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July 3rd, 2024 marks a new beginning for Ermineskin Cree Nations future. A grand opening was held at Wetaskiwin Mall to embark on Neyaskweyahk Group of Companies Inc. new Acquisition of Wild West Gallery. As some may know, in the recent months, Perry Bartoshyk has been planning to retire, and as a last grand gesture as owner, he wanted to give back to the people that he started Wild West Gallery for.

The gallery opened in Wetaskiwin back in 2011, where owner Perry wanted to create a central location for his business, and offer accessibility for his growing clientele. From humble beginnings, Wild West Gallery now offers one the largest selections of seed beads in Central Alberta. In the ten (10) plus years, Wild West Gallery has strived to preserve the communities culture

and traditions in Central Alberta while also providing support to the local artist as well as many travelling visitors.

"The history of the gallery started back in 2009, I knew what everyone needed to do their ceremonies and celebrations, but nothing was available in our province. So, I did a lot of research and put together a one stop shop that could accommodate a lot of people in our community. Although it wasn't just our community, it is all over Alberta, across Canada and as far as Newfoundland. I am very honoured that Ermineskin Cree Nation has purchased the gallery and will do great with the future of the business. Thank you all for the opportunity to provide my services to our neighbouring communities and I wish N.G.C.I and Ermineskin the best." – says Perry Bartoshyk





## NGCI Welcomes Newly Appointed PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MASKWACIS, AB – The Neyaskweyahk Group of Companies Inc. (NGCI) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Justin Jimmy who has accepted the position of President & CEO of Neyaskweyahk Group of Companies Inc. Justin began his tenure on June 28, 2024.

Justin is an accomplished First Nation professional from Onion Lake Cree Nation. Justin is a Chartered Professional Accountant "CPA", a Certified Aboriginal Finance Manager "CAFM", and a holder of the ICD.D board governance designation. Justin is passionate about Indigenous economic reconciliation and working toward building bridges with the Indigenous and non-Indigenous community. Justin's experience spans operations management, directorship, controllership, capacity building and technical accounting with First Nation governments and businesses, not-for-profits and with industry.

Justin has extensive business acumen working with senior level management including First Nations government and administration such as executive directors, CEO/CFO, in house legal counsel, Chief and Council, and external support such as, Indigenous Services Canada, Canada Revenue Agency, investment managers, and professional practitioners from various firms. He has experience with business processes including strategic planning, proposal analysis, investment analysis, and full cycle accounting and budgeting.

Justin is also an experienced director with appointments as Trustee, Director and committee members with various groups. Justin currently serves as a trustee with Wicekaskosiw Sahkahikan Askiwi-Pimiy "WSAP" heritage trust fund, and a director with the Metis Settlements Development Corporation, AFOA AB, and a committee member on the Strategic Aviation Advisory Council, and Premiers' Council on Multiculturalism for Alberta.

On another note, Justin is also a licensed commercial pilot!

With NGCI's current vision and mission, the role of the President & CEO will contribute to the overall success. On behalf of the NGCI Board of Directors we are pleased to have Mr. Justin Jimmy join our team and look forward to his expertise and skills to our organization.











CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WETASKIWIN COMPOSITE HIGH GRADUATING CLASS OF 2024!











# M.C.C LITERACY PROGRAM MASKWACIS CULTURAL COLLEGE

Nehiyaw Atisowin Adult Literacy is a three month non-academic program consisting of Math and Language Arts refreshers, introduction to Cree Syllabics, and Personal and Professional Life Skills. The program is geared towards empowering adult learners who have been out of school for an extended period of time or who have dropped out and are wanting to go back to further their education.

Maskwacis Cultural College (MCC) Literacy Coordinator received 19 applications for the program. 11 students attended class regularly. 1 student secured employment. 10 students graduated June 27th.

"These students are to be commended for their dedication and resiliency. They did not receive a living allowance yet they showed up and did their work. They faced obstacles both personally and academically yet persevered right to the end." says Vanessa Omeasoo (Literacy Coordinator)

Instructor Lesley Schatz says, "I am very proud of these students. We challenged each other and in the end I wish each of them all the best on their next learning journey."

We'd like to give thanks to our contributors; Ermineskin Tribal Enterprises - Neyaskweyahk Human Services PESP - Loralyn Cutarm, Maskwacis Cree Tribal Council. Guest Speakers / Presenters; Cree Cultural Teachings -Myrna Yellowbird, Mary Moonias, Bob Silverthorne Cree Syllabics - Lorna Saddleback, Linda Whitebear. Volunteers; Cherie Faithful, Russetta Burnstick, Peggy Cutarm, and others!





## Jasper Indigenous Exhibit to Open September 2024





Indigenous connections to the land now known as Jasper National Park range from painful histories to joyful times rooted in the land. These connections come together in the Jasper Indigenous Exhibit. At each of the four entrances, there will be panels introducing the exhibit as well as recognizing the displacement of Indigenous peoples from the land that became Jasper National Park. When asked about her family's connections to this place, Carol Wildcat from Ermineskin Cree Nation shared a proud moment for her and her sister back when they were in an all-girls Indigenous marching band.

"It was quite famous actually. We had it for about five or six years in Maskwacis. It was called Hobbema back then. . We ranged from eight or nine years old, to 16 or 17 years of age. We were part of the Edmonton All Girls Marching Drum and Bugle band. So we were a spinoff from that. I did the trumpet and refused the tuba.

My sister Clara was a small girl and still took part doing different parades, like the Canada Day parade. We went to Edmonton, Calgary, Jasper and Banff. I remember when the Queen came to visit in 1972. Clara was there and she was on the cover of McLean's Magazine because the Queen just gravitated to her. I always think that was so cool. She was tiny and she was so cute and proud."

- Carol Wildcat, Ermineskin Cree Nation

We encourage you to look at Canada's history and reconciliation journey: <a href="https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1400782178444/15291837108">https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1400782178444/15291837108</a>

In Jasper, this journey starts by protecting this special place for present and future generations and telling the difficult history of how Jasper National Park came to be. Visit "The Jasper Indigenous Exhibit" web page for more details about the Grand Opening September 7 and 8, 2024: <a href="https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/ab/jasper/autochtones-">https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/ab/jasper/autochtones-</a>

indigenous/exposition-exhibit

## **Maskwacis Soccer Day Camp**

"I love and enjoy seeing the kids that start off, being hesitant at the beginning and see them catching up, warming up to the game and getting to enjoy the interactions. We've been doing this now, I think close to 10 years. It's an annual



event that we do and we hope to continue doing this for the youth of Maskwacis. I think it is extremely important to have our youth be involved and interact with one another in a healthy and safe environment, and I am so happy we can provide that space for them. It's good for their health and team building. Bringing the communities together and helping everyone to learn to work together. That's what we get through sports." says coach Tsholo Sebetlela



## ERMINESKIN CENSUS 2024



In collaboration with the Ermineskin Cree Nation leadership, the Ermineskin Industrial Relations Consultation will be conducting the Ermineskin Cree Nation Census 2024.

The census will collect data and information from our nation's members. There will be census monitors from our nation, who will be going to each household to go through the census with the nation member. We kindly ask for your cooperation.

Names will not be added to the information provided to keep individual's privacy and confidentiality. The information will be compiled to benefit our nation and our members. The data and statistics collected from the census will be used by leadership and departments when requesting funding for the specific needs of the community that the census reveals.

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 that you are willing to participate and let your voices be heard. The census monitors will

begin on Monday, July 8th, 2024, and continue through the summer.

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 to.

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.



## Extreme Weather Preparedness

With the summer months upon us, being in a central part of the province we have a higher risk of extreme weather. It is essential that we are prepared and have an emergency plan for mother natures unexpected weather conditions. Some common extreme weather conditions for Central Alberta are:

When a severe thunderstorm occurs, it's important to prioritize safety and take appropriate actions to protect yourself and others. By following these guidelines, you can increase your safety during severe thunderstorms and minimize the risks associated with these intense weather events. Here are some key things to remember during extreme weather conditions:

- Monitor weather reports and updates from reliable sources such as the National Weather Service (NWS) or local meteorological agencies. Weather apps and alerts on your phone can also provide real-time information.
- 2) Move indoors to a sturdy building or a hard-topped vehicle as soon as you hear thunder or see lightning. Avoid shelters that are not substantial or have open sides, such as picnic shelters or sheds. Stay away from windows, doors, and concrete walls, as lightning can travel through metal wires and plumbing lines within concrete walls and flooring.
- 3) Do not use electrical appliances, computers, or corded phones during a thunderstorm. Lightning can travel through electrical systems and pose a risk of electrocution. Avoid contact with water during a thunderstorm, including showers, sinks, and faucets. Lightning can travel through plumbing.
- 4) Stay inside and wait at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder before going back outside. Lightning can strike from as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall, so just because it's not raining where you are doesn't mean you're safe from lightning. If you're caught outside and unable to reach shelter, avoid high ground, open fields, isolated trees, and metal objects. Instead, crouch down with as little of your body touching the ground as possible, but do not lie flat.
- Remain calm and reassure others, especially children.
   Keeping a level head will help you make sound decisions to stay safe.

Preparing an emergency kit is crucial for being ready to face extreme weather events. Below you will find a list of essentials to include in your emergency kit for your household. Regularly check and update your emergency kit every six months to ensure supplies are not expired and reflect current needs. Being prepared can make a significant difference during extreme weather events or other emergencies.

### **Emergency Kit Essentials**

*Water:* One gallon per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation.

**Non-perishable Food:** Three-day supply of non-perishable food items per person (canned goods, energy bars, dried fruits, etc.).

**Manual Can Opener:** If including canned food.

Flashlight: With extra batteries.

First Aid Kit: Including necessary medications and supplies.

Whistle: To signal for help if needed.

Dust Masks: To filter contaminated air.

Moist Towelettes: For sanitation purposes.

**Local Maps:** To navigate if GPS or mobile networks are

unavailable.

**Cell Phone with Charger:** Keep charged and ready.

**Emergency Radio:** Battery-powered or hand-crank radio to receive weather alerts.

**Special Needs:** Consider any specific needs for infants, elderly family members, or individuals with disabilities.



## Community Events/ Job Opportunities



## WE ARE HIRING!

July 9th, 2024

### **OPEN POSITIONS:**

- Grants Officer with the Ermineskin Administration Department Closing date: July 23, 2024
- Home Maintenance Technician with the Ermineskin CMHC/Property Management Dept. Closing date: July 23, 2024

Please submit applications, resume and criminal record check to:

faith@ermineskin.ca

- Data Entry Clerk with the Ermineskin Personnel Department Closing date: July 23,
- Manager with the Ermineskin Technical Services Dept. Closing date: July 11, 2024

### **APPLY NOW**







### **REQUIRMENTS:**

- MUST HAVE VALID IDENTIFCATION[ BIRTH CERTIFICATE, INDIAN STATUS CARD
  - MUST ATTEND DAILY CLASSES IN-PERSON
    - **MUST NOT HAVE ANY FINES**
    - **MUST HAVE A GMAIL ACCOUNT**

## **Register Now**

Contact: Jaylene Janvier (1)780-585-4450

jaylenejanvier@gmail.com

**Location: MEC** Date: July 15-19, 2024 Time 9 am to 4 pm



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY NEYASKWEYAHK GROUP OF COMPANIES INC.

### EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT Job Opportunity

Summary:
This is an executive position will report directly to the President & CEO of NGCI. The Executive Assistant-is responsible Ihis is an executive position will report directly to the President & CEO of NGCL. The Executive Assistant-is responsible to answering phones, screening visitors, making travel arrangements, preparing reports, filling, and organic documents, managing office supplies & equipment, recording meeting minutes, and performing basic bookkeeping tasks. The job requires establishing and maintaining specific order in daily activities; frequent communication and engagement with others; and predictable performance in repetitive situations. This position also gracefully handle pressure to remain a constantly reliable resource to management. Prioritize work in ways that alight with the company vision and mission. This position requires building rapport with a wide range of individuals. This position requires the individual to work Monday – Friday (5 days per week, 70 hours bi-weekly).

### Core Competencies

- Planning & Organizing: Establishing courses of action to ensure that work is completed effectively
- Teamwork: Cooperating with others to meet objectives
- Time and Priority Management: Prioritizing and completing tasks to deliver desired outcomes within allotted
- Project Management: Identifying and overseeing all resources, tasks, systems, and people to obtain results.
- Flexibility: Readily modifying, responding, and adapting to change with minimal resistance. Interpersonal Skills: Effectively communicating, building rapport, and relating well to all kinds of people. Leadership: Organizing and influencing people to believe in a vision while creating a sense of purpose and

- Driving Forces/Motivators:

  Collaborative: Driven by being in a supporting role and contributing with little need for individual recognition.

  Resourceful: Driven by practical results, maximizing both efficiency and returns for their investments of time, talent, energy, and resources.

  Receptive: Driven by latest ideas, methods and opportunities that fall outside a defined system for living.

- tional Requirements:

  Proven experience in office and business management.

  Experience and proven successes in an administrative or managerial capacity.

  Diploma in Business Administration
  In-depth understanding and experience in Microsoft Office and MS Outlook
  Ability to organize a daily workload by priorities.

  Must be able to multi-task and meet deadlines in a fast-paced quickly changing environment.
  A proactive approach to problem-solving with strong decision-making skills.

  Professional level verbal and written communications skills.

  Must be able to travel and attend meetings held after hours.

  Ability to deal effectively with the general or business public.

  Must be willing to sign an Oath of Confidentiality.

  Knowledge and/or to speak the Cree language will be an asset

SALARY: Based on qualifications and experience

## IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR: Chief Executive Officer (CEO & President)

Interested persons are requested to submit the following: Cover Letter, Resume, with Certificates/Diplomas/Etc., three (3) updated reference letters,

Submit All Documents To:

Tricia Wildcat, VP Operations - Neyaskweyahk Group of Companies Inc.
P.O Box 1320 Maskwessic, AB TOC 1N0

Email: cristal@ngcinc.ca In Person: NGCI Innovative & Professional Building

**ERMINESKIN CREE NATION** 

## NEYASKWEYAHK HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE CLOSURE

Please be advised that NHS will be closed for Staff Development from Thursday, July 11th to Tuesday, July 16th, 2024

Regular hours will resume on Wednesday, July 17th, 2024 at 8:30AM

Ay Hay

## ATTENTION FOOD BANK CLIENTS!

Due to consistent requests for additional hampers, we have updated our policy regarding NHS Clients.

Please be informed that NHS clients will no longer be eligible to access the food bank for 7 days after receiving NHS issuance. We ask that you keep in mind that it is **ONE HAMPER** per household and hamper size will be determined according to the ID provided.

We have a **ZERO TOLERANCE** for any form of abuse towards staff or the Food Bank program. Providing **FALSE INFORMATION** or **DISPLAYING ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR** will result in immediate suspension from the Food Bank services.





## CHILDREN AND YOUTH INCENTIVES

## ANNUAL AWARDS NICHT

## KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12

Eligibility - The Child 8 Youth incentive program is for all ECN students enrolled in kindergarten to Grade 12 no matter where they reside.



## **HOW TO APPLY**

It is the student/parent/caregivers responsibility to apply and provide the EETF office manager with report cards in a timely manner following the end of each academic school year with a final report card when they become available.



### **ATTENDANCE**

Kindergarten to Grade 2 - 70% Grade 3-6 - 90% Grade 7-9 - 90% Grade 10-12 - 90%

Gift cards will be awarded to students who achieve the above attendance percentages.

## DEADLINE: JULY 17, 2024

### SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Students in the following grades are eligible who receive an average of 80% or higher in their grademic year.

Grade 9 - \$75.00 Grade 10 - \$100.00 Grade 11 - \$200.00 Grade 12 - \$300.00

### EXTRACURRICULAR AWARDS & GENERAL INTEREST

Extracurricular Award - for students who completed or participated in an extracurricular activity that promotes physical spiritual, intellectual and mental development. Students will receive \$35.00 for each award

General Interest Awards are for students who have been recognized from their school for special year long awards. Monthly awards are ineligible.



\$25 / CHILD

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



**FIRST 12 TO PAY FEE AND REGISTER** 

*TO REGISTER:* (780) 585-3088



"Reclaiming My Spirit" A workshop to help you heal with safe effective processes while helping you create a deeper connection with yourself. This workshop will benefit you if: \* you have tried everything to get your life back on track but cycles keep repeating. \*You know you have past issues holding you back but you don't know where to start. \*You want to learn how to heal your life and move forward from trauma that holds you back. July 29, 30, 31 2024 9:00am to 3:30 pm each day To Register, please call Ermineskin NEST @780-585-0191 15 spots available



VAN LEAVE AT 5:00PM 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 13TH, 2024** 



FIRST 12 TO PAY FEE AND REGISTER

TO REGISTER:

(780) 585-3088

## Ermineskin General Meeting

**Agenda: ECN Quarterly Report** by Managers and Directors



July 19th, 2024 Starting at 10AM

Light refreshments and lunch will be provided

Location: N.O.K. Building





**LOUIS BULL** 

ERMINESKIN RECREATION **ERMINESKIN** 

**SAMSON YOUTH** 

