



ʔakisq'nuq Community Newsletter

November 30, 2023



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Notice of Band Meeting Postponement

Council has made the difficult decision to postpone the Band Meeting scheduled for December 1. Council apologizes for the late notice, and is aware how important these meetings are as an opportunity for members to get updates on what is happening in and around ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation and to get feedback from members. A new meeting date will be finalized soon and notice will be sent out using all available communication channels.



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

[Notice of Band Meeting](#)

ʔakisq̓nuk Chief and Council have set Friday, December 1 for the next Band Meeting.

The meeting will begin at **5:00 PM (Mountain Time)** and will take place the ʔakisq̓nuk Band Hall for those who wish to attend in person.

Dinner will be provided and door prizes will be available to win.

Those who cannot attend in person can participate using the Zoom link below:

Akisq̓nuk Nation is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Band Meeting December 2023

Time: Dec 1, 2023 05:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83823953823?pwd=dHVhVWVhQzVnbm1QdGJWcUtXQXNvdz09>

Meeting ID: 838 2395 3823

Passcode: 489880

Further updates will be posted at <https://akisq̓nuk.org/chief-and-council>.

POSTPONED



Upcoming Events

DECEMBER

december

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Band Meeting December 1st @ 5pm		1 Xmas tree decorating 1pm-4pm Rec Centre	2
3	4	5	6 Xmas Crafts 2-8pm	7	8 Community Xmas baking 1pm-4pm	9
10	11 Gift Making 3pm-6pm	12 Massage health centre	13 Addressing Grief & Loss 11am-7pm	14 Dr. Page Health Centre	15	16
17 Community xmas Party 11am-4pm	18	19	20 Good Food Box	21 1st day of Winter	22	23
24 Xmas Eve	25 Xmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29	30
31 New Years Eve						

notes:

- Offices will be closed from December 23-January 3rd
 - All events will be held in the band hall unless otherwise posted
 - Please register for events so we can provide enough food and materials with Trisha at 250-342-6301 ext 3847
- trisha.clowers@akisqnuq.org





Upcoming Events

CHRISTMAS PARTY

EXPECT SOME FUN AND LAUGHS

- Dinner
- Bingo
- Gifts
- Sleigh Rides
- & SANTA



DEC 17
2023

11AM-4PM

✪ Takisqnuq ✪
Band Hall





Upcoming Events

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BAKING



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH
1 PM - 4 PM

please register with Trisha
trisha.clowers@akisqnuq.org
250-342-6301 ext 3847



Christmas Gift Making

IN THE BAND HALL
DECEMBER 11TH
3PM-6PM
MATERIALS AND
DINNER PROVIDED

PLEASE REGISTER WITH TRISHA
TRISHA.CLOWERS@AKISQNUK.ORG
250-342-6301 EXT 3847
SO WE HAVE ENOUGH MATERIALS
AND FOOD



JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

DECEMBER 6TH, 2023

FROM 2 PM TILL 8 PM
BAND HALL



EMAIL OR CALL IF
YOU HAVE ANY CRAFT IDEAS
THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO TRY
TRISHA.CLOWERS@AKISQNUK.ORG
250-342-6301 EXT 3847

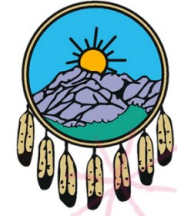


CHRISTMAS TREE
DECORATING IN THE
BAND HALL.
DECEMBER 1ST
3PM
SNACKS PROVIDED





Upcoming Events



We have a big list of food
that we are hoping to get
some volunteers to
cook for the community
Christmas party.

If you would like to cook
a dish, please let us know.

if you would like to help out email
trisha.clowers@akisqnuq.org
or call 250-342-6301 ext 3847



Health Department Updates


Health + Wellness


ʔAkisq'nuk Health Centre

NISTAMU (December)

News

We are thrilled to announce the newest member of the Health Team, **Yvonne Stanley**, in the role of Home Support Worker. 

Naloxone kits are available for pickup at the Health Centre for anyone who would like them! Please stay safe this Holiday season. 

Medical transport receipts may be submitted to the Health Centre Reception or by email to healthcentre@akisqnuk.org 

Clinics

Massage | December 12th
Dr. Page | December 14th



For more details or to book or cancel your appointment, contact the Health Office: (250) 342-6379

Events

Addressing Grief and Loss | December 13th
Band Hall, 11:00am - 7:00pm
More details to follow



Recruitment

The Health Team is growing! We are looking for the following positions:

- Clinical Lead (RN)
- Community Nurse (LPN)
- Community Drivers



Further details available at:
<https://akisqnuk.org/employment-opportunities>



YOUR HEALTH TEAM

Rachel Bach, Associate Director of Health
Roberta Nicholas, Receptionist
Danny Burgoyne, Community Health Worker
Yvonne Stanley, Home Support Worker

CONTACT US:

Hours: M-F | 8:30-12:00 & 1:00-4:30
Office: (250) 342-6379
Email: healthcentre@akisqnuk.org



Health Department Updates

COVID-19 Current Guidelines

as per Interior Health (2023)



COVID-19 is still alive and well but the good news is, most people who get COVID-19 will experience mild to moderate illness and not require hospital care. However, some people are more likely to become seriously ill from COVID-19 and require medical attention. [Vaccination](#) is the most effective way to prevent serious outcomes.

If you still need your COVID-19 vaccine, you can contact the Health Centre for help booking an appointment.

Testing

A COVID-19 test is recommended when a positive or negative result will inform decisions about treatment or care.

Testing is recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19 and who are:

- At risk of more severe disease and may benefit from treatment
 - Please visit the BCCDC website for further information on [people who may benefit from treatment](#)
- Hospitalized
- Pregnant

If you have symptoms and testing is recommended for you, please access testing. If you are local, you may call the Health Centre and we will arrange to have a rapid antigen test kit dropped off.

If you have symptoms and testing is not recommended for you, please stay home until you feel well enough to return to regular activities and you do not have a fever. You can get a rapid antigen test kit, if you like.

Rapid Antigen Test Kits are free for everyone. Visit us the Health Centre and ask for a testing kit.

Protection

There are many tools that can help protect you and your family from respiratory illnesses, like influenza (flu), COVID-19 and RSV.

Toolkit: Vaccines, Stay home if sick, Clean hands, Mask and cover coughs, Good airflow, Respect personal space, Clean surfaces

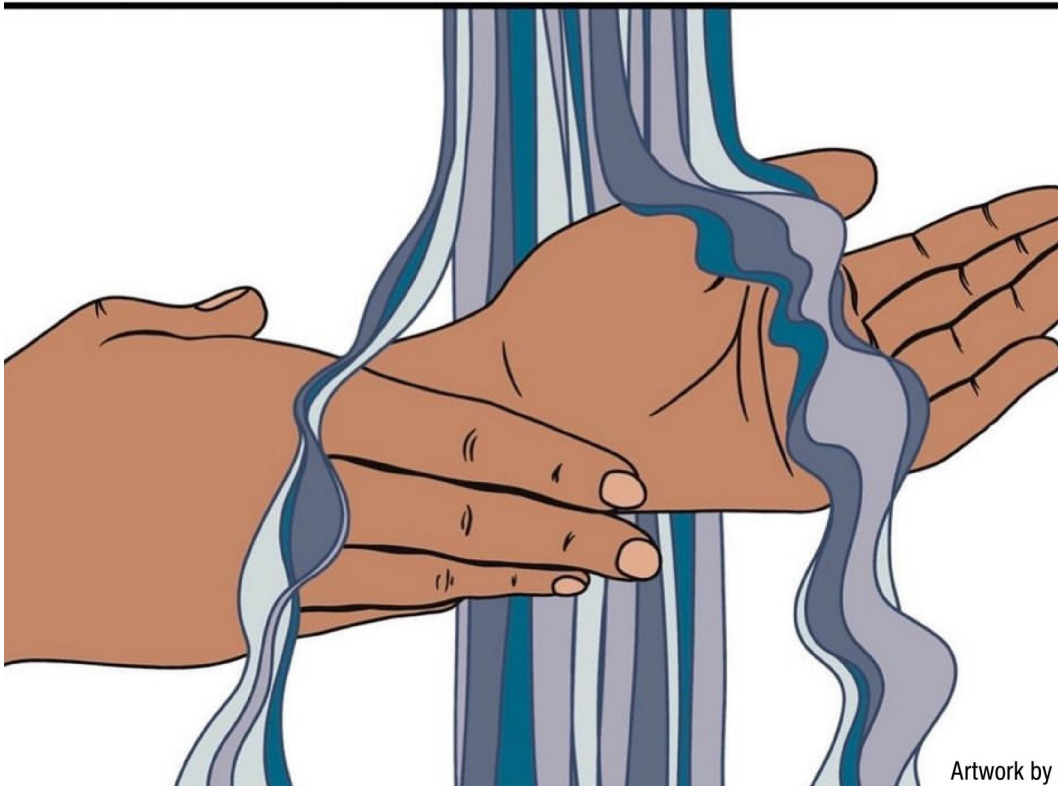
You can decide how and when to use these tools while making sure you are supporting your overall physical and mental health. For example, you may apply more tools if you are at higher risk of serious illness.



Water is Life

?iktquyi=am

Wash your hands



Artwork by t



Lands, Resources & Infrastructure Department Updates



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Update on Whirling Disease in National Parks

November 13, 2023

The ʔakisq̓nuk Lands, Resources and Infrastructure Department has been receiving updates from the Ktunaxa Nation Council and Parks Canada on the recent discovery of whirling disease in Kootenay and Yoho National Park fish species.

The B.C. Invasive website ([LINK](#)) describes whirling disease as follows:

“Whirling disease is a microscopic parasite that has serious impacts on juvenile trout and other fish species. The parasite infects the spinal column, causing the fish to swim around in “whirling” patterns, and having a blackened tail or “bent” appearance. Whirling disease was introduced to Pennsylvania from Europe in 1956 and has spread to many parts of North America, including Alberta. Whirling disease has been found in live bait shops and even pet stores. This serious disease can cause up to 90% mortality for juvenile fish in susceptible populations.”

Whirling disease was discovered in Emerald Lake in Kootenay National Park in September. In order to prevent the spread of this disease, Parks Canada has closed all waterbodies and shorelines in Kootenay and Yoho National Parks until March 31, 2024. The preventative closures are designed to help protect fish species vulnerable to whirling disease, such as several trout species and Kokanee salmon. Whirling disease mortality rates can reach 90 per cent.

Whirling disease is typically spread through human activity. It can be transferred from one water body to another by boats, trailers, fishing gear, often through fish, mud, water and vegetation.

ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation will continue to work with the Ktunaxa Nation Council, Parks Canada and other stakeholders in the region to minimize the impacts of this aquatic disease.

You can read more about the activity restrictions in both Yoho and Kootenay National Parks here:

- [Yoho – Restricted Activity: Water Based Activities](#)
- [Kootenay – Restricted Activity: Water Based Activities](#)

If you come across a suspected case of whirling disease while out on the land, please report it to the B.C. Conservation Officer Service (RAPP) at 1-877-952-7266 or the Invasive Species Council of BC at 1-888-933-3722

Lorne Shovar
Director of Lands Resources & Infrastructure
ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation



Lands, Resources & Infrastructure Department Updates

ʔakisq'nukniks

Let's talk lands



When: December
7th 2023

Where: ʔakisq'nuk
Bandhall

Time: 5 pm - 7 pm

Come learn what the
Lands Department is
working on and learn
how membership
can be involved

Dinner starts at 5 pm





What's Happening at the Rec Centre

YOUTH SPORTS!

AGES 6-11 FUN, ENGAGING &
EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS
FROM HIGHLY QUALIFIED
COACHES!

**AT
COLUMBIA
LAKE REC.
CENTRE**



CRICKET

MONDAYS 3:30-4:30PM

DODGEBALL

TUESDAYS 3:30-4:30PM

BASKETBALL

TUESDAYS 4:30-5:30PM

PICKLEBALL

THURSDAYS 5:00-6:00PM

STARTS MONDAY 13TH NOV

Turn up on the day or contact
Coach Tom to pre-register!

valleysportshub.bc@gmail.com

250-409-5592

 Valley Sports Hub

\$7 per session or \$40
for a 6 week block!



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 December 6 and 20, 2023.

ʔakisq'nuq Nation is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Chief and Council Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89758249947?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89758249947?pwd=dIYvNm9CSFdFVm4xa1dtM1IrdnBvQT09)

[pwd=dIYvNm9CSFdFVm4xa1dtM1IrdnBvQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89758249947?pwd=dIYvNm9CSFdFVm4xa1dtM1IrdnBvQT09)
Meeting ID: 897 5824 9947 Passcode: 054045

Contact Executive Assistant Karen Vargas karen.vargas@akisqnuq.org to request to be on the agenda or if you have any questions.

ʔakisq'nuq members are requested to update their mailing information and direct banking information with the office as soon as possible.

This information can be sent to finance@akisqnuq.org or cherrie.burke@akisqnuq.org

The 2024 Elders Steering Committee Dates Calendar will be released later in December or early January.

ELDERS STEERING COMMITTEE 2023 DATES

On the Last Tuesday of every month at 10:00 AM

Tuesday, May 30, 2023

Tuesday, Jun 27, 2023

Tuesday, Jul 25, 2023

Tuesday, Aug 29, 2023

Tuesday, Sep 26, 2023

Tuesday, Oct 31, 2023

Tuesday, Nov 28, 2023

Are you enthusiastic about education and enhancing the learning experience of our youth? ʔakisq'nuq 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 kevin.morrall@akisqnuq.org / 250 342 6301 ext. 3845



Employment Opportunities

Clinical Lead (RN)

Open until filled

Full-time, set schedule
\$47.77 – \$65.12 /hour



?Akisqnuq First Nation is looking for a full-time Clinical Lead (Registered Nurse) to join our team. Reporting to the Associate Director of Health, the Clinical Lead will be responsible for delivering a range of healthcare programs, therapeutic interventions, and educational services to members and residents of ?AFN. This position carries the responsibility of overseeing professional practice and conduct, reporting, and identifying any service gaps to meet the evolving needs of the community.

Are you?

- A leader who values the holistic wellness of people
- Kind and genuinely care about people
- Safe and reliable
- A Registered Nurse (RN) looking for a full time position (Monday - Friday, 8:30-16:30)
- Looking to be part of a growing interprofessional community-based health team

Why work at ?Akisqnuq 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
- Offer excellent employee benefits
- 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 clinical support and leadership in planning, organizing, implementing, maintaining, and evaluating clinical services in alignment with AFN's culture and traditions.
- Perform supervisory and management functions of clinic nurses, responsible for performance management, training new nursing staff, and scheduling.
- Promote community health through innovative programs to meet evolving community needs.
- And more!

What we are looking for:

- Current practicing license with the Collete of Registered Nurses of BC
- Demonstrated ability to work with Indigenous communities
- Demonstrated leadership and problem-solving skills



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INTERESTED?

To apply for this job, email your resume to hr@akisqnuq.org
Further details available at: <https://akisqnuq.org/employment-opportunities>

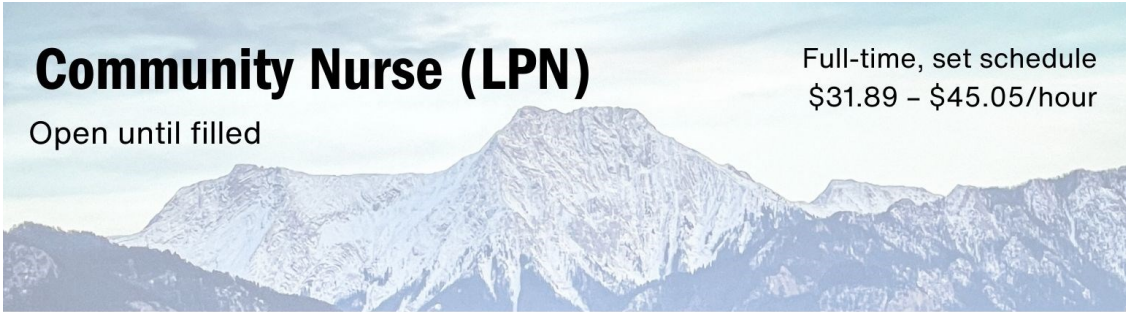


Employment Opportunities

Community Nurse (LPN)

Open until filled

Full-time, set schedule
\$31.89 – \$45.05/hour



ʔAkisq'nuq First Nation is looking for a full-time Community Nurse. Reporting to the Clinical Lead, this position is responsible for delivering disease prevention and health promotion support and activities to the community, both through individual and group clinics. The primary responsibility is to implement community-based services and provide clients with appropriate resources and care in accordance with established standards of healthcare.

Are you?

- Friendly and able to get along with most people
- Kind and genuinely care about people
- Safe and reliable
- A registered Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) looking for a full time position (Monday - Friday, 8:30-16:30)
- Looking to be part of a growing interprofessional community-based health team

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What you will be doing:

- Provide culturally safe health care services through planned home visits, clinics, and workshops
- Apply and utilize key nursing knowledge
- Facilitate education activities through a variety of teaching methods (support groups, presentations, organized events)
- Provide referrals to other services as required
- Advocate for public policy and services that promote and protect the health and well-being of individuals, families, groups, and communities.
- And more!

What we are looking for:

- Current practicing license with the Collete of Registered Nurses of BC
- Demonstrated ability to work with Indigenous communities
- Excellent attention to detail
- Strong communication skills



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INTERESTED?

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Further details available at: <https://akisqnuq.org/employment-opportunities>



Employment Opportunities

Community Drivers

Open until filled

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



?Akisqnuq 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 ?Akisqnuq 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



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INTERESTED?

To apply for this job, email your resume to hr@akisqnuq.org
Full job description available at:
<https://akisqnuq.org/employment-opportunities>



Employment Opportunities



Social Development update

Job Search documentation and Monthly Renewal Applications need to be submitted to Christy Baker
email: christy.baker@akisqnuq.org

Due the 15th of every Month

Check out full Postings at <https://akisqnuq.org/employment-opportunities>

You may submit your application to Human Resources at hr@akisqnuq.org



Staffing Updates



Ki?su?k kyukyit! My name is Yvonne Stanley and I am a ?akisq'nuq member. I recently moved back into the community and am happy to be part of the ?akisq'nuq health team. I want to work for my community with all that I have learned and to share my knowledge with my community members. I completed the Homemaker Services Training Program at the College of the Rockies (COTR) in 2008 and received my Resident Care / Home Support Attendant Certificate from COTR in 2009.

In the past few years, I have worked as a home support worker for the Ktunaxa Nation and lived within the community of ?aqam. I also put on a number of workshops teaching how to can fruits, kupa?ti? (soap berries), and salmon. This past year, I went back to COTR and completed my Level 1 First Aid and Food Safe Certificate as well as my Driver's License.

Husu?kni!



Staffing Updates



Hello, my name is Kevin Morrall and I am the new Education and Workforce Development Coordinator at ʔakisq̓nuᓴ First Nation. I bring a decade of education experience to the role and in addition to my Bachelor of Education, am currently working towards my Guidance and Career Education Certification.

Over the years, my roles have varied from instructing college-accredited courses to Indigenous women at Ka Ni Kanichihk in Winnipeg, to working with students with learning difficulties at the Arrowsmith Program in Toronto, to leading kitchen or landscaping teams in Winnipeg.

I enjoy cooking, eating, and creating a safe & welcoming learning environment for all. Having just moved here from Treaty 1 territory with my family, I am excited and grateful to join the ʔakisq̓nuᓴ First Nation team and contribute to the community. I look forward to working with you and supporting you in your educational and professional goals.

ʔAKISQ'NUK FIRST NATION



Ktunaxa Language Learning

Ka 'a·kʔukaqwaʔa

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 huɛpayaʔti kuɛ ɔapiʔ ʔupxniskiʔ!

'a·kʔukqa'nam, *n.* speech, language (someone's). **ka·kʔukqa** (**ka 'a·kʔukqa**), my language. **'a·kʔukqa'n**is, your language. **'a·kʔukqa'is**, his, her, their language. **ka·kʔukaqwaʔa** (**ka 'a·kʔukaqwaʔa**), our language. **'a·kʔukaqwmniskiʔ**, 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



KTUNAXA
NATION

*Traditional Knowledge
and Language*

ʔAKISQ'NUK FIRST NATION



Ktunaxa Language Learning



ʔA-kʔukaqwum

KTUNAXA

Language Course

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



CBEEN

\$300 for all 12 sessions
(\$25/session)

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

Connecting to the local land through language