



OKIMAHKAN OTY'AMIWIN

From the Chief

Tansi and Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and on behalf of my Council members, staff and my family, I wish all our Citizens the best of health and happiness in 2016. We have come a long way as a Nation and are considered one of the most progressive First Nations in our country. But we still have a long way to go before we can say we are independent and sovereign. I believe as long as we continue on the path we have set for our Nation in the next few years we can eventually achieve sovereignty and independence, but first we must address our governance structure by ratifying our constitution so that we will have the authority to create our own laws to govern our nation without always having to seek the approval of the Indian Affairs Minister in Ottawa.

A lot of research has been done over the past twenty years or so to figure out what the most reliable predictors of successful socio-economic development is in Indigenous communities. Surprisingly, political factors are even more important than access to land, capital and natural resources. The key political factors for success that have been identified include (1) asserting sovereignty in practical ways, (2) developing stable governing institutions with a competent public service, (3) having culturally appropriate institutions in place such as proper dispute resolution mechanisms and checks and balances, (4) strategic planning by leadership that is proactive, and involves long-term thinking, not just short-term reactive thinking and (5) leadership that focuses on putting in place the necessary institutional and strategic foundations for sustained economic development and enhanced community welfare.

Our Nation has been trying to actively follow a nation building approach to governance so we do not simply remain as administrators of programs determined by other levels of government. We need to

continue to pursue economic development initiatives to help to create more independence for our Nation. To do that we need to pay close attention to the factors that will allow us to be successful.

I was encouraged and more determined than ever that we are on the right track after I attended an AFN assembly in Ottawa in early December. While there, I had the opportunity to meet our new Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in person and heard him say "what's needed is nothing less than a total renewal of the relationship between Canada and First Nations Peoples... One that is based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership ..."

I was very encouraged by the critical commitments he outlined in his speech to the Assembly to address some of the issues plaguing our First Nations: (1) an inquiry into murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls; (2) significant investments in First Nations education; (3) elimination of the two percent cap on First Nations funding that has been in place for 20 years; (4) implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations starting with the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; (5) a full review of legislation unilaterally imposed on First Nations by the previous government and if they are in conflict with First Nations rights or good governance they will be rescinded. [Since this speech, Minister Bennett announced that First Nations funding will not be reduced by failure to comply with federal consolidated audit legislation which we opposed last year.] Therefore, while I truly believe that Prime Minister Trudeau was sincere about his commitments, it will be up to us to monitor progress and continue advocating strongly for these commitments to be implemented quickly. Hopefully, with the promise of a new Nation to Nation approach, a new fiscal relationship and new funds for education, things will improve for all First Nations including ours. While in Ottawa, I was also able to quickly brief the new Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister, Carolyn Bennett on the Mystery Lake Conversion to Reserve. I plan to try to meet with various Manitoba MPs about this issue as soon as possible.

If we are to move forward and succeed on this very important journey we are on, we need the support and engagement of our Citizens. We need to demonstrate in practical ways how to give effect to the International Declaration beginning with strong endorsement of our own Constitution to provide the framework for our modern system of government. We will be conducting workshops before spring to discuss the proposed constitution and changes that have been added to the draft based on our previous discussions over the past few years. We then hope to take the final wording of the Constitution to our Citizens for approval before the summer. To accomplish this, we need

to support each other and to work co-operatively together. We need to engage in positive dialogue about how far we have come and how much further we can go to strengthen our Nation and our sovereignty. We have a chance to demonstrate that we have a model that can succeed.

As your Chief, I remain convinced we are headed in the right direction, but like everything else it takes time to resolve issues and implement programs and projects for our Citizens. I ask you to be patient with us and continue to be supportive. We are trying our best within the confines of our financial resources and the existing bureaucracy (ours and other levels of government) to address issues. Our plan to deal with the housing and other infrastructure issues is still on track, although I am finding that it is critical to spend as much time actively meeting with as many people in

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other levels of government and industry as possible to help us achieve our goals. For example, steps to convert our property to reserve in Thompson requires constant advocacy and meetings with various people. Hopefully, we can get this done in the next few months. We were recently notified (very late in the process) that we have to consult with the Metis before Canada will accept any transfer of land, but I'm confident this process will not negatively affect the conversion. I've already set up a meeting with MMF President David Chartrand and look forward to having positive discussions with him.

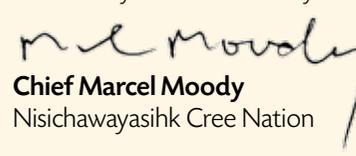
As you know one of the biggest issues we continue to face in our community is violence, especially when welfare and family allowance are issued. This trend is disturbing and is being raised as part of the issue that must be examined in the inquiry into murdered and missing women and girls. We have to

work together as a community to address the violence, as our women and youth are constantly being beaten up, our youth are involved in binge drinking and consuming illicit drugs which is a lethal combination and there are lots of Mental Health issues that affect our youth.

We must stop this destructive behaviour and the cycle of violence. We must adhere to our customary laws that teach us we must respect and not harm others. Our nurses, constables, CFS workers, ambulance workers, RCMP and other front line workers are stressed to the max because of all the violence we experience in our community. WE MUST END THE VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY. IT IS NOT OUR WAY. Council is considering various sanctions to address the issues including issuing vouchers to those who continue to be engaged in violence, break our laws, damage our property, and hurt people. If people cannot act responsibly we will consider issuing vouchers instead of cheques and asking the courts to issue restitution orders just to name a few of the sanctions.

We will be trying to take more active steps to address these issues while the matters are being discussed nationally as we know the solutions start at home.

As always I look forward to your feedback and comments.


Chief Marcel Moody
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation



Chief Marcel Moody and Councillor Bonnie M. Linklater with Indigenous Affairs Minister Dr. Carolyn Bennett at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa.



Prime Minister Trudeau and Chief Moody

OBITUARIES

**Bill Penner, Giroux, Manitoba
June 24, 1933 – December 30, 2015**

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

For those of us who knew Bill and loved him, his passing will leave a very large hole. Some of you have known him as Dad, Grandpa, friend, cousin Willie, teacher Mr. Penner, and as Pastor Bill. Ever since Bill accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour at the age of 17, he has shared the love of Jesus wherever he lived. He told us that he gave his life to Jesus in May, was baptized upon the confession of his faith in June, and began teaching Sunday School in Giroux in August. Thus began a life of ministry.

He leaves to mourn, Anna (Loewen), his wife of 56 years, one daughter and four sons and their families. Bob and his wife Brenda, Bruce and Kim and their children, Jesse and Erin and their son Sebastian, Beazaiyu, Yonatan, Madelaine and her husband Matthew Funk, Metakae, and Elijah and their 'daughter' Ha Min from Korea. Jesse's twin brother, Lucas, preceded his Grandpa in death. Gord and Laura and their children; Gina and her husband Joel Brandt and son Emmett; Allen and his wife Janessa, Cameron and his wife Heather, Kendra and her husband Nolan Reimer; Tricia and Brian Reimer and their children, Alex and Tasha; Kenton and Lucille and their children, Ashley, Megan, Bonnie and Ryan. Bill was predeceased by his parents, Abram and Katharina Penner and his siblings, Victor and Clara. He also leaves to mourn, his sister-in-law, Sara (Victor) Penner and their sons, Myron, Terry and Darrel and their families.

Every member of the Loewen family was very dear to Bill and they will also miss him. Bill's year in the St. Boniface Sanatorium, with pleurisy, as a teenager, opened his eyes and heart to people from many different races. He taught VBS and Sunday School in many communities in Manitoba. He taught grade school for many years, and especially enjoyed phys-ed and coached different sports. He taught in Cormorant, God's River, Blumenhof/Blumenort, Joffrey and Lister East.

Bill served as pastor in Lynn Lake Gospel Church, Ridgewood Church, and Treesbank Church in Wawanesa. In 1995 he accepted the call to serve as Director of Continental Mission in Thompson.

He initiated the Mission Exposure program for Steinbach Bible College students. He spent many hours each year organizing the schedules and billets for the students so they could serve the Lord in First Nations communities. Dad and Bob also organized an annual Fishing Derby to raise funds for Midway Bible Camp.

He taught us children how to pray as he tucked us into bed at night. Even in his final week in the hospital every visitor would be asked to pray before they left. His friends in Nelson House gave him the nickname, 'ay-a-mi-hatan' because he so often said in Cree, 'Let us pray.'

Our Dad was a mentor. Several young men and women have been encouraged and trained by him and continue in full time ministry as pastors and missionaries.

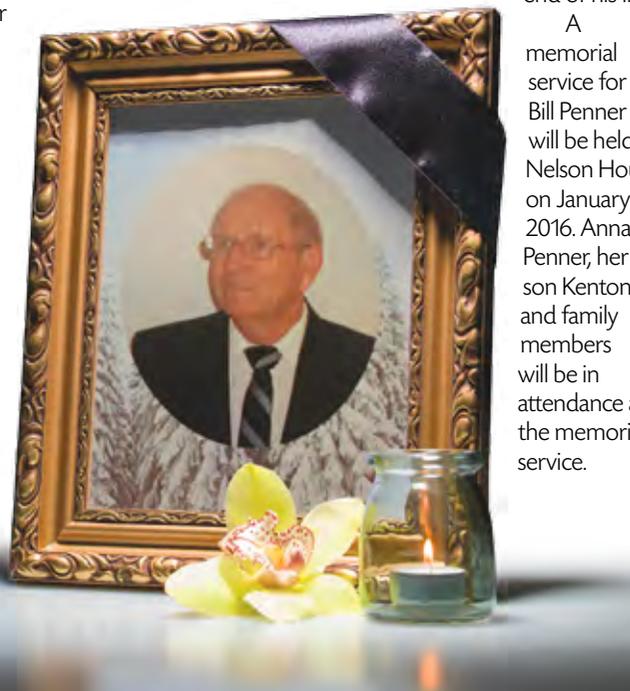
Dad taught us to serve. He gave us opportunities in the church to learn to lead, whether it was playing the organ or piano, telling the children's story, teaching Sunday school or VBS, and of course camp work! Dad taught us the value of money. We all remember the family Fund made up of our combined earnings, and the meetings we had to decide how it should be used. He taught us that money was never for wasting, but always for sharing. The grandkids were often recipients of a surprise gift of money, especially when they attended Bible College. It was another way he could encourage them to study the Word of God. When sharing a meal in a restaurant, you could not be quick enough to grab the check before he did.

Dad also taught each of us how to drive, to shoot a rifle, to golf and to change oil and tires on the car. He taught many visitors and children how to fish. His favourite way was trolling and his role was to guide the boat, remove the hooks, and keep us all encouraged, "I think that was a nibble... next time for sure."

Bill saw the work of the Lord as a network of God's people working together. Therefore he was not shy to ask for donations of vegetables and meat for Bible Camps or the soup pot in the Drop-In Centre, which served the street people in Thompson. The staff at Safeway and Robins were always happy to give him day-old pastries to distribute where needed. Street hockey teams in Thompson called 'time-out' when the Do-nut Grandpa came by. He accepted Sunday School material, winter coats, blankets, and even dishes to take North. However, when the Christians in Nelson House decided to build a church, he was so pleased when they did the construction and covered the costs themselves. We had enjoyed many great house meetings, but the building gave the group an identity as an Evangelical Church. He was actively involved in getting funding for Fred Evans Gospel radio broadcast to continue so everyone could hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

Bill lived life to the fullest and enjoyed serving the Lord whether as a farmer, working in the feed mill, or as a teacher, preacher and missionary, friend and mentor. He had no interest in retiring and actively served until the end of his life.

A memorial service for Bill Penner will be held in Nelson House on January 24, 2016. Anna Penner, her son Kenton, and family members will be in attendance at the memorial service.



REGISTER YOUR CHILD WITH NCN REGISTRY

It's important and easy for NCN parents to register their child with the NCN registry. When children are not registered, it affects their non-insured health benefits coverage like prescribed medication, dental work, glasses, ambulance service and coverage for medical appointments to Thompson or Winnipeg.



Register Your Child Today with
Melissa Moore, Membership Clerk
at the NCN Government Office
204-484-2332

Reason to Live

SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

Find Hope. We can Help.

Talk to us. If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide or is dealing with depression, call:

1-877-435-7170

or NCN Family and Community Wellness Centre: 204-484-2341

Suicide Affects us All.



Employment Opportunities

HOUSING DIRECTOR – FULL TIME POSITION

Employer: Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Housing Authority (Position in Nelson House)

Deadline: 12:00 p.m. Friday, January 29, 2016

Position Summary/Job Description

The Housing Director is responsible for overseeing the management of all NCN housing and other designated property; housing maintenance; estimating and forecasting budget requirements; developing and maintaining a capital assets plan which will include housing options, obtaining funding to implement all plans. The Housing Director supervises the Maintenance Manager, the Property Manager, Project Managers, carpentry and overseeing the supervision of crews as well as various independent contractors. The Housing Director responds to questions and concerns from NCN Citizens in a professional and courteous manner.

Key Responsibilities:

The Housing Director is invested with board responsibility and authority as delegated by the Board of Directors, although the Board retains overall responsibility, along with Chief and Council, for strategic planning, including increasing and maintaining housing stock at acceptable standards in the most cost-effective manner. The Interim-Housing Director oversees and supervises the service delivery, progress and supervision on the following:

1. Property Management
2. Rental and Mortgage Administration
3. Maintenance and Repairs
4. Planning, Development and implementation of Community Housing Programs
5. Financial and Human Resource Administration

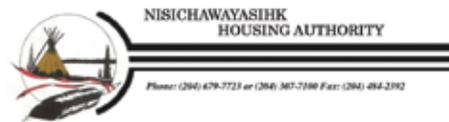
Qualifications:

- Business Administration Degree or equivalent
- 5 to 10 years managerial or project management experience
- An equivalent combination of education, training and work experience
- Strong overall management skills
- Planning and development skills (strategic planning, financial management, budget planning and management, administrative systems)
- Organizational management skills (ability to develop and articulate policy, team management, facilitation and dispute resolution skills)
- Valid Class 5 Drivers License
- Proficient in Microsoft programs including Word, Excel, and Outlook.

If you are interested, please forward your cover letter, criminal records check and resumes to:

Kim Linklater, Human Resource Specialist
 Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
 Phone: (204) 484-2332
 Cell: (204) 307-2107
 Fax: (204) 484-2392
 Email: kimlinklater@ncncree.com

Note – You can call Kim for a full job description.



CENSUS JOBS

Are you interested in working in your community?

Period of employment: varying employment periods between January and July 2016, depending on the location of the assignment.

Rate of pay: Enumerator (or equivalent positions) will be paid \$16.31 per hour plus authorized expenses. Supervisors will be paid \$19.91 per hour plus authorized expenses.

In select Northern and Remote Communities: Enumerators (or equivalent positions) will be paid \$19.92 per hour plus authorized expenses. Supervisors will be paid \$24.25 per hour plus authorized expenses.

Type of work: short-term work in your community.

Requirements: must be 18 years of age or older and eligible to work in Canada.

Apply now / tell a friend
www.census.gc.ca 1-877-325-2016
 TTY (a telecommunications device for people who are deaf): 1-866-753-7083



SEEKING A JOB IN NELSON HOUSE?

The Manitoba Government Justice Community and Youth Corrections, Community Safety is hiring:

Probation Officer (Full-Time, Term Position with the Province of Manitoba and working in Nelson House)

Salary: \$45,335– \$71,775 per year. Plus remoteness allowance and northern premium if applicable.

Closing Date: January 25, 2016

Preference will be given to Aboriginal people and residents of Nelson House.

See the complete job description at: <http://jobsearch.gov.mb.ca/search.action>

Apply to:

Advertisement# 31427
 Civil Service Commission
 Human Resource Services
 300-305 Broadway
 Winnipeg, MB R3C 3J7
 Phone: 204-945-3688
 Fax: 204-948-2193
 Email: govjobs@gov.mb.ca



Arts and Events

Schedule of Events

January 11–14:

NNOC Grade 12 English will be writing Provincial Exams.

January 15:

Grade 8 Bake sales in room 106 at 3:05 p.m.

January 20:

Early dismissal for OK Students at 2:30 p.m.

January 22:

Grade 8 Dance from 6:00 p.m.

to 9:00 p.m., Grade 1's Host Elders Story day

January 25–29:

NNOC Exams

January 27:

Family Literacy Day and Read a Book Day

January 29:

Grade 8 hosting Pay to Wear Hat Day

January 29:

EA Bake Sale room 101. Grade

12 hosting a Dance 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

February 1:

NNOC Semester 2 starts, regular classes begin

February 3:

Local School Science Fair 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Open to public.

March 11–13:

NCN Mixed Broomball Tournament Provincial Championships (in Nelson House)

March 14–19:

NCN Winter Festival (Dates subject to change)

NCN Youth Centre Activities:

HAND DRUMMING AND SINGING (with Darcy Spence) – Mondays and Tuesdays, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.



YOUTH

BIBLE STUDY (with Gerald Mcdonald) – Wednesdays, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

HIP HOP DANCE (with Wayne Moose) – Thursdays and Fridays, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

DAILY FUN PROGRAMS (with Hope Linklater) – Each day from 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.



Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
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 Nelson House, Manitoba R0B 1A0
 Phone: (204) 484-2332
 Fax: (204) 484-2392
www.ncncree.com

Do you have a suggestion or an Achimowina story idea?

We would like your comments, feedback or news stories. Please contact achimowina@gmail.com