



OKIMAHKAN OTY'AMIWIN
FROM THE CHIEF
Highlights and Recent
Activities in NCN

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY

Benefits To Finding Steady Employment. Let's Get To Work! PUSIKONISOWINI ACHIMOWIN

BUSINESS NCN's Leadership

Lobby's in Ottawa

1

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2024

Advocacy in Action: NCN's Leadership Takes on Ottawa

This past November, NCN Chief and Council embarked on a significant trip to Parliament in Ottawa, engaging in two full days of back-to-back meetings with key government officials. This important visit was focused on discussing and advocating





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for NCN's priorities at the highest levels of Canadian government.

Lobbying efforts like these are crucial for First Nations communities. They provide a direct line of communication to policymakers and government officials, ensuring that our unique needs and concerns are not just heard but are a priority in governmental decision-making processes. Through these efforts, communities can secure essential support and resources that are challenging to secure through other channels.

Chief Angela, along with members of NCN's leadership, engaged in critical lobbying efforts, meeting with Minister's offices' from departments such as Crown-Indigenous Relations and

Continued on page 4

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.



Tansi Nitoteemak!

Happy New Year to all! We hope 2024 will be a great year filled with blessings and good fortune! We are so excited to see what opportunities the year offers our Nation.

We extend my gratitude to all the NCN Government Office Staff who worked tirelessly to ensure that our NCN, Thompson, and Winnipeg Meet and Greets were a success. Seeing our community come together to enjoy good food, great conversations, and holiday joy was beautiful!

Please reference the "Where is the Chief" documents to see a detailed schedule of our activities. This document can be found on www.ncncree.com or visibly posted in the NCN Government Office.

Here are some highlights:

In November, I attended the Indigenous Law Symposium, and from there, we went straight to a lobbying mission with the Federal Government.

The trip succeeded in many ways, as we secured \$1.2 million in funding for language and culture revitalization. Our delegation included myself, Chief Angela Levasseur, Councillor Jeremiah Spence, William Elvis Thomas

Director of out Nîhitho Language and Culture Unit (NLCU), and our own Nisichawayasi Elders: Mona Hart and Clifford Hart. Our main areas of advocacy were as follows:

- Housing (We told them we need 500 to 600 houses)
- Health and Healing
- Infrastructure (Gov't office, new elementary school, health centre, new church, assisted living facility for 55+ etc.)
- Post Secondary Education
- N to 12 Education/Cree Immersion
- Justice and Public Safety
- Nîhitho Language and Culture
- First Nations Policing

We are planning our follow-up meetings for March and are very excited, as our last trip was very successful.

We attended the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) election in December and witnessed the victory of our fellow Manitoban, AFN Grand Chief Cindy Woodhouse. Cindy Woodhouse once told us that her former Chief

father brought her to an AFN assembly when she was four years old. At that time, she decided she would run for AFN Grand Chief one day. Congratulations to our new AFN Grand Chief!

Finally, regarding what is new and exciting in NCN, we are tackling the housing crisis. Our Pewapun builders are doing a fantastic job of building four duplexes/eight units on the new school road. These units will be for community members and are designed to be accessible to those with mobility issues. And we have ordered our first Bison Modular home, a beautiful four-bedroom home. If it proves to be a good option for NCN and our citizens approve, we will order many more homes and continue building homes!

On behalf of the Council, we wish NCN members from all over a safe and happy New Year. We are excited to see what this year entails and can't wait to share our successes with you! Kininaskomitinaw!

Chief Angela Levasseur
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

WHERE IS THE CHIEF?

Monday January 15, 2024: Flying to Winnipeg/ Attending a Funeral/MKO NFA Meeting

Tuesday January 16, 2024: Meeting with Bison Modular Homes/Meeting with RBC/MKO Executive Meeting (Winnipeg)

Wednesday January 17, 2024: Travelling back to Thompson

Thursday January 18, 2024: Meeting with Strategies North via Teams

Friday January 19, 2024: At the NCN Government Office

Monday January 22, 2024: AMC Special Chief's Meeting (Winnipeg)

Tuesday January 23, 2024: RIRSD Table Meeting (Winnipeg Sub-Office)

Wednesday January 24, 2024: Workshop for Leadership on First Nation Law Making (Winnipeg Sub-Office)

Thursday January 25, 2024: Workshop for Leadership on First Nation Law Making (Winnipeg Sub-Office)

Friday January 26, 2024: FRIDAY BLOCK – at the NCN Government Office to catch up on calls and emails

Monday January 29, 2024: Travelling to Winnipeg Tuesday January 30, 2024: Treaty 5 Gathering in Winnipeg

Wednesday January 31, 2024: Treaty 5 Gathering in Winnipeg

Thursday February 1, 2024: Travelling back to Thompson

Friday February 2, 2024: At the NCN Government Office

Monday February 5, 2024 – Friday February 9, 2024: Reading to classes at OK School and NNOC for "I Love to Read Month"

Monday February 5, 2024, 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM: NCN AGA; Theme: Justice and Public Safety

Community Wide Office Closures at 1:00 PM

 $For more information, please contact the {\it Chief's Assistant, Rosena Lewis: 431-354-2148} \ or {\it Rosena Lewis@ncncree.com}$

NCN Welcomes New Personal Care Home Director



Chief, Council and NCN executive welcome Jessie Horodecki, who started her new position as director of the Nisichawayasihk Personal Care Home on January 8, 2024. Good luck as you settle into your new role!





Moving Toward Positive Outcomes

NCN COMMUNITY STATISTICS

As of: December 15, 2023 - Council Meeting

RECOMMENDATION(s):

In discussions with Carol Kobliski, we noticed the lowering of incidents in the community and how this had an impact on all service-related fields for the community. We believe this is related to the CCR banishments that were conducted in October 2023. Below are examples of how much service-related calls lowered in the community:

- 1. Ambulance: Zero calls related to street violence in the community; no calls to assist someone that was injured in a gang related fight.
- RCMP has stated that the calls into the RCMP station are continuing in a downward trend.
 - a. August 2023: 502 calls to RCMP
 - September 2023: 484 calls to RCMP
 - October 2023: 444 calls to RCMP
 - November 320 calls to RCMP
- Social Assistance: No more requests from leadership to switch Social Assistance accounts to strictly Purchase Orders.
- 4. FNSO (Monthly check-stop and Community Patrols): Carol stated the incidents are down 80% and gave me her statistics.

Monthly Community	Patrol	Stats
2023	Nov.	Dec.
Dog reports	2	1
Calls from Community	98	112
CFS	2	0
Intoxicated/Lodged	2	2
Domestic	0	0
Mischief	2	0
Gang Violence	0	0
Assault	0	0
Medical	9	61
Assists/RCMP/CFS:	3	3
Missing Persons	2	2
Weapons Seized:	0	0
Bear Mace Assaults	3	0
Bear Mace Taken	0	0

Monthly Check Stop Stats								
2023	Nov.	Dec.						
Alcohol seized	14	17						
Lysol seized	3	2						
Illegal drugs found	0	0						
Assaults	0	0						
Impaired Driving	2	2						
Non-compliant	6	2						
Intoxicated/lodged	3	2						
Tickets issued	3	7						
Walking into check stop	2	7						
Walking on Hwy 391	2	7						
Wellness check	2	4						
BCR's enforced	2	1						
Alcohol destroyed	43	100						

Overall, the community has had positive outcomes and is still looking at making further improvements with the enactment of PKT and Nisi Court. Once it is initiated, the Executive Management Team hopes to use the Peace-Keepers Tribunal as an 'Alternative Measures' method to try and divert other youth from getting involved with the Justice Department.

NCN Team Meets with Premier Kinew

NCN Chief, Council and the executive management team had an amazing start to the new year.

On January 10, they met with the first elected Indigenous premier, the Honourable Wab Kinew, at the Legislative Building in Winnipeg.

Also in attendance were the Honourable Lahanni Fontaine, Minister of Families; the Honourable Bernadette Smith, Minster of Housing, Addictions, and Homelessness; and our Thompson MLA Eric Redhead.

The group from NCN was happy to note that Minister Fontaine and Minister Smith are the first First Nations Women to be cabinet ministers.

This meeting had been in planning since October 2023, so to say they were excited is an understatement.

The first topic of conversation was the Manitoba Research Alliance, and the importance and successes of ATEC and First Nation's Youth Build.

NCN Lands and Environmental Resources Director Gord Dumas then made a presentation about reconciliation through NCN's Lands and Resources and the TLE.

The next topic was health, including the hope of a dialysis clinic and an MRI machine in NCN, and the proposed health centre.

The NCN delegation then outlined our housing crisis, explaining that NCN is short more than 500 homes, which leads to homelessness in our community and surrounding municipalities. Manitoba Housing was discussed as a possibility to build homes on reserve for our Citizens.

"We left the Legislative Building with our hearts filled with hope, pride, and excitement," says Chief Angela Levasseur. "We felt heard, we felt seen, and more importantly, we felt like we mattered."

A follow-up meeting is being scheduled, and everyone will be excited to share the outcomes.

"Indigenous excellency is the gateway to Indigenous pride, and Premier Kinew has sparked hope and excellence in so many Nations," says Levasseur. "We look forward to working with this government, and we cannot wait to see what our future entails."



NCN Chief and Council and management team met with the Premier and ministers on January 10th, 2024.

Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Canadian Heritage, and more. The talks revolved around several critical areas for our community, including critical infrastructure, housing initiatives, safety on reserve, preservation of language and culture, and enhancing educational opportunities. The overarching goal was clear: to ensure that the voices and priorities of our

community are not only heard but placed prominently on the government's radar.

The intent of this trip was to place NCN's concerns and projects in the spotlight, ensuring that our community's needs are recognized and addressed at the national level. These efforts in Ottawa were a step towards ensuring that our voices are heard and considered in policy-making that affects our community. The opportunity to connect face-to-face with federal decision-makers cannot be overstated, the human aspect of these meetings often is what drives change and opportunity for communities such as NCN.

However, the work does not end with these meetings. In fact, the real work has just begun. Following these initial discussions, there is a need for persistent follow-up, continued advocacy, and consistent engagement with government

officials to ensure their commitments are

honoured. As a community, we await the outcomes of these discussions and remain hopeful for the positive changes they may bring. This ongoing representation of NCN's interests at

various levels of government is essential in securing real, tangible benefits for NCN and its members.

We also extend our gratitude to our friends at Strategies North Advisory Inc., who provided invaluable support in scheduling and facilitating meetings, arranging travel logistics, and preparing comprehensive research. We look forward to continuing our relationship with government and securing their support for our community.

































NCN Law Enforcement Cracks Down on Bootlegging and Drugs



Carol Kobliski, Chief of Law Enforcement, and the First Nations Safety Officers are doing a great job of keeping NCN Safe. Just

before Christmas the officers made a large seizure of illegal drugs and confiscated alcohol, weapons and illegal substance estimated to be worth thousands of dollars in street value.

"Keeping these substances out of NCN and making NCN safe is a top priority," says Kobliski.

She added that there is more to be done and that a law enforcement plan is in place and measures are being taken to control criminal activity, "Stopping crimes, vandalism and

smuggling in our lands is going to help us all feel safer in our homes. It also sends a message to criminals and gangs that we won't tolerate it."

Citizens are encouraged to take part in the upcoming

> AGA's to hear more of the plans.





Illegal alcohol and drugs were seized by FNSO in late December. Plans are in place to further reduce crime and will be discussed at the NCN AGA's.



NCN Meet and Greet











It is with tremendous sadness that we announce the passing of Jimmy Hunter-Spence, *Wapiski Ohow ka apit* (White Snow Owl Sitting), our humble, wise *Kehtiyatis* (Elder), a member of the *Muskwa Ototema* (Bear Clan).

Jimmy is survived by his beloved spouse Sarah Spence (Neckoway) and their daughters Connie Massan, Valerie Massan, Louise Spence (Jody Linklater), Mandy Spence (Jason Bonner), grandchildren Troy Massan, Grant Massan, Leah Massan, Darryl Henderson, Joson Spence, Bubba/Jesse Henderson, Misko Chartrand, Zoongide Chartrand, Chloe Linklater, Whisper Chartrand, Layla Linklater, Sarah Spence, Cameron Spence and Toby Spence, as well as numerous other grandchildren and great grandchildren both biological and traditionally adopted, siblings Etta Dumas, Arabella McDonald, Elizabeth Linklater, Elmer Spence, and Frederick Spence.

Jimmy was born at Nelson House, Manitoba. At a young age before he was sent to residential school in Birtle, his grandparents taught him how to live off the land. His grandmother taught him to be thankful everyday for the blessings one has and he continued to pray to *Kihche-Manitou* (Creator) daily up to the time of his passing.

Jimmy left residential school after grade 11 and took an electrical course at Red River Community College then returned to the north. He worked for Manitoba Telephone System for 27 years. He was also a member of Chief and Council from 1986 to 1988 and then from 1998 to 2006. He was a major part of all major NCN negotiations whether on or off Council including the NFA Comprehensive Implementation Agreement, the Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement, the Wuskwatim Project Development Agreement, Community Tripartite Agreement for policing.

Jimmy was an inaugural member of the Wuskwatim General Partnership Board from 2005 until the spring of 2023. He was also a member of the TLE Committee, the UCN Council of Elders and the NCN Peacekeepers Tribunal, Land Code Advisory Committee and many others committees. Jimmy believed it is very important to be a good role model, to instill self-confidence, pride and motivation in our youth. He believed maintaining *Nehethowewin* (our language) and *Nehetho* (our culture) are critical for preserving our identity but he was accepting of all peoples, religions and cultures. He loved to learn and spent as much time as he could outdoors picking medicines and being connected with the land. He loved to speak with people and shared his knowledge in a very caring, positive and respectful way.

He continued to attend meetings right up to December 21, 2023 as he believed it was important to contribute and provide guidance as long as he could. His health then took a turn for the worse but he was at peace with *Kiche-Manitou* and also acknowledged the Lord who will protect and help him on his journey to the spirit world where we know he will continue to provide us with guidance for *Michimahch'ohci* (time immemorial).

The viewing, procession, wake and funeral arrangements will be announced shortly on the NCN website, Facebook, the Boardman Funeral Home website. In the meantime, the family acknowledges and gives thanks to the staff at Thompson General Hospital for the care given to Jimmy. It was greatly appreciated.







WORDSEARCH: < 対 d つ payākwāsi āyamiwina Common Words/Simple Commands

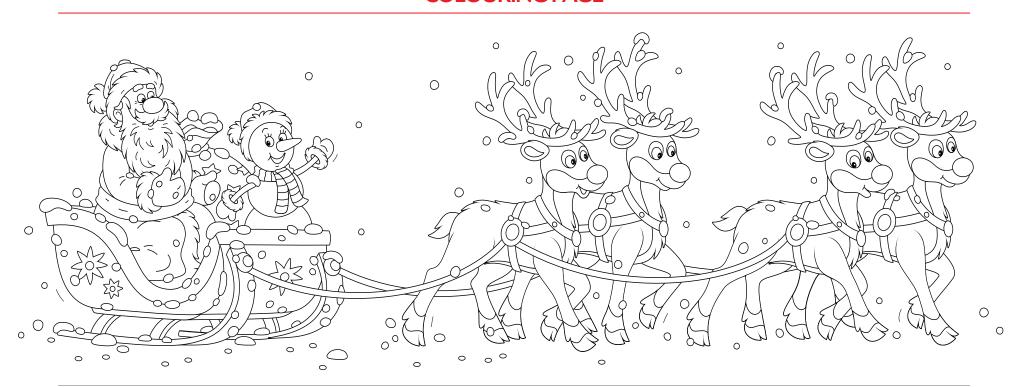
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TĀNISI (Hello) TAWĀW PIHTOKĪ (Come in) KININASKOMITIN (Thank you) MITHOKWAMI (Goodnight) MITHO NIPĀ (Have a good sleep) TĀNISI (Hello) ĪKOSANI (Thank you) KISAHKIHITIN (I love you) KISAKIHIN NA (Do you love me?) NIMITATIN (I'm sorry) NAMWĀC (No) ĪHĪ/TAPWĪ (Yes) ĀHPŌ (Maybe) NĪTHA (Me) KĪTHA (You) WĪTHA (Him/her) WĪTHAWAW (Them) TĀNISPĪHK (When?) AWĪNA (Who?) KĪKWAY (What?) TĀNIWI (Where?) TANIHKI (Why?)

TĀNISI (How?) AKWA (and) AHPO (or) NAMATINIK (Left) KICINISKIK (Right) KĀWĪTHA (Don't) ĪMŌWIS (Before) PATIMA (After) NAKĪS (Later) PATIMA (Later on) NIKANĪHK (Front) OTANĀHK (Behind) **ĪSKWAYAC** (Last) SIMAK (Right now) OTA (Here) CISKWA (Wait) NAMATINIK (Left) KICINISKIK (Right) MISIKITĪW (She/he is big) APISISISĪW (She/he is small) MĪSAW (Something big) APISIS (Small amount) PISISIKWĀW (Empty)

Adapted from the NNCEA nisicawayasihk asiniskaw īthiniwak ītwiwīna (NNCEA Rocky Cree Wordlist)

COLOURING PAGE



7

Message From Public Health



Help Reduce the Spread of **Respiratory Infections**

Respiratory infections increase in the fall and winter but there are steps you can take to help to reduce your risk of getting and spreading infection.

Which respiratory Infections might we see this fall and winter?

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV): Almost all children will get RSV at least once before they are 2 years old. In most cases, it causes cold-like symptoms that resolve on their own. Infants, older adults (65 years of age or older), and immunocompromised individuals are at a higher risk for developing severe illness.

Influenza: Can infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can lead to serious illness such as pneumonia. It is estimated that 12,200 hospitalizations and 3,500 deaths related to flu occur each year in Canada.

Pneumococcal Disease: Can cause infections of the ears, sinuses, or lungs. It can sometimes lead to pneumonia, infection of the blood, and infection of the brain. Children under the age of 2 years, adults older than 65 years, and people with certain health conditions are at more risk of serious illness.

COVID-19: Is upsurging. We are seeing a rise in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations due to new variants of COVID-19 spreading in Canada.

How can you protect yourself, your family, and your community?

Staying up-to-date with your vaccinations continues to be one of the most effective ways to protect against hospitalization and death from COVID-19, flu, and pneumococcal infections.

Continue practicing personal protective measures including:

Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 and other

respiratory illnesses, including influenza, RSV, and pneumococcus, if eligible and available.

- Frequent hand hygiene.
- Physical distancing
- Wearing a mask in crowded indoor settings.
- Keeping high-touch areas clean such as door handles, light switches, stair railings, sink handles, toilet handles, phones, etc.
- Staying home if sick.

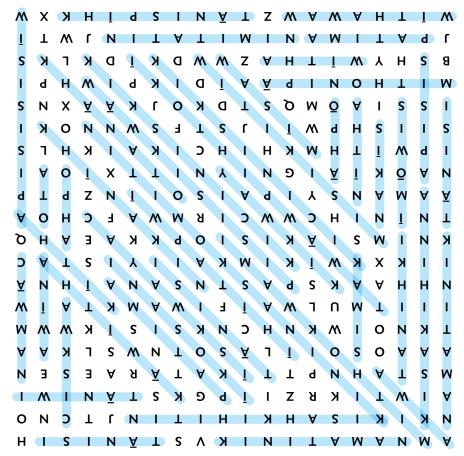
Even if you have been recently vaccinated against COVID-19, flu, or other respiratory infections, it is important to continue to take action and follow public health measures if you feel sick.

Where can I get more information? Talk to a public health professional or your local healthcare provider for more information on respiratory infections and ways to help keep yourself, your family and your community healthy, or visit Reduce

the spread of respiratory viruses – Canada.ca



Solution below to puzzles on previous page



Common Words/Simple Commands



Thompson King Miners Tournament Champs

NCN's U15 Hockey Players from the Thompson King Miners were tournament champions on the weekend of January 6-7. Congratulations to the team and NCN's Randy Linklater Jr., Terrel Spence, Rio Wood-Stoneman, Matthew Spence, Trenton Campbell.





NNCEA Policy 426: Donations to Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

There will be certain times when the community members/organizations will seek donations from the NNCEA organization. To promote a positive, caring image, the NNCEA chooses to support the families and community with donations via cheque, electronic funds transfer and/or purchase order. NCN Citizens, normally resident, will be entitled to this support. Each year, funds will be allocated to the budget. Qualified applicants are only eligible for two donations per budget year. If the budget gets expended, donations cannot be provided. Rates for various requests will be determined by NNCEA Senior Administration.

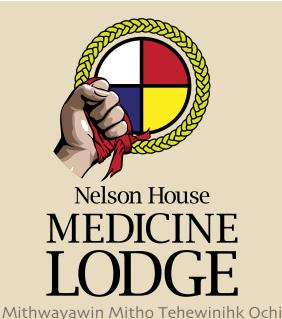
When a death occurs, the NNCEA will show its compassion by sending a wreath and/or flowers to the bereaved family. Upon occasion, support to NNCEA affiliates/partners will have to be extended.

Donation requests can be made for a wake and bereavement; travel off the reserve to attend a close family members' funeral/burial; for occasional/annual events for our children; for summer/winter festivals; for various traditional ceremonies in the community such as Sundances, powwows, etc. Due to the limited budget, private functions like memorial events, etc., are not eligible. Donation requests from people/organizations, off the reserve, are also ineligible.

Procedures:

- 1. Whenever a donation is needed, it has to be put in the form of a letter or email to the NNCEA.
- 2. The letter must be dated and provide the necessary details of the request: what it is needed for, when it is needed, what is needed (a cheque, purchase order or EFT) who the donation is to be made to, contact information.
- 3. The request will be reviewed as soon as possible by Senior Administration and a decision will be made and actioned. The family will be informed by the Human Resources Director.
- 4. Senior Administration will put the necessary details on the letter of request and NNCEA Finance will be notified so the request can be processed.
- 5. Letter will be filed accordingly.

Eligible Donations	Rates
a. Donation for individual Wakes/Funerals/Burial	\$300.00
b. Donation for travel to attend a family members' funeral/burial, per family, in Manitoba	\$300.00
c. Donation for travel to attend a family members' funeral/burial, per family, out of province	\$400.00
d. For occasional/annual events for our children	\$500.00
e. Summer and/or winter festivals	\$2,000.00
f. Traditional/cultural ceremonies for the community:	
– Sundances	\$2,000.00
– Pow-wows	\$2,000.00
g. Support to NNCEA affiliates/partners (wreath/flowers, etc.)	\$300.00



Nelson House Medicine Lodge Intake Dates

Referrals and registration are being accepted now for alcohol and drug treatment, prevention and aftercare services. Intake dates and administration weeks are as follows:

DEALING WITH ADDICTIONS? Call 204-484-2256

Treatment Schedule for 2023

Monday, January 2, 2023 – Thursday, February 23, 2023

Monday, February 27, 2023 – Thursday, April 20, 2023

ADMIN WEEK: Monday, April 24, 2023 – Friday, April 28, 2023 Monday, May 1, 2023 – Thursday, June 22, 2023

Monday, June 26, 2023 – Thursday, August 17, 2023

ADMIN WEEK

Monday, August 21, 2023 – Friday, August 25, 2023 Monday, August 28, 2023 – Thursday, October 19, 2023

Monday, October 23, 2023 – Thursday, December 14, 2023

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE:

Monday, December 18, 2023 – Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Treatment Schedule for 2024

Tuesday, January 2, 2024 – Thursday, February 22, 2024

Monday, February 26, 2024 – Thursday, April 18, 2024

ADMIN WEEK:

Monday, April 22, 2024 – Friday, April 26, 2024 Monday, April 29, 2024 – Thursday, June 20, 2024

Monday, June 24, 2024 – Thursday, August 15, 2024

ADMIN WEEK:

Monday, August 19, 2024 – Friday, August 23, 2024 Monday, August 26, 2024 – Thursday, October 17, 2024 Monday, October 21, 2024 – Thursday, December 12, 2024 CHRISTMAS CLOSURE: Monday, December 16, 2024 – Thursday, January 2, 2025

NNCEA Policy 803B: School Closure Due to Cold Weather

Background: The Board intends that its schools operate in accordance with the laws and the annual school calendar. Students cannot afford to miss school. Year after year, there have been multiple cold weather school closures. In an effort to reduce lost school days and lost instructional time, it has become necessary to repeal all previous versions of NNCEA Policy 803B. At a duly convened meeting of the NNCEA School Board, as noted above, it was decided that both NNCEA schools will remain open. Central office and NNCEA schools will remain open. Buses will continue to transport students. All staff are to be at the workplace. Assigned staff will be on duty and classes will be held.

Parents must decide if sending their child(ren) to school is in their child(ren)'s best interests when

temperatures are -40°C or colder with the wind chill. This is called parental discretion. Parents are encouraged to dress children appropriately for weather conditions. Any child(ren) not dressed properly will be taken home.

Should the temperature and/or weather become an endangerment during the school day, the School Principals will:

- Make a recommendation to the NNCEA
 Director of Education (Assistant Director if the Director of Education is unavailable) who will make the final decision.
- 2. The Director of Education or delegate will inform the NNCEA School Board Chair, the NNCEA Board of Trustees, educational leaders, bus supervisor promptly via text, email and/or phone call.

- 3. Prior to the school closure, notice will be posted on the local websites (NNCEA) AND social media (Facebook) by ICT personnel and/or School Administration so the community/staff/bus drivers are informed/aware.
- 4. All NNCEA students will be transported home safely.

Student Awards Not Affected by Cold Weather Closures

Student's attendance will not be affected by these decisions since year-end awards will be issued for excellent attendance. Students whose attendance range is between 90 – 100% for the school year will qualify for excellent-attendance awards. This process takes into consideration absences due to unforeseen circumstances.

Go Flames Go!

The NCN Flames Junior B hockey team has had a great season in the Keystone Junior Hockey League so far this year.

They are currently third in the league, with 33 points, 16 wins and 6 losses.

Albert Sinclair Jr. is leading the team with 45 points, 21 goals and 24 assists. Those stats have made the forward 5th in the league.

Goalie Aiden Biswanger has an impressive .899 save percentage, which gives him the thirdhighest ranking in the league.

At the time of writing, the Flames are playing in the KJHL Showcase in Winnipeg. This is an important tournament, as all teams play two or three games and have the opportunity to be seen by more coaches and officials with scouting opportunities.

Follow their successes on Facebook at their page, NCN Flames Junior B Hockey Team.

UPCOMING FLAMES SCHEDULE

Time/Result	Date Away		Home	Location		
4:45 PM CST	Jan. 19, 2024 at 4:45 PM CST	Peguis Juniors	NCN Flames	Hockey For All Centre – MBT		
7:00 PM CST	Jan. 20, 2024 at 7:00 PM CST	NCN Flames	Waywayseecappo Wild	Hockey For All Centre – Flynn		
10:00 AM CST	Jan. 21, 2024 at 10:00 AM CST	NCN Flames	Norway House North Stars	Hockey For All Centre – PCL		
7:30 PM	Feb. 3, 2024 at 7:30 PM	Waywayseecappo Wild	NCN Flames	Gilbert McDonald Arena		
1:30 PM	Feb. 4, 2024 at 1:30 PM	Waywayseecappo Wild	NCN Flames	Gilbert McDonald Arena		
7:30 PM	Feb. 7, 2024 at 7:30 PM	PBCN Selects	NCN Flames	Gilbert McDonald Arena		
7:30 PM CST	Feb. 10, 2024 at 7:30 PM CST	NCN Flames	PBCN Selects	Whitney Forum		
7:30 PM	Feb. 16, 2024 at 7:30 PM	OCN Storm	NCN Flames	C.A Nesbitt Arena		
7:30 PM	Feb. 17, 2024 at 7:30 PM	OCN Storm	NCN Flames	Gilbert McDonald Arena		
7:30 PM	Feb. 24, 2024 at 7:30 PM	NCN Flames	Peguis Juniors	Peguis Multiplex		
7:30 PM	Feb. 27, 2024 at 7:30 PM	PBCN Selects	NCN Flames	Gilbert McDonald Arena		

Updated Standings

Standings as of January 22, 2024

Team	GP	W	L	D	OTL	AP	PTS
Juniors	25	20	4	0	1	1	42
Selects	25	18	7	0	0	0	36
Flames	26	17	8	0	1	0	35
NorthStars	26	14	12	0	0	1	29
Storm	25	12	11	0	2	-6	20
Islanders	23	7	13	0	3	2	19
Wild	26	0	25	0	1	2	3

Lyle Murdock (pJR)	87
Player	Points
Drew Peters (OCN)	72
Brodie McPherson (PJR)	55
Dwayne McKenzie (NHNS)	51
Ayden Daniels (PJR)	47
Albert Sinclair Jr. (NCN)	47
Dyson Pelletier (PJR)	46
Wilfred Mcleod (cu)	44
Lucien Tait-Reaume (NHNS)	44
Tyrone Meldrum (PJR)	43





NCN has gained a reputation across the country as a place of natural beauty and incredible hospitality. In between our many celebrations and festivals throughout the year that celebrated our traditions and culture, there were important achievements and milestones that we now acknowledge.

NCN Flag Raised

For the first time since self-government was achieved, the NCN flag was raised on May 30 at Government Office. The flag shows a young



Cree man looking to the horizon with confidence. Deputy Chief Marcel Moody said, "Let it fly freely, like the dreams and aspirations of our people."

State of **Emergency Declared**

Illegal drugs such as crack, cocaine and crystal meth have become



more common in NCN, and increased violence and illegal activity led to drastic measures from Chief and Council in July. Implementations included a curfew for youth; fines for exceeding community amounts of alcohol and cannabis; banishments for bootleggers; hours of operation for ATVs and boats; and more.

First Nations to Receive Settlement from **Federal Government**

In March, a settlement agreement of \$2.8 billion was negotiated by 324 First Nations with Canada. Each of these nations (not individual people) will receive a payout from the Gottfriedson Indian Residential School Day Scholars Settlement. The funding that will be received by NCN will be used to support healing, wellness, education, heritage, language and memorial activities.

New Park Opens in NČN

NCN youth rejoiced in August when the Ron



Wood Memorial Recreational Park opened. More than 100 skateboarders showed their skills to the crowd at the opening of the new skate park. The space also includes a horseshoe pit and volleyball court. Wood was a long-time baseball and hockey coach and mentor for youth in Bay Road.

Yetman and **Linklater Named**

In October, Chief and Council welcomed Joyce



Yetman and Leonard Linklater as the Nation's new Co-CEOs. Yetman was formerly the NCN Trust Office director, while Linklater was NCN director of operations. At the same time, Derek Hart came on as Associate Co-CEO and Candace Dumas as Assistant to Co-CEOs.

DevCorp's Kobliski Retires

After decades of business management, David Kobliski retired from the Nelson House Development Corporation. Under his leadership, DevCorp grew from an operating budget of \$300,000 to profits exceeding \$5 million.



Just a few of his successes include three Family Food stores, Meetah Building Supplies and two gas stations. He set a high standard for business achievement, which was rewarded in 2022 when NCN received CANDO's Community of the Year award.

NNCEA's Gossfeld-**McDonald Retires**

After an incredible 41 years, L. Gail Gossfeld-McDonald completes her



journey in education. Over the years, she served as a teacher, administrator, board member and director of education. Under her leadership, Nehetho immersion instruction began in NCN, a strong Elders program was created in the schools, and the new high school was completed.

Chief Originates 5 AMC Resolutions

At the AMC general assembly in October, Chief Levasseur brings forward five resolutions that are meant to protect on- and off-reserve Indigenous people. They include increased regulation of Manitoba alcohol sales; hydro discount for Elders; estate administration for vulnerable on-reserve adults; Elder protection codes; and communal protection orders for violent, repeat offenders.

PA 620 Paving Gets **Green Light**



In long awaited news, NCN learned in March that \$8.5 million would be invested

into the 10-kms stretch that connects PR 391 to the Nelson House community. The project includes paving PA 620 and repairs to the causeways and guardrails. At that time, an anticipated completion date was 2024.

ISC Visits ATEC







A group from Indigenous Services Canada came to NCN in September to learn about the incredible successes of ATEC. They learned about its development in 2003 to train labourers for the Wuskwatim Project, and its continued training programs for Citizens. They were impressed to hear graduate and employment rates are often 100%, and NCN now has the most registered apprentices nation-wide.

New Nicwakawinikansihk Honour at Thompson Safeway

A land acknowledgement and painting now hold a place of pride at the front of the

store, which was celebrated in November. Store management says the gesture of truth and reconciliation showcases the Indigenous way of knowing. The painting of beautiful blues and purples by artist Jasyn Lucas highlights the Seven Sacred Teachings.

Levasseur Honoured at Head Dress and Blanket Ceremony

In April, Chief Angela Levasseur was presented with a headdress

and was wrapped in a traditional Cree star pattern blanket. Guests of honour included MKO Grand Chief Garrison Settee; AFN Manitoba Regional Chief Kevin Hart; and former Chiefs Marcel Moody, Jerry Primrose and Jim Moore.

NCN Hockey Players Achieving New Heights

In November,

forward Haley Braun signed a five-year deal to play hockey for the University of Saskatchewan Huskies in Saskatoon. At the same time, Kurtia Yetman, who plays for the Balmoral Hall Blazers in Winnipeg, was named part of Team Manitoba for the U18 national championships in BC.

Campbell Wins Manitoba Hockey Award

NCN resident Nic Campbell, who was the NNOC principal for several years and is now the NNCEA assistant director, was recognized for his outstanding volunteer work in hockey.

Manitoba Hockey acknowledged his tireless enthusiasm for local

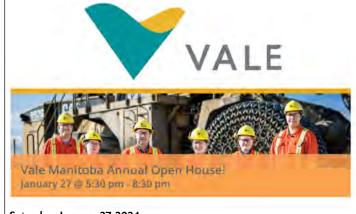


hockey, which includes serving as head coach and president, driving players, fundraising, and more.

Blue Bombers Visit NCN

CFL players Nic Demski and Willie Jefferson made the trek to NCN in March to join NNOC students for a training session. Jefferson flashed his Grey Cupring on his pinkie finger as he ran a few plays with students and NCN government and council members who stopped by to participate.





Saturday, January 27, 2024 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm Thompson Regional Community Centre

Join us to learn more about our business, and watch a free hockey game with the Norman Northstars!

Learn more about Vale's operations, including environmental monitoring, tailings management, safety, employment, and community initiatives!

There will be swag prizes, and an opportunity to interact with our team and provide feedback.

There's also free admission to the night's Northstar game at 7:30pm against the Parkland Rangers!

Donations of toques, mitts, neck-warmers and socks will be collected at the door for the Wellbriety Centre. We will also be collecting donations of dog food, cat food and cleaning supplies to go to the Thompson Humane Society.



Thompson Meet and Greet













How To Raise a Reader

One of the best things you can do for your child is to develop a love of reading.

Books can bring the entire world to your child, without leaving your home. Learning about other cultures can teach children empathy and indulges their curiosity. Reading about other kids' adventures will nurture your child's imagination and encourage them to dream big!

Reading about other kids' struggles can help them to gain courage and problem-solving skills, and helps them to see that they are not alone.

Experiencing the structure and plot of a book (the beginning, middle and end) will help your child in their communication with other people, and improves their ability to engage with storytelling.

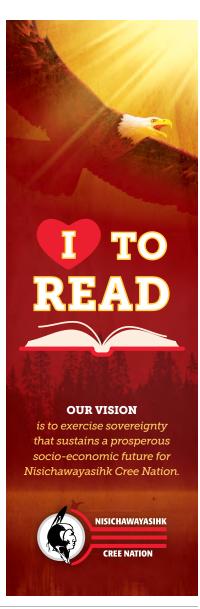
A regular reading routine will teach your child motivation and discipline. As their reading skills improve, they will want to read more books. Often, when reading becomes a habit, their work in other subjects

improve, too, because they're able to focus longer.

If your child is reluctant to read, the best thing you can do is keep things simple. Don't push too hard! Ten minutes is all you need to make reading a cozy, safe ritual.

- Curl up together with a blanket.
- Take turns picking out a book.
- Read the title and guess what might happen.
- Look at the pictures and point out what you see. Continued

on page 14



- Make predictions about what will happen next.
- When you're finished, talk about your favourite parts.
- Rate the book out of 10.

If you don't have many books at home, speak to your child's teacher about borrowing a few. Maybe you can do a swap every week with your child's friends. There may be a parent whose kids are a few years older than you with some books they've outgrown.

Annual and temporary memberships are available at the Thompson Library. Call 204-677-3717 or email info@thompsonlibrary.com to learn more.

Why don't you:

- leave a message in their pocket
- play Hangman, Wordle, Scrabble
- find small words in people's names
- point out words while you're out and about
- let your child see you reading
- listen to an audiobook while you drive
- start a Family Book Club with aunties and cousins
- play Stop, Drop and Read (everyone in the house



stops what they're doing and reads for 10 minutes!)

We are so thankful for the professionals in NCN who are teaching our children to love reading!

Much

appreciation to all of our teachers, EAs, administrators, school staff, ECEs, ATEC students, Bachelor of Education students, and more. Ekosani!

Hey kids and parents. Clip this bookmark out and use it for your next book.

Christmas Grinch Surprise in NCN

'Twas just before Christmas and not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse... except for the Grinch who was up to no good in the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.

Many in NCN were witness to the arrival of Santa Claus by helicopter at the Norman Linklater Memorial

Complex a couple of weeks before Christmas. Santa was doing a final visit to get lastminute gift ideas from NCN children of all ages.

Drone footage captured a great welcoming committee for the jolly man, along with a police escort for the important guest, but the festive event took a surprising turn when the Grinch showed up to steal Christmas. Luckily for all the good boys and girls this year, NCN safety officers were on scene to prevent the Grinch from messing up Christmas.

Chief Angela Levasseur commented on the surprise visit, "This is just another example of how our wonderful community makes sure the holidays are fun and put a smile on everyone's face."

In the video the Grinch is seen chasing after Santa when an NCN safety officer apprehends the green menace.

Levasseur said, "I am sure he was up to no good! The officers



did their job securing the area and taking the good ol' Grinch to share in some Christmas festivities and Cheer."

It was reported that after a few hours in this great community the Grinch was singing a happy tune and was passing on the Christmas spirit and joy to everyone. Thanks to everyone that made this fun event possible!

Drone footage of the caper can be seen on NCN's YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlH3lg4nbsg.



_ \ A		A **			ehetha			DATE	SCHOOL CLOSURE
	X o				ehetho on Autl	ority I	nc.	August 31 and September 1, 2023	Professional Development (2)
∹(■)	-			CREE			Monday, September 4, 2023	Labour Day Holiday
	X	1	- ///		- ///		=	September 5, 2023	Professional Development (1)
-						-		September 6, 2023	First Day of Classes
-	- 2	202	3-20	024	٠.			Friday, September 29, 2023	Truth and Reconciliation Day
		но						Monday, October 9, 2023	Thanksgiving Holiday
DEPENDENT NAMED IN		:AL	END) AR	l			Tuesday, October 10 - October 13, 2023	Flex Days (4)
	_			_	_	_	_	Wednesday, November 8-9, 2023	Flex Days (2) Aboriginal Veterans
Month	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Friday, November 10, 2023	Remembrance Day Observance
lug 23	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	Friday, December 22, 2023	Last Day of Classes before break
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Monday, December 25, 2023	First Day of Winter Break
Sep	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Friday, January 5, 2024	Last Day of Winter Break
2023	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Monday, January 8, 2024	Classes resume
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Friday, February 16, 2024	Flex Day (1)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Monday, February 19, 2024	Louis Riel Holiday
Oct	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Monday, February 26, 2024	Flex Day (1) Aboriginal Justice
2023	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	March 25-29, 2024	March Break
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	March 29, 2024	Good Friday Holiday
	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	Monday, April 1 – April 5, 2024	Flex Days (5)
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Friday, May 17, 2024	Flex Days (1)
Nov 2023	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Monday, May 20, 2024	Victoria Day Holiday
2023	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Thursday, June 27, 2024	Last Day of classes
	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	Friday, June 28, 2024	Flex Day (1)
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OK School Term Dates	
Dec	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Term 1	August 31, 2023 to December 1, 2023
2023	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Term 2	December 4, 2023 to March 15, 2024
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Term 3	March 18, 2024 to June 27, 2024
	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	OK School Report Card Writing Day	
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	December 4, 2023
Jan	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	2	March 11, 2024
2024	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	3	June 14, 2024
	28	29	30	31	1	2	3		June 14, 2024
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	OK School Report Card Night	
Feb	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Term 1	December 12, 2023
reb 2024	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Term 2	March 20, 2024
2024	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	Term 3	June 20, 2024
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NNOC Term Dates	
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Term 1	August 31, 2023 to February 2, 2024
Mar 2024	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Term 2	February 5, 2023 to June 28, 2024
LUZ-T	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
	31	1	26	3	4	5	6	NNOC Report Card Writing Day	
							13	1	November 24, 2023
Apr 2024	7	8	9	10	11	12		2	April 15, 2024
2024	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	NNOC Report Card Night	
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	Term 1 – Part 1	November 30, 2023
	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	Term 1 – Part 2	February 8, 2024
May	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Term 2 – Part 1	April 23, 2024
2024	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Term 2 – Part 2	June 27, 2024
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	Kindergarten Graduation	June 24, 2024
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Grade 6 Farewell	June 25, 2024
line	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Grade 12 Graduation	June 26, 2024
Jun 2024	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Total School Days: 196	Motion #2023-04-25-11: That the NNCE/ School Board of Trustees approve the
LJ2-T	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	330M x 196D = 64,680 360M x 181D = 64,160	2023-2024 Academic Calendar.
	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	*School day extended by 30 minutes to	
uly 24	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	account for 15 flex days.	
			_				-	•	



Residential School Missing Children and Survivors Update

Red Deer Industrial School Cemetery Preservation and Recognition

On June 20th, 2023, Laura Golebiowski of Alberta Arts, Culture and Status of Women organized a meeting in Edmonton for multiple Survivor communities of the Red Deer Industrial School.

Present were representatives from the O'Chiese First Nation, Paul First Nation, Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Goodstoney Nation, Chiniki Nation, Stoney Nakoda Nations, Whitefish Lake First Nation #128, the Metis Nation of Alberta, and the Alberta Arts, Culture and Status of Women.

Representation missing by four Maskwacis Nations: Ermineskin Cree Nation, Louis Bull Tribe, Montana First Nation, Samson Cree Nation and regrets were sent by Whitecap Dakota First Nation in Saskatchewan.

NCN was represented by Elders Henry Wood, Jimmy Clifford Hart, Christina Spence, Lydia Linklater, Councillor Shirley Linklater, William Elvis Thomas and Eva Linklater.

The purpose of the meeting was to work toward consensus on two major items: 1. Further investigation at the cemetery site using remote-sensing technologies. 2. To consider recognition, commemoration and truth telling.

Laura Golebiowski provided the background of the history of the Red Deer Residential School Cemetery Preservation and Recognition Initiative. The School itself operated in 1893-1919. The following children were taken from our community to attend the Red Deer Industrial School: Isaac Bohner (Bonner), John Sinclair, Richard Hartie (Hardy), Robinson Spence, Sarah Bohner, Ellen Hart, Matilda Hart and Florance Hartie (Hardy). According to the archival records, John, Sarah, Ellen and Florance died while attending the school. Matilda was discharged and returned to Nelson House on account



Photo: Carol Prince, Eva Linklater, Wab Kinew, Rodney Spence

of poor health. Isaac and Robinson were transferred to Brandon School, and Richard was "discharged at the strong request of his father."

Further investigation at the cemetery site using remote-sensing technologies is necessary as the initial 2021 Ground Penetrating Radar investigation was largely inconclusive. Laura felt that were we to install signage or a monument or fencing at the site to

honour the children and their resting places, without a more thorough investigation, we may leave a child outside those protection measures. The Alberta government will contract an archaeological company to do further field work this summer.

For recognition and commemoration, we will to look toward community knowledge and family testimony. We must also review the National Student Memorial Register more closely, look at the archival record and try to understand where the children who passed away at the Red Deer Industrial School are buried. The archival record suggests that many children became sick at the school, they were discharged and died at home.

We are hoping that our community and relatives and descendants of those children who were taken away will be able to share family histories and ideas on how to honour and commemorate all the children.

Healing the Generations: Nations and Families Leading Our Next Steps Forward at the Brandon IRS, September 11-14th, 2023

This conference was coordinated by the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, the Brandon IRS team and MKO. The purpose of the conference was to gauge the direction and possible lines of inquiry for the ongoing investigation at the Brandon Residential School.

The NCN participants included Brandon IRS Survivors, Elder Deliah Kobliski and Elder Fred Prince;

Birtle IRS School Survivor Carol Prince; Portage la Prairie IRS Survivor, Eva Linklater; Helper Ruth Turner; Sarah Linklater; Gladys Linklater; and Helper/Youth Representative Brendan Linklater-Bunn.

Two beloved children, Henry Swanson and Arabella Spence, were taken from our community and forced to attend the Brandon Residential School. They never came home.



Brandon photo: I to r: Gladys's daughter, Gladys, Damien (MKO), Fred Prince, David Swanson, Carol Prince, Eva, Brendan, Deliah Kobliski, Ruth Turner, Sarah Linklater.

Sarah and Gladys Linklater are the daughters of Wellington Spence, a survivor of the BIRS, now deceased. Arabella Spence was Wellington's little sister, taken away at 6 years old.

Henry Swanson was the brother of Nancy Linklater (nee Swanson), also a Survivor of the BIRS, now deceased. Carol Prince and Eva Linklater are Nancy's daughters and Brendan is her great grandson.

Our group attended sharing circles regarding Residential School searches in the Field; Excavation; ID; Repatriation; Tracing Children through Historical Records and Archives; Commemoration and Protection.

Families were also given the opportunity to share their experiences during the "Memories of the Children, Lost and Found" sessions. Gladys, Sarah and their adopted sister, Marta Palmer, shared their Father's story.

Continued on page 16

Carol and Eva (along with relative David Swanson from Norway House) shared their Mother's journey in her endeavour to repatriate her brother's remains. We were able to bring home soil from the BIRS gravesite to rebury in her grave.

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Gathering on Unmarked Graves: Addressing Genocide October 23-26th, 2023

This gathering served as an opportunity to bring together Survivors, intergenerational Survivors, and National Leadership to learn, connect, and share about Indian Residential Schools and their legacy in Manitoba. The gathering was centered around six theme areas to provide the participants with a wide range of information and to connect them with resources. The six themes were: Healing and Trauma Management; Addressing the Indian Residential School System as

Genocide; Archaeology and Search Technology; Indigenous Law and Justice; Archival Research and Oral History and Memorialization and Memory.

The NCN representatives who attended this gathering were Carol Prince, Rodney Spence and Eva Linklater, all Survivors of Residential Schools (Birtle, Assiniboine, Portage la Prairie, respectively).

The gathering provided a Research Room where participants could take a look at sample archives from each of the residential schools in Manitoba and speak to researchers for guidance on how to conduct research. At the Brandon gathering, participants had attended a presentation regarding the Cross Lake Residential School. We learned that several children from Nisichawayasihk had been sent to this school. We also learned that there was a fire at this school on February 25, 1930, in which several children had perished. At the Cross Lake Research Desk, we inquired whether there were any victims from our community. Kirk Mcleod, the researcher sent us the Nelson House victim list: Emile Dumas, age 10; Illa Moose, age 11 and Mary Ann Francois, age 14. We are asking the community to help identify the families of these children.

For many years, participant Elder Rodney Spence, had been searching for his Mother's gravesite. She had passed away in a sanitorium. At this gathering, he was introduced to a researcher who could assist him in his search.

In the Funding Resources Room, we met Erik Bosner from Crown-Indigenous Affairs. He gave us advice regarding our CIRNAC application.

At both conferences, we reconnected with friends we had made in residential schools. It was heartbreaking to listen to some of the horrific experiences of the other participants.

Portions of both gatherings were recorded and livestreamed. We recommend watching the Panel Discussion on "Indigenous Laws and Justice."









RDIS Cemetery Site.



L to R: William Elvis, Laura Golebiowski, Valerie Knaga, Henry Wood, Lydia Linklater, Christina Spence, Clifford Hart. Valerie is also with the Alberta Heritage.



Celebrating NCN Post-Secondary Students

It takes a lot of courage and discipline to enroll in postsecondary studies. The NNCEA likes to celebrate NCN Citizens who choose to go for it!

On January 10, post-secondary students from schools in the south, including the Universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg, Red River College, Steinbach Bible College and Yellowquill College, met at Old Spaghetti Factory with NNCEA administrators and NCN Chief, Council and executives.

On January 15, 7 post-secondary students attending northern schools enjoyed a similar evening in Thompson.

It was a great opportunity for students to share strategies for success while also receiving advice from mentors who've had similar experiences.

"It is important to let the students know that we are here to help them on their academic journey, and to show support," says Craig Linklater, who works as an NNCEA post-secondary counsellor. "There was a lot of enthusiasm, positivity, idea sharing, and sharing experience."

"These events are important because being away from

your home community is hard, often a culture shock. And for those who register for online programs, who can remain at home fulfilling their responsibilities and still pursue a higher education, it's









an opportunity to meet other Citizens and build support and relationships," says Ingrid Gosselin, another NNCEA counsellor.

These students are pursuing a wide variety of disciplines, from social work, education, nursing, law and arts to electrical trades, power engineering and business administration.

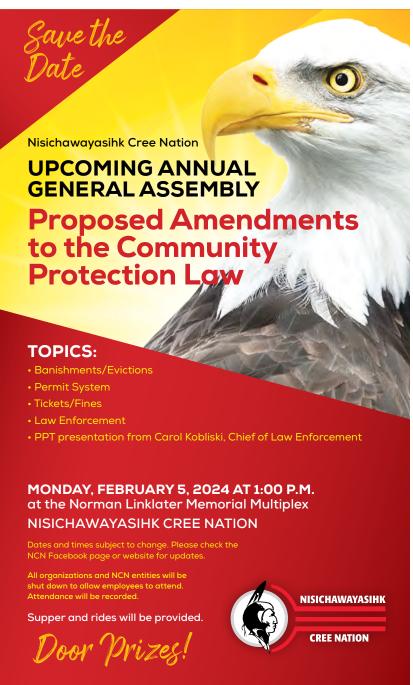
They may choose to return to NCN and use their skills to benefit our community, or they may spread their wings and follow their dreams in the wider world. Either way, let's cheer them on and encourage them.

"NCN Citizens should be proud that these students are role models in the community. They give hope to





younger generations, and serve as role models to their relatives, siblings and friends."



Indigenous Women's Entrepreneur Program

Indigenous Women's Entrepreneur Program Opportunities Coming Up!

- Free Online Seminars/Webinars are being hosted by the Winnipeg World Trade Centre and are ongoing throughout the year.

 Upcoming in February:
 - Tuesday February 6: How to Grow Your Business (https://www. wtcwinnipeg.com/events/how-to-grow-your-business-when-sales-hit-a-wall/)
 - Thursday February 8: Small Business Tax Planning (https://www.wtcwinnipeg.com/events/small-business-tax-planning/)
- IWE Online Workshop Business Start-Up
 - Tuesday February 20 This workshop will focus on the details of starting a business, and of course, figuring out the money. If you are an Indigenous woman thinking of starting a business, this workshop is for you! (Register here: https://www.surveymonkey. com/r/BHHK8SG)
- Vision Quest Conference and Trade Show (https://vqconference.com/)
 - May 15 and 16 In Winnipeg If you want to showcase your products/ services to hundreds of event attendees, the Vision Quest Trade Show exhibitor booths are available.
- Peer Business Mentoring Circles –
 Are you interested in participating
 in an online peer mentoring circle?
 We would meet once per month on
 Zoom and cover various business
 topics, while getting to know other
 Indigenous women entrepreneurs in our
 communities and the north.

To learn more or if you have any questions, contact your Business Support Officer, Michelle Pruder 204-677-4124 or mpruder@northcentraldevelopment.ca

Vale Manitoba Annual Open House

Join us to learn more about our business, and watch a free hockey game with the **Norman Northstars!**

Join us at the Thompson Regional Community Centre to learn more about our operations, including environmental monitoring, tailings management, safety, employment, and community initiatives!

There will be swag prizes, and an opportunity to interact with our team and provide feedback.

There's also free admission to the night's Northstar game at 7:30pm against the Parkland Rangers!

Saturday, January 27, 2024 5:30pm - 8:30pm Thompson Regional Community Centre

Donations of toques, mitts, toques, neck-warmers and socks will be collected at the door for the Wellbriety Centre. We will also be collecting donations of dog food, cat food and cleaning supplies to go to the Thompson Humane Society.







Distemper Clinic a Success

To deal with a recent distemper outbreak among NCN pets, Animal Control hosted a vaccine clinic, with support from the Winnipeg Humane Society.

On January 15, 32 cats and dogs received dewormer and their vaccines for rabies, parvo and distemper for free.

It's important to ensure your pets are caught up on their vaccines. Distemper is a nasty virus that can lead to death. Rabies is also a terrible virus for animals, but even worse, humans can be affected if they are bitten by an infected animal.

Pets get distemper through direct contact with an infected animal or object, through the air, and through the placenta (mother passing the virus to her pups). Unvaccinated dogs and puppies under

four months old are particularly vulnerable.

If your pet shows any symptoms of distemper, call your vet immediately.

Having a pet is a wonderful choice for many families. They can teach young people about responsibility and unconditional love. But it's important that you're caring for your pets in a way that allows all community members (and their pets) to be safe.

"NCN's Animal Control by-law states your pets must be secured on your property, on a tether, in a dog run or other fenced-in area, even if it's just to put them out to use the bathroom. Always use a leash when leaving your property with your pet. Do not let your dogs or cats roam freely," says Ted

Salamanddyk, NCN Animal Control. "These are your Nation's laws. Please respect them and your community members by following these laws for the safety and wellbeing of everyone."

Remember, keeping up with vaccines is so much easier and cheaper than dealing with an infection! If you weren't able to get your pet in this time, Salamandyk is hopeful he can plan another clinic in

If you see a sick or aggressive animal, contact Animal Control at 204-670-1503. You should also post on your social media sites with a location, date and time of day, so people can keep their kids



What Is Distemper?

This virus is highly contagious and often lethal. It attacks multiple body systems, making it difficult to treat. It does not last long and can be destroyed by most disinfectants. But dogs with distemper can carry the virus for months, putting pets around them at risk.

The first symptom is usually pus-like discharge in the eyes. You may also see fever, loss of appetite, and clear nasal discharge. Your pet could also experience coughing, vomiting and diarrhea.

If left untreated, their nervous system will begin to break down, causing circling behaviours, seizures, paralysis, and eventually death.

What is Rabies?

Rabies is a virus that infects the central nervous system. While it's quite rare in Manitoba, it's always fatal, so please vaccinate your

Symptoms include excessive drooling (foaming at the mouth), strange behaviour, paralysis, wild animals acting tame, and pets being aggressive.

If you are bitten by a wild animal or a pet you don't know, call Animal Control at 204-670-1503 and/or the Nursing Station at 204-

What is Parvo?

Another virus that affects the immune system and the "guts" of your pet. You'll notice lethargy, loss of appetite, and bloody diarrhea.

It is spread through direct contact with infected animals or feces, or contaminated items like kennels, leashes and food bowls.

Unfortunately, your pet could die within 48 hours of noticing these symptoms. The vaccine is the best way to protect your pet and show you love them!

So Far from Home: The Red Deer Industrial School Cemetery Preservation and Recognition Initiative

By: Laura Golebiowski, Government of Alberta

Reading residential school histories can be a painful process. If reading this is causing pain or bringing back distressing memories, please call the Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line at 1-866-925-4419. The Crisis Line is available 24 hours a day and can also provide information on other health supports provided by the Health Canada Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program.

Isaac Bohner. Sarah Bohner. Ellen Hart. Matilda Hart. Florence Hartie¹. Richard Hartie. John Sinclair. Robinson Spence. These names, in addition to my own, are among the few words I made out in the otherwise all-Cree NCN Radio 98.1 announcement, advertising my trip to Nelson House in late August 2023. I was visiting Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation to discuss the preservation and recognition of a cemetery associated with the former Red Deer Industrial School in Alberta.

Red Deer Industrial School operated between 1893 and 1919 under the auspices of the Methodist Church. It was only open for 26 years; however, an immeasurable amount of harm was done within that short timeframe. With respect to sanitation, health, and deaths of children, Red Deer was among the worst of the residential or industrial schools that operated in western Canada. The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation's National Student Memorial Register lists the names of 70 individuals who died as a result of their forced attendance at Red Deer Industrial School.

In 2018, the Government of Alberta purchased a parcel of

land containing the Red Deer Industrial School cemetery: to ensure the protection of site, but also to work collaboratively with the Indigenous communities whose children attended the school to address questions of site management, access, recognition, and protection.

Eight children from Nelson House were admitted to Red Deer Industrial School in October of 1900. First denied entry to Brandon Industrial School on account of their non-Treaty status, the children were then taken to Red Deer by missionary Samuel Gaudin.

More than a thousand kilometres separated these children from their families, community, and culture. They were so far from home.

By 1906, Sarah, Ellen, Florence and John had died. Their causes of death in student register include "consumption" and "decline"-illnesses inarguably caused and exacerbated by the poor sanitation and ventilation systems that plagued Red Deer and numerous other industrial and residential schools.

Isaac, Richard, Matilda and Robinson survived Red Deer Industrial School. Richard was "discharged at the strong request of his father," presumably following the death of his sister, Florence. Isaac and Robinson were both set to return home to Nelson House when-heartbreakingly—they missed their boat and instead were transferred to Brandon Industrial School. According to the book Anna and



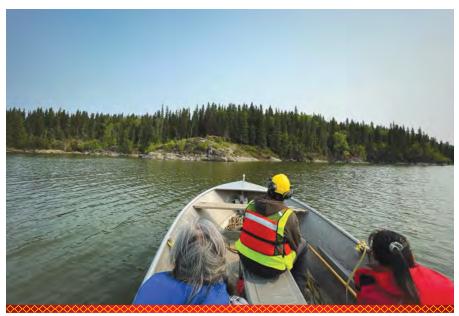
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation prepare bannock and blueberry jam over the fire at the culture camp. Photo credit: Laura Golebiowski.



The rocky shoreline of Footprint Lake. Photo credit: Laura Golebiowski.



Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation townsite from a boat on Footprint Lake. Photo credit: Laura Golebiowski.



Approaching Wisahkecahk's footprints via boat on Footprint Lake. Photo credit: Laura Golebiowski.

the Indians (a fictionalized retelling of her life and work in northern Manitoba), Anna Gaudin wrote an impassioned letter requesting that Matilda–the last surviving girl–return to Nelson House. Matilda was formally discharged from Red Deer on December 12, 1903.

Red Deer Industrial School has been closed for more than a century, but the lives and stories of these eight children-those

Whitefish, smoked red sucker and bannock for lunch! Photo credit: Laura Golebiowski.

who survived and those who did not-are still known. Over the course of several hours on August 29, the archival material relating to Red Deer was reviewed, corroborated, bolstered, and sometimes contested by Nisichawayasihk community knowledge and family testimony. Genealogical information was shared, connections were made, and Reverend Nelson Hart provided so much valuable historical context that my

notes were nearly indecipherable from trying to keep up with him. It was an emotional day: sharing information and building a more comprehensive and truthful picture of who these children were and what happened to them.

Alongside the heavy conversations, we also held space for joy, by sharing stories, meals (that smoked red sucker!) and good company together on the land. This was my first time in Manitoba; Rocky Cree territory is stunning. It's a profound privilege to do this work: to bear witness to the truth and to work collaboratively to tell it. I'm thankful to the Elders and Knowledge-Keepers for being so gracious with their time and knowledge thus far, and

to Eva Linklater and William Elvis Thomas for their coordination efforts. I look forward to the good work that is to come. I'm so grateful, ekosi.

For more information regarding the Red Deer Industrial School cemetery recognition and preservation initiative, please contact Laura Golebiowski at laura. golebiowski@gov.ab.ca.

References:

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. National Student Memorial for Red Deer Industrial School. Retrieved online from: https://nctr.ca/residentialschools/alberta/red-deerindustrial-school/.

Red Deer Industrial Student Register, Provincial Archives of Alberta PR1979.0268/162.

Shipley, Nan. (1955). Anna and the Indians. Toronto: The Ryerson Press.

¹In the archival record, the Hartie last name also appears as Hardy.



"Red Deer Institute." Photo credit: From Mission to Partnership Collection, United Church of Canada Archives.

Employment Opportunities

NCN NOOSI MUSKWA WOMEN'S SHELTER CHILD CARE WORKER

Department: NCN Noosi Muskwa Women's Shelter

Position: Child Care Worker **Deadline:** Monday, February 5, 2024

Start Date: ASAP

Salary Range: Negotiable Ref #: NCN 2024-01-22-002

Position Overview:

Reporting to the Executive Director, the Childcare Worker is responsible for the overall planning, and supervision of the children, while meeting the physical, emotional, intellectual and social needs of the children in the program to assist them to reach their potential. The Childcare Worker will ensure the program is accordance with all relevant legislation, policies and procedure.

Essential Functions:

- Maintain the development of positive childcare practices in keeping with the goals and objectives of the Shelter
- To comply with Shelter rules, policies and practices and to respond to emergencies that may arise within the Shelter
- Cares for and attends to the needs of the children at

the facility including dressing, feeding and monitoring their activities and playtime

- Plans and organizes games and recreational activities for children in a group setting
- Plans and teaches activities such as arts and crafts, designed to improve fine and gross motor skills.
- Encourages children's emotional, social, physical development and positive self-concept regularly; contact, liaises with and act as a resource for parents and caregivers; keeping parents informed of children's programming and expectations
- Provides updates to staff members to ensure the children are provided the required services to address any issues or concerns
- Monitors signs of emotional and developmental issues in children and notifies parents, guardians or authorities of concerns when necessary
- Implements developmentally appropriate disciplinary measures to maintain control in the classroom and facility
- Teaches children personal and healthy habits such as eating, resting and personal hygiene
- Cleans and sanitized toys, furniture and play

- equipment; ensuring the area is well-maintained and safe at all times
- Maintains confidential recorders on individual children, including daily observations, activities, meals served and medication administered
- Preforms other related duties as assigned

Education and/or Experience:

- High school Diploma or equivalent
- At least on year of related experience and/or training
- Certification in First Aid and CPR required; Must be maintained by obtaining recertification as necessary
- Equivalent combination of education and experience will be given into consideration
- Must provide current satisfactory criminal record (including Vulnerable Sector), Child Abuse registry and Prior Contact checks as a condition of Employment.

If you are interested, please forward your cover letter, resume, Criminal Records Check and two(2) references:

Nora Thomas, Human Resource Administrator Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Phone: (204) 484-2604 ext. #205

Fax: (204) 484-2588

Email: norathomas@ncncree.com

NCN WOMEN'S SHELTER ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Employer: NCN Women's Shelter **Position:** Administrative ASSISTANT **Deadline:** Monday, February 5, 2024

Start Date: ASAP

Wage Range: To be determined Ref #: NCN 2024-01-22-002

Summary:

Reporting to the Executive Director, the ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT will assume the administrative for NCN Women's Shelter. The Administrative Assistant will have a background in both administration and social services. This role is a daytime position with the ability to adjust hours on occasion.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Administrative

- Maintain good working relationships with all employees of the Shelter and outside agencies, while maintaining the confidentiality of the Executive Director's office
- Refer to and follow policies and procedures outlined in the Shelter Manuals, NCN Personnel Manual, and abide by the shelter's Confidentiality Agreement at all times.

- Maintain professional relationship with leadership, outside agencies and groups
- Answer and screen telephone calls by identifying, defining and prioritizing presented problems and making decisions according to the needs of the caller, and documenting calls as necessary
- Maintain a well-organized work area

Financial/Bookkeeping

- Review and enter coded invoices and prepare cheque requisitions for approval by the Executive Director
- Prepare purchase order requisitions for approval by the Executive Director
- Prepare reports for Executive Director's review, and for board meetings

Other Responsibilities

- Monitor appropriate care and maintenance of shelter vehicle
- Relieve phones and cover for meal breaks as required, taking phone messages or referring/ transferring callers to appropriate staff member
- Support the Executive Director to plan, set-up and prepare for staff meetings, special meetings and the AGM
- Other duties as assigned by the Executive Director or designated supervisor

Skills and Abilities:

- Must communicate effectively with members, staff and other individuals;
- Must have a proficient level of verbal, written and communication skills;
- Must have a proficient level of computer skills including Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook, and software applications, etc.)
- Must possess excellent organizational and timemanagement skills
- Completion of secondary school is required or equivalent
- Experience in a related administrative occupation is required
- Clear criminal record and child abuse registry check If you are interested, please forward your cover letter, resume, Criminal Records and Child Abuse Registry check with two (2) references to:

Nora Thomas, Human Resource Coordinator Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Phone: (204) 484-2604

Cell: (204) 307-1178 Fax: (204) 484-2588

Email: norathomas@ncncree.com



COUNTRY FOODS PROGRAM MANAGER

Department: Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation **Position:** Country Foods Program Manager

Deadline: February 5, 2024 Start Date: ASAP

Salary Range: TBD upon experience

Ref #: NCN 2024-01-22-001

Position Summary:

Under the direction of the Executive Director of Lands, Environment and Resources (LER), the Country Foods Program Manager is responsible for assisting in all aspects of the planning, organization and coordination of activities related to the Country Foods Program. The Country Foods Program Manager will also be responsible for the general supervision and field support for personnel in the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Country Foods Program.

General Accountability:

- Plan, organize, lead, and monitor to ensure that the Country Foods Program is functioning in a proactive
- Administer the program in accordance with NCN Human Resource Policy.
- Submit CAP/CIP funding proposal annually to Nisichawayasihk Trust and Taskinigaph Trust and prepare and submit quarterly and year-end reports.

- Establish and maintain effective communication with LER management Team.
- Prepare annual inventory report of equipment to NCN LER Department.
- Provide support services, resources and assistance to NCN Citizens/Organizations when requested.
- Maintain financial records relating to the Country Foods Program and a suitable filing system.
- Provide traditional teachings to Youth about fishing, wild food preparation and liaise with other NCN Organizations.
- Promote domestic fishing and hunting activities in the NCN Resource Management area and follow applicable laws/regulations.
- Research and apply for external funding sources whenever possible.
- Maintain a good stock of traditional foods and medicines.
- Develop and implement annual work plan to ensure program staff are harvesting traditional foods and medicines during all four seasons.
- Develop and implement safe work procedures as it relates to the program.
- Document all near misses/incidents or accidents involved in the workplace.
- Conduct and document employee performance evaluations.

Other duties as assigned by Executive Director of LER.

Qualifications:

- Must possess a valid MB class 5 driver's license.
- Minimum grade 12 education with some previous supervisory and management experience is preferred.
- Basic First Aid and CPR required.
- PAL certification for firearms preferred.
- Understand and communicate fluently in the NCN Nehetho language and knowledge of traditional foods and gatherings.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience with basic computer and other Microsoft office software.
- Training and experience in developing and managing budgets.
- Excellent oral and written communications skills.
- Travel On occasion, some travel may be required in accordance with the NCN Financial Policy and Procedures.

If you are interested, please forward your resume, cover letter, Criminal Records Check to:

Nora Thomas, Human Resource Coordinator Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Phone: (204) 484-2604 ext. #205

Fax: (204) 484-2588

Email: norathomas@ncncree.com

Let's Get to Work!

Working a steady job has so many benefits.

Having a daily and weekly routine brings order to your days, and your mental, physical and social health will improve. You'll become aware of what you're capable of and your selfconfidence will grow. You can save your own money, dream about your future, and create a plan to make it happen.

You can be a positive role model for the young people in your life, and show them how to take pride in themselves and achieve success.

You'll be doing your part to overcome generational trauma, and contributing in a positive way to NCN.

There are so many opportunities waiting for you! If you've never had a job, or if it's been awhile, you may be unsure of where to start, but there are programs here in NCN that can help.

Ending Poverty through Decent Work helps Citizens to get off financial aid and to become self-sufficient. They can help you get your identification paperwork, such as a Social Insurance Number, so you can receive a paycheque. If you already have your paperwork, they're ready for your next step with connections to training and work opportunities.

The Land Base program (also known as the Employment Growth Opportunity program) helps Citizens with the transition from social assistance to the work field by providing employment experience. You

may find yourself trapping, fishing, hunting and medicine picking. Outdoor safety, like maintaining trails and search and rescue, are often part of the program, too.

Why not make today the day you change your life!

Call the Government Office at 204-484-2332 or the Trust Office at 204-484-2604 to get started.

There are so many job opportunities available in NCN right now! Follow the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation page and the Family and Community Wellness Centre page on Facebook to see what could be right for you.

Right now, there are openings in administration, reception,

security, nursing, cultural resource, finance, and more.

Even if you don't have all the qualifications a job is asking for, you should still apply for the position, or at least give them a call! They may be willing to train you, or help you get on the right path so you can join them in the future.





Help Send Mervin Linklater Jr. and his Family to the Special Olympics!

Mervin Linklater Jr.'s parents drive 218.51 km each way (a total of 437.02 km) from Leaf Rapids to Thompson every Wednesday for his training. This is almost five hours of driving for two hours of training at the Crosstown Lanes from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. once a week. They do so at their own expense and require funds for fuel and meals. Mervin's parents also want to travel to Calgary for the week to cheer their son on, but they do not have the financial means to do so. Therefore, they are requesting donations for training, Mervin's expenses for the Special Olympics national games in Calgary, and their travel, meals, and accommodations.

Donations can be made by cheque or e-transfer:

Please make cheques payable to Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and write "Mervin Linklater Jr. Special Olympics Fund" in the memo.

E-transfers can be sent to Merv's Mom, Mary Jane: maryjanel23@yahoo.com



Footprint Lake 14-Day Water Level Forecast

Revised Forecast as of January 19, 2024

On January 19, 2024 the level of Footprint Lake was at an elevation of 793.5 feet. The level of the lake is expected to drop 5 inches to an elevation of 793.1 feet by the end of the



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



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

TIME	LOCATION
5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
5:30 pm	OK School Gym
5:30 pm	Alice Moore Education Centre
	5:30 pm 5:30 pm



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.

