

Ermineskin Newsletter March 19, 2025
Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin Niskipîsim Kekâc Nîstanaw

$$\sigma^n P \Lambda^c q \bar{b} - \sigma^n C_a^0$$

A group of four women are standing outdoors, holding a long, light blue banner. The banner features a circular logo on the left with a stylized figure and the letters 'E' and 'S' on either side. To the right of the logo, the text 'ERMINESKIN WOMEN'S SHELTER SOCIETY' is written in large, bold, black capital letters. The women are dressed in winter clothing, including jackets and scarves. In the background, there are parked vehicles, including a white Jeep, and some buildings under a clear sky.



brated annually on **March 8th**. This global event recognizes the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. It also aims to raise awareness about the ongoing struggle for gender equality and women's rights.

The theme of International Women's Day varies each year to highlight specific challenges that women face worldwide. For instance, previous themes have addressed issues such as gender equality, women's health, the elimination of violence against women, and the empowerment of women in leadership roles. *Cont'd*

1

International Women's Day (IWD) significantly impacts Indigenous women by highlighting the unique challenges they face due to gender, race, and culture. Here's how:

1. Raising Awareness of Challenges

Indigenous women encounter serious issues like violence, discrimination, and cultural erasure. IWD amplifies their voices and helps draw attention to urgent matters such as:

- Violence Against Indigenous Women: They are at a higher risk of experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence. IWD focuses on this critical issue and advocates for action.

- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women: This crisis affects countless families. IWD raises awareness and demands justice for those who have gone missing or been murdered.

2. Celebrating Cultural Identity

Indigenous women are vital in preserving their communities' traditions and cultures. IWD honors their contributions while emphasizing the need to protect their cultural identity against external threats.

3. Advocacy for Land Rights and Environmental Justice

Indigenous women are essential in protecting their ancestral lands and advocating for environmental issues. IWD recognizes their leadership and struggles for land rights.

Overall, IWD empowers Indigenous women by elevating their voices, challenging stereotypes, and promoting unity among those who share similar struggles. It highlights critical issues like healthcare and education that impact their lives, making it a crucial platform for raising awareness and advocating for gender equality.

CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT IN FIRST NATIONS

CFSP AND JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

In 2023, the First Nations-in-Assembly unanimously approved the AFN Resolution 04/2023, Revised Final Settlement Agreement on Compensation for First Nations Children and Families.

Starting March 10, 2025, First Nations individuals who are over the age of majority who were affected by discrimination in the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program can submit a Claim.

Eligible Class Members include First Nations individuals who were removed from their homes as Children between April 1, 1991, and March 31, 2022, while on reserve or in the Yukon and placed into care funded by Indigenous Services Canada, as well as their Caregiving Parents or Caregiving Grandparents.

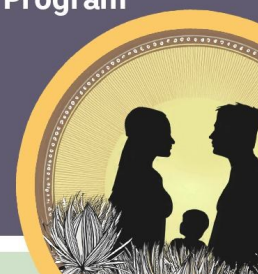


Class Action Settlement on Discrimination in First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle

Claims Period Opens on March 10, 2025, for:

Removed Child Class

Removed Child Family



The Final Settlement Agreement (FSA) on Compensation is entirely separate from the Draft Agreement on Long-Term Reform (LTR). Efforts on long-term reform remain underway in accordance with the AFN Resolutions.

Help is available to support Claimants with the Claims Process.

Visit www.fnchildclaims.ca or call, 1-833-852-0755, for more details.

CREE CORNER

RABBIT- WÂPOS



CANDY- SÎWÂS



EASTER

KIHICI KÎSIKÂW- P"ΔΓ PṚḄ°

EGGS-MANAWEW



HUNT-
NOCICIEWIN



MAY 30, 31, JUNE 1ST, 2025

ERMINESKIN CREE NATION

SAVE THE DATE

2025 Pow Wow

March Sale

- Travel Mugs & Tumblers 10% off
- Kitchenware's 10% off
- Sheer Shawls 10% off
- Hoodie's 10% off
- Wallet's 10% off
- Towel Sets 10% off



pihtwâhew
Λ"Ç"ᐅ° GIFT SHOP

Randy Littlechild Broke Barriers as Alberta's first Certified First Nations Medic

Randy Littlechild, member of the Ermineskin First Nation, is a dedicated First Nations leader in the field of healthcare. He currently serves as the executive director of Maskwacis Health Services (MHS), an organization committed to providing holistic healthcare to the Maskwacis Cree Nations, which include the Samson, Ermineskin, Louis Bull, and Montana First Nations.

In addition to his role at MHS, Littlechild was elected as the chair of the board of directors for the First Nations Health Consortium (FNHC) on Oct. 1, 2024. A founding member of the FNHC, he has been an active board member since 2017, contributing to the organization's mission to enhance health services for First Nations children and families across Alberta.

Littlechild was born at the Charles Camshell Hospital in Edmonton and grew up in the city. He was impacted by the sixties scoop and lived in foster care throughout his childhood. When he left care, he joined the army reserves and chose to work in the medical field. While there he learned about medical first aid and providing medical assistance. He also had an opportunity to work as a registered nursing orderly.

While hitchhiking one evening, Littlechild was picked up by a guy who had a conversation with him about a new, one-of-a-kind program being developed at the University of Alberta. He encouraged Littlechild to apply. He did, was accepted, and became one of six students who graduated as the first cohort of the new Operating Room Technician Program (ORT). Littlechild worked as an ORT at the Alberta University Hospital for a few years and then realized that he really liked working in the ambulance area.

Littlechild then went to work for the City of Edmonton as an employee of the Edmonton Ambulance Authority. At the time, there were no strict regulations and workers only required a class four driver's licence and first aid training. Individuals also had to be over the age of twenty-five to receive a class four license. While at the city, he made history as he became the first certified First Nations Emergency Paramedic in Alberta. Today, they are called Advanced Care Paramedics. The city assisted Littlechild with the training at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT). He studied from 1983 to 1985 and graduated from the program.

Littlechild also worked part-time in Maskwacis. While there, he helped the late Ernest Leclair set up an ambulance service in Samson Cree Nation in 1985. It was the first Advanced Life Support Ambulance Service on a reserve in Alberta.

Littlechild said "The beginning of the Maskwacis Ambulance Service is what I am most proud about. We got it going as the first ALS service on a First Nations reserve." Nation members are more receptive to First Nation responders. Today, trained First Nations members are now driving the ambulance and are part of the team. Littlechild says that there are many benefits to this.

"If you are a Cree speaker, and you are talking to an Elder that you are picking up, you can talk to them in Cree and get a better understanding of their immediate needs."

There are lab technicians, x-ray technicians - a lot of people that work in hospitals now but unfortunately not enough First Nations people are occupying those roles.



Littlechild dedicated 35 years at the city in a variety of roles. He even became the first president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) for the city and led workers through two strikes. In Edmonton, CUPE represents workers employed by the city and other public institutions, such as those in public schools, healthcare facilities, and municipal services.

"We went on strike twice for wages and other things. We got a lot of gains: better wages, ballistic vests, protective gloves, and a lot of stuff for safety, including better hours and better working conditions," said Littlechild.

When he started working there was a lot of racism towards First Nations people, even among the co-workers he worked with. Some workers would make fun of the First Nations accents.

"It took a long time for change, but Littlechild says the newer generation is better. It was hard for him to accept, but he let it go over his head and worked through it.

Littlechild cared more about the people he picked up on the street and focused on helping them. He said it also took a while for hospitals to accept the paramedics. They didn't understand what

the paramedics could do, but now they are realizing how important they are to the health team.

Today, over 40 years later, Littlechild continues to create positive change.

As the executive director of MHS, he has helped to create a health system that integrates modern healthcare with Indigenous traditions. Under his leadership, MHS provides holistic care that addresses the mental, physical,

emotional, and spiritual health needs of the Maskwacis Cree Nations.

Littlechild encourages First Nations youth to get involved in the health field.

"Don't be scared. Go ahead and take the nursing program, the licensed practical nurse. Go become an emergency medical technician ambulance worker or advanced care paramedic," he said.

"It only takes a few years of study to begin. Also, nursing is up to four years of study and you can go on to take a masters degree as well. You have to have a strong stomach; you have to have a strong heart."

Littlechild obviously has both. His extensive involvement in both frontline work and healthcare administration underscores his commitment to improving the health outcomes of First Nations and promoting cultural values within the broader health field.

His journey is more than just about treating physical ailments – it's been about empowering First Nation's to take control of their own health while honouring their cultural heritage.

By Kinnukana, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

**REASSERTING OUR SOVEREIGNTY:
DEFENDING TREATY NATIONS AND
CHALLENGING THE GOVERNMENT OF
CANADA AND ALBERTA'S MISLEADING
CLAIMS OF AUTHORITY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 2025

We, the tribal peoples of Onihcikiskwapiwin- Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Kehewin Cree Nation, Onion Lake Cree Nation, Beaver Lake Cree Nation, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Ermineskin Cree Nation, Louis Bull Tribe, Samson Cree Nation and Montana First Nation of Treaty No. 6 Territory as represented by our onikaniwak, hereby make it known to the settler society and Crown governments that when our ancestors entered into Treaties with the Crown in 1876, they did so to establish a binding and formal relationship based on mutual recognition and shared commitments. Not mere legal agreements: the Treaties were made through our laws, governance structures, and spiritual traditions that have guided our peoples since time immemorial. Treaty No. 6 is a sacred covenant, witnessed by kîse manito, lasting for as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the waters flow.

Increasingly we feel that we must bring these understandings to the forefront as all levels of government purport to assert sovereignty, thereby ignoring our existence without clearly and formally recognizing us, the First Peoples on our own lands and territories. As federal and provincial governments navigate the increasingly erratic political climate nationally and abroad, we remind them – there is unfinished Treaty business on the table. Treaty business, that requires our free, prior and informed consent and not the manufactured consent of non-rights holding regional or national organizations.

Treaties Are a Recognition of our Sovereignty—Not a Grant of Rights

The Treaty-making process did not create new rights—making Treaty is recognition of pre-existing rights and a commitment to respect them, without any interference. This is confirmed in the Treaty of Niagara and the Two Row Wampum that is also found in petroglyphs on our lands carrying oral traditions of Treaty teachings.

The Crown required our consent through Treaty making to enter our territories and we agreed to share our lands, laws and way of life. Our ancestral leaders, matriarchs and headmen, entered into these agreements based on our own laws and governance structures, establishing an ever-enduring relationship.

At no point did we surrender jurisdiction and Inherent authority over our lands, resources, and ways of life. Canada and the Crown's Ongoing Treaty Obligations

When Alberta became a province in 1905, it did not supersede the Treaty or the permanent relationship it conferred.

Peoples and the Crown, with all parties bound by the sacred commitments. Canada did not replace the Crown as a Treaty partner but inherited the legal obligations and remains responsible for upholding the Treaty responsibility. Treaties were made through oral agreements, traditions, and our governance structures. These understandings remain central to the Treaties full meaning, true spirit and true intent. The Crown's written record does not override the oral commitments and shared understandings that our ancestors upheld when entering Treaty.



"Reasserting Our Sovereignty:
Defending Treaty Nations and
Challenging the Government of
Canada and Alberta's Misleading
Claims of Authority"



The Province of Alberta's claims of jurisdiction over Treaty lands relies on the 1930 Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (NRTA). The NRTA was passed without our free, prior and informed consent does not override Treaty rights. Treaties remain the highest authority governing our relationship with the Crown, and no unilateral provincial or federal policy changes that.

Premier Danielle Smith's stated claims of sovereignty and ownership violate the fundamental principles of the Treaty relationship. Her alliance with 'Take Back Alberta' demonstrates an agenda that desires to assert control over our lands that were never ceded nor surrendered to the province. We call upon King Charles III, our ally through Treaty, to uphold the Crown's binding Treaty obligations, which remain in full force and effect.

We demand that the Government of Canada fulfill its legal obligations by publicly rejecting Alberta's overreach and reaffirm that Treaty lands remain under the jurisdiction of our peoples. Canada must assist us to prevent Alberta from continuing to encroach and overreach on matters that require our free, prior and informed consent. We seek support from all international community and legal bodies to remind Canada of its duty to uphold the Treaty agreements we made with the Imperial Crown.

A Global Call to Defend the Treaty Relationship and Demand Honour of the Crown

We call upon:

1. The Crown, through King Charles III, Great Britain and Canada, to uphold the binding Treaty obligations.
2. The Government of Canada to intervene on Alberta Premier Danielle Smith's overreach to our lands, resources and Treaty obligations.
3. All allies and Treaty supporters to reject Alberta's encroachment and undermining of the Treaty relationship
4. The international community, including the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to ensure Canada respects its legal obligations.
5. Investors and businesses to recognize that economic stability depends on respecting Treaty rights and tribal peoples sovereignty.

Our lands continue to be governed according to Treaty, and we will ensure that the obligations and protections enshrined in those Treaties are upheld.

We will enforce our Treaty rights through legal, diplomatic, and international channels to prevent any further violations by Alberta or Canada.

We will continue to resist all activities that undermine our lands, rights, and responsibilities for future generations.

On behalf of the tribal peoples of Onihcikiskwapiwin- Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Kehewin Cree Nation, Onion Lake Cree Nation, Beaver Lake Cree Nation, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Ermineskin Cree Nation, Louis Bull Tribe, Samson Cree Nation and Montana First Nation of Treaty No. 6 Territory.

Okimaw Jason Whiskeyjack Okimaw Vernon Watchmaker Okimaw Henry Lewis

Saddle Lake Cree Nation Kehewin Cree Nation Onion Lake Cree Nation

Okimaw Sheldon Sunshine Okimaw Gary Lameman Okimaw Vernon Saddleback

Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation Beaver Lake Cree Nation Samson Cree Nation

Okimaw Joel Mykat Okimaw Desmond Bull Okimaw Ralph Cattleman

Ermineskin Cree Nation Louis Bull Tribe Montana First Nation.

**For inquires please contact the ECN Governance Office: Collin Wildcat Ermineskin Cree Nation
External Affairs Director (780) 585-3741.**

Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations



PRESS RELEASE

Responding to U.S. threats, Treaty No. 6 First Nations encourage partnership opportunities

March 10, 2025 (Treaty No. 6 Territory) — The U.S.'s insistence on referring to our Land as the 51st State is offensive and wrong. As Grand Chief of the Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations, I remind our southern neighbours that Canada is on Treaty Land. Our First Nations are sovereign Nations with Treaty Rights forever; we stand against U.S. aggression.

First Nations remain willing partners in infrastructure and trade opportunities. The Government of Canada and its provincial governments must focus on internal partnerships with First Nations across the country — Indigenous Peoples can be the answer. With respect for our economic sovereignty — as full-equity partners — the contributions of First Nations must be recognized, understood and viewed as a solution. We are in this together.

We must look for new ways to diversify our economies. Canada is a resource-based country — critical minerals, energy resources, grains, forestry and water are embedded in our Treaty Territories. We remind governments across the country that resource extraction requires the involvement of First Nations. The Government of Canada and its provincial governments have a duty to consult First Nations before any project is undertaken and cannot break ground, develop or build on our Land until we allow it.

As the cost of living increases due to U.S. uncertainty for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, we must all come together in unity, strength and leadership. Through cooperation and adherence to Treaty, we can break away from U.S. dependency and foster relationships here at home and in markets abroad — all with Indigenous Peoples and the next seven generations in mind.

In partnership and friendship, aiy hiy,
Grand Chief Greg Desjarlais

Media Contact: Jill McKenzie | pipikwan pêhtâkwan | jill@pipikwanpehtakwan.com

ISC Alberta Region-Update for Chiefs

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) develops and delivers holistic approaches to social, healthcare and infrastructure services to our Indigenous partners by working collaboratively to improve access to high quality services for First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

March 14, 2025
edition #173

Measles Edition

Current Alberta Context

There are confirmed cases of measles in Alberta.

There is currently a measles outbreak in a northern Alberta community. The origin of the outbreak is not yet known. In recent months there has been an increase in measles cases in other parts of Canada and the United States.

Measles is a serious viral illness. It is airborne and highly transmissible.

Measles is one of the most contagious diseases in the world and can lead to serious infection. Children under the age of five, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with a weak immune system are most likely to get complications from measles infection.

Those who are not vaccinated or are only partially vaccinated for measles are most at risk for contracting the disease.

✓ **Two doses of measles vaccine is 99% effective.**



Question:

Why is measles such a big deal?

Answer:

Measles is one of the most contagious diseases in the world and can lead to serious infection. Hospitalization can occur in approximately one of every five people.

Serious complications of measles, particularly in unvaccinated children, can include pneumonia, hearing loss, blindness, and brain swelling. For those who are pregnant, this disease can cause premature labour or miscarriage.

There is also evidence that measles can suppress the immune system for months to years after the infection.

There is no specific treatment for measles. Medical care addresses symptom relief and management of complications.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/COMMUNITY EVENTS



Ermineskin Cree Nation

WE ARE HIRING!

March 11, 2025

OPEN POSITIONS:

- ✓ **Warehouse Worker the Ermineskin Food Bank Department**
CLOSING: March 24, 2025
- ✓ **Personal Service Aid with the Ermineskin Assisted Daily Living department**
CLOSING: March 25, 2025
- ✓ **Council Administrative Assistant with the Ermineskin Administration department**
CLOSING: March 25, 2025
- ✓ **Personal Maintenance Service Aid with the Ermineskin Assisted Daily Living department**
CLOSING: March 25, 2025
- ✓ **Archives Assistant with the Ermineskin Office Administration department**
CLOSING: March 25, 2025

Please submit applications, resume and criminal record check to:
faith@ermineskin.ca

APPLY NOW



Empowering Education, Inspiring Futures

Apply Today!

maskwacised.ca/careers

To see available career opportunities, please visit our Careers page online. Our Careers page offers:

- Easy to follow steps; no complicated setup;
- User friendly application forms;
- Email notifications for new postings within your job preferences.

Please visit maskwacised.ca/careers
Postings added regularly.



YOUNG SPIRIT WINDS
YOUTH TREATMENT PROGRAM

MIYOSKAMIN

~Spring~

APRIL 7 - JUNE 13, 2025

Spring is a time of rebirth and transition, the snow melts into her waterways, giving nourishment to all living things.

Ceremonies, songs, and stories ground us, celebrating Mother Earth's next life cycle.

**MALE / FEMALE
AGES 12 - 17**

**MONDAY - FRIDAY
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**TRANSPORTATION
& MEALS PROVIDED**

**INCENTIVE &
CERTIFICATE**

The Youth Day Treatment Program helps with the following:

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

FOR INFORMATION / INTAKE CONTACT:

MYSWS: 780-585-2219

Karen Longmuir, Program Supervisor - Email: klongmuir@youngspiritwinds.com

Susan Lenzin, Outreach Worker - Email: slenzin@youngspiritwinds.com

ERMINESKIN JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL GYM
TRADITIONAL FEAST AT 4:00 P.M.

KKI ROUND DANCE

APRIL 12 2025
6:00 P.M.

MCS: Elmer Rattlesnake, Mountain Cree Camp

Ben Cardinal, Saddle Lake Cree Nation

STICKMAN: Jamison Larocque, Maskwacis

INVITED SINGERS: Marlon Deschamps- Northern Cree

Leandre Tootoosis- Poundmaker

Terry Paskemin- Blackstone

Dallas Waskahat- Cree Confederation

First 20 singers paid - Light lunch provided - Giveaway
No outside solicitation. This is a drug & alcohol FREE event.
Security on site.

Contact: Andrea 780-585-3721 Andrea.M@kkamik.com
KKI is not responsible for theft, damages or injury.

ALL MINORS MUST HAVE ADULT SUPERVISION

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

AVIATION FOUNDATIONS PROGRAM

PROGRAM STARTS: March 24, 2025

Deadline to Apply: **March 19, 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:

- Willingness to obtain a Class 7 driver's license
- High School Diploma or GED
- Able to work outdoors and lift heavy objects

For training inquiries, please call:

N.E.S.T

780 585 0191

**APPLY
TODAY!**



**ERMINESKIN
CREE NATION**

CHANNER
CONSULTING & TRAINING



CLOSURE NOTICE

To Our Valued Customers,

We regret to inform you that Taco Time will be permanently closing its doors on June 1, 2025. After careful consideration, we have decided not to renew our franchise agreement. As a result, our final day of operations will be May 31, 2025.

On behalf of the staff and management of Taco Time and NGCI, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our customers from the Four Nations and surrounding communities. Your loyalty and support over the years have meant so much to us.

Thank you for your continued support.



**ERMINESKIN BRIGHTER FUTURES
WĀPAN ACĀKWAK YOUTH GROUP PRESENTS:**



MARCH 21ST, 2025

JIM RATTLESNAKE BUILDING, MASKWACIS, AB

MC's: Elmer Rattlesnake

Monty Sunchild

Stickman: Nathan Littlechild

First 15 singers paid

Pipe Ceremony: 4PM

Feast: 5PM

Round Dance to follow

Youth Group Giveaway

Lunch will be provided

Zero tolerance for drugs or alcohol. Security on site.
Ermineskin Cree Nation and Ermineskin Brighter Futures will not be held responsible for any loss, theft, or personal injury sustained while attending the Round Dance.

780-585-2000

wapanacawak@outlook.com

Maskwacis Counselling & Support Services

presents

ANNUAL ROUND DANCE
SATURDAY MARCH 29TH, 2025
DOORS OPEN 7:00 PM
AT H.B.M.C.

NEW BEGINNINGS



NEED MORE INFORMATION? CALL US | 780-585-2268 |

SECURITY ON SITE | GIVE AWAY | MIDNIGHT LUNCH
NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL ALLOWED
FIRST 25 DRUMMERS TO BE PAID
NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFT OR DAMAGES

Ermineskin Fiscal 2025-26 Budget Presentation



March 31st, 2025



10 am - 12 pm



N. O.K Building

Lunch will be served
light refreshments will be
available.



Ermineskin Community Wellness Presents

Intergenerational Wellness Workshop

UNDERSTANDING FAMILY DYNAMICS

April 15 - 17, 2025
9:30 am - 4:00 pm
Wayside Inn, Wetaskiwin

~ Limited Spots ~ Subject to Change ~

Register with Ermineskin Community Wellness at (780)585-3741

