



Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin ᓃᓴᓃᓴᓴᓴ ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ

Ermineskin Newsletter May 13, 2026

Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin Opiniyâwewipîsim Nistosâp

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11th Annual Highway Clean-Up

The Ermineskin Food Bank proudly organized the 11th Annual Alberta Highway Clean-Up, uniting community members who share a commitment to caring for our environment. This event not only provided a chance for participants from Ermineskin to contribute to their community but also served as a means for raising funds for their initiatives. Those who took part in the clean-up were able to earn money for their fundraising efforts, making it a win-win for both the community and its causes. A total of 60 helpers participated in the initiative, dedicating their time and effort to keeping our community clean and beautiful. Together, participants cleared 20 kilometres of highway and 20 kilometres of roads throughout Neyaskweyahk, for an impressive 40 kilometres cleaned overall.



“It never ceases to amaze me how these wonderful people can show up and work so hard to help clean up our roads. Just imagine how beautiful our nation would be if we all came together and pitched in.” says DeAnne Lightning- Ermineskin Foodbank Manager

Community clean-up events like this are really helpful for encouraging people to take care of the environment, build pride in their neighborhood, and work together. By removing litter and

debris from our roadsides, we help reduce pollution, protect wildlife, and preserve the natural beauty of our territory for future generations.

Honouring Mother Earth means taking action to care for the land we all share. Maintaining clean highways and roadways not only creates a safer environment for both people and animals but also strengthens the sense of unity within our Nation. Through teamwork and respect for the environment, we continue building a healthier, cleaner, and more vibrant community for everyone.

Article by: Kayla Cutarm

National Red Dress Day

May 5th is National Day of Awareness for Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls and 2 spirit peoples (MMIWG2s). This day is about bringing attention to the horrific realities faced by Indigenous women, girls and 2 spirit peoples. Today, on Red Dress Day, May 5, communities gathered in honour, remembrance, and love for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ relatives (MMIWG2S+). The day serves as both a memorial and a call to action, recognizing lives taken too soon and amplifying the voices of families, survivors, and communities seeking truth, justice, healing, and safety.



Red Dress Day is often symbolized by red dresses and the image of a red hand placed over the mouth, representing the silenced voices of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ people. Each red dress stands as a powerful reminder that these individuals are not forgotten, and that their stories, lives, and legacies continue to matter.

The statistics surrounding MMIWG2S+ remain deeply alarming. Between 1980 and 2012, nearly 28% of murdered women in Alberta were Indigenous. In 2021 alone, there were nearly 100 reported cases involving missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in the province. Indigenous women in Canada are estimated to be 12 times more likely to be murdered or go missing than non-Indigenous women. Although the Government of Alberta established the MMIWG2S Council in 2022 and introduced a roadmap to reduce harm through Indigenous-led and decolonizing approaches, many families and advocates continue to call for greater accountability, action, and transparency.

To raise awareness locally, the Ermineskin Women's Shelter hosted "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes," encouraging participants to walk in women's shoes in solidarity and recognition of the ongoing crisis facing MMIWG2S+ communities. The shelter also organized a two-day "Voices of Strength and Resilience" Seminar at Bear Park, featuring speakers such as Kowatsitsawi Meloche, who shared knowledge, stories, and messages of healing and empowerment.

The event brought community members together in solidarity, grief, resilience, and hope. Every step taken honoured those who are no longer here while supporting the families and loved ones who continue to carry this burden every day. Red Dress Day reminds us all of the importance of raising awareness, demanding meaningful change, and creating a future where Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ relatives are safe, valued, protected, and heard.

If you or someone you know may be in an unsafe situation, please call 780-310-1818.

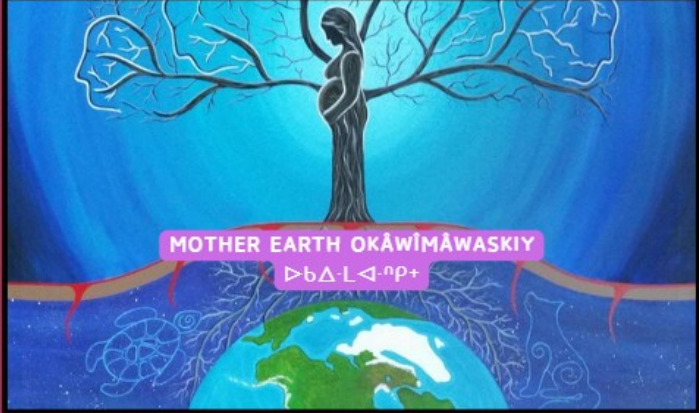
*Article by: Tara Cutarm/Isaac Ginter
Photos by: Isaac Ginter/Kayla Cutarm*



GREE CORNER

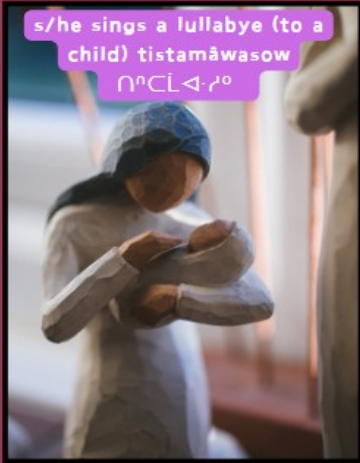


MOTHER NIKÂWIY ᓂᑲᐃᐣ+



MOTHER EARTH OKÂWÎMÂWASKIY
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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY - MIYO OKAWÎMÂW KÎSIKÂW



s/he sings a lullabye (to a child) tistamâwasow
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PROTECT KANAWEYIMOWEWIN
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GRANDMOTHER NOHKÔM
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National Firefighter Day

Happy International Firefighters Day! May 4th. Today, we pay tribute to the brave firefighters who tirelessly protect and serve our communities, saving lives with their unwavering dedication. These heroes spend countless hours on the front lines, facing danger head-on to ensure our safety. Let us take a moment to honour their commitment and sacrifice. If you encounter a firefighter today, don't forget to express your gratitude —your appreciation means the world as they continue their mission to keep us safe! - Kye Minde

Photos provided by: Richard Coyote



Ermineskin Mother's Day Celebrations 2026

This year's Mother's Day Celebration was a memorable and well-attended event, welcoming approximately 175 community members for a day filled with appreciation, connection, and fun. Guests were greeted with flowers and complimentary apparel, including t-shirts, sweaters, and crewnecks. The celebration also featured a variety of self-care and wellness activities, including massages, reflexology, foot care services, and psychic medium readings provided by "Readings by Lynne."

Participants enjoyed interactive games and activities throughout the event, including mini golf, bean bag toss, and axe throwing. Attendees also had the opportunity to express their creativity by designing personalized artwork with materials supplied by Whiskey Rose Co. The incredible turnout highlighted the strong sense of community and appreciation for the women who continue to guide, nurture, and preserve our culture for future generations.

In addition to the celebration, ECN Com-

munity Wellness hosted a Mother's Day Golf Tournament at the Dorchester Ranch & Golf Course. Thirty teams participated in the event, enjoying beautiful weather and a full day on the course. Teams were encouraged to include the special women in their lives, giving them an opportunity to compete for cash prizes and making the tournament both meaningful and exciting. The golfers brought enthusiasm and energy to the day, creating lasting memories for everyone involved.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the organizers, staff, volunteers, and the Dorchester Ranch & Golf Course for helping make both events such a success. Most importantly, we thank all the participants who came together to celebrate the incredible mothers, kokums, aunties, sisters, and caregivers within our Nation. The strength, wisdom, kindness, and love that women bring to our community continue to inspire us every day, and we look forward to celebrating them again next year.

Article/Photos by: Kayla Cutarm



Mother and Daughter Wellness Workshop

May 5, 2026, Ermineskin Community Health & Wellness kicked off celebrating our mother's in a meaningful way with a beautiful mother and daughter workshop. It was powerful to witness four speakers share their knowledge, stories, and wisdom—uplifting and reminding us of the importance of connection between generations. (Patricia I Goodwill- Littlechild, Cheryl Littlechild, Trudy Whitebear, and Laurie Buffalo)

Thank you to Ermineskin Community Health & Wellness for creating this space and for hosting this event.

Mother's Day is a time to reflect on the strength, love, and guidance of the women who shape our families and our communities. Honouring our women means more than a single

day—it's about recognizing their resilience, their teachings, and the roles they carry every day as mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and mentors.

Let's carry this spirit forward—not just this week, but every day. Our women deserve to be seen, heard, and honoured always.

“I spent the day with 60 beautiful woman from our nation for a pre-Mothers day Wellness Workshop! I enjoyed speaking on the topic of ‘healthy choices ... at any stage of life!’ The best part was ... I met new people and united with those I hadn't seen in a while. We shared, laughed and shed a few tears as woman! Powerful day.” Patricia I Goodwill – Littlechild.

Article/Photos by: Tara Cutarm



Ermineskin Education Trust Fund

The Ermineskin Education Trust Fund (EETF) continues to support the educational growth and long-term success of Ermineskin Cree Nation members through strategic planning, financial stewardship, and investments in community education programs. Over the last five years, EETF has remained committed to creating opportunities that support learners of all ages while strengthening the Nation's future.

Strategic Planning and Governance

The EETF recently completed its five-year strategic planning cycle, which focused on strengthening governance, improving accountability, and ensuring long-term sustainability. The strategic plan provides direction for decision-making, resource allocation, risk management, and performance evaluation.

The Board of Trustees and leadership continue to oversee the Trust Deed and investment activities while adapting to changing financial conditions and community needs. The current structure includes five Board Trustees, an Elder, and an Office Manager who oversees daily operations. Plans are also being explored to expand staffing capacity by adding an EETF Office Assistant.

Through careful planning and ongoing oversight, EETF continues to align its work with community values and the long-term well-being of Ermineskin Cree Nation members.

Financial Stewardship and Investments

EETF remains focused on sustainable financial growth through strategic investment management and responsible financial oversight. Investment priorities continue to focus on:

- Long-term capital growth
- Risk-adjusted returns
- Portfolio diversification
- Sustainable value creation
- Strong financial accountability

The Board of Trustees continues to monitor investments carefully to ensure the Trust Fund remains resilient during changing market conditions.

Over the 2021–2025 reporting period, operational spending exceeded budgeted projections in several areas. These increases were largely influenced by rising operational demands and higher-than-anticipated costs. In response, EETF has implemented mitigation measures while continuing to seek additional funding opportunities, partnerships, and long-term financial solutions.

Despite these challenges, EETF remains committed to supporting educational initiatives and maintaining financial sustainability for future generations.

Programs and Services

Funding provided through EETF programs and services has continued to support students and families across the Nation. Between 2021 and 2025, several support programs experienced increased participation, including:

- School supply funding
- Bus passes and transportation fees
- School fee assistance
- Student tours and activities
- Graduation support
- High school incentives

Community Report 2021-2025

One of the most significant increases was seen in the High School Credit Incentive program. In 2025 alone, 67 students graduated from high school, reflecting a major accomplishment for the Nation and demonstrating the positive impact of educational support programs.

EETF recognizes that increased participation also brings increased financial pressures. As a result, partnerships and additional funding opportunities continue to be explored to ensure these services remain accessible and sustainable.

Educational Achievements

The educational accomplishments of Ermineskin Cree Nation members continue to grow each year. Between 2021 and 2025, Nation members achieved success across multiple levels of education:

Post-Secondary Degrees

- 68 degree graduates, including Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD programs

Diploma Programs

- 53 diploma graduates across a variety of two-year programs

Certificate Programs

- 43 certificate program graduates

High School Graduates

- 216 high school graduates recognized through the Chief Dan Minde Award program
- 67 graduates reported in 2025 alone

These achievements reflect the determination, resilience, and dedication of Ermineskin Cree Nation students and families. EETF remains proud to support stu-



dents throughout their educational journeys.

Looking Ahead

As EETF moves forward, the organization remains committed to strengthening educational opportunities, improving services, and ensuring long-term financial sustainability for future generations.

Future priorities include:

- Expanding educational partnerships
- Strengthening investment growth
- Increasing support services for students
- Improving operational capacity
- Continuing transparent reporting and accountability

The Ermineskin Education Trust Fund extends its gratitude to the Board of Trustees, staff, Elders, students, families, and community members who continue to support education and lifelong learning within Ermineskin Cree Nation.

Together, we continue building a strong future through education, opportunity, and community success.

Article by: Kayla Cutarm

Ermineskin 2023-2024 Audit Presentation

The 2023–2024 audited financial report shows that Ermineskin Cree Nation continues to remain financially stable while investing in programs, services, businesses, and future opportunities for Nation members. The audit provides an overview of the Nation’s finances, including revenues, expenses, savings, investments, and Nation-owned entities.

Overall, the Nation maintained a strong financial position during the fiscal year. The report shows growth in cash and financial assets, which helps support ongoing operations, future development, and community priorities. Investments and business operations continue to play an important role in supporting the Nation’s long-term financial sustainability.

The audit also highlights the work of several Nation-owned entities and programs, including education supports, loan programs, housing and shelter services, tribal enterprises, and economic development initiatives. These entities help provide important services and opportunities for members while also contributing to the Nation’s overall economic growth.

During the year, Nation revenues were used to support essential community services, administration, operations, infrastructure, and member-focused programs. Funding was also directed toward maintaining and strengthening programs that benefit families, youth, Elders, education, and community wellness.



Chris Cholak , CPA, CA, Partner- MNP

The report notes that Ermineskin Cree Nation continues to maintain internally restricted funds and settlement allocations to help protect financial resources for future generations. These funds support long-term planning, economic stability, and future community development.

Our Nation leadership continues to focus on responsible financial management, accountability, and transparency. The annual audit is an important process that helps ensure the nation's finances are reviewed independently and managed in accordance with financial standards.

In summary, the 2023–2024 audit reflects continued financial strength, ongoing investments in Nation programs and businesses, and a commitment to supporting the well-being and future success of Ermineskin Cree Nation members.

Article by: Kayla Cutam



MASKWACIS
Lôbîcî



NEYASKWEYAHK
ERMINESKIN CREE NATION



NIPYISHKOPAHK
SAMSON CREE NATION



KISIPATNAHK
LOUIS/BULL TRIBE



AKAMIHK
MONTANA FIRST NATION



BEAR HILLS
BASKETBALL



ALBERTA INDIGENOUS GAMES 26



BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

WHAT: Alberta Indigenous Games 2026
WHEN: August 7th - 9th, 2024 (Basketball)
WHERE: Edmonton, AB (Gym Location TBA)
WHO: Ages 9-21 years old, males and females!

Custom Uniforms





SCAN to Register

Follow US for Updates



@BEARHILLS_BASKETBALL

- **Uniform Fee Costs:**
- **\$50 (Maskwacis Players)**
- **\$60 (Non-Maskwacis)**

Call/Text Klevlin Cutknife @ (780) 362-3230

Bearhillsball@gmail.com



Ermineskin Health & Wellness
IN COLLABORATION WITH KHEW AWASIS WAKAMIK CULTURAL SOCIETY

TEACHINGS & TEA

ART AND CRAFT BASED INFO SESSIONS ONCE A MONTH



FIRST 15 PARTICIPANTS!

COME CRAFT AND LEARN ABOUT PREGNANCY AND MOTHERHOOD TEACHINGS FROM ELDERS AND BIRTHWORKERS!
NEXT SESSION: MAY 25TH, 2026
JIM RATTLESNAKE BUILDING
11AM - 2PM
SUBJECT TO CHANGE


SNACKS & MATERIALS PROVIDED
PLEASE CALL 780-585-2000 TO REGISTER

✦ **PASKWÂWI MOSTOS** ✦


HIDE TEACHINGS

Please join us for hide teachings,
+ everyone welcome.

@ Ermineskin Elders Center
 May 14th, 2026
 9:30am-3:30pm



Call 780-585-3435 for more info





Ermineskin Industrial Relations Department

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE
MAY 13, 2026

TIME
AT 05:30PM - 7:30PM

LOCATION
N.O.K BUILDING

This will be a general review of EIRD and our projects, alongside one of our partners, NAIT.



Ermineskin Industrial Relations Department

PIGEON LAKE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



DATE
MAY 14, 2026



TIME
AT 05:30PM - 7:30PM



LOCATION
MA-ME O COMMUNITY HALL

This will be a general review of EIRD and our projects, alongside one of our partners, NAIT.



KANAWEMAHWASOWIN
KAMIK INC. FAMILY
WELLNESS PRESENTS

YOUTH WORKSHOP

EMBRACING CHANGE

Learn Grow Thrive



Saturdays

May 9th & May 23rd



10 am-3 pm

Workshop will offer youth an engaging blend of teachings, activities and teamwork

Light Refreshments and Lunch Provided
Limited Spots Available

To sign up: melina.a@KKAMIK.COM
Registration and Consents will be on site



MASKWACIS CREE TRIBAL COUNCIL

Is seeking two (2) youth for the First Nations Inuit Youth Employment Strategy (FNIYES), SKILLS LINK PROGRAM FOR MENTORED WORK EXPERIENCE

Open: May 1, 2026
Closed: June 2, 2026

PROGRAM ASSISTANT POSITION - LOCATION, MASKWACIS
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION - LOCATION, MASKWACIS

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS:

- FIRST NATIONS YOUTH ORDINARILY RESIDENTS ON RESERVE
- AGED 15 TO 30
- NOT IN SCHOOL, UNEMPLOYED OR UNDEREMPLOYED

TO APPLY PLEASE EMAIL RESUME AND TO INFO@MCTC.CA

Objectives of the FNIYES are to:

- provide short-term work placements for youth to increase their access to more permanent employment opportunities;
- support the development and enhancement of essential employability skills;
- promote the benefits of education as key to labor market participation;
- introduce youth to a variety of career options;
- support access to services to help youth transition to and remain in the workforce.

Maskwacis American Sign Language CLASSES

WEDNESDAYS
5 - 7PM



LOCATION:
May 2026:

Jim Rattlesnake Building

June 2026:

HBMC Classroom 1



Open to all Maskwacis & Area Participants can join Anytime!

Food Provided



780-585-2254

Ermineskin Health & Wellness

May 2026

Men's Wellness Group

**Drop-In Program
First (30) Accepted**

Day Program - Every Wednesday

Dates:

May 13, 2026
May 20, 2026
May 27, 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

Ermineskin Health & Wellness

May 2026

Women's Wellness Group

Day Program - Every Thursday

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

Dates:

May 14, 2026
May 21, 2026
May 28, 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