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DECEMBER 2016

# Nisichawayasi Achimowina

## NCN Votes YES to the Store Land Designation

The unofficial results of the NCN Store Land Designation referendum are in. Chief and Council are happy to share that our Citizens have voted in favour of designating the land for its proposed use.

**"This overwhelming vote in favour of the designation helps us ensure the plans for our store and our community better the lives of our Citizens."**

the debt on the store, and keep food and grocery prices low and affordable for the community.

Our Citizens have voted in favour of designating the land for its proposed use.

This YES vote means Chief and Council can move forward with the lease of the land and receive about \$860,000 in funding from INAC for the NCN Three Rivers store, which began operations on November 18th. These funds will be used to reduce



Unofficial vote results showed a landslide of 178 YES votes versus 1 NO vote.

The electoral officer reports that early vote results showed a landslide of 178 YES votes versus 1 NO vote. Very few people voted in person at the Gilbert McDonald Arena in Nelson House, and instead chose to mail in their ballots. Approximately 5.7% of eligible voters participated in the referendum.

"For the past two decades our goal has been, and continues to be, to exercise sovereignty that sustains a prosperous socio-economic future for all of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation," says Chief Marcel Moody. "This overwhelming vote in favour

of the designation helps us ensure the plans for our store and our community better the lives of our Citizens."

A similar referendum vote will take place soon for the Mystery Lake Hotel Urban Reserve Lands. Stay tuned for more details and dates.



### NOTICE

**Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation  
Government Office**

**Holiday Hours and Closures**

The NCN Government Office will be closed for the holiday break and staff will be away from the office from **December 16th, 3:00 p.m. to January 2nd, 2017.** Finance Department staff will continue to be open periodically during this time and can be reached by calling (204) 484-2332.





# From the Chief

Tansi, On behalf of Council, managers and NCN Government staff, we wish you all a very joyous and happy holiday season and all the best for the coming New Year. I personally extend – from my family to yours – best wishes for a safe, healthy and prosperous 2017.

We should all be proud of our many successes over the past year. We must also allow time to reflect on our losses with sadness, thoughtfulness and healing. We are humbled and very mindful of the families, loved ones and friends that have passed. It is with great hope that our spirit of perseverance carries us forward on our path when we stumble or we remember those lost. Our newly gained experiences will let us overcome many obstacles. It is our willingness to support those in need that drives our Citizens and leadership as we look to building a brighter future for

our Nehetho Nation. With your support and unified efforts, we look forward to further accomplishment in the coming months and years. I encourage everyone to take this time over the next few weeks to be proud of the gifts we have! Enjoy and feel blessed for the good thing we have around us. Ekosani.

**Chief Marcel Moody**  
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

# Honouring Those Passed...



**Elder  
Illa  
Wood**  
We are  
all on a  
short  
pilgrimage  
in this  
physical

world, trying to find our way.

For a better day even in the storms of our life, through the fire, and floods of life's challenges. But we are lifted by this woman's example, strength, and love for family, relatives, and friends.

She was an honoured, respected, and humble member of our nation, especially her strength and dignity in the preservation of family and our relationships as peoples. It is people like her that keeps our home fire to continue burning brightly through the floods and storms of life.

She maintained her sacred  
responsibility given by the creator.

It is good to always remember the goodness she shared with in so many ways; her unique smile, her laughter, her respect and openness to others, her friendship and her kind words.

Perhaps through her life and her passing, we can be pushed to look deeper into our own lives. Perhaps through her life, we can learn the importance of simplicity.



**David MacDonald**  
It is our great honour to offer  
our sincere acknowledgement  
to the memory of David  
MacDonald.

He was indeed a champion in advocating and maintaining our spirituality through the land-based education. He was a teacher of life and life's great mysteries. He was positive and full of creative energy; he was in love with his spirituality, land, and humanity.

We acknowledge his tireless efforts of service to our children. He demonstrated wisdom, hope, and promise to offer on-going commitment towards the healing of our children. We appreciate his dedication and our children shall hear the drums of holistic healing throughout our Nehetho ancestral land.

May his strength, wisdom, and commitment for the healing of our land, our people and our youth forever be in our hearts. The drums of justice will continue to be louder throughout our land because of his contributions to our people.

Because of this man, our children will continue to live, not only in the splendor of our past or the poetry of our land, but in the hearts of our people. He held a torch of fire for life's precious moment and he wanted that fire to burn brightly with a glowing flame. This was his life and we must continue to hold that torch of our home fire! Now he lives in the spirit world and will continue to guide us from there.

The spirit of this man will never die. It will live amongst us in the rocks and the forests, the rivers and Osik lake. It will whisper in the wind and amongst the trees. The hearts of men like him will continue to form the earth and his voice will never be silenced. His contributions to us and to children is not to be measured in the material realm but measured within humility, respect, courage, and love.



## Sidney Roland Spence

Sidney was spiritual as he was connected to the land as a trapper, hunter, fisherman, and fire fighter. Life was a challenge with many obstacles throughout Sidney's journey. Sometimes he had to climb high mountains; sometimes he had to encounter upstream

struggles and swift currents as he paddled through this river of life.

He understood that you only step into the river of life once and that this was a sacred opportunity given by the creator. Sidney did not get bogged down in the struggles of life. He carried the medicine of humour and laughter. The best way to let go of the seriousness of life is through humour. He used to laugh at himself; laugh at life's situation but never laughed at anybody. According to him, laughing at yourself and situations you find yourself in has a double positive effect. Laughter gives you a better perspective on life and makes you feel better. This is about being able to see something funny in whatever life throws at you along the journey.

We pray that you'll find a lasting and loving comfort in the blessing of every cherished memory of our loved one. May Sidney enjoy his eternal rest and may the love that surrounds you be a source of comfort at this time. His memories will remain in our hearts forever!

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Nisichawayasi Nethowi Piskituskan



enhanced. Indigenous Nations know that water cannot be owned or acquired. Water is life, it is sacred, it has a spirit and it must be protected as such.

### The Great Binding Law will Guide the Path

The AMC is hopeful its concerns about these two Acts will be heard and they will be properly updated to include Indigenous knowledge. The AMC believes it's time for the Crown to acknowledge and respect the Great Binding Law.

The Great Binding Law is a way of life. While the concept of "laws" does not exist within Indigenous languages, this is

a set of principles and understandings that have always guided our cultures. It pre-dates contact with settlers and continue to exist today. It teaches us that decisions can't be made without considering the impacts on and needs of all living beings.

Over decades and centuries, the Crown has tried to fit the Great Binding Law into its Western laws. The AMC believes this is impossible. To move forward, the government must see the Great Binding Law as distinct and equal, and our laws must work together alongside each other.

### Recommendations Demand Equality

The AMC has several recommendations for the federal government, created with the guidance, insight and wisdom of our Elders.

It's time to acknowledge that the relationships between all relations – Mother Earth, the animals, Indigenous people and settlers – are badly out of balance.

Environmental assessments must be done holistically. There is a lack of communication within Federal Ministries, and there is not enough consultation with Indigenous Nations. The Crown must come with a unified perspective to Indigenous Nations so

that the two bodies can move forward to create laws that protect all living beings.

Elders' knowledge and oral tradition must be given equal weight to Western experts and evidence. Wisdom passed down through generations must be considered relevant and specific, as opposed to vague stories.

It's time for the Crown to engage with Indigenous Nations and learn from Elders in our sacred spaces and in our languages, instead of the obligation fully on us to fit into Western systems.

Indigenous and Settler Nations must be recognized as different and equal. The Great Binding Law must be recognized as distinct and equal to constitutional legal order.

The federal government is expected to incorporate all submissions into its reviews, including these two from the AMC, early in 2017. Chief and Council are grateful to D'arcy Linklater, who serves as an Elder for the AMC, and has worked tirelessly in this process.

Linklater urges all Citizens, particularly our young people, to learn more about the Great Binding Law and ways to carry it out in our lives, relationships, actions and words.

## Counting Down the TOP 20 NCN Stories of 2016

As the holiday season gets into full swing and December brings a close to the year, we now take time to reflect on and remember the past 12 months.

It has been a memorable year with many accomplishments and historic milestones, but we have also faced and overcome tragedy, obstacles and loss. As you read the TOP 20 stories of 2016, we hope you will be proud of the many achievements. Some mentioned here, and

many others that have made our community a brighter place.

Whether it was news about our record number of high school graduates, awareness to violence and women's issues, new housing builds, community gatherings, raising social concerns and the many reports from Chief and Council and NCN organizations, we hope Achimowina has given you in-depth coverage of current affairs that will now become part of our enduring Nehetho history.

"Achimowina," it is our Cree word that means "stories." And, it is part of our Nation's tradition and culture to share our stories and pass on our knowledge of today and the past to those that will walk the path after us. Enjoy the top 20 and the part you had in creating NCN's memorable and often historic moments.

### Honourable Mention

We start our top 20 first with an honourable mention of the NCN Personal Care Homes staffs' efforts to reunite an adopted son with his mother. Kimberly Chevillard, a nurse at the Personal Care Home, was enjoying Facebook in May and saw a post from a young adopted man searching for his birth mother. The details sounded familiar and Kimberly correctly identified resident Sally Kitchikesik as the young man's mother! Sally and her son spoke on the phone and planned to enjoy a reunion.

### NCN Hosts Broomball Provincial Tournament ... and Will Again

Nelson House hosted the Senior Mixed Broomball Provincial Championships in March. A highlight was the attendance of Sandra McDonald, a former player who represented NCN in many provincial tournaments. The weekend was so impressively coordinated that the Broomball Association unanimously approved our community as host for next year's 2017 championship too!



### Raised Awareness of Women's Issues

Okawemateh Sakihewewin Circle – Women of Heart held regular events to raise awareness of the special issues women face. The group plans to help the community heal and move forward, through support, empowerment and gathering in sacred circles. In its first year, organizers created an anti-violence awareness campaign, a fashion show, stories, songs, food and laughter.



Continued on page 5

## Newly Named Library at University College of the North

Two NCN elders were celebrated after a lifetime of promoting aboriginal cultural awareness and raising a large family, including 70 foster children. The university's library has been renamed The Wellington and Madeleine Spence Memorial Library. Guests at the ceremony in August talked about the Spences' dedication and commitment to Indigenous culture and community involvement.



## Party like it's 2016!

Just like every year, our NCN Summer Festival and Winter Festivals were huge hits with participants, competitors, bystanders, sponsors and organizers. There was fun for all ages, from kids' bike races to Elders' animal calling, and everything in between, such as canoe races, jigging, trap setting, sledding, arrow shooting contests and more.



## Big Changes at Nelson House Medicine Lodge

After extensive renovations, including new roofing and improvements to ventilation systems, offices, and residential rooms, the Medicine Lodge was opened again, with a brand new three-year accreditation and the resources to help 125 people a year. Ed Azure stepped down in July, making way for Interim Executive Director Laurel Wood, who's been a board member for 17 years.



## Walk for Healing and Love

A caravan of travellers made an emotional trek from Thompson to Winnipeg in July to raise awareness of those who have been murdered or remain missing. They walked the 760-kilometre journey while carrying a banner and pictures of loved ones. People joined their group as they passed through communities along Highway 6 until they reached the Legislative building.



## Personal Care Home Strike Threat

Employees at the Home are seeking wage parity. They want to receive the same wages that workers earn at off-reserve facilities. Currently our workers are paid 27% less than others in Manitoba. In November, Chief Marcel Moody was in talks with INAC and the provincial government for more funding so the workers can be compensated and a strike avoided.



# Assembly of First Nations 37th Annual General Assembly and Youth Summit

In June, NCN Citizens travelled to Niagara, Ontario for the annual event and were accompanied by four NCN teens who had the opportunity to discuss suicide, bullying, and drugs with peers and experts. They participated in panels and lobbied for attention, saying, “they talk about evaluation and studies but...we want to see action.”



## Annual Unity Run and Cree Gathering

In August, eleven NCN youth runners, with the support of Elders, ran an incredible 940-kms relay run from the Cree Nation of Pimiciamak to Opaskwayak and finally to Fisher River, where they opened the 2016 National Cree Gathering Ceremony. The Unity Runners aim to bring healing, build solidarity and eliminate pain and violence in our communities.



## CEO Yetman Says Goodbye after 23 years

The Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation says a heartfelt thank you to Theresa Yetman, who served as NCN Chief Executive Officer for an incredible 23 years. She was recognized by Chief and Council, staff and friends in November and presented with traditional gifts. Her devotion, guidance and perseverance in improving our Nehetho Nation will not be forgotten!



## Freshwater Fishing Industry Goes to a Free Market

The provincial government has changed legislation so that NCN fish harvesters and fishers have the ability to market and sell their own products. The Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation still exists as an option, but many are excited for the chance to sell more for better prices with less restrictions.



## Record Number of NNOC Grads

This year our community is thrilled to celebrate the most high school graduates on record! At the end of June, 34 high school students and 15 mature students crossed the stage to receive their diplomas and head into adulthood. We are very proud of these students for achieving this important first step in realizing their goals.





## Schools Welcome New Director of NNCEA

Local Citizen L. Gail Gossfeld-McDonald is the new Director of Education for the Nisichawayasi Nehetho Culture and Education Authority. While we look forward to a new high school, the current facility undergoes repairs to meet safety standards. (The OK school did not open this year until September 26 due to renovations.) Parents were asked to focus on children's education, helping with attendance and homework. A great school year is planned.



## NCN Special Olympians Shine in Newfoundland

Twins William and Jemiha Hart from Thompson put on impressive performances and had a great time at the 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Corner Brook, Newfoundland. The national event was held in March and hosted almost 700 athletes. William placed 7th in men's level-two skating at his first competition at this level. Jemiha took home the gold in the 200-metre snowshoe event, despite heavy snowfall and extreme winds. Amazing!



## New Housing Projects in NCN

At the general assembly in June, Councillor Joe Moose described the new units coming to our community. They include 12 bungalows, a four-plex mobitel for families while their homes are being renovated, a ten-unit housing complex for the *Bringing our Children Home* initiative, and a four-plex rental unit for RCMP officers. Over 25 new houses are in the works and more are planned each year.



## Plans for New Multi-plex Project Announced

We were delighted to learn in November that Chief and Council have fast-tracked the creation of a community multi-plex. Ayshkum Engineering Inc. has provided working drawings of Phase One, which is an 18,000 square foot steel framed facility with a gymnasium, track, office space and multi-purpose hall.



## NCN Signs Historic Land-use Management Agreement

First Nation leaders and conservationists rang in 2016 with paperwork from the province outlining the ways it will collaborate with our leaders for future land-use planning. NCN is in the third phase of its Land Use Plan, and expects to be a national success model for other First Nations in guiding responsible resource development within traditional territories.



## Girl Saved from Fatal Car Accident by Local Heros

Megan Prince was pulled out of a fiery car crash by local heroes Ernie, Brandon and Derek Flett at the end of April. She had injuries including a fractured spine, pelvis and shoulder blade, punctured lung, and brain injury. Prince continues her rehabilitation, hopes to return to school next spring, and prays young people will never drink and drive, which killed her three friends, Kyla Fontaine-Young, Sean McGinnis and Mike Vaillancourt, in the car that night.



## Child and Family Services Faces Two Rounds of Provincial Cutbacks

Although in 2016 NCN Family and Community Wellness Centre recognized 15 years of providing service to NCN, the news CEO Felix Walker received this year was nothing to celebrate. The Centre got word the province would not be forwarding \$564,000 for child and family services in the NCN area for last year's services, and has just heard of another \$160,000 in cuts. Doing a great job is tricky, because less kids in care means less funding to do the work of getting more kids out of care.



## NCN Three Rivers Store Opens

In November of 2016 the NCN Three Rivers store opened its doors to the public. The store will provide affordable, quality groceries and products on reserve. The Land Designation is set to take place in December and could provide additional funding from INAC if designated.



# Mystery Lake Lands Addition to Urban Reserve

The mood was jubilant on September 28 when we celebrated the Addition to Reserve of 4.21 acres of land at the Mystery Lake Hotel Complex. It was the culmination of 20 years of hard work, an incredible example of cooperation between the City and NCN, and an important step in our own self-actualization. Almost 1,000 people, including dignitaries and locals of all ages, enjoyed perfect weather, fantastic musical guests including Charlie Major, and a great feast.



# Plans for Multi-Plex Unveiled – Land Tests Started

Due to overwhelming public interest, drawings for the new NCN Multi-Plex, created by Ayshkum Engineering, have been made available for Citizens' viewing. Chief and Council remind NCN Citizens that all design plans and timelines are only drafts and should be viewed as tentative only.

The proposed Phase One of the multi-plex is an 18,000 square feet steel-framed facility. It includes a high school sized gymnasium with change rooms and open space for exercise machines; a multi-purpose hall with kitchen, stage and storage;

**The NCN multi-plex will be a hub of activity for all ages, bringing together friends, family and neighbours for social and physical engagement.**

a casual lounge; washrooms; security and first aid space; office space; and children's indoor and outdoor play area.

A proposed Phase Two of the project, years down the road, could include options for a climbing wall, outdoor splash pads, and spaces for music, art, theatre, technology, dancing and boxing.

Soil tests and surveying have already been completed, and



Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Multi-Plex Conceptual Image.

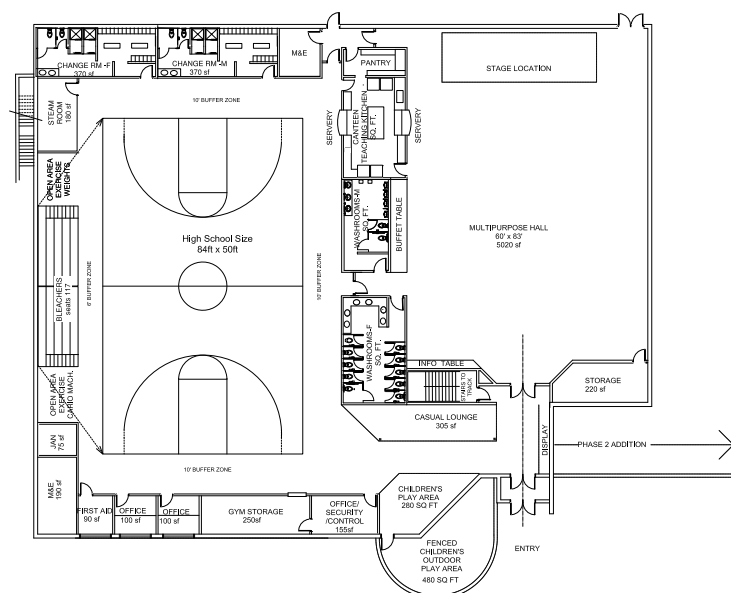
found satisfactory, on the proposed land for the multi-plex, which is beside the NNOC high school, next to the baseball field. Planning officials say this location is not yet final.

The next step is further consultation between Ayshkum Engineering and other engineers about the viability of proposed Phase One. Once these design plans are finalized, Ayshkum will prepare blueprints that are necessary for the tendering process.

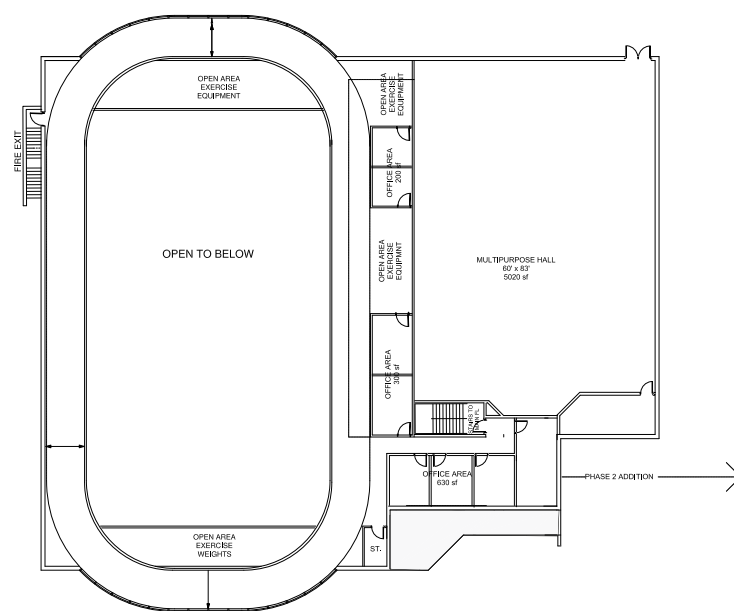
The creation of an NCN multi-plex is an exciting initiative that our community has dreamed of for years. It will be a hub of activity for all ages, bringing together friends, family and neighbours for social and physical engagement.

Not only that, this project will bring more construction employment to our Citizens. This multi-plex requires skilled trade workers and local contractors, who are already busy with the over 25 housing units underway this summer.

Congratulations to all Citizens who declared loudly and clearly that this multi-plex was a necessity for our community. You have helped to make this a real possibility!



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN





KITITAHWINAOW ACHIMOWIN

# Community News

## CAP/CIP Will Assign Up to \$6 Million in Funding for Community Needs

The process of allotting CAP/CIP funding for next year is well underway.

As you know, NCN holds several trusts, and uses income from them to support community programs and projects that improve daily life for all of our Citizens.

The Nisichawayasihk Trust was created in 1996 as an agreement between NCN, the federal and provincial governments, and Manitoba Hydro. The basis of this trust is the \$64.9 million NCN received in compensation for damages caused by the Churchill River Diversion.

The Taskinigahp Trust was established in 2006 with the start of the Wuskwatim Generation Project. The initial compensation, and NCN's

revenue shares from the sale of Wuskwatim electricity, is deposited into the trust.

The income from both funds is generated and distributed every year. To decide the best way to spend this money, the Nisichawayasihk Trust uses the Community Approval Process (CAP). The Taskinigahp Trust follows the same procedure and calls it the Community Involvement Process (CIP).

In the past, trust money has gone to projects such as elder subsidies, decentralization governance, school mould remediation, Christmas Cheer Board, employment training and housing.

All applications that were submitted by the deadline of September 15, 2016 were assessed by the Committee for their ability to create jobs and have a positive impact on the community's social, cultural, educational, economical and physical needs. Applicants presented their cases to the Committee (Roslyn

Moore, Yvonne Hart, Jemima Lobster, Alan Linklater, Elder Dorothy Linklater, Jacqueline Hunter, James Warren, Lou Moodie, and Councillors Joe Moose and Ron D. Spence) and the community at the end of November.

"This year we received \$12.9 million in requests for funding, and we have about \$6 million to distribute," says Joyce Yetman, Trust Office Director.

"Last year we received requests that totalled almost \$18 million. So this year we will feel like we are making a greater impact on the community, because more projects will receive more funding."

The Committee is scheduled to meet in the beginning weeks of December to select proposals to be funded, create a recommended budget and then to present to Chief and Council for approval. The

successful proposals and approved budget will be presented at a community meeting sometime in early January 2017.



**CAP/CIP Committee will carefully review proposals for 2017 funding allocations for NCN programs and services.**

**NCN Citizens:**  
TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO FILL OUT  
AND SHARE THIS

**Important Survey**

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCNAchimowinaNewspaper](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCNAchimowinaNewspaper)

### ATTENTION NCN CITIZENS AND ACHIMOWINA NEWSLETTER READERS:

It's time for Chief and Council to evaluate the Achimowina newspaper to determine if it is effectively meeting the needs of our community.

Please take a few minutes and fill out the following online survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCNAchimowinaNewspaper>

It's quick and easy! Your answers will be kept confidential.



# Stress, Depression and the Holidays – Get Help with Coping

Christmas holidays can be a difficult time of year. The weather has become cold and windy and the days are shorter. Movies, TV and music at this time of year paint a picture of unreal people that are full of joy and celebration, which can be very different from what you're experiencing.

It is normal to feel down from time to time. You may be worried about your finances and your ability to give presents to those you love. Maybe you're dealing with a change in your family – a death or an illness – that seems difficult to overcome. This is a time of reflection, but maybe what you're remembering makes you feel sad.

Sometimes it seems like you're the only one with problems. But you're not alone. We all have sadness, fear, anger, confusion and worry at some point or another. It can be helpful to hear other people voice their concerns and struggle with problems. Sometimes we find ourselves offering advice that is good for us, too!

If you find yourself falling into a depression or are feeling suicidal, it is important to get help. Be honest with a friend

or family member. Call 1-877-435-7170 or one of the numbers listed below.

Whether you can believe it or not, you are a valuable person. You have wisdom and experience that contributes to our journey together on the Red Road.

NCN has a number of great programs, activities and places to be over the holidays. There are recreation, fitness and sports at the arena, the youth centre is a hang out for youth, teens and young adults or you can even volunteer to help others. The NCN Family and Wellness Centre is full of people and programs that can bring you comfort. There are always people to chat with and an activity to watch or be part of. The Centre has experts and support groups for people of all ages. Drop in or call! We're happy to be here for you.

## Let's Help Each Other?

Emotional health and mental wellness is a community concern. We need to take care of each other. If you are enjoying the festive season, spread the joy! Take the time to chat with your family, friends and neighbours. Invite them out for a walk or a cup of tea. Offer to run an errand for them or bake cookies together.

We can't always tell when a person is depressed or feeling



alone. Sometimes a kind gesture from a stranger can get someone through a tough day.

## Warning signs of depression:

- Fatigue, decreased energy, weariness
- Difficulty in making decisions, remembering things, concentrating
- Feeling constant guilt, fear, helplessness
- Loss of appetite or ability to sleep.



## Tips for Avoiding Depression

**Instead of:** Worrying about expensive presents

**Try:** Offering your time and energy instead. When we give presents, we really mean, "you are important to me." Show people you care for them with your friendship and attention instead.

**Instead of:** Wishing your family member was still here

**Try:** Telling the young people in your family or friends about them. When we talk and laugh and reminisce about our loved ones, we keep their spirits alive and build identity for our children to honour them.

**Instead of:** Wishing you had something to do

**Try:** Helping someone else. If you are a young person, shovel a sidewalk, run to the store, change a light bulb. If you are an elder, bake some bread, teach a skill, tell a story.

**Instead of:** Counting your failures over the year

**Try:** Looking ahead. How do you want your life to look in one year? New habits, new friends, new plans? Create a crystal clear picture in your mind and work toward it every single day. Don't worry – it takes time and it doesn't have to happen overnight.

**If you or someone you know is dealing with stress, depression or thoughts of suicide. Call for help. Helpful phone numbers:**

**Thompson Mobile  
Crisis Team**  
1-866-242-1571  
204-778-1472

**Kids Help Phone**  
1-800-668-6868

**Suicide Helpline**  
1-877-435-7170

**Addictions Helpline**  
1-855-662-6605

**Gambling Helpline**  
1-800-463-1554

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# Storytelling is Food for the Body, Mind and Spirit

By: Angela Levasseur (Busch), NNOC ELA Teacher and Jordan Wright, Grade 9 Generalist Teacher

"There was no light that was bigger or brighter: every single living being was the exact same size. Creator and Grandmother Earth said, 'We're finished having our kids, we have enough kids so let's make the physical body.' They made two of everything of all creation, of every species in the world. Say they had a male and female of every species of eagle, giraffe; male and female, hippopotamus; male and female; every species of butterfly; male and female..."

On Thursday, November 17th 2016, Nisichawayasihk Noyo Ohtinwak Collegiate hosted a second "Evening of Storytelling" in NCN. Our potluck feast was absolutely delicious once again, featuring: Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo, homemade onion soup and homemade beef barley soup lovingly prepared by our own Mike Linklater.

The evening included storytelling and teachings from Reverend Agnes M. Spence, NNCEA Director of Education Mrs. Gail Gossfeld-McDonald, NNOC Principal Natalie Tays and special guest Daphe Pooyak from Sweetgrass, Saskatchewan.

Ms. Pooyak shared many beautiful traditional teachings and shared many excellent stories with our staff, students and guests. Our students also told many stories, which was a delight to hear. As well, the evening was blessed with the musical genius of Mr. Jean Claude On and NNOC student Kiya Spence. Both sang beautifully and played the guitar as instrumental accompaniment.

**Join us for our next  
Storytelling evening.  
It will be held at  
the same time  
and location on  
Thursday, December  
8th, 2016 and  
January 12th, 2017.**

Thank you to the following people and organizations for their support in making this event a success: Mrs. Natalie Tays, NNOC Principal and Mr. David MacDonald, NNOC Vice-Principal, the Nisichawayasihk Nehetho Culture and Education Authority Inc. and the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre.









# Season's Greetings from the NNCEA!

By: Gail Gossfeld-McDonald

Tansi, nitotemak! It's that time of year again! Christmas and the holidays are sneaking up on us. The school calendar has been included in this issue so everyone knows what's happening at our schools. Check it out! On behalf of everyone at the NNCEA, we wish all our readers/community members, greetings of the season and the best for Christmas and the New Year. Keep yourself safe, happy and healthy.

## Initiatives

The NNCEA Board has had frequent meetings, regular and special ones. We welcomed back Trustee Dolly M. Spence. We also are happy to report Nic Campbell has figured out the NNCEA website system and is working on it faithfully. It will be absolutely wonderful when it is done.

The Nehetho History, Language and Culture Project mentioned in last month's newsletter report is in full swing. The team has been orientated and has begun their research on this important project.

NNCEA would like to extend a congratulations and a big welcome to William Elvis Thomas who

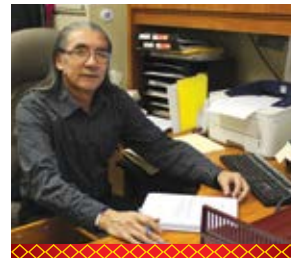


**Printshop operators Issiah Constant and Ariel Simpson-Linklater.**

was recently hired to be the Director's Assistant up to July 2017. He started on December 5th and will be based at AMEC.

The Cree team, Life Skills, Land-based education as well as the traditional arts/crafts and Nehetho technology programs will be ordering some much needed resources soon, we will keep you posted on the details. The school is

being "decluttered" in preparation for the Christmas concert, the start of 2017 and just to show that we care about and take pride in our schools. Once it can be arranged, the student washrooms on the main floor will be modernized for our children's daily use. Room 101 at OK will undergo a transformation soon so it can pass all the required codes so the hot lunch program does not have to be interrupted.



**Elementary Vice Principal William Spence.**

## Events

The 20th anniversary of the Alice Moore Education Centre happened on December 5th. In the morning, an all-denominational purification/ blessing ceremony was held. In the afternoon, the Moore family provided information and a display of the building's namesake, Alice Moore. A new sign for AMEC was set in place as well.

We are pleased to report work on the high school will start soon. Conterra has been contracted by the Band to do the work. Once known, regular updates on the progress will be shared. Ekosani!

Blessings of the season!



**The Nehetho History, Language, and Culture Project Committee (L to R) Andrew Wood, Rena Gossfeld, Adolph Peterson Nina Spence, Lena Dysart, Susan Kobliski. (Missing: Theresa Hart).**



**Season's Greetings and Happy New Year!**  
From the Staff, Administration, Board and Management of the  
Alice Moore Centre, Schools and NNCEA



## Employment Opportunity

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Deadline:** 12:00 p.m. Friday, December 16, 2016

**Start Date:** February 13, 2017

**Wage Range:** Negotiable

**Ref #:** NCN 2016-11-25-001

NISICHAWAYASIIHK CREE NATION, based in Nelson House, Manitoba has thirteen operating agencies, corporations and organizations, serving approximately 4,600 Citizens.

### Position Summary

The CEO is responsible for the leadership and management of all systems that support governance and transparency in accordance with existing policy and NCN's strategic direction set by the Chief and Council. The CEO oversees the development, implementation and review of the performance measurement system, data collection, reporting on the overall operations, program activities, outputs, and outcomes. The CEO addresses changes, optimizes operational/ performance management in key areas of policy, processes, budget allocation, monitoring, evaluation, governance, administration and authority as delegated by the Chief and Council. The CEO is the lead for the Senior Management Team which includes the Chief Financial Officer, Executive Director of Human Resources, Executive Director of Operations, and Executive Director Intergovernmental Relations and Special Projects.

### Qualifications

- University degree at the Masters level in business administration or related;
- 5 or more years of progressive management work experience in a First Nation government setting or equivalent related setting with the responsibility of overseeing the management of a multi-million dollar budget;
- Knowledge of treaty and aboriginal rights, leadership and management principles, performance measurement systems, and business practices and their application to First Nations government;
- Knowledge of international, federal, provincial and municipal legislation, and policies relevant to First Nations peoples, their governments, and their entities in areas such as taxation, Indian Act, human rights, employment standards, occupational health and safety, insurances coverage, etc.
- Knowledge of human resources, financial and project management, federal and provincial governments funding mechanisms, auditing and financial accountability requirements;
- Proficiency in the use of computers and information technology systems (i.e. Internet, Email, Word Processing, etc.)
- Demonstrated competencies in leading, thinking strategically, solving problems, planning, organizing, making decisions, fostering team work, communicating effectively, building relationships, behaving ethically, and adapting to changing work environments while maintaining effectiveness and efficiency;
- Knowledge of Kihche'othasowewin and Nehetho laws and customary principles and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation history, peoples, culture, language, economies, historical and contemporary relationships, business relationships and connections to other Indigenous governments, advocacy and service delivery organizations
- The successful candidate will be asked to complete a criminal records check.

Priority consideration will be given to qualified Nisichawayasi Nehetho candidates. All interested candidates are asked to forward a cover letter indicating qualifications and a complete resume with at least 3 recent references 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



# NCN Family and Wellness Centre Celebrates 15 years of Service at AGM

Almost 80 NCN Citizens joined NCN Family and Community Wellness Centre's CEO Felix Walker and program managers who presented their highlights and challenges of the past year at the Centre's

annual  
general  
meeting.

Gail  
McDonald  
started the  
evening with

a prayer, which was followed by a presentation of the year's activities. Dinner was served by Junior Chief and Council, and the presentation continued while people enjoyed their meal.

The NCN Family and Community Wellness Centre is celebrating its 15th year of providing a holistic approach to care for all of our Citizens. This year, the Centre and its programs saw many improved services and increased visits with more community Citizens. However, it has been a challenging year, mainly due

to funding claw backs, totalling more than \$700,000, from the provincial government for the Child, Family and Community services budget.

In 2015/2016, the Centre received just over \$23.8 million in revenue, and spent just over the same in core operations and programs. This resulted in a \$30,910 deficit for the fiscal year.

The Centre has an accumulated surplus of about \$4 million, which is created by federal CFS activities. The Centre is working on a comprehensive spending plan for these surplus funds.

Despite its challenges, the Centre continues to provide incredible activities and support for our Citizens that help us all to live happier and healthier lives. Chief and Council would like to recognize all

staff for their hard work and dedication to the health of our community.

Short presentations were offered by program managers, and their highlights are included below.

## Child, Family and Community Services

The overall number of children in care (CIC) has increased from 303 to 336. However, some of this increase is due to a change in how these numbers are calculated: extensions of Care (EOC) numbers have been added back into the CIC number. The Centre continues to benefit from the Bachelor of Social Work Co-Hort program. This year we have 23 passionate participants, who are learning best practices while serving our children and families. The Centre received an additional \$200,000 in federal funding, but this does not compensate for the \$700,000 in decreased provincial funding. This has had several impacts, including the halt of a pilot reunification program and limited training for our staff.

The Wechitowin Project continued its reaches into the community with the delivery of food hampers and children's baskets at Christmas and Easter. It held events throughout the year including clothing giveaways,

**The overall number of children in care (CIC) has increased from 303 to 336.**



**The Family and Wellness Centre continues to provide activities and support for our Citizens to live happier and healthier lives.**



**NCN Family and Community Wellness Centre's CEO Felix Walker presenting highlights and challenges at the annual general meeting.**

craft nights, snowshoeing and snaring lessons, smudging and drumming. It encourages everyone to join in its sweat ceremonies every Sunday.

Since 2002, the Removal of Parent program allows kids to stay in the community while parents go away for the help they need, which has lesser negative effects on everyone. The Centre hopes to build ten new homes to be used as temporary lodging for children (and their families or support people) who would otherwise be put into care homes off-reserve.

## Public Health

Diabetes continues to increase in our community. The Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative continues to educate Citizens of all ages about how to avoid diabetes, through healthy eating and physical activity. Staff supports Citizens who are

helping family members deal with diabetes, through home visits, foot care information and support. The Initiative provided foot care referrals to Thompson/HCCP, held events such as telehealth sessions, breakfasts and nutrition months, and promoted gardening as a source of healthy activity and food.

This year, 75 babies were born in our community. We are pleased to report 42 mothers breastfed their children, which is the best source of nourishment for

infants. Breastfeeding can be difficult and we encourage friends and families to help new mothers.

The STAR FASD program is at capacity. Our two mentors are supporting 30 women who have used harmful substances

Continued on page 15



during pregnancy. We help these new mothers to make positive choices.

The medical transportation unit continues to provide essential daily trips to Thompson. We hope to build a maintenance garage and replace our van in the next year.

## Home and Community Care

The HCCP team continues to help elders and people with disabilities and illness to receive care in their homes, and to coordinate their care with NRHA and WRHA. The Counselling and Family Enhancement Programs had almost 2,000 direct points of contact with NCN Citizens this year, including several on-the-land and traditional activities to facilitate family bonding and unity.

## Child Care and Community Wellness

The Head Start program had 27 preschool participants this year, and the Infant and Toddler program had 14 children. These numbers are both increased from last year, which means our community and our parents understand the importance of children's early years. Participants enjoy educational activities, transportation and snacks for free. Jean McDonald Treasures of Hope Day Care Centre had 8 infants and 18 preschoolers registered in 2015/2016.

The NCN Fitness Centre had 3,108 recorded gym visits this year, which is much lower than the year before. We encourage all Citizens to get active. Instead of sitting for coffee, go for a walk around the gym. If you're looking for more of a challenge, speak with our staff who are happy to help.

## Do You Have Concerns or Issues For Your Flin Flon MLA?



Please feel free to contact us. Office hours are Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Tom Lindsey**  
**MLA for the Flin Flon Constituency**  
**1-204-687-3246**

Email: [tom.lindsey@yourmanitoba.ca](mailto:tom.lindsey@yourmanitoba.ca)  
Or: [flinflon1@yourmanitoba.ca](mailto:flinflon1@yourmanitoba.ca)

# Manitoba Northern Chiefs Make Environmental Stand with Standing Rock

NCN Deputy Chief Ron Spence and O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation Chief Chris Baker visited the Očhéthi Šakówinj Camp, near Cannonball, North Dakota, on November 12 and 13. Baker presented a Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak flag in a public ceremony to show solidarity and offer support.

"MKO and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe share common core objectives for the protection of waters, lands and the People, the protection of sacred, burial and cultural sites, honouring and giving life to the Treaties and the Treaty relationship, and ensuring full implementation of the obligation of governments to consult with Indigenous Peoples," says MKO Grand Chief Sheila North Wilson.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has been in peaceful protest since earlier this fall to ensure the Dakota Access Pipeline project is not completed through its sacred grounds.

As the protest gained publicity, Indigenous groups from across the United States and Canada, and even around the globe, have come to join their efforts. It has become a galvanizing symbol of the sacredness of water and Indigenous rights. Protesters say they have met with hostility from local law enforcement, including tear gas, rubber bullets, and water cannons in subzero temperatures.

On December 4th, celebration erupted at the camp when news arrived that the pipeline construction had been halted. Standing Rock Sioux Chairman Dave Archambault told the protesters it was time to go home and enjoy winter with their families.

"People are breathing a sigh of relief today and the sun is shining bright and there's blue skies here in Cannonball," protester Clayton Thomas-Muller, a member of the Ojibwe Cree Nation, told CBC News. While the Ojibwe Cree Nation is not a member of the Ojibwe Cree Nation, it is a member of the Ojibwe Cree Nation.

Camp are rejoicing, many are concerned the decision could be overturned by President-elect Donald Trump, when he takes office January 20, 2017.

# Speaking Out on Climate Change

At the recent climate change gathering in Sagkeeng First Nation important wisdom was shared about our environment. NCN Councillor Ron Spence said, "The message that guest speaker Dr. Suzuki emphasized was extremely valuable. Since 2008 humans have done more damage to the environment than any other time. If people's approach to the environment do not change and we do not respect Mother earth, people could face extinction by the turn of the century. He praised our First Nations for respecting the land and our relationship with mother earth."



**Historic signing of the declaration to support our brothers at Standing Rock, apposing the expansion of Tar Sands pipeline. Many Chiefs signed including NCN's deputy Chief Ron Spence.**



**OCN Chief Chris Baker.**



**Ron Spence with Dr. David Suzuki at Chief's Assembly.**



# Events Calendar

**December 15** – Make and wear your Ugly Christmas Sweater Day at school

**December 16** – Kindergarten Bake Sale at 2:15 p.m.  
Grade 8 Dance \$3 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**December 19** – Last day for the Breakfast and Hot lunch program until January. Students are asked to bring their own lunch.

**December 20** – Grade 3C Bake sale at 2:15 p.m. in room 101 – bring your money.

**December 21** – Annual Christmas Concert from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Students will be dismissed at 11:00 a.m. Bring you money – there will be draws and a bake sale and raffles. Regular classes for NINOC starting at 4:00 p.m.

**December 22** – Last day of classes. Classes will be dismissed at 12:00 for OK School. NNOC School will be starting at 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**December 22 – NCN**  
Parks & Recreation  
Christmas Special Events.  
Community sliding part, photos with Santa,  
Santa parade, community dinner, and Christmas carol  
competition.

**Holiday Break**  
**December 23 to January 9, 2017**

*Have a Safe and Happy Holidays from the Staff and Students of OK and NNOC Schools.*



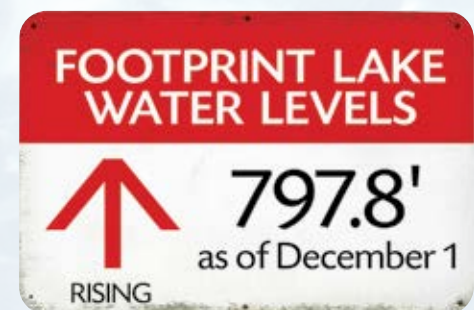
# Footprint Lake Water Levels

# Footprint Lake 60-Day Water Level Forecast

## Revised Forecast

December 1 – January 31, 2017

On December 1, 2016 the level of Footprint Lake is forecasted to be 797.8 feet. The level of the lake is expected to rise 11 inches to an elevation of 798.7 feet by the end of December.



During the month of January the level of the lake is expected to rise 6 inches to an elevation of 799.2 feet by the end of the month.

Citizens are asked to use extreme caution around water and to stay off any ice.



Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation  
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[www.ncncree.com](http://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](mailto:achimowina@gmail.com)

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Stay current with NCN's latest news, events and updates on your computer, smartphone or device from our official NCN Facebook page @nisichawayasihk.

