

# Pakisqnuk Community Newsletter January 11, 2024



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### Custom Election Regulation Review Revised Date

<u>Update Regarding Custom Election Regulation Review</u>

Please note, at the Custom Election Regulation Review ("CERR") meeting initially scheduled for January 10, it was noted that notice of the meeting was not physically mailed to all electors as required in the Custom Elections Regulations.

As such, it was determined to postpone the CERR meeting in order that all electors be given sufficient notice of the CERR meeting as required under the elections. The CERR meeting is now scheduled for January 25. A revised notice has been mailed, emailed, posted in the Band Office and uploaded to <a href="https://akisqnuk.org/chief-and-council">https://akisqnuk.org/chief-and-council</a>, as required under the regulations.

Copies of the Custom Election Regulations can be downloaded at https://akisqnuk.org/chief-and-council.



### Custom Election Regulation Review Revised Date

Pakisqnuk First Nation 3050 Hwy 93/95 Windermere, B.C. VOB 2L2 Office: 250.342.6301 Fax: 250.342.9693 www.akisqnuk.org

January 11, 2024

### NOTICE (REVISED): ?akisánuk First Nation Custom Election Regulation Review

### THIS NOTICE REPLACES THE PREVIOUS NOTICE DATED DECEMBER 22, 2023

To: All ?Akisqnuk First Nation Members

Notice is hereby given that an election regulation review meeting has been requested, in accordance with the Custom Election Regulations dated January 6, 2022 (the "Election Regulations"), to consider:

(i) Revisions to Section 6 and Appendix A with respect to creating full time Councillor positions (the "**Proposed Amendment**").

Accordingly, an election regulation review meeting has been scheduled for 5:30 PM (MT), January 25, 2024, at the ?akisqnuk First Nation Band Hall (and on Zoom).

In accordance with the Election Regulations, those eligible to vote in an ?akisqnuk First Nation election may draft recommended amendments to the regulations. These need not be limited to the Proposed Amendment, and can relate to any provision of the Election Regulations.

The Election Regulations can be found at: <a href="https://https.akisqnuk.org/chief-and-council">https://https.akisqnuk.org/chief-and-council</a>.

On January 26, 2024, all draft amendments to the Election Regulations received at the review meeting ("**Draft Amendments**") will be distributed to electors, along with minutes from the review meeting.

Electors will be able to comment on the Draft Amendments by submitting emails to: <a href="mailto:elections@akisqnuk.org">elections@akisqnuk.org</a>, or leaving them at the Band Office.

On February 9, 2024, a meeting will be held to discuss and approve the Draft Amendments, which will be presented to Council for ratification by February 12, 2024.



### Custom Election Regulation Review Revised Date

7akisqnuk First Nation 3050 Hwy 93/95 Windermere, B.C. VOB 2L2 Office: 250.342.6301 Fax: 250.342.9693 www.akisqnuk.org

### **Schedule of Meetings (REVISED)**

### **Election Regulation Review Meeting**

Who: Electors

When: 5:30 PM (MT), Thursday, January 25, 2024

Where: ?akisqnuk First Nation Band Hall and Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84335529841?pwd=RkhGei9SREZVVCtkMFR5bjFZcE5Qdz09

Meeting ID: 843 3552 9841

Passcode: 608222

#### **Election Regulation Approval Meeting**

Who: Electors

When: 5:30 PM (MT), Friday, February 9, 2024

Where: ?akisqnuk First Nation Band Hall and Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84335529841?pwd=RkhGei9SREZVVCtkMFR5bjFZcE5Qdz09

Meeting ID: 843 3552 9841

Passcode: 608222

#### **Ratification Meeting**

Who: Council

When: Monday, February 12, 2024

Where: ?akisqnuk First Nation Band Hall and Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84335529841?pwd=RkhGei9SREZVVCtkMFR5bjFZcE5Qdz09

Meeting ID: 843 3552 9841

Passcode: 60822



# Upcoming Events & Program Updates



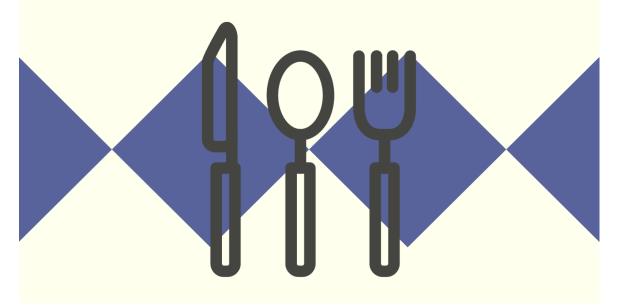


# Upcoming Events & Program Updates



### Community Dinner

JANUARY 24TH, 2024 5PM - 8PM AT THE BAND HALL





# Upcoming Events & Program Updates





# Upcoming Events & Program Updates



# 2024 Ski Program

- Panorama
- Fairmont
- Kimberley
- Fernie
- Kicking Horse

### Equipment Rentals, Lessons, Lift Tickets and Meals

Please email trisha.clowers@akisqnuk.org with ski day requests



### **Health Department Updates**



### First Nations Health Benefit Program



### Eligibility

The FNHB Program is available to First Nations people with Indian status who live in BC and infants (up to 24 months) of an eligible parent. To access the benefits and coverage under the Health Benefits Program, First Nations people must first enroll in the program. Please call 1-855-550-5454 or visit fnha.ca/benefits/eligibility for more information on how to enroll.

#### **Health Benefits Coverage**

The FNHB Program covers six benefit areas:



#### **DENTAL**

The Dental benefit provides coverage for items and services to maintain good oral health, prevent cavities, gum disease, and restore damaged tooth function. Some items and services covered under the dental benefit are bridges, crowns, exams and x-rays, fillings, and preventive services.



#### MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

The Medical Supplies and Equipment (MS&E) benefit provides coverage for items and services needed in the short or long-term to support health and wellness. Some items and services covered under the MS&E benefit are bathing and toileting aids, hearing aids and repairs, limb and body orthotics, ostomy supplies, walking aids, and wheelchairs.



#### MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

The Medical Transportation (MT) benefit assists with the cost of meals, accommodation, and transportation towards travel for a medical appointment outside your community of residence. The MT benefit may also cover travel escorts under certain conditions.



### **Health Department Updates**



#### MENTAL HEALTH

The Mental Health benefit covers in-person and virtual counselling services from a qualified mental health provider registered with the FNHB. Coverage is available for Mental Health counselling from four programs. The Mental Wellness and Counselling program is for Status First Nations individuals, while the Indian Day Schools Health Support Program, Indian Residential School Resolution Health Support Program, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Health Support Services are available to both status and non-status individuals. Talk to your Mental Health Provider to determine the appropriate program for you.



#### PHARMACY

The Pharmacy benefit, administered mainly through Plan Wellness (Plan W), provides coverage for medications and items that support First Nations people on their wellness journeys. The Pharmacy benefit covers specific prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, non-drug over-the-counter items, and Shingrix® vaccine. Please call 1-855-550-5454 to enroll in Plan W.

In addition to Plan W, the provincial agencies, including the BC Cancer Agency, BC Transplant, BC Renal Agency, and the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, provide specialty pharmacy items to all BC residents living with specific illnesses or conditions.



#### VISION CARE

The Vision Care benefit provides coverage for items and services to ensure proper eye health and support access to preventative care. The benefit covers eye exams, sight tests, prescription eyewear and repairs.

#### OTHER COVERAGE

### BC Medical Services Plan (MSP)

The FNHB manages MSP for First Nations people in BC. If you have status and need to register for MSP, call 1-855-550-5454.

#### Ambulance Bills

The FNHB covers the cost of ambulance transport to a hospital in an emergency situation and from a lower level care facility to a higher level care facility (e.g., long-term care home to a hospital).

#### **View Your Plan Details**

To check details about your coverage for dental, vision, medical supplies, and mental health, please create an online PBC Member Profile on <a href="https://www.pac.bluecross.ca">www.pac.bluecross.ca</a> or download the PBC app on your smartphone or tablet. The PBC Member Profile offers convenient and secure access to detailed information about your benefits coverage 24 hours a day.

Please call Health Benefits at 1-855-550-5454, email <u>healthbenefits@fnha.ca</u> or visit <u>fnha.ca/benefits</u> to learn more about the First Nations Health Benefits program and benefit coverages.

A representative FNHA will be joining us on **January 25th, 2024 at 10:00 in the Band Hall** to talk about Health Benefits. Everyone is invited to attend and learn more about their benefits including: dental, medical supplies and equipment, medical transportation, pharmacy, vision care, and more! Come learn about what is covered, what is not, how to access coverage, and more. There will be food!



### Health Department Updates

### **Important Dates At The Health Centre**

- January 16 Massage Clinic
- January 17 Elder's Trip to Food Bank
- January 25 Dr. Page
- January 25 FNHA Health Benefits Information Session

### **Staffing Updates**

The ?akisqnuk Health Department is please to announce that Collen Simon has started as the Clinical Lead and Jason Juell has returned as a Registered Nurse.

Colleen is a registered nurse and will be working 3 days a week while Jason will be working on a part time casual basis.

Colleen's and Jason's biographies will be included in the next edition of the newsletter.



# Lands, Resources & Infrastructure Department Updates

# Request for participants on Pakisqnuk Lands Committee

Do you want to have a voice and contribute your ideas and advice about how to steward ?akisqnuk Lands both on and off reserve?

This is your chance!

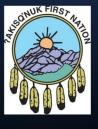
Send us an email at lorne.shovar@akisqnuk.org to share the experience you have and why you want to participate on this committee.

4 Spots Available!

Deadline:

Feb 2, 2024

For more info ie. the Terms of Reference or other, email Lorne or come into the Office and talk to any Lands staff.





#### Do you have:

- Traditional and modern on the land knowledge;
- Knowledge of Ktunaxa Perspective and Values including ?aknumuptiii;
- Desire to improve ?akisqnuk reserve lands and ?amak?is Ktunaxa;
- Interest in Land Stewardship and management;
- Willingness to work with other Ktunaxanintik in a positive and supportive environment;
- Willingness to learn new knowledge, skills and perspectives









### **Emergency Program Updates**



#### Before winter weather and storms

Winter storm season is here. Snow, wind, ice and other severe weather can lead to emergency situations like power outages and flooding. Prepare your home and yourself for the season.

- ✓ Make sure you have an adequate supply of food and water
- ✓ Have a battery-operated radio
- ✓ Stow flashlights with extra batteries
- ✓ Winterize your home
- ✓ Inspect your chimney or flue

Download the guide at: preparedbc.ca/SevereWeather



Winter weather conditions can quickly become dangerous with little or no warning. Make sure you are prepared for severe winter weather and storms when you're out on the road:

- ✓ Ensure your vehicle is ready for winter with proper maintenance
- ✓ Be aware of tire and chain requirements where you are driving.
- ✓ Keep your gas tank at least half full or half charged at all times
- ✓ Create a vehicle emergency kit with winter-specific items like a windshield scraper, shovel, and windshield washer fluid
- ✓ Follow @DriveBC and @TranBC for travel advisories and road conditions

Get prepared for severe winter weather and storms. Create an emergency plan with winter-specific considerations.

When writing your plan, keep the following in mind:

- Public transportation may be cancelled.
- Driving could be very dangerous due to slippery or snowy road conditions.
- Phone, gas, electric and water services may be disrupted during a power outage.

How could these situations influence your emergency planning?



### **Emergency Program Updates**

Hazardous winter conditions such as snow, rain, extreme cold, freezing rain, and floods can affect your safety in many different ways. Start by having a conversation at home. Talk about how you'll communicate with each other and what you'll do to stay safe and warm during a power outage.

Emergency planning doesn't have to be complicated.

Get started at: PreparedBC.ca/EmergencyPlan

#### **During winter weather and storms**

Winter storm season is here. Conditions can change quickly. The most important thing you can do is follow all alerts and travel advisories related to incoming, or occurring, winter weather.

#### Follow:

- @EmergencyInfoBC
- @DriveBC and @TranBC
- Weather.gc.ca (for weather alerts)
- · For local information follow

TIP: Link to the places where you post the latest news and upda social media accounts if you have them



Winter storm season is here. It can be challenging to get around by your typical transportation methods like walking, biking, or taking the bus. Be kind and patient with your neighbors and community members.

If you're able, and it's safe to do so, support your neighbors and loved ones by:

- Clearing snow or putting down salt on your walkways
- Gathering supplies for those who aren't able to leave their homes

For inquiries contact:

Thomas Dobbin

**Emergency Program Coordinator** 

**Akisqnuk First Nation** 

Office: (250) 342-6301 extension #3823 Email: <a href="mailto:thomas.dobbin@akisqnuk.org">thomas.dobbin@akisqnuk.org</a>



### **Emergency Program Updates**



### **?akisqnuk First Nation**

3050 Hwy 93/95 Windermere, B.C. V0B 2L2 Office: 250.342.6301 Fax: 250.342.9693 www.akisqnuk.org

#### Notice:

The Akisqnuk Local FireSmart representative will be going door to door in the community next week to provide community members with a new Fire Extinguisher as well as update your homes Smoke detector with smoke and carbon monoxide dual detector. This device does not require you to change batteries and lasts for 10 years. This is an optional service, but our goal is to ensure that each home on reserve has a safe detection device, and an in-service working fire extinguishers available in the event of an emergency. We would be happy to remove any old fire extinguishers also as we aim to provide free fire extinguisher training in spring.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to:

### Kevin McNab

AFN Local FireSmart Representative

Office: (250) 342-6301

Cell: (250) 341-2686

Email: Kevin.mcnab@akisqnuk.org



#### **Thomas Dobbin**

**Emergency Program Coordinator** 

Akisqnuk First Nation

Office: (250) 342-6301 extension #3823

Email: thomas.dobbin@akisqnuk.org





## Are you urban and/or away from home or a new member?

?akisqnuk First Nation is inviting ?akisqnuknik to unite as a community March 1st - 4th, 2024. Whether you've never set foot on ?amakis Ktunaxa or have been away for some time, this is an invitation for us to come together, reconnect, heal, and celebrate.

Funding provided by the National Indian Brotherhood Trust will cover travel, accommodations, and meals. Activities to include: Ktunaxa creation story and history, community feast, excursions to local sites like Radium Hot Springs, a ski day at Panorama Ski Hill, and more. If you are a community member interested in visiting ?akisqnuk, please visit https://forms.office.com/r/p6bR0MRVv6 to submit your application.

Let's create a space where belonging and healing intertwine, where connections flourish, and where each piece of shared history finds its place.



### **General News and Updates**

### **Chief and Council Meetings**

#### **Chief and Council**

Deadline to submit items to Chief and Council Agenda is always the Friday before.

### The next meetings will be January 17, 2024.

Pakisqnuk Nation is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Chief and Council Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/">https://us02web.zoom.us/</a> j/89758249947?

<u>pwd=dlYvNm9CSFdFVm4xa1dtM1lrdnBvQT09</u> Meeting ID: 897 5824 9947 Passcode: 054045

Contact Executive Assistant Karen Vargas karen.vargas@akisqnuk.org to request to be on the agenda or if you have any questions. The next Elders Meeting will be January 30.

Akisqnuk Nation is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Elders Steering Committee

Time: Jan 30, 2024 10:00 AM Mountain Time

(US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86516769993? pwd=aEIzdHdRVzRSRDRxYkpUWDVCa2s1Zz 09

Meeting ID: 865 1676 9993

Passcode: 695649

Are you enthusiastic about education and enhancing the learning experience of our youth? ?akisqnuk First Nation is seeking members interested in participating in an Aboriginal Committee of Education (ACE). The committee will work to create policies and initiatives, offer guidance to educators and administrators at Rocky Mountain School District 6, and champion our youth. If this opportunity excites you, please contact Kevin Morrall at <a href="kevin.morrall@akisqnuk.org">kevin.morrall@akisqnuk.org</a> / 250 342 6301 ext. 3845



# **Employment Opportunities**

### **?akisqnuk First Nation Employment Opportunities**

If you are a community member who is re-entering the workforce, going through a career change, or a new graduate, ?akisqnuk First Nation (AFN) is committed to your success. We provide training, coaching, mentorship, and professional development opportunities to support your success. We ask that you have an eagerness to learn and a willingness to be a part of our team. Having all the qualifications listed in the posting is not always necessary; the first step is to apply for an opportunity that is available and of interest.

Check out full postings at https://akisqnuk.org/employment-opportunities

You may submit your application by submitting your interest directly to Human Resources at hr@akisqnuk.org



# **Employment Opportunities**

### **Community Drivers**

Open until filled

On-call, casual \$20-25/hour

?Akisqnuk First Nation is looking for Community Drivers. Reporting to the Associate Director of Health, this role is responsible for providing safe and reliable transportation to and from appointments to community members who are unable to provide their own transportation.

### Are you?

- · Friendly and able to get along with most people
- · Kind and genuinely care about people
- Safe and reliable
- A skilled and experienced driver who likes driving along beautiful stretches of mountain highway and urban centres
- · Looking to be part of a growing team

### Why work at ?Akisqnuk First Nation?

- · We care about your wellness
- · We are committed to building the best team possible
- We value staff and believe in reasonable workloads and fair compensation
- We are deeply committed to our work and to the wellbeing and sovereignty of our community
- We are located in the most beautiful place on earth!

### What you will be doing:

- Provide transportation services to community members, including elders, youth, and those in need of assistance.
- Safely operate and maintain community vehicles, such as vans, buses, or other vehicles used for transportation.
- Assist elders and others with mobility issues getting in and out of the vehicle.
- Ensure the safety of passengers during transportation by adhering to all traffic laws and safety regulations.

### What we are looking for:

- Valid driver's license (Class 2 an asset)
- Clean Driver's Abstract
- · First Aid certificate, or willing to get
- Demonstrated ability to work with Indigenous communities
- · Ability to read maps and follow schedules
- · Excellent communication skills



#### **7AKISONUK FIRST NATION**

3050 Hwy 93/95 Windermere, B.C. V0B 2L2 Office: 250.342.6301 Fax: 250.342.9693 www.akisqnuk.org

#### INTERESTED?

To apply for this job, email your resume to <a href="mailto:hr@akisqnuk.org">hr@akisqnuk.org</a>
Full job description available at:
<a href="https://akisqnuk.org/employment-opportunities">https://akisqnuk.org/employment-opportunities</a>



# **Employment Opportunities**

Please join Morgan Vader, representative of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), at the Columbia Lake Recreation Centre on January 18th at 10am. Morgan will be highlighting Indigenous employment and education opportunities within the organization as well as answering any questions you may have.

If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact Kevin Morrall at 250 342 6301 ext 3849 / kevin.morrall@akisqnuk.org





### **New Employee Profiles**

Rene Campbell has joined ?akisqnuk First Nation in the position of Administrative Assistant. She provided the following bio:

I joined ?akisqnuk January 3, 2024, what a way to start the New Year as I am quite excited for my new journey.

My background consists of an administrative assistant for a land surveying company in Red Deer, AB back in 2014. Then moved on in 2019 to be a financial assistant in Saskatoon Sask. I then moved to the valley in August of 2021 as once I seen the mountains I did not want to go back to the flat lands, that being said I am thrilled to learn more of the valley.

Loren Nordquist has joined ?akisqnuk First Nation in the position of Document Control Clerk. Her bio is also below:

I'm very excited to start off the new year with the ?akisqnuk team. I was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta and have been enjoying the valley since I was a baby. I have officially made it home in 2020.

I lived in Nelson, BC for three years. My time in Nelson I worked in an accounting firm learning the industry as well attending Selkirk College studying Music and Technology. I graduated with a Diploma in Sound Engineering in 2019. I am currently working towards my Business Technology Degree through Athabasca University, and I have just completed my Oil and Gas Production Accounting certificate (CAPPA) this fall. I have been very fortunate to be given opportunities in accounting firms to learn and grow with knowledgeable mentors. Ultimately guiding me into a career direction. I love learning and I'm very excited to grow with all of you.

During my free time I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, doing all kinds of outdoor activities and of course music.



### Ktunaxa Language Learning

# Ka 'a :k‡ukaqwa‡a Our language, our time

### Ktunaxa - Ksankanintik

Enjoy two hours of Ktunaxa Language sharing four times a month!

A safe place to explore learning our sounds and all the beautiful words they make.

Learn along with others while using beginner learning materials, word games and Kahoot!

Perhaps you have something you want to learn but don't know where to start or feel intimidated trying on your own? Four times a month we will come together for these and many more reasons.

Hun hu@paya?ti ku@ qapi‡ ?upxniski‡!

'a-kłukqa'nam, n. speech, language (someone's). ka-kłukqa (ka 'a-kłukqa). my language. 'a-kłukqa'nis. your language. 'a-kłukqa'is. his, her, their language. ka-kłukaqwała (ka 'a-kłukaqwała). our language. 'a-kłukaqwumniskił. your (pl.) language.

Starting June 7th, 2023
Every second Wednesday from 10:30am to
12:30pm MST
Starting June 10th, 2023
Two Saturday evenings per month from
7:00pm to 9:00pm MST

For link, please contact Mara Email: ktunaxalanguagelearner@gmail.com Call: (403) 392-6682



Traditional Knowledge and Language



### Ktunaxa Language Learning

?A·k‡ukaqwum

Language Course

Course to the local land through language

Connecting to the local land through language

12 x 90 minute virtual learning sessions

September - December MONDAY NIGHTS 7 PM MT ON ZOOM

This course is designed for you to garner skills that will enable you to carry Ktunaxa Language forward to your classrooms, organizations, in schools and on the land.

### **REGISTER ONLINE**

cbeen.ca/ktunaxa-language-course

Session topics include:

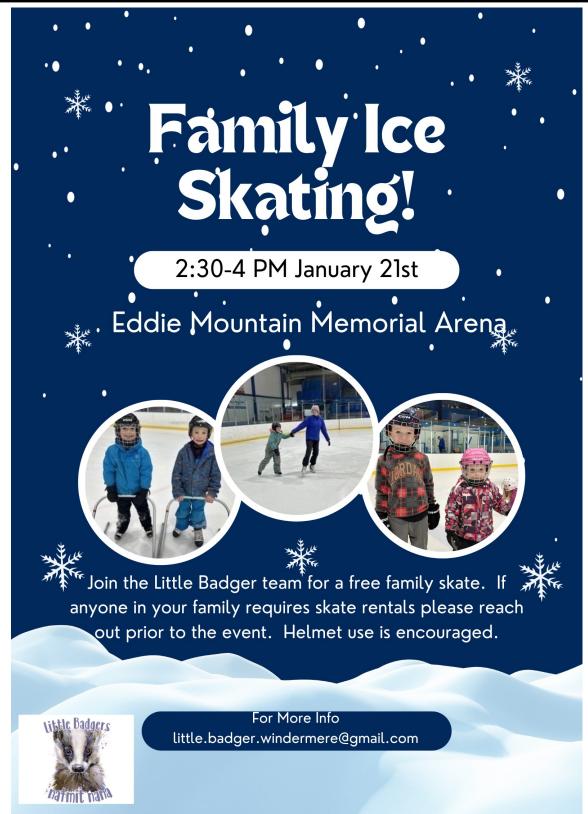
- Ktunaxa Creation Story and the connection to place
- Place names in the East Kootenays
- · Why each place is named what it is
- Common classroom phrases
- Things around the town/community
- Plant names Animal names
- Colors Numbers Family relationships
- Common expressions
- Calendar seasons, months, days of the week



\$240 for CBEEN members (\$20/session)

Connecting to the local land through language









Fishing Forever allows people of all abilities to experience a day of fishing. We welcome all who need support to enjoy the event. We provide all the fishing equipment, and participants and volunteers will be provided lunch. There will be opportunities to help set up and take down equipment and assist participants with baiting hooks and landing fish. If you would like to attend, please register via email. <a href="mailto:info@lwdrg.com">info@lwdrg.com</a>

FEB 3, 2024 10AM -2PM LWDRG ICE SHACK
LAKE WINDERMERE. INVERMERE BC
BELOW BAYSHORE CONDOS.





ROD AND GUN
Wildlife. Habitat. Enhancement.



https://lwdrodgun.com/

info@lwdrg.com







