



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

2

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

23

PUSIKONISOWINI ACHIMOWIN
BUSINESS
 NCN's Leadership
 Lobby's in Ottawa

1

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2024

Nisichawayasi Achimowina

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



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 past November.



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.

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

Mithwayawin Mitho Tehewinihk Ochi

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:

1. 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 third-highest 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

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

SCORING LEADERS	
Player	Points
 Lyle Murdock (PJR)	87
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 (CUJ)	44
Lucien Tait-Reaume (NHNS)	44
Tyrone Meldrum (PJR)	43

Top NCN Stories That Made Headlines in 2023

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 NCN

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.

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.

Yetman and Linklater Named Co-CEOs of NCN

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.



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.

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.



PA 620 Paving Gets Green Light



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

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

OUR VISION
is to exercise sovereignty that sustains a prosperous socio-economic future for Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.

- 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 aunts 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.

NISICHAWAYASIIK CREE NATION CHIEF AND COUNCIL:
(Back Row)
Kim Linklater
Marcel Moody
Jeremiah Spence
Ron D. Spence
(Front Row)
Shirley Linklater
Chief Angela Levasseur
Cheryl Moore





NISICHAWAYASIIK CREE NATION

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 last-minute 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=dIH3lg4nbsg>.



Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Culture and Education Authority Inc. NISICHAWAYASIIK CREE NATION						
2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR						
Month	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Aug 23	27	28	29	30	31	1
Sep 2023	3	4	5	6	7	8
	10	11	12	13	14	15
	17	18	19	20	21	22
	24	25	26	27	28	29
Oct 2023	1	2	3	4	5	6
	8	9	10	11	12	13
	15	16	17	18	19	20
	22	23	24	25	26	27
Nov 2023	29	30	31	1	2	3
	5	6	7	8	9	10
	12	13	14	15	16	17
	19	20	21	22	23	24
Dec 2023	26	27	28	29	30	1
	3	4	5	6	7	8
	10	11	12	13	14	15
	17	18	19	20	21	22
Jan 2024	24	25	26	27	28	29
	31	1	2	3	4	5
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	14	15	16	17	18	19
Feb 2024	21	22	23	24	25	26
	28	29	30	31	1	2
	4	5	6	7	8	9
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mar 2024	18	19	20	21	22	23
	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31	1	2	3	4	5
	7	8	9	10	11	12
Apr 2024	14	15	16	17	18	19
	21	22	23	24	25	26
	28	29	30	1	2	3
	5	6	7	8	9	10
May 2024	12	13	14	15	16	17
	19	20	21	22	23	24
	26	27	28	29	30	31
	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jun 2024	9	10	11	12	13	14
	16	17	18	19	20	21
	23	24	25	26	27	28
	30	1	2	3	4	5
July 24	7	8	9	10	11	12

DATE	SCHOOL CLOSURE
August 31 and September 1, 2023	Professional Development (2)
Monday, September 4, 2023	Labour Day Holiday
September 5, 2023	Professional Development (1)
September 6, 2023	First Day of Classes
Friday, September 29, 2023	Truth and Reconciliation Day
Monday, October 9, 2023	Thanksgiving Holiday
Tuesday, October 10 – October 13, 2023	Flex Days (4)
Wednesday, November 8-9, 2023	Flex Days (2) Aboriginal Veterans
Friday, November 10, 2023	Remembrance Day Observation
Friday, December 22, 2023	Last Day of Classes before break
Monday, December 25, 2023	First Day of Winter Break
Friday, January 5, 2024	Last Day of Winter Break
Monday, January 8, 2024	Classes resume
Friday, February 16, 2024	Flex Day (1)
Monday, February 19, 2024	Louis Riel Holiday
Monday, February 26, 2024	Flex Day (1) Aboriginal Justice
March 25-29, 2024	March Break
March 29, 2024	Good Friday Holiday
Monday, April 1 – April 5, 2024	Flex Days (5)
Friday, May 17, 2024	Flex Days (1)
Monday, May 20, 2024	Victoria Day Holiday
Thursday, June 27, 2024	Last Day of classes
Friday, June 28, 2024	Flex Day (1)
OK School Term Dates	
Term 1	August 31, 2023 to December 1, 2023
Term 2	December 4, 2023 to March 15, 2024
Term 3	March 18, 2024 to June 27, 2024
OK School Report Card Writing Day	
1	December 4, 2023
2	March 11, 2024
3	June 14, 2024
OK School Report Card Night	
Term 1	December 12, 2023
Term 2	March 20, 2024
Term 3	June 20, 2024
NNOC Term Dates	
Term 1	August 31, 2023 to February 2, 2024
Term 2	February 5, 2023 to June 28, 2024
NNOC Report Card Writing Day	
1	November 24, 2023
2	April 15, 2024
NNOC Report Card Night	
Term 1 – Part 1	November 30, 2023
Term 1 – Part 2	February 8, 2024
Term 2 – Part 1	April 23, 2024
Term 2 – Part 2	June 27, 2024
Kindergarten Graduation	
Grade 6 Farewell	June 24, 2024
Grade 12 Graduation	June 25, 2024
	June 26, 2024

Total School Days: 196
 330M x 196D = 64,680
 360M x 181D = 64,160
 *School day extended by 30 minutes to account for 15 flex days.

Residential School Missing Children and Survivors Update

By: Eva Linklater

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

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 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.



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



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

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.

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 post-secondary 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."



Save the Date

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

UPCOMING ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Proposed Amendments to the Community Protection Law

TOPICS:

- Banishments/Evictions
- Permit System
- Tickets/Fines
- Law Enforcement
- PPT presentation from Carol Kobliski, Chief of Law Enforcement


MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024 AT 1:00 P.M.
at the Norman Linklater Memorial Multiplex
NISICHAWAYASIIHK CREE NATION

Dates and times subject to change. Please check the NCN Facebook page or website for updates.

All organizations and NCN entities will be shut down to allow employees to attend. Attendance will be recorded.

Supper and rides will be provided.

Door Prizes!



**NISICHAWAYASIIHK
CREE NATION**

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 manner.
- 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@nncree.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 self-confidence 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.



Together. We can.

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



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 Water Levels

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 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.



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



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.

