



Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin ᓂᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐ ᓴᓴᓐᓴᓐᓴᓐ

Ermineskin Newsletter February 19, 2025

Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin Mikisiw Pîsim Kekâc Nîstanaw

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♥ ECN VALENTINES DAY DANCE ♥

One of Ermineskin family events such as the Valentine's Day Dance, offers a heartfelt opportunity for individuals of all ages to connect, celebrate, and create cherished memories together. These gatherings build meaningful connections, deepen community ties, and, most importantly, provide a safe and joyful environment for elders, families, and friends. The evening was packed with laughter, incredible dance moves, and the delightful energy of young dancers, reminding us of all of the happy moments we can share."



"I'm so thankful that the Recreation team put up this dance for our community members! It's always a blast when people can come out with their families and enjoy some good music as well as interact with one another in a welcoming environment. It's so great to see so many people from all walks of life come to join in the fun, from elders to babies! It's great to see that Ermineskin and Maskwacis have been having more of these community dances for the kids, really giving them a place to come out and have fun with their friends outside of school. It's a great experience for everyone!"

Prizes were awarded to the best-dressed partic-

ipants, and all attendees received complimentary candy bags and refreshments! A big thank you to the staff, the DJ, the volunteers, and everyone who came out to celebrate Miteh Kîsikâw!

Ermineskin Recreation is dedicated to offering a variety of programs for adults, as well as numerous after-school clubs and events for youth participation. Some of the available programs include Floor Hockey, Arts and Crafts Club, Fitness Program, and Drum Group! Be sure to keep an eye out for upcoming program posters in the community, as well as updates on social media, the mobile app, and the ECN website!

ECN CELEBRATES FAMILY DAY

Family Day is a special occasion that provides an opportunity for families to come together and enjoy quality time, create lasting memories, and celebrate the importance of family bonds. Whether it's a day of relaxation, outdoor fun, or engaging in creative activities, Family Day is the perfect time to strengthen connections with loved ones.

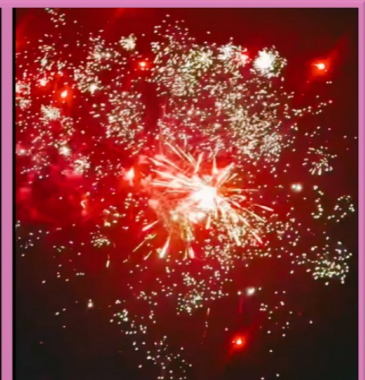
For some, it can be hard to set aside the time to properly engage with their loved ones. Family Day serves as a reminder to slow down and appreciate the people who matter most in our lives. It's an opportunity to set aside distractions and focus on deepening bonds and taking part in fun new experiences that will bring families closer together.

Ermineskin departments host annual events for Family Day, welcoming everyone to join in the fun! This year, Ermineskin Community Wellness joined forces with ECN Brighter Futures, Integrated Family Services, Samson Cree Nation, Samson Community Wellness, and Samson Sports & Development to create a fantastic community celebra-

tion for families in Maskwacis. The event was from 1 PM to 9:30 PM, offering an exciting array of activities designed to satisfy all ages. For the younger attendees, there were fun experiences such as face painting, exhilarating bouncy castles that seemed to touch the sky, and the art of balloon twisting, where colorful creations came to life. The excitement didn't stop there; families could enjoy a movie while indulging in some yummy popcorn, and capture cherished moments at beautifully decorated photo booths. It was a day filled with laughter, joy, and unforgettable memories! To wrap up the family day celebration, we were treated to an amazing fireworks show that wowed everyone!

Family Day is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the unique aspects of your family and to spend quality time together. Regardless of how you choose to honor this day, the focus is on enjoying each other's company and creating lasting memories.

We hope you enjoyed your Family Day!



Miyo miteh kîsikâw
ᑭᓴᑲᓐ ᑭᓴᑲᓐ
Happy Valentine's Day!

kayla@erminekin.ca



PIGEON LAKE FAMILY DAY CELEBRATION



IMPORTANCE OF SMOKE/CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM UPKEEP

Due to the significant snowfall and the severe cold temperatures, it is essential to inspect our exhaust and ventilation systems for ice buildup or blockages that could lead to carbon monoxide issues.

During extreme cold weather, it's important to regularly check your furnace exhaust pipe for ice accumulation. In such low temperatures, especially with wind chill, these pipes can become clogged with ice, increasing the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. If you can see your neighbor's exhaust pipes from your home, please keep an eye on theirs as well.

Stay warm, stay safe, and look out for the well-being of your neighbors, especially the elderly and children, during this cold snap. Winter has officially arrived!

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

A smoke alarm is crucial for safeguard-

ing your home. You are at a significant risk of dying in a house fire, particularly during the night or early morning while you sleep. In fact, more people fall victim to fires by inhaling smoke and toxic gases, like carbon monoxide, than from direct burns.

Fires spread with alarming speed. In just three minutes, the heat from a small fire can ignite everything in the room—a dangerous event known as flashover.

It is clear: having well-maintained smoke alarms in your home drastically reduces the likelihood of fatalities and serious injuries during a fire. Don't wait—ensure your smoke alarms are functioning properly to protect yourself and your loved ones.

What is a smoke alarm?

A smoke alarm is an essential safety device designed to detect the presence of smoke in your environment, thus alerting you with a loud, attention-grabbing alarm.

When installed in the appropriate locations throughout your home—such as in hallways, near bedrooms, and on each floor— and regularly tested to ensure functionality, a smoke alarm can significantly enhance your safety. It provides an early warning in the event of a fire, allowing you precious moments to react and evacuate to safety. Regular maintenance, such as changing the batteries at least once a year and replacing the unit every ten years, is crucial for ensuring the alarm remains effective and reliable in an emergency.

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a simple, yet dangerous molecule made of one carbon atom and one oxygen atom. It is produced when carbon-based fuels—such as wood, gasoline, coal, propane, natural gas, and heating oil—burn incompletely.

While these fuels can be safely used in open areas with adequate ventilation, carbon monoxide poses a significant risk in confined spaces like basements, kitchens, garages, and campers.

Furthermore, the danger of carbon monoxide lies in its difficulty to detect without a sensor, making it imperative to take precautions to ensure safety in environments where these fuels are used.

Why is carbon monoxide dangerous?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a highly toxic gas that poses a severe threat to health because it binds to hemoglobin in red blood cells, significantly reducing the blood's ability to transport oxygen throughout the body. This binding occurs after the gas is inhaled into the lungs, where it can infiltrate the bloodstream.

At first, individuals suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning may experience a range of early symptoms, which can include:

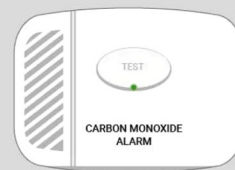
Headache: This can vary from mild discomfort to severe pain, often described as a dull pressure or throbbing sensation.

Nausea: A feeling of queasiness that can lead to the urge to vomit, making it difficult to maintain normal activities.

SMOKE DETECTOR VS CO DETECTOR



- ❶ Detect smoke particles from fires.
- ❷ Designed to alert occupants to the presence of fire.
- ❸ Typically placed on ceilings or high on walls, on every level of a home, and inside bedrooms.
- ❹ Often use loud sirens and sometimes visual signals to warn of smoke.
- ❺ Commonly use ionization or photoelectric sensors.
- ❻ Doesn't detect CO
- ❼ Require regular cleaning and battery checks, and usually have a lifespan of 10 years.



- ❶ Detect carbon monoxide gas, a colorless and odorless gas.
- ❷ Designed to alert occupants to dangerous levels of CO.
- ❸ Usually installed near sleeping areas and on each level of the home.
- ❹ Does not detect smoke or heat
- ❺ Use electrochemical sensors.
- ❻ Need regular testing and battery replacement, typically lasting 5 to 7 years.



**Mammoth
Security Inc.**

*These lists are referring to standalone units, not combination units with multi-sensor or function capabilities.

Vomiting: In response to nausea, an individual may begin to vomit, further contributing to dehydration and discomfort.

Dizziness: A sensation of light-headedness or vertigo may occur, making it hard to maintain balance and focus.

Shortness of Breath: An unexpected difficulty in breathing, which may feel like an inability to catch one's breath even at rest.

Fatigue: A profound sense of tiredness that is not relieved by rest, leading to diminished energy levels and a lack of motivation.

These early signs can easily be confused with symptoms associated with the common cold or flu, such as mild headaches and nausea, which may cause individuals to underestimate the severity of their condition. As exposure to carbon monoxide increases, particularly when levels reach 150 parts per million (ppm), the situation becomes increasingly serious. At this concentration, symptoms can escalate to dangerous levels, resulting in disorientation and even unconsciousness. If left untreated, carbon monoxide poisoning can lead to severe health complications and can ultimately be fatal. It's crucial to recognize these symptoms promptly and seek medical attention, as timely intervention could mean the difference between life and death.

Maskwacis Cultural College

On February 8th, 2025, Maskwacis Cultural College (MCC) proudly celebrated its 50th anniversary, reflecting on its remarkable growth and invaluable contributions to the community. The college continues to evolve, dedicated to enhancing its facilities and programs to better serve its students and uphold its vital cultural mission. The celebration hon-

ored the visionary founders, and devoted current and former staff, and celebrated the first-ever graduates of Maskwacis Cultrual College!

M.C.C. celebrated our respected Elder, Maurcie Wolfe, a remarkable leader whose vision and dedication were instrumental in founding the college. With great commitment, he envisioned a brighter future for generations to come—a place where our community could cultivate knowledge and pride. His tireless efforts led to the creation of a sovereign educational center, a space where members could immerse themselves in their culture and feel a profound sense of belonging.

“ This is the vision Maurice and his colleagues: late Peter Bull, Late Mabel Bull, Late Theresa Wildcat with the help of Bob Silverthorne had at that time. They started with what I call grass roots education that has now transitioned into online education. The college has grown and many First Nation students locally and from other Nations are now able to further their studies and graduate – A VISION FILLED. We must uphold their legacy and continue to



support MCC and never forget the hard work of the founders. My dad who is well over 90 years old could not be here tonight but would be truly honored if he was. Please stand and join me in applauding my dad, Maurice Wolfe. Thank you.” says May Ermine-skin.

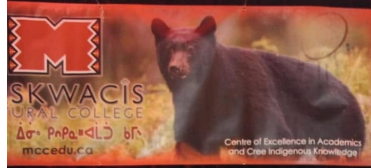
In 1974, the Four Bands of Maskwacis embarked on a significant cultural journey by establishing the Maskwacis Cultural Centre, a vital space dedicated to the preservation and celebration of Plains Cree tradition. This initiative was made possible through the Cultural/Educational Centres Program of Indian Affairs Canada. The Centre’s heartfelt mission is to safeguard the rich knowledge of Plains Cree culture and history, nurture the growth of the Cree language, and open doors to a world of educational opportunities for the members of the Four Nations. It acts as a bridge, connecting them to a variety of courses offered by public institutions, and empowering individuals to pursue their academic and professional goals while honoring their cultural roots.

50th Anniversary!

In 1986, propelled by the committed support of the Chiefs of the Four Nations, the Board of Governors embarked on a crucial pursuit for proper recognition of the Centre as a distinguished post-secondary institution. This important initiative resulted in the passage of the Maskwacîs Cultural College Act (Bill PR20) by the Legislative Assembly of Alberta in July 1988. With this pivotal legislation, MCC was officially

established as a private post-secondary institution, empowered to grant valuable certificates and diplomas, thus paving the way for a vibrant future of education and cultural preservation.

Maskwacis Cultural College (MCC) is now a successful post-secondary institution located here in Maskwacis, Alberta. The institution is dedicated to



**Cecilia Saddleback
(Former Graduate) & Family**



serving all four nations of the community including Samson Cree Nation, Ermineskin Cree Nation, Louis Bull Tribe, and Montana First Nation. At M.C.C, they understand the importance of education and offer a diverse range of programs, including Adult Basic Education, university transfer courses, and various diploma programs, all aimed at empowering learners to achieve their goals. As proud members of these First Nations and Adult Higher Education Consortium, this educational institute is deeply committed to providing high-quality education that reflects the values and traditions of our community, ensuring that every student experiences a culturally relevant and meaningful journey on their path to success!

We'd like to congratulate Maskwacis Cultural College on 50 years of educational success and look forward to seeing what M.C.C has in store in the near future.



Louise Lee-Eypaise (Former Graduate), Peggy Lee & John Crier

Some Canadians are Boycotting U.S. Products and Buying Local in Wake of Trump Tariffs



A customer shops at a Toronto grocery store in May 2024. (Chris Young/The Canadian Press)

'While the tariffs are on, I'm going to boycott American products,' says Ottawa shopper.

Canadians have begun organizing efforts of their own to counteract U.S. tariffs imposed Saturday by President Donald Trump, with some heeding calls by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who quickly announced retaliatory levies against the U.S., to buy Canadian and boycott U.S. goods as much as possible.

Giancarlo Trimarchi, past-chair of the Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers and president of Vince's Market in Sharon, Ont., said he has begun creating "Made in Canada" tags to be placed alongside Canadian products at supermarkets.

"There's a lot of tension, there's a lot of anxiety of how this will play out," Trimarchi said of the trade war. However, he said he believes the situation has the upside of showcasing the wide variety of Canadian goods.

"As I was down on the shelf and I was putting some of these tags up ... I was pleasantly surprised at just how many products were getting the label put in front of them," Trimarchi said. ***"That part makes me proud."*** Trimarchi's tags could come in handy for some shoppers in Ontario who told CBC News they plan on only buying Canadian.

"Whatever is labelled Canadian, it's going to be [the] choice for me, even if it's not a preference," Don Profit, who calls the tariffs an "economic attack" by Trump, told CBC News at an Ottawa supermarket.

"While the tariffs are on, I'm going to boycott American products."

Matthias Neill, a dual Canadian-American citizen, told CBC News in Toronto that he's working on a list of American products to avoid.

"I've never felt more anti-American in my life," Neill said. With the U.S. tariffs and Canadian counter-measures set to take effect on Tuesday, experts say the fallout could compound an already difficult cost-of-living crisis for consumers and hit Canadian businesses hard.

"This threatened tariff could very well end my business," Pierre Oliver of St. Thomas, Ont., told CBC Radio's Cross Country Checkup. Oliver, who sells model train sets, said the vast majority of his customers are American, and the tariffs have caused a great deal of confusion for him.

"What I'm not clear about is how such a tariff could be levied on a business like mine. There's no mechanism in place to collect."

Despite the possible hurdles, many Canadians think boycotts are the way to go. Neill in Toronto said that before the tariffs, he only tried to buy Canadian "to the extent that it's easy," but will endeavour to do so more generally, even when it's difficult.

"The smallest first thing is to not buy Colgate toothpaste. I heard you're supposed to buy Sensodyne toothpaste now," he said.

"I think it's worth it if we all do it together," Levine said.

- CBC NEWS

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/COMMUNITY EVENTS



Ermineskin Cree Nation

WE ARE HIRING!

February 12, 2025

OPEN POSITIONS:



Custodian/Janitor with the Ermineskin Lands & Resources Department

**CLOSING: February
27, 2025**

Please submit applications,
resume and criminal record
check to:

faith@erminekin.ca

APPLY NOW



Opportunity Profile

Customer Service Representative – 1

Peace Hills Trust

February 11, 2025

Company

Peace Hills Trust is Canada's largest and oldest First Nations owned federally regulated financial institution, and is also Canada's only independent Trust Company. Employing over 100 people, Peace Hills Trust serves more than 20,000 personal, business and First Nations customers, providing financial services to most regions of Canada through a network of 9 Regional Offices and electronic services.

Peace Hills Trust is wholly owned by the Samson Cree Nation of Maskwacis, Alberta. Its Corporate Office is located in Edmonton, Alberta.

The Opportunity

We are looking for customer-oriented service representative who will ensure excellent service standards, respond efficiently to customer inquiries and maintain high customer satisfaction. A customer service representative will act as a liaison, provide product and services information and resolve any customer inquiries with accuracy and efficiency.

The Customer Service Representative – 1 role is located in Maskwacis, Alberta and is a first point of contact in relation to company product and services. You will process a variety of routine financial transactions including cash handling, cheque cashing, withdrawals, deposits, and daily balancing.

The role will provide an opportunity in improving your communication skills, gain valuable insight to financial customer service processes, build stronger relationships and ultimately establish our reputation as a company that provides excellent customer support with potential leading into future growth and career opportunities within the company.

Responsibilities:

- Identify and assess customers' needs to achieve satisfaction
- Build sustainable relationships and trust with customer accounts through open and interactive communication
- Provide accurate, valid and complete information by following company guidelines and security regulations
- Respond to customer inquiries; managing incoming calls and customer service inquiries in a timely manner
- Develop and maintain a thorough working knowledge of all company products and services
- Handle customer issues/concerns, provide appropriate solutions and alternatives within the time limits; follow up to ensure resolution
- Keep records of customer interactions, process customer accounts and file documents
- Responsible and reliable; and is able to perform well as part of a team and contribute on an individual basis

The Ideal Candidate

To be successful in this role, you should be an excellent communicator who's able to learn our clients' trust and offer excellent customer support in addressing customer needs.

A basic knowledge of retail banking products; including personal and business related bank account services and basic knowledge of registered products is preferred.

Edmonton | Maskwacis | Calgary | Westbank | Saskatoon | Fort Qu'appelle | Winnipeg | Ontario | Fredericton



MASKWACIS YOUNG SPIRIT WINDS SOCIETY

JOB OPPORTUNITY-YOUTH THERAPIST

Summary:

Reporting to the Executive Director, the youth therapist is responsible for: Planning and administering comprehensive, individualized assessments; analyzing assessment data to develop and document relevant and meaningful recommendations; implementing individualized intervention strategies to enable clients to reach recovery-oriented goals; communicating and collaborating with healthcare professionals involved in clients' care; acting as a resource to MYSWS staff on specific concerns related to cognition and/or mental health.

Position Requirements:

- Abstain from Alcohol and Drugs
- Bachelor's or Master's degree in Social Work
- Experience in the community of mental health preferred
- Must obtain a Criminal Record Check
- Must obtain a Child Intervention Check
- Knowledge and experience in traditional and contemporary healing practices and experience in working with Elders, Healers and clinicians.
- A demonstrated positive role model for staff, clients and the community at large
- One on One counselling with clients is a must
- Must be willing to participate in the Accreditation process
- **MUST BE COMMITTED**

General Requirement:

- Current First Aid and CPR Certificate is required
- Cree language would be an asset
- Knowledge of Cree culture and traditions would be an asset
- Willingness to take training as required
- Must maintain client confidentiality
- Valid class 5 driver's license
- Must sign an Oath of Confidentiality, Conflict of Interest form and Code of Conduct Note Screening Process: The following process will apply
- Resumes will be screened for qualifications and personal suitability
- Copy of Certificates, Criminal record check, child intervention check

We thank all applicants who apply and advise only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Please forward your completed resumes to
graine@youngspiritwinds.com

CLOSING DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2025

MASKWACIS EMPLOYMENT CENTER



SPONSORS



SPRING JOB FAIR

**EVERYONE
WELCOME**

**INDUSTRY
REGISTRATION**



**THURSDAY
MARCH 20, 2025
10 AM - 3 PM**

**HOWARD BUFFALO MEMORIAL
CENTER, MASKWACIS, ALBERTA**

**INDUSTRY REGISTRATION
www.maskwacisemployment.ca**

For more information contact 780-585-4450
or email lacey@maskwacisemployment.ca

**BE
PREPARED**

**BRING YOUR
RESUME**

**DRESS TO
IMPRESS**

MASKWACIS

MARIOKART DELUXE 8

TOURNAMENT

MARCH 1ST, 2025
@JIM RATTLESNAKE BUILDING

FREE ENTRY, ALL AGES EVENT
DOORS OPEN AT 12:00 PM
RACING STARTS AT 1:30 PM



ERMINESKIN
CREE NATION



ERMINESKIN R.E.A

GENERAL MEETING

MARCH 12, 2025

Location: NOK BUILDING

Time: 10:00 AM

Everyone is welcome, lunch
will be provided!

JOIN US!

780-585-4037

brenda@erminekin.ca



TRAINING OPPORTUNITY!

FIRETACK CREW MEMBER TRAINING

We are seeking individuals interested in
participating in the 2025 Wildland Firetack
Training!

- Limited spots available – only 8!
- Valid driver's license preferred but not
necessary.

Don't miss this opportunity! If you're
interested, sign up today.

MARCH 17 - 21, 2025

NGCI OFFICE

REGISTER NOW

Contact: Tricia Wildcat

tricia@ngcinc.ca

(email only)



Neyaskweyâhk Human Services

ERMINESKIN NHS ISSUANCE FOR MARCH 2025

FEBRUARY 26TH, 2025

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

@NHS OFFICE

Please ensure your utility bills are up-
to-date, and that your 30-day bank
statements have been submitted.

Issuance will be one day only
Personal pickup only
No Mailouts

Thank you for your cooperation

NEYASKWEYAHK HUMAN SERVICES:
(780)585-3835



Working together to bring Government of Canada services to you!

When: February 25, 2024 – 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM
Location: Neyaskweyahk Human Services Building

Please join a Canada Revenue Agency representative for all personal income-tax and benefit related enquiries and get the following in-person support:

- apply for benefits like Canada Child Benefit, and more
- print tax slips and Notice of Assessment (NOA),
- determine what tax years need to be filed to receive benefits
- change of address / phone number / direct deposit information,
- understand letters from the CRA,
- recover uncashed cheques
- assistance enrolling in My Account and how to use the system,
- simplified tax packages for 2024

For questions please call Angel Smallboy at 780-585-3835

Attention: Please bring your Social Insurance Number and a piece of ID

Canada Revenue Agency

Canada



Tech Services

Waste & Water Management

Trucks Not in Service



Please Conserve Water Usage

Due to cold Temperatures

- Trucks will not be in service, when freezing weather is extreme

We apologize for the inconvenience.



780-585-0255

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

AVIATION FOUNDATIONS PROGRAM

PROGRAM STARTS: March 17, 2025

Deadline to Apply: **March 3, 2025** | Location: Maskwacis, AB

Are you interested in travel and tourism? Does the aviation industry interest you? If you answered yes to any of these questions, apply now to join this Aviation Foundations Training Program!

This training-to-employment program will provide learners with the practical industry knowledge, professional and essential skills required to be successful while working in the aviation industry. As a part of this program, learners will complete a 4-week work experience at Edmonton International Airport.

Examples of the kinds of positions that you could work in at the airport upon completion of this training include:

- Passenger and Guest Experience
- Baggage
- Trades & Maintenance
- Food Service
- Gift shop & Duty Free
- Security
- Parking

Requirements include:

- Class 5 driver's license
- High School Diploma or GED
- Pass a criminal record check
- Able to work outdoors and lift heavy objects



For training inquiries, please call

N.E.S.T

780 585 0191



ERMINESKIN
CREE NATION

CHANNER
CONSULTING & TRAINING



NEYASKWEYAHK
HUMAN SERVICES

Walk- In Days

**Our Walk-in dates have changed to
February 18, 19 and continue**

**February 24th
9 am- 3:30pm**

NHS will have walk- in appointments for clients to submit bills, update files and resign for March Issuance.

MCSS Proudly
presents
**MEN'S COPING
SKILLS**

**STRESS AND
FATHERHOOD:
COPING
STRATEGIES FOR
MEN**

Rattle making with Leo V. Bruno
Ermineskin Elders Centre
10:00 am - 3:00 pm



Please call
MCSS to
register
780-585-2268



February 21st
2025

NEYASKWEYAHK

**ART & CRAFT
CLUB**



LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE

WEDNESDAYS, 5PM-7PM @ JIM RS BUILDING

✓ Painting

✓ Crafting

✓ Drawing

Ages

6-13

REGISTER NOW

(780) 585-3088

river@ermineskin.ca



Ermineskin Community Wellness Presents:



GRIEF WORKSHOP

Part 2: Emotional Strength Through Healing

UPDATED

March 3rd - 5th, 2025

9:30am - 3:30pm

Location: Maskwacis Ambulance Authority

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Topics of Discussion:

Neurological Processes	Connection/Compassion
Anxiety	Love/Healing
Depression	Range of Emotions

**15 PARTICIPANTS
CAPACITY**

To Register, contact:

Community Wellness (780) 585-3741