



Ermineskin Newsletter May 29, 2026

Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin Opiniyâwewipîsim Kekâc Nistômtanaw



Ermineskin Industrial Relations Department- General Meeting

Ermineskin Cree Nation members gathered on May 13 for the Ermineskin Industrial Relations Department (EIRD) Annual General Meeting, where important discussions focused on environmental stewardship, industry consultations, community partnerships, and the protection of Ermineskin lands and resources.

The meeting provided members with an overview of EIRD's ongoing work, including consultations on industry projects, environmental studies, and partnerships with other First Nations along Alberta's eastern slopes. Presentations highlighted the department's efforts in monitoring water quality, aquatic life, wildlife, and land impacts through research, interviews, and ongoing environmental data collection. This work helps support the protection of ancestral lands and strengthens future environmental advocacy efforts for the Nation.

A key message throughout the AGM was the importance of community involvement. Members were encouraged to share their concerns, observations, traditional knowledge, and recommendations regarding the health of the land, water, air, plants, and wildlife throughout the region. EIRD emphasized that community voices and Indigenous knowledge remain essential in guiding environmental stewardship and decision-making processes.

Residents from the Pigeon Lake area also attended the meeting on May 14 to voice concerns and provide feedback about the cumulative effects impacting Mimiw Sakahikan (Pigeon Lake). Topics discussed included the lake's water quality, the preservation of traditional lands and fishing sites, the protection of water sources, and the overall quality of life within the community. Citizens also expressed concerns regarding the increasing presence of non-Indigenous development and activity on reserve lands.

Representatives from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) also gave a presentation on their partnership with EIRD through the Indigenous Community-Led Atlases Project. The GIS-based project combines modern technology with traditional Indigenous knowledge to map



Photos by: Tara Cutarm & Kayla Cutarm

culturally significant sites, traditional place names, oral storytelling traditions, and important natural areas within Mimiw Sakahikan. By combining Nation-provided information with publicly available environmental and government data, the project aims to create a valuable tool that allows Ermineskin Cree Nation to better access, visualize, and protect important information about the area.

Additional updates during the AGM included regional lake-monitoring projects involving Pigeon Lake, Buck Lake, and Battle Lake, as well as the many community initiatives and events sponsored by EIRD over the years.

The meeting emphasized the need for unity, protecting the environment, and encouraging member involvement. These efforts are essential for safeguarding the Ermineskin Cree Nation's treaty rights, traditional lands, and the well-being of future generations. Members are encouraged to continue attending meetings, staying informed, and participating in consultation and monitoring initiatives that help shape the Nation's future.

Article by: Kayla Cutarm

CANADA'S LEGAL BATTLES OVER WATER RIGHTS

Ermineskin Cree Nation member Carol Wildcat recently spoke about the ongoing struggle for safe drinking water in First Nations communities during a major investigative report examining Canada's legal battles over water rights.

The report states that Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal government is taking a tougher legal approach against First Nations communities seeking reliable access to clean drinking water. According to the investigation, Canada has ended settlement discussions with several Alberta First Nations, continues to challenge court rulings related to water rights, and is involved in multiple ongoing legal disputes across the country.

Despite years of federal promises to improve water systems in Indigenous communities, many First Nations families continue to face unsafe or unreliable water conditions. The report noted that long-term drinking water advisories still affect dozens of communities across Canada.

Carol Wildcat shared that many Ermineskin families continue to rely on bottled water because tap water is often undrinkable. She described water that smells of rotten eggs, appears cloudy and yellow, and can cause health concerns. Wildcat also reflected on a time when the community's water was safe and "sweet" to drink, raising concerns about why



access to clean drinking water is still not guaranteed for First Nations people today.

The report also highlighted concerns from Indigenous leaders and legal representatives who believe government resources are being spent on lengthy court battles instead of directly investing in long-term water infrastructure and solutions for communities.

Leaders say the issue goes beyond infrastructure and is tied to treaty rights, reconciliation, and the health and well-being of future generations.

Ermineskin Cree Nation and other First Nations communities are expected to continue advocating for recognition of clean drinking water as a basic human right and for stronger action from the federal government.

Members can read the full investigation from the [*Investigative Journalism Bureau*](#).



CREE CORNER



Fathers Day

Ohtâwîmâw Kîsikâw
▷"CΔ·L° Pṙḅ°



Great Grandfather

Nitaniskotapan
σCσ^dC<'

Grandfather

Nimosôm
σ┘ṙ°



Father

Nôhtâwiy
▷"CΔ·+

Brother

Nitawemaw
σC▽·L°



Attention
NEXT ISSUE
June 10, 2026
Submission Deadline:
June 8, 2026
kayla@ermineskin.ca

A large aerial photograph of a powwow taking place at Maskwacis Park. The circular dance area is filled with people, and the surrounding area is packed with spectators. A sign in the foreground reads 'MASKWACIS PARK'.

OFFICIAL DATE CHANGE
ERMINESKIN CREE NATION
2026 POWWOW
CELEBRATION
JULY 14th, 15th, 16th, 2026

Keepers of My Home Workshop

Ermineskin Cree Nation youth recently took part in the “Keepers of My Home” workshop hosted by Ermineskin Property Management – CMHC at the NOK Building on May 11. The event welcomed children and youth ages 6–14 for an evening of interactive learning focused on housing health, safety, and wellness, as well as the importance of caring for their homes and community.



The workshop was presented by the First Nations Housing Professionals Association (FNHPA), a national organization that supports First Nations housing education, professional development, and community wellness initiatives across Canada. The “Keepers of My Home” program was created as a free educational resource to teach children and youth the importance of maintaining safe, healthy living spaces and to encourage pride, responsibility, and community care.

Throughout the workshop, youth learned important life skills related to home maintenance, cleanliness, safety, and healthy living. The program is built around four main themes: traditional teachings, First Nations housing topics, home maintenance, and home safety. These teachings are designed to help youth better understand the role housing plays in personal wellness, family health, and overall community well-being.

The “Keepers of My Home” program also combines Indigenous knowledge with modern educational tools, including interactive activities, videos, worksheets, and online learning games designed specifically for First Nations

students from kindergarten to Grade 12. The program was developed with guidance from Indigenous housing experts, educators, artists, authors, and community members to ensure the teachings remain culturally relevant and community-focused.

Programs like this can have many long-term benefits for Nation members by helping youth develop confidence, responsibility, and awareness from a young age. Teaching children about housing, health and safety can help strengthen families, reduce housing-related challenges, and encourage future generations to take pride in caring for their homes and communities. The program also encourages youth to become future “housing champions” who can share what they learn with their families and community members.

By supporting opportunities like “Keepers of My Home,” Ermineskin Cree Nation continues to invest in the future of its youth while promoting healthy homes, stronger families, and community wellness. Events such as these help provide young people with valuable life skills that can positively impact both current and future generations.

Article by: Kayla Cutarm

Administrative Support Program Graduation

The Ermineskin Cree Nation sends heartfelt congratulations to the 10 graduates of the Administrative Support Program hosted through Channer Consulting & Training in partnership with the Ermineskin NEST, Ne-yaskweyahk Employment Skills & Training Program.

Your commitment throughout this training program is something to be proud of. Completing this achievement is an important step toward building strong futures, careers, and opportunities for yourselves, your families, and your community.

One graduate has plans of considering to continue their education through the Administrative Certification Program at Maskwacis Cultural College.

We wish all graduates success and many opportunities in your future careers, education, and professional journeys. May you continue to grow in confidence, knowledge, and strength as you move forward into the next chapter of your lives.

Congratulations to each of you on this

well-earned achievement!

And thank you to all the instructors for supporting the students: Colleen Heidecker, Sara, Jackknife, Laura St. Germain and Beth Harding.



Staff at NEST Kolby Littlechild-Patenaude, Michelle Labelle, Elder Eileen Wolfe, and Councilor Cheryl Littlechild.

Article & Photos by: Tara Cutarm

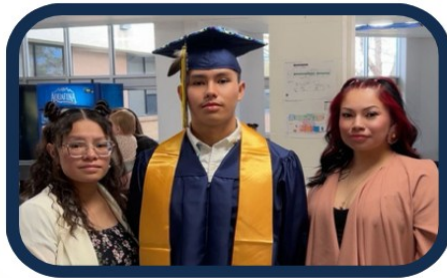




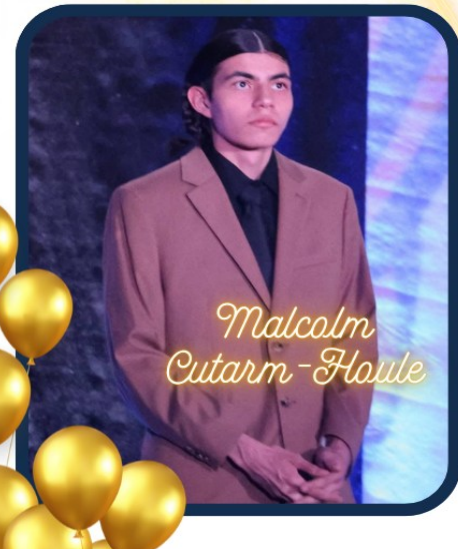
Congratulations to Malcolm, Reegan and Nelleah, Ermineskin Graduates from Pigeon Lake Regional School. It was a beautiful ceremony, where each student was celebrated and congratulated on their accomplishments they made during the school year. On behalf of Ermineskn Cree Nation, we congratulate you, and send you best wishes on your future endeavors. You have made your friends, family and Nation very proud!



Nelleah Rowan



Reegan Roan



Malcolm Cutarm-Houle





Craig Buffalo



Starla Evert



Emilie Morin



Ayriss Omeasoo



Jayce Cutarm



Owayne Cutarm




Tyreese Ermineskin



Tanasia Buffalo



JJ Saulteaux



**Wetaskiwin
High
School
Graduates
of 2026!**



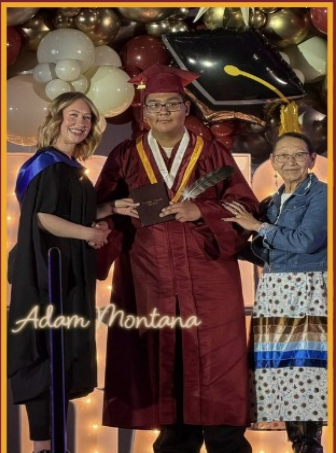
Raziel Piche-Sadlleback



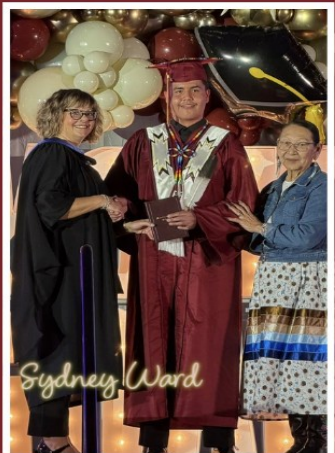
Gemma Giroux



Gemma Giroux



Adam Montana



Sydney Ward



Cealiv Soosaj



Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations MEDIA RELEASE

CONFEDERACY OF TREATY NO. 6 FIRST NATIONS CONDEMN UCP SEPARATIST REFERENDUM PUSH

First Nations call on Government of Canada to "step up"

May 21, 2026 (Treaty No. 6 Territory) – The Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations condemns the plan of Premier Danielle Smith’s UCP government to move ahead with a separation referendum question in Alberta this fall. Pushing this referendum forward confirms Albertans are living under a separatist regime, and the Confederacy continues to oppose this illegal separatist agenda. Any effort to separate, including any form of referendum, is a breach of the Treaty relationship established through Treaty No. 6 and protected under the Constitution.

The Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations stands with Treaty No. 7 and No. 8 First Nations to uphold and defend the Treaty and Constitutional Rights of First Nations – and of everyone in Alberta. The UCP government changes the rules with complete disregard for legal process and their duty to consult First Nations. The UCP’s ignorance about Treaty and their duties are a public lie undertaken to maintain political power. Simply put, Premier Danielle Smith and her party are beholden to the separatists who put them in power. Everything they do is subservient to that debt – without consideration for laws, Treaty obligations or the wellbeing of future generations.

Premier Smith’s comments regarding the ‘anti-democratic’ nature of the judiciary are concerning. While she claims to support democracy, her government’s actions show the opposite. Their efforts to sidestep, ignore and oppose inherent Treaty Rights protected by the Constitution of Canada have been an ongoing attack on the rule of law in this Country. This includes the UCP’s endless, failed attempts to legitimize Stay Free Alberta’s “independence petition.” Treaty Rights cannot be put aside or disregarded, as both the Justice Feasby and Justice Leonard decisions have confirmed in the Court of King’s Bench. The Premier’s willingness to entertain the use of the *notwithstanding clause* in matters of Treaty and Constitutional Rights is deeply alarming and reflects continued disregard for the rule of law, the judiciary, and the Constitution itself.

First Nations are once again carrying the burden of defending the Constitution of Canada while the Government of Canada remains silent. The Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations calls directly on the Government of Canada to step up and fulfil its duty to protect Treaty Rights, the rule of law and the Constitution. This is a Treaty matter, and this unacceptable silence and inaction dishonour the Treaty relationship.

We will not be idle. The Confederacy will continue this battle in unity with all Treaty No. 7 and No. 8 Nations.

Treaty is forever.

Grand Chief Joey Pete
Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations



Media Contact: Jill McKenzie
jill@pipikwanpehtakwan.com

JOB OPPORTUNITIES & COMMUNITY EVENTS



Ermineskin Cree Nation

WE ARE HIRING!

May 26, 2026

OPEN POSITIONS:

- ✓ **Journeyman Carpenter with the Ermineskin Property Management Department**
CLOSING: June 9, 2026
- ✓ **Intake/File Clerk with the Ermineskin Neyaskweyahk Employment Skills Training (NEST) Department**
CLOSING: June 9, 2026
- ✓ **I.T. Support Specialist with the Ermineskin Administration I.T. Department**
CLOSING: June 9, 2026

APPLY NOW

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



ERMINESKIN CREE NATION

CLASS OF 2026

GRAD PHOTOS

Must include students First and Last name, as well as their School's Name



ECN is taking submissions of 2026 Grads in their cap + gown, formal wear or their favorite outfits! Open to Ermineskin students, **ON and OFF-RESERVE**

- Kindergarten Graduates
- Highschool Graduates (consider sending a baby picture/kindergarten picture along with your grad photos)
- Post-Secondary / University Graduates

DEADLINE:

JULY 6TH, 2026

Send submissions to :
kayla@erminekin.ca
isaac@erminekin.ca

For more info contact ECN Communications:
(780) 585-3741



WE ARE HIRING

President & CEO

DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 18, 2026

Join our team

SEND YOUR APPLICATION TO:

jewel@ngcinc.ca

To apply, we require the following document:

- Resume
- Cover Letter
- 3 Reference Letters
- Copies of Certificates/diplomas

All Pro Canadian CHUCKWAGON & CHARIOT ASSOCIATION

* * * * *

May 30th - 31st

Panee Memorial Spring out Maskwacis, AB

\$5.00

ADMISSION

Food truck

on site

CHARIOT RACES

PONY CHUCKWAGON

PANEE MEMORIAL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS, THEFT OR INJURIES.

Maskwacis Library Service **Maskwacis Health Services** **SAMSON-CREE NATION**

PRIDE Picnic

10AM TO 2PM | **JUNE 10** | HBMC FRONT LOT

Please join us in the HBMC parking lot, in a potluck style picnic, as we gather and celebrate Maskwacis's Two-Spirit community.

* Refreshments and community resource tables available. Door prizes available. Keynot speakers and vendors on site.

Contact Maskwacis Library
780-585-3012 EXT 103
for more info

In honour of 2S Elder Roxanne Roan

Annual Samson Pride Crosswalk painting to commence afterwards 4PM - 7PM

Kehtehayak Forum

"AS LONG AS THE SUN SHINES,
THE GRASS GROWS AND THE RIVER FLOWS"

SATURDAY MAY 30TH | 8:00AM TO 3:00PM
MASKWACIS CREE HIGH SCHOOL

Keynote presentations: Dr. John Crier
& Dr. Wilton Littlechild

- Focus Groups
- Breakfast & Lunch
- Self care
- Bingo

MESC

pihtwahew
GIFT SHOP

CLOSURE NOTICE

DEAR COMMUNITY,

AFTER MANY YEARS OF SERVING OUR COMMUNITY, THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO CLOSE THE DOORS OF PIHTWAHEW GIFT SHOP. OUR FINAL DAY OF OPERATIONS WILL BE **MAY 29, 2026**.

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY IT HAS BEEN. OVER THE YEARS, PIHTWAHEW GIFT SHOP HAS PROUDLY SERVED THE ERMINESKIN CREE NATION AREA, AND THIS JOURNEY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE CONTINUED SUPPORT, TRUST, AND LOYALTY OF OUR CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

WE WANT TO SINCERELY THANK EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THE GIFT SHOP THROUGHOUT THE YEARS. YOUR SUPPORT HAS MEANT SO MUCH TO US, AND WE ARE GRATEFUL TO HAVE BEEN PART OF SO MANY CONNECTIONS, MEMORIES, AND EXPERIENCES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

AS WE PREPARE FOR THIS TRANSITION, WE INVITE EVERYONE TO STOP BY THE GIFT SHOP BEFORE MAY 29, 2026, TO VISIT, SHOP, AND **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CLOSING OUT SALE!**

WHILE THIS CHAPTER IS COMING TO AN END, WE ARE EXCITED FOR THE FUTURE AND THE NEW OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD FOR NEYASKWEYAHK GROUP OF COMPANIES INC. AND ITS BUSINESSES. WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO MOVING FORWARD, GROWING STRONGER, AND CONTINUING TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY IN MEANINGFUL WAYS.

WE ARE PROUD OF EVERYTHING PIHTWAHEW GIFT SHOP HAS REPRESENTED OVER THE YEARS, AND WE WILL ALWAYS APPRECIATE THE RELATIONSHIPS AND MEMORIES BUILT ALONG THE WAY.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, KINDNESS, AND ENCOURAGEMENT THROUGHOUT THE YEARS.

WITH APPRECIATION,
NEYASKWEYAHK GROUP OF COMPANIES INC.

ERMINESKIN ELDERS CENTRE

CREE NAMING CEREMONY

A Cree naming ceremony is a sacred cultural event where a respected Elder gifts an individual with a traditional spirit name. It is a powerful rite of passage that connects a person to their ancestors, purpose, and community, while also reclaiming Indigenous identity.

Should you and/or one of your family members are wanting to be given a spiritual name you can attend this special event.

DUE TO HIGH INTEREST, THE NEXT CEREMONY WILL BE

June 24, 2026
Pipe ceremony 9am
10am-12pm

For more information and/or to register
Please call 780-585-3435

Ermeskin Health and Wellness Presents

ECN Band Members Only

Celebrating Our Fathers



FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Thursday, June 18, 2026

10:30am - 2:00pm Ermineskin Arena

~Live Entertainment ~ Photo Booth~
~ Massages ~ Games ~ Prizes ~

**Please Note: Event is for Father's Only . No children & spouses
*Subject to Change *150 Capacity*

For More Information Contact:ECN Health & Wellness (780)585-2000

NEED HELP WITH NIHB?

Treaty No. 6 Members! Have you or someone you know been denied coverage under your Treaty Right to Health Benefits? Did this result in you paying out-of-pocket? Or do you need help understanding your NIHB Benefits?



The Treaty No. 6 NIHB Navigator can assist with:

- ✓ Appeals
- ✓ Benefits Questions
- ✓ Coverage Support
- ✓ Advocacy
- ✓ Service Navigation

CONTACT OUR NIHB NAVIGATOR TO HELP!

Jackie Rain
Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Navigator
Office: 780-944-0334 ext. 1003
Direct: 780-203-0537
Email: nihb.nav@treatysix.org

In-person visits by appointment only, Walk-ins at office are not accepted.



Working together to bring Government of Canada services to you.

Service Canada & Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)

Print out of tax slips or Notice of Assessment
Help with online accounts (My Service Canada Account, CRA My Account)
Canada Child Benefit
Disability Tax Credit
GST/HST Credit
Social Insurance Number
Old Age Security
Guaranteed Income Supplement
Canada Pension Plan
Canadian Dental Care Plan
Canada Disability Benefit

DATE: Tues June 16, 2026
Time: 10 am - 3 pm

Ermineskin Elders' Centre

If you are unable to meet with us during this visit, you can request information and assistance through the Outreach Support Centre from 8:30-4:00, Mon-Fri: 1-877-631-2657

*If you need a SIN, please bring: your birth certificate, certificate of Indian Status and any other forms of federal or provincial identification you may have.

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Canada

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER Work Experience PROGRAM 2026

S.W.E.P. is for Full-Time Ermineskin Students in High School. INAC Summer Work Experience Program's goal is to support activities and training that will assist students in acquiring the essential skills that will help them gain employment, function well in the workplace and learn about job/career options.

GROUP ONE: JUNE 30, 2026 - JULY 27, 2026
GROUP TWO: JULY 28, 2026 - AUGUST 24, 2026

REQUIREMENTS:

- Ermineskin Band Member
- **Ages: 15-19 years of age**
- **Must work Monday to Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm**
- **MUST HAVE RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION**
- **Must Provide SIN #**
- **Must be enrolled in the 2025-2026 school year**
- **Provide grades and courses of completed classes**

APPLY NOW

(780) 585-4006

millie@erminekin.ca

Ermineskin P&R Building (Across the Admin Building)

DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 19, 2026

IMPORTANT NOTE:

1. Applications are **ONLY AVAILABLE AS A HARD COPY.**
2. Applications can **ONLY BE SUBMITTED AS A HARD COPY.**



ERMINESKIN HEALTH AND WELLNESS PRESENTS

FATHER'S DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

TEAM ENTRY FEE: \$700

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026

TOURNAMENT DETAILS:

- 9:00 AM Shotgun Start
- 4 Man Team: 2 Man Scramble. Combined Score - 27 Holes
- First 30 Teams Registered
- A, B, C Flights
- Fee Includes: KP's. Long Putt, Snack & Cart

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026

DORCHESTER RANCH GOLF COURSE, WESTEROSE

*EVENT DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

\$350 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT REQUIRED

REGISTRATION: ERMINESKIN HEALTH & WELLNESS (780)585-2000



ECN HEALTH & WELLNESS PRESENTS



Father's and Son's Wellness Workshop

*Limited Spots
First 100 to Register

June 16, 2026
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

*ECN Band Members ONLY

Location: Best Western, Wetaskiwin

To REGISTER:

Registration forms can be picked up and dropped off at the Ermineskin Health & Wellness Office at the Jim Rattlesnake Building