SAULTEAU FIRST NATIONS

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024



FEATURED COMMUNITY NEWS

SFN CULTURAL CENTRE NEARING COMPLETION

Chief and Council are very excited and pleased to announce the Grand Opening of our Saulteau First Nations Cultural Centre on June 13th. We invite you all to join us in celebrating this historic event!

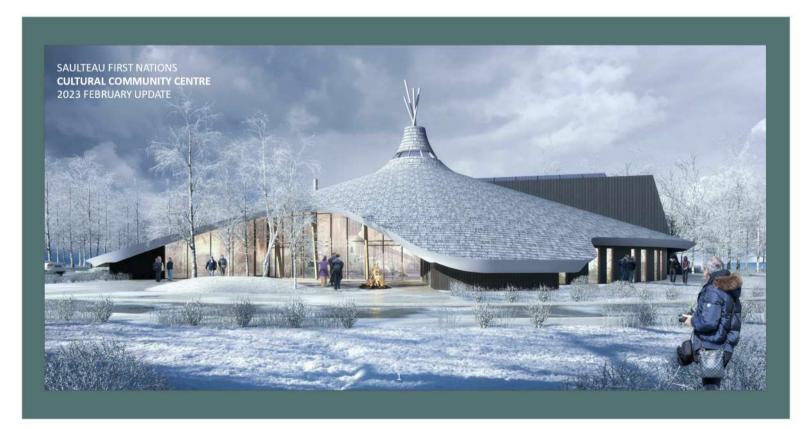
The Province of BC Ministers, and possibly Premier Eby, along with different First Nations leadership teams and many other guests will help us honour everyone who worked very hard at making this project a success.

The Cultural Centre will bring many opportunities for our community to enjoy. We can also open the doors to collaborate with surrounding communities to be a host for different functions.

From now until June we are wrapping up the construction phase, then landscaping and finally we are finishing up with the interior design and preparing to decorate for the Grand Opening.

In 2019 the nation submitted a proposal to ICIP (Investing Canada Infrastructure Program – through the Federal & Provincial Governments). We received 11.6 million of federal funding and from the provincial government we received 11 million and we as a nation contributed 4 million of own source revenue. The nation put out an RFP and it was decided that JENCOL was awarded the project, and they broke ground in May 2022.

In closing we hope to see you there to help us celebrate this memorable event!





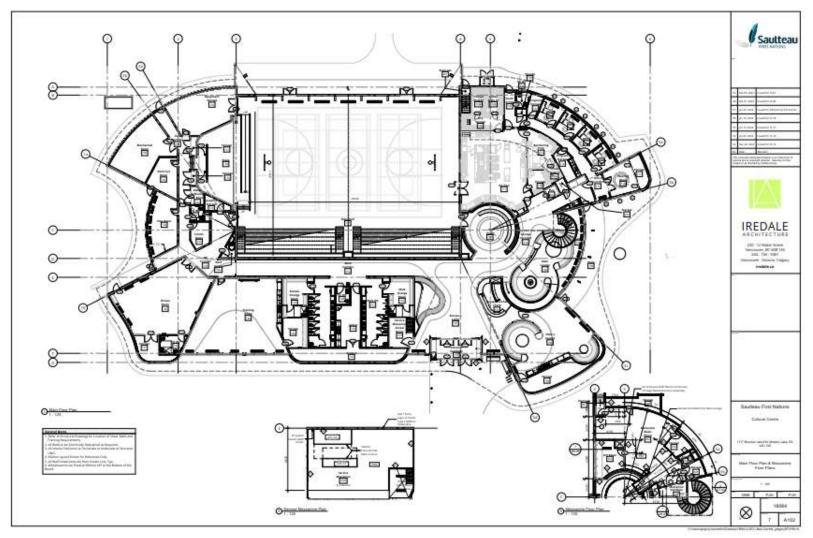












The SFN Cultural Centre Plans



Notice to Community

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO APRIL 5TH

Due to the large number of complaints and no feed, all unclaimed horses in the community pastures will be captured and removed by March 22th.

Owners are required to take their horses out of the community pastures, or they will be removed with the rest of the herd.

Chief and Council



PRIME MINISTER - PREMIER MINISTRE

March 21, 2024

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone marking National Indigenous Water Operator Day 2024.

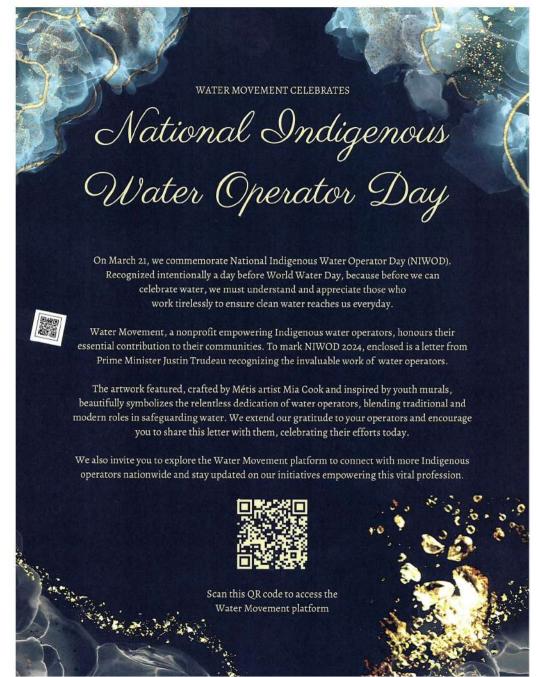
Indigenous water treatment operators manage and maintain an essential service. National Indigenous Water Operator Day is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the tireless efforts of those who work in this vital sector.

I would like to commend Indigenous water treatment operators for their hard work and dedication to providing safe, clean drinking water to their communities. You can take pride in your efforts to ensure the well-being of others.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable National Indigenous Water Operator Day.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P. Prime Minister of Canada







Thank you

Keith Glover, Cory Noskiye, & Barry Davis for your service to the Saulteau Nation.







July 12th & 13th 8:00 pm - 8:00 am

Pemmican Days NIGHT TIME SECURITY

GUARD

Call Out

DUTIES

- Nightly security walk arounds throughtout the Pemmican Grounds
- Make sure no alcohol or drugs are being consumed on the grounds
- Report any incidents that take place

\$250 Per Night

Please send a brief description of why'd you like to do this to Carlee at cwestgate@saulteau.com. All applications will be screened and voted on by the Committee.

Deadline for applications April 29th at 10:00 am



Looking for a

PHOTOGRAPHER

for this years Pemmican Days

WORKING HOURS:

JULY 12TH 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm

JULY 13th 10:00 am - 8:00 pm

JULY 14th 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

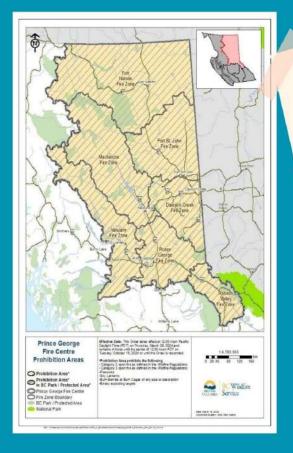
IF INTERESTED PLEASE SUBMIT A
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WHY
YOU WOUD LIKE THIS
OPPURTUNITY TO CARLEE AT
CWESTGATE@SAULTEAU.COM

ALL APPLICATIONS WILL BE SCREENED AND VOTED ON BY THE COMMITTEE!

DEADLINE IS APRIL 29TH AT 10:00AM

PG FIRE CENTER CATEGORY 2 & 3 FIRE BAN STARTING: MARCH 28/2024

(Ending: October 15/2024)





"Who is responsible for these fires?" WELL, HAVE YOU EVER -

LEFT A CAMPFIRE BURNING?



Fires should never be left unsupervised!

Put out all flames and cool off hot embers before leaving!

SET OFF FIREWORKS?

Hot embers from fireworks can land in dry grass or wooded areas starting fires!



FLICKED A SMOKE BUTT?

Even a tiny ember can start a fire!



Dispose of smoke butts in designated containers or locations!



USED ATV'S IN TALL GRASS?

Hot engine components and tailpipes can ignite dried grasses - all fire needs is fuel, oxygen and a spark!

Types of Open Fire

CATEGORY 2

A "category 2 open fire" means an open fire, other than a category 1 campfire, that burns:

- material in one pile not exceeding 2 metres in height and 3 metres in width,
- material concurrently in two piles each not exceeding 2 metres in height and 3 metres in width,
- stubble or grass over an area that does not exceed 0.2 hectares.

Types of Open Fire

CATEGORY 3

A "category 3 open fire" means a fire that burns:

- material concurrently in three or more piles, each not exceeding 2 metres in height and 3 metres in width,
- material in one or more piles each exceeding 2 metres in height or 3 metres in width,
- one or more windrows each not exceeding 200 metres in length or 15 metres in width, or
- stubble or grass over an area exceeding 0.2 hectares.

Ensure someone is always monitoring the fire so it doesn't spread. At least one person equipped with a firefighting hand tool must monitor the fire at all times.

3 m

Have an adequate fire suppression system available at the burn site for fire control if the fire escapes. Establish and maintain a fuel break around each area to be burned. If the fire spreads beyond the fuel break, the person who lit, fueled or used the open fire must:

- · carry out fire control immediately,
- extinguish the fire if practicable, and
- report the fire to a ministry official, peace officer or fire emergency response agency as soon as possible.
- Always check for open fire prohibitions or restrictions before engaging in any activity that could potentially cause a wildfire.
- Ensure you comply with the Environmental Management Act and Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation.
- Do not burn when venting conditions are poor or fair.
- Do not leave the fire unattended for any amount of time.
- The person who lights or maintains the fire must ensure that the fire is fully extinguished and the ashes are cold to the touch before leaving the area for any length of time.
- Anyone found in violation of an open fire prohibition may be fined up to \$1,150. If your fire escapes and results in a wildfire, you may be fined up to \$1 million, be sentenced up to 1 year in jail as well and be responsible for all fire fighting and associated costs.



Establish and maintain a fuel break around each pile, windrow, or grass or stubble area to be burned.

If the fire spreads beyond the fuel break, the person who lit, fueled or used the open fire must:

- · carry out fire control immediately,
- extinguish the fire if practicable, and
- · report the fire to a ministry official, peace officer or fire emergency response agency as soon as possible.
- Anyone lighting a category 3 fire must first obtain a burn registration number by calling 1 888 797-1717.
- Ensure you comply with the Environmental Management Act and Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation.
- Bo not burn when venting conditions are poor or fair.
- Ensure someone is always monitoring the fire so it doesn't spread beyond the fuel break. At least one person equipped with a fire-fighting hand tool must monitor the fire at all times.
- A person who lights, fuels or uses a category 3 open fire on a burn area must ensure that the category 3 open fire is extinguished by the date specified by the official or person who issued the burn registration number.
 - Anyone found in violation of an open fire prohibition may be fined up to \$1,150. If your fire escapes and results in a wildfire, you may be fined up to \$1 million, be sentenced up to 1 year in jail as well and be responsible for all fire fighting and associated costs.







'FIRE BANS'

HOW DO THEY APPLY?

'Fire Bans' are a tool the Province uses to regulate fire on Crown Land and private land; local jurisdictions (such as towns or Regional Districts) can also implement fire bans or regulation within their area.

WHY IS FIRE 'REGULATED'?

Poor forestry management practices and criminalization of indigenous forest stewardship has resulted in incredibly hazardous forest conditions throughout the province - regulating fire is one way in which the Province is trying to address the wildfire risk created through drought conditions, unmanaged vegetation and forest fuels, and risky human behavior.

WHAT IS A 'REGIONAL FIRE CENTER'?

Regional Fire Centers are the local representation of the Ministry of Forests and BC Wildfire Service throughout the province - Saulteau is located in the Prince George Fire Center. In the area we live, it is the Prince George Fire Center that issues 'fire bans'.

'FIRE BANS'

HOW DO THEY APPLY?

DO 'FIRE BANS' APPLY TO SAULTEAU MEMBERS?

They can, if a Saulteau Member is found to be violating an active fire ban outside of reserve territory - there could be serious consequences for that individual.

WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT 'FIRE BANS'?

When you are off reserve, fire bans can apply to your activities - stay up to date with local bans!

Fire Bans are made to align with risk level - it can help us understand the environmental conditions present, as well as BC Wildfires Response Capacity!

STAY UP TO DATE

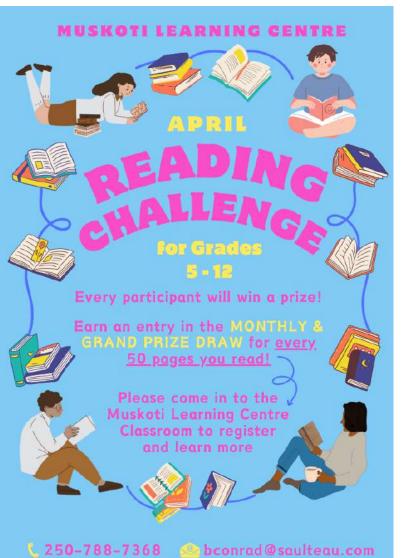
Pay attention to local TV & Radio!
Check the Web: Prince George Fire Center
Download the App: BC Wildfire Service App

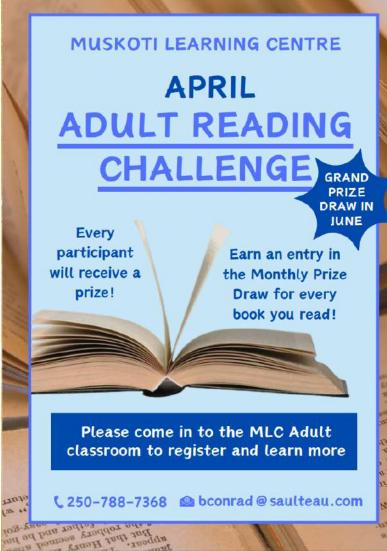
APRIL 2024

MUSKOTI LEARNING CENTRE EVENT CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
	1 Easter Monday MLC Closed	2	3 After School Club Birch Forest 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	4 Birch Water Harvesting	5	6	Notes:
7	8	9 Culture Day Birch Water Processing	10 After School Club Sports 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	11	12	13	MLC has Culture every 2nd Tueso We have a variet cultural craft available to any
14	15	16	17 After School Club Cultural Craft 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	18	19	20	who would like make a cultural on Culture Da
21	Earth Day	23 Culture Day Dream Catchers	24 After School Club Sports 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	25	26	27	Learning Centre the weight roo reserved for stud- use every Mon- from 2:00 - 3:00
28	29	30					

For registered MLC students. For event info. please phone (250-788-7368) or check in the classroom - dates & times may vary 🖈

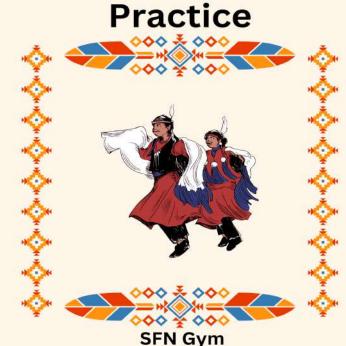












April 10th

4:30-5:30

Pow Wow Dance

Avileî-

April

Ayikî-pîsim Frog moon



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	l Easter Monday STAT	2 First Day back to School	3 PHE: Yoga	4 Birch Water Harvesting	5	6
7	8 PHE: Yoga	9	10 PHE: Yoga	11	12	13
14	15 PHE: Yoga	16	17 PHE: Yoga	18	19	20
21	22 PHE: Yoga	23	24 PHE: Yoga	25 Chetwynd RCMP K4 Visit	26 Field-Trip Chetwynd RCMP	27
28	29 PHE: Yoga	30				0.0

Notes:

May - PHE is Swimming lessons @ CLP Students will need a towel and swim wear every Monday & Wednesday



>>>>>







Where? SFN Youth Center 5117 43A st. Chetwynd When? April 7th @ 9am

YouthCenter

SITTING COURSE

Limited Spots available to book contact Derek (250)401-3498 or dwood@saulteau.com

Ages 11-16 🕢

lunch provided 🕢

Doors open @ 830am

No transportation available, osorry for the inconvenience





DREAM CAMP ANNOUNCMENT!

APRIL 26-29, 2024

SAULTEAU FIRST NATIONS

OPEN TO ALL SURROUNDING NATIONS

FRIDAY: 5PM-830PM

MONDAY: 5PM-830PM



FREE YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP CAMP SPONSORED BY **SHELL**

(INDIGENOUS YOUTH AGES 11-18)

Explore the basics of business and learn how to run your own company! Learn how to turn your ideas into reality!

EACH YOUTH RECEIVES \$100 MASTERCARD FOR PARTICIPATING, AND THE WINNING **TEAM RECEIVES \$250 EACH + FREE SWAG!**

AT THE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION DINNER ON APRIL 29TH!

DREAM CAMP INCLUDES:

- Breakfast & Lunch
- Shirt & Swag
- Team Coaches to help Youth tackle Challenges and develop valuable business, teamwork and life skills such as negotiating, public speaking and budgeting.
- Lots of hands-on activities to create a start-up plan and Team Pitch video for YOUR business ideas.







SCAN OR CODE TO REGISTER

Email: rowan@BearsLairTV.com Phone: Geena Jackson (604) 306-7736



EMPOWERED BY:

April 2024

•					17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 April's Fool Day CLOSED	2 Men's Group-NBH Drum Making 6-8pm Heather's Health Hour 10am Come learn about Measles	ML Community Hall	4 LBH Diamond Villow & Chag- Spm-8pm NBH Dinner provided	5	6
7	8	9 Elder's Group Free Haircuts 11 am -1pm Gym Men's Group NBH Drum Making 6-8 pm	10 NA Meeting 8pm ML Community Hall	11 Igpnotherapg w/Kane H(8am-4:30pm LBH Pemmicam Practice 5 pm -8 pm Grounds	12	13
14	15 Nassage Therapist- NB	16 Men's Group-NBH Drum Making 6-8pm	17 NA Meeting 8pm ML Community Hall	18 leartCore Sound Healin HC 10am-4pm 'hysio therapy 8am-4pm Beading Key Chain-NBH 5-8pm	Support Team	20
21	22	23 Elder's Game Day Crib & Cards 11am-1pm Men's Group NBH Drum Making 6-8 pm	24 NA Meeting 8pm ML Community Hall	25 abetic Foot Care (Drea 8:30 am HC	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	1	selling (Contact Rebecca Wi rm Reduction (Contact Annic Tracy 250-788-7266)	Heather offers (by a riddicoml HPV (Cervical cance ie Miller (Education on all heal Narcan with Educatio TB screening, Immu	cer) screening alth topics ion	Harm Reduction Supplies Annie Miller

(Contact Savannah Norris 250-788-7375)

Pemmican Days
Committee Meeting

April 3rd 10:00 am -12:00 pm

Band Hall Gym

THINKING AHEAD AIR PURIFIERS

March '24

Wildfire Smoke will likely effect air quality for most of the summer - now is the time to find the right air purifier for you!

Baby,Flu,Pneumoni-

Look for.

- HEPA Filter System
- Size / Capacity
- Clean Air Delivery Rate (CARD)

For those with medical related concerns, chat with the SFN Health Center about options!





FNHA Mobile Support Team April 19th, 2024 @ Health Center

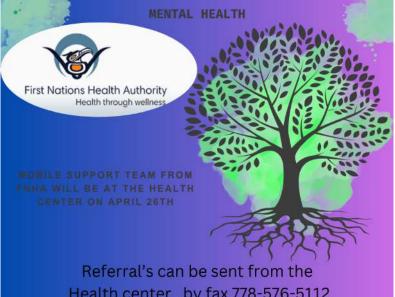


Referral's can be sent from the
Health center, by fax 778-576-5112
or To book an appointment,
please contact
Shamalla Masitsa, MA, RCC - Clinician
250-261-1484
Joseph Topping, MS FNMST - Clinician
250-262-7613
Angel Sumka, MA, RCC FNMST - Clinician
250-793-5090

Massage Therapist

Jaclyn Johnson, RMT of
NuBalance Massage Therapy will
be at New Beginings House on
April 15th. Please contact the
Health Center to book.
250-788-7280





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Health center, by fax 778-576-5112
or To book an appointment,
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Shamalla Masitsa, MA, RCC - Clinician
250-261-1484
Joseph Topping, MS FNMST - Clinician
250-262-7613
Angel Sumka, MA, RCC FNMST - Clinician
250-793-5090



NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS (NA) MEETINGS WEDNESDAYS

(a) 8PM AT THE MOBERLY LAKE COMMUNITY HALL OPEN

TO SAULTEAU AND WEST MOBERLY MEMBERS



CONFIDENTIAL AND SUPPORTIVE SELF-HELP GROUP FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS FOR WHOM SUBSTANCES ARE OR HAVE BEEN A CHALLENGE. NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED.



Northern Nations Wellness Centre

... "a health system that respects the cultural values and practices that are integral to Indigenous identities and wellness"...

WE ARE BEGINNING TO BUILD OUR PRIMARY CARE CLINIC TEAM



Current Employment Opportunities Include:







Contract for Services Opportunities Include:





FULL JOB POSTINGS AND INFORMATION
ON HOW TO APPLY CAN BE VIEWED AT
https://windspeaker.com/job-board





MEN'S GROUP

DRUM MAKING

All Supplies & Dinner Included

DATE:

Tuesday April 16, 2024 & Tuesday April 30, 2024

LOCATION:

New Beginnings House

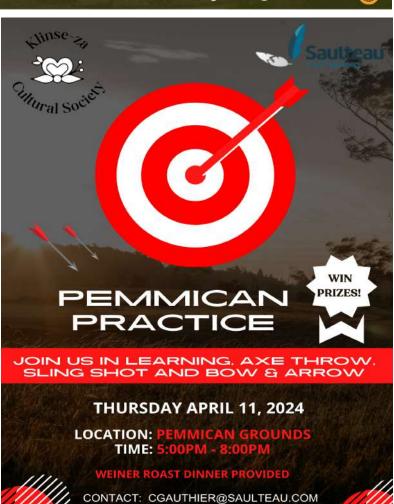
TIME:

6:00PM - 8:00PM



2 DAY CLASS - LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE - TO SIGN UP PLEASE CONTACT

Contact: Cory Noskiye (250) -874-7333



PHONE: (250) 788-7262



INDIGENOUS BUSINESS INCUBATOR

For aspiring Indigenous entrepreneurs to realize their dreams

THE PROGRAM

The IBI is for early-stage Indigenous artists and creators to test their ideas within a Lean Business Plan framework, while emphasizing Indigenous ways of knowing and being in a modern ecosystem.

Training topics address four key business start-up activities

- Business Readiness
- Operations
- Marketing Finance

PLUS you will receive.

Tips on taking good photos of your products.
An introduction to how Artificial Intelligence can impact business.

PLUS if you attend all the training sessions and complete your Lean Business Plan you may qualify to participate in a trade show.

PROGRAM LENGTH

Two 3 hour on-line training Starting: May 15, 2024.

PROGRAM COST:

This is a fully sponsored program for successful applicants, thanks to the generous sponsorship from PacifiCan and Toronto Dominion Bank.

CONTRACTELIGIBILITY

- Have a business idea related to the arts Access to a printer/scanner, computer or tablet and reliable internet access

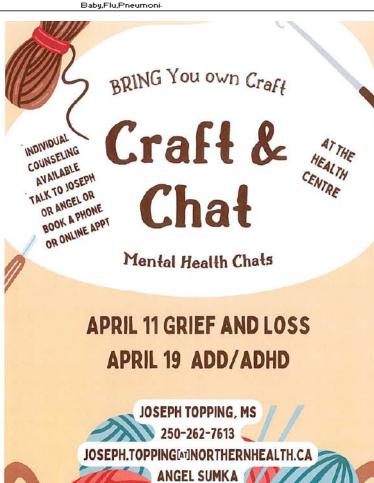
APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 15, 2024
APPLY NOW AT: IBI@CAPILANOU.CA

April 2024

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
		Elder's Game Day Crib & Cards 11am-1pm	NA Meeting 8pm ML Community Hall	abetic Foot Care (Drea 8:30 am HC	Craft & Chat Ham-2pm HC BIPOLAR DISORDER		
		Men's Group NBH Drum Making 6-8 pm					
28	29	30	31	1	2	3	
4	5	Services Available on Request Youth and Wellness Counselling (Contact Rebecca Widdicoml HPV (Cervical cancer) screening Adult Mental Health & Harm Reduction (Contact Annie Miller & Education on all health topics Dr Banas (Contact MOA Tracy 250-788-7266) Narcan with Education Home Support Services -including homemaking TB screening, Immu (Contact Savannah Norris 250-788-7375) Baby,Flu,Pneumoni					

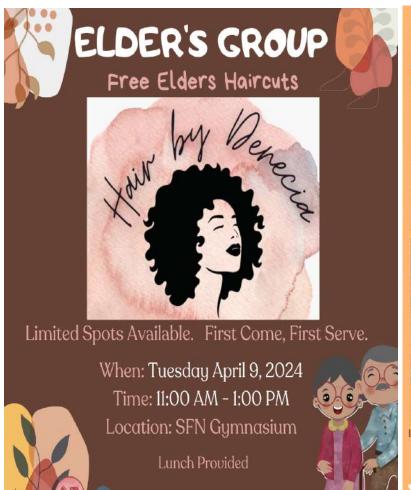


Contact: cgauthieresaulteau.com (250) 788-7262



250-793-5090

ANGEL.SUMKA[AT]NORTHERNHEALTH.CA











2 Day Class Sign Up All Supplies & Supper Included

Location: New Beginning's House

Dates: Thursday April 18, 2024 5:00 - 8:00pm

> Thursday April 25, 2024 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Limit of 8 spots available please contact to sign up.

Email: cgauthier@saulteau.com Phone: (250) 788-7262



ontact: cgauthier@saulteau.com (250) 788-7262

Income & Disability Assistance Clients

Declaration Week

April 8-11 2024

Payment Date

April 17, 2024

Job search activity & necessary utility bills must be submitted with declarations during declaration week for clients required to do so

Please contact Falon Gauthier at 250-788-7286 or email fgauthier@saulteau.com for any questions or concerns.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE Infected deer, elk, and moose carcasses can spread CWD. Oderected in BC!!! Oderected in BC!!!



If you hunt outside of BC, be aware of the risks of introducing CWD.

Be part of the solution!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- 🚾 cait.nelson@gov.bc.ca
- 1 /250) 751-3219
- www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease





Going hunting?

Scan the QR Code below to find out how and where to submit samples.



CALLING ALL FOOD VENDORS FOR THIS YEARS

PEMMICAN DAYS 2024

JULY 13TH, 14TH 2024



ALL VENDORS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE VALID FOOD SAFE AND INSURANCE TO OPERATE. THERE WILL BE A ONE TIME \$50 FEE FOR THE WEEKEND FOR ALL FOOD VENDORS.

PLEASE REGISTER BY JUNE 3RD 2024!!

TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT JAMIE KRISTOFFY AT JKRISTOFFY@SAULTEAU.COM



SFN PEMMICAN DAYS

SEEKING ARTISAN VENDORS

JULY 12-14TH, 2024



IF INTERESTED, PLEASE SUBMIT A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SELL & THE SIZE OF YOUR BOOTH OR TENT (EX. 10X10 TENT ETC.) BY JUNE 3RD

Email: cwestgate@saulteau.com

Phone: 250-788-7271





THIS YEAR'S PEMMICAN DAYS COMMITTEE IS LOOKING
FOR 3 VOLUNTEERS TO RUN THIS YEAR'S
PUGEESEE TENT!

YOU WOULD BE PAID \$500.00 PER DAY. PLEASE SEND A
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WHY YOU WOULD LIKE THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO CARLEE AT
CWESTGATE@SAULTEAU.COM.

THE COMMITTEE WILL SCREEN EACH APPLICATION AND TAKE A VOTE.

DEADLINE IS APRIL 29TH, 2024 AT 10:00 AM



This year's Pemmican Days Committee is looking for someone to run this year's Meat Rack!

Areas of work:

Cutting meat, cooking foods, heavy lifting, maintaining a fire, and keeping the area clean

You must provide your own team. Each person will be paid \$500.00 per day.

Please send a brief description to Carlee at cwestgate@saulteau.com about why you'd like this opportunity.

The committee will screen each application and take a vote.

The Deadline is April 29th 2024 at 10:00 am



HOUSING



APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

HOW TO PREVENT MOLD FROM GROWING!

Mold needs moisture to grow, Controlling the moisture and keeping the house dry can help to prevent the growth of mold.

Check your house for signs of moisture or mold. Find out if water is coming in from the outside or if lots of moisture is produced inside the house.

Check your house foundation, walls and roof for leaks. Check for plumbing leaks.

Think of different ways that moisture is produced inside the house (For example, cooking and bathing). Remove moisture as it is produced by opening a window or using exhaust fans.

Reduce the amount of stored materials, especially items that are no longer used. Fabrics, paper, wood and practically anything that collects dust and holds moisture.







HOW TO CLEAN UP SMALL AREAS OF MOLD!

You can clean small areas of mold yourself. Wear rubber gloves, glasses or safety goggles, a dust mask and a shirt with long sleeves.

Washable surfaces-

 Scrub with a detergent solution; then sponge with a clean, wet rag and dry quickly.

Moldy drywall-

 Clean the surface with a damp rag using baking soda or a bit of detergent. Do not allow the drywall to get too wet.

MOLD-PROOFING YOUR HOUSE, ROOM BY ROOM!

Basement or Crawl Space-

- Get rid of clothes, paper and furniture stored in your basement. Keep only items you can wash. Throw out wet and badly damaged or musty smelling materials. Keep the basement tidy so air can move around more easily.
- Store firewood in a shed or garage, not inside the house.
- Avoid having carpets on the basement floor.
- Periodically clean the drain in your basement floor. Keep the drain trap filled with water.
- A dehumidifier can help to reduce moisture.
- Avoid standing water.
- When storing items, use plastic bins rather than cardboard.

Laundry-

- Make sure your dryer hose is connected to the outside exhaust vent.
- Remove lint every time you use the dryer.
- Avoid hanging wet laundry inside the house.
- Dry your laundry tub and washing machine after you use them.

Closets and Bedrooms-

 Get rid of clothing or other stored items that you don't use. Keeping you closets and bedrooms tidy makes it easier for air to circulate and harder for mold to grow.







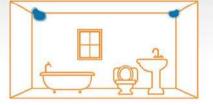
FIVE STEPS TO REMOVING MOULD FROM YOUR HOME

- FIND, STOP AND FIX THE SOURCE OF THE MOISTURE PROBLEM
- 3 REMOVE ALL WET OR DAMAGED MATERIALS
- PREVENT EXPOSURE TO MOULD AND DEBRIS
- 5 RESTORE OR RENOVATE
 THE CLEANED UP AREA

CLEAN UP THE MOULD



- · Has less than three patches.
- · One square metre in size each.
- Can clean it yourself if you are in good health.
- Clean using water and unscented dishwashing detergent.





- · Has more than three patches.
- Total area is smaller than three square metres.
- Should be cleaned up by qualified and trained maintenance staff.





- Total area covers more than three square metres.
- Large patches throughout the home.
- Should be cleaned up by qualified and trained mould remediation contractors.



April 2024



Tansi Friends and Family



The Lands Department is embarking on an ambitious expansion to our team, recruiting staff and welcoming returning staff. This newsletter briefing encapsulates the latest developments and implications of this significant endeavor

Land Code: reflecting a concerted effort to meet the growing demand for land and land resources, we are in the stages of developing a draft land code to facilitate the management of our own lands. By adopting the Framework Agreement, we are putting land management, land use processes and law developments into our own capable hands for governing our own land and land resources.

"The Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management provides the option to First Nations of withdrawing their reserve land from the land management provisions of the Indian Act in order to exercise control over their land and resources for the use and benefit of their Members; under the Framework Agreement, Canada recognizes that First Nations have a unique connection to and constitutionally protected interest in their lands, including decision-making, governance, jurisdiction, legal traditions, and fiscal relations associated with those lands;

Under the Framework Agreement, Canada has committed to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in a manner consistent with the Canadian Constitution and the Framework Agreement acknowledges that Canada's special relationship with First Nations will continue.

Land Code does not affect any rights of a First Nation under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples."

Lot Application Lot Applications are in Full Swing- With a new lands officer and a new GIS assistant in place, lot applications are now progressing swiftly with priority, signaling the department's commitment to streamline administrative procedures and foster development.

**Community Impact: ** As the lands department expands and moves forward with projects, there will be significant ramifications for our community, necessitating careful planning and community involvement. The Lands Department is poised to maintain its momentum, with further expansions and initiatives on the horizon.

The Lands Department's expansion and accelerated lot application process represent a pivotal juncture in land management and development. As we navigate this dynamic landscape, opportunities abound for community empowerment.

For more information and updates, stay tuned to our newsletters and official communications channels (social media pages). Community members are encouraged to actively engage with the Lands Department to stay abreast of developments and contribute to the shaping of future policies.

Respectfully submitted, SFN Lands Department

















Klinse-Za Caribou Herd Recovery Program Habitat Restoration Newsletter



External: Issued March 12, 2024

Project Year → 6

Project length → ~10

The Nîkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society

The Nîkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society is a joint project of the West Moberly First Nations and Saulteau First Nations. Nîkanêse Wah tzee is dedicated to the recovery of the Klinse-Za mountain caribou and the restoration of their habitat. When the greater Klinse-Za herd dwindled from 198 animals in 1995 to just 36 animals in 2013, intervention was required to avoid herd extirpation, predicted at that pace to occur as early as 2015. Predator management was initiated in 2013 and in 2014 the Society spearheaded the first caribou maternal pen, which celebrated its 10th consecutive year of operation in 2023. While these measures have reversed the downward trajectory of the herd, nearly quadrupling numbers to ~132 animals in early 2023, these actions do not address the original reason for the decline. In the long term, habitat loss and degradation must be addressed, and ecosystems restored, if caribou in Klinse-Za and beyond are to be self-sustaining again, and Indigenous communities are to exercise their treaty rights. We are healing the land to make caribou habitat whole again, supporting people, wildlife, and the time-honoured relationship between them.

Habitat disturbance in the Klinse-Za herd range

Historically, high elevation caribou range in BC has experienced relatively little disturbance by humans due to its remoteness. However, increasing anthropogenic disturbance and activity over the past several decades have been encroaching on these mountainous areas, changing the landscape. This has been detrimental to caribou. In the Klinse-Za caribou herd area, the roads and cutblocks generated by forestry have the largest spatial footprint of any disturbance type, but electricity generating infrastructure, electricity transmission lines, oil and gas infrastructure, and major roadways are also present. Over time,



Figure 1. Map of the Klinse-Za caribou herd area (green), the six sites treated in 2023 (red) and the rest of the restoration sites in the monitoring phase or scheduled for future restoration treatments (yellow).

these disturbances have accumulated and encroached on the habitats most critical to caribou, particularly the valleys next to alpine caribou range. This spatial arrangement of disturbance is believed to bring more predators closer to caribou and can facilitate predator travel into caribou range, increasing the risk of predation to caribou.

In 2017 the Society expanded its focus from maternal penning and predator management to on-the-ground habitat restoration projects and a humble 2 km road near the Bickford Maternity Pen. Over the next five years, 12 more restoration sites would be added and over 90 km of roads and a fire guard would be treated in some manner.

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Restoration progress in 2023

In 2023, restoration treatments were conducted on six sites in the Klinse-Za herd area. These sites, indicated in red (Figure 1) are close/adjacent to critical caribou habitat in the alpine. Each site is composed of roads that at one time supported forestry development. Some roads were built in the 1990s, and some in approximately 2017-2020. In all, 34 km of roads were treated using mechanical site preparation. In this restoration approach, heavy machinery is used to dig up road surfaces, creating hospitable growing conditions for planted seedlings, and making the roads less suitable as travel



Figure 2. A site in the Callazon-Clearwater area, a recently treated road on the right, and the heavy machinery sitting on a road it is about to treat on the left.

paths for humans and animals. In addition, 9 km of roads mechanically site prepared in previous years were planted with tree seedlings. Over time we hope these seedlings will become part of the next forest.



Figure 3. A recently recontoured road.

The picture above (Figure 2) shows a road junction in which the road heading to the right has been dug up and coarse woody debris or organic matter available nearby has been spread over top to help with soil development and provide shelter for future seedlings. On the left side of that same picture is the machine responsible, sitting on a road it is about to work on next. A variation of this mechanical site preparation is called road recontouring or resloping (Figure 3, left). When a road is constructed, the flat surface of the road is often made by moving the soil and organic matter to the downslope side of the road. Recontouring involves pulling that material back up onto the road and trying to return the area close to the slope that was there before the road was built. This technique is most useful on steep slopes, areas of slope stability concerns, or bottleneck points for access to an area. It can also more closely mimic pre-disturbance hydrological patterns

compared to other mechanical site preparation methods, and has an intangible benefit of appearing more natural. The downside of the technique that it can be much more expensive than the type of treatment completed in Figure 2, depending on the road. When and where to use these two techniques and all others available in the 'tool kit' is part of the nuance of this kind of work. Ultimately, we seek the best outcomes for caribou, humans, and the greater ecosystem itself.

Measuring and modifying as we go: the importance of camera traps

Habitat restoration is an emerging field and our understanding of both the theory and the implementation of restoration is continuously evolving. This project is one of the first large-scale attempts to restore mountainous caribou habitat across an entire herd's range. As such, we are using a combination of well-established ecological principles and an experimental mindset to achieve our objectives, while also learning and adapting. This is what makes our effectiveness monitoring program so essential – watching what happens at treatment sites provides us with the data that is critical for evaluating whether the work we are doing today is helping us restore habitat for caribou, tomorrow.



Figure 2. A bull caribou travelling along a planted linear corridor.

Our primary effectiveness monitoring tool is our camera trap monitoring program, now in its sixth year. The camera traps allow us to better understand if or to what degree the restoration treatments affect human and wildlife use of a given location. Ideally we want to make former roads unpleasant or challenging for both humans and animals to travel on. In 2023 our 232 cameras took approximately 998,000

photos, providing rich data but creating photo classification challenges. This year we continued using MegaDetector software which runs a preliminary screening to filter out 'empty' photos (no visible human or animal). To get an idea of the quantity of photos being filtered out by MegaDetector, one random restoration site was chosen. At just this one site, MegaDetector reduced the 235,036 photos taken by 19 cameras down to 43,448, an 81.5% decrease. This would not translate to a 81.5% decrease in time required for humans to complete the photo classification — empty pictures are classified faster than non-empty pictures, and there's some extra picture handling time preparing and running it through MegaDetector — but it certainly helps. The percentage of photos filtered out by the software is likely to vary by restoration site but the important thing is we're trying to maximize the amount of non-empty pictures that the human classifiers are looking at without accidentally filtering out important ones.





We will continue our efforts to maximize the positive results for caribou and make best use of all resources, directed to our ultimate goal of achieving self-sustaining caribou herds. Thank-you to all our incredible sponsors and various colleagues for supporting this project.

Stay tuned for the next update in the fall, with stories and photos from our 2024 field season.

The teams

- Nîkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society
 - o West Moberly First Nations (Chief Roland Willson, Tamara Dokkie)
 - Saulteau First Nations (Carmen Richter, Naomi Owens-Beek)
 - Executive Director (Candace Batycki)
- Restoration Implementation
 - West Moberly First Nations' Land Guardian Program (Buckley Brertton, Patricia Brown, Gloria Morris)
 - Saulteau First Nations' Land Guardian Program (Starr Gauthier, Lucas Talving, Ty Murfitt, Jess Eastman)
 - o Wildlife Infometrics (Scott McNay, Line Giguere, Rachelle Foubert)
 - o EcoSpur Environmental (Blake Spencer)
 - Biodiversity Pathways (Clayton Lamb)
 - Canadian Forest Products Ltd.
 - o Conifex Timber
 - o BC Timber Sales
- <u>Support Teams</u> Skyline Ventures Ltd., West Moberly-DWB LP, 4Evergreen Resources LP, Heli Source Ltd.



Thank you to our sponsors and collaborators¹



¹ Current and historic



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Tânisi Saulteau community, family and friends,

Recently attended the BC Invasive Species Forum in New Westminster. Was a 4 day forum with workshops and significant keynote speakers from Venezuela and Europe. The total cost to the 2023 world economy for invasives was estimated to be over \$400 billion.

https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/04/climate/invasive-species-cost-ipbes.html

The surprising thing for me was how Invasives are starting to impact food security, soils preservation, watershed viability and risk management (increased fires). A lot of other BC FN's have started species management programs with community volunteers trained to identify, report and deal with invasives for their community, watershed and forest. I am planning to start a community based invasive management program here at Saulteau in 2024 with our first meeting May 8, 6 pm, at the SFN gymnasium.



Please call, email or drop by the Lands Office if you are interested or would like to discuss this further.

Kinanaskomitin,

Tom 250-788-6442 tom.aird@saulteau.com

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