online through Zoom or Facebook Live for Career Connections.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Excellent organizational, administrative, and time management skills
- Team player
- Ability to multitask

Qualifications:

- Post-Secondary Degree in a related discipline such as psychology, education, social work or human resources development. A certificate, diploma, or degree in career development, or an equivalent combination of education and experience is an asset.
- Knowledge of Alberta Government Database Mobius an asset.
- Excellent oral and written communication and presentation skills.
- Reliable transportation with Class 5 driver's license to travel when needed.

All applicants must submit resume cover letter.

Posting will remain open until a suitable candidate is selected.

PO Box 2470
Maskwacis, Alberta
Phone: 780-585-4450
Fax: 780-585-4456

Email: info@maskwacisemployment.ca

*Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted

*Successful candidate will be required to submit a criminal record check and Child Welfare background check



APPLY NOW

WE ARE

Hiring Casual Help for Upcoming Event

Job vacancy :

- ✔ **Casual Employment**
 - to help out with events
 - will be working with public/children

✔ **Paid Casuals**

- cooks, security, clean-up, setup, Elders helper, etc (must be able to lift heavy items)

Job requirements :

- ✔ **Cover letter**
- ✔ **Resume**
- ✔ **References**
- ✔ **Must provide**
 - Criminal Record check
 - Security clearance & valunerable sector check

CONTACT ANDREA @ (780)585-3721 OR EMAIL ANDREA.M@KKAMIK.COM

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

REA LTD. Annual General Meeting

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 13, 2024

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

*DOOR PRIZES
*LUNCH WILL BE SERVED



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

Topics of Discussion



REA LTD. GENERAL MEETING

SPEAKERS:

Stan Orlesky

Supervisor Indigenous Relations Fortis Alberta

Brenda Ward

REA Manager

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



Morris Interactive
A world with people.



Are you interested in joining our team?

NOW HIRING

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH SPECIALIST

Job Overview

The Community Engagement and Research Specialist (CERS) is responsible for supporting the development and implementation of community engagement strategies for Kanawmahwasowin Kamik Inc. (KKI). This involves collaborating with the Ermineskin Cree Nation Chief & Council and Lead Consultant by gathering, presenting, and disseminating information from and to the Ermineskin Cree Nation community members through collective discussions about comprehensive programs and service delivery.

Mission

To build a strong sovereign organization to deliver services that protect, preserve, and advocate for our children, youth, and families that are grounded in our neyiyaw ways.

Vision

Call our children home.
All our children, youth, and families thrive through language, tradition, and ceremony.

APPLY HERE

recruitment@kkamik.com

Include:

- Cover Letter
- Resume
- Criminal Record Check With Vulnerable Sector Screening
- Child Prevention Check

Visit our website or call for more information:

- WWW.KKAMIK.COM
- 780-585-3721



YOUNG SPIRIT WINDS
Youth Treatment Program

Kisewatisowin



APRIL 8 - JUNE 14, 2024



The Youth Day Treatment Program helps with the following;

- Addictions
- Grief & Loss
- Low Self-esteem
- Anger Management
- Cultural Awareness
- Suicide Awareness
- Relapse Prevention
- Mental Health Awareness

FOR INFORMATION / INTAKE CONTACT:
MYSWS: 780-585-2219

Karen Longmuir, Program Supervisor Email: klongmuir@youngspiritwinds.com
Susan Lenzin, Outreach Worker Email: slenzin@youngspiritwinds.com

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 interventions you need to work on and heal your grief, from whatever the 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

JANE SIMINGTON



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



**VAN LEAVES AT 6:00PM
FROM JIMRS SPORTS BUILDING**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 12TH,
2024**

**LIMITED
SPOTS**

AGES 10 -17

***DRINKS AND POPCORN
WILL BE INCLUDED**

**TO REGISTER:
(780) 585-3088**



**VAN LEAVE AT 11:30AM
FROM JIMRS SPORTS BUILDING**

MARCH 16TH, 2024

**\$15 / CHILD
LIMITED SPOTS**

AGES 10-17

**PLEASE REGISTER TO SECURE SPOTS. DRESS FOR
WEATHER AND HAVE PROPER FOOTWEAR.**

**TO REGISTER:
(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 | **1:00pm - 3:00pm**

2024

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

Subject to Change
COVID-19 Protocols in Effect

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

EASTER Walk & Run

Sunday, March 31st, 2024

LOCATION: N.O.K. BUILDING

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

Categories:

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

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

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