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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2023

Nisichawayasi Achimowina

NCN Youth Leader Speaks at Orange Shirt Day Walk

On September 30, MKO held an event in Thompson called Orange Shirt Day: Survivors Honour Walk to recognize Truth and Reconciliation Day.

Many NCN Citizens attended the walk, wearing orange shirts that were bright against a blue sky. The walk started at



On September 30, many NCN Citizens attended the Orange Shirt Day Walk in Thompson. The walk started at Macleans Park and ended at the TRCC Gymnasium.

MANITOBA KEEWATINOWI OKIMAKANAK INC. *Public Event!*

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

SURVIVORS HONOUR WALK IN THOMPSON, MANITOBA

WALKING IN OUR TRUTH AND STANDING UP AGAINST DENIALISM!

DATE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2023

WALK ROUTE: FROM MACLEANS PARK TO THE TRCC GYMNASIUM

START TIME: 11:00AM

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MAEGAN COURCHENE AT 431-276-0764

Macleans Park and ended at the TRCC Gymnasium.

Those who attended had the opportunity to hear our own NNOC Junior Chief Brooklyn Linklater speak. She gave a powerful and emotionally charged speech, and has given permission to print it here in full.

Good morning everyone. My name is Brooklyn Linklater, and I'm here on behalf of Chief Angela Levasseur, who unfortunately couldn't be here today.

Today is about Truth and Reconciliation, or in other words, Orange Shirt Day. The history of Orange Shirt Day comes from residential school survivor, Phyllis Webstad, whose grandmother bought her an orange shirt

Chief and Council



Back (L to R): Kim Linklater, Vice-Chief Marcel Moody, Jeremiah Spence, Ron D. Spence. Front: Shirley Linklater, Chief Angela Levasseur, Cheryl Moore.

Continued on page 4



KITTAHWINAOW ACHIMOWIN
Community News

Citizen Spotlight: Dr. Tammy Stoneman

Congratulations to Dr. Tammy Stoneman, who received her doctorate in Education from Western University in October. Your community is proud of you!

Tansi and good day,

My name is Tammy Stoneman (nee Francois). I was born in Thompson and am a proud member of NCN. I spent the early parts of my life living on Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation at Wasasihk with my parents (Mary Jane and Dennis Weier). Throughout my childhood we moved back and forth between NCN, Lynn Lake, Leaf Rapids, and Thompson.

In 2003, I completed my Bachelor of Education through Brandon University. At the time there was a community-based program in Lynn Lake called BUNTEP (Brandon University Northern Teacher Education Program), which supported a number of Indigenous people through their journey in education.

After graduating, I taught in Lynn Lake as a kindergarten, high school and special education teacher.

In 2007, I obtained my post-baccalaureate diploma in

special education through the University of Manitoba. In 2008, I was offered a special education teaching position in the Yukon, and my family and I decided to move to the North.

While working there, I obtained my master's degree in special education through the University of Northern British Columbia in 2014. My research focused on complex trauma.

In 2023, I completed my Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership through the University of Western Ontario.

I believe education chose me. As an Indigenous learner and educator, I have embarked on a lifelong journey that requires me to listen to learn and understand. My commitment to education acknowledges the ancestors who have come before us, those who have helped this work move forward, and those who are coming behind us to continue strengthening this work. This work cannot be done in isolation, it requires us to walk together side by side.

I now live in Whitehorse, Yukon and work as a First Nation Curriculum Consultant for the Government of Yukon. I have the privilege of working closely with local Elders and Knowledge Holders. This has been a great honour.

I have the opportunity to work on localizing curriculum so it is reflective of Indigenous perspectives. I also train educators about settler colonialism and the impact it continues to have on our people. I am fortunate to be able to work with students on difficult topics such as colonization, residential schools, and the Indian Act. I support educators, students, and other organizational departments as we work towards our commitment to truth and reconciliation.

One of my goals is to learn more of the Nihitho language. My focus will also continue to advocate for an education system that is reflective of Indigenous ways of knowing, doing, and being. Our Citizens require better educational experiences and opportunities as they move through a system that fully supports a holistic

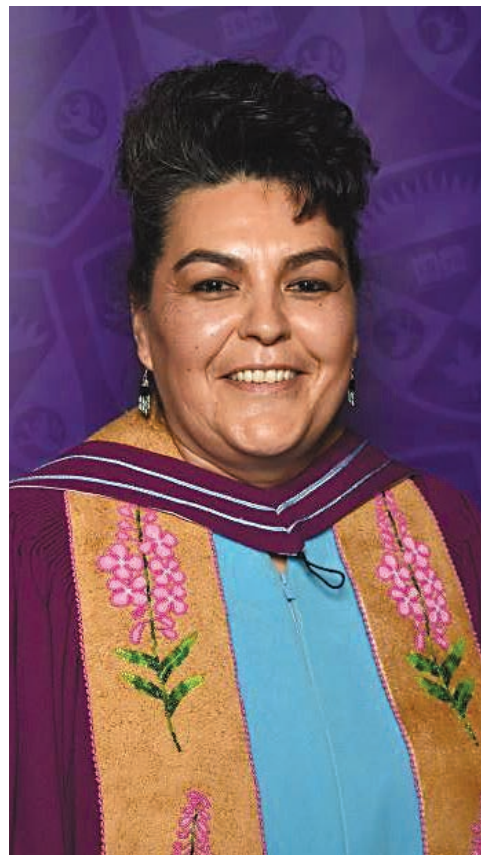
and culturally inclusive system. Education should be about students fostering their identity, facilitating their well-being, ensuring connections with the land and water, and honouring the language and culture. An inclusive approach to education engages our youth and instills pride in who they are.

To young Citizens of NCN, you all matter and you all make a difference. I encourage you to dream big. There is hope that you will have a different story to tell about education – stories of equity, empowerment, partnership, and self-determination.

You are our future leaders; what you hear, experience, and learn will shape your future, perceptions, decisions, and actions.

As a family and community, we all have a collective responsibility to support you and hold you up as you navigate the complexities of life and education. Education and learning needs to be rooted in self-education, self-determination, and sovereignty for Indigenous people, and needs to reflect Indigenous values and knowledge systems.

Kinanâskomitin



Chief Levasseur Protecting Citizens at AMC General Assembly

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs met at the RBC Convention Centre in Winnipeg on October 17, 18 and 19 for its annual general assembly.

Over the course of three days, 16 resolutions were signed and adopted by Grand Chief Cathy Merrick, with the theme, "Shaping Strategies for Our Future Generations."

"We are dedicated to ensuring fairness, justice, and protection for our people," said Merrick. "The AMC's unwavering commitment to positive change and equity for all First Nations shines through in these resolutions."

NCN Chief Angela Levasseur attended the AMC, and in fact, originated five of the 16 resolutions. They all aim to protect citizens, from Elders to vulnerable adults, and entire communities from violent offenders.

You can read the complete resolutions by searching online: "AMC October 2023 resolutions."

The resolutions originated by Chief Levasseur:

Call for Increased Regulation of Alcohol Sales in Manitoba

This resolution underscores concerns regarding the illegal resale of alcohol within First Nations communities and advocates for First Nations police forces to receive similar powers as other law enforcement agencies. It requests stricter alcohol sale limits for individuals, strategies to tackle alcohol-related problems, and support from provincial and

federal governments to enforce First Nations laws and impose penalties on those involved in illegal alcohol resale.

Manitoba Hydro Rate or Discount for Elders

This resolution is meant to provide financial relief for Elders in Manitoba, who are among the most impoverished citizens, living on inadequate fixed incomes. At the same time, they are dealing with outrageous hydro bills from \$500 to \$1,000 per month, due to fourth-world housing conditions.

Development and Enforcement of Elder Protection Codes in First Nations

This resolution safeguards the cultural, historical, and Traditional knowledge held by Elders. It acknowledges the pivotal role Elders play in First Nations governance and their vulnerability to abuse. It calls for all levels of government to uphold existing laws, traditional laws, and Indian Act bylaws related to Elder protection.

Request for Communal Protection Orders for Violent and Repeat Offenders in First Nations

This resolution tackles the need for communal protection orders to address violent, repeat offenders in First Nations communities, and to protect, in particular, the safety of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA individuals. Many Nations have difficulty enforcing their protection laws, as violent offenders return despite banishment. The resolution

calls for the creation or amendment of federal and provincial legislation within First Nations' cultural and legal frameworks.

Estate Administration for Vulnerable Adults Living On-Reserve in Manitoba

This resolution recognizes the over-representation of First Nations individuals in Manitoba's Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) care. It directs the FNFAO to explore the possibility of initiating a class action lawsuit on behalf of vulnerable First Nations individuals and their families. It calls for research results and next steps to be reported to the AMC Women's Council.



From Chief and Council,
 on behalf of management,
 department staff and Citizens.



NISICHAWAYASIHK

CREE NATION

Language and Culture Unit Elders Mona Hart and Clifford Hart will be joining us so that they can directly lobby the Minister of Heritage on the projection and preservation of our Nehetho language and culture.

Community Violence:

On Tuesday November 7th, I had the honour and pleasure of meeting with the Nelson House Community Mayor and Council. The main issue was that a small and select number of individuals, (including known and suspected bootleggers and drug dealers) want Council to move the check stop past the Nelson House Community entrance.

To be blunt, these individuals would like to see drugs and alcohol flow freely into NCN. Council does not support this because 95% of the violence and domestic violence (including physical and sexual abuse against children and sexual assaults/violence against all genders/sexual orientations) is drug and alcohol related. This includes rape and gang rapes that occur in our community.

We will not jeopardize the safety of children, men, women, our 2Spirit relatives and our Elders because a minority wishes to allow illegal drugs and high volumes of alcohol to flow freely into NCN.

Moreover, the FNSOs at the check stop confiscate large quantities of deadly weapons such as knives, guns, bear spray and machetes. Our Chief of Police, Carol Kobliski, the FNSOs and community patrol are there to keep everyone safe and we expect our citizens to treat them with respect.

Please think of our innocent and vulnerable children, grandchildren, and Elders before you complain

about our laws and give our First Nations police or Chief of Police attitude. They are there to serve and protect and disrespectful behaviour from ANYONE towards our Nisichawayasi Police Service will NOT be tolerated!

BANISHMENTS:

In terms of youth violence, gang violence, and community violence: we have begun using land based healing as a means of helping perpetrators of violence heal and also atone for their actions. So far, it is going very well. For those banished by a quorum of Council under a CCR or Chief and Council resolution: you must contact our Director of Justice, Jackie Spence to make an appeal to the Peace Keepers Tribunal or PKT.

On this topic, we want to honour, thank and acknowledge NCN Elder Henry Wood for allowing us to use his trap line at Moak Lake for land based healing: Kinanaskomitin, Elder Wood!

HEALING:

Finally on the topic of Healing – Council has brought in many Culturally Appropriate and Trauma informed workshops to facilitate the individual and collective healing of our people including:

- The Three Wyndis
- Resilient Healing Workshop with Melvina and Lance Guiboche
- MKO MMIWG2S Unit Grief and Loss/Self Care Workshop

We are planning several more workshops for healing/grief and loss in the near future and in the new year.

Council encourages our citizens to participate and to support one another in our community healing efforts.

BULLYING AND LATERAL VIOLENCE:

Bullying and lateral violence continues to be an issue in our schools and workplaces.

Parents and grandparents: please talk to your children and grandchildren about bullying. There are kids in our schools and adults in our community who have contemplated or attempted suicide because of bullying – Kwani!!!

Also – a VERY important reminder to all: lateral violence, bullying and cyber bullying (social media attacks) are in direct violation of the Nation's HR policy, as well as the HR policies of our respective organizations (NNCEA/NCN FCWC/Nelson House Medicine Lodge/NCN Personal Care Home/NCN Women's Shelter etc. If you bully others and perpetuate lateral violence; you can lose your job through progressive discipline. This includes managers and directors of NCN entities. If you do not have anything nice to say; kakitook.

Our children are watching and listening to all of the bullying, lateral violence, and character assassination that occurs in NCN. Then they bully others in the schools and in the community. This is why we have gangs, because we are infusing our children with teaching of bullying and violence instead of respect and love.

This is what our Elders tell us repeatedly Sahkitook – Love one another. And we MUST listen to our Elders because they have lived their lives – they know what is going on and why.

The ongoing violence is concerning. We've heard from our community members that they've had enough with all the violence and have asked what the consequences are. We called in some of our youth, their parents and the NNOC high school administration, and had the parents and youth sign agreements to rectify their behaviour. Some of those agreements have already been broken, so next steps were taken.

We need ongoing support from all community members. We should all strive to live in a community that is peaceful and free from violence and gangs. We need to promote sobriety and healing. Alcohol and drugs are not our ways, and they never were.

Think of our grandparents and great-grandparents who were never negatively affected by alcohol and drugs. They lived so peacefully.

On the subject of Elders, our next Elders meeting will be at the Norman Linklater Memorial Multiplex on Thursday December 14th from 10:00 am to 3:00pm – lunch will be provided. Also Terry J. Linklater (aka TBONE) is now our wonderful, awesome and amazing Elders' coordinator.

NCN ELDERS: Please call Terry directly if you have a need or a concern at (204) 307-2246. This includes housing related issues as Council has set aside funds for Elders renovations and repairs.

Finally, on the topic of love, we send our love, prayers, and condolences to all of our grieving relatives in NCN in this recent time of great loss in our community.

Life is short and it is too short to be hating one another. Love one another. And above all: Respect and love yourselves too.

We are fast approaching the holiday season and it is essential to acknowledge that Jesus is the reason for the season. It doesn't matter if you believe in Jesus Christ or not, he was a real human being who walked the earth. Saying you don't believe in Jesus Christ is like saying you don't believe in Wayne Gretzky, it is absurd because both were actual human beings who walked the earth.

And you do not have to be a practicing Christian to appreciate a man who tended to the sick (including lepers), fed the hungry and made blind people see.

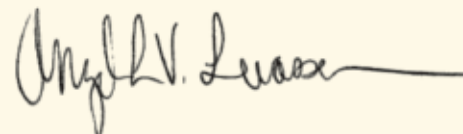
Now that kind of love is something to celebrate, regardless of your beliefs.

Love is universal and the main component of our Nehetho teachings and customary laws.

Our relative Wisahkêcâhk, the loving spirit, also teaches us how to love and reminds us that he loves us and that God, our Creator loves us all. Even the bullies and the criminals, God loves everyone, so should we.

Ekosi our relatives, on behalf of your NCN leadership, we wish you a safe, restful and love filled holiday. Sahihitook

On behalf of Council:



Chief Angela Levasseur
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Chief Levasseur Reflects on Truth and Reconciliation

The first Residential School opened in Canada in 1831 in Brantford, Ontario-Haudensaunee territory.

What was the purpose of these schools?

To Christianize, civilize, and assimilate Indigenous people into mainstream society. Canada wanted our land and resources to build intergenerational settler wealth.

This was the government’s actual policy. To this end, they tried to kill us all with warfare and biological weapons such as smallpox covered blankets—but we would not die.

They needed to hurt us, pin us down, and control us, so they went after our children and grandchildren.

What better way to try to destroy a culture than to kidnap, beat, rape, starve, torture, and murder their children?

Next, the government put our people on reserves (“prisons of grass and musk”) after taking the best land so that settlers could become rich off the wealth generated from our land and our resources.

Today, our lands are poisoned and flooded, and our traditional economies are all but destroyed. Our collective legacy today is poverty and pain.

Several generations of physical, mental, spiritual, emotional, and sexual abuse of helpless children, some as young as 3 or 4, has brought us to where we are today.

This legacy manifests as alcoholism, drug addiction, domestic abuse, child abuse, sexual abuse, sexual assault, gang violence, homelessness, hopelessness, mental illness, and poverty.

It also manifests as internalized oppression, lateral violence, homophobia, and mass cultural and language loss.

True, meaningful reconciliation will look like this:

1. Returning stolen Indigenous lands;
2. Payment of royalties, including reconciliation payments, to First Nations from the billions and billions of dollars made off our land and resources;
3. An active campaign to end racism, sexism, and homophobia;
4. Implementation of the TRC Calls to Action and the 231 MMIWG2S Calls for Justice;

It is time to start actioning both economic reconciliation and authentic reconciliation to heal our generations from the deliberate traumas that our Nations live with every single day.

5. Considerable contributions from federal and provincial governments towards inclusive, culturally appropriate, and trauma-informed healing initiatives for Indigenous peoples.

Canada was instrumental in using the residential school system, the Sixties Scoop, and CFS to promote the genocide of Indigenous people.

But we are still here. And it is time to start actioning both economic reconciliation and authentic reconciliation to heal our generations from the deliberate traumas that our Nations live with every single day.

NCN Youth: Anything is possible!

I was thrilled to see a recent social media post, showing two powerful before-and-after pictures.

The first picture shows three men, Chief Tony Travers of Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation, Chief Cornell Mclean from Lake Manitoba First Nation, and Chief Gordon Bluesky from Brokenhead Ojibway Nation.

The picture underneath shows the same three as young men, grinning for the camera with their arms around each other.

Chief Bluesky posted the photos and said, “Proud to call these two my friends, we’ve come a long way since we were young! Appreciate all the

support you two have given me over the years. Honoured to sit with them at the Manitoba Chiefs assembly!”

I love these photos. They give me a great feeling a hope and possibility. I wonder if those three young men would be surprised to know that they would all become great leaders and even Chiefs!

Young people of NCN: you just never know what you and your friends might be doing someday. Keep dreaming.



From left to right: Chief Tony Travers, Chief Cornell Mclean, Chief Gordon BlueSky

ISC Visit to ATEC

On Wednesday September 27, 2023, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) representatives came to learn about what ATEC has to offer. The visitors from ISC included:

- Kandice Leonard, Regional Director General, Manitoba Region
- Allison Hornung, A/ Senior Advisor, Regional Director General's Office
- Paul McKinsty, Manager, Housing Programs
- Derek Bradly, A/ Directory, Programs, Partnerships
- Sydney Cadieux, Operational Specialist
- Careen Satander, A/ Regional Program Development Team Leader.

ATEC was built in 2003, and was constructed for the purpose of training laborers for the Wuskwatim Project. Upon its completion, the question was "What should we do with ATEC now?" There were ideas such as a hostel and a women's shelter, but ultimately, ATEC remained as is: a training for employment centre.

When the ISC reps arrived, they received a tour that included the offices, the classrooms, the woodshop, the dorms, and the dining area.

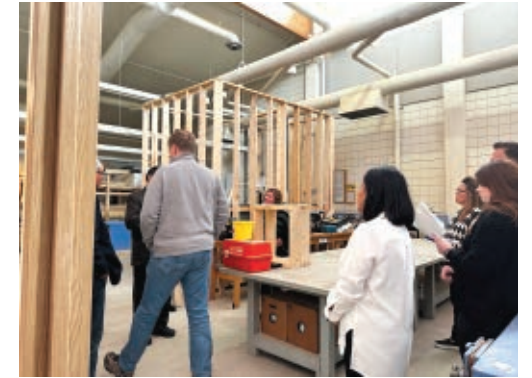
After lunch, the group visited the construction site on Moody Drive where ATEC students were working. The students told ISC reps about their experience working with ATEC. One student said he had been working with ATEC since he was in high school, and now he is on track to get his Red Seal in carpentry. After the construction site visit, ISC reps toured Pemapum, which is where ATEC students build materials for their houses.

One of the guests, Kandice Leonard, was impressed, and said, "You can really see the pride in the students."

That is what ATEC does: it creates confidence in its students and gives them everything they need to succeed.

Leonard Linklater and Jody Linklater gave presentations about ATEC and Pemapum, and emphasized that ATEC is one-of-a-kind. The success rates from ATEC are sometimes 100%, and NCN now has the most registered apprentices nationwide.

ATEC has created opportunities for NCN for years, and the hope is that it will expand its range of programming to meet the current and future needs of NCN. It is important to have higher education in our community, and everyone deserves the opportunity to be educated. ATEC is NCN's symbol of hope. Just this summer, ATEC graduated 100 students. When ATEC flourishes, our people can flourish, too.



A Spooktacular Halloween



Learn More About the Women's Shelter

This temporary safe shelter is available on a voluntary basis for women who are dealing with domestic violence, abuse and trauma. It's a calm, clean space that allows mothers to make an appropriate plan while maintaining trust with their children and receiving emotional support from other women in similar situations.

"Most women we see here have a history of abusive relationships, have been in shelter before, and have previously received counselling related to intimate partner violence," says Darlene Spence, executive director of the Women's Shelter.

During the intake process, safety concerns, past history and future ideas are discussed. While Spence says one of her priorities is creating programs to benefit these women and their children, the Shelter also connects them to community

The Women's Shelter allows mothers to make an appropriate plan while maintaining trust with their children and receiving emotional support from other women in similar situations.

resources that will help them to heal and move forward.

The Women's Shelter can accommodate up to 8 women (and their children) at a time, and is available 24 hours a day, with security and strict policies to ensure safety. Each of the eight suites is fully furnished with a private bathroom and mini-fridge.

Spence says there are many problems that the Women's Shelter has to address to be able to appropriately help its clients.

"The lack of affordable housing is a major problem that affects women's risk for violence and their ability to leave a relationship and have a safe space. Many women entering shelter are mothers, or are pregnant, and many are already involved with CFS. Childcare needs must be addressed, and most of these women need long-term support in parenting issues, too."

Fortunately, Spence

has a wide variety of skills and experiences. She was born and raised in Nelson House, and completed her BSW degree program in Social Work in 2009. She has worked in carpentry, education, and counselling. Some of her past jobs have included RCMP, CFS, driver and crisis responder.



Employment Opportunities

HIRING GRADE 3 TEACHER – COMPETITIVE SALARIES, HOUSING AVAILABLE, FREE SHUTTLE FROM THOMPSON, EXCELLENT BENEFITS!

Position: Grade 3 Teacher

Location: Nelson House Manitoba, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Employer: Nisichawayasi Nehetho Culture and Education Authority Inc. (NNCEA) OK Elementary School

Start Date: As soon as possible

Employment: Permanent

Application Deadline: Open Until Filled

The NNCEA Otayitiskiwin Kiskinwahamakikamik (OK) School provides a competitive salary, comprehensive benefits, transportation and moving expense reimbursement, subsidized housing in Nelson House and isolation allowance, annual travel reimbursement, shuttles from Thompson, Manitoba reimbursement for approved courses and more!

Otayitiskiwin Kiskinwahamakikamik School is a Kindergarten to Grade 6 school. The school is located in Nelson House, which is 65 km west of Thompson, Manitoba (a full-service community) and is accessible by road. This lakeside community's natural beauty provides for an abundance of year-round outdoor recreation opportunities.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor of Education Degree
- Valid Manitoba Teaching Certificate (or eligibility for)
- A sound knowledge of provincial Early Years curricula
- Previous teaching experience preferred but not required
- Strong classroom management skills
- Experience working in a northern community an asset
- Knowledge of Indigenous Way of Life an asset
- Experience working with students with unique needs an asset
- A team player committed to the belief that all students can learn

Self-motivated Applicants are required to submit the following:

- Cover letter
- Current resume
- List of three professional references including contact numbers

Reasonable accommodations are available for persons with disabilities on request.

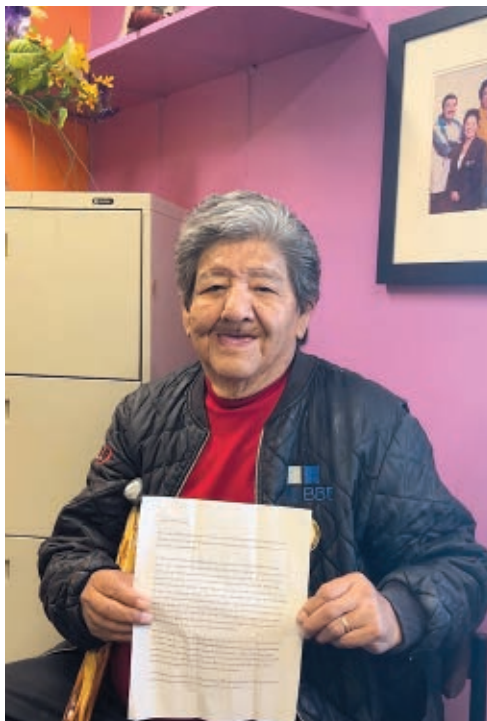
By applying, you consent to the NNCEA contacting your references. As a condition of employment, the successful candidate will be required to submit a clear Criminal Record Check (including Vulnerable Sector Check) and Child Abuse Registry Check. Further information about the community is available at www.ncncree.com.

Thank you for your interest; however, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

To apply or if you have questions, please contact:
Nic Campbell, NNCEA Director of Education
nicc@nncea.ca
Phone: 204-484-2095
Cell: (519) 330-4707



Message from an NCN Elder: Clifford Spence



My name is Clifford Dale Spence and I was born at Waskwatim (Beaver Day). My parents were Robinson and Dinah Spence. Adam Spence was my grandfather on my father's side, and I didn't know my grandmother.

I want to tell a story about the importance of being careful.

In 1956, I was badly hurt climbing around a picket fence.

My father had bought me cowboy boots, so I went up the hill at Bay Road to show them off. On the way to school, my partners suggested we play around the fence. I took two steps and fell in between two boards made from some leftover sawmill. Some were pointed, some flat. I couldn't move. I was stuck!

My partners took off, except for two of them. They ran to get a dog sleigh. They pulled me out and ran me to the nursing station. I was stiff as a

board. The nurses put hot water compresses between my legs, and eventually I felt better, and I walked home.

Towards the evening I started to get sick. I couldn't pass my water, and my stomach was getting big. By the time the nurses got back from RC Point, they couldn't do anything. All they could do is give me some painkillers.

The next morning, I heard my mother and sister in-law talking about me. I was almost dead.

I heard the plane flying over the nursing station. I remember the nurses giving me another needle and hearing the plane taking off, and that was it.

Brothers and sisters at The Pas Hospital told me they had given up on me. When I woke up, I was there for a month. After I was able to talk, I was sent to Winnipeg for surgery again. I remained in hospital for 6 and a half years.

I'm writing this so that parents will be mindful of where their children are playing. I hope children will be careful about the games they play, and to watch out for each other. I don't want anyone to go through what I did!

Standings are Great for the NCN Flames!

NCN Flames Junior B is first in the league as of Nov 17, 2023 and looking to retain this lead throughout the season. The team would like to thank all sponsors and individuals who contribute to the success of our program. The NCN Flames value community integration and seek to build our hockey program through the inclusion of youth. The NCN Flames strive to perform at the best of their ability and to continuously improve their team cohesion. The NCN Flames hockey club thrives off the support from their fans, and thanks all fans for their continuous involvement in the program.

Please highlight our current sponsors and drop by if you would like to sponsor the team.

Contact Nic Campbell at 519-330-4707 or nc10yo@gmail.com

Sponsors

PM and Associates Limited
 Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
 NCN FCWC Family Enhancement
 NCN Development Corp
 Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)
 Valerie Matthews Lemieux Law
 Number 10 Architecture
 Solution Stack
 Quantum Utilities
 Imperial Soaps and Supplies
 MKO (Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak)
 Q-Power
 DAL PROJECTS
 Tri-Core Projects

Nisichawayasihk Constructions Limited Partnership (NCLP)
 VALE
 Workplace Solutions
 ET Blades
 Nisichawayasihk Taskinigahp Trust
 NCN Jordans Principle
 Calm Air



LEAGUE STANDINGS						
Team	GP	W	L	D	OTL	PTS
Flames	14	11	3	0	0	22
Selects	14	10	4	0	0	20
Juniors	12	8	3	0	1	17
Storm	10	7	3	0	0	14
NorthStars	14	6	8	0	0	12
Islanders	11	2	7	0	2	6
Wild	13	0	12	0	1	1

Standings as of November 20, 2023

NCN FLAMES - JUNIOR B 2023 SCHEDULE			
DATE	TIME	TEAM	ARENA
Oct 21	7:30 PM	Cross Lake Islanders	Gilbert McDonald Arena
Oct 22	1:30 PM	Cross Lake Islanders	Gilbert McDonald Arena
Oct 28	7:30 PM	Norway House North Stars	Norway House Kinosao Sipi Recreation Centre
Oct 29	1:30 PM	Norway House North Stars	Norway House Kinosao Sipi Recreation Centre
Nov 04	7:30 PM	Peguis Juniors	Gilbert McDonald Arena
Nov 05	1:30 PM	Peguis Juniors	Gilbert McDonald Arena
Nov 10	7:30 PM	OCN Storm	Gordon Lathlin Memorial Centre
Nov 12	4:00 PM	Norway House North Stars	Gilbert McDonald Arena
Nov 16	7:30 PM	PBCN Selects	Gilbert McDonald Arena
Nov 18	7:30 PM	Norway House North Stars	Gilbert McDonald Arena
Nov 19	1:30 PM	Norway House North Stars	Gilbert McDonald Arena
Nov 22	7:30 PM	Cross Lake Islanders	Cross Lake Sports Complex
Nov 25	7:30 PM	Cross Lake Islanders	Gilbert McDonald Arena
Dec 02	7:30 PM	OCN Storm	Gilbert McDonald Arena
Dec 09	7:30 PM	Peguis Juniors	Peguis Multiplex
Dec 10	1:30 PM	Peguis Juniors	Peguis Multiplex
Dec 20	1:30 PM	PBCN Selects	Gilbert McDonald Arena

Finding Peace Through Therapy

Employees at Aski 'Otutoskeo Ltd (AOL) recently participated in a grieving and healing session with Samantha Folster.

The unique session involved neuro-linguistic programming (NLP), which can help people to transform their perceptions and to move forward in a positive way. It can involve working with body language, voice, words and behaviour.

The AOL employees requested to attend the sessions at Wuskwatim Village, where they felt safe and content.

They are dealing with their grief over the tragic death of Norman Donkey, a fellow employee who died in a workplace accident.

Folster also worked with Chief and Council at their retreat.



MANITOBA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

THOMPSON FUR TABLES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023

Location:
Thompson Regional Recreational Centre
274 Thompson Drive, Thompson, MB

Time:
9:00-5:00 pm

Hosted by MTA...

Fur Buyers, Trap Sales, Displays, Craft Tables, Activities for Kids, Door Prizes

This event is open to Manitoba Trappers and Family.

For more information, reach out to:
Ron D. Spence at 204-679-0981




DevCorp’s Kobliski Retires

It is the end of a highly successful era at the Nelson House Development Corporation as Manager David Kobliski announces his retirement.

“It’s hard to articulate how important he has been to the development of our Nation,” says Deputy Chief Marcel Moody. “His ability to recognize opportunities and capitalize on them is unmatched. He’s a great people person and is passionate about what he does.”

In 2022, NCN was named Community of the Year by the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO). It pointed out NCN’s Otohowin gas bar, grocery stores and hotel, most of which were led by Kobliski.

“He brought the Development Corporation from an operating budget of about \$300,000 annually, to profits exceeding \$5 million. He’s made our Nation a major player among First Nations. As former chief, I firmly believed in him, and now that I have the economic portfolio, I’d like to thank

him for his hard work and dedication.”

Just some of Kobliski’s successes include three Family Food stores, Meetah Building Supplies, and two gas stations. He was instrumental in getting fibre optics into the community, and in creating economic self-sufficiency for NCN.

Moody says Kobliski was very savvy in the way he set up NCN businesses. With the grocery stores, he worked to create great relationships with wholesalers, so they didn’t have to rely on the middleman. With so many infrastructure projects on the go, he opened up Meetah Building Supplies so things could be purchased here instead of bringing in materials from outside of the community.

“When we first started Dev Corp, people always came looking for employment, and at that time there weren’t many jobs. But now we have the opposite happening, which is that we have too many positions. It’s a wonderful problem to have, and it’s thanks to him,” says Moody. “He’s led us to understand



that as a Nation we can always achieve more, and he’s set a standard for us. That’s a real legacy.”

Chief Angela Levasseur and Council acknowledge Kobliski and thank him for his dedication and commitment. They wish him the best in his retirement.

NNCEA School Nurse

NNCEA is seeking either an LPN or RN to satisfy the daily and annual needs of our students in both our schools

The school nurse will be responsible for a variety of different tasks to ensure our students are able to grow and learn through a healthy lifestyle

**Competitive Wages
Pension and Benefits
Housing or Free shuttle
Schedule follows school calendar**

Contact Nic Campbell for more information
204-484-2095
519-330-4707
nicc@nncea.ca

*Nisichawayasi Nehetho
Culture and Education Authority Inc.*
NISICHAWAYASIIHK CREE NATION

Nisichawayasi Nehetho Culture and Education Authority Inc. School Board Meeting Dates for 2023-24

Please see below dates for the NNCEA School Board Meetings for the 2023-2024 Academic Year as per Motion #2023-08-29-19

DAY/MONTH/YEAR	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday, September 26th, 2023	5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
Tuesday, October 24th, 2023	5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
Tuesday, November 28th, 2023	5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
Tuesday, December 19th, 2023	5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
Tuesday, January 30th, 2024	5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
Tuesday, February 27th, 2024	5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
Tuesday, March 26th, 2024	5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
Tuesday, April 30th, 2024	5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
Tuesday, May 28th, 2024	5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
Tuesday, June 25th, 2024	5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
Tuesday, July 23rd, 2024	5:30 pm	OK School Gym
Tuesday, August 27th, 2024	5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre

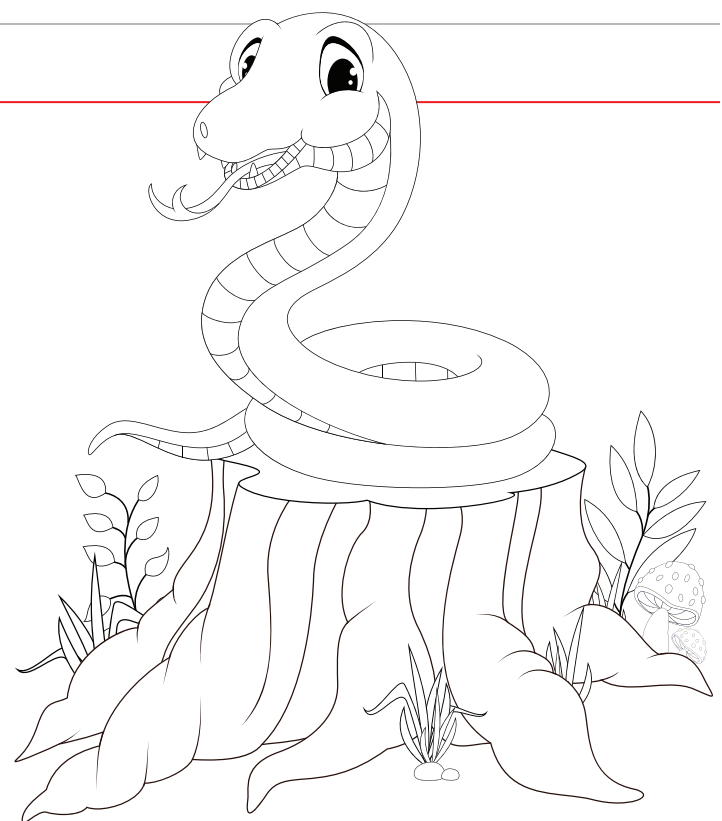
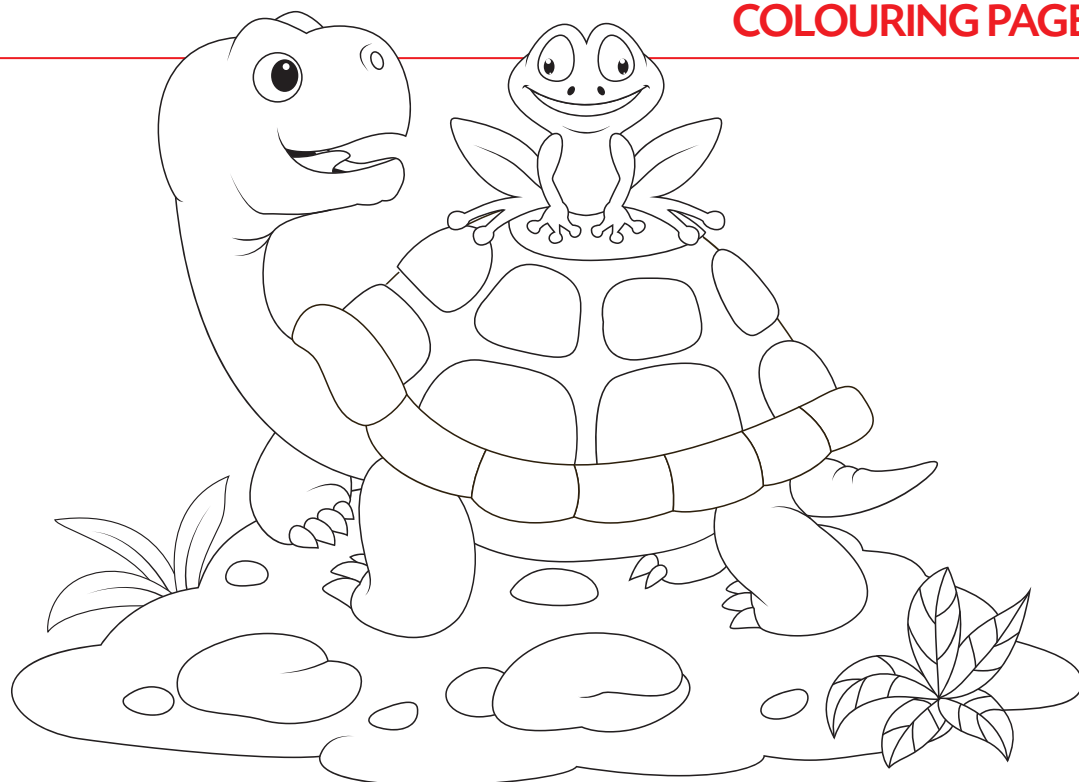
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| MISKANAW
(Holistic Life Path) | KISTITHIMITOWIN
(Being respectful to others) |
| MISKWAHĀMIWIN
(Finding life's holistic path) | ACIMOWINA
(Personal stories) |
| PIMATISIWIN
(Mastering the ways of your language and culture of your ancestors to help you move forward) | TAPACIMOWINA
(Sharing another person's story) |
| MITHWAYĀWIN
(Being holistically balanced) | KANĀCI ACIMOWINA
(Sacred stories) |
| KISKINWAHAMAKIWIN
(To teach your children the good life) | ĀCATHOHKIWINA
(Mist of time stories) |
| OTINĀMASOWIN
(Making good or bad choices) | ISKWISIS (Girl) |
| MASKĀWIKAPAWĪWIN
(To be strong in your guiding principles) | NAPISIS (Boy) |
| PAYĀHKWASIHTĀMOWIN
(To have an open mind) | ISKIW (Woman) |
| TAWITIĪWIN
(To have an open heart) | NAPIW (Man) |
| AYĀKWAMISIWIN
(Taught to be careful) | AWASIS (Child) |
| PACITOTĀMOWIN
(When you break a great law) | OSKATIS (Young adult) |
| PĀWAMIWIN
(Dream that guide you) | KISI AYA (Adult) |
| | KĪHTI AYA (Elder) |
| | MINISIWIN (Family cluster) |
| | OTŌTIMĪHITOWIN
(Direct/Blood relatives) |
| | WĀHKOHTOWIN (Adopted/
Extended relatives) |
| | MITHIKOWISIWINA
(Gifts you are born with) |
| | KISKINOSKAMAKIWINA
(Holistic guiding principles) |

Adapted from the NNCEA nisichawayasihk asiniskaw ithiniwak itiwina (NNCEA Rocky Cree Wordlist)

COLOURING PAGE



NNCEA Success and Highlights

Believe it or not it is almost Christmas Holidays for staff and students. All our staff and students are hard at work trying to achieve the goals of our education system. This school year has brought several new successes, highlights, and memories already. As always, there are also daily challenges that our staff and students work and learn with. It is integral as a community that we strive to put our best foot forward to work together to build a strong, efficient, and progressive education system. Our elementary school is now comprised of grades K-6 while our high school is comprised of grades 7-12. Both of our

schools open their doors and start the day off with breakfast provided for all students who wish to enjoy. Once the day starts going, our staff in all capacities are filling different roles and conquering different tasks to meet the operational needs of our system. NNCEA has over 220 staff members who work in different capacities to ensure our schools are open and students needs are being met.

- Transportation/Bus Drivers
- School Security
- Maintenance
- Administration
- Information Technology
- Post Secondary
- Board of Trustees
- Language and Culture
- Finance
- Admin Assistants
- Support Staff
- Teachers
- Educational Assistants

All these departments play a key role in the implementation of our schools on a daily basis. Without one of these departments

we could not function. NNCEA would like to acknowledge and thank all stakeholders and employees who strive to make our education system the best it can be. Our goal on a day to day basis is to prepare our students for Mithopimatisiwin. Through love, kindness, resiliency, collaboration, dedication, and communication we can be continually improving our system. NNCEA is honoured to be able to provide a service to the community and to the stakeholders and children of Nisichawayasihk.



ATTENTION!
All NCN Citizens living
on and off reserve

CHRISTMAS MEET & GREET

DOOR PRIZES available to be won!

THOMPSON
DECEMBER 4, 2023, 5:00 PM START
at Thompson Legion

NCN & LEAF RAPIDS
DECEMBER 5, 2023, 5:00 PM START
at Norman Linklater Memorial Multiplex
(Leaf Rapids off-reserve Citizens will be provided transportation to NCN Meet and Greet. Register for a ride with Wilma McDonald 204-307-0158 or NCN Government Office at 1-888-323-7658. Bus will pickup at Leaf Rapids Town Centre at 2:30 p.m.)

WINNIPEG & BRANDON
DECEMBER 19, 2023, 5:30 PM START
at Victoria Inn, Winnipeg
(Brandon off-reserve Citizens will be provided transportation to the Winnipeg Meet and Greet. Register for a ride with Wilma McDonald 204-307-0158 or NCN Government Office at 1-888-323-7658. Brandon Citizens will be picked up at the Shoppers Mall, 1570 18th St. at 2:30 p.m.)

Chief and Council invite all NCN Citizens to celebrate the festivities with awesome food, fun games, mingling and entertainment.

Save the Date

**TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 13, 2023**
4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

NISICHAWAYASIIK CREE NATION

UPCOMING ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY



NORMAN LINKLATER MEMORIAL MULTIPLEX

Topics of discussion include:

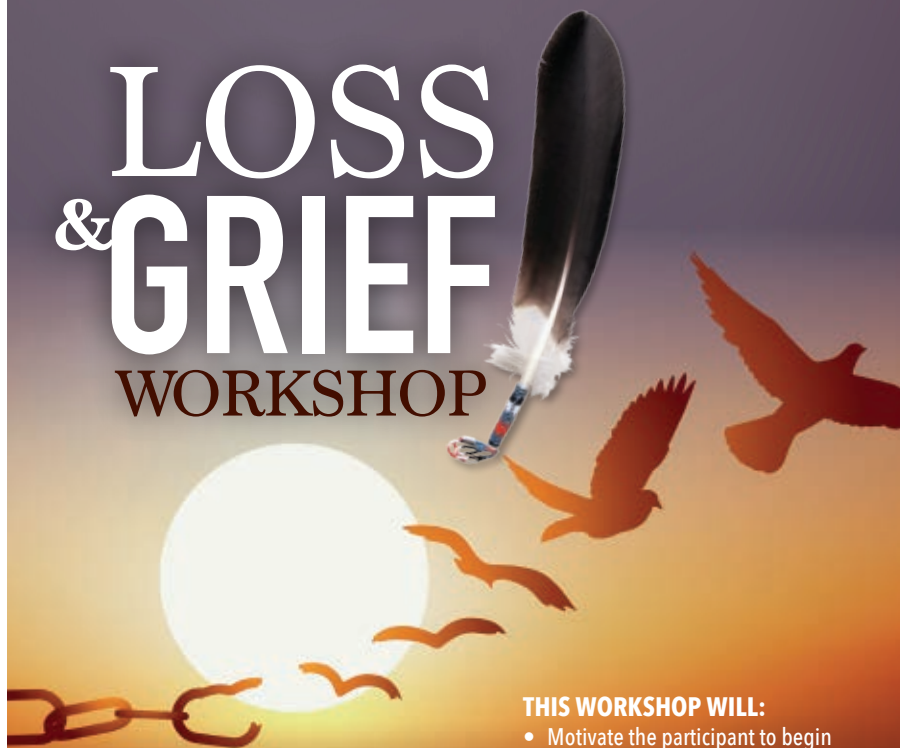
- › Updates on Justice Related Issues
- › Animal Control update
- › Land Code

Supper/refreshments provided



We Are Here to Listen.

LOSS & GRIEF WORKSHOP



Nov 22-23, 2023

10:00 am

ATEC - Nelson House

*Coffee and Snacks Provided
Maximum 15 participants, 18+*

WORKSHOP AGENDA:

Day 1 - 10:00 Am	Opening Prayer Introduction Exercises: 1. Definition Of Loss & Grief & Impacts 2. Grounding
12-1pm 1:00pm	Break For Lunch Exercises: 1. Letter Writing 2. Tobacco Ties/Flags 3. Honoring Self/Mirror Work
4:00pm	Closing Prayer
Day 2 - 10:00 am	Opening Prayer Exercise: 1. Story Stick
12-1pm 1:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm	Break For Lunch Sharing Circle Closing Prayer Sweat Lodge Ceremony

THIS WORKSHOP WILL:

- Motivate the participant to begin processing their personal grief work at their own pace.
- Encourage self care and self-awareness
- Help the participants map out the supports which are available to them
- Encourage emotional expression
- There will be several hands on exercises and it will conclude with Sharing Circle and Sweat.

FACILITATORS:

Judy Wood 204-670-2507
Morris Hart 204-307-2175
Please contact facilitators for more information and to ensure your spot!



NCN Minor Hockey Improving

NCN Minor Hockey is continuously improving and recruiting more players to join the sport. Our Hockey program is currently collaborating with Thompson Minor Hockey to build our elite athletes. Our proram will be shifting towards the grassroots portion or U-9 and U-11 in order to build the next generation of Flames! The NCN Minor hockey program would like to acknowledge the support from all individuals who contribute to this program. Catch our flames on the ice weekly in Thompson or Nelson House.



NCN Hockey Players Continue to Wow

NCN Citizen Haley Braun recently made an exciting decision when she signed a five-year deal to play hockey for the University of Saskatchewan. The Huskies are based in Saskatoon. The forward currently plays for the Saskatoon Stars. Her parents are Patricia Berard and Kelly Braun.



Braun's former teammate, Kurtia Yetman, also has something to celebrate. The defence player was named a part of Team Manitoba to compete at the U18 national championships in Dawson Creek, BC.

Yetman plays for the Balmoral Hall Blazers in Winnipeg. Her parents are Jemima Yetman and Curtis Lobster.

Both Kurtia and Haley have made incredible strides in their hockey careers.

The Achimowina newsletter first told Citizens about these athletes in August 2017. The two brought home their first international gold medals at the age of 11 when they came out

on top in Europe with their Atom Canadian Cowboys team. That same year, their NCN Flames Atom team won the Aboriginal Hockey Championship in Regina.

Congratulations to Haley and Kurtia! Your community is proud of you.

NISICHAWAYASIHK
CREE NATION

Welcome to the NCN Team

Date: October, 2023	Subject: New Hires – Co-CEOs, Associate Co-CEO and Assistant to Co-CEOs	From: NCN Chief & Council
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NCN Introduces Joyce Yetman, Leonard Linklater as Co-CEOs, Derek Hart – Associate Co-CEO and Candace Dumas – Assistant to Co-CEOs

Tansi Nitotimak!

In October 2023, NCN Chief and Council, staff and management welcomed **Joyce Yetman** and **Leonard Linklater** to the **Co-Chief Executive Officers** positions, **Derek Hart** as **Associate Co-CEO** and **Candace Dumas** as **Assistant to Co-CEOs**.

Joyce was formerly Director of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Trust Office prior to starting her new role. Leonard was director of operations for the Nation. The two Co-CEOs hires will be part of the team with Derek Hart, Associate Co-CEO; and Candace Dumas, Assistant to Co-CEOs. Candace was formally the Communications Manager for the NCN Family and Community Wellness Centre.

Derek Hart will split his time between working in NCN every two weeks and Winnipeg (sub office) for the following two weeks.

The team's duties will be to communicate directly with Chief and Council, management team and Council Secretariat, NCN staff and managers of internal NCN departments regarding programs and initiatives. They will manage calendars of activities, expense reporting, prepare correspondence, travel plans, and manage itineraries/agendas. Other tasks include coordination and preparation of all communications, meetings, notices, letters, meeting minutes, and briefing notes with Chief and Council.

We hope everyone will welcome and greet the team members with cooperation and courtesy as we build toward a bright future for our Nehetho Nation!

Welcome and congratulations Leonard, Derek, Candace and Joyce!

Kininaskomitin! Kisahkihitin!

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, Chief and Council



**REGISTER NOW FOR YOUR
NISICHAWAYASIIK CREE NATION**

2023 CHRISTMAS CHEERBOARD | GIFT CARDS

**Spreading the Cheer...
Just the way YOU Like it!**

NCN Chief & Council and the NCN Christmas Cheerboard are providing Gift Cards to registered on-and off-reserve Citizens. These gift cards can be used to purchase family feast items of your choosing this holiday season!

Gift cards will be provided instead of the Christmas food hamper for your convenience and to meet your specific food preferences. The amount of the gift will be determined based on the number people living in each home.

To Get Your Gift Cards:

1. Register by phone or Private Message on Facebook and provide proof of status card and current address (utility bill) to Wilma McDonald or Candace Dumas.
2. Include the number of NCN Residents living in household.
3. Amount of gift will be determined with the number people living in home.

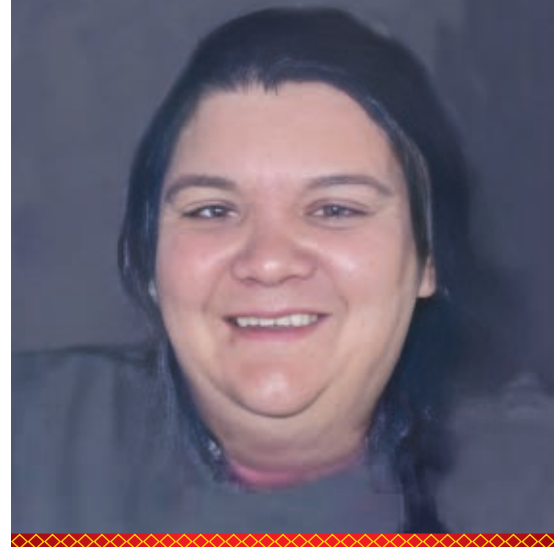
Depending on your location you will be asked if you prefer gift cards from:
Three Rivers Store, Family Foods, Safeway, Walmart, Co-op, No Frills, Superstore or Giant Tiger



For more information and to register, contact
Wilma McDonald at 204-307-0158
Candace Dumas – 204-670-5946
by December 1, 2023
NO EXCEPTIONS



CITIZEN PROFILE



Shirleena Spence Tait

Tansi, my name is Shirleena Spence Tait. My spirit name is Extra Ordinary Snowflake Woman and I am a proud member of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.

I started working with the NCN Family and Community Wellness Centre in July 2021 with the Employment Growth Opportunity Program (EGOP) as a Land Base Worker.

Before COVID, I was working towards becoming a carpenter, and had finished my Level 1 Carpentry. Unfortunately, I could not find work due to the pandemic, so I took the opportunity to work with the FCWC.

Right when I started as a Land Base Worker, my supervisor sent me out for five nights to help with a Sundance in Grand Rapids. It

was a wonderful experience, camping out in a tent and getting to witness the Sundance Ceremony.

Working with the Land Base Department was great. We had the opportunity to work with different animal hides. We were smoking fish, and collecting grandfather rocks and poplar trees for the Sweat Lodge. Shortly after, I was promoted to become the Land Base Team Leader. It was a great experience.

In March 2022, I got an offer from the HR department to become a Human Resource Support worker and I took the opportunity. I believe it's good to experience different opportunities, because you will never know what you enjoy doing unless you try.

I have been with the Human Resource Department since, and I really enjoy helping people and to be part of a wonderful team.

Thank you NCN FCWC for the wonderful experiences!

Survivor benefits: In the event of your death, your estate may receive a one-time payment of up to \$2,500, and your spouse or common-law partner and dependent children may be eligible to receive a monthly survivor's pension or children's benefit.

You must apply for Canada Pension Plan benefits. They do not start automatically.

What if my employer wants to participate in the plan?

If your First Nation employer decides to participate in the CPP, all workers must contribute to the CPP through deductions from their pay.

To enrol, your employer must complete and submit Form CPT124, *Application for Coverage of Employment of an Indian in Canada under the Canada Pension Plan*.

What if my employer does not participate or I am self-employed?

If your First Nation employer decides not to participate in the CPP, or you are self-employed, you can still contribute by paying both the employee and the employer's portions of the CPP contributions.

To enrol, you must complete and submit your income tax return with a completed Form CPT20, *Election to Pay Canada Pension Plan Contributions*.

For more information on Forms CPT124 and CPT20, call the Canada Revenue Agency at 1-800-959-8281.

To view and download forms, visit www.cra-arc.gc.ca.

To order forms, call 1-800-959-2221.

Will paying into the CPP affect my tax-exempt status?

No. Paying into the CPP will not affect your tax-exempt earnings. Your tax status is not affected by whether or not you pay into the Canada Pension Plan.

Will I have to pay tax on my CPP benefits?

If all of your contributions to the CPP were made on tax-exempt earnings, your CPP benefits will also be tax-exempt. If your contributions were made on earnings from both on-reserve and off-reserve employment, only the percentage of CPP payments resulting from taxable employment will be taxed.

Be informed

For more detailed information on the CPP, contact Service Canada:

Click Canada.ca

Call 1-800-277-9914 for service in English
1-800-277-9915 for service in French
613-957-1954 (outside Canada and the U.S.)
1-800-255-4786 (TTY)

Visit a [Service Canada Centre](#)

First Nations Workers and the Canada Pension Plan

You can download this publication by going online:

publiccentre.esdc.gc.ca

This document is available on demand in multiple formats by contacting 1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232), teletypewriter (TTY), 1-800-926-9105.

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ESDC

Cat. No.: ISPB-314-01-16

Continued from page 26

sales, meetings, trainings, memorial dinners, merchandise bingos, etc. Get in touch with Terry Linklater at 204-307-2246 to learn more.

So many people to thank for their help!

Allen Thomas
 Josh Thomas
 Shiloh Thomas
 Shane Mason
 Roger Linklater
 Jerry Lobster
 Maria Donkey
 Rena Gossfeld
 Lainey Linklater
 Harley Linklater
 Ronnie Spence
 Wilma McDonald
 Debbie Muskego
 Briley Bittern
 Jamie Lewis
 Benjamin Linklater
 and more!



To Our Star
Haley Braun

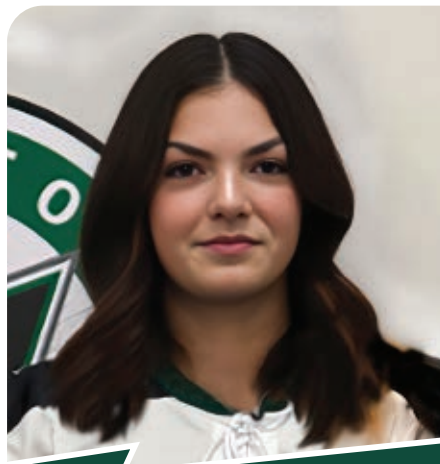


Haley, we are so proud of you! You have always made big goals for yourself, and we've been so happy to cheer you on as you achieve every single one.

From playing in Europe as a brave 11-year-old, when you showed all those doubtful boys what you could do, to being Top Scorer and Top Forward in the U18 AAA league last year, you always amaze us.

Your confidence, hard work, and your commitment to excellence will serve you well as you start your next adventure with the Huskies. You know we'll come out to see you as often as we can, and we will absolutely be the loudest in the stands! It is so exciting to watch you play, and just as wonderful to watch you become an accomplished young woman.

You got this! We love you! And to anyone out there reading, if you have a dream, go after it!!



FORWARD - SHOOTS RIGHT - #22

Star Forward

To Our Star
Kurtia Yetman



The little girl in these photos has grown up to be one of the hardest working, most dedicated and inspiring young women. She shines bright, and is true to her name "Sakastiw."

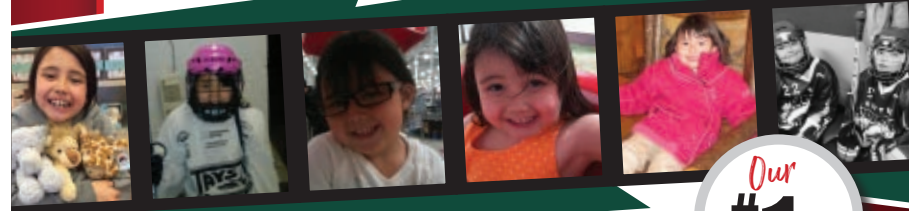
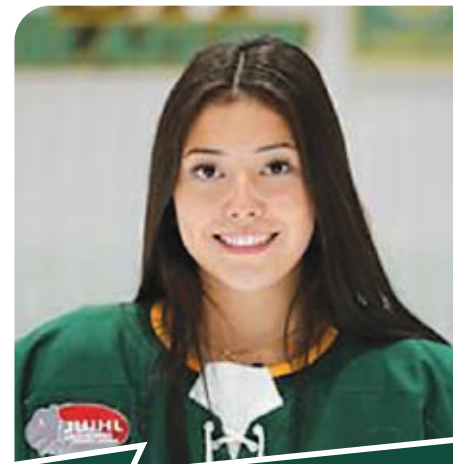
Who knew that over 12 plus years ago, when you told us you wanted to play hockey, that you in fact would take us all over the World!!

Your unwavering sacrifice to play at the top levels of Hockey that your country has to offer, manifests our admiration and support for you to reach your goals! As you and your team head into the quarterfinals, leave everything you have on that ice. Every shift you're out there!

Encourage your teammates! Have fun.

Even though we won't be here for playoffs, we are with you in spirit!

Give it your all, play tough! Mom and Dad love you. Your sisters and aunts love you. Nisichawayashk loves you! Now go get them!!



DEFENCE - SHOOTS LEFT - #7

Player

Register Today for Your Christmas Gift Card

This year, the NCN Christmas Cheer Board will provide Citizens with gift cards instead of Christmas hampers.

"These cards can be used to purchase feast items of your choice this holiday season! We've made this decision, instead

of the Christmas food hampers, for people's convenience and to meet their specific food preferences," say Wilma McDonald and Candace Dumas, who are organizing the event.

Just like the previous hampers, these gift cards are available for all registered on- and off-reserve NCN Citizens. YOU MUST REGISTER by December 1:

- Register by phone or private message on Facebook to Wilma McDonald or Candace Dumas. You will provide proof of status card and current address (utility bill).

- Tell us how many NCN Citizens are living in your household so we can determine the amount of the gift.
- Let us know your preference for gift card. Depending on your location, it may be: Three Rivers Store, Family Foods, Safeway, Walmart, Co-op, No Frills, Superstore or Giant Tiger.

Deadline to Register for Gift Cards is December 1, 2023. No Exceptions. For more information, or to register, contact:

Wilma McDonald – 204-307-0158

Candace Dumas – 204-670-5946

Footprint Lake Water Levels

Footprint Lake 14-Day Water Level Forecast

Revised Forecast as of November 19, 2023

On November 19, 2023 the level of Footprint Lake was at an elevation of 793.6 feet. The level of the lake is expected to rise 12 inches to an elevation of 794.6 feet by the end of the month.



The 14-day forecasts are estimates, and subject to change. Northern forecasts are broadcast on local radio stations at the beginning of every month.

The NCN Cheer Board was founded in 1993 by the local Awasis Agency (now known as FCWC). A few members dressed up as Santa's elves and delivered gifts to some children that the agency knew were in need. In 2007, the Trust Office took over and has funded the project since.

Every year about 500 families enjoy the spirit of the season, thanks to the Cheer Board.



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

Do you have a suggestion or an Achimowina story idea?
 We would like your comments, feedback or news stories. Please contact achimowina@gmail.com

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.

