

Chief & Council

Newsletter



Chief and Council would like to start by saying a big thank you to all of those who voted and supported each one of us through the SFN 2020 Elections this past June.

As we all adapt to the new way of life around COVID-19, the Nation will continue to practice social distancing and taking all necessary precautions to keep our community safe. During this time, we all need to participate, recognize, and accept that COVID-19 is still very much active and does remain a serious concern to us all. As we continue to do our due diligence by practicing social distancing, hand washing, wearing masks in public spaces, keeping to your “social bubbles” and to not hold or attend large gatherings, we appreciate your cooperation during these trying times.

Chief & Council would like to apologize for not being able to hold family meetings or band generals but we do want to make sure that we are following the health guidelines around COVID-19 as well as keeping everyone safe. We do appreciate everyone’s understanding and patience around this issue. We also acknowledge that there has been a disconnection in communication with membership. With the recent hire of the Nation’s new Communications Coordinator Jesse Gayse, we would like to welcome him into our community and know that he will help fill that gap in communication.

That being said, we are providing this Chief & Council Newsletter specifically to share information. The purpose of the Newsletter is *not* to replace family meetings or band generals, but until we are able to accommodate those meetings we still want to continue to be as transparent as possible with membership which brings us to this newsletter.

Chief & Council are always working hard behind the scenes attending virtual meetings with Industry, Government, Local Businesses, Consultants and Lawyers. All while working with the Director of Operations and SFN Management to assure that the Nation is continuing to operate as normally as we can around COVID-19 and providing services to members within reason.

Mistahiya

Update



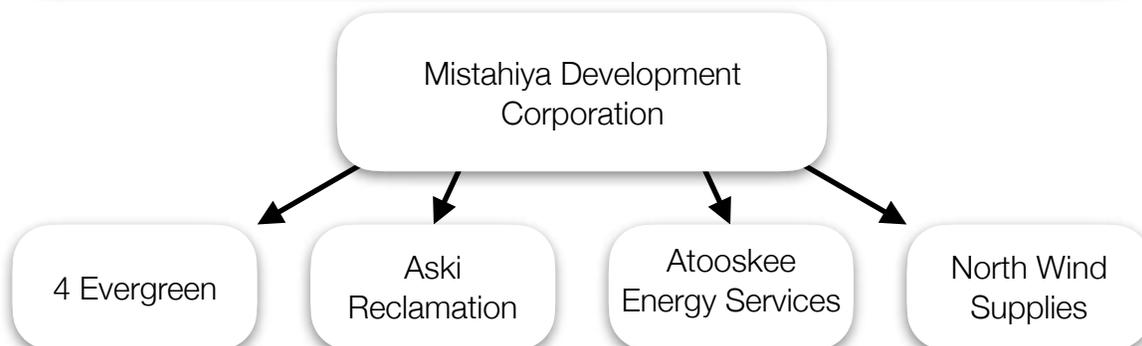
What is Mistahiya?

Mistahiya is the governance organization that administers Saulteau First Nations owned businesses, such as *4Evergreen* and *Aski Reclamation*.

There will be job opportunities in the New Year as new business open.

Mistahiya will ensure that each Saulteau First Nations business honours the values of the Nation. with long-term economic benefit to the Nation, along with strong and transparent governance.

Mistahiya Structure



Company Responsibilities

4Evergreen Resources: Operating since 2005, *4EG* provides construction services to the resource industries in our territory.

Aski Reclamation: Operating since 2019, *Aski* provides reclamation services to the resource industries in our territory.

Atooskee Energy Services: Opening December 2020, *Atooskee* will provide a gas card lock to approved card holders.

North Wind Supplies: Opening February 2021, *NWS* will be a provider of quality consumables and maintenance, repair, and operational supplies.

COVID-19

Update



This is a reminder that as COVID numbers continue to increase, we need to be extra cautious and mindful of the current global situation. Please continue to wear a mask in public spaces, physically distance, and wash your hands frequently.

The Province of BC and Dr. Bonnie Henry have enforced new regulations and restrictions during this uncertain time. **Masks are now mandatory** for everyone in public indoor settings and workplaces.

We must work together to overcome this challenging time. If you are not following guidelines, they are enforceable under the Public Health Act. *Under the Government's Emergency Program Act, orders may be enforceable by law, including RCMP involvement.* People who do not follow these orders could face fines.

Please note, Chetwynd General Hospital does not have the capacity to adequately manage an increase in COVID cases. Our closest COVID Centre is in Fort St. John and is limited in capacity. The medical system is quickly being overwhelmed and we need to protect those who are most vulnerable and do our part to keep everyone safe.

If you are experiencing any symptoms, regardless of how minor, please stay home and monitor your symptoms.



Masks have a role to play in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Masks act as a barrier and help stop the spread of droplets from a person's mouth and nose when talking, laughing, yelling, singing, coughing, or sneezing.



Physical distancing means limiting close contact with others.

When outside of your home, practice social distancing by keeping two meters away from one another is something we can all do to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

RCMP

New Liaison & Community Safety



We want to welcome SFN's new RCMP Liaison Officer *Alexi Verdurmen* into the community. We have met Constable *Alexi Verdurmen* and feel he is going to be a great fit in our community and look forward to seeing him participate with activities in our nation and getting involved with our people.

We want to also thank Constable *L.A. Cruz* for his service in the past two years and wish him well on his journey ahead.

We also want to inform membership that The Nation has an agreement with the RCMP Detachment in Chetwynd. This agreement has a defined list of requirements the RCMP Liaison has to uphold. Some of the requirements include the following:

A. Violence in Relationships / Elder Abuse - Awareness initiatives and consultation – Increased monitoring and information sharing.

B. Reduce and assist with the Person(s) with a substance misuse disorder / Alcohol and Drug Disease and who have active addictions. - Education through positive interactions and referrals in assisting the understanding of addictive disorders as a medical issue. - Enforcement and prosecution which is treatment based in order to reduce the stigma and stereotyping of these disorders.

C. Traffic enforcement - Impaired operation of motor vehicles on and off Reserve - Speed Enforcement on 70 km/hr Zone.

D. Youth / Community / Reconciliation - Language and Cultural Education and participation. - Elder Identification and Interaction with RCMP members. - Presence in the community through routine patrols and Sporting / Cultural Events.

Constable Alexi will also have an office space within the main SFN Admin Building which is required by the Tripartite agreement between the following parties; SFN, the Federal Government and the RCMP Detachment. His office space and hours are still yet to be determined at this time but please be sure to watch out for a poster with this information in the near future.

The purpose of having an RCMP Liaison within community is to make sure we have a safe community for all residents and visitors. We want to remind the people within the SFN community that this is a good thing. We would like to welcome *Alexi* with open arms and treat him with the respect he deserves, he is not here to make people feel targeted by any means he is here to help serve and protect the community and our members.

Purchased Properties

by Saulteau First Nations

In the previous term of Chief & Council there was various community engagement meetings to discuss different opportunities to purchase land. Members who participated in some of these meetings filled out a survey to give their feedback on what they felt was a good real estate purchase.

The outcome of the survey was to find out which lands they preferred to purchase. The survey made it clear to C&C that the majority of membership was in agreement with the Nation purchasing the following real estate options.

South Moberly Property

The South Moberly property with the lakefront lodge has been purchased and is currently vacant at this time. Previous C&C completed a feasibility study by Legacy Group based on the idea of the lodge and property becoming an Eco-Tourism destination and restaurant. So far, some shrubs and trees have been cleared around the lodge and the lodge itself has been sanded down to make it look new and up to date. We have big plans moving forward but at this time nothing has been decided on as we are seeking all options to best occupy this property.

This year, an application was submitted to Canada and as of yet we still have not received notification of approval. However, if we do get approved, the funding would cover the cost to renovate the lodge and to build six cabins. This could be used as an aftercare facility with different programs for individuals returning from treatment centres. This facility would offer employment and a support system for anyone in need to have a safe place to continue their recovery. This type of facility is not found anywhere in the Northern Region even though there is a high demand. Our hope is to better support our people who are trying to make an effort in improving their mental health and keeping their sobriety.

The property is currently zoned under the PRRD and we are trying to rezone this area but are waiting on a survey in order to move forward.

80 Acres of Land In Dawson Creek

The 80 acres that was purchased in Dawson is located across from the airport and we named it Big Bear Property. With this area there has been discussion on what this land could be used for. Potential development ideas could include a truck stop

and hotel. Nothing has been decided as of yet but we do have plans to do more community engagement in the near future to discuss with membership more ideas.

Rental units in Chetwynd

SFN owns two rental properties in Chetwynd, one is located in the Rodeo Grounds and the other is located close to Link’s Pub near the industrial area. Both properties are fully rented at market price with leases signed by the tenants who were living in the units prior to SFN purchasing them. Both properties are managed by a Property Manager through the REMAX in Chetwynd.

Sukunka Wind Farm

On November 16th, the last blade was hoisted up 135 metres to complete the installation of our Sukunka Wind Project. The next day the switch was turned on and the turbines started making electricity.

Thanks to our team in the Lands Office for making this the most environmentally-friendly green energy project in BC. A congratulations to all the Saulteau members who worked on this major construction project. Over two construction seasons about 100 people, including our own 4EG crews, worked hard to get us here on time and on budget.

Now we are leading the way for indigenous green energy in BC. Our new wind farm is the largest indigenous majority-owned project in BC. The next steps include some final tests of the systems, and then early next year we will start selling our electricity to BC Hydro.

We are the proud owners this project, and that means significant benefits will continue to flow to our community for the next 40 years and beyond.



Roger Harris

SFN Consultant & Economic Development Officer

For all of the band members who don't know Roger, he has worked for Saulteau since 2012 as our consultant and also as an Economic Development Officer. During his time working for Saulteau he has negotiated many different agreements with industry, local companies and joint ventures for our nation. During these negotiations, he makes sure our people are involved and included on the many different projects that take place in our northern territory. He also makes sure our band owned companies like *4EG* and *Aski* are getting a portion of the work as well. Just to name a few industry companies like *BCHydro*, *Shell* and *Conuma Coal*, Roger discusses with them how the nation owned companies and people in our nation can work together. Roger also meets with our joint ventures and negotiates percentages that come back to the nation.

Roger is a great asset to our nation and we want to acknowledge him with the great work that he has done for our people and our nation. He has negotiated millions of dollars in agreements for our companies and for our joint ventures on behalf of the *Saulteau First Nations*.

Thank-you Roger for all you do, we highly appreciate your knowledge and expertise in all of these negotiations. You have helped our nation prosper and grow in ways that could not be possible without you.

Thank-you!!

Chief & Council

James Hickling

SFN Lawyer

Most all our band members over the years have met our lawyer James, but for those of you who don't know him, he has been working for *Saulteau First Nations* since 2009. He has successfully helped our nation in many different areas, one major highlight this year being his involvement with the **Caribou Agreement**.

We just want to thank him for all that he does and how he does it. He is an excellent communicator and expresses to any group of people our nations goals and intentions with a clear and respectful manner. This kind of communication is essential when working with industry, the government, local businesses and even our own people. James also has very good connections with both the provincial and federal government. Those connections have been helpful when our nation has concerns and issues to deal with. James has a kind heart and loves our nation which makes him the best lawyer we could ask for.

Thank-you James for all that you do and all that you have accomplished for our nation! We could not have done many of the great things without you!

Thank-you!!

Chief & Council

Treaty Land Entitlement

Update

Chief & Council understand that membership is eager to know what is happening with the Treaty Land Entitlement claim. We are happy to share an update with you.

Due to the confidentiality of this information, it is only available to registered members on our website at www.saulteau.com

Instructions on how to register is on the following page.

Registered members can visit www.saulteau.com and log in to the membership page. Once you've logged in, information about the Treaty Land Entitlement will be available for your viewing.

Saulteau Website

How to register

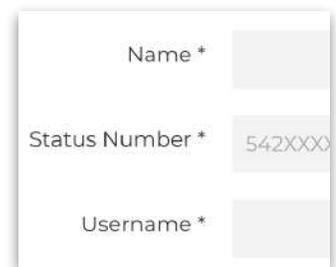
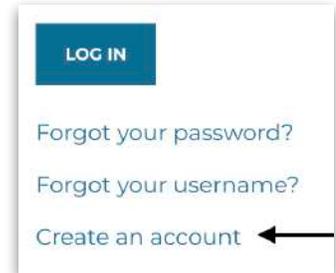
1. Go to ***www.saulteau.com*** on your web browser.
2. Click on ***Log In*** on the top right corner of the screen.
3. Click on ***Create an account*** below the log in section.
4. Fill out the required information

1. **Name** (*your full legal name*)
2. **Status Number** (*will be checked prior to approval*)
3. **Username** (*to log in*)
4. **Password**
5. **Email Address** (*for verification*)

- *If any information is missing or incorrect, your account will not be activated.*

5. Check your email and **click the link** to verify your account.
6. **Wait for a follow-up email** that your account has been activated.

- This step may take up to 24 hours.*
- Log In with your registered account to see content only available to members.*



Up and Coming...

& Happy Holidays

Community Comprehensive Plan

The Community Comprehensive Plan is to be updated through community engagement sessions. Due to COVID we are still brainstorming ideas as to how we are going to hold community engagement sessions. This may have to be done by virtual meetings with a combination of online surveys. We are still trying to figure out the safest way to do this. Please stay tuned and watch for updates from the SFN Communications Coordinator and our Lands Officer Mary Doyle.

Citizenship Code

The membership code is well overdue to be updated and current Chief & Council are making it a priority to have this done. This will also include community input and ratification upon completion. We are currently scheduled to meet with our Indian Registry Administrator/Membership clerk and Citizenship Committee to start the process. We will do our best to engage with membership through potential virtual meetings and surveys.

Saulteau First Nations

Chief and Council are dedicated to the people of Saulteau First Nations and continue to work hard for our Nation.

We want to thank all members for their patience and understanding through these challenging times. We ask that you stay connected with the Nation by watching for updates through our Nation's website and Social Media pages.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

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