



Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin ᓂᓴᓐᓴᓐ ᐱᓕᓂᓂᓂᓂ

Ermineskin Newsletter April 17, 2024

Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin Ayikîpîsim Tepakohp-sâp

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Ermineskin Budget Presentation 2024



To maintain transparency with our Ermineskin Members, ECN Finance Department’s Financial Officer Raj Regmi put together a presentation to go through the upcoming 2024-25 Department Budgets and where the funds will be allocated in terms of the services we provide, as well as programs and projects.

Portfolio Holder and ECN Councillor, Jason Makinaw started the presentation by welcoming those in attendance, ensuring the public that Ermineskin Cree Nation is in sitting in a secure state of financial health, and that Ermineskin Leadership

assures their best efforts in working with the Finance Department to distribute funds within the nation appropriately.

Following the reading of the fiscal budget was the vote on the annual \$500.00 PCD Distribution. The deciding vote was for the following dates and amounts per band member: \$100.00 in August, \$300.00 in December and \$100.00 in January.

If you would like to see the presentation or have any questions in regards to the 2024-25 Fiscal Budget, please contact our ECN Finance Department: (780) 585-3741.



C X K R E P A P U M Z E A R T H G P
F N I Q L E L B A S O P S I D Y L J
W T Z A M G R W C N E V U H K A E X
A J N P Y B A E M I Z L W Q S O L F
S E Y C O T E X H D R E C T A N B K
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- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|----------|
| ATMOSPHERE | ECOLOGY | PAPER | SAVE |
| BIODEGRADABLE | EMPTY | PLANET | SOLAR |
| CLEAN | ENERGY | PLASTIC | RECYCLE |
| CONSERVATION | ENVIRONMENT | POLLUTE | REDUCE |
| DISPOSABLE | FAUCET | POLLUTION | REUSABLE |
| DISPOSAL | GLASS | PROCESS | WASTE |
| EARTH | METAL | PROTECT | WATER |

Important Tax Changes Canadians

Some tax changes this year are increasing costs for Canadians, including one that a tax specialist says could be the "last winter storm of the season that really turns things upside down." From higher income taxes to alcohol taxes, here are some important tax changes this year that Canadians should know about.

FEDERAL INCOME-BASED TAXES

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation highlighted some important tax measures in its report released in December 2023. It said almost all Canadians will pay higher federal income taxes this year because of changes to Canada Pension Plan contributions and Employment Insurance premiums. The Ottawa-based not-for-profit citizen's group says it's committed to lowering taxes and keeping the government accountable. While workers making \$30,000 will pay \$9 more in 2024, people earning at least \$80,000 will pay \$347 more, the federation says.

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

The federal employment insurance rate and maximum annual insurable earnings have increased this year from 1.63 per cent for \$61,500 in 2023 to 1.66 per cent for \$63,200 in 2024 for employees. This means that employees must pay a maximum annual premium of \$1,049.12. For employers the rate rose from 2.28 per cent in 2023 to 2.32 per cent this year, so they must now pay a maximum annual premium of \$1,468.77.

For Quebec residents, the EI rate rose from 1.27 per cent for \$61,500 to 1.32 per cent for \$63,200. Quebec employees must pay a maximum annual premium of \$834.24 in 2024. For Quebec employers, the rate grew from 1.78 per cent to 1.85 per cent, making their maximum annual contribution \$1,167.94. Since 2018, EI for employees and employers has risen by \$191 and \$267, respectively, according to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

CARBON TAX SET TO CLIMB

The federal carbon tax will increase to \$80 per tonne from \$65 per tonne on April 1, 2024. The carbon tax applies to all taxpayers except those in Quebec. As a result, the price per litre of gas climbs to 17.6 cents

from 14.3 cents. That will cost a family about \$12.32 each time they fill a 70-litre minivan, the federation said. Meanwhile, Canadians living in provinces using the federal carbon tax began receiving carbon pricing rebates. Monday from the federal government's Climate Action Incentive payment. The rebates depend on the size of the household and are given every three months.

ALCOHOL TAXES

Starting April 1, 2024, the excise tax on beer, wine and spirits will be up 4.7 per cent because of the alcohol escalator tax. The increase will cost taxpayers about \$100 million this year and next year, the federation said.

DIGITAL SERVICES TAX

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation says consumers can expect to pay higher prices because of a new three per cent digital services tax that aims to get tech giants such as Amazon, Uber and Facebook to pay their fair share of taxes. The tax would apply to businesses with annual worldwide revenues of at least 750 million euros and annual Canadian digital services revenue greater than \$20 million.

The Deputy Prime Minister's Office wasn't able to confirm the timing of this change by publication, though the Liberals' spring budget confirmed they planned to implement it. The federation suggested businesses would transfer the tax to consumers. It cited a Tax Foundation report that assessed the impact of the tax in France, predicting that about 55 per cent of the total tax burden will be passed on to consumers, 40 per cent to online vendors and only five per cent to digital companies.

HIGHER INTEREST RATES FOR LATE TAXES

The interest rate charged on late taxes. Canada Pension Plan contributions and employment insurance premiums will rise to 10 per cent from nine per cent. John Oakey, vice-president of taxation at the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada in Toronto, said the interest rate applies to any personal income

Should Know About in 2024

tax balance left unpaid after April 30. "Paying tax instalments and income tax balance on time is very important to avoid the interest charge," Oakey said in an email to CTVNews.ca.

HOME OFFICE EXPENSES

For home office expenses, the Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) flat rate of \$2 per day throughout 2020 to 2022 is no longer active for the 2023 taxation year, Oakey said. He said the temporary flat rate method was initially meant to make it simpler to deduct home office expenses during the pandemic. Employees must use the detailed method and obtain a completed Form T2200 signed by their employer to claim home office expenses for 2023, according to the CRA. Employees who were required to work from home are generally eligible for home office expenses that were directly related to their work, the CRA said on its website. They must meet conditions, such as working from home more than 50 per cent of the time for at least four straight weeks in the year. Home office expenses reimbursed by the employer are excluded.

WIDER TRUST REPORTING RULES

Caitlin Butler, a Vancouver-based tax specialist and director of tax education and publications at Video Tax News, noted the expansion of trust reporting rules, is a big change that will affect many taxpayers. "These changes will impact many individuals and businesses, many of whom may not even realize they should file a trust return," Butler said in an email to CTVNews.ca.

She said required reporting has been expanded to include situations where a trust acts as an agent for its beneficiaries, often referred to as a bare trust. "In plain English, this occurs when the person on title or holding the asset is not the true beneficial owner but rather holds the asset for the benefit of another party," she explained. Examples include if a parent is on



title of a child's home – without the parents having beneficial ownership – to help the child obtain a mortgage, or a corporate bank account is opened by the shareholders with the corporation being the beneficial owner of the funds. Butler said people need to find out if they are on title or holding an asset for which they are not the true beneficial owner. For example, she said they should determine if they get the benefits of the asset – such as proceeds on the sale of the asset – and if they are liable for the costs or risks of the asset, including property taxes.

"If a person is on title but not the true beneficial owner, there is likely a bare trust arrangement, which may require a trust filing due April 2, 2024," Butler said. "This will be a massive exercise in compliance with the significant risk that many individuals and businesses will unknowingly not comply with the law. ... This could end up being that last winter storm of the season that really turns things upside down."

Many affected by the rules won't owe more tax, but for the most part, they will have to pay compliance costs, such as paying a professional adviser to complete and file the trust return, she said. If they don't comply, the penalty could be \$25 per day every day that the returns are late, up to \$2,500, she added.

Article by Christl Dabu (CTV NEWS National Affairs Writer)

ERMINESKIN FIRE BAN

Ermineskin Cree Nation is under a **COMPLETE FIRE BAN**. This fire ban is enforced to reduce the risk of wildfires and protect public safety, property, and natural resources. By restricting activities that could spark fires, we aim to prevent the ignition and spread of wildfires. The conditions of the land currently have high possibility for fires to spread and become dangerous. It is essential to communicate fire bans effectively. Public awareness will help ensure compliance and understanding of the restrictions.

Restrictions Include:

- Prohibition of open fires, including campfires, bonfires, and burning of yard waste.
- Absolutely NO burning of grass or large open bonfires. Small fires must be in a proper pit or have a hole dug in the ground 1ft deep away from tall grass and have rocks surrounding the pit. Fires should never exceed 3-4ft high.
- Restrictions on the use of fireworks, sparklers, and other pyrotechnic devices.
- Limitations on outdoor cooking with charcoal or wood-fired grills.
- Bans on smoking in outdoor areas, especially in forested areas and grassland areas.
- Restrictions on off road vehicle use or other activities that could create sparks or hot exhaust.

Wildfires often start small and initially go unnoticed, but have the capacity to spread very quickly. As they travel across large areas, they ignite brush, trees, homes and buildings.

Burning debris can be thrown up to two (2) kilometers ahead of a wildfire. Sparks and embers can ignite materials on or near your home causing severe damage.

On average in Canada, wildfires burn 2.5 million ha/year, nearly half the size of Nova Scotia. Much of the country is at risk of wildfires. Most wildfires/forest fires can occur between the months of April and September.

Wildfire prevention involves proactive measures to reduce the risk of wildfires and minimize their impact on communities, ecosystems, and resources. Prevention efforts aim to address human activities, environmental factors, and land management practices that can contribute to the ignition and spread of wildfires. Here are key aspects of wildfire prevention:

10 FACTS ABOUT WILDFIRE

- 1 Most wildfires are human caused
- 2 Wildfire can occur without human involvement
- 3 Wildfires are essential for some plant species
- 4 California has the largest acreage burned annually in the US
- 5 A wildfire large enough can create its own weather system
- 6 The "Big Burn" of 1910 is considered the most impactful fire in US history
- 7 Fires move faster when traveling uphill
- 8 Fire tornadoes can form under the right conditions
- 9 Wildfires don't always burn on the surface
- 10 Climate change is increasing the frequency and ferocity of wildfires

**WESTERN
FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION**

AND FIRE PREVENTION



COMPLETE FIRE BAN

Here are key aspects of wildfire prevention:

Public Education and Awareness:

Educating the public about the causes of wildfires, fire prevention techniques, and the importance of fire safety is essential. Outreach efforts should target homeowners, outdoor enthusiasts, landowners, and the communities that are at risk of wildfires

Campfire Safety:

Promote safe campfire practices, including using designated fire rings or pits, keeping fires small, fully extinguishing fires before leaving, and adhering to local regulations and fire restrictions.

Fireworks Safety:

Encourage the responsible use of fireworks, especially in areas prone to wildfires or during periods of high fire danger. Consider alternative ways to celebrate, such as attending professional fireworks displays.

Equipment and Vehicle Maintenance:

Properly maintain equipment and vehicles

to prevent sparks or mechanical failures that could ignite wildfires. Ensure that chainsaws, lawnmowers, off-road vehicles, and other machinery are in good working condition and equipped with spark arrestors when operating in fire-prone areas.

Debris Management:

Clear vegetation, dead vegetation, and flammable debris from around homes, buildings, and property to create defensible space and reduce the risk of wildfires spreading to structures. Properly dispose of yard waste and woody debris through chipping, composting, or other approved methods.

Building and Home Protection:

Implement fire-resistant building materials, landscaping practices, and design features to make homes more resilient to wildfires. This includes using non-combustible roofing materials, maintaining a non-flammable zone around structures, and installing ember-resistant vents.

Overall, fire bans and fire prevention play a crucial role in wildfire/forest fire prevention efforts, particularly in the areas that are prone to fire hazards. By reducing the risk of human-caused fires, our fire ban will help protect our lives, property, and our natural ecosystems from the devastating impacts of wildfires and forest fires.

TACO STUFFED BELL PEPPERS

Prep Time: 15 minutes | Cooking Time: 30 minutes | Total Time: 45 minutes

Kcal: 320 kcal | Servings: 4 servings

Ingredients

- 4 large bell peppers, any color**
- 1 lb ground beef**
- 1 cup cooked black beans**
- 1 cup corn kernels, fresh or frozen**
- 1 cup cooked rice**
- 1 onion, chopped**
- 2 cloves garlic, minced**
- 1 tablespoon taco seasoning**
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese**
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro, chopped**
- Salt and pepper to taste**



Instructions

- 1. Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C).**
- 2. Slice the tops off the bell peppers and remove the seeds and membranes.**
- 3. In a skillet, cook ground beef, onion, and garlic over medium heat until beef is browned. Drain excess fat.**
- 4. Stir in taco seasoning, black beans, corn, and cooked rice. Cook for 3-4 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.**
- 5. Stuff the mixture into the bell peppers, top with shredded cheese, and place them in a baking dish.**
- 6. Bake for 25-30 minutes, until peppers are tender and cheese is melted.**
- 7. Garnish with fresh cilantro before serving.**

UPCOMING EVENTS/CLASSIFIEDS



Ermineskin Cree Nation

WE ARE HIRING!

April 16th, 2024

OPEN POSITIONS:

- ✓ Two (2) Outreach Crisis Prevention Workers One (1) Female/One (1) Male with the Ermineskin Brighter Futures Department
Closing date: April 17th, 2024
- ✓ Two (2) Crisis Intervention Workers – One Permanent/One Casual with Ermineskin Women's Shelter (EWSS)
Closing date: April 22nd, 2024
- ✓ Funding Agreement Officer with the Ermineskin Finance Department
Closing date: April 17th, 2024
- ✓ Manager with the Ermineskin Technical Services Department
Closing Date: April 22nd, 2024
- ✓ Director *Three Year Contract* with the Ermineskin Personnel Department
Closing Date: April 29th 2024
- ✓ Office Clerk with the Ermineskin CMHC/ Property Management Department
Closing Date: May 1st 2024

APPLY NOW

Please submit applications, resume and criminal record check to:

faith@ermineskin.ca



Maskwacis Employment Center Society Presents

EMPLOYMENT READINESS PROGRAM

APRIL 22 - MAY 3, 2024

DEADLINE : APRIL 19TH @ 12PM

APPLICATION CRITERIA:

- MINIMUM 18 YEARS OF AGE
- CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED OR UNDEREMPLOYED
- SPORADIC OR NO WORK HISTORY
- NEED ASSISTANCE FINDING EMPLOYMENT
- MUST BE MOTIVATED TO WORK
- MUST HAVE OWN WORKING EMAIL
- MUST ATTEND PROGRAM DAILY
- MUST BE ABLE TO ATTEND CLASSES IN PERSON AT MASKWACIS EMPLOYMENT CENTER

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- CAREER DEVELOPMENT
- SAFETY TICKETS

HOW TO APPLY:

By email at Nicole@maskwacisemployment.ca or call (780) 585-4450



Hiring Events: Work at Bear Hills Casino

Exclusively for Maskwacis

Employer Connection

Thursday, April 18
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
KHAW Centre

For the general public

Hiring Fair

Tuesday, April 23
5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Best Western Wetaskiwin



ERMINESKIN BRIGHTER FUTURES PRESENTS:

MASSAGE WARRIOR

APRIL 22-26TH 2024
9AM - 3PM @ JIM R.S BUILDING


Appointments can only be made by calling Brighter Futures office and requesting *ONE* appointment from the following treatments:

- Massage
- Facial
- Acupuncture

When booking your appointment, please leave your Name, Phone #, Ermineskin Band #, and which treatment you wish to book for.

Please arrive at your appointment 5 minutes early. Other details will be provided by receptionist

CALL BRIGHTER FUTURES OFFICE @ 780-585-2000



Maskwacis Cree Tribal Council

YOUNG WARRIORS PROGRAM

ACTIVITIES

- Motivational Speakers
- Cultural Teachings
 - Build Sweats, Build Tips
- Regalia Making
- Drum Making, Rattle Making
- Singing
 - Sweat Songs, Tea dance Songs, Sundance Songs, Pow wow Songs, Wake Songs, Hand game Songs
- Cultural Awareness
 - Attend: Sweats, Sundance, Feasts, Pow wows, Wakes, Rights of Passage
- Mentorship
- Medicine Harvesting
- Story Telling

OBJECTIVES

- To teach through the guidance of Natural Law
- Building a strong foundation to live the Nehiyaw way
- Reconnecting to our old teachings to instill stronger belief through the lens of a youth coordinator

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Boys Ages 10-17 Years Old

BARRIERS TO OVERCOME


- Parental/ Guardian Support
- Community Support

CULTURAL YOUTH FACILITATOR

DYLAN LIGHTNING 1-780-860-8359
www.info@mctc.ca

Ermineskin Cree Nation & Kanawemahwasowin Kamik, Inc.

ECN/KKI Law-Making Elders' Session



with Andre Bear, Indigenous Nation Rebuilding




Tuesday April 23, 2024
@ Ermineskin Elders' Centre

Ermineskin Cree Nation - Maskwacis

Session for ECN Elders
 Light Lunch will be Served

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

Contact: info@kkamik.com

• ART AND CRAFTS •

Parfleche Workshop

Location **EARLY YEARS MAIN BUILDING**

COME JOIN EARLY YEARS

APRIL 24, 2024 5:00 - 7:00PM EARLY YEARS MAIN LOCATION ERMINESKIN



MASKWACIS EMPLOYMENT CENTER

DRIVING TO SUCCESS CLASS 5

IN-PERSON CLASSES MAY 14 & 15

LIMITED SPOTS (10) AVAILABLE

- -Must Attend In Person
- -Must Have Valid Identification (Birth Certificate, Indian Status, etc)
- Must be unemployed or under employed.
- Open to all four bands.
- -MUST HAVE VALID CLASS 7 AND NO FINES



DEADLINE TO REGISTER : APRIL 26, 2024

PLEASE SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER



Ermineskin Brighter Futures
COHI & PCAP/FASD Program Collaboration

Come celebrate Dental Health Month with us!



Ages 0-4

April 24th, 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



THE OUTLAND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

FIND US ON



A REMOTE CAMP EXPERIENCE:

- Semi-private male and female accommodations
- On-site chef
- 3 meals and snacks
- Bi-weekly pay schedule
- Free time after work:
 - workout spaces,
 - volleyball, swimming, canoeing, etc

WHO CAN APPLY:

- Indigenous youth
- 16 to 18 years of age
- Eligible to work in Canada
- Must have a Social Insurance Number

HOW TO APPLY:

- Email: OYEP@outland.ca
- Visit: www.OYEP.ca
- Speak to your school guidance counsellor!



EQUITY & OPPORTUNITY

FOR INDIGENOUS YOUTH THROUGH

1. EDUCATION

OYEP offers alternative, land-based education to support all forms of learning styles.

- Opportunity to tour active natural resource operations
- Energy, mining and forestry education
- Science Week - spend a week living at and attending class as a post secondary student at a College and/or University!
- Two high school credits

2. WORK

Gain valuable work experience in Silviculture, Forestry and Mining!

- Tree planting
- Brush cutting/Juvenile spacing
- Trail clearing/Building
- Construction
- Surveying/GIS
- Mining
- Forestry

Earn wages while having fun and learning new things!

3. TRAINING

During the 6 weeks, complete various training with accredited certifications that focus on employment Natural Resources sector:

- WHMIS
- First Aid
- Canoe Safety
- Tree Planting
- Brush Cutting
- Forest Fire Fighting
- Chainsaw Safety
- Learners driving permit training
- and more!

SIX WEEKS ON THE JOB



SAFETY



FORESTRY



SCIENCE WEEK



ENERGY



MINING



FIELD WORK



PIGEON LAKE RECREATION CENTRE



CULTURAL TEACHINGS:

STORYTELLING

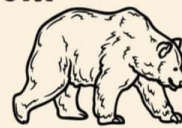
WITH ELDER LESTER BROWN



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

NEYASKWEYAHK EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

N.E.P is offering a 910 Program to provide temporary employment for unemployed Band members entering the work force. To provide on the job training and work experience which in turn may lead to permanent positions for Ermineskin Band Members.

Requirements:

- PPE- Steel Toe boots for general labor positions
- Good work ethics
- Punctual
- Reliable Transportation over 18 & Ermineskin Band member



Deadline for applications - April 30, 2024
 Start date May 1, 2024
 filling 20 positions

HOW TO SEND YOUR INFO:

Drop off Resume and Criminal record check at the N.E.P office.
 Contact : 780-585-2101

- *Cemetery Maintenance
- *Beautification of Sub-division
- *Fence removal 611 west

MICHELLES@ERMINESKIN.CA
LEEANNE@ERMINESKIN.CA

Donations in Support of the

ERMINESKIN WOMEN'S SHELTER SOCIETY

...

Ermineskin Elementary Grade 4's are collecting items needed to support the Ermineskin Women's Shelter.

Items to Donate:
 Brand New/unused
 Toothbrush
 Toothpaste
 Deodorant
 Shampoo
 Conditioner
 Hand soap
 Hand sanitizer
 Face masks

****Cash donations will also be accepted to purchase items**

Donations will be accepted until April 29th, 2024

150 PARTICIPANT CAPACITY



ERMINESKIN MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
 PHOTO BOOTH · MESSAGES AND GAMES

May 9th, 2024
10:30am - 2:00pm
Location: Ermineskin Arena

THIS EVENT IS FOR MOTHERS ONLY. NO CHILDREN OR SPOUSES PLEASE.

REGISTRATION ON SITE
 For more information contact Community Wellness:
(780) 585-3741

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



Ermineskin Cree Nation is not responsible for any loss, theft, accidents, injury, forces of nature or vandalism.

ERMINESKIN BRIGHTER FUTURES PRESENTS:

WĀPAN ACĀKWAK YOUTH GROUP

Art, Cree Language, and Land Based Education
 For Youth Ages 13+

Spring Sessions

Every Thursday Evening
 5-7 PM
 Begins April 18th, 2024

wapanacakwak@outlook.com
 780-585-2000
 Supper and Transportation provided