

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.



Continued on page 4



# OKIMAHKAN OTY'AMIWIN

# From the Chief

## Tansi nitotemak,

On behalf of Chief and Council, I offer heartfelt prayers to all First Nations across Manitoba who are impacted by this year's severe wildfire season. Our thoughts are especially with those who have been evacuated, those experiencing heavy smoke, and those whose lands and waters are at risk. We pray for rain, for protection, and for the strength of every Nation working to keep their people safe.

Here in Nisichawayasihk, we continue to take fire safety and emergency preparedness seriously. Our curfew enforcement, fire bans, and wildlife protocols are critical for preventing harm. We thank our NCN Fire Department, NCN CFS, Public Safety, and our Conservation team for their vigilance.

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

## Where is the Chief? Recent Highlights

Over the past two months, I have had the honour of

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

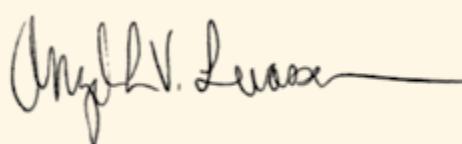
Our newsletter is full of reminders of what makes NCN strong:

- 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,



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.



Moody also played a vital role in negotiating land-use agreements to protect our traditional territories, and he continues to work tirelessly on major housing, economic development, and sovereignty initiatives. Whether meeting with ministers or walking with Citizens at a community BBQ, Marcel carries himself with a deep sense of purpose, dignity, and love for NCN.

But his leadership extends

beyond boardrooms and negotiation tables – Marcel Moody is also a lifelong athlete, known and admired across the North for his sheer talent, competitive spirit, and sportsmanship.

From his youth to today, he has dominated in hockey, basketball, volleyball, broomball, and baseball, not just as a player, but as a coach, a mentor, and a parent. He has led NCN teams to countless victories over the years, inspiring our youth to push harder and dream bigger.

Chief Moody's presence at DMAC Memorial Tournaments on the basketball and volleyball courts is legendary – a mix of precision, strength, and calm confidence that is unmatched.

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.

And of course, he's a diehard Boston Bruins fan – loyal, faithful, and relentless. Win or lose, you can bet he'll be cheering them on with everything he's got!

Chief Marcel Moody is truly an inspirational leader in every way; in mind, body, and spirit. His story is one of quiet strength, powerful vision, and deep-rooted love for our people.

On behalf of all of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, we honour him with our deepest gratitude.

Ekosani, Deputy Chief Moody. You continue to lead us not just with your words, but with your example. Your legacy is one we will carry forward with pride.

Kisahkitin,  
Chief Angela Levasseur  
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

*In Loving Memory*

# ALAN WAYNE LINKLATER

MAY 5, 1955 – MAY 25, 2025

With heavy hearts, we honour the life and passing of Elder Alan Linklater, a respected Citizen of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.

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

words, but in how he lived, taught, and walked with others. As an Elder, he upheld the guidance of those who came before us, reminding us to live with kindness, integrity, and connection to the land and world.

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

direction of important community programs. The way he lived and impacted others around him will continue to guide our Nation's youth and Citizens for generations to come.

Elder Alan was also a devoted family member, friend to many and a proud fan of the New England Patriots. He was always ready to share the wins or losses of his favorite team with a story, a smile, or a thoughtful word.

We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all those who carry his memory in their hearts.

May your journey onward, Elder Alan Linklater, be guided in hand by the ancestors and family before you – whose footsteps you so honourably followed. The light of your memory and words will continue to lead us.

– 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*,

Continued on page 6



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.

---

**A significant opportunity identified in our Land Use Plan is**

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.

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.

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](mailto:edprimrose@gmail.com).

# 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 4: Matilda Spence  
Gr 2: Trevor Hart      Gr 5: Roselina Brooks  
Gr 3: Kiara Linklater      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:

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

**2.6.3.2 Donations**

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

## Treatment Schedule for 2026

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

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

We extend heartfelt congratulations to Joseph Fourre 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



# Employment Opportunities

# HIRING FOR TWO EXCITING SUMMER POSITIONS IN NISICHAWAYASIHK CREE NATION.

If you love working with youth, being active, and making a difference, this could be your summer!

## Camp Coordinator

Lead the summer fun, plan activities, and guide a team

## Camp Counsellors

Help run daily programs, support youth, and create memories

## Meaningful work with youth in your community

\$25/hr for Coordinators  
\$21/hr for Counsellors

A chance to grow your leadership  
and program planning skills

If you're creative, energetic, and passionate about helping youth succeed, you should apply now and be part of a summer that builds up our NCN Youth

Send your resume and cover letter to: [careers@careertrek.ca](mailto:careers@careertrek.ca)

## Deadline:

Positions start July 2, 2025.



# 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.



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 Lynda Hart
■ Arla Tait	■ Eleanor Erickson
■ Elder Carol Prince	■ Myrtle Linklater
■ Angela Spence-Bédard	■ Margaret Olszowiec <sup>†</sup>
■ Alexandra Bunn	■ All those who have served in the past
■ Deborah Linklater	and serve us today!



# Fitness That Moves You

My name is David Beakley, and I've spent the past 20 years working in the health and wellness industry. Over the last 17 of those years, I've made regular trips up to Nelson House, leading a wide range of camps focused on fitness, wellness, and athletic development. From strength camps and boot camps to sports camps featuring professional athletes from the CFL, UFC, and NHL, these programs have always been about more than just training. In that time, I've built

lasting relationships, earning the trust of the community and becoming deeply connected to the land and the people who live on it. Nelson House has become like a second home to me—somewhere I feel not just welcomed, but rooted.

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.

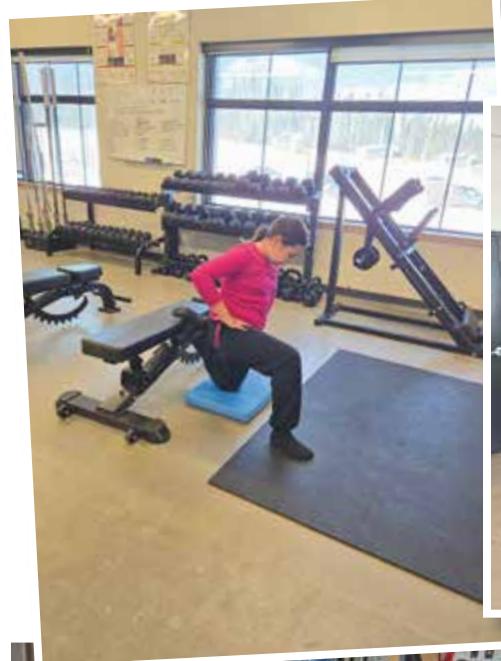
Thanks to the help and coordination of Nic Campbell, I had the privilege of working out of the incredible new facilities at the school. The brand-new weight room and the attached gymnasium are, without exaggeration, two of the top training spaces I've seen anywhere in the province. I spent my days in the weight room and returned in the evenings for additional sessions in the gym. While my roots are firmly planted in the world of strength

training, I've learned over the years that fitness is so much more than just weights, bikes, and rowers. It can be found in a game of dodgeball, a round of floor hockey, or a friendly basketball match.

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.

Watching them push themselves and take pride in their strength and ability was one of the most rewarding parts of the entire week.

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



father-in-law and I had dinner at Ray and Eleanor Erickson's twice, had lunch brought to me by my dear friend Alyce Moore, who came to visit me with her mom Joan, got a great tour of the new high school from my old friend Bailey Tays, and we both attended a sweat conducted by Wellness and Mr. Felix Walker. People laugh when I tell them, but in all sincerity, I have more of a social life in Nelson House than I do in Winnipeg. I sincerely love every minute I get to spend out there.

I've come to understand how intimidating a traditional weight room can be for some, and that's taught me to be creative—finding new and accessible ways to engage people in movement. Fitness isn't about perfection; it's about participation. Even now, as I write this, I'm working on launching a Women's Walking Group in Nelson House—a low-barrier, inclusive initiative designed to support building a community and get more people moving. (Still working on a more clever name for that one!)

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

alcohol, and a path to a brighter future for generations to come.

Plans are already in motion: youth activity groups, personalized training plans for in-community athletes, and of course, the Women's Walking Group. I'm also committed to spending time with elders, helping them move more and add quality years to their lives. These physical activities will be paired with lifestyle education around healthy eating, staying sober, and making positive life changes.

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



# Travel Help for NCN Citizens

MKO has introduced travel support in Thompson for its members.

This new service is available for MKO members in Cross Lake, Marcel Colomb and Lynn Lake, Norway House, South Indian Lake, and Nelson House.

To request a ride, call  
1-855-899-7433. You will  
confirm that you're from  
Nelson House, Band 313.

The MKO driver is available Monday to Thursday from 8:30 am to 11:30 pm, and on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm.

Outside of those hours, you can call the same number to request a ride, and Orange Taxi will transport you.

## Did you know?

Under the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program, you may be eligible to be reimbursed for mileage to medical appointments.

When using your own personal vehicle to travel to doctor's appointments and to access medical care, be sure to keep gas receipts and record your mileage. You'll want to write down date of the trip, reason for the trip, total kilometres for a round trip, and your odometer reading before and after.

In Manitoba, NIH pays 26.5 cents/km.

To learn more, search “NIHB reimbursement” online.

2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR							DATE	SCHOOL CLOSURE
Month	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Aug 24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Thursday-Friday, August 29-30, 2024
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Professional Development (2)
Sep 2024	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Labour Day Holiday
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	First Day of Classes
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Flex Day (1)
	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	Truth and Reconciliation Day
Oct 2024	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Monday, September 2, 2024
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Thanksgiving Holiday
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	Flex Days (4)
	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	Tuesday-Friday, October 15-18, 2024
Nov 2024	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Friday, November 8, 2024
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Aboriginal Veterans Day (1)
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Monday, December 23, 2024
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	First Day of Winter Break
Dec 2024	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Friday, January 3, 2025
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Monday, January 6, 2025
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Last Day of Winter Break
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Classes resume
	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	Monday, February 17, 2025
Jan 2025	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Louis Riel Day
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Monday, February 24, 2025
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Aboriginal Justice Day (1)
	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	Monday-Friday, March 24-28, 2025
Feb 2025	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	March Break
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Monday-Friday, March 31 – April 4, 2025
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Flex Days (5)
	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	Friday, April 18, 2025
Mar 2025	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Good Friday Holiday
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Monday, April 21, 2025
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Flex Day (1)
	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	Flex Day (1)
Apr 2025	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	Victoria Day Holiday
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Wednesday, June 25, 2025
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Last Day of Classes
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	
May 2025	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Jun 2025	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	
July 25	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
							Total School Days: 193 330M x 193D = 63,690 360M x 179D = 64,440	
							*School day extended by 30 minutes to 6 hours to equate for Flex Days.	
							Motion #2024-03-28-10: The NNCEA School Board of Trustees approve the 2024-2025 Academic Calendar.	



MKO is required to provide in-city transportation in Thompson for their clients. All requests for transportation in Thompson must go directly to MKO.



Dispatch phone 1-855-899-7433



## DRIVER HOURS

Mon/Tues/Weds/Thurs – 8:30am – 11:30pm  
Fri/Sat/Sun – 8:30am – 6:30pm

Outside of the above hours, we will continue to use Orange Taxi to arrange in-city transportation.



## MKO CLIENTS

Band#	MKO
276	Cross lake
328	Marcel colomb/lynn lake
313	Nelson house
278	Norway house
318	South Indian Lake



## 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 that 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,

*Continued on page 17*

Continued from page 16

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 hollow 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 minuscule 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





## 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](http://www.ncncree.com) AND the NCN Facebook page



# What About an NCN Anthem?

Recently on the ncncree.com website, Chief and Council created a survey for Citizen feedback about the idea of an NCN Anthem. Readers were able to preview the draft lyrics, hear a preliminary version, and then offer their opinion.

Of those who responded, 57% said YES, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation should use this as its official anthem. The other 43% said NO.

Some respondents articulated their opinions, which included:

- It's awesome.
- Is this going to be a ceremony song? If so, a ceremony needs to

happen so that's it provided by ancestral spirit and the land.

- Love it! Sounds amazing, brought tears to my eyes, felt the power in the song.
- Anthem should be in simple words so that young children are able to understand and sing it.
- The anthem is beautiful and brings a sense of pride.
- Use a powwow drum and have a more appropriate less colonized version of an anthem.
- I think creating an anthem for our community will allow some to feel a strong sense of pride for NCN.
- I think it should be drafted collectively as a Nation. It needs to represent the people and their value systems.
- I remember the Elders would hum to themselves as they went through the day. It should be written in our language first with our teachings, not a music hit, a legacy of our people and land.
- Thank you, it made me feel like I'm really from NCN.

Chief and Council would like to receive more feedback from Citizens about an official NCN anthem.

**Write up your opinion and bring it to the suggestion box at the Government Office!**

Where the Burntwood, Footprint, and Rat Rivers converge, Our ancestors' spirits still emerge. Guardians of N'tuskenan so wide, In unity and strength, we abide Nisichawayasihk, our land so true, With sovereignty, we will renew. From ancient roots to future's light, We rise as one, with courage bright Asiniskaw Nihithowak stand tall, Honouring teachings, answering the call. Through Othasowewin, we reclaim, Our governance, our rightful name Nisichawayasihk, our land so true, With sovereignty, we will renew. From ancient roots to future's light, We rise as one, with courage bright Together, strong, we pave the way, For generations' brighter day. Honouring our sacred ground, In unity, our voices sound Nisichawayasihk, our land so true, With sovereignty, we will renew. From ancient roots to future's light, We rise as one, with courage bright.

By Chief Angela Levasseur  
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

# ATTENTION: NCN Residents

With wildfires impacting our region, we are currently experiencing smoke and changing air quality conditions. At this time, there is no evacuation order, but it is important to take steps to safeguard your health and prepare for any potential developments.

## Health and Safety

### Precautions:

- Monitor Air Quality: Stay informed through local air quality reports and updates. If air quality worsens, limit outdoor activities.
- Wear a Mask: If smoke becomes thick, protect your breathing by wearing

a mask when outdoors. Indoors, use air purifiers or create a clean-air room by closing windows and doors.

- Stay Hydrated: Drink plenty of water to help your body cope with smoke inhalation.
- Watch for Symptoms: Pay attention to signs of smoke-related illness, such as coughing, difficulty breathing, eye irritation, and fatigue. If symptoms worsen, seek medical attention.
- Keep windows and doors closed as much as possible to prevent smoke from entering their homes. If ventilation is needed, use high-quality air filters or air purifiers indoors to improve air quality.
- Regarding fans, avoid using window fans that pull air from outside, as they can bring in smoke. Instead, use indoor fans and air purifiers to circulate and clean the air inside.

## WILDFIRE EVACUATION CHECKLIST

LEAVE QUICKLY	IF YOU HAVE TIME	FIND/SHARE INFO
<b>GO BAG</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Flashlight/headlamp</li><li>■ Local map</li><li>■ Water and snacks</li><li>■ Important documents</li><li>■ Emergency blanket</li><li>■ Emergency cash</li><li>■ Portable radio and batteries</li><li>■ Sturdy shoes and socks</li><li>■ Whistle</li><li>■ Change of clothing</li><li>■ Wallet and cell phone (add at the last minute)</li></ul>	<b>PREPARE YOUR HOME</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Shut all inside doors</li><li>■ Raise shades and remove curtains</li><li>■ Turn on inside lights</li><li>■ Shut off air conditioning</li><li>■ Close/seal ground and attic vents</li><li>■ Move furniture away from walls</li><li>■ Move outdoor items away from home</li><li>■ Put a ladder at the corner of your house for firefighters</li></ul>	<b>RECEIVE ALERTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Tune into your local radio station for updates</li><li>■ Change your outgoing voicemail so callers know you are ok</li><li>■ Update your status on social media</li></ul>
<b>CHECK ON OTHERS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Tell neighbors to evacuate and which way to go</li><li>■ Ask if they have a plan to get out safely</li><li>■ Offer help for those who need it</li><li>■ Take your pets with you</li></ul>	<b>GRAB EXTRA ITEMS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Wear heavy shoes and cotton clothing</li><li>■ Computers, electronics, and chargers</li><li>■ Medications, prescriptions, and medical devices</li><li>■ Family treasures and photo albums</li><li>■ Pet carriers/leashes, vaccination records, and pet food</li></ul>	<b>6 Ps OF EVACUATION</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. People</li><li>2. Pets</li><li>3. Prescriptions</li><li>4. Papers</li><li>5. Personal Needs</li><li>6. Priceless Items</li></ol>
<b>MEETING SPOT</b> <hr/>	<b>IF SOMEONE IS TRAPPED AND CAN'T ESCAPE CALL 9-1-1</b>	
<b>EMERGENCY CONTACT</b> <hr/>	<b>EMERGENCY CONTACT #</b> <hr/>	

WORDSEARCH: ልዕስል አትስኩዎን የቅርቡ የቅርቡ

OPIMITHAW (Airplane pilot)  
OKISKINOTOTAMOWIW (Actor)  
OPIMPATHICIKIW (Ambulance driver)  
OPITAPISKAHIKIW (Baker)  
OKANANAWASO (Babysitter)  
OTHASOWITHINIW  
(Band councillor)  
OMIKISTAHIKIW (Beadworker)  
OTOSHCIKIW (Builder)  
OWITHINAHIKIW (Butcher)  
MISTIKONAPIW (Carpenter)  
OPIMINAWASO (Cook)  
ONIMIW (Dancer)  
ONIKANIW (Director of Education)  
MASKIKITHINIW (Doctor, medical)  
OKISTIKITHINIW (Farmer)  
OTASTAWITHIKIW (Fire Fighter)  
OPAKITAWAW (Fisherman [with net])  
OKWASKWIPICIKIW  
(Fisherman [with rod])  
OMAHWASAKONIKIW  
(Garbage collector)  
OTHIPAHIKIW (Grader operator)  
OKISKINOHTAHIKIW  
(Guidance counsellor)  
OPIMATAHIW (Hockey player)  
OPAMHCKIKIW (Janitor)  
OMASINAHIKISIS  
(Journalist [Reporter])  
OTHASOWIKIMAW  
(Judge [at court])  
OPIKISKWISTAMAKIW (Lawyer)  
OMANAHTIKWIW (Logger)  
ONTAWIHIIWIW (Medicine man)  
OMONAHISONYAWIW (Miner)

R	O	P	Z	O	M	A	H	W	A	S	A	K	O	N	I	K	I	W	O	O	O	Y	A		
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	
O	T	Ā	H	T	Ā	W	A	T	A	S	O	G	B	S	P	M	G	S	I	I	I	M	D		
O	T	H	Ā	S	O	W	Ī	T	H	I	N	I	W	J	I	O	O	Q	M	K	M	M	Ā		
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	
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	
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	
R	Q	I	O	Ā	P	O	G	K	P	I	W	J	E	O	W	S	P	T	I	T	A	I	K	H	
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	
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	
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	
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	
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	
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	
N	Ā	O	I	I	I	W	K	S	Z	C	K	M	K	W	H	K	I	K	I	C	D	A	H	W	W
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	
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	
Ī	I	M	I	W	O	K	I	S	K	Ī	N	Ā	H	T	Ā	H	I	K	I	W	H	I	M	I	
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	T	O	T	A	M	O	W	I	W	S	K	Q	S	A
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	Ā	K	I	T	A	W	Ā	W	B	M	X	I	W	I		

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

OTAHHTAWASO (Mover)	OMASINAHIKISIS (Receptionist)
OKITOHCKIKIW (Musician)	OKAKANIKIMOW (Social worker)
MASKIHKISKWIW (Nurse)	OKIMOW (Storekeeper)
OMISIMAW (Nun)	OWICIHIIWIW (Teacher aide)
SIMAKANSIKIMAW (Police chief)	OKISKINWĀHAMĀKIW (Teacher)
SIMAKANIS (Police officer)	
KISKINWAMAKIWIN (Principal [School])	
OMISKANAKIW (Road worker)	

# Easter Deliveries by the Flames

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

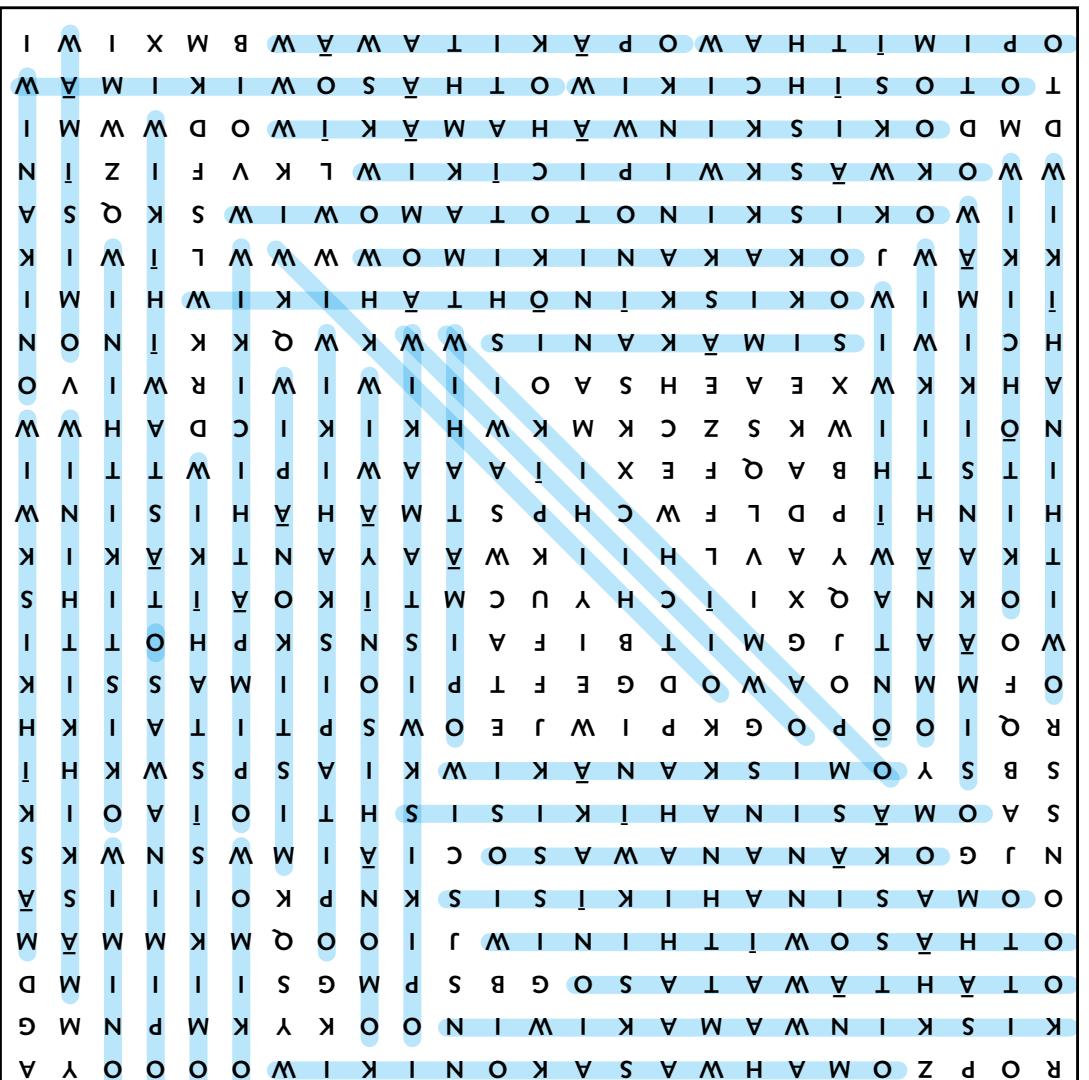
On April 16, our young hockey players delivered hampers filled with turkey, vegetables, stuffing, and all the fixings to homes across NCN.

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**



# Kinanaskomitinawaw – With Deepest Gratitude

On behalf of the Nisichawayasih Cree Nation, I extend our deepest gratitude to MKO Grand Chief Garrison Settee, MKO Chiefs and Councillors, the entire MKO team, and especially: Candice Schneider, Lorraine Spence, Kayleigh Pagee, Jill Macyshon, Kevin Carlson and Dorothy Smith for their hard work, dedication, and love in coordinating the beautiful event held in honour of our former Chief, Marcel Moody.

Your tireless efforts made this gathering not just possible, but meaningful in every way. Thank you for creating a space of dignity, respect, and celebration for a man who has given so much to our Nation and to all of northern Manitoba.

We also thank Ed Vystric of NCN Development Corporation, the NCN Dev Co Board, NCN Council and Executive Management Team! And a heartfelt thank you to every individual and organization who donated, supported,

and attended. To the family and friends of Chief Moody, and to every NCN citizen who holds him dear, thank you for your presence and your love.

A very special thank you to Peter and the incredible team at the Pony Corral on Pembina for going above and beyond to make this event truly unforgettable. Your hospitality and generosity did not go unnoticed.

Chief Moody's legacy of leadership and service continues to inspire all of us. We honour him not only with words, but with our ongoing commitment to the Nation he worked so hard to uplift.

With gratitude and love,  
Chief Angela Levasseur  
Nisichawayasih Cree Nation



# 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.

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

## **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



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.

# PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



**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**



## SAVE THE DATE

# 2Spirit Gathering July 8th and 9th, 2025



# Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

\*more details to follow

## NOTICE TO NCN CITIZENS

# CALL FOR **2026** **FUNDING** **APPLICATIONS**



NISICHAWAYASIHK TRUST (CAP)  
TASKINIGAHP TRUST (CIP)

**NISICAWAYASIHK TRUST - Community Approval Process (CAP)**

**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](http://www.ncncree.com) or email [kelly.spence@ncncree.com](mailto: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**

**JUNE 11 & 12, 2025**

**LOCATION: GILBERT MCDONALD ARENA**

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

**Explore Career & Job Opportunities**

**10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM**

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

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

For more information contact: HRDA Office

# 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.



# 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.

**FOOTPRINT LAKE WATER LEVELS**

**797.6** as of May 19

**DROPPING**



Nisichawayasiik Cree Nation  
General Delivery  
Nelson House, Manitoba R0B 1A0  
Phone: (204) 484-2332  
Fax: (204) 484-2392  
[www.ncncree.com](http://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](mailto: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 [@nisichawayasiik.](https://www.facebook.com/nisichawayasiik)

