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APRIL/MAY 2025

Nisichawayasi Achimowina

Honouring a Remarkable Leader: Deputy Chief Marcel Moody

From Chief Angela Levasseur, on behalf of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

It is with deep love, pride, and respect that I offer this tribute to a man whose life and leadership have profoundly shaped our Nation: Our Deputy Chief and former Chief and Councillor, Marcel Moody.

For more than three decades, Chief Marcel Moody has served the people of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation with humility, wisdom, and unwavering dedication.

First elected in 1990, he has been a pillar of leadership as a Councillor, as Chief from 2014 to 2022, and now as our Deputy Chief. Throughout his career, he has shown us all what it means to lead with honour-quietly, steadily, and always putting our people first.

Marcel's vision for NCN has always been bold and clear: for us to become the greatest Nation in the country – self-governing, self-sustaining, culturally strong, and united. Under his leadership, NCN achieved groundbreaking milestones, including the adoption of our own Nisichawayasi Othasowewin (NCN Constitution)

and Aski Pumenikewin (Land Code – foundational documents that reflect our Nihitho values and our inherent right to govern ourselves. These achievements will serve generations to come.



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.

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Tansi nitotemak,

Please continue reporting any suspicious activity and check in on your neighbours, especially our Elders.

Where is the Chief? Recent Highlights

representing NCN and advancing our Nation's priorities at several important events:

- At the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC), we advocated for more effective wildfire response, Treaty-based health legislation, and equitable Jordan's Principle delivery.
- During the MKO Chiefs Assembly, we pushed for better turnaround times on urgent family requests, stronger supports for northern CFS, and greater accountability from federal departments like ISC and NIHB.
- I met with Manitoba Hydro to reinforce our position on the upcoming 2026 final licence for the Churchill River Diversion – a matter that will have serious environmental impacts on NCN lands and waters.
- We joined the celebration in honour of Former Chief Marcel Moody, with thanks to MKO, NCN Dev Corp, and the many donors and organizers who made the event such a success.
- Chief and Council also attended internal planning sessions for housing, community safety, post-secondary supports, the Land Use Plan and IPCA (Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area), and strategic infrastructure development.

Specific Claims: Pursuing Justice for NCN

We continue to pursue four specific claims against Canada with the support of Maurice Law:

- Agricultural Benefits Claim (“Cows and Plows”) – Canada is reviewing our historical research and has until September 2026 to decide whether to negotiate. NCN never received full agricultural support promised under Treaty 5.
- Treaty 5 Disparity Claim – Based on expert research, we argue Canada gave Treaty 5 Nations far less land and payments than other Treaty Nations, violating the principle of equality and the honour of the Crown.
- NRTA Claim (Natural Resources Transfer Agreement) – Accepted for review. We assert that Canada took

away our commercial harvesting rights in 1930 without consultation or compensation.

- Annuities Indexation Claim – Accepted for review. The \$5 annuity has lost all value due to inflation, and Canada has failed to adjust it despite promising lifelong support.

Strength in Our Community

Our newsletter is full of reminders of what makes NCN strong:

- Our youth proudly delivered Easter hampers despite rough weather.
- The Cree Bee competition brought language and pride into the classroom.
- We celebrated the life of Elder Alan Linklater, whose wisdom and laughter left a mark on so many.
- We honoured Red Dress Day, renewing our call for justice and action for MMIWG2S+ families.
- Our Land Use Plan and IPCA development continue to build a future rooted in sovereignty, stewardship, and the voices of our people.

To every NCN Citizen, I thank you for your resilience, your care for one another, and your support for the work we do on your behalf. Please continue to check on your loved ones, support youth, respect fire safety laws, and reach out if you need help.

We will continue walking forward – with truth, love, and strength.

Ekosani,

Angl. V. Lusa

Chief Angela Levasseur
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation



KITITAHWINAOW ACHIMOWIN

Community News

Honouring a Legacy of Leadership: A Tribute to Marcel Balfour

By Chief Angela Levasseur (Published in Achimowina, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Newsletter)



In our journey as First Nations leaders, we are often guided by those who have walked before us – individuals who have tirelessly advocated for the rights of our people, challenged injustices, and paved the way for stronger, self-determined Nations.

Among these exceptional figures stands Marcel Balfour, a leader whose unwavering dedication to justice, governance, and advocacy has left an indelible mark on Indigenous communities across Manitoba and beyond.



A Cree Warrior and Resilient Survivor

Marcel Balfour is more than a leader – he is a Cree warrior and a survivor of the Sixties Scoop who, despite the trauma

of being taken from his family and community, found his way home and devoted his life to making a difference for his people. In doing so, he has honoured his Elders, his ancestors, and the generations yet to come.

His journey is a testament to the resilience and strength of our people. Rather than allowing hardship to define him, Marcel turned pain into purpose – advocating for justice, rebuilding systems of accountability, and protecting the rights of our Nations.

A Leader with Vision and Integrity

Marcel stepped into political leadership as a Councillor for the Norway House Cree Nation in 2002, later becoming Chief in 2006. Throughout his time in office, he earned the respect of his community and leaders across the country by demonstrating an unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability, and ethical governance.

Marcel is known for his ability to unite people and drive meaningful change. Whether working in his own Nation or on a broader regional level, he has always been guided by a deep sense of responsibility to protect and uplift our people.

A Champion for Justice and Advocacy

As a Cree lawyer and a strong advocate for First Nations rights, Marcel has worked tirelessly to advance policies that protect our most vulnerable and strengthen self-determination.

He played a central role in the implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba, helping ensure that First Nations children receive health, social, and educational services without delay or discrimination. His efforts have helped thousands of children access care and services that are their inherent right.

In his role as Director of Policy and Legal Affairs for the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Marcel continues to advocate for the legal and political interests of First Nations across the province. His work in policy and legal reform is helping reshape systems to reflect the values, needs, and rights of our people.

A Personal Role Model and Mentor

As Chief of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, I have been blessed to witness Marcel's dedication and humility up close. He has not

only been a trusted advisor and legal expert – but also a mentor, role model, and personal inspiration to me.

I admire his honesty, strength, and wisdom, and his lifelong dedication to empowering First Nations through advocacy, legal reform, and Nation-building. Marcel reminds us all that leadership is about service—not status—and about standing up for our people with courage and compassion.

A Legacy that Will Endure

Marcel Balfour's contributions to First Nations governance and justice are far-reaching and lasting. He has inspired a new generation of leaders and created real, tangible change that will benefit our communities for years to come.

At Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, we honour Marcel for his courage, his resilience, and his unwavering commitment to his people. His life's work is a gift to all of us – and a call to continue building a future rooted in truth, justice, and self-determination.

Ekosi, Marcel. You are an inspiration to us all.



But his leadership extends

And make no mistake – his golf game is also on point! Marcel's energy, humility, and love for sport continue to uplift our community and remind us of the power of teamwork and commitment.

Kisahkitin,
Chief Angela Levasseur
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

A circular portrait of a middle-aged man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, blue shirt, and striped tie. The portrait is set against a background of a red and white geometric pattern, possibly a flag, and is framed by a decorative circular border with a repeating pattern of brown triangles and white dots.

Elder Linklater walked the path of the Creator with humility, strength, and deep respect – living in the way of truth, love and wisdom that would make our First Nation ancestors proud. He carried and shared the sacred teachings, not only through his

His presence touched many lives in our community directly and indirectly. He had a gift of offering wisdom, humour, and compassion to all who had the privilege to learn from him. Alan was a miner for two years at INCO mine in Thompson and later a miner for 23 years at Ruttan Mine in Leaf Rapids. He was also an instructor at ATEC and taught Mining Courses for a couple of years in Hollow Water. Alan was also a key part of the NCN CAP/CIP committee, Aski Governance Manager for the NCN Lands Department, Country Foods Program, and he worked as a Claims Officer. His work helped guide the

– On behalf of Chief and Council, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Protecting Our Land for Future Generations through Our Land Use Plan and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area Projects



Vision diagram from the LUP.

After signing the Northern Flood Agreement (NFA) in 1977, NCN worked with the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro to collaboratively develop a Land Use Plan (LUP) for our land. However, nearly 40 years of planning via this process yielded no results; so, in 2014 our Nation reclaimed the planning process according to our ways, priorities and laws. Today, in 2025, our work has resulted in a finalized draft of the *aski apacihikowi othascikiwin* (Land Use Plan to benefit the Future).

The planning process has been community-based and community driven. We have involved community members, knowledge holders and leadership at every step;

the resulting plan reflects the voices of our people and works towards our vision to learn from our past, work together as a self-sufficient people, and respect the land and our laws.

The purpose of our LUP is to guide the activities and conduct of all persons while they are on our land. The plan is an assertion of our sovereignty, in alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It builds upon our strong history and is a tool for us to enact strong governance over *nitaskinan*,

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LUP Presentation for Chief and Council, Feb 12, 2025.



LUP Meeting with Elders, Land Guardians and Planning team, Feb 12, 2025.



LUP Community Presentation, April 3, 2025.



LUP Community Presentation, April 3, 2025.

while honouring the interconnectedness of everything.

A Nation Park – By NCN, for NCN

A significant opportunity identified in our Land Use Plan is the creation of an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) on our land. IPCAs are a kind of Nation Park: lands and waters where Indigenous peoples lead conservation based on their laws, knowledge, and values.

The initial phase of NCN’s IPCA Park will focus on the Leftrook Lake Watershed area, a pristine, culturally significant area with deep connections to our people. The work is supported by Environment and Climate Change Canada’s Indigenous-Led Area Based Conservation (ILABC) Fund, aligning with Canada’s goal to protect 30% of lands and waters by 2030.

Just like the LUP, the success of the IPCA project will rely on a planning process where the community is involved and consulted at every stage. As a first step, a Community Open House event is planned for May 14, and initial community groups including Women, Elders and Land Program representatives are invited to join group sessions on May 15. These events are an invitation for all NCN citizens to share their thoughts and knowledge about the land and how we can continue to protect it in the future. For more information, contact Ed Primrose, Manager of the NCN Land Guardian Program, at (204) 679-4248 or edprimrose@gmail.com.

A significant opportunity identified in our Land Use Plan is the creation of an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) on our land. NCN Citizens can share their thoughts and knowledge about the land and how we can continue to protect it in the future.

2025 Cree Bee

OK School hosted its annual Cree Bee, a spelling contest in Cree language, in May. It was a great success!

Thanks to Nadine Yetman and Glenda Moose for organizing and facilitating this event, and to our Elders Andrew Wood, Genevieve Hart, and Lydia Linklater for judging.



We are grateful for donations from the Family and Community Wellness Centre and its Family Enhancement program that allowed us to give out prizes.

We are so proud of these young Citizens!

Congratulations to our winners!

- Gr 1: Zola Spence-Teli
- Gr 2: Trevor Hart
- Gr 3: Kiara Linklater
- Gr 4: Matilda Spence
- Gr 5: Roselina Brooks
- Gr 6: Reyna Whisky

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:

- Whenever a donation is needed, it has to be put in the form of a letter or email to the NNCEA.
- 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.
- 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.
- Senior Administration will put the necessary details on the letter of request and NNCEA Finance will be notified so the request can be processed.
- 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

The next 3 intake dates, starting April 28, 2025, for the treatment program will be operating from the Mystery Lake Motor Hotel in Thompson due to major renovations to the treatment facility.

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 2025

January 6, 2025 – February 28, 2025	June 23 – 27, 2025: Administration Week – No intakes	August 25, 2025 – October 17, 2025	October 27, 2025 – December 19, 2025
March 3, 2025 – April 25, 2025	July 2, 2025 – August 22, 2025	October 20 – 24, 2025: Administration Week – No intakes	December 21, 2025 – January 2, 2026: Christmas Closure
April 28, 2025 – June 20, 2025			

Treatment Schedule for 2026

January 5, 2026 – February 27, 2026	June 22 – 26, 2025: Administration Week – No intakes	October 19 – 24, 2025: Administration Week – No intakes	Christmas Closure: December 20, 2026 – January 4, 2027)
March 2, 2026 – April 24, 2026	June 29, 2026 – August 21, 2026	October 26, 2026 – December 18, 2026	
April 27, 2026 – June 19, 2026	August 24, 2026 – October 16, 2026		

Warm Congratulations to Joseph Furre – TJ's Gift Champion Award Recipient

We extend heartfelt congratulations to Joseph Foure on receiving the TJ's Gift Champion Award in honour of his courageous and tireless advocacy to raise awareness about fentanyl poisoning in Manitoba.

After tragically losing his

son Harlan to fentanyl poisoning in 2023, Joseph turned his pain into purpose. Drawing strength from his own journey in recovery, he launched the “No Thanks, I’m Good” campaign – a powerful movement named after Harlan’s words – to educate young people about the dangers of tainted street drugs. Through school talks, community walks, and the founding of the Singing Red Bear Foundation, Joseph’s voice has reached thousands.

Your strength, Joseph, is a gift to families across our

province. Thank you for honouring your son's memory with such compassion, and for helping to save lives. You are truly deserving of this recognition.

KinanasKOMITIN,
On behalf of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Chief, Council and citizens
Chief Angela Levasseur
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation



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Are You Protected Against Measles?

Measles was declared eliminated in Canada in 1998, but it’s making a comeback.

There have already been 1,600 confirmed cases in Canada this year, most of them in Ontario.

In Manitoba, there have been about 45 confirmed cases. These numbers are climbing quickly, with a few outbreaks in southern Manitoba.

Measles is an extremely contagious disease. It can be spread to others four days before a rash appears and up to four days after. It can stay in the air for hours after an infected person has left. If someone who is not vaccinated against measles is exposed to it, they will very likely become infected.

Early symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose and watery eyes. A red, blotchy rash that starts on the face and spreads to the rest of the body is the most obvious sign.

Measles can be very serious, especially for pregnant people, young children and those with a weak immune system. It can lead to lung and brain infections and death.

To be considered immune to measles, you must have received two vaccines. Most people receive one at 12 months old and another between 4-6 years of age.

At this time, there are no reported cases of measles in NCN. Now is the time to make sure your family is protected!



Please call the NCN Public Health team at 204-484-2341 to find out if your family members are completely vaccinated.



Thank You to All Our NCN and Community Nurses!

Thank You Nurses!

- Honouring Our NCN and community Nurses! We appreciate all you do for our Nation!
- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| ■ Launda Moody | ■ Late Lyna Hart |
| ■ Arla Tait | ■ Eleanor Erickson |
| ■ Elder Carol Prince | ■ Myrtle Linklater |
| ■ Angela Spence-Bédard | ■ Margaret Olszowiec† |
| ■ Alexandra Bunn | ■ All those who have served in the past and serve us today! |
| ■ Deborah Linklater | |

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
Wellness Centre Inc.

Be Prepared!

Flu Season is Coming

VACCINES WILL ARRIVE ANYTIME SOON!!!
Tentative Start Date
September 21st
Every Wednesday: 10am to 3pm

STAY HEALTHY - GET THE SHOT - AVOID THE FLU

FREE FLU SHOTS

More Information Contact The Public Health Office: 204.484.2341

Fitness That Moves You

On my most recent visit, from March 31st to April 4th, I had the pleasure of bringing my father-in-law along for the journey. He had heard countless stories over the years, and it was great to finally show him firsthand the place I speak so highly of. My objective for this trip was to provide meaningful activities for youth during their spring break—activities that supported healthy living and encouraged movement, connection, and confidence.

Throughout the week, I welcomed anyone who wanted to join. One day we had as many as 24 youth in the gym. What was especially inspiring was the diversity of participants. It wasn't just boys or self-identified athletes showing up, which is often the assumption. I had a group of young women, ages 9 to 13, who showed up consistently, gave their full effort, and really embraced the experience.

While I was up there, my longtime friend Bonnie Campbell offered for me to stay at her house. Having a residence like that further makes me feel like Nelson House is my home away from home. On top of that, my



Looking ahead, my goal is to spend even more time in Nelson House—deepening relationships and encouraging healthy living across the community. I want to show everyone—from youth to adults to elders—that living an active, healthy lifestyle can be a powerful substitute for drugs and

In addition to being on the ground and in the community, I'll also be contributing to this space

Here's to health,
connection, and building
something lasting together.



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2025 Post Secondary Convocation Dates

Congratulations to all of the NCN Post Secondary Graduates. We look forward to following your journeys. All the best in the future!

Red River College – North Gym

Winnipeg – Graduation Pow-Wow
– Friday, May 2, 2025 at 10:00 am

University of Manitoba – Investors Building

Winnipeg – Graduation Pow-Wow – Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 12:00 pm
Honouring Graduates – Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 1:30 pm

University of Winnipeg – Duckworth Center

Winnipeg – Graduation Pow-Wow – Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 12:30 pm

University of Manitoba – Fort Garry Campus

Winnipeg, MB – Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at 9:00 am
– Taylor Moody, Bachelor of Fine Arts
– Alex Spence, Bachelor of Arts
Winnipeg, MB – Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 9:30 am
– Carmen Hutchinson, Bachelor of Agribusiness

University of Manitoba – Northern Campus

TRCC, Thompson, MB – Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 1:00 pm
– Bailey Tays, Northern Social Work Program
– Ariel Linklater, Northern Social Work Program

Yukon University – Whitehorse, YK

Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 1:00 pm
– David Stoneman, Culinary Arts

Dalhousie University – Dalhousie Art Center – Halifax, NS

Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 12:30 pm
– Dawn Dumas, Masters of Social Work

University of Winnipeg – Duckworth Center, Winnipeg, MB

Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 2:30 pm
– Jade Hamelin, Bachelor of Science

Assiniboine College – Keystone Center, Brandon, MB

Friday, June 13, 2025 at 2:00 pm
– Jadene Chaboyer, Administrative Assistant

University of Alberta – Northern Alberta Jubilee

Auditorium – Edmonton, AB
Friday, June 13, 2025
– Amber Lee-Fountain, Bachelor of Kinesiology

**First Nations University of Canada – Conexus Art Center –
Regina, SK**

Saturday, June 14, 2025 at 12:00 pm
– Molly Spence-Brightnose, Bachelor of Social Work

Red River College – RBC Convention Center, Winnipeg, MB

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 7:00 pm
– Kolby Rae Linklater, Educational Assistant

**University College of the North – CA Nesbitt Arena,
Thompson, MB**

Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 1:00 pm
 – Rachelle Halls, Bachelor of Education
 – Reva Linklater, Bachelor of Education
 – Debbie Cable, Culinary Arts (The Pas, MB, June 27)

Yorkville University, Toronto, ON

Thursday, June 29, 2025
– Terri Lawrence, Master in Counselling

Northern Lights of Trades

- Jason Grenier, Carpentry Program

SWS Training

- John Larry McDonald, Heavy Equipment Operator
- Muriel Hart, Heavy Equipment Operator
- Kyle Thorne, Heavy Equipment Operator
- Kattey Hart, Heavy Equipment Operator

NCN Pursuing Four Specific Claims Against Canada – May 29, 2025 Update

NCN retained Maurice Law Barristers and Solicitors to advance four (4) specific claims against Canada as follows:

(1) Agricultural Benefits Claim

(2) Treaty 5 Disparity Claim

(3) Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (NRTA) claim

(4) Annuities claim

Specific Claims address historical grievances of First Nations against Canada, including breaches of treaty promises and misadministration of reserve lands or other assets of First Nations. The types of claims First Nations can bring against Canada are limited to those specified under the *Specific Claims Policy* and the *Specific Claims Tribunal Act*, S.C. 2008, c. 22 (the “Act”). A main advantage of the specific claims process however is that Canada cannot rely on usual Crown defences that a given historical claim is time-barred, and therefore damages are not available to the First Nation to recover, even if the claim otherwise has merit in law.

Once a specific claim is submitted to Canada, the Act sets out two key deadlines for Canada to review and respond to the claim submitted. The first deadline for Canada is what is called the “Minimum Standard” review period. Canada has six (6) months following receipt of a specific

claim to review the claim for completeness (eg: historical documents enclosed are legible; allegations against Canada are listed; a BCR from Chief and Council provides authorization to submit the claim). Once a claim is deemed filed with Canada after the 6 months’ review period, Canada then has a further three (3) years to decide whether to negotiate the claim or not from that date. If the claim is not accepted for negotiation by Canada – in full or in part – by this time, a First Nation then has the option to go before the Specific Claims Tribunal to obtain a binding final decision. That decision is subject to judicial review to the Federal Court of Appeal up to the Supreme Court of Canada, as necessary.

Agricultural Benefits Claim (i.e. Cows and Plows)

Status update: NCN’s expert historical research was received by Canada on March 21, 2025 under Canada’s expedited process for Treaty 5 Agricultural benefits claims. Canada is currently undergoing the 6-month review period following which they will provide the claim’s deemed filing date with Canada, if the claim is accepted for filing (Canada’s deadline is September 21, 2025).

Under the expedited review process for Treaty 5 Agricultural benefits claims, Canada will not take the usual 3.5 years to respond to whether a claim was accepted for negotiation or not, but instead, aims to take half that time before a response – approximately 1.5 years for review. Given NCN has already conducted the historical research now with Canada, this should help speed up Canada’s review time, or else help Canada to do so in the 1.5 years’ timeline given Nations such as NCN who have Band division considerations might require further review time on Canada’s part past the 1.5-year anticipated timeline.

Should the claim be filed with Canada come September 2025, another year for review is September 21, 2026. This represents the expected latest date that Canada would need to respond to accept the claim or not for negotiation, unless the beneficiary question in NCN’s case requires that Canada takes longer.

Towards supporting Canada in a speedier review of NCN’s Band division issue, Maurice Law is currently in the process of reviewing treaty paylists to determine the most appropriate means for ensuring that compensation for this agricultural benefits’ claim is equitably apportioned for the benefit of NCN. NCN’s position on the beneficiary issue and a brief legal argument will be submitted to Canada in June of 2025, further

to the historical research shared in March of 2025.

Basis for claim: Treaty 5 promised NCN agricultural benefits or other treaty benefits in lieu of the agricultural benefits promise. However, Canada only ever provided a onetime distribution of the promised smaller sized implements (hoes, spades, axes) in 1909, and never distributed any ploughs, harrows, scythes, or the treaty cattle, though NCN repeatedly asked for fulfillment of the promise. To the extent that small quantities of agricultural goods were only ever delivered to NCN, the “once-for-all” infusion of seed capital to establish a commercial farming operation as promised under Treaty 5 is clearly not in keeping with the delivery of some hand tools to support subsistence gardening only. The Crown therefore breached Treaty 5 and the honour of the Crown.

Treaty 5 Disparity Claim (Later Adhesion – 1908)

Status update: Dr. Victor Lytwyn is currently working on the production of the historical report for NCN. While he initially expected to have a draft completed in November of 2024 or before, Dr. Lytwyn recommended that he also research the United Church Archives in Toronto, given it was in that archive that he discovered evidence that was crucial for the signatories and adherents to Treaty 5 in the 1875-1876 period. He expects to complete his expert historical report by around June 6, 2025.

Once that is received, Maurice Law will draft the specific claim legal argument over the summer for submission to Canada. This claim would be one of if not the first Treaty 5 Disparity Claim to be submitted from a First Nation from the 1908-1910 period.

Basis for claim: it is asserted tht Canada breached the Honour of the Crown and its fiduciary duties owed to Treaty 5 First Nations by failing to offer the same quantum of reserve lands or initial gratuities under the terms of Treaty 5 as were made available to Treaty signatories to Treaties 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. The other Numbered Treaties signed contemporaneously to Treaty 5 received 4 times more reserve land and 2.4 or 3 times more initial gratuities per person than the Nations who adhered to Treaty 5. There is no legal justification for offering less land quantum or payments to Treaty 5 First Nations than to any other Numbered Treaty signatories. In the case of NCN (adhered to Treaty 5 in 1908) and other later in time adhesions (1908-1910), there is also the unique issue of Canada having considered that NCN and other adherents might adhere the more generous Treaty 10,

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including to its 640 acre per family of five reserve term and \$12 gratuity (rather than 160 acres per family of five and \$5 gratuity under Treaty 5), but decided to have NCN and other adherents in this period adhere to Treaty 5 instead so that the Canadian government could save on costs.

Natural Resources Transfer Agreement ("NRTA")

Status update: the NCN NRTA claim was accepted as filed with Canada on February 5, 2024. Canada now has until **February 4, 2027** to respond on whether the claim will be accepted for negotiation or not (i.e. Canada's three-year claim review period under the Act is currently underway).

In the meantime, Maurice Law currently represents one First Nation from Saskatchewan before the Tribunal where the question of whether the NRTA claim fits within the Specific Claims Policy is being decided. Most recently, the Federal Court of Appeal (FCA) released its decision in *Waterhen Lake First Nation v His Majesty the King In Right of Canada*, 2025 FCA 49 on February 28, 2025, upholding the Specific Claims Tribunal finding that this claim does not fit within the scope of the specific claims policy, meaning it cannot be heard before the Tribunal. Maurice Law on behalf of Waterhen filed leave to appeal that decision to the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) on April 29, 2025. The Crown then has 30 days to file a response, then *Waterhen* another 10 days to file a reply, which would be by mid-June or so. Typically, then it would be

another few months before the SCC decides whether to hear the appeal or not, so this decision on whether to grant leave to hear the claim may be made by October of 2025.

If it is the case that Claimant First Nations cannot bring this claim before the Specific Claims Tribunal to be decided on, the next step would be to file a NRTA class action instead in a court of law where there are no such scope issues.

Basis for claim: The NRTA claim alleges that Canada breached its treaty, fiduciary, and honourable obligations owed to the First Nation when it enacted the 1930 NRTA in Manitoba, which abrogated the First Nation's commercial hunting, fishing, and trapping rights under Treaty 5. This Crown taking of commercial interests in fact (*de facto*) was done without consultation with the First Nation and without the payment of any compensation.

Annuities Indexation Claim

Status update: the NCN Annuities Indexing claim was accepted as filed with Canada on July 8, 2024. Canada now has until **July 8, 2027** to respond on whether the claim will be accepted for negotiation or not (i.e. Canada's three-year claim review period under the Act is currently underway).

Basis for claim: The *Annuities Indexation* claim asserts that Canada failed to adjust the Treaty 5 annual annuity payments of \$5 to offset the impacts of inflation and maintain the real value or purchasing power of \$5 over time, to the point that this substantive promise has been relegated to an empty or hallow treaty promise, contrary to the treaty promise that

annuities would be provided in perpetuity. Equitable compensation for the failure to provide the indexed Annuity Payments amount is sought from when inflation became a known reality to present.

Maurice Law Barristers and Solicitors is a firm based out of Calgary with offices and lawyers located across Canada, including an office based in Winnipeg with three (3) lawyers and two (2) articling students at present. Maurice Law has extensive expertise with specific claims and has a proven track record with both in negotiations with the Specific Claims Branch (Canada) and before the Specific Claims Tribunal (an independent tribunal made up of judges) for advancing and settling ground-breaking specific claims.

Drug Alert: Fentanyl Sold as Meth

In Winnipeg, at the end of April, white granules that were sold as meth tested positive for fentanyl. In one day, there were at least 7 confirmed overdoses from the same substance.

This is a reminder that any drug purchase you make, including meth, cocaine, and even marijuana, may have a miniscule amount of fentanyl mixed in.

Fentanyl was created by the medical community when OxyContin was taken off the market. It is 100 times more potent than morphine. Two mg of powdered fentanyl (that's the size of two grains of salt) can be deadly.

You cannot know what you or your loved one is purchasing and planning to ingest. The **ONLY** way to stay safe is to not use drugs.

If you are around people who use, you should carry and know

how to use naloxone (its brand name is Narcan). Call the FCWC at 204-484-2341 for more information.

If you or someone you know has a drug

problem, call Addictions Foundation of Manitoba at 1-866-638-2561. Or call the Nelson House Medicine Lodge at 204-484-2256 for help close to home.

**If you or someone you know is addicted,
avoid an overdose:**

- Don't mix drugs and alcohol.
- Don't use alone.
- Don't use from a new dealer.
- Don't use if you're ill or tired.
- Swallow your dose instead of smoking, snorting or injecting.
- Use less than you think you should.

A person who is potentially overdosing on fentanyl:

- Has small eye pupils like pinpoints and very slow breathing.
- Their skin feels cold and is pale or even blue.
- They can't stay awake, walk or talk.

If you find someone you think has overdosed on fentanyl:

- Clap loudly by their ears.
- Call their name, rub your knuckles hard on their breastbone.
- Call 911.
- Tell paramedics as much as you can about the drugs and dosage.

In Winnipeg, get your drugs checked:

- Mobile Overdose Prevention Site
631 Main Street parking lot
Wednesday – Sunday, 12 pm – 5 pm
- Nine Circles
705 Broadway Avenue parking lot
Tuesday – Thursday, 10 am – 4 pm
- Street Connections
496 Hargrave Street
Mon/Wed/Friday – 8:30 am – 3:30 pm



**Nisichawayasihk
Ithiniwak**

JOIN US FOR A
CULTURE
GATHERING

CEDAR LAKE RANCH
61129 MB-302, Anola, MB

Monday to Friday
JUNE 2 TO 6, 2025

START AT
10:00AM TO 3:00PM

TRADITIONAL AND CULTURE ACTIVITIES

*Connecting to the land , visit your relatives, and
learn many teachings through sharing of
cultural knowledge, ceremonies, and arts &
crafts,*

REGISTER NOW

Contact Us
204 784 8160
204 484-2341

For more information
204 679 5277

Transportation Provided
Meeting location will be determined



NISICHAWAYASIHK
CREE NATION

Fire Burn Warning in Effect



SAFETY NOTICE: NCN Fire Burn Warning in Effect (as of May 5, 2025)

Due to extremely dry conditions in and around Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (Nelson House), a **Fire Danger Warning** has been declared. All NCN Citizens are urged to take immediate precautions to protect our community.

- **No open bush/grass fires** allowed at any time.
- **Cigarettes** must be fully extinguished and discarded in safe containers. Do not toss cigarettes out of vehicle windows while driving.
- **Burning barrels** must have fires completely contained.
- **Pit fires** are permitted only if always actively

monitored with water or an extinguisher is on hand nearby. Be sure they are fully extinguished after use.

- **Parents:** Speak with your children about fire danger and keep matches/lighters out of reach.

Report any fires or suspicious activity immediately to the NCN Fire Department at (204) 484-2911 or RCMP.

Deliberately set grass fires endanger homes, buildings, property and lives!

Setting fires can lead to **criminal charges** –

including **conspiracy to commit murder** if someone is injured or killed. Parents will be held responsible for their children's actions.

Note: NCN Fire and Safety will be conducting **controlled burns** starting this week to prevent fire spread in emergency situations. These are planned and supervised for public safety.

Let's all do our part to keep NCN safe. Be alert and save lives!

Ekosani
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Chief and Council

Keep up to date by listening to FM98.1 OR www.ncncree.com AND the NCN Facebook page



20

OPIMĪTHAW (Airplane pilot)	R	O	P	Z	O	M	A	H	W	A	S	A	K	O	N	I	K	I	W	O	O	O	O	Y	A
OKISKINOTOTAMOWIW (Actor)	K	I	S	K	I	N	W	A	M	A	K	I	W	I	N	O	O	K	Y	K	M	P	N	M	G
OPIMPĀTHICKIWI (Ambulance driver)	O	T	Ā	H	T	Ā	W	A	T	A	S	O	G	B	S	P	M	G	S	I	I	I	I	M	D
OPITAPISKAHIKIWI (Baker)	O	T	H	Ā	S	O	W	Ī	T	H	I	N	I	W	J	I	O	O	Q	M	K	M	M	Ā	M
OKĀNANAWASO (Babysitter)	O	O	M	A	S	I	N	A	H	I	K	Ī	S	I	S	K	N	P	K	O	I	I	I	S	Ā
OTHĀSOWĪTHINIWI (Band councillor)	N	J	G	O	K	Ā	N	A	N	A	W	A	S	O	C	I	Ā	I	M	W	S	N	W	K	S
	S	A	O	M	Ā	S	I	N	A	H	Ī	K	I	S	I	S	H	T	I	O	Ī	A	O	I	K
OMIKISĪSTAHIKIWI (Beadworker)	S	B	S	Y	O	M	I	S	K	A	N	Ā	K	I	W	K	I	A	S	P	S	W	K	H	Ī
OTOSĪHCIKIWI (Builder)	R	Q	I	O	Ō	P	O	G	K	P	I	W	J	E	O	W	S	P	T	I	T	A	I	K	H
OWITHINAHĪKIWI (Butcher)	O	F	M	M	N	O	A	W	O	D	G	E	F	T	P	I	O	I	I	M	A	S	S	I	K
MISTIKONĀPIWI (Carpenter)	W	O	Ā	A	T	J	G	M	I	T	B	I	F	A	I	S	N	S	K	P	H	O	T	T	I
OPIMINAWASO (Cook)	I	O	K	N	A	Q	X	I	Ī	C	H	Y	U	C	M	T	Ī	K	O	Ā	Ī	T	I	H	S
ONIMIWI (Dancer)	T	K	A	Ā	W	Y	A	V	L	H	I	I	K	W	Ā	A	Y	A	N	T	K	Ā	K	I	K
ONIKANIWI (Director of Education)	H	I	N	H	Ī	P	D	L	F	W	C	H	P	S	T	M	Ā	H	Ā	H	I	S	I	N	W
MĀSKIHKITHINIWI (Doctor, medical)	I	T	S	T	H	B	A	Q	F	E	X	I	Ī	A	A	A	W	I	P	I	W	T	T	I	I
OKISTIKITHINIWI (Farmer)	N	Ō	I	I	I	W	K	S	Z	C	K	M	K	W	H	K	I	K	I	C	D	A	H	W	W
OTĀSTAWĪHIKIWI (Fire Fighter)	A	H	K	K	W	X	E	A	E	H	S	A	O	I	I	I	W	I	W	I	R	W	I	V	O
OPĀKITAWĀW (Fisherman [with net])	H	C	I	W	I	S	I	M	Ā	K	A	N	I	S	W	W	K	W	Q	K	K	Ī	N	O	N
OKWĀSKWIPICĪKIWI (Fisherman [with rod])	Ī	I	M	I	W	O	K	I	S	K	Ī	N	Ō	H	T	Ā	H	I	K	I	W	H	I	M	I
OMAHWASAKONIKIWI (Garbage collector)	K	K	Ā	W	J	O	K	A	K	A	N	I	K	I	M	O	W	W	W	W	L	Ī	W	I	K
	I	I	W	O	K	I	S	K	I	N	O	T	O	T	A	M	O	W	I	W	S	K	Q	S	A
OTHIPAHIKIWI (Grader operator)	W	W	O	K	W	Ā	S	K	W	I	P	I	C	Ī	K	I	W	L	K	V	F	I	Z	Ī	N
	D	M	D	O	K	I	S	K	I	N	W	Ā	H	A	M	Ā	K	Ī	W	O	D	W	W	M	I
	T	O	T	O	S	Ī	H	C	I	K	I	W	O	T	H	Ā	S	O	W	I	K	I	M	Ā	W
	O	P	I	M	Ī	T	H	A	W	O	P	Ā	K	I	T	A	W	Ā	W	B	M	X	I	W	I

OPIMĀTAHIW (Hockey player)
OPAMĪHCIKIW (Janitor)
OMĀSINAHĪKISIS
(Journalist [Reporter])
OTHĀSOWIKIMĀW
(Judge [at court])
OPIKISKWISTAMAKIW (Lawyer)
OMANĀHTIKWIW (Logger)
ŌNTAWĪHIWIW (Medicine man)
OMONĀHISONĪYĀWIW (Miner)

OMASINAHIKÍSIS (Receptionist)
OKAKANIKIMOW (Social worker)
OKIMOW (Storekeeper)
OWICIHÍWIW (Teacher aide)
OKISKINWĀHAMĀKÍW (Teacher)

Easter Deliveries by the Flames

This year, it wasn't the Easter Bunny bringing spring joy, but the NCN Flames.

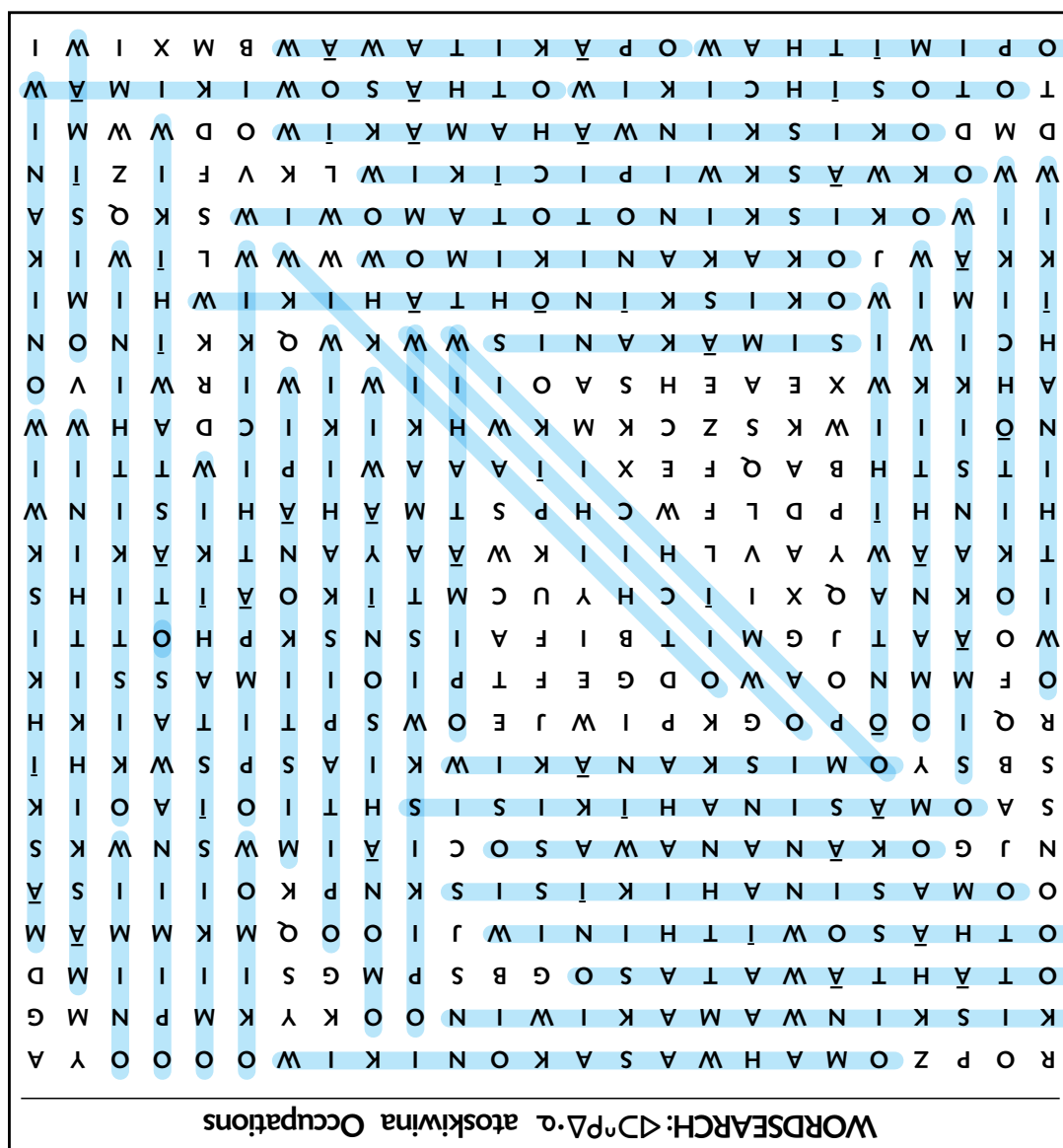
On April 16, our young hockey players delivered hampers filled with turkey, vegetables, stuffing, and all the fixings to homes across NCN.

Despite terrible weather with wet snow and mud, they pushed through and made sure everyone had a festive feast.

Thank you to the parents, guardians, and all others who helped drive our players to make these deliveries happen.



Solution below to puzzle on previous page



A photograph of three people sitting at a dark wooden table in a restaurant. On the left is a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a light blue blazer over a dark shirt. In the center is a woman with long dark hair, wearing a grey blazer over a dark top. On the right is a woman with short curly brown hair and glasses, wearing a white lace-trimmed blouse. They are all smiling at the camera. The table is set with glasses, plates, and a bottle. The background is dimly lit with some framed pictures on the wall.

Community Safety Warnings and Enforcements

Due to dangerously dry conditions and recent community safety concerns, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation is implementing enhanced protective measures. This includes a Fire Danger Warning, mandatory 9:00 pm youth curfew, wildlife safety protocols, and a crackdown on vandalism.

PART I: Fire Ban (As of May 5, 2025)

All NCN Citizens must take immediate action to protect our land and community:

- No open bush/grass fires are permitted at any time.
- Cigarettes must be fully

extinguished and disposed of in safe containers. Never toss them out of vehicle windows.

- Burning barrels must be completely contained.
- Pit fires are permitted only if actively monitored with water or an extinguisher nearby.
- Be sure all fires are fully extinguished after use.
- Ensure your children understand fire safety. Keep all matches and lighters out of reach. Deliberately set grass fires endanger homes, lives, and property. Setting fires can result in criminal charges, including conspiracy to commit murder if injury or death occurs. Parents will be held responsible for their children's actions.

PART II: Youth Curfew Enforcement (Effective Immediately)

To keep our children and community safe:

- All minors must be home by 9:00 PM.
- NCN Child and Family Services (CFS) will be notified if children are found roaming unsupervised.
- Parents who fail to protect their children may:

- Be placed on the PO or Alternative Benefits program (if receiving EIA).
- Face other penalties under NCN law.
- Face additional consequences and fines.

- NCN employees who violate community laws, including fire regulations or curfew enforcement, will face disciplinary action by their employer.

PART III: Vandalism and Reward Notice

To protect our Nation's _____
infrastructure, NCN is
offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the
prosecution of anyone caught vandalizing:

- NCN homes
- NCN buildings and offices
- The skatepark
- Any and all NCN-owned property.

Vandalism will not be tolerated. Consequences, fines and criminal charges will be pursued to the fullest extent of the law.

PART IV: Bear Sighting – Additional Safety Concern

A mother bear and her cubs have been sighted in the area around the high school. For everyone's safety:

- Keep children indoors after curfew and avoid walking alone, especially near the high school.
- Do not leave garbage or food outdoors.
- Report sightings to NCN Conservation or the RCMP.

REMEMBER:

Report all fires, suspicious activity, or violations immediately to the NCN Fire Department at (204) 484-2911 or to the RCMP.

Controlled burns will be conducted by NCN Fire and Safety this week for emergency prevention purposes. These are professionally managed.

Let's all do our part to protect NCN – our people, our land, and our future.

Ekosani,
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Chief and Council, NCN Fire
Department, NCN CFS and NCN Public Safety

**Report all fires,
suspicious activity,
or violations
immediately to
the NCN Fire
Department at
(204) 484-2911 or
to the RCMP.**



Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation is implementing enhanced protective measures which includes a Fire Danger Warning, mandatory 9:00 pm youth curfew, wildlife safety protocols, and a crackdown on vandalism.



Date: Wednesday May 28,2025
Subject: Evacuation Preparedness
From: Wayne Spence, EMO Coordinator

Evacuation Preparedness

This public service announcement is intended to provide information to increase fire evacuation awareness.
Please review the following measures that you can take to make the process run smoothly.
Vehicle owners: fill your gas tanks in preparation for travelling out of the community

Household: pack an emergency “to go” bag and include:
■ medications
■ important documents – Manitoba health card, birth certificates, etc.
■ photo ID – status cards, drivers’ licences, etc.
■ cash, bank cards, credit cards
■ personal hygiene items
■ cell phone and charger
■ change of clothing and footwear
■ baby supplies: diapers, formula, clothing, etc.
Information awareness: Ensure that all

members of your household are accounted for and that you are up to date on any posted ALERTS, WARNINGS, or ANNOUNCEMENTS.
Pets: If you choose to leave the community with your pet, have the proper transportation equipment i.e. kennel, collar, leash, food/water dish and vaccination documents in your vehicle.
Updates will continue to be provided as information is received.
Any questions or concerns can be directed to **Wayne Spence, EMO Coordinator at 204-679-3704 or Bonnie Campbell at 204-670-3986**



NOTICE TO NCN CITIZENS

CALL FOR
2026
FUNDING
APPLICATIONS

NISICHAWAYASIIK TRUST (CAP)
 TASKINIGAHP TRUST (CIP)

TASKINIGAHP TRUST - Community Involvement Process (CIP)

- Applications for the use of Nisichawayasihk Trust and Taskinigahp Trust monies for the 2026 calendar year are being accepted.
- Application forms are available at the NCN Trust office from Kelly Spence on the NCN Trust Office website @ www.ncncree.com or email kelly.spence@ncncree.com for an e-copy of the funding application.

Applications submission is extended up until 3:00 pm on September 15th, 2025.
(We will not accept applications after the deadline.)

- Funding application must be in a sealed envelope.
- If you require assistance in filing the funding application, please schedule an appointment with NCN Trust Office, Trust Coordinator will be pleased to assist you.
- To obtain more information contact Kelly Spence, Trust Coordinator @ 204-484-2604 or 431-354-1178.



**To obtain more information contact Kelly Spence, Trust Coordinator
at 204-484-2604 or 431-354-1178.**

Dancing into Their Dreams

Some local NCN girls are dancing their way to success!

Cara Moodie and Sadie Moose recently competed at the Canadian National Dance Championships in Winnipeg and placed first overall with their trio performance. (Their other member is a girl named Addie from Cross Lake.)

Cara's sister, Paige Moodie, won third place with her trio performance.

Paige also recently won first place with her trio at the StarQuest Dance Competition in Arizona, United States. At that same competition, the girls won Viral Video with their performance of Push It.

The girls are dancing with Diamond Dance Academy in

Thompson. They have excelled in a short amount of time, and they say it's because of instructors Lynn, Lacey and Noelle, and the entire DDA team.

“DDA has been an inspiring, encouraging, amazing dance academy. They provide so much love and encouragement for all the dancers to be successful,” says mom Natasha Moodie. “As a mother, I will forever be grateful for the opportunities and success that has come for my girls. And it’s only going to get better!”

The benefits of dance go well beyond healthy bodies, stronger mental health, and gaining courage and determination.

"Since my daughters have started dancing, they've become so confident. You can even see it in their academics at school," says Moodie.

Cara is currently serving
as class president at RD
Parker School in Thompson.

Congratulations to these young athletes!



NCN LABOUR MARKET SURVEY & JOB FAIR

Survey
Information collected
can help HRDA office
match you with
meaningful jobs

LOCATION:
GILBERT MCDONALD ARENA

JUNE 11 & 12, 2025

10:00 AM
TO
5:00 PM

- ✓ NCN COMMUNITY MEMBERS RECENT EMPLOYMENT, SKILLS
- ✓ EDUCATION ACTIVITIES
- ✓ COMMUNITY MEMBERS EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS
- ✓ COMMUNITIES ECONOMIC NEEDS AND STRENGTHS

Explore Career & Job Opportunities



- Snacks Provided
- Assistance available with surveys, if required
- \$40 Survey Incentive
- NCN Members in NCN

For more information
contact: HRDA Office



Footprint Lake Water Levels

Footprint Lake 7-Day Water Level Forecast

Revised Forecast as of May 19, 2025

On May 19, 2025 the level of Footprint Lake was at an elevation of 797.6 feet. The level of the lake is expected to drop 11 inches to an elevation of 796.7 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.

More Fun at Ron Wood Park

The next phase of construction has begun at the Ron Wood Park.

When completed, this area will include an outdoor ice rink, a beach volleyball court, and a full-size basketball court.

These new facilities will support our NCN community, offering accessible recreation options right here at home. Our children and the entire community will have more options for safe, engaging play and friendly competition.

Citizens of all ages are encouraged to use these new facilities, not just for exercise, but to build relationships and to take part in community life.

The Ron Wood Memorial Recreational Park opened in August 2023. It was originally intended to be a baseball field, but the community chose to focus on a skate park, to best accommodate the interests of NCN's young people.

Ron Wood was a mentor and coach in baseball and hockey for years in NCN, specifically in Bay Road. He died almost 40 years ago, but his passion for sports and youth lives on.



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.

