

FEBRUARY 2017

Nisichawayasi Achimowina

Chief and Council Holds Meetah Building Supplies Accountable

At the January NCN Council meeting, when Chief and Council asked the simple question: Why do profits from Meetah seem to be slower this year? The answer reported from one of NCN's most successful businesses, Meetah Building Supplies Inc. was clear. "Meetah is busier than ever with community development projects and moneys-owed are still coming in," said Gert Wilzer, Meetah Building Supplies Manager.

This means that the financial reports show – even though business was steady last year and increased in early 2017 – the balance of revenue will not be fully in the NCN coffers until Meetah

We have a lot of work going on right now and are trying to collect on receivables.

is paid what is owed for outstanding work.

"It is common for almost any business, especially in contracting and construction to have periods where our expenses are up and payments do not come in fully – until projects are completed. Simply put, we have a lot of work going on right now and are trying to collect on receivables," explained Wilzer.

Overall, business was steady in 2016 and had a slight increase over the years previous. In 2017, volume is already up and suggests a good year ahead.

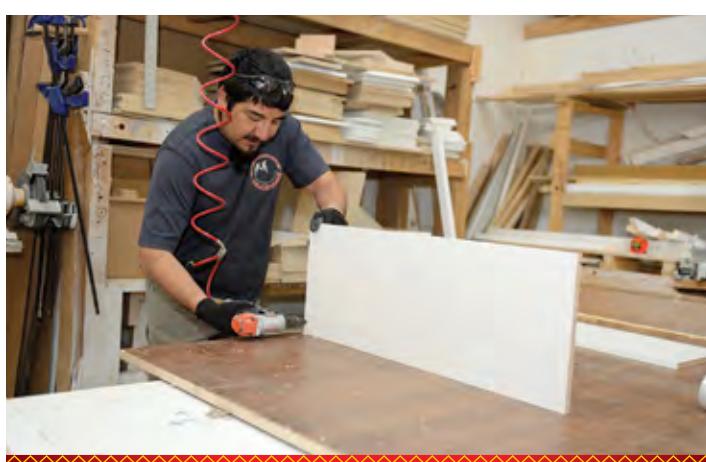
Balancing a Wide Range of Services for NCN and Northern Manitoba

Meetah Building Supplies provides nearly all the lumber, building supplies, decking and home interior products for construction projects in Nelson House. Local supplies are used on the projects when possible, even when sub-contractors are hired from outside the community. Arrangements are made with each contractor to use the trusted supplies and materials from the Meetah business. This way all sub-contractors have the same competitive opportunity – without the worry or costs linked to shipping in materials.

In addition to building supplies sales and a cabinet-making shop, Meetah also operates a sub-division



Meetah Building Supplies Inc. is busier than ever with community development projects in Northern Manitoba.



Meetah currently employs 15 staff and between eight and 12 seasonal workers. A large percentage are NCN workers.

company of builders and contractors called NCN Builders. Profits from the NCN-run businesses go back into capital growth, help to expand services, grow operations and product selection as well as increase the inventory assets of equipment and facilities.

Meetah also has four property home rentals in the City of Thompson. The NCN Family and Community Wellness Centre rents two of the homes for wellness programs and two homes are rented by other tenants. These solid real-estate

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OKIMAHKAN OTY'AMIWIN

From the Chief

Two Years of Building Momentum

Over the past two years we have continued to build momentum. This past year we have started building many new houses as well as repairing many others. We will continue to make improvements to our housing stock this year as well. A number of major infrastructure projects are also in the planning stages including a new women's shelter, multi-plex, and lagoon.

We are also in discussions about a new water treatment plant, community health centre and high school.

We also have major governance projects underway that will add to our long-term socio-economic development. These projects range from ensuring we have a capable senior management team in place and that we have good governance tools such as updated human resource and financial policies.

We are planning for a vote on our Constitution and hope that NCN will be the first Manitoba First Nation to assert our sovereignty in such an important way. Our Land Code and the development of land laws and policies is well underway. NCN continues to be a leader in these governance initiatives as indicated by our recent hosting of a land use planning conference that brought together a diverse group of people and ideas.

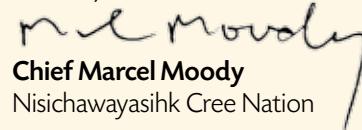
The vision I laid out in the last election is being

implemented and we are creating new opportunities for NCN now and in the future. But we must pull together to stop the violence caused by alcohol, drugs and gangs in our community. I have spoken about this before and it is essential that everyone take this issue very seriously as it affects us all.

I continue to believe that by working together we can accomplish our goals together collectively.

Many of you that attended the General Assembly received a copy of our *State of the Nation Report* Newsletter and in this newsletter is a recap of the highlights and accomplishments for Citizens that were not able to attend or are living outside of the community.

Ekosani,


Chief Marcel Moody
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

General Assembly Highlights NCN Accomplishments

The 2017 NCN General Assembly held on February 15th, 2017 was held to update Citizens in attendance of the accomplishments to date and plans for the near future. Chief and Council and organization managers presented information regarding the following important topics:

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Mystery Lake Development

We are finalizing the terms of the lease arrangements for our hotel. We need to complete the land designation process similar to the one we did for the store at NCN. This procedure is required under the Indian Act provisions. If we had our own Constitution and Land Code in place we would be able to use those to develop our own laws. We currently anticipate that the vote on land designation for the Mystery Lake will take place before the votes on the Constitution and Land Code.

We are examining a number of options for the further development of our lands in Thompson including a gas station/convenience store, an office complex, walk-in clinic with

a pharmacy, an expanded gaming centre, and a distribution centre for medical marijuana.

Water Treatment Plant

We applied for a new water treatment plant through the Building Canada Fund two years ago but changes at both levels of government resulted in changes to the process. The funds for these types of infrastructure projects are back with INAC so our application was sent to INAC. In discussions with them, they anticipate the design of the project will proceed this summer and construction will begin if all goes well in the summer of 2018. The costs of the project have been updated and the location of the new plant is under discussion. Originally the plant was to be located across from the gas station to help facilitate further expansion of our community including the various major infrastructure projects we have in the planning and discussion phases.

Lagoon

This project was also part of the original Building Canada Fund application and is now moving ahead through INAC. A project manager is to be hired in the next few months and the project will start once the ground thaws.

Causeways and Road Paving

This has been a frustrating process but finally the contract has been awarded to NCLP and Strilkewski to prepare the sub-grade and base. Asphalting is to follow the preparation of the base. The asphalting of PR 620 has been deferred for a few years given the province's concerns about its finances but this project remains in MIT's capital plan. It is my understanding that the province will consider asphalting at least to the land fill site if it can be co-ordinated with the causeway project. I am waiting for more details and will share those in future newsletters and assemblies.



Multi-Plex

We hired an architect to plan and design this important community infrastructure. Class C estimates should be available shortly so that an application can be made to INAC for its consideration. It is possible that up to \$2.3 Million may be available which would help us given that the cost of a multi-plex is so high.

PHASE 1&2



Multi-plex plans for proposed facility.

Women's Shelter

NCN is one of five First Nations in Canada to be approved for the construction and maintenance of a women's shelter. We have a number of technical administrative steps that need to be taken related to design, finalization of architect and project management contracts, construction schedule and the development of a fundraising plan. This facility is important for the protection of our women and children from the violence many in our community face on a daily basis. We must concurrently grapple with the root causes of violence so that future generations will not be forced to leave their homes. In the meantime, this shelter will provide more permanent jobs for our people.

Housing

Over the past two years, we have secured funding for, and started to implement the most massive housing program in our Nation's history. Since the start of our

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current fiscal year on April 1, 2016 the following projects are all in various stages of planning and completion:

- 12 bungalows (3 complete and 9 at various stages of construction)
- 10 other units in various stages of development
- 10 more units to be built by an INAC engaged contractor who is to review the sites in the community by the end of February
- 6 Mobitel units for transitional occupancy for our Citizens while their houses are being repaired
- 4 Plex for RCMP
- 8 Plex and 3 house renovation projects at various stages of construction
- 10 unit renovation project scope of work ready for construction to start soon

Additional housing initiatives will be considered during the 2017/18 budget process. Community input is required regarding the ongoing damage to houses related to alcohol, drug and gang activity which is costing our Nation significant time and resources to address.

Staffing for housing has presented many challenges. A recent job competition resulted in no fully qualified candidates. A decision was made to try to have an NCN Citizen mentored and trained through a formal training plan for the position. Over the next while we will examine how to best restructure the housing authority to meet the changing and ongoing needs of our Nation.

High School Repairs

As the current high school was considered unsafe for staff and students, major renovations were required. A project manager was hired to manage the project for NCN and to ensure quality and cost control. The total cost of this project is over \$800,000.00. We anticipate the project will finally be completed by spring break so that the students and staff can get back to a normal school day.

New School

In the meantime we are also undertaking a detailed study to examine the need for a new high school as it is very important that our youth obtain a quality education. INAC has agreed to fund a study that will examine the condition of our existing schools, any deficiencies, their life expectancy as well as our future needs. The key is to examine what our requirements are to create and maintain a supportive learning environment. There will be an extensive consultation process with NCN Citizens, the project team, and Chief and Council to examine needs and priorities, present options and obtain input on preferred options.

New Community Health Centre

FNHIB has confirmed that NCN will receive funding for the design of a new community health centre within the next few months. We are over capacity at our existing nursing station and need a new state-of-the-art facility. Further community input will be obtained related to this initiative also.

NCN Stores

We have been successfully operating the Thompson Family Foods for the past few years. Our new store in Nelson House is set to open on February 23rd. We are also in discussions about expanding our Family Foods operations into other communities. We also want to explore potential food production opportunities that will help to ensure food security for our Nation for years to come.



ATTENTION NCN CITIZENS:



WANT TO BE ADDED TO THE NCN VOTING LIST OR ACHIMOWINA NEWS DELIVERY LIST?

There will be several important votes in the near future that will require your vote. Be sure to let us know your contact information to be eligible to vote. Your input matters!

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE ACHIMOWINA NEWSPAPER AT HOME EACH MONTH?

If you are a NCN Citizen living in Nelson House, Leaf Rapids, South Indian Lake, Thompson, Winnipeg or Brandon, we want to get news to you. WANT AN E-COPY? You can always find the latest Achimowina online at ncncree.com!

Send your contact information and address to Joyce Yetman by phone (204) 484-2604, or joyceyetman@ncncree.com.

GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES

CEO Selection Process

Following the resignation of Theresa Yetman as CEO in December, a fair and transparent recruitment process was implemented. The position was advertised nationally with a preference for qualified NCN Citizens. Twelve people applied. Following pre-screening of the applicants, five were interviewed. They were evaluated on the basis of the criteria in the job posting. Kathleen McKay Bluesky was the successful candidate. She will start her employment with NCN in mid-July following her current maternity leave. Kathleen is the first NCN Citizen to achieve an MBA from the Asper School of Business. We look forward to working with Kathleen to move our Nation forward.

Senior Management Team

Chief and Council approved updated job descriptions for the senior management team which consists of a CEO, CFO (Chief Financial Officer), Executive Director of Operations, Executive Director of Human Resources and Executive Director of Intergovernmental Relations and Special Projects. The senior management team is now comprised of: Ms. Bluesky (CEO), Yvonne Hart (CFO), Lianna Anderson (EDO), Kim Linklater (EDHR), and Norman Linklater (EDIGSP). As Mr. Linklater is on a health related leave of absence, Joyce Yetman has been assigned as interim executive director during his absence.

Policy Development

Our Human Resource policies are being reviewed and updated. Chief and Council have approved several new policies that are being reviewed with all staff as part of NCN's ongoing commitment to professional development. The policies are: Respectful Workplace, Off-Duty Conduct, Criminal Records, Criminal Charges and Complaints, and Human Rights Accommodation. The remaining policies will be completed in the near future. Financial policy development will then take place along with a review of other NCN policies.

Constitution

We plan to have a newsletter update and one more round of small group meetings at NCN so we can vote to approve our Constitution this summer. This is an important document as it lays the foundation for the rights and responsibilities of NCN Citizens, Chief and Council and our staff. Recent developments in the US continue to demonstrate the importance of having our own strong Constitution. Indigenous peoples throughout North America are developing their Constitutions. We hope NCN will lead the way in Manitoba as this is an important way to assert our rights.

Land Code and Land Use Planning

This important initiative is being co-ordinated with discussions about the Constitution as both provide us with mechanisms to pass our own laws. The draft Land Code will be discussed with the community over the next few months and we also anticipate a vote on it before the fall. As noted, we have so many different projects underway that we need to ensure we have proper land use and community plans in place. These projects are also underway and further community input will be sought over the next few months.

NNCEA and ATEC

ATEC and NHEA were to be amalgamated to form Nisichawayasi Nehethowuk Culture and Education Authority so all education and training matters would be co-ordinated for the benefit of our community. This decision remains educationally sound but unfortunately, we have run into a number of unanticipated problems during implementation. As a result, for the time being it appears to make sense to leave the two entities separate to avoid ongoing operating conflicts between the two entities.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

CAP/CIP Budgets

This year approximately \$5.7 million is available, there was \$13.6 million in a total of 50 applications submitted. Of the funds available, \$1 Million will continue to be part of the budget to pay for the forward commitment loan of \$12 Million used to construct and renovate houses in our community as discussed during the Wuskwatim PDA 2 discussions. The CAP-CIP Committee has recommended budgets that are similar to those in previous years.

Audits

The audits for 2016/17 are almost completed and will be available to the community soon.

Annual Budget Planning Process

Chief and Council will be meeting for the first two weeks of March to review and finalize our budget for the upcoming fiscal year. In future years we hope to amalgamate all NCN finances and seek more community input during the budget planning process.

Miscellaneous Projects

As part of Canada's 150 year celebrations in 2017, NCN has received funding from Western Diversification for 50% of the costs for the cenotaph project, the entrance sign, the baseball field and the pow wow arbour. We need to budget \$400,000 approximately for NCN's share of the costs.



A Grand Opening! NCN Celebrates Three Rivers Store

The new store was packed with NCN Citizens joining in the celebration to mark the official opening of the NCN Three Rivers grocery store. The store first opened its doors on November 18, 2016. The official grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony was held on February 23, 2017. Chief Moody said, "The store is another significant accomplishment we should be proud of. This is another huge economic success that moves our Nation toward a prosperous future."

The store employs 16 Citizens and features state-of-the-art refrigerator coolers, a solar wall (to reduce energy costs) and 400 post office boxes. The store's goods are competitively priced with Thompson Family foods and provide Citizens great selection and large range of food and grocery choices.



(Above) Chief and Council members cut the ribbon to officially mark the grand opening of the new Three Rivers Store. (Below) NCN Citizens take part in the fun and prize giveaways.



NCN Singer Songwriter Places at Talent Competition

On the weekend of February 4th, Justin Hart one of NCN's talented and ambitious performers won third in a talent competition in Winnipeg.

The event was held and coordinated by our NCN Youth Initiative and networking with the ICT Committee – a committee made up of youth all over Manitoba. ICT hosted the “First Nation’s with Attitude” competition to showcase the great talents of 12 communities in a *Canada’s Got*

Talent style format at the RBC Convention in Winnipeg. NCN sent Justin Hart to represent Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.

Now 18 years old, Justin has been writing songs and performing for about 8 years. He has a self-written song that moves audiences with emotion called "Lost Souls." He wrote the song for murdered and missing Indigenous women.

NCN Youth Initiative coordinator Cheyenne Spence says, "He has always lived in NCN and we are honoured to make his dream a reality. By going out of the community to do what he loves, he is able to sing for more audiences."

Justin is proud to have other NCN youth look up to him and says, "It was quite the experience for me. A first for many things like going to Winnipeg for this competition and even eating Chinese food!"

Spence added, "On behalf of the NCN Youth Initiative, our NCN reps Maggie Moose and Terrance Thomas and all of NCN we are proud of Justin. Good job!"



Justin Hart wins 3rd Place at talent Competition in Winnipeg.

Continued from page 1

properties have been economically sustainable and help to improve NCN's equity.

Keeping Costs Competitive in a Remote Location

Meetah's costs are competitively priced when compared to other retailers. NCN Chief and Council ensure this by doing



Meetah is managing the increase in business and reports that additional resources and workers may be needed to accommodate the workload.

periodic price checks and Meetah management also conducts internal price-checks to provide customers fair prices.

Meetah currently employs 15 staff and between eight and 12 seasonal workers. Between 75% and 90% are NCN workers. Attempts are made to keep wages comparable to similar businesses. It is expected more workers could be needed to handle upcoming major projects in NCN.

Work Demand is Increasing

Currently Meetah is busy supplying materials for the NNOC high school repairs, contracts for 10 group homes, the RCMP four-ply, 12-unit bungalow project, along with the steady demand for NCN home repairs, maintenance and services for other

Northern Manitoba Communities. The plans for an NCN Multi-Plex build, 30 new homes, a new women's shelter and upgrades to the baseball complex indicate business will be great in the coming months/years.

Wilzer says, "On top of the many projects underway, and the large community builds planned, the band remains our

largest customer, but we are also seeing an increase in NCN homeowners wanting our retail products and services."

Meetah is currently managing the increase in business and reports that additional resources and workers may be needed to accommodate the workload. "It is a good environment to be operating in... more work supports the local economy, enhances job placement and increases the opportunity to train and offer apprenticeships for ATEC students or skilled tradespeople," claims Wilzer.

Effectively Managing Finances

Meetah is an incorporated business and all finances are audited and approved by Dayton Barenz, certified general accountants. Nelson House Development Corporation oversees the business under the scrutiny of corporation Manager, David Kobliski. Kobliski in turn reports to Chief and Council.

Chief Marcel Moody says, "Meetah's successful organizational model helps ensure accountability and effective business management. Meetah and the

Corporation have been quite successful since 1997 and 100% of profits go back into capital growing business and expanding product lines or services."

Cooperating to Maintain Quality

To meet the demand of new construction, Meetah enlists the help of a wide range of contracted services including, engineers, plumbers, carpenters, electricians and various

skilled trades workers. Contracts are awarded based on: quality of work; potential for jobs for local employees; ability to improve training opportunities; costs-efficiencies; reputation/credibility of contractor; past work experience, fit within the business, and other valuable criteria. Sub-contractors are then managed by

Meetah Building Supplies to monitor project deadlines, worker performance, project budgets; cost increases; and ensure the work is completed according to the contract.

"We encourage work with NCN subcontractors when possible, but of course we also need to be mindful of cost, fit with our business and quality of work to meet busy schedules and Chief and Council's expectations," says Gert.

Contractors looking to be invited to tenders are asked to contact the Development Corporation or Meetah for consideration.

Chief and Council are optimistic Meetah will continue to grow with the constantly growing community and be NCN's primary source of construction supplies long into the future.

For more information about Nelson House Development Corporation or Meetah Building Supplies contact (204) 484-2225 or your NCN Government Office.



Meetah continues to grow with the constant growing community and will be NCN's primary source of construction supplies long into the future.



KITITAHWINAOW ACHIMOWIN

Community News

B I N G O Heats Things Up... By Providing Warm Outerwear for NCN Kids

By: Terry Linklater, Jack Young, Priscilla Linklater and Warren Brightnose

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation kids are warmer this winter and looking great outdoors, thanks to a winter-wear fundraiser Bingo, held on December 14, 2016. The money raised from the Bingo

profits were donated to a special NCN Parks and Recreation fund. The NCN Achimowin Radio Station supported the Bingo competition on air and the local prize winners were not the only ones who benefited.

A crew, led by Terry J. Linklater, Jack Young and Priscilla Linklater worked hard to organize the event and got to work shopping for new winter clothing. The group purchased warm

winter mittens, gloves, hats, and neck warmers along with indoor shoes for several children. With the help of Otetiskiwain School teachers and staff members, Angie, Allison, Debbie and Tia, the items were distributed to the students.

"It was really a great community effort and the students are very thankful to receive their new shoes, hats and mitts!" said bingo event organizers.



New NCN Chief Executive Officer Hired



**Kathleen McKay-Bluesky,
hired as New Chief Executive
Officer.**

Kathleen owns Seven Feathers Consulting and worked with Nanaandawewigamig-First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba. Her company focuses on community planning, community development, strategic planning, policy development and implementation, organizational leadership and economic development. For over eight years, she has been offering services as a strategic visionary and manager. Her 14 years of experience working with First Nations, federal and provincial government representatives and elected officials has given her strong talents in business, planning and consulting with government agencies. Her role with Intergovernmental Committee on Manitoba First Nations Health (ICMFNH) taught her skills for facilitating collaboration and maintaining effective working relationships among First Nations political organizations as well as provincial and federal governments. She is also a champion for new relationships among Elders, Traditional Healers, health professionals, government, and political representatives. BlueSky's diverse background includes practical experience in accounting, finance, risk management, strategic planning, policy analysis, and enhancing governance structures. She is considered a very strong team player with proven leadership skills in fostering collaboration, attracting new partners, facilitating decision-making and achieving action. Kathleen has also had experience working for the Government of Manitoba as a program and policy analyst.

Kathleen looks forward to introducing herself to all personnel, management and personnel at NCN organizations. We hope to welcome and greet her with cooperation and courtesy as we build toward a bright future for our Nehetho Nation!

NCN Chief and Council, is pleased to welcome and congratulate Kathleen McKay-Bluesky to her new position as NCN Chief Executive Officer. Kathleen will assume her duties as of July 17, 2017. She will have opportunities to interact, provide guidance and become oriented to our Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation over the coming months.

NCN Citizen Kathleen Bluesky, recently completed her MBA from Asper School of Business.

Kathleen owns Seven Feathers Consulting and worked with Nanaandawewigamig-First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba. Her company focuses on community planning, community development, strategic planning, policy development and implementation, organizational leadership and economic development. For over eight years, she has been offering services as a strategic visionary and manager. Her 14 years of experience working with First Nations, federal and provincial government representatives and elected officials has given her strong talents in business, planning and consulting with government agencies. Her role with Intergovernmental Committee on Manitoba First Nations Health (ICMFNH) taught her skills for facilitating collaboration and maintaining effective working relationships among First Nations political organizations as well as provincial and federal governments. She is also a champion for new relationships among Elders, Traditional Healers, health professionals, government, and political representatives. BlueSky's diverse background includes practical experience in accounting, finance, risk management, strategic planning, policy analysis, and enhancing governance structures. She is considered a very strong team player with proven leadership skills in fostering collaboration, attracting new partners, facilitating decision-making and achieving action. Kathleen has also had experience working for the Government of Manitoba as a program and policy analyst.

Kathleen looks forward to introducing herself to all personnel, management and personnel at NCN organizations. We hope to welcome and greet her with cooperation and courtesy as we build toward a bright future for our Nehetho Nation!



**DEALING WITH ADDICTIONS?
call (204) 484-2256 to get help.**

**NEXT MEN'S INTAKE DATE
WILL BE FEBRUARY 27, 2017.
(Womens' program to follow. Contact us for dates)**



Employment Opportunity

GRADE 6 TEACHER (ALL BASIC SUBJECTS)

Employer: Nelson House Education Authority, Inc.

Position: Teaching Elementary (Intermediate)

School/Org: Ototiskiwinn School with the NNCEA

Location: Nelson House, Manitoba, Canada

FTE: FTE

Salary: As per Collective Agreement Salary Grid

Closing Date: Open Until Filled

Please note: This employer does NOT allow international applicants.

Details:

The Nisichawayasi Nehetho Culture and Education Authority (NNCEA) is accepting applications for a grade six teacher. This is a full time teaching position to the end of June 2017. Affordable, housing is available.

Rent includes basic furnishings, electricity, heat with a recently upgraded, security system.

Applicants MUST:

- be certified by the PCSRU in Manitoba
- submit an updated CARC and VSC at time of application

If interested, please send the previously mentioned documents along with a letter of interest, an updated resume and names of three references to: Director of Education @204-484-2095 or email gailm@nhea.info.



Brielle Beardy-Linklater Heads to Ottawa to Represent Women in Politics

NCN's Brielle Beardy-Linklater will represent the Northern Manitoba riding of Churchill-Keewatinook Aski in the House of Commons in Ottawa this March 7-8. As a participant in Equal Voice Canada's Daughters of the Vote, an initiative to celebrate a century of women's right to vote in Canada, Brielle is

encouraging more women to get involved in politics.

Equal Voice invites young women from the ages of 18 to 23 to be one of 338 who will take their seats in Parliament. One young woman has been chosen from every federal riding in Canada to represent their community

and to communicate their vision for Canada.

Equal Voice's Daughters of the Vote initiative ensures emerging young women leaders become familiar with Canada's political institutions and the people involved. It inspires participation in the formal political sphere for these women and others.

As a transgender indigenous woman Beardy-Linklater represents a number of groups that are becoming more recognized in Canada's political scene. "There are currently no open transgender women in Canadian politics," says Brielle. She hopes to one day make history and continue to be an advocate for these groups and build on the experience she has had by giving speeches and workshops. She is also confident the people she meets and the experience in Ottawa will prepare her to one day become a politician and make a valued change.



Brielle Beardy-Linklater

Tips for Helping Your Child to be Successful in School

By: John McBai, Vice Principal, Ototiskiwin School

Kids are more successful in school when parents take an active interest in their homework – it shows

kids that what they do is important. Of course, helping with homework shouldn't mean spending hours hunched over a desk. Parents can be supportive by demonstrating study and organization skills, explaining a tricky problem, or just

encouraging kids to take a break. And who knows? Parents might even learn a thing or two!

The poster features a black background with red and yellow text. At the top, "MARCH MADNESS 2017" is written in large red letters. Below it, "FIRST NATIONS" is written in red with a white outline. In the center, there is a stylized illustration of two basketball players in action, one in red and one in yellow, set against a background of white feathers. Below the illustration, "BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT" is written in large red letters. At the bottom, the date "MARCH 31 TO APRIL 2, 2017" is displayed in white. To the left, there is a red silhouette of a person. To the right, there is a yellow silhouette of a person. The text "Garden City Collegiate, Winnipeg, Manitoba" is at the bottom left, and the logo for "H.C.Y. BASKETBALL & RECREATION" is at the bottom right. There is also a small "WARRIORS" logo at the bottom left.

MARCH MADNESS 2017

FIRST NATIONS

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

MARCH 31 TO APRIL 2, 2017

Garden City Collegiate, Winnipeg, Manitoba

High school Boys and Girls Teams
Entry Fee: \$900/team

Round Robin Tournament (2 Divisions)
All players must be enrolled in high school or a member of the participating First Nation
Deadline for entry: March 17, 2017

1st Place: Championship Banner, Trophy, Gold Medal
2nd Place: Runner-up Banner, trophy, Silver Medal
3rd Place: Trophy and Bronze Medal

Each participant will receive tournament keepsake attire.

For more information or to enter a team, contact:
Lou Moody (204) 307-2243
Terry Linklater (204) 307-2246
Iggy Grinevsky (204) 891-1414



10 TIPS FOR HOMEWORK SUCCESS

- 1. Know the teachers – and what they're looking for.** Attend school events, such as parent-teacher conferences, to meet your child's teachers. Ask about their homework policies and how you should be involved.
- 2. Set up a homework-friendly area.** Make sure kids have a well-lit place to complete homework. Keep supplies – paper, pencils, glue, scissors – within reach.
- 3. Schedule a regular study time.** Some kids work best in the afternoon, following a snack and play period; others may prefer to wait until after dinner.
- 4. Help them make a plan.** On heavy homework nights or when there's an especially hefty assignment to tackle, encourage your child break up the work into manageable chunks. Create a work schedule for the night if necessary – and take time for a 15-minute break every hour, if possible.
- 5. Keep distractions to a minimum.** This means no TV, loud music, or phone calls. (Occasionally, though, a phone call to a classmate about an assignment can be helpful.)
- 6. Make sure kids do their own work.** They won't learn if they don't think for themselves and make their own mistakes. Parents can make suggestions and help with directions. But it's a kid's job to do the learning.
- 7. Be a motivator and monitor.** Ask about assignments, quizzes, and tests. Give encouragement, check completed homework, and make yourself available for questions and concerns.
- 8. Set a good example.** Do your kids ever see you diligently balancing your budget or reading a book? Kids are more likely to follow their parents' examples than their advice.
- 9. Praise their work and efforts.** Post an aced test or art project on the refrigerator. Mention academic achievements to relatives.
- 10. If there are continuing problems with homework, get help.** Talk about it with your child's teacher. Some kids have trouble seeing the board and may need glasses; others might need an evaluation for a learning problem or attention disorder.

Resource Management Board Seeks Input for Land Use Plan

The Nelson House Resource Management Board was established in 1996. Its goal is to create Land Use and Resource Management Plans, and, together with the Province, to monitor activities that involve natural resources within its planning area. The entire Resource Management Area includes the 49 RTLs and covers approximately 5.6 million acres.

Currently, the NHRMB is focused on developing its Aski Apachi'chikewi Othaschikewin (Land Use Plan), which incorporates the wisdom and traditional knowledge of Nisichawayasi Nehethowuk. This Land Use Plan is required under Article 6 of the flood settlement agreement. Chief and Council and the Minister of Conservation will have final approval of the Plan.

A Land Use Plan includes documents and maps that outline how lands can be used. It might include prescribing areas of

land or water for regulation; recognizing areas of cultural, historical or ecological significance; zoning; resolving conflict; and overseeing the construction or occupation of cabins and shelters.

Other First Nations that have participated in land use planning have seen benefits for their own communities.

They have an increased understanding and connection to their resources and a stronger relationship with government, neighbours and businesses. Workers in the process have gained technical skills, such as GIS mapping. Their citizens have a stronger sense of ownership and engagement in future development.

The NHRMB hopes to have its Plan completed by September 2017, and has many steps to complete. Some of these include an online survey to determine preferred resource development; data analysis of traditional land use and occupancy mapping; further research with the University of Manitoba water management program; and an enhanced Leftrook Lake Management Plan.

A community-based Land Use Plan will serve as the foundation that guides all future decisions for our land. The best Land Use Plan for NCN is one in which all Citizens are involved, sharing their concerns and providing their wisdom. The Resource Management Board is planning open houses, workshops and interviews to ensure our collective values and visions for the future are properly recorded in its Aski Apachi'chikewi Othaschikewin.

Please watch for our upcoming events and join us! If you have questions or suggestions, contact Coordinator Ed Vystrcil at 204-794-1477 or Roslyn Moore or Willie Moore at 204-484-2604.



A community-based Land Use Plan will serve as the foundation that guides all future decisions for our land.

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Parks and Recreation Presents

2017 Mixed BROOMBALL Provincial Championships

Enter the Broomball Tournament Today!

Nelson House, Manitoba
March 10, 11 & 12, 2017

Entry fee: \$750 each team
Team limit: 12 Teams
Format: Round robin, two divisions.
Deadline for entry: February 28, 2017
Prizes available for winning teams:
 1st: \$3,000 (plus provincial banner)
 2nd: \$2,000
 3rd: \$1,000
For registration and more information please contact:
 Lou Moodie at 1-204-307-2243
 Terry Linklater at 1-204-307-2246
 email: broomballmb@shaw.ca
 Manitoba Broomball Assoc. rules apply.
 Web: www.manitobabroomball.com

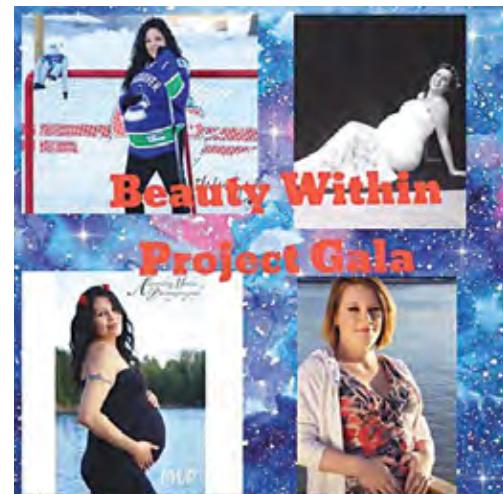
Sport MANITOBA **Manitoba Broomball**

Beauty Within Gala Honours Women

The 2nd Annual "Beauty Within Gala," founded and organized by Natasha Moodie, held another very successful night to honour women. Expectant mothers were honoured at the event to celebrate the gift of giving life and being a woman on February 22, 2017 at the Juniper Centre in Thompson.

The evenings festivities kicked off at 6:00 p.m. and included a dinner, presentations of gifts, draws and entertainment. The special event was free and a very special night for "women of the north." Donations were accepted to support future events and create awareness of the strength of women and girls.

Organizers thanked the following organizations for their donations and sponsors: Juniper Centre, Music Makers, Giant Tiger, Amp Industries Thompson, Highway Bros Construction, Bruce Hickey, NCN Family and Community Wellness Centre and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.



Foster and Bring an NCN Child Into Your Home

What is Foster Care?

Simply, it is bringing a child who needs love and care into your home for a temporary stay.

There are different reasons for needing foster care. There may have been a death in the child's family. Parents and caregivers may have a serious illness or addiction. There may have been physical, sexual or emotional abuse, or the children may be victims of neglect or abandonment.

These children need affection and support from someone outside of their home for a temporary

amount of time. It may be days, weeks, months or years, and good foster parent makes that time feel stable and secure.

We encourage local and off-reserve NCN Citizens to foster our community's children, rather than having them sent away.

Taking kids from their home communities has long-term effects. They blame themselves and feel disconnected from their roots, culture and way of life. It often leads to depression, low self-worth and addiction.

In the past, children were placed in unfamiliar households, usually far away, that were culturally different. Keeping children in our community helps them to understand that they have

people who care for them and that challenges can be overcome. The usual routine of school and friends can help a child feel normal, even when their lives are not. Foster families do receive some financial compensation to cover the costs of food, clothing and activities for a foster child, and support from NCN social services. The goal of foster care is to reunite a child with his or her family in their home when it is safe and beneficial to do so.

Can I Foster a Child?

If you are interested in foster care, and live in Northern Manitoba, Winnipeg, Brandon or Portage La Prairie, call to find out more!

To ensure the well-being of the child, there are a few safety and security clearances we will complete with you. These include a RCMP criminal and child abuse checks, discussions with you and those who live in your home, and an assessment of your home.

You will be required to attend some informational and counselling sessions to ensure you have the emotional and mental ability to care for a foster child. The child who will be in your care will also be assessed, and if there are unique medical or emotional needs, you will receive additional training to ensure a comfortable fit.

How Does Foster Care Work?

Once you, your family members and your home are deemed safe and secure, you will:

- Work with a team of child and family services workers to meet the needs of your foster child.
 - Act as the child's parent: creating and maintaining routines of school and chores, managing expectations about rules and behaviour; and day-to-day living, loving and laughing.
 - Meet with case workers regularly to ensure everyone is adapting to their new living situation.
 - Help your foster child deal with his or her emotions. The child may be angry, sad or scared. You will help him/her understand the situation, remain respectful about his or her family, and prepare the child to return to his or home.
 - Receive monthly cheques to pay for the expenses of having a foster child in your home (food, clothing, activities, medication, etc.). Money should not be the main reason you become a foster parent.

Questions to Ask Yourself:

- Do you have space in your home and your heart for another child?

The image features a woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a light green button-down shirt, holding a smiling baby in a blue onesie. A brown feather is positioned above the woman's shoulder, pointing downwards. In the upper right corner, there is a circular illustration depicting two figures in traditional Indigenous attire, one holding a child. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene.

- Are your other family members ready to open their lives to another child?
 - Do you have routines and rules in your home that will help a foster child adjust?
 - Do you have the patience to care for someone who may be sad, mad and confused?
 - Are you financially comfortable? Make sure you are not becoming a foster parent for the money!
 - Will you be able to talk honestly about your home life and your feelings with case workers?
 - Will you be able to love a child and then watch them go home again?
 - Can you be sympathetic to the child's parents and do what you can to help them get their children back?

How do I learn More About Foster Care?

Please visit us at the NCN Family Wellness Centre. You can also call us at (204) 484-2341. We will set up an appointment to talk with you and answer all of your questions to start you on the path to fostering and child.



2017 CAP/CIP Allocations Announced

In total this year, \$5,675,830.16 from the Nisichawayasihk Trust and the Taskinigahp Trust will be distributed to NCN programs and services through the CAP/CIP process.

Many of the funds will go to student and learning initiatives, including summer student employment; post secondary student enhancement; literacy, numeracy, outdoor and life skills education; ATEC operations and support services; and student nutrition program.

Community services and enhancements will receive funding, such as community patrol; justice program; Achimowin Radio; emergency medical services; and fire equipment and services.

Allotment of funds for social services includes the Christmas Cheer Board; Rediscovery of Families program; and various elders programs.

The Lands department will receive \$100,000; Resource Management will receive \$150,000. The Parks and Recreation department will receive \$501,000; Fisherman Association will receive \$175,000; and \$175,000 has been allotted to the Trappers Program.

Funds from the Nisichawayasihk Trust come from two main sources: a bond ladder, which creates \$1,632,800 annually, and the Recreation sub-account, which generates about \$22,000 of annual interest.

Funds from The Taskinigahp Trust come from six main sources. For 2017, the Transmission Development Fund creates \$215,000; Dividend Loan Advances creates \$153,000; Water Rental Rebate creates \$1.3 million; and an annuity offers

This year's CAP/CIP committee included 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.

\$2.25 million. Annual interest earned includes \$90,000 from Compensation Payments for Adverse Effects; and \$14,500 from the Resource Account and the Resource Sub-Account.

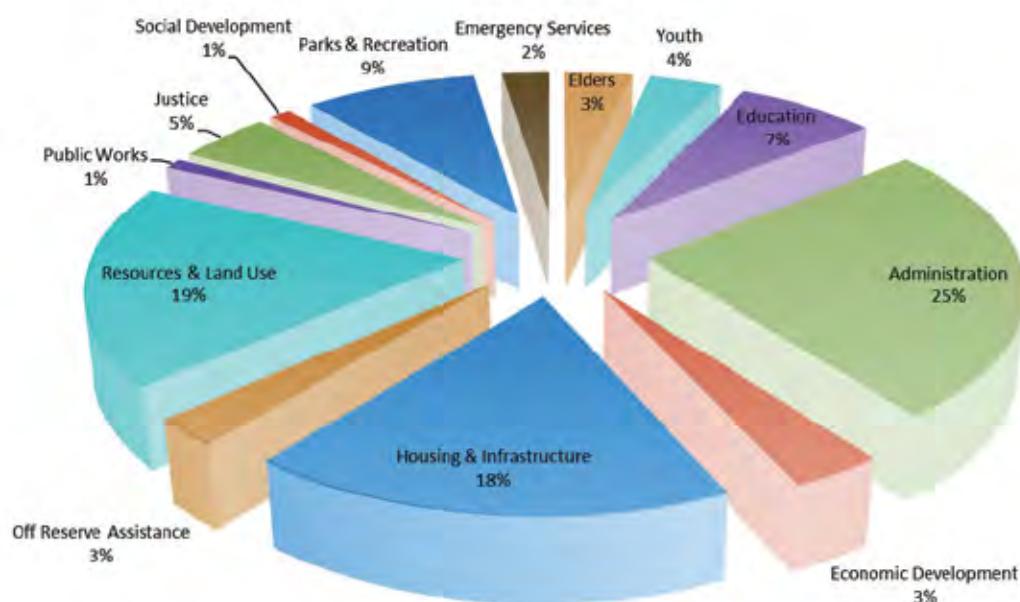
The income from both funds is generated and distributed every year. To decide the best way to spend this money, the Nisichawayasihk Trust uses the Community Approval Process (CAP). The Taskinigahp Trust follows the same procedure and

calls it the Community Involvement Process (CIP).

This year's CAP/CIP committee included Roslyn Moore, Yvonne Hart, Jemima Lobster, Alan Linklater, Elder Dorothy Linklater, Jacqueline Hunter, James Warren, Lou Moodie, and Councillors Joe Moose

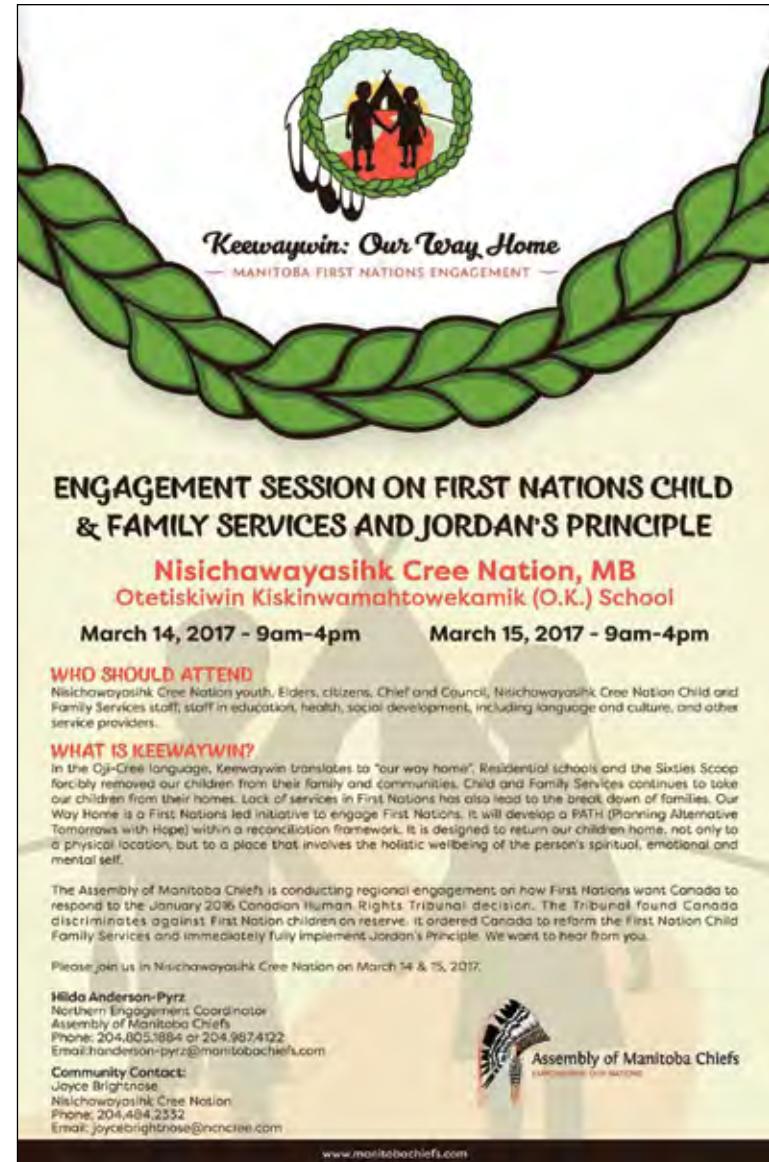
and Ron D. Spence.
Please note this
is not an complete
breakdown of the CAP/
CIP budget, but should
be understood as an
overview. For specific
information, please visit
www.trustoffice.ca or
contact Joyce Yetman,
Trust Office Director.

2017 FUNDED PROGRAMS



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.



Courageous Act Stops Rape Crime

On February 15, 2017 at the NCN General Assembly, Chief and Council acknowledged Doreen Ringrose and Sharla Murray for saving a young NCN woman, Nicole McDonald from a brutal beating and sexual assault in June of 2009. The

beautiful ceremony was conducted by Elder Darcy Linklater, Mr. and Mrs. Diane Linklater and Christina Shawaski.



Chief and council acknowledged Corporal Sheldon Moore, NCN member, for his years of service to the community including when he was a band Constable. February 15, 2017 at UC Church.

NCN Land Code Update: Environmental Site Assessment Phase 1 Identifies Areas of Concern

NCN has been undergoing studies of the NCN reserve lands as part of the Land Code Development Process. JRCC Engineering Consultants assisted in conducting a Phase 1 ESA that identified areas of environmental concern.

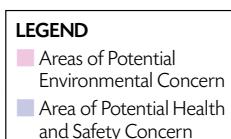
Goals:

- To identify actual and potential environmental, health and safety concerns
- To provide recommendations for future investigations or site works

Process:

- Environmental APECS Workshops
- Records Review
- Site Visits
- Key Person Interviews

NCN LANDS AND RESOURCES



ESA Background

ESAs are an important step, under the Individual Agreement, to determine what INAC is liable for prior to taking over the Governance of our Lands. After issues have been identified under an ESA Phase 1, INAC has an obligation to conduct further investigations on contaminated Land to the point of remediation (clean up) where ever required. NCN also has the option of excluding a specific portion of the reserve land from its Land Code until the concern is sufficiently solved by Canada.

There are a number of phases under an ESA. Phase 1 includes a review of historical records, interviews, site visits and a report with recommendations for areas that may be contaminated, including recommendation for further investigation such as ESA Phase 2 and 3. ESA Phase 2 and 3 include further investigations such as sampling, and determining if remediation/clean-up work is required.

Several areas of concern were identified and assessed including the Forest Industries yard, the Medicine Lodge, the lagoon, and the garbage dump to name a few obvious sites. An independent consultant was chosen by NCN to conduct the ESA Phase 1 and to the best of our knowledge all issues are in the ESA Report.

Findings of the ESA

The extensive Environmental Site Assessment in the NCN Reserve Lands identified several key areas and finding that may need to be addressed and studied more in Phase II ESA. These included waste sites, fuel tanks, water concerns and building/facility concerns. The following photos show some of the sites and structures that will be addressed or studied more in Phase two.

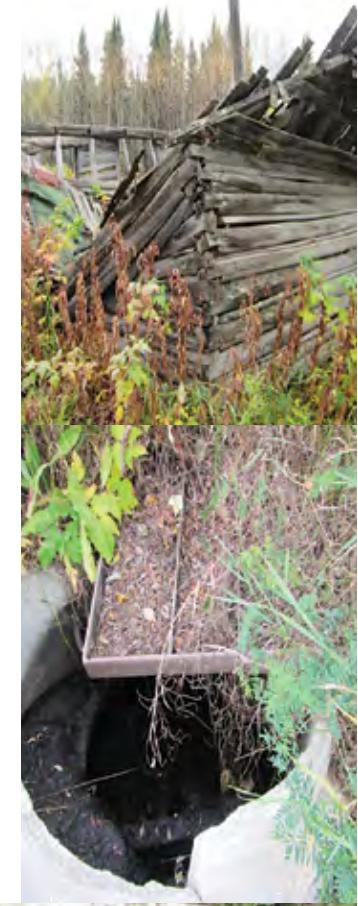
Recommendations Made

Following the studies and information gathered, several recommendations were suggested as a result of the Environmental Site Assessment for the NCN reserve lands:

- A General Clean Up of Scattered Waste
 - Maintain and Monitor Fuel and Oil Tanks
 - Remove Building Remains
 - Follow Up Site Investigations
 - Groundwater Monitoring
 - Clean Up Ground Stained Areas
 - Install Fencing to Secure Sites
 - Better Operation of Landfill or Construct a New Landfill
 - Test Soils at Landfill Site
 - Test Water and Fish for Mercury
 - Capacity Studies of Facilities in the Community
 - Building Repairs and Upgrades



Fuel Storage



Safety Concerns



Ground Staining



Water Concerns



Waste Disposal Areas



Land Code Community Workshops: August 2016

A major purpose of the August 2016 workshop(s) was to explain the Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) process, which is an essential component of the First Nation Land Management Framework Agreement and Land Code process, particularly under the Individual Agreement with Canada. This included a presentation by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) who explained the ESA process and indicated that ESAs are important to identify land that may be contaminated.

Members were encouraged to identify issues or areas of potential environmental concern (APECs) at the workshops, and a mapping exercise was used to create a list of issues that were identified by people who attended the workshops. This guided the consultants work to prepare a ESA Report.



INAC Senior Environmental Specialist consults with NCN Citizens to identify areas of environmental concerns on maps.



Scattered Debris



A large yellow dump truck with a flatbed trailer is parked on a dirt surface. A blue tarp is draped over the rear of the truck. In the background, there are other vehicles and buildings, including a yellow school bus. The ground in front of the truck is dark and appears to be oil or liquid leaking from the vehicle.

Ground Staining

Comparing NCN Land Code to Indian Act

NCN is developing a Land Code under the First Nation Land Management Framework Agreement. The Land Code will have several benefits to NCN Citizens and will allow NCN to shift away from the Indian Act and AANDC paternalism of our NCN Reserve Lands. In addition to strengthening Land Governance by establishing legal and administrative frameworks the Land Code will allow us to start managing our Lands ourselves. This will also speed up economic development processes and other

development on NCN Lands. The following chart compares the Indian Act that our lands our currently governed by and the advantages of having our own unique NCN Land Code, policies and laws:

Indian Act

Land Code

The Indian Act is written and interpreted by Canada.

The Indian Act is one size fits all.

The Indian Act can only be amended by Canada.

The Indian Act authorizes the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to have sole discretion and decision making.

The Indian Act can be amended/changed without our consent.

NCN is not a "government", we are instead considered a "ward", "Ministerial Delegate" and "administrator" with no law making authority. We can only make legal decisions or bylaws that Canada approves of and not all are enforceable.

We have the authority to make certain managerial decisions and make certain bylaws.

Indian Act laws, policies, procedures, rules and legal documents are made by Canada and we must follow them.

We are not authorized to be in lawful possession of land unless the Minister approves it. This also includes Land transfers.

There is no environmental Assessment of Protection Laws for our land unless there is an agreement by Canada. Enforcement, monitoring, testing, and compliance can be a problem.

We are accountable by reporting to Canada only and there are no conflict of interest policies.

Members do not have a clear role in certain decisions and they do not have the right to receive or access information.

There is no process to solve disputes.

Expropriation is possible without our consent by federal or provincial governments for the purpose of Crown corporations or municipalities.

The current government Lands Registry is policy based and does not guarantee land certainty because it is overly bureaucratic with lengthy approval times (6 to 12 months).

Our legal status/capacity is unclear and uncertain so it discourages lenders and other financial partners.

The NCN Land code is developed ad drafted by NCN for NCN.

The NCN Land code is unique to NCN.

The NCN Land Code can be amended by a vote of NCN members.

Council and Members are in the driver's seat.

The Acts that support our Land Code cannot be amended/changed without our consent of the First Nation Parties involved.

NCN would be recognized as "government" with real legislative authority and our laws will be enforceable in court. Canada has no authority to overrule or cancel our duly made land laws or decisions.

We have the authority to make, administer and enforce land laws and manage our reserve lands and resources.

Land laws, policies, procedures, rules and legal documents are all developed, approved, and enacted by NCN according to our Land Code, language, and culture.

We can create and authorize different types of legal land interests.

We can create and enact our own Environmental Assessment/Protection Laws.

We are accountable by reporting to the Membership and having conflict of interest policies.

Members have a clear role in decision making, approvals and access to information.

We can solve disputes by having our own Dispute Resolution Panel composed of Members.

There will be no expropriation by provincial or municipal agencies and only extremely limited federal expropriation (in cases of emergency).

We will have and manage our own NCN Nation Lands Registry.

We will have recognized legal status/capacity to acquire and hold property, to borrow and contract, to expend and invest money and to be a party to legal proceedings.

For more information:

Visit the website: www.ncncree.com

Or Contact:

Jeremiah Spence – 204-939-3805
or email jeremiahspence@hotmail.com



Events Calendar

BIG, BIG Thank You to Parks and Recreation for a chance for grade 3, 4, 5 top students, best attenders and best behaved students to attend Disney on Ice in Winnipeg.

Monday, February 27 – No classes for students in grade 2 due to teacher training day.

Tuesday, February 28 – No classes for students in grade 3 due to teacher training day.

Thursday, March 2, 6:00 p.m. – Merchandise Bingo, Arena Lobby (Doors open at 5:00 p.m.)

Saturday, March 4, 3:00 p.m. – David McDonald Memorial Ice Fishing Derby at R.C. Channel. Entry fee: \$50. Call Lou Moodie at 1-204-307-2243

Sunday, March 5, noon to 4:00 p.m. – Monster Bingo, 98.1 Radio (Presented by NCN Parks and Recreation)

Wednesday, March 22 – Mini Queen Pageant and talent competition (E.A Fundraising Committee). Register now! Contact Debbie Muskego (204)-679-9888

Sunday, March 26, noon to 4:00 p.m. – 19th Annual Richard Linklater Memorial Ice Fishing Derby at RC Channel – Tickets \$100 – Call Shannon Yetman (204) 307-7564

February is I Love to Read Month

Encourage your child to read as many books this month. As a school we challenge all our students to read as many books as they can.

Good Attendance

We ask that you help us build a better future for our students by making sure you send your child to school every day. When students miss classes they are falling behind on missed work and instruction.

Remember good attendance:

- Enhances learning and achievement
- Improves self-esteem
- Improves opportunity for future choices
- Improves opportunities such as employment in the future

Footprint Lake Water Levels

Footprint Lake 60-Day Water Level Forecast

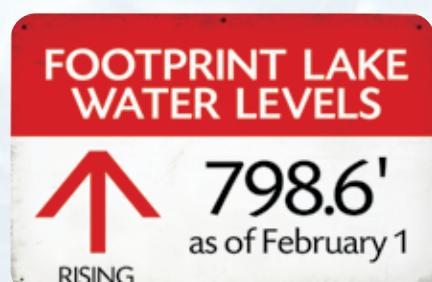
Revised Forecast

February 1 – March 31, 2017

On February 1, 2017 the level of Footprint Lake is forecasted to be 798.6 feet. The level of the lake is expected to rise 2 inches to an elevation of 798.8

feet by the second week of the month and then fall to an elevation of 798.7 feet by the end of February.

During the month of March the level of the lake is expected to remain fairly constant near an elevation of 798.7 feet.



Ice Fishing Derby Winners

Dozens of people came out to United Church Bay to enjoy the NCN Youth and Adult Travel Club Ice Fishing Derby on February 4th.

In the adult categories, Merv McKay took first place in the burbot, with William Alex Spence receiving second place. Conrad Spence pulled in the biggest jack, followed by Howard Tait in second and Ross Francois in third. Donavon Hart laid claim to biggest walleye, with Renalda Monias Jr. and Clarissa Ouskan coming in second and third place.

In the youth category, Rianne Tait won \$500 in first place; Karissa Bear won \$300 in second place; and Trey Linklater came in third place and received \$100.

Generous prizes included electronics such as a PS4, iPad and Xbox; hunting and fishing equipment; and the ever-popular meat packs.

Organizers say the derby was a great success and look forward to future events and extended a big thanks to all sponsors and participants.



Winners took home great prizes at the NCN Youth and Adult Travel Club Ice Fishing Derby.



Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
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Do you have a suggestion or an Achimowina story idea?

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

NCN on Facebook!

Stay current with NCN's latest news, events and updates on your computer, smartphone or device from our official NCN Facebook page [@nisichawayasihk.](https://www.facebook.com/achimowina)

