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FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024

# Nisichawayasi Achimowina

## Community Protection Survey Results Are In

Over the last few weeks of February, Chief and Council put out a request to NCN Citizens to complete a short survey that gathered opinions about the Community Protection Law.

The survey had nine questions, and asked for opinions about banishment, alcohol and cannabis limits, and the use of fines, permits and community service agreements.

By March 1, 132 people had responded online or in person.

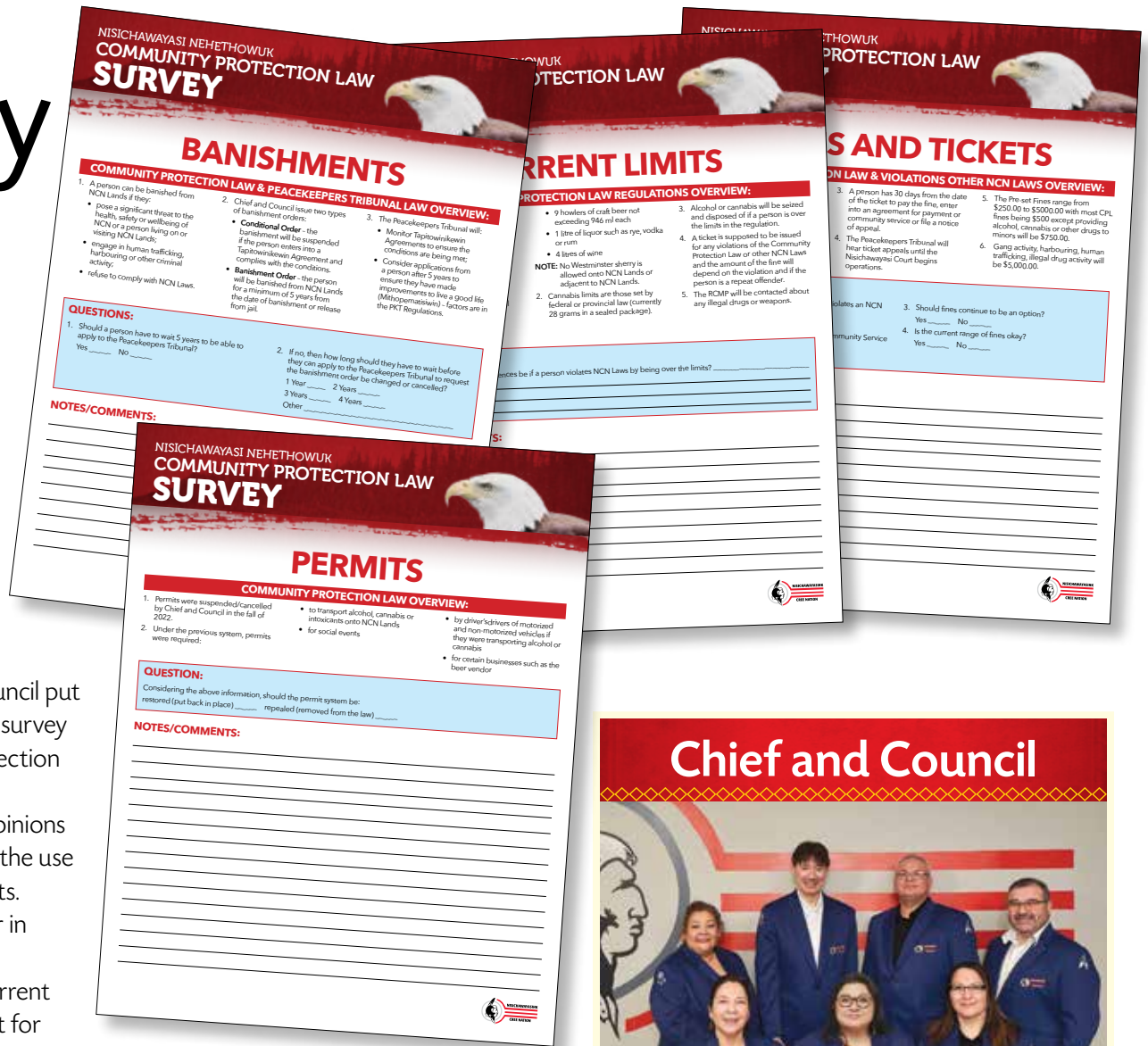
One question asked if people agree with the current law about banishment, in which people have to wait for five years before they apply to return to NCN Lands. Over 75 per cent said they did not agree with this condition. When asked how long people should have to wait, amounts of time suggested ranged from one year to 10 years. The most common response was two years. Many people said it should be dependent upon the offender's rehabilitation.

More than 80 per cent of survey respondents agreed there should be penalties when NCN Laws are violated, and almost 55 per cent said fines should continue as a type of penalty. However, more than 60 per cent said the current range of

fines, from \$750 for providing illegal substances to minors up to \$5,000 for gang activity and human trafficking, is not OK.

In the fall of 2022, Chief and Council suspended the permit system, which required permits to transport alcohol, cannabis and intoxicants onto NCN

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



# Visit From Northern Affairs

In early March, NCN hosted representatives from Northern Affairs. Chief Levasseur, Council and NCN co-CEOS Joyce Yetman and Leonard Linklater spent the day in meetings and community visits with the reps. Discussions included strengthening our relationship with the Metis community, plans for the road to NCN, and more ideas for collaboration. “It was a sincere pleasure to meet with Assistant Deputy Minister McPike and his staff,” says Chief Angela Levasseur. “We discussed many issues related to life in the North and strategized on how we as a First Nation can work in partnership with our Nelson House community council.” The visit even turned into a mini-reunion. Kevin McPike was a student in

Chief Levasseur’s grade 9 ELA class many years ago! As part of their visit to NCN, the Northern Affairs reps had the chance to visit ATEC, NNOC, and the Pewapun build site to talk with students and see their progress. “It was wonderful to meet with the assistant deputy minister and his staff, and we were honoured to host them in NCN,” says Chief Angela Levasseur. “We look forward to hosting the department again in the near future.”



Lands and in other circumstances. The survey asked if Citizens believed the permit system should be restored or continue to be suspended. The results were very close, with 50.78 per cent of respondents believing the permit system should be restored and put back into place.

This survey confirmed to Chief and Council that beliefs about community protection are complicated and broad. For example, many people said banishments were too harsh, and many said banishments were not enforced well enough.

Chief and Council thank everyone who chose to complete the survey. Your concerns about the safety of NCN and its Citizens are appreciated, and this conversation will continue.

There have been some questions about the Community Protection Law, and how it operates and affects Citizens. A few common concerns are listed below. For more information, go to [nncree.com](http://nncree.com) and search Community Protection Law.

**Are RCMP enforcing these laws?**

They are aware of the Community Protection Law, and are working collaboratively with FNSOs to enforce these laws.

**How did the Community Protection Law become a law?**

NCN Citizens voted on the NCN Constitution and Land Code and approved them both. They outline how laws are developed and approved.

**Where does this law apply?**

The Community Protection Law applies to NCN reserve lands, excluding Mystery Lake. It may be

amended in the future to extend to NCN's traditional territory. Almost all residents of the Metis Community are NCN Citizens and they must also abide by NCN laws while on NCN lands.

**Are banishment orders legal?**

The Community Protection Law gives authority to Council to issue a banishment order. After five years, the person can apply to the Peacekeepers Tribunal to return to NCN. If they have met conditions, they may be allowed to return.

**Are FNSOs allowed to search your home or vehicle?**

Chief and Council must grant a Search Order to FNSO to search a home. However, the Community Protection Law does allow for a vehicle search without a Search Order. If a Citizen does not want their vehicle searched, they may refuse, but they will not be allowed onto NCN Lands.

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation  
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY  
Wellness Centre inc.

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**VACCINES WILL ARRIVE ANYTIME SOON!!!**

Tentative Start Date  
September 21st

Every Wednesday: 10am to 3pm

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STAY HEALTHY - GET THE SHOT - AVOID THE FLU

More Information Contact The Public Health Office: 204.484.2341

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Symptoms can be subtle and easily missed.

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If you're sexually active, get tested.

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# NCN Leadership Returns to Ottawa

In mid-March NCN's Chief and Council visited Ottawa's Parliament for the second time to engage once again in two full days of back-to-back meetings with key government officials, continuing conversations started in November 2023. This visit was focused on discussing and advocating for NCN's infrastructure priorities with offices across the Canadian government.

Chief Angela Levasseur, Councillor Jeremiah Spence, William Elvis Thomas, Director of the Nih tho Language and Culture Unit and Elders Morley Moore, Lydia Linklater and Elder Yvonne Hart were in attendance. The NCN representatives met with Minister's offices from Canadian Heritage to Indigenous Services Canada, continuing discussions initiated during last year's visit regarding infrastructure and culture and language revitalization. Additionally, leadership was able to meet with Health Canada and advisors to Prime Minister Trudeau to begin relationship building and advocating for the community.

This trip allowed for NCN's leadership to highlight the critical needs within the community and communicate their determination and perseverance in resolving these issues. Government relations meetings such as these allow the Nation to collaborate with the government to address needs that are not covered through the typical funding process.

Of high priority during last month's meetings was funding for the Healthcare Centre, Multi-Use Governance Building, new elementary school, and housing on-reserve. In addition to these key infrastructure projects,



leadership discussed language and culture revitalization, ATEC, and supports for off-reserve members.

Government relations efforts like this are a unique opportunity for NCN to connect directly with policymakers and government officials, ensuring that our unique needs and concerns are not just heard but are a priority in governmental decision-making processes. The chance to connect in-person 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.

Following these meetings, leadership will continue conversations with government to ensure action is taken on the many priorities discussed. With assistance from Strategies North Advisory Inc, who provided support in scheduling and facilitating meetings, leadership will continue to engage virtually with government to follow-up on commitments made during meetings.

The ongoing efforts of NCN staff to advocate for NCN's interests at various levels of government is essential in securing real, tangible benefits for the community and its members. It is clear in this evolving world and political landscape that hard work at-home in community and in Ottawa with government is the key to resolving long-standing issues.

# NCN Gives a Voice to Thompson Airport Renos

Some two decades overdue, the Thompson Regional Airport is finally receiving extensive renovations.

On March 5, Chief Levasseur was invited to discuss cultural needs with Thompson Airport Authority staff Curtis Ross and Laura Finlay.

"I appreciated the opportunity to meet with them," says Levasseur. "I'm grateful that they involved NCN in the decision-making process and valued our insights in shaping the future of the new airport."

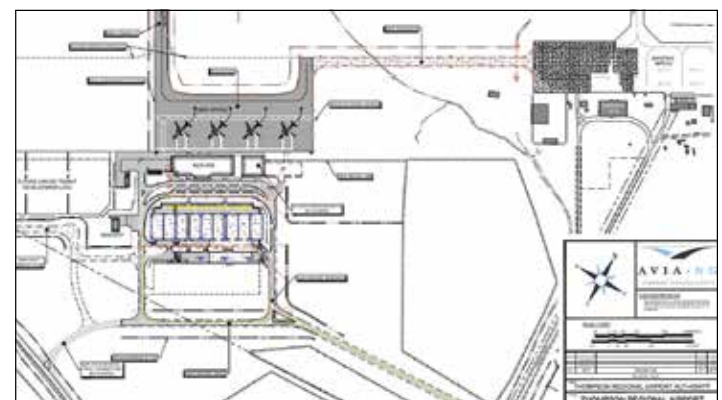
Once completed, the new space will be almost 50,000 square feet.

The priority is replacing the air terminal building, which is sinking

into permafrost. Existing infrastructure will be expanded, and new taxiways are also on the agenda.

Passengers can expect expanded dining options and shopping kiosks, special facilities for Medevac operations, and an Elders lounge.

The Thompson Regional Airport is a crucial component of transportation in Manitoba. It serves 37 northern communities, including 15 that are only accessible by ice roads and air.



# Nursing Station For Emergencies Only

Due to staffing shortages, the Nursing Station can only accept emergencies at this time.

Remember that there are other options for your healthcare needs when they are not emergencies.

QDoc is a free service that connects you to a doctor virtually, either online or by phone. These doctors can listen to your concerns, give guidance, provide sick notes, order lab tests, provide referrals and prescribe some medications.

Consider setting up your account now, before you need help. Go to [qdoc.ca](http://qdoc.ca) or call 1-833-736-2362. You need your email address and Manitoba Health Number to register. You will also create a patient profile with basic information.

Once your account is set up, when you need access to a doctor, click on “Start Visit.” You will be put in line and once an appropriate doctor is available, they will text or respond online. Notes from your visit will be available later through your profile. All information is confidential and protected by two-factor authentication.

FNIHB is aware of NCN’s medical staffing problem and is actively trying to recruit nurses for our community. Unfortunately, this is not a problem that is unique to NCN. There is a nursing shortage, at the provincial and national levels.

If you know a nurse who is currently not working but may be willing, please contact Councillor Kim Linklater at [kim.linklater@nncree.com](mailto:kim.linklater@nncree.com)

## What is an emergency?

If you are fearful that someone will lose their life, it’s an emergency.

Overdose, chest pain, seizures, head injury, pneumonia, uncontrolled bleeding, sudden severe headache.

If you have an emergency, go to the Nursing Station.

## What is urgent care?

If it’s not an emergency, but you don’t want to wait to see your doctor at the office, call it urgent care.



Earache, cuts, minor burns, joint or muscle pain, sprains, UTIs, diarrhea, vomiting.

If you need urgent care, call the local ambulance at 204-484-2911.

# Protecting Our Ancestors: Learning and Leading

NCN Trust Office staff Kelly Spence and Eva Linklater attended a conference in February that discussed the actions required to protect Indigenous ancestors and materials.

Hosted by Sioux Valley Dakota Nation and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc, the conference featured Canadian First Nations, Inuit and Metis; Indigenous people from the United States and New Zealand; and non-Indigenous allies.

The aim was to share experiences and concerns regarding heritage protection, including the protection and repatriation of Ancestors and their belongings that were in the custody of non-Indigenous institutions. Participants also shared their challenges of protecting unmarked graves and cemeteries of children who did not return from residential schools.

This was a timely conference, as NCN has been working towards a protection plan to cover its entire traditional territory, including sacred sites such as the Dancing Circles and vision quest sites.

“We are proud to report that NCN’s Heritage Resources

Protection Plan for the Wuskwatim Generation and Transmission Projects was mentioned as the first agreement in Manitoba to recognize a First Nation’s exertion of custody, control and authority over the treatment of heritage objects and ancestral remains (that are not required for forensic purposes) in keeping with traditional beliefs, protocol and ceremony,” says Linklater. “Hopefully, NCN will be able to contribute in the push towards national legislation of Indigenous heritage protection.”



**Dr. Jamie Metternich from New Zealand receiving star blankets after her presentation “New Zealand Case Study: First Government-Funded International Repatriation Program: Karanga Aoteara.**







**WORDSEARCH: ᓄᓂᓕᓗᓶᓶᓂᓂᓐ kinosiw Fish ᓂᓕᓗᓶᓶᓂᓂᓐ kākotāwaskamikicik Frogs, amphibians and reptiles**

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|---|---|
| FISH                                    | OSAWI NAMIKOS<br>Brook trout              |
| OSAWASKWAPIS<br>Northern pike; Jackfish | KINOSISAK<br>Minnow                       |
| ATĪHKAMIK White fish                    | WAPAHAKISIW<br>Shorthead Redhorse         |
| MISTATĪHKAMIK<br>Jumbo white fish       | <b>FROGS, AMPHIBIANS<br/>AND REPTILES</b> |
| OCONIPIS Tullibee                       | ATHIKIS<br>Frog                           |
| WIPICISAK Goldeye                       | OSOWATHIKIS<br>Tadpole                    |
| OKAW Pickerel; Walleye                  | OMĀHKĀHKIW<br>Bull frog                   |
| WITHIPĀSTI OKAW Sauger                  | OSĀWASKWATHIKIS<br>Leopard frog           |
| ASAWISIS Perch                          | OKISCŌHCIW Turtle                         |
| MĪHKWAMIPITH Red Sucker                 | KINIPIK Snake                             |
| ĪTHINTONAMIPITH<br>Black Sucker         | OSIKITHĀS Lizard                          |
| MITHACOS<br>Mariah; Burbot              |   |
| NAMIW Sturgeon                          |   |
| NAMIKOS Lake trout                      |   |

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

**COLOURING PAGE**





**Bunn Retires After 12 Years at School Board Trustee**

Chief and Council give thanks to Wanda Bunn for 12 years of service on the NNCEA school board of trustees.

Bunn’s passion, dedication, and tireless advocacy for NCN youth and children has positively impacted the NCN education system. Her admiration for NCN youth and children was evident in every action, driving her to become a strong advocate for their needs and aspirations.

Throughout her tenure, Bunn worked tirelessly behind the scenes, contributing to numerous decisions that have allowed our youth to thrive and succeed. She played a pivotal role in the successful completion of the new high school build. Her deep-rooted Cree values guided her vision for our educational system, leading to the implementation of traditional Nihitho language and culture into the school curriculum. Today, thanks to Bunn’s foresight and dedication, there are traditional teachings in all schools and Nihitho immersion in elementary classes, which enriches students’ educational experience.

After 12 years of exemplary service, most recently as chair of the board, Bunn has decided to embark on new challenges and opportunities. Her departure marks the end of an era, but her legacy will continue to inspire and guide NNCEA education for years to come. She will be missed by all those whose lives she has touched.

“Wanda, on behalf of the NCN community, we extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering leadership and passion for the betterment of our school system. Your contributions have made a lasting impact, and your presence and your laugh will be missed,” says Chief Angela Levasseur. “We wish you all the best in your future endeavors, knowing that wherever your journey takes you, you will continue to make a difference.”

**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**

	<b>Rates</b>
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, May 1, 2023 – Thursday, June 22, 2023	Monday, August 28, 2023 – Thursday, October 19, 2023
Monday, February 27, 2023 – Thursday, April 20, 2023	Monday, June 26, 2023 – Thursday, August 17, 2023	Monday, October 23, 2023 – Thursday, December 14, 2023
<b>ADMIN WEEK:</b> Monday, April 24, 2023 – Friday, April 28, 2023	<b>ADMIN WEEK:</b> Monday, August 21, 2023 – Friday, August 25, 2023	<b>CHRISTMAS CLOSURE:</b> Monday, December 18, 2023 – Tuesday, January 2, 2024

**Treatment Schedule for 2024**

Tuesday, January 2, 2024 – Thursday, February 22, 2024	Monday, April 29, 2024 – Thursday, June 20, 2024	Monday, August 26, 2024 – Thursday, October 17, 2024
Monday, February 26, 2024 – Thursday, April 18, 2024	Monday, June 24, 2024 – Thursday, August 15, 2024	Monday, October 21, 2024 – Thursday, December 12, 2024
<b>ADMIN WEEK:</b> Monday, April 22, 2024 – Friday, April 26, 2024	<b>ADMIN WEEK:</b> Monday, August 19, 2024 – Friday, August 23, 2024	<b>CHRISTMAS CLOSURE:</b> Monday, December 16, 2024 – Thursday, January 2, 2025





# Employment Opportunities

## CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT (2 POSITIONS)

**Employer:** NCN Government Office Position: CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT X2 POSITIONS

**Deadline:** March 29, 2024 Start Date: ASAP

**Wage Range:** Negotiable

**Ref #:** NCN 2024-03-15-002

### Position Summary:

The CPA will play a critical role in developing and implementing the financial strategy of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation. The CPA is responsible for the NCN's financial plans and policies, accounting practices, the conduct of its relationships with lending institutions and the financial community, the maintenance of its fiscal records, and the preparation of financial reports. This position involves supervision over general accounting, property accounting, internal auditing, and budgetary controls.

### Responsibilities:

- Create, coordinate, and evaluate the financial programs and supporting information systems of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.
- Oversee the maintenance of books of account (including but not limited to preparing checks, coding and posting invoices, preparing deposits, journal entries, reconciliations).
- Provide leadership and support to the Finance Team to ensure records systems are maintained in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, including:
  - Accounts Payable/Receivable.
  - Monthly and Quarterly preparation of Finance Statements
  - Payroll Functions
  - Management of investments and cashflow requirements

- Oversee internal system of handling funds.
- Maintain year-end working papers and spreadsheets, and assist with preparation for any audits or independent reviews with CFO and Treasury Board
- Monthly reconciliations.
- Establish and maintain appropriate internal control safeguards.
- Maintain accounts and good relations with banks.
- Assist in maintaining policy and procedure documentation for complex financial and accounting issues.
- Maintain current knowledge of regulatory changes and impacts on the organization's books of account.
- Maintain an accurate and complete trail of supporting documentation for all financial and bookkeeping activities.
- Recommends training requirements to keep the staff at the highest level of skill necessary to meet company needs and objectives
- Analyze cashflow, cost controls, and expenses to guide the Treasury Board.
- Analyze financial statements to pinpoint areas of risk and/or potential weak areas.
- Engage the Finance, Executive Team, and Treasury Board around issues, trends, and changes in the operating models and operational delivery.
- Responsibility for providing effective financial controls for the organization; and
- Performs other accounting responsibilities as necessary.

### Requirements:

- Minimum bachelor's degree in accounting, finance or related field required.
- CPA designation preferred.

- 5+ years of experience in financial management.
- Experience in accounting and computerized accounting programs.
- Excellent computer skills.
- Excellent communication skills both verbal and written.
- Excellent working knowledge of MS Word, SAGE Acc-Pac and Excel.
- Assertive, comfortable communicating with various types of individuals.
- Strong problem identification and problem resolution skills.
- High level of critical and logical thinking, analysis, and/or reasoning to identify underlying principles, reasons, or facts.
- Ability to interpret and implement First Nations policies, procedures, and fiscal relationships with other levels of government.
- Good organizational, time management and prioritizing skills.
- Effective communication skills with individuals at all levels of the organization.

If interested, please email your resume and cover letter to:

### Lorna Hart

Human Resources Director  
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation  
Email: lorna.hart@ncncree.com  
Phone: (204) 484-2604

**We thank all who apply, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.**

# Nurture holistic wellness

Strengthen NCN families with community and culturally-based activities focused on Family Enhancement.



Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation  
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY  
Wellness Centre inc.

204-484-2341 ncnwellness.ca









# Just Say No to Bullying

Chief Angela Levasseur and Deputy Chief Marcel Moody stopped in at NNOC on February 28 to take a stand against bullying.

Anti-Bullying Day has been a recognized holiday in Canada since 2007. It began as a way to take a stand against homophobia, but since has broadened its focus to any kind of bullying. Pink shirts are worn to acknowledge the origins of Anti-Bullying Day, when a boy was taunted mercilessly



Levasseur and Moody enjoyed the chance to promote kindness, respect and inclusion. "Let's celebrate all leaders, teachers, friends, and family

for wearing a pink shirt to school.

members in our community who uplift and make NNOC and NCN a beacon of positive change," said Moody.

# NCN Winter Festival Starts Strong

This year's annual winter festival takes place over three weeks of March and April.

Instead of cramming all activities into a few days, this more relaxed schedule allows for more families to participate and enjoy.

This year's theme is, "Family Time is the Best Time." Research shows that children who challenge themselves and overcome obstacles with family members learn to be more resilient and determined. Help your kids gain these valuable qualities by participating in some fun

activities. Modelling these characteristics are important, too!

There have been king and queen trapping events,



Continued on page 19

## CITIZEN PROFILE



**Terrance Thomas**

Terrance Thomas is an athlete, designer, cultural leader and world traveller. He is the son of Terry and Diane Linklater. His grandparents are the late Joseph and Elsie Linklater, the late Thomas and Dolly Linklater, and Elder Delilah Kobliski.

Thomas says big goals and discipline have created incredible experiences in his life. "Tae Kwon Do created my

love of travelling, because I went to South Korea for three weeks. It helped me sober up when I was a teenage alcoholic."

He has competed in gruelling Spartan races in Hawaii, Greece, California and Georgia. His nephew, Aaron Kobliski, has joined in.

"I want to encourage young people to see the world and know that it's easy to go," Thomas says.

As part of his quest to live a healthy lifestyle, Thomas has turned to traditional teachings, ceremony and living off the land and its medicines.

"A few years ago, I was passed down one of the ceremonies and now I'm the sun dance chief out of White Wolf Medicine Camp. This will be my third year leading," he says. "Our ceremonies not only guide us, but connect us to the world through our mind, our bodies, our spirits and our emotions. Taking care of these aspects is important as we grow as a Nation and as a people."

He is thankful for the learnings he received from his late uncle, Darcy Linklater, and other knowledge holders. White Wolf Medicine Camp hosts weekly sweats and full moon ceremonies, and has hosted several round dances in Thompson. They are preparing for a sun dance in June.

Thomas appreciates how goals can provide structure to life. "I really wasn't planning on it, but I somehow managed to visit four of the seven world wonders, so now my goal is to get to the last three."

He's seen Christ the Redeemer in Brazil, Chichen Itza in Mexico, Machu Picchu in Peru, and the Roman Colosseum in Italy.

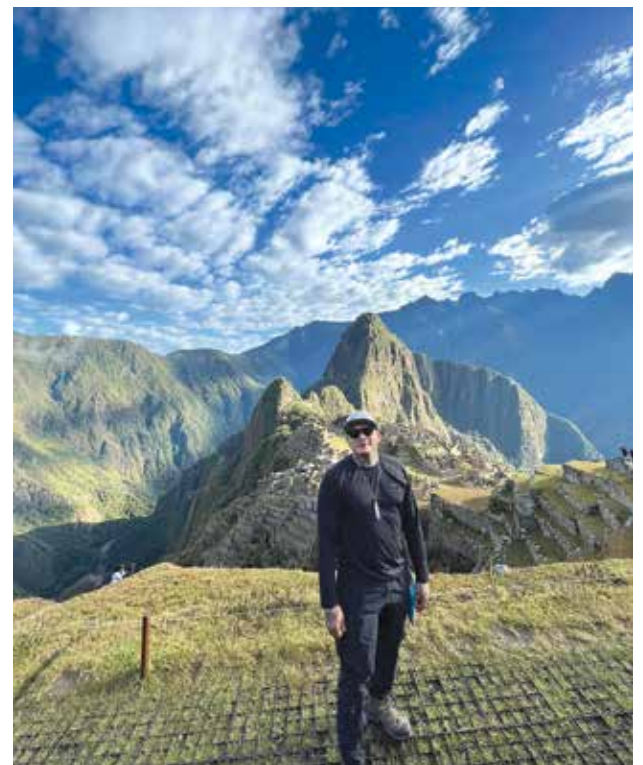


Another passion is fashion and design. Thomas has travelled to Paris and New York to help his sister-in-law, Alyssia Sutherland from Peguis, at her fashion shows. In April, he will head to Edmonton to introduce up to 20 of his own creations at a show.

"I design my own ribbon skirts and ribbon shirts, and they've found their homes all over Turtle Island. These pieces fund most of my trips."

Thomas wants to encourage his kids, nieces and nephews, and other NCN youth to create big dreams and then work hard to achieve them.

"My goals continue to change with every challenge that I overcome. Consistency and discipline have taken me to many places," he says. "I want everyone to know that there's more in the world then just the rez. There's more to life than being stuck in drugs, alcohol and other forms of abuse. Learning our ways of life, and living without drugs and alcohol opens your eyes to a whole different aspect of living."



Continued from page 17

snowshoe challenges, adult jigging and road hockey for adults. Families have had the chance to compete in the toboggan

design and race, obstacle courses, backyard tunnels, talent shows and ice fishing.

down and are no longer involved with organizing the festival.

Prizes have included cash, gift cards and big prizes!

The festival falls over the two weeks of school spring break, so be sure to check out the schedules on the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation page and the **2024 Winter Festival** page on Facebook so you can join in with your kids! A special thanks is extended to former event organizers Cheryl Moore, Lou Moodie and Terry Linklater for over 25 years of planning and working on the Annual Festival. The trio are stepping

Our new team of organizers are updating Facebook as often as possible to inform of start times, postponements, etc, so check in often to keep up.

Let's have some fun, NCN!



**27th Annual Richard Linklater Memorial Ice Fishing Derby**

**Pickeral**

- 1st – Jonathon Bonner
- 2nd – George McKay
- 3rd – Kami Merasty
- 4th – Dustin Lepage

**Jack**

- 1st – Donovan Hart
- 2nd – Adam Spence
- 3rd – Aaron Kobliski
- 4th – Jim Bunn
- Mariah Side Bet – Brian Nicolas
- First Perch – Dave Moose



# Haley Jo Braun: A Trailblazer on Ice



NCN Citizen Haley Jo Braun has had an inspiring journey in hockey, reflecting not only her dedication to the sport but also the support and commitment of her family.

From her early beginnings playing on reserve to her participation in various tournaments and her recent signing with the University of Saskatoon, Haley's story showcases the

potential for success that can come from hard work and passion.

Haley's journey in hockey ignited at the age of 6, when her passion for the sport blazed brightly on NCN, with frequent sightings of her dedication at the local arena. Rising through the ranks, she donned the NCN Flames jersey, leaving her mark at numerous tournaments with her skill and tenacity on the ice.

Seeking greater challenges to sharpen her talents, Haley's family made the bold move to Winnipeg, opening the door to new opportunities. There, she laced up her skates for the South Winnipeg Association and the Twin Female Bantam AA team.

It was on the international stage where Haley truly shined. Representing the Canada Cowboys, she ventured overseas to showcase her prowess in a European hockey tournament, leaving spectators in awe, as the number one female prospect under the of age of 18 in Manitoba.

Her involvement in multiple sports, including volleyball and basketball, underscores her athleticism and drive to excel. Haley's mom, Patricia, highlights the sacrifices and efforts required to support a young athlete's journey, emphasizing the importance of a strong support system and the need to be prepared as a parent.

"Hockey begins at 5 am. I remember waking up, driving Haley and her teammates to their practice, grabbing them breakfast, and then driving back for school. Having a hockey family is essential for your kid to do well in hockey," Patricia says.

Patricia attests to the positive impact hockey has had on Haley, providing her with a sense of purpose. Haley's ability to navigate the challenges of her sport while staying true to herself speaks volumes about her character and resilience.

"Haley is a keep-to-herself type of person. Hockey has given her more confidence and happiness. Hockey has given

me a peace of mind that I don't need to worry about her. I trust Haley will always do the right thing."

As Haley continues to pursue her dreams in hockey and beyond, she serves as a shining example for NCN youth, showcasing what can be achieved through determination, hard work, and unwavering support. In fact, she has just signed a contract with University of Saskatchewan.

Thank you, Haley and Patricia, for being the best you can be, representing NCN, and being a great role model for NCN youth and parents.

# Vystrcil Named Director of NCN Dev Corp



**Ed Vystrcil, new director of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Development Corporation.**

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Development Corporation has a new director. Ed Vystrcil started his new position in February.

“Ed is a visionary, and brings bigger picture thinking to the Nation,” says Chief Angela Levasseur. “He understands the importance of securing lands and resources as a major vehicle of economic development and self-sufficiency for First Nations.”

Vystrcil (Spence/Moody) is one of Manitoba’s leading First Nation land, environmental and natural resource specialists, and has advocated for Indigenous and NCN’s land rights for decades. He has worked for various regional and national government and industry organizations over the last 20 years.

“I am excited to lead NCN into a new chapter of sustainability and economic reconciliation,” Vystrcil says.

“I foresee the need for modern economic initiatives, balanced with our culture and respect for the land. I look forward to exploring business ideas such as a major local employer for our youth. We must also capitalize on land development opportunities in the Thompson Market, as well as assert our place in Manitoba’s economy. We have suffered in silence long enough and it’s our time to diversify, grow and become a major economic player in the North.”

Vystrcil replaces David Kobliski, who led Dev Corp for about 25 years, and retired last year.

The NCN Development Corporation was created in 1992 to build capacity, create employment for Citizens and generate revenue to fund NCN programs and services. It has become hugely successful, creating profits exceeding \$5 million and receiving the 2022 CANDO Community of the Year award.

## Footprint Lake Water Levels

### Footprint Lake 7-Day Water Level Forecast

Revised Forecast as of March 19, 2024

On March 19, 2024 the level of Footprint Lake was at an elevation of 791.6 feet. The level of the lake is expected to drop 8.4 inches to an elevation of 790.9 feet by the end of the month.

The 7-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



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**Do you have a suggestion or an Achimowina story idea?**  
 We would like your comments, feedback or news stories. Please contact [achimowina@gmail.com](mailto:achimowina@gmail.com)

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