



Ermineskin Newsletter April 15, 2026

Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin Ayikîpîsim Niyânanosâp

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N.R.T.A “Unfinished Business” National Assembly of Treaty Chiefs

The NRTA Conference, held at the River Cree Resort & Casino from March 30 to April 2, 2026, brought together Treaty Chiefs, leaders, Elders, youth, and community members from across the Prairies for a powerful, unified call for action. Hosted by Kehewin Cree Nation in Treaty No. 6 Territory, the gathering titled “*Unfinished Business – A National Assembly of Treaty Chiefs on the Constitutional Future of the NRTA*” focused on the ongoing impacts of the 1930 Natural Resources Transfer Agreements and the urgent need to address their constitutional and Treaty implications.



Dr. Wilton Littlechild, Chief Joel Mykat, and Director of Treaty Governance Collin Wildcat

Over several days, participants engaged in meaningful discussions centered on land, water, and resource jurisdiction, emphasizing that the NRTA continues to shape federal and provincial decision-making in ways that affect Treaty Nations today. The conference created space for both reflection and strategy, reinforcing that these issues are not historical alone, but ongoing and deeply connected to the future of Indigenous governance and sovereignty.

At the heart of the discussions was a shared understanding that the NRTA transferred control of lands and natural resources to provincial governments without the free, prior, and informed consent of First Nations. This transfer, widely viewed as a violation of Treaty agreements, has had lasting consequences on the ability of First Nations to fully exercise their inherent rights and responsibilities.

Speakers throughout the conference emphasized the importance of returning to the original spirit and intent of the treaties. Sol Sanderson reflected on this principle, stating that “our treaties were not about surrender—they were about sharing and living together in peace.” His words served as a reminder that treaties were meant to establish relationships based on mutual respect, not unilateral control.

There was also a strong focus on responsibility across generations. Jerry Saddleback Sr. spoke about the duty borne by today’s leaders, saying, “We carry the responsibility of those who came before us, and we must ensure the next generations inherit what was promised.” This message resonated deeply, reinforcing that the work being done today is directly tied to the well-being of future generations.



Elder Jerry Saddleback Sr.

The conference also highlighted the need for coordinated action and a clear strategic path forward. Discussions pointed to the importance of unified leadership, legal advocacy, and political engagement in addressing the NRTA. Leaders called for nation-to-nation dialogue with governments and emphasized that future resource development must include First Nations as full partners, including fair revenue sharing and recognition of jurisdiction.

Dr. Wilton Littlechild spoke to the broader legal and international context, noting that “our rights are not just recognized locally, they are affirmed globally.” His remarks reinforced the importance of grounding Treaty advocacy in both Canadian constitutional law and international human rights frameworks, including recognition of Indigenous rights on the global stage.

Education and awareness were also identified as key components of moving forward. Garret Renville highlighted the importance of understanding history as a source of strength, stating that “when our people understand the truth of our history, we become stronger in shaping our future.” This perspective emphasized the role of knowledge in empowering communities and supporting informed leadership.

Ovide Mercredi reflected on the long-standing struggle for recognition and respect of Treaty rights, reminding participants that “we have always known our rights. The challenge has been ensuring they are

respected and upheld.” His words underscored both the resilience of First Nations and the ongoing need for accountability and action.

The conference also recognized the essential role of women in leadership and cultural continuity. Regena Crowchild spoke to this strength, sharing that “our women have always been the backbone of our Nations, carriers of culture, language, and life.” Her message highlighted the importance of honoring and supporting women's voices in shaping the future of Indigenous governance.

As the gathering came to a close, there was a clear and unified message: the status quo is no longer acceptable. Treaty leaders collectively called for immediate action, including repudiating the NRTA and establishing meaningful nation-to-nation discussions that recognize First Nations' inherent rights and jurisdiction.

The conference left participants with a renewed sense of purpose and direction. It was not only a space for dialogue, but a catalyst for action grounded in Treaty principles, guided by Elders and knowledge keepers, and driven by a shared commitment to future generations. The conversations at River Cree Resort & Casino made it clear that the work ahead will require unity, persistence, and strong leadership, and that the momentum for change is growing.



In the end, the gathering reaffirmed that this is not simply unfinished business; it is a continuing responsibility. The path forward will be shaped by those who carry the knowledge, uphold the treaties, and remain committed to ensuring that the promises made are finally honored.

CREE CORNER

Frog Month April

ayîki pîsim



WEIGHTROOM REMINDERS

WE ARE OPEN MON - FRI
8 AM TO 8 PM

WHEN USING OUR FACILITIES

- ✓ ABSOLUTELY **NO OUTSIDE FOOD**
- ✓ NO MINORS UNDER THE AGE OF 10, MINORS AGES 10-15 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADULT.
- ✓ MUST SIGN-IN IN OUR MAIN OFFICE
- ✓ SANITIZE & PUT AWAY EQUIPMENT
- ✓ MUST WEAR CLEAN SHOES AND APPROPRIATE GYM ATTIRE
- ✓ NO SLAMMING WEIGHTS, RESPECT EQUIPMENT
- ✓ BE COURTEOUS AND RESPECTFUL OF OTHERS

FOR MORE INFO:

(780) 585-3088



EXTENDED

SALE

40%-60% OFF

- ON SELECTED CONFECTIONERY & SNACK ITEMS



SNACKS



GREAT SAVINGS

EXCLUDES
BEVERAGES
& TOBACCO

DON'T MISS OUT - SHOP BEFORE IT'S GONE!

THANK YOU * REMINDER * THANK YOU

PROVINCIALS HOCKEY HIGHLIGHTS



Mila Moosewah-Littlechilds, Tatum Ermineskin, Caryn(CJ) Stoney and Makayla Saddleback took home GOLD for U13



Congratulations to our U18B Maskwacis Littlechild team who took SILVER



Kieran Rattlesnake U11 gold medal for the Slave Lake Team



Congratulations Madeleine Roan-House on your U11F gold medal for the Alexander Braves Team.



Leland Littlechild bronze medal win with the Saddlelake Warriors U18 Buffalo division.



Congratulations to the U18B Maskwacis Cutarm team that took bronze medal in the Bear division



Lazura Roan U18 gold medal for the Paul Band Eagles Team.



Viktor Rattlesnake on your U13 silver medal for Slave Lake team



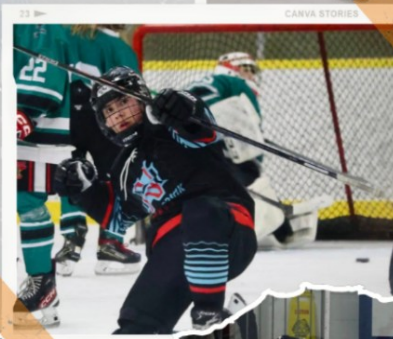
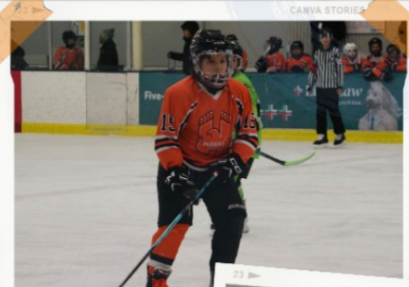
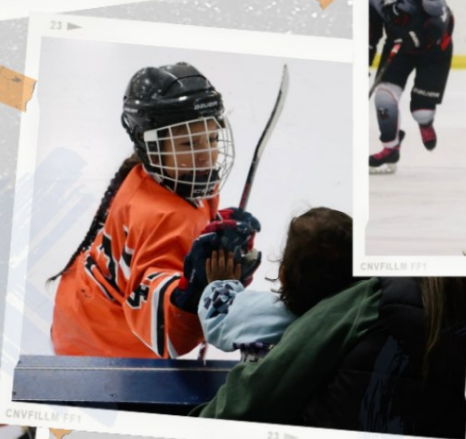
U15 Elite Division Gold Medal AB Native Provincial Champions! Congratulations to goalie Wyatt, Jacob Bigchild, Jacob Saddleback and assistant coach Ordell Saddleback and the Kapaweno Muskwak team! Head Coach: Ross Willier



Bronze for Wynter/Enoch. Niko's medal game, came up short for bronze but the enthusiasm for the game of hockey



ALBERTA
PROVINCIAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS





TREATY HOCKEY HIGHLIGHTS





U11A Silver Medalists



U11F Silver Medalists



U13F Silver Medalists



U15A Gold Medalists



U9C Bronze Medalists



U15B Gold Medalists



U21M Silver Medalists



U13B Bronze Medalists

Stand with First Nations Rally Draws Voices of Unity in Edmonton

On April 8, hundreds gathered at Churchill Square in downtown Edmonton for the “Stand with First Nations” rally, an event that brought together Elders, youth, leadership, and allies from across Treaties 6, 7, and 8.

Held outside the provincial courthouse, the demonstration coincided with ongoing legal challenges by several First Nations seeking to halt efforts toward a potential referendum on Alberta separation. Leaders and organizers emphasized that such political moves cannot proceed without meaningful consultation and consent from First Nations, whose rights are constitutionally protected.

Speakers throughout the rally delivered a unified message: Treaties are not relics of the past, but living, binding agreements. Chiefs and representatives stressed that these agreements, signed between First Nations and the Crown, remain foundational to Canada’s legal and moral framework. (denetha.ca)

The rally highlighted growing concerns that proposed legislative changes and separatist initiatives could undermine Treaty rights. Legal teams representing First Nations have argued in court that any move toward separation would directly impact constitutionally protected rights, including land use and freedom of movement across traditional territories. (Alberta Native News)

Participants described the gathering as peaceful but firm an assertion of sovereignty,



responsibility, and unity. Chiefs from multiple Nations spoke about the enduring relationship between First Nations and the land, reinforcing the point that decisions about Alberta's future must include those whose rights predate the province itself.

“This is about more than politics,” one speaker noted. “It is about the recognition that First Nations are not stakeholders, they are rights holders.”

The rally also drew support from community members and public officials, reflecting a broader call for dialogue grounded in respect, law, and reconciliation. Attendees described the event as a “movement of love” for the land, for future generations, and for the integrity of Treaty relationships. (Alberta Native News)

Organizers of “Stand with First Nations” say the movement will continue through both legal channels and public engagement, encouraging Albertans to learn more about Treaty rights and the responsibilities that come with living on Treaty land.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/COMMUNITY EVENTS

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TRAINING

PROGRAM STARTS: **April 27, 2026**
 Deadline to Apply: April 22, 2026

This program will introduce learners to the foundational skills required to excel in their frontline administrative and/or support roles, and to provide outstanding service to internal and external clients alike. Key learnings of this training program include:

- Professional communications
- Customer service
- Interpersonal skills
- Being an Administrative Rock Star
- The Power of Being Proactive
- Working Remotely and Virtually
- Records and Information Management
- Event Support and Management
- Productivity
- Processes
- Project Management
- Executive Service
- Indigenous Governance
- Computers 101
- WHMIS
- **And more!**

For training inquiries, please call:

N.E.S.T
780-585-0191

APPLY TODAY!



GST EXEMPTION

Customers must present a **valid status card** at the time of purchase to receive **GST exemption.**



NO CARD PRESENTED = GST WILL BE CHARGED.

Thank you for your understanding.

ELEMENTS



Firetack Member Training

May 11 - 16th, 2026

- 8 trainees accepted
- Resume and Cover Letter
- Physically Fit
- Drivers Licence will be preferred

Call or Text
 780.312.6124

Email

elementsfiretack@gmail.com



GET YOUR SAFETY TICKETS THIS APRIL!

APRIL 28-30
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

FOOD SAFETY • WHMIS • CSTS

SIGN UP WITH YOUR CASEWORKER.



OPEN TO PIGEON LAKE ECN MEMBERS
AND RESIDENTS

KANAWEMAHWASOWIN KAMIK INC.

MOSS BAG MAKING ACTIVITY

COME LEARN HOW TO MAKE
A TRADITIONAL MOSS BAG &
BONNET FOR A THREE DAY
ACTIVITY. TEACHINGS BY
LOCAL ARTISTS AND ELDERS!



LIMITED
SPOTS
AVAILABLE

LOCATION:
VILLAGE CREEK INN

DATE AND TIME:

*APRIL 21-23,
2026*

9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. DAILY

LIGHT LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

TO SIGN-UP OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ANDREA AT
ANDREA.M@KKAMIK.COM

DATE AND TIME ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

2026 DROP-IN FLOOR HOCKEY

with Kaedin Larocque-Wolfe



MONDAYS

Starting APRIL 20, 2026



Time:

5:00pm - 7:00pm



Location:

Jim RS Building



Contact:

(780) 585-3088

Ermineskin Health & Wellness

April 2026

Women's Wellness Group

Day Program - Every Thursday

Drop-In Day Program - Every Thursday - First (30) Accepted

Dates:

April 2, 2026
April 9, 2026
April 16, 2026
April 23, 2026
April 30, 2026

Time:

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
*Snacks & Lunch
Provided

Location:

Jim Rattlesnake
Health & Wellness
Classroom

Topics:

Mental and Emotional
Wellness
*Limited to 30 Participants

Registration:

Contact ECN Health
& Wellness at
(780)585-2000





ECN HEALTH & WELLNESS
PRESENTS

Mother's and Daughter's Wellness Workshop

May 5th, 2026
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Location: Best Western
Wayside Inn, Wetaskiwin**

Relations Encouraged to Apply Together:
Mothers and Daughters, Aunties and
Nieces, Kokoms and Granddaughters

Information:

- ECN Band Members Only
- First (80) Mother's & Daughter's
- Mental, Emotional, Spiritual and Physical Wellness Workshop

Registration Forms can be picked up and returned to the Ermineskin Health and Wellness Office
located at the Jim Rattlesnake Building

Please note: You will be contacted if you have been successfully registered

Ermineskin Health & Wellness

April 2026

Men's Wellness Group

Drop-In Program
First (30) Accepted

Day Program - Every Wednesday

Dates:

April 1, 2026
April 8, 2026
April 15, 2026
April 22, 2026
April 29, 2026

Time:

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
*Snacks & Lunch
Provided

Location:

Jim Rattlesnake
Health & Wellness
Classroom

Topics:

Mental and Emotional
Wellness
*Limited to 30 Participants

Registration:

Contact ECN Health
& Wellness at
(780)585-2000



Kanawemahwasowin Kamik
invites you to our

LAW DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT



For Ermineskin Cree Nation Citizens

April 16, 2026

Neyaskweyahk Okimaw Kamik (NOK)

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

ATTENDEES MUST PRE-REGISTER

LIMIT OF 60 PARTICIPANTS

All minors must attend with an adult
Dinner Provided

REGISTER NOW!

To register contact Jerry Young

Email: Jerry.Y@kkamik.com

Text: 780-312-0577 | Call: 780-585-3721

Ermineskin Health & Wellness Presents

Mother's Day Golf Tournament

Friday, May 8th, 2026

EVENT DETAILS
SUBJECT TO
CHANGE

**DORCHESTER RANCH GOLF COURSE,
WESTEROSE, AB**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY, 1ST, 2026



DEPOSIT: \$125.00

FORMAT: 3 PERSON SCRAMBLE (1 WOMAN/2 MEN) FIRST (30) TEAMS TO REGISTER

TEAM ENTRY FEE: \$375.00

FEE INCLUDES:
KP'S, LONG PUTT, SNACK AND CART

SHOTGUN START: 9:30 AM

To Register Please Contact: ECN Health & Wellness at (780) 585-2000

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