

WESTERNER DAYS

It was an intense 5 days of racing! We'd like to express our excitement and pride to our local indigenous riders that took the chance to race amongst championship riders at the Westerners Days 2024! We'd like to acknowledge our local riders Carter Wildcat, John Wildcat, Javid Wildcat, Craig Cardinal and Clayton Wildcat on their enthusiasm for these events!



Alberta Lacrosse Provincials 2024

Congratulations to all the Maskwacis players and their teams that qualified and competed in this year's Provincial Championship! Lacoka Locos U13 and U15B, as well as the Red Deer Chiefs U15A.

Big congratulations to Ermineskin member Pierson Larocque and the U15A Red Deer Chiefs on their win! They are the Provincial Champions for U15 A. We are proud of you!

In addition to that, Pierson Larocque was selected to represent on the Alberta Lacrosse team at this year's Prairie Cup Championship in Regina Saskatchewan! Amazing talent right here in Ermineskin! Much continued success in all your future sports, to Pierson and all our great athletes!



ERMINESKIN CREE NATION

In small communities, cumulative effects play a critical role in shaping long-term sustainability and quality of life. Effective Leadership and management require an inclusive approach that considers the interconnectedness of environmental, economic, social, health, and cultural factors. By recognizing and addressing these cumulative impacts on our ancestral lands, we can have a better sense of understanding to help navigate challenges and enhance the Nations way of life. The willingness to speak on the struggles we face currently as Nation members is critical to receiving future supports needed to overcome challenges, particularly in our community.

"Hi, my name is Carol Wildcat. I am a proud member of the Ermineskin Cree Nation and I am the Director of the Ermineskin Industrial Relations Department. We are presently conducting a census for 2024 to gather information to improve our services to our Nation members both on reserve and off-reserve. We're starting with the administration, the core area after that we will be moving to the rural area of Ermineskin Cree Nation. We will be going to Pigeon Lake and Buck Lake as well so please expect us to come to your door. My census team is Bruce Lee, Kaylin Wildcat and Waylon Littlechild. The purpose of the census is to gather information to enhance our services, to learn what's required within our community and try and find proper dollars so that we can help create a safer healthier community. We will be coming to the rural areas, and we will be offering protocol and an incentive to the homeowners as a way of saying thank you for letting us in your space, sharing your information and if you're comfortable, please allow us to take some pictures so that maybe we can find solutions for the overcrowded, the lack of renovations, better water services, better education and tell us what we need to do to make everybody have a healthier, happier home so that we have training programs that are actually viable for all of us. I look forward to seeing everybody and to getting great

responses from the people.

All the information will be confidential, so please feel free to share with us so that we can come up with better programs and can find stronger dollars so when our leadership goes to Ottawa and starts dealing with the Canadian Government, we now have facts and true numbers on what we need. Those are the types of information that we're trying to find out so that we're able to service our community, our nation, our children, our elders, and our adults in a much better way.

Tell us what would make our Neyaskweyâhk a better place to live but more importantly for our leadership, because they are going to start negotiating for us, they are going to start finding better ways and better solutions so that we can ease our overcrowded homes. We can ease the water issues that we have so that our mental, spiritual and physical health becomes easier for us. Please join us. Please welcome us into your homes and talk to us. Thank you."



SURVEYORS: (LEFT TO RIGHT) BRUCE LEE, KAYLIN WILDCAT AND WAYLON LITTLECHILD

CUMMULATIVE EFFECTS

“Tansi I’m Trudy Whitebear, Ermineskin Cree National Council and I’m inviting you to participate in our Ermineskin Industrial Relation Census for 2024. It’s important that we get your participation so that we can have a clear picture of what we need to advocate for when we meet with our funders. So that we can let them know the true picture of the cumulative effects that we’ve experienced through intergenerational trauma so that we can advocate for better housing, better health, benefits, and for education and whatever needs that you want to express in the census. It’s important that we get your feedback and I look forward to your participation.

The most important part of our census is to hear your stories. I invite you to be on the lookout for our surveyors, they are own Nation members.

Please welcome them into your home. We need to know some basics statistics; we need to know what kind of living conditions you’re living in and how your health/ mental health is being impacted so that we can better advocate for you. It’s important that we hear your story, so please be open to sharing and just know that were doing this to support you and future generations.”

It is important we come together as a Nation to begin fostering the unity within our people. It is encouraged that all of our Nation members play a part in completing the census and provide accurate feedback. Due to the many diverse backgrounds and perspectives we need to begin working collaboratively towards common goals and a shared vision for the future. When we work together collectively towards common economic

goals, we boost innovation, productivity, and wâhkohtowin. Is important to take into consideration that you will be filling out the census on behalf of your household and the individuals that reside within it. More information will be provided on the locations where the monitors will be on site, so home occupants can anticipate a visit. If you are unable to have an in-person visit or for those who reside Off-Reserve can complete the census online: www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZMP6WX5

Those eligible to complete the census are Ermineskin Cree Nation members whose name the home is assigned too. Incentives will be provided to the households that complete the census. Thank you for your participation in the Ermineskin Cree Nation Census 2024! If you have any questions please contact **Ermineskin Industrial Relations: 780-585-3779.**

ERMINESKIN 2024 CENSUS

WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.



WHAT TO KNOW:



DATA COLLECTION

There will be census monitors from our nation, who will be going to each household to go through the census with the nation member.



HOME VISITS

Census monitors started on Monday, July 8th, 2024, and will continue through the summer. **Pigeon Lake, Buck Lake and Smallboy Camp** dates are yet to be announced, so home occupants can anticipate a visit.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Leadership and departments will use the data and statistics collected from the census when requesting funding for the specific needs of the community that the census reveals.



ONLINE CENSUS

For those who reside Off-Reserve, there is an ONLINE VERSION for our nation members to fill out and complete: www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZMP6WX5

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The nation member’s cooperation in providing the information in the census is key to identifying and addressing the specific needs of our nation. We hope you will participate and let your voices be heard. Let’s start planning for the next 7 Generations.

SCAN QR CODE TO TAKE CENSUS



AFN 45th General Assembly



The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) hosted its Annual General Assembly (AGA) from July 9-11, 2024, in Montréal (Tiohtià:ke), Québec, on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Kanien'kéha Nation. This year's theme for the AGA is "Strengthening Our Relations,".

What is the AFN? AFN is an **advocacy organization**, taking direction and fulfilling mandates as directed by First Nations-in-Assembly through resolutions.

The AFN was created out of a desire among First Nations leadership for a strong and effective collective advocacy organization. From this, values such as respect for human rights, diversity, justice, and the sovereignty of each rights-holding First Nation guide the work of the organization.

The various policy areas the AFN engages in are determined by First Nations-In-Assembly, which meet twice a year to pass resolutions that decides the mandate of the organization. These mandates include advancing First Nations health, economies, the environment, education, languages, clean water, social development, infrastructure, among others.

About Resolutions

Resolutions are the essential mechanism by which First Nations provide specific mandates and direction to the Assembly of First Nations.

The resolutions process serves to effectively foster and capture national consensus on significant policy matters and are considered at the Annual General Assembly or at the Special Chiefs Assembly. (Excerpt from the AFN website, afn.ca)

The AGA brings together hundreds of Chiefs, First Nations leaders, Knowledge Keepers, Elders, youth, wom-

en, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals from coast-to-coast to discuss and deliberate on First Nations priorities and direct the work of the AFN and the Executive Committee through resolutions.

At the Special Chiefs Assembly Chiefs and Proxies discuss and vote on proposed resolutions brought forward that they agree to prioritize, support, and implement .

At the 45th general assembly the AFN provided updates from AFN councils, presentations on First Nations policing, Specific Claims, Charter Renewal, and Bill C-61, First Nations Clean Water Act, as well as updates on the status on long-term reform to the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle. Priority focus was on rights, justice, lands, infrastructure, fisheries, water, and the environment.

The AFN 45th AGA was well-attended, with over 2,400 participants. Out of the 67 on-time resolutions, a total of 54 were passed. Each day started with a pipe ceremony, the procession started with a grand entry, day one focused on AFN financial reports and resolutions on organizational and voting reform for the AFN.

Among the significant resolutions passed at the AGA one resolution **aims to accelerate the National Action Plan and implement the Calls for Justice from the MMIWG2S+ inquiry, addressing the urgent need to combat systemic violence against First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals.**

Councillor Annie Ballantyne proxy for Chief Heidi Cook of Misipawistik Cree Nation, "We owe it to their memories and to their families to relentlessly pursue justice. We will never stop demanding accountability and truth. The solidarity and support of the Assembly of First Nations demonstrates First Nation leadership's commitment to justice for First Nations women and girls.

The Assembly also **adopted a resolution supporting the recognition of First Nations jurisdiction over policing**—a crucial step toward self-determination and enhancing community safety.

Dominic Le Blanc, Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions, and Intergovernmental Affairs addressed First Nations-in-Assembly at the AFN assembly and discussed the importance of recognizing First Nations policing as essential services.

Arif Virani, Minister of Justice, and Attorney General of Canada spoke to the importance of fully implementing UN-DA Action Plan and finalizing the Indigenous Justice Strategy to uphold First Nations rights and support First Nations priorities .

Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada Pierre Poilievre addressed First Nations-in-Assembly for the first time at the AFN. When he addressed the assembly Veterans sitting in the front all chose to display their protest to the Conservative Government by standing with their backs to the Leader of the Conservative Party while he delivered his speech.



First Nations-in-Assembly passed a **resolution to advance First Nations' rights through sustainable funding to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration), ensuring that First Nations can fully exercise their rights as outlined in the UN Declaration.**

AFN National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak announced a **commitment by Canada of over \$47.8 billion in funding, to address reforms in First Nations Child and Family Services.** This agreement will dramatically improve supports for First Nations Children and their families.

This is significantly higher than the initial commitment of \$19.8 billion made by Canada in 2021.

"We have reached a historic turning point," says AFN National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak. After nearly two decades of legal and human rights battles, Can-

ada has committed \$47.8 billion in funding to reform the First Nations Child and Family Services Program. These reforms are critical for reshaping the future of child and family services in First Nations .

"The success of this class action means that youth in care will have a financial future and stability." Ashley is a representative plaintiff for the **Removed Child Class in the \$20B settlement agreement to compensate First Nations harmed by Canada's discrimination.**

A resolution was brought forward, #35 Creation of a Chiefs' Committee on Treaties, it was contested by many chiefs, particularly chiefs in Alberta.

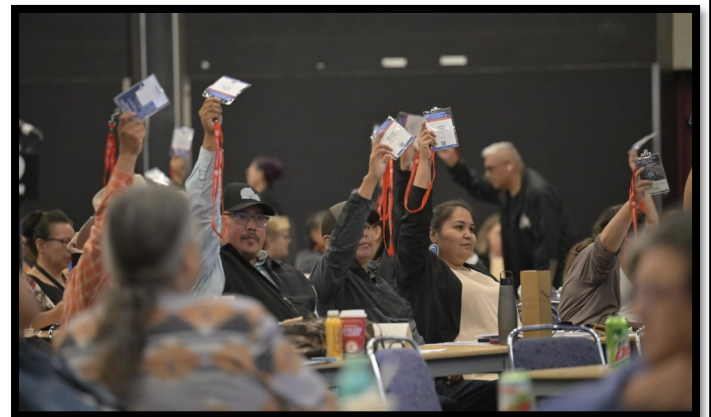
Chief King from Gull Bay FN in Thunderbay Ont. was in favour of passing the resolution. "I really think it's important to be known that we have to start addressing treaty issues folks, whether we do it politically legally or so forth, and I'm hoping that we could start this dialogue so that we don't end up in court and get a bad decision, it's really important that we have to have a mechanism to start dealing with treaties". Two other chiefs spoke in opposition to the proposed Treaty Commission resolution.

Proxy Chief Regina Crowchild from Treaty 7 let her stance be known, " I will not support this resolution and I'd like to know when the pre-confederation treaty chiefs came to talk to treaties one to 11 to ask for a chief committee on treaty.

We are the right holders. We will speak to our treaty, I talked to other treaty members and they were not in agreement to turn this over to AFN, AFN is not a rights holder to speak for first nations, we will speak on behalf of our Treaty."

When it was voted on it was not passed by the majority.

There were 20 votes for the resolution, 15 abstentions, and 103 chiefs were opposed to the resolution. The resolution was defeated to a loud round of applause at the assembly.



Article by: Tara Cutarm

More photos available on the E.C.N Facebook Page.

Current State of Alberta Wildfires

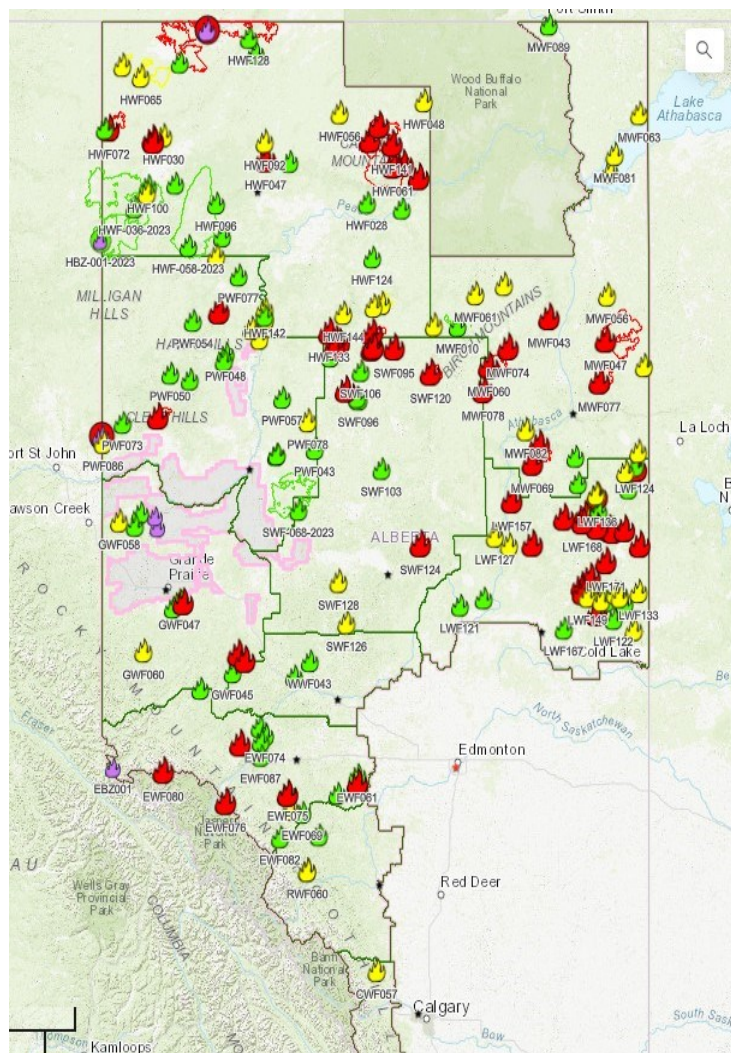
As of recent reports, currently in Alberta there are 170 active wildfires. Approximately 56 of the wildfires are considered “out of control.” An out of control wildfire is a fire burning and is expected to continue growing. These wildfires are being fought by hundreds of firefighters, supported by helicopters and heavy equipment. Evacuations and fire bans are in place across affected areas to ensure public safety.

The current status of the Alberta wildfires as of July 2024 shows significant activity, especially in the northern regions. Here are several major fire complexes that are being managed:

1. **Algar Lake Complex:** This includes wildfires MWF069 and MWF086, with MWF069 burning over 16,456 hectares and MWF086 at 1,682 hectares. Heavy smoke has been hampering air operations, but ground crews continue to work on containment lines with the help of helicopters and heavy equipment ([The Alberta Wildfire Blog](#)) ([The Alberta Wildfire Blog](#)).
2. **Fort McMurray Area:** Several fires are of particular concern here. One notable fire, burning about 16 km southwest of Fort McMurray, has led to evacuations and is being fought with a combination of ground crews and aerial support, including night-vision helicopters ([CityNews Calgary](#))
3. **High Level Area:** Multiple fires in this region remain out of control, prompting evacuation alerts and orders. Fire behavior is intense due to the hot and dry conditions, with significant resources deployed for containment efforts ([The Alberta Wildfire Blog](#)).
4. **Kettle River Complex:** This complex includes wildfire LWF136, burning about 500 hectares. The community of Janvier is under an evacuation alert, and smoke conditions are challenging air support operations ([The Alberta Wildfire Blog](#))
5. **Cattail Lake Complex:** The largest fire in this complex is MWF047, covering 105,295 hectares, posing a significant threat to nearby industrial facilities and communities ([The Alberta Wildfire Blog](#))

Due to these major fires, there have been multiple air quality advisories. We advise our members to take precaution when being outside for extended periods of time as the quality of air in the Edmonton and surrounding areas currently stand at 10+ “Very High Risk.” Those most at risk are elders, children, and those with lung and heart conditions.

Let’s keep those people who are currently affected by the wildfires and those who are fighting the fires in our thoughts and prayers. We have many of our own Nation members out fire-fighting and protecting the lands. We are thankful for those brave men and women that are fighting these fires.



Community Events/Job Opportunities

Ermineskin Cree Nation

WE ARE HIRING!

July 17th, 2024

OPEN POSITIONS:

- ✔ Grants Officer with the Ermineskin Administration Department
CLOSING: July 23, 2024
- ✔ Data Entry Clerk with the Ermineskin Personnel Department
CLOSING: July 23, 2024
- ✔ Homes Maintenance Technician with the Ermineskin CMHC/Property Management department
CLOSING: July 23, 2024
- ✔ Researcher with the Ermineskin Membership Department
CLOSING: July 29, 2024
- ✔ Receptionist with the Ermineskin Neyaskweyahk Employment Skills Training (NEST) Department
CLOSING: July 29, 2024
- ✔ Custodian/Janitor with the Ermineskin Property Management department
CLOSING: July 29, 2024
- ✔ Manager with the Ermineskin Technical Services department
CLOSING: July 29, 2024
- ✔ Arena Facility Manager with the Ermineskin Health and Wellness department
CLOSING: July 29, 2024
- ✔ Director **Three Year Contract** with the Ermineskin Personnel Department
CLOSING: July 31, 2024

APPLY NOW



Please submit applications, resume and criminal record check to:

faith@ermineskin.ca



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
NEYASKWEYAK GROUP OF COMPANIES INC.

NEYASKWEYAHK GAS BAR AND CONVENIENCE STORE LTD.

CASHIER

SUMMARY:

The Cashier be responsible for handling cash transactions; charge purchases to customers' credit cards and provide customers with receipts; monitoring gas purchases and drive offs; stocking shelves; order merchandise as required. Assuring the safe operating procedures are compliant and maintenance of gas bar property and its environment. This individual must possess good public relations skills required for demonstrating professionalism in dealing with the business public. This position requires the individual to be prepared for a flexible work schedule.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must have own transportation.
- Must be Trustworthy.
- Cash handling is an important task.
- Loyalty and commitment to work schedule is required.
- Attention to detail in tasks is critical.
- Willing to work extra shifts and/or extended hours when requested.
- Abstain from Drugs & Alcohol (during working hours).
- Willing to sign an Honesty Declaration.
- Willing to sign an Oath of Confidentiality
- Willing to sign Cell Phone Usage Policy

DEADLINE: July 26, 2024

INTERESTED PERSONS ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT A COVER LETTER, RESUME, AND A CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK TO:

Cristal Potts, Human Resource Manager
Neyaskweyahk Group of Companies Inc.
P.O Box 1320 Maskwacis, AB T0C 1N0
Email: cristal@ngcinc.ca Deliver: In-person

KEHTEHYAK FORUM 2024

Thursday, August 1, 2024
9AM - 3PM Maskwacis
Cree High School





EETF Pipe Ceremony Feast & Giveaway

JOIN US AS WE BLESS OUR STUDENTS, PARENTS, CAREGIVERS, AND EDUCATION WORKERS FOR THE UPCOMING 24/25 SCHOOL YEAR WITH A PIPE CEREMONY AND FEAST.

WE WILL ALSO LIKE INTORDUCE AND HONOUR OUR NEW RELATIONSHIPS WITH EETF'S NEW INVESTMENT MANAGERS;

LEITH WHEELER INVESTMENT COUNSEL,
BENTALAGREENOAK REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT
&
IFM INVESTORS

When: August 7th, 2024
Where: the N.O.K. Building
Time: 12pm to 4pm



ECN AUGUST 2024 DISTRIBUTION

ERMINESKIN BAND MEMBERS,
ECN MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE STAFF WILL BE ISSUING DISTRIBUTION CHEQUES:

AUGUST 7TH, 2024
10:00AM - 3:00PM

LOCATION: TBD

\$100 Per Person

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION TO ECN FINANCE IS JULY 18, 2024

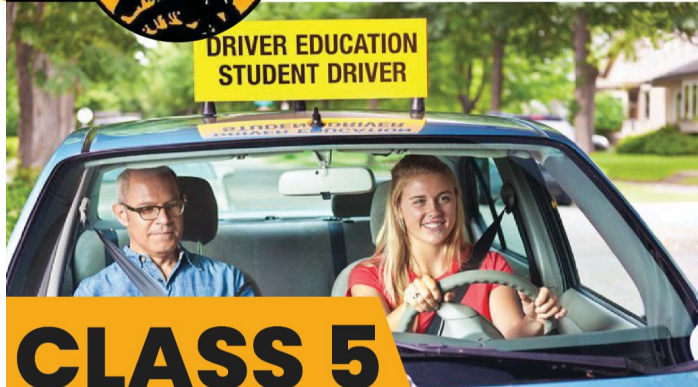
PLEASE SUBMIT ALL CHANGES SUCH AS:

NEW ADDRESSES
BANK INFORMATION FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT
GUARDIANSHIP CHANGES, ETC.

DROP OFF TO ECN FINANCE OR EMAIL TO
allowance@ermineskin.ca

ECN FINANCE
(780) 585-3741
TOLL-FREE:
1(866) 585-3941

MEMBERSHIP &
FINANCE



CLASS 5 DRIVER TRAINING

SEPTEMBER 9TH - 20TH
APPLICANTS MUST HAVE CLASS 7 FOR AT LEAST A YEAR.

LIMITED AVAILABILITY APPLY TODAY!

To Apply, Contact:
Ermineskin NEST Department
780-585-0191

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
AUGUST 30TH



Babysitting COURSE

PIGEON LAKE HEALTH CENTER

AUG 7, 2024
9AM-4PM
12+
LUNCH IS PROVIDED



Contact Jamie @ (780)586-2003 to Register and INFO
Contact Jamie @ (780)586-2003 to Register and INFO
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Waxase Consulting & Training services

Home Maintenance Workshop for Occupants

*Traditional Past and Present Similarities of Home Care, Rez Fixes, Why Home Maintenance?
Reactive vs. Proactive Maintenance, Grade/Slope, Roof Elements, Exterior/Interior Elements, Doors & Windows, Selecting Building Products, Shut-Offs, Minor Plumbing, Mechanical Components, Fire Safety, Mold and Identifying Moisture Causes, Workshop Safety.*

4:00 pm – 11:00 pm
Lunch Supper will be provided

Monday August 12, 2024
NOK Building

For more information and to Register, please contact:
Bruce Littlechild – EPM (780) 585-3886 Ext.237 / Cell (780) 360-1557

Waxase Consulting and Training Services

2024

Certificate upon Completion

NEYASKWEYAHK NATIVE CLASSIC 2024

**BILLY MACDONALD
RODEO CO. 2024
SUMMER SERIES**

**AUG
2ND
3RD
4TH**

EVENT SWAG FOR SALE!

ALL MAJOR RODEO EVENTS INCLUDING

- PEEWEE BARREL RACING
- MINI BRONCS
- NOVICE HORSE RIDING
- ALL PRO CHUCK WAGONS & CHARIOT RACES
- FLYING CROSS JOCKEY CLUB

ENTERTAINMENT:

HIGH LIMIT BAND - FRIDAY EVENING
 ARMOND DUCKCHIEF - SATURDAY EVENING
 BILLY MCDONALD OPEN RODEO ENTRIES ARE
JULY 23 (7:00-9:00PM) CALL 1.306.460.5152

August 2nd (Friday): **RACES ONLY** starting at 6PM
 August 3rd & 4th: Billy McDonald rodeo & Racing starting at 1PM

\$500
MAJOR EVENTS

**DAILY ADMISSION
PRICES**

13 And Under: FREE
 14-17: \$15.00
 18+: \$20.00
 Elders: \$ 15.00

Friday Admission Includes
HIGH LIMIT BAND
 Saturday Admission Includes
ARMOND DUCKCHIEF

For more information please contact:
ALEX LITTLECHILD 780.355.2788

Maskwacis Counselling & Support Services

Monthly Client Sweat

August 06, 2024

Located at Trailer B - Nayoskan Detox & Treatment building
 Starts at 12pm - Please arrive early

Bring your own offering (*print & tobacco*), water bottle,
 towel & extra clothes.

Females must not wear tank tops and must have a
 ribbon skirt.

Call MCSS to confirm your attendance at 780-585-2268



Waxase
 Consulting & Training services

Home Maintenance Workshop for Occupants

Traditional Past and Present Similarities of Home Care, Rez Fixes, Why Home Maintenance?
Reactive vs. Proactive Maintenance, Grade/Slope, Roof Elements, Exterior/Interior Elements, Doors & Windows, Selecting Building Products, Shut-Offs, Minor Plumbing, Mechanical Components, Fire Safety, Mold and Identifying Moisture Causes, Workshop Safety.

4:00 pm – 11:00 pm **Tuesday August 13, 2024**
 Lunch Supper will be provided **NOK Building**

For more information and to Register, please contact:
 Bruce Littlechild – EPM (780) 585-3886 Ext.237 / Cell (780) 360-1557

Waxase Consulting and Training Services 2024 Certificate upon Completion

MASKWACIS
ALL AROUND SERVICES

- Lawn Services**
- Teepee Poles**
- Firewood**
- Hauling**

780-335-7696



**VAN LEAVE AT 10:30AM
FROM JIM RS SPORTS BUILDING**

\$25 / CHILD

PLEASE NOTE- FEE IS TO SECURE SPOT AND WILL BE USED TO FEED THE CHILDREN ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT

JULY 26TH, 2024

AGES 12+

FIRST 10 TO PAY FEE AND REGISTER
**TO REGISTER:
(780) 585-3088**



**VAN LEAVES AT 2:30PM
FROM JIM RS SPORTS BUILDING**

**LIMITED
SPOTS**

*DRINKS AND POPCORN WILL BE INCLUDED

TUESDAY, JULY 30TH, 2024
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

AGES 12 -17

TO REGISTER: (780) 585-3088