

ʔakisq̓nuk Community Newsletter

March 1, 2026



Elk Submitted by Robert Austin (Keely's Dad)

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Tumbler Ridge Statement



February 17, 2026

For Immediate Release

Statement from ?Akisqnuq First Nation Nasu?kin Donald Sam regarding Tumbler Ridge Tragedy

"?Akisqnuq First Nation send our healing thoughts and prayers to the victims, families and community of Tumbler Ridge BC as they mourn the tragic loss of precious lives and multiple victims from senseless gun violence last week. We acknowledge the pain, hurt and wounds where love and light just can't reach.

We Honor the community of Tumbler Ridge as they must navigate the aftermath of making sense of this situation that has no answers and no making things right.

On behalf of ?Akisqnuq First Nation, we extend our deepest condolences and stand in solidarity for a path of healing, wellness and safety for the sake of our children and future generations. You are not alone."

Taxa.

?Akisqnuq Nasu?kin and Council



2026 Comprehensive Community Plan

*Let's build a future rooted in our culture,
guided by our values, and shaped by all of us.*



Youth—We Need You!

We're looking for youth voices to join the CCP Advisory Committee. Your ideas, energy, and perspective are vital to shaping a future that works for everyone.

For questions, comments, or suggestions contact:

Jose Galdamez

Theresa Kains

✉ jgaldamez@ktunaxa.org

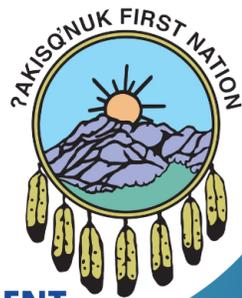
✉ theresa.kains@akisqnuq.org

Lisa Cannady

✉ lisa.cannady@akisqnuq.org

Upcoming News & Events

An inspiring evening for ʔakisq̓nuk Lives Kindness — George Stevens, actor Tom Jackson, and Candice Stevens, February 27.



FOR ʔAKISQ̓NUK MEMBERSHIP

CHIEF & COUNCIL REMUNERATION

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT SESSION

MONDAY, MARCH 2ND

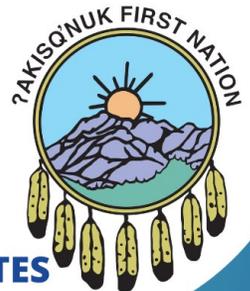
ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation Health Centre, Round Room
Dinner at 5p.m. meeting start time 5:30 - 7:30pm

Zoom link available for virtual attendance

<https://akisqnuke.org/governance>

FOR ʔAKISQ̓NUKNIK

WILDER BROTHERS SPECIFIC CLAIM & INDIAN BEACH ESTATES ENGAGEMENT



TUESDAY, MARCH 3RD

ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation Health Centre, Round Room
Dinner at 5 pm.
Zoom at 5:30pm

<https://akisqnuke.org/governance>

SAVE THE DATE RITES OF PASSAGE GATHERING

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Dan Joe Memorial Gymnasium ʔaq̓am
Registration details TBA

SAVE THE DATE KNC TKL QUARTERLY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 2026 | 10AM LIONS HALL



ʔAkisq̓nuk First Nation is hosting the next Ktunaxa Nation Council - Traditional Knowledge & Language quarterly meeting at the Lions Halls, Invermere.

This event is intended for all Ktunaxa Elders and Knowledge Holders

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING DINNER

COME TOGETHER & ENJOY A MEAL EACH MONTH WITH COMMUNITY

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

MARCH **5** 4:30-6 PM

THIS MONTH'S MENU:

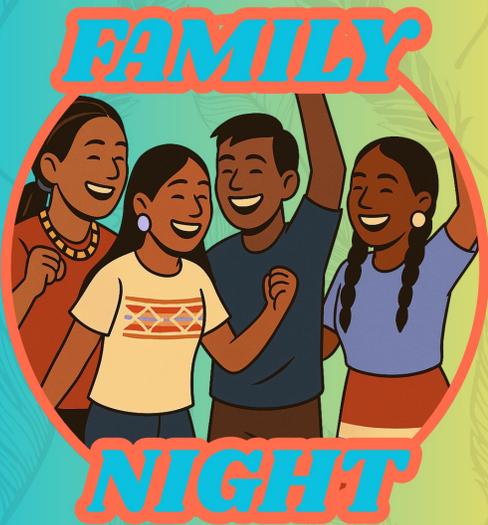
BEEF TACOS WITH THE FIXINS!

COLUMBIA LAKE REC CENTRE

3048 HWY 93/95 WINDERMERE, BC

Columbia Valley Metis
Embracing Our Culture

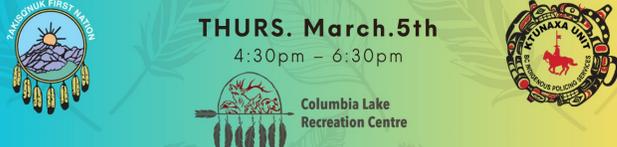
Hosted By: ʔakisqnuƙ First Nation
Supported by: KRCFSS & CVMA



FAMILY NIGHT

THURS. March 5th
4:30pm – 6:30pm

Columbia Lake Recreation Centre



Bring the family together and come join us every **first Thursday of the month** at the Columbia Lake Recreation Center on an awesome evening of food, games, and fun! The Indigenous Policing Unit will be there to hang out, play games, and get to know you. It's a great chance to meet some friendly faces and have a blast together!

COME LEARN ABOUT the Lot 48 Burn

All Ktunaxa ʔakisqnuƙ welcome

Celebration dinner with food and door prizes

The Lot 48 burn is part of the Ktunaxa Nation Council and ʔakisqnuƙ First Nation's kinqũqanki Stewardship Project (formerly the Columbia Lake East Side [CLES] Stewardship Project). A culturally informed prescribed burn is planned for the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Lot 48 for March or April 2026 (depending on weather). An information session and dinner will be held March 12th, 2026 at 5:00 pm. KNC staff and fire ecologist, Colleen Ross, will be there to answer your questions and receive any feedback for this or future burns.



L Thursday, 12th March
5:00 pm

📍 Our Location
Columbia Lake Recreation Centre

Link to video from Kootenay ʔa-kinqũku TREX (prescribed fire training) 2025:
<https://blog.gov.bc.ca/bcwildfire/kootenay-%CA%94a%C2%B7kinq%CC%93uku-trex-prescribed-fire-training-exchange/>



KTUNAXA NATION

ʔakisqnuƙ First Nation and Shuswap Band communities are invited for an evening of fun and visiting

March 17th Dinner & BINGO Night

Columbia Lake Recreation Center
3050 Hwy 93/95, Windermere



Dinner at 5:00 PM
Start to play
BINGO at 6:00 PM

Horsemanship Skills Training

with Alfred Joseph and Pa·knusti

Packing
*
Saddling
*
Riding Skills

March 16-19, 2026

10:00am - 4:00pm

Alfred Joseph's Property

To sign up, contact

Alexis Martig or Jared Cayenne

alexisj.martig@ktunaxa.org

jared.cayenne@ktunaxa.org

**Open to all
Ktunaxaniḥtik!**

Photo Courtesy: Blaine Burgoyne

Visit us at
www.ktunaxa.org



**KTUNAXA
NATION**



kupi
TRADITIONAL
KNOWLEDGE
& LANGUAGE

ʔAKISQNUK MEMBERS

WINTER Ski Program

PANORAMA & KIMBERLEY SKI DAY
EVERY SUNDAY STARTING
JANUARY 18

EXCLUDING BLACKOUT DATES (TBD)

E-mail trisha.clowers@akisqnuk.org
to register on or before each Tuesday!



SAVE THE DATES

April 22 & April 23, 2026



Earth Day



Let's save our earth. More details coming soon



in partnership with ʔakisqnuk First Nation and Little Badgers Early Learning Programs

Let's Learn, Laugh, & Grow Together!



Free Early learning Play group!

Ages 0-5 year olds

Every Friday 10am- 12pm

at Eva Joseph Centre (Little Badgers)

A time to come together with caregivers and children,
free play, crafts, stories and snacks. Open to all.
Guardians must be in attendance at all times

Any questions please reach out to:

Olivia Rasilainen | Ashley Killin Healthy Child
Inclusive Coordinator | Development Coordinator
inclusive.littlebadgers@gmail.com | ashley.killin@akisqnuk.org

COMMUNITY SHOPPING TRIP TO CRANBROOK

FIRST MONDAYS!
MARCH 9th 10 AM

Welcome BABY



If you or someone you know in the community is expecting a baby, we'd love to hear about it. Whether it's your first or new addition to your family, let us know so we can offer any support or resources that maybe helpful. Please reach out to ʔakisqnuk Health center at 250-342-6379 or email Ashley.killin@akisqnuk.org





ʔAKISQNUK FIRST NATION PRESENTS

KOOTENAI FALLS

JUNE 5, 2026

Ktunaxa/Ksanka Elders and membership are invited to join a trip to Kootenai Falls.

**For further information contact Eldene Stanley
eldene.stanley@akisqnuq.org**

Important Notes for Those Crossing the Border

As this gathering may involve travel across the Canada–U.S. border, we ask community members to reach out ahead of time so we can help ensure everyone has:

- The appropriate documentation for border crossing
- Support with transportation planning
- Information about any requirements or restrictions that may apply
- Guidance for First Nation status considerations when traveling

Your safety, comfort, and confidence in the process are important. Please check in with us early so we can support you fully.

Health & Wellness

FEBRUARY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

APRIL 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 <u>Women's Circle At Wiyu Lodge 5-8pm</u>	3	4 <u>Foot Care Clinic 9:45am-3:15pm</u> <u>Wiyu Wednesdays 1-8pm</u>	5 <u>Dr. Page Clinic 2-4pm</u> <u>Family Night & Community Strengthening Dinner at Rec Centre 4:30 - 7pm</u>	6	7
8	9 <u>Women's Circle At Wiyu Lodge 5-8pm</u>	10 <u>Massage Clinic 10am-3pm</u>	11 <u>Wiyu Wednesdays 1-8pm</u>	12 <u>Acupuncture Clinic 9:30am-12:30pm</u>	13	14
15	16 <u>Spring Crafts at Rec Centre 2-5pm</u>	17 <u>Community Bingo 5pm - 8:30pm</u>	18 <u>Foot Care Clinic 9:45am-3:15pm</u> <u>Wiyu Wednesdays 1-8pm</u>	19 <u>Spring Crafts at Rec Centre 2-5pm</u>	20	21
22	23 <u>Women's Circle At Wiyu Lodge 5-8pm</u>	24	25 <u>Bike Rodeo at Rec Centre 11am - 2pm</u> <u>Wiyu Wednesdays 1-8pm</u>	26	27	28
29	30 <u>Women's Circle At Wiyu Lodge 5-8pm</u>	31	1	2	3 Good Friday	4

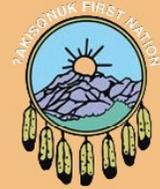
Please contact the ʔakisq̓nuk Health & Wellness Centre at healthcentre@akisq̓nuk.org or 250-342-6379 for more information or to book or cancel an appointment ☐

ʔakisq̓nuk Health and Wellness Programs Scan QR code for more details on Website.

- Mental Wellness and Trauma Recovery
- One-on-One Recovery Mentorship
- Recovery Healing Circle
- Chiropractor
- Acupuncture
- Massage
- Nutritionist Coaching
- Vaccines
- Non-Coverage Medical
- Medical Appointment Transportation



YOUR BENEFITS YOUR WAY



Ki?su?k kyukyit q̄apiniskiŋ. We have had over 200 ?akisq̄nuknik sign up for member health benefits! Below are some resources to help download the app(s), sign up for CINUP, and submit claims. Click the video below, [my-benefits for Employees](#), to see a quick how-to tutorial. Or go to: <https://cinup.ca/my-benefits/>

We hope this helps make submitting your claims easier! If you are still having trouble, email healthcentre@aksignuk.org more assistance.



Submit Online

my-benefits eClaims® allows you to submit many of your Health and Dental claims online, quickly and easily – no paper claim forms to complete. Claim payments are deposited into your account within 48 hours of being processed.

It's easy:

- Select the service or product supplied (the type of claim)
- Enter the service date and amount charged by the provider
- Attach a digital copy of the original receipt and submit

It's as simple as that. You will receive an email notice when your Explanation of Benefits has been prepared and claim payments have been deposited into your account.

Not registered, **sign up now!** All you need is your Firm and Certificate number.

[my-benefits for Employers](#)

[my-benefits for Employees](#)



LOGIN

Submitting claims with your phone or tablet?

Download the *my-benefits* app. It's as simple as taking a picture of the receipt using your device.





WIYU LODGE & GARDEN

AKISQNUK



| New to Wiyu Lodge - Outside

Wiyu Lodge is Being Upgraded to Better Serve All Community Members

The public works, facilities and infrastructures teams have been hard at work with the goal of making Wiyu lodge more accessible for all members. Land has been leveled and concrete has been poured for a wheelchair ramp leading to the main entrance. Several other upgrades are in the works including some beautiful new furniture. Stay tuned for more updates.

If you would like to share any traditional irrigation practices, have any suggestions, advice or if would like to be involved in any way please reach out to the garden team
james.sullivan@akisqnuk.org



(705) 494-6550

| What's growing on in the garden...

Honouring Our Land with More Sustainable Irrigation Practices

With the recent cold weather and the lovely dump of snow it's hard to imagine the dry hot weather of the summer to come. As we look forward to the next growing season, we are planning to implement more efficient watering solutions to the community farm garden. From utilizing rain capture at the lodge as well as transitioning to drip irrigation of row crops, we will be moving forward in a good way. Our goal is to produce the most amount of food with the least amount of water. By including systems like driplines instead of sprinklers we will significantly reduce water wasted to evaporation while in turn increasing harvest yields by supplying water right where the plants need it. We will continue to blend modern agricultural techniques with traditional practices while maintaining the primary goal of caring for the land.



| New to Wiyu Lodge - Inside

A Big Thank-You to the Wiyu Move Crew!



February 9th marked an exciting milestone at Wiyu as all our brand-new furniture officially arrived. The fresh space is already bringing new energy—but it wouldn't have come together so smoothly without some exceptional teamwork behind the scenes.

A special shout-out goes to Dorrell and his trusted “muscle,” Russell and Cody, who

stepped up at a moment's notice to help clear out all the old furniture. Their quick action, teamwork, and willingness to jump in made the transition seamless and stress-free for everyone.

Thank you team, for turning a big task into a smooth success. Your effort is truly appreciated!



| Community Spotlight

Bringing Creativity Together at Wiyu Wednesday



Mindfulness is the practice of gently bringing our attention to the present moment — to our breath, our bodies, to what is happening right now. For those healing from trauma, mindfulness can be a powerful and grounding tool. Trauma often pulls us into the past (through memories) or the future (through worry). Mindfulness helps regulate our nervous system by anchoring us in the here and now. When we pause, breathe slowly, notice our feet on the floor, or soften our shoulders, we signal safety to the body. Over time, these small moments of awareness can support emotional regulation, resilience, and healing.

Mindfulness does not have to look like sitting still in silence. It can live in everyday acts — washing dishes slowly and noticing the warmth of the water, walking and paying attention to each step, drinking tea

and noticing the taste of it, listening deeply to a loved one, stretching before bed, or stepping outside to notice the sky. Everyday mindfulness invites us to move through the world with intention and care, one small act at a time.

Colouring is another gentle, low-barrier way to practice mindfulness. It offers a repetitive, soothing focus that can calm the nervous system and quiet busy thoughts. There is no pressure to be “good” at it — simply choosing colours, filling shapes, and letting your hands move can be restorative. Creative practices like colouring create space for regulation without requiring words.

While Tuesday Colouring Club will no longer run as a standalone gathering, it is being consolidated into Wiyu Wednesdays. Colouring supplies — including

colouring sheets by Indigenous artists — will be available at Wiyu Wednesday for anyone who would like to participate.

Please feel welcome to drop in.





MARCH 2, 9, 23 & 30

WOMEN'S CIRCLE

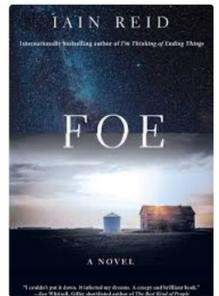
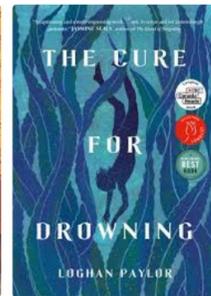
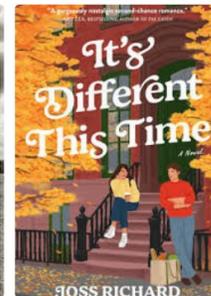
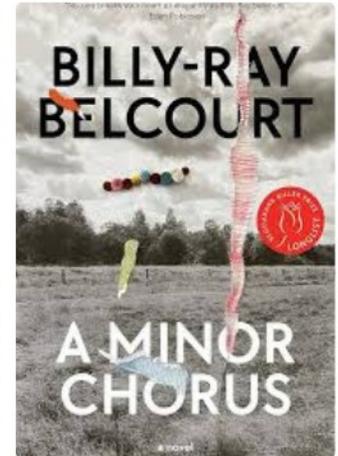
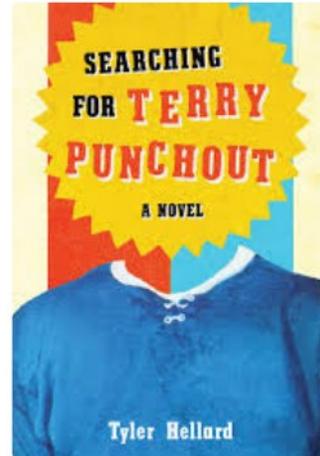
WIYU LODGE
5-8PM: Dinner served
shuttles available.
Call/text: 250-961-0993 for more info

www.akisqnuq.org

AKISQNUK FIRST NATION AND THE INVERMERE PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENT:

CANADA READS CHALLENGE

FEBRUARY 2ND TO APRIL 12TH, 2026



ʔakisqnuq Peer Support Team

Reach out for support, harm reduction supplies, transportation, and social connection.

Available Monday to Thursday
from 12-8pm

Call or text Jamie at (250) 342-5996
or Tegan at (250) 688-9483 for more information.

WEDNESDAYS AT WIYU LODGE

TIME FOR CREATION,
CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY

3-9PM

DINNER SERVED EVERY WEEK

NO SIGN UP REQUIRED, RIDES OFFERED
CALL OR TEXT TEGAN OR JAMIE
FOR MORE INFORMATION

JAMIE- (250)342-5996
TEGAN- (250)688-9483

Read Canada Reads. Win Prizes.
Join the conversation.

Sign up for the Canada Reads Community Reading Challenge and be entered to win the full set of books.
Draw on February 13th 2026

Participants will earn a \$5 Gift Card for each book read.

Join for the breakfast and live screening of the final debate at the Columbia Lake Recreation Centre on April 16th at 8am MST.

Open to everyone!

Register by email at healthcentre@akisqnuq.org or in-person at the akisqnuq Health centre, Columbia Lake Recreation Centre, or Invermere Public Library



www.cbc.ca/books/canadareads



AFN PROJECT MANAGER BOB COTTERALL UPDATE MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY

DEAR ʔAKISQNUK COMMUNITY,

We are approaching March 2026 in the next week and progress to the Multipurpose Facility continuous to proceed towards the completion date. Construction progress within the three components is outlined accordingly.

Administrative Component

Prime coat painting is started and sub flooring is now being placed prior to the finished flooring of carpet and tile. Mechanical, Electrical systems are being tested and finished off . The exterior wood siding is almost completed with minor application to the soffits and fascia to be completed.

Band Hall

Masonry work is completed to the exterior with this work continuing inside. Drywall application has started with the interior wall finishes following. All electrical conduit to the ceiling has been completed with the ceiling wood shiplap starting soon. The commercial kitchen and washrooms within the Band Hall will start and continue through the month of March and April.

Health Component

Drywall is completed. Ceiling treatment will be starting within March and painting to follow. Mechanical, Electrical systems will be completed towards the end of April.

In General the Furniture supplier has completed his order and delivery dates identified.

Exterior site work will be completed during warmer weather.

If you have any questions please drop by the ATCO Trailer, we would be happy to answer any questions.



250-342-6301



bob.cotterall@akisqnuq.org

Employment Opportunities

Whether you are a community member re-entering the workforce, navigating a career change, or a recent graduate, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation (AFN) is dedicated to your success.

We offer training, coaching, mentorship, and professional development opportunities to support you.

While having all the qualifications listed in the posting isn't always necessary, the first step is to apply for an opportunity that interests you.

You can submit your application directly to Human Resources at hr@akisq̓nuk.org. For more job postings, visit our [website](#).

ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation has exciting new employment opportunities available! Visit our website to see the full requirements and submit your application.

www.akisq̓nuk.org/employment-opportunities

Current Opportunities Available as of March 2, 2026:

AFN Enterprises LP

- AFNE Board of Director (Volunteer)
- Property Manager
- Recreation Facility Attendant (Casual)

Finance

- Accounting Manager



Feedback

ʔakisq̓nuknik have a right to access quality services. Part of this means clients and families can voice perspectives, ask questions, and feel respected by AFN staff.

To provide feedback, whether a compliment or a complaint, send us an email at feedback@akisq̓nuk.org, or you may also submit in a sealed envelope to the health centre front desk.

WE ARE HIRING!

*Eva Joseph Learning & Cultural Society
Little Badgers Early Learning Programs*



WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR
AKA THE CHILD WHISPERER
EXTRODANAIRE**

*Must have valid ECE License,
registered to practice in British
Columbia*

POSITION DETAILS:

Full-time, based on 32-40 hour
work week

*Specific Classroom assignment
based on center needs*

\$30-\$31/ hour depending on
experience (Includes BC Wage
Enhancements)
Benefits and Holidays

THE PERFECT CANDIDATE WILL:

Collaborate with co-teachers
planning and implementing
child-led, play-based programs
that align with the BC Early
Learning Framework.

Foster creativity, curiosity and
developmental growth.

You will nurture classroom
environments by ensuring they
are organized, engaging and
inclusive spaces for all children
to soar.

Have a great love for the
outdoors and take pride in
nurturing gardens, our outdoor
classroom and play yards.



ABOUT US:

Our team values professionalism,
culture and collaboration.

We are connected to each other,
our children and the land on which
we are on: the Akisqnuq First
Nation the land between two
lakes.

We can't wait to hear from you!

Please send resumes to:

 [little.badger.windermere
@gmail.com](mailto:little.badger.windermere@gmail.com)

East Kootenay

CAREER AND JOB FAIR 2026

At College of the Rockies

Platinum Sponsor



Discover your opportunities at the largest career and job fair in the East Kootenay!

This event is **FREE** to attend for community members, College of the Rockies students, and high school students.



College of the Rockies

Cranbrook Campus
Gymnasium

Wednesday, March 4
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM



This program is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.



VISIT: cotr.bc.ca/career-fair



COLLEGE OF
THE ROCKIES

COLUMBIA VALLEY JOB AND VOLUNTEER FAIR

THURSDAY

MARCH 5

1-5PM

COLUMBIA
VALLEY CENTRE



JOIN

US



St. Eugene Golf Resort & Casino is actively hiring across several departments, offering a range of hospitality, cleaning, and casino-related roles. Current opportunities include front-of-house and guest-service positions such as Servers, Front Desk Agents, and Reservations Agents, along with housekeeping roles like Room Attendants and Resort Cleaners. The resort is also recruiting for multiple casino positions, including Casino Guest Service Agents, Security Officers, and Slot Attendants. These roles support the resort's commitment to exceptional service, cultural hospitality, and an engaging guest experience. View current openings here: https://workforcenow.adp.com/mascsr/default/mdf/recruitment/recruitment.html?cid=a933f358-bcd2-42d1-b894-e7692de672bc&cclid=19000101_000001&lang=en_CA. [lca.indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com)

Lands & Resources

Nine Fuel Reduction Treatments Planned on Reserve in 2026

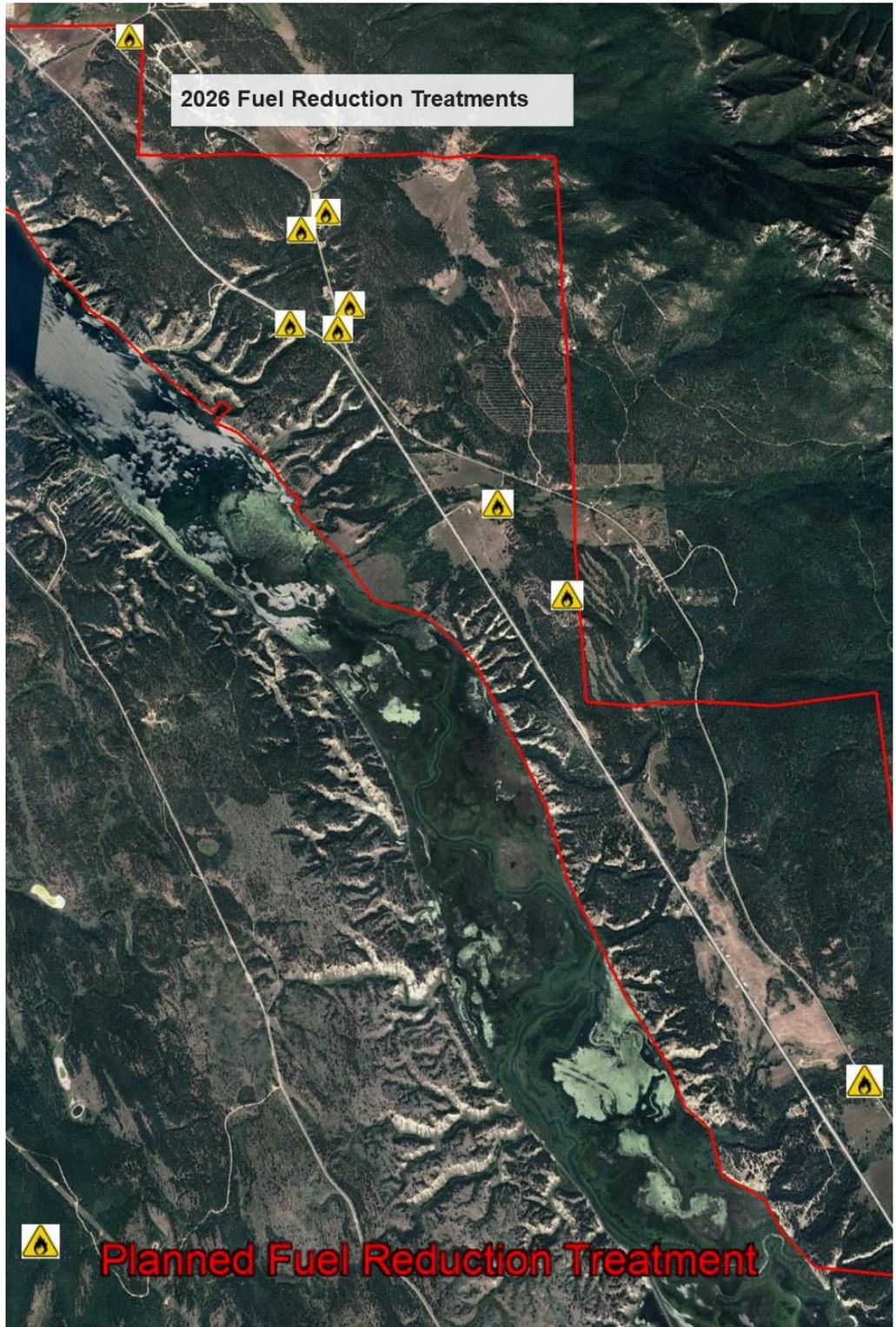
Recently, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation was awarded a FireSmart grant to complete a series of fuel reduction treatments on IR3. This work has now been tendered, and crews are expected to begin operations in January and continue through to the end of March.

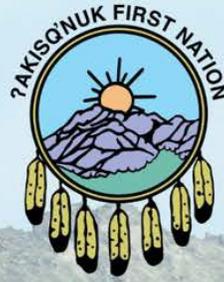
In addition to the IR3 work, community members will also see fuel reduction crews working near IR7, specifically by the **north turnoff for Kootenay Road 3**, as well as in areas **near the cemetery and the communications tower** over the next couple of weeks.

We also have a crew completing the CBT Ecosystem Restoration block, with anticipated completion by the end of March 2026.

Reducing hazardous fuels within our community is an important step in lowering the risk of future catastrophic wildfire damage. Community members may notice increased activity in these areas, as well as periods of visible smoke throughout **January, February, and March** as this work progresses.

We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as these important safety projects move forward.





Cultural Conservation Value Program

Calling ʔakisq̓nuknik and Ktunaxani̓ntik who are interested in participating in a Cultural Conservation Opportunity in collaboration with the AFN Lands department.

Come help learn, enhance, and preserve our ability to practice Ktunaxa culture in ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa. We will be going out to various sites to assess and monitor our ability to be Ktunaxa on the landscape. Berry picking, plant/material gathering, bird watching, wildlife use monitoring, game scouting, hunting, and fishing are some activities we can conduct to assess impacts to Ktunaxa cultural practices. It is a great chance to experience the territory, meet industry, gain contacts and work experience, and practice our Ktunaxa culture. Many of the activities will revolve around seasonal Ktunaxa cultural practices on the land.

There are opportunities for day or multi-day trips with small groups. We'd like these trips to lead to more and improved community engagement sessions both in community and on the land, as well as seek interested ʔakisq̓nuknik who want to join our Lands Team.

If you are interested, please reach out! There is no age limit - students and families are invited to attend.

ʔakisq̓nuknik and Ktunaxani̓ntik can contact chris.joseph@akisqnuuk.org or (250) 342-6301 Ext. # 3841 for more information and to provide suggestions for areas that they need to know more about.



ATTENTION ?AKISQNUK FISHERS

Invasive Species Yellow Perch found in
Ya·ki?uni?iki Kwi?qi (Columbia Lake)

Why is this important?

- Yellow Perch in BC are considered an invasive species, and are a direct threat to native fish species like salmon, trout, whitefish, and burbot, preying on their juveniles and negatively impacting their populations
- If nothing is done, yellow perch could rapidly overtake all other fish species native to Ya·ki?uni?iki Kwi?qi and harm the local biodiversity

**Qapi qapsin kin
?itkin hin ?isti
Ktunaxa**

*Everything you do,
you do for Ktunaxa*



What do Yellow Perch look like?

- Size ranges between 10 - 25 cm (4 - 10 inches) long
- Olive-green back, yellow sides, white belly, and dark vertical bars on the sides
- Two dorsal (back) fins and a forked tail

There are no other fish species in Ya·ki?uni?iki Kwi?qi that look similar to Yellow Perch

What to do if you catch one:

- **Do NOT release Yellow Perch back into the water (alive or dead)**
- Humanely kill the fish and dispose of safely if not intending to eat (e.g. trash, leave on shore if not in area of high-human activity)
- Yellow perch are safe to eat if you wish to keep your catch

Info to report:

Please report any Yellow Perch catches to **Lands.Resources@akisqnuk.org** and include:

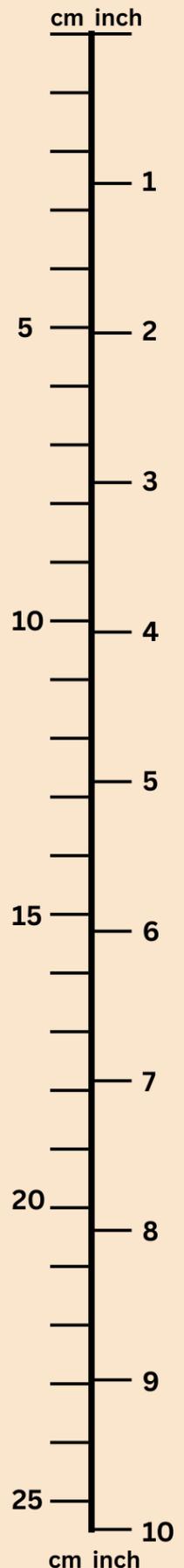
- Date and location caught (GPS if possible)
- Photo of fish (ruler for scale)
- Any identifying markings on the fish

AFN will send invasive species reports to the relevant Ministry

For more information or questions:

- BC Invasive Species website - Yellow Perch
- AFN Lands & Resources department - Lands.Resources@akisqnuk.org

Stay tuned for more updates from AFN!



AKISQNUK FIRST NATION

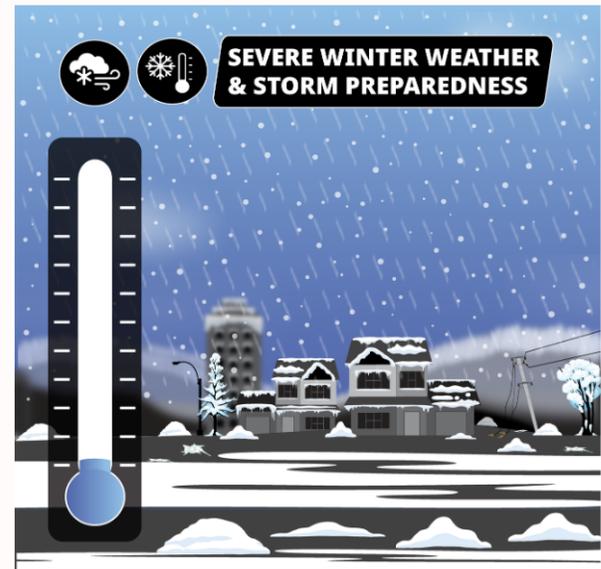
BUILDING A RESILIENT COMMUNITY

SEVERE WINTER WEATHER & STORM PREPAREDNESS

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

Severe winter weather and storm preparedness guide



Ktunaxa Nation



Ktunaxa Nation Council www.ktunaxa.org
Mail: 7825 Mission Road Call: 250-489-2464
Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 7E5 Fax: 250-489-2438

For Immediate Release
February 6, 2026

Statement against residential-school denialism

Anti-Indigenous racism has no place in ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa—or in the B.C. Legislature

ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa: The Governments of the Ktunaxa Nation denounce the actions of B.C. MLA Dallas Brodie that convey denialism of atrocities committed during the residential school era and call for her resignation from the B.C. Legislature.

“We condemn residential school denialism and the divisive hateful statements made by MLA Dallas Brodie,” said ʔaqam nasuʔkin Cheryl Casimer. “Brodie is *not* welcome in ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa, specifically in Yaqan Nuʔkiy where she is scheduled to host a town hall. We call upon our allies to join us in stopping this nonsense from taking place. It’s harmful, disrespectful and unacceptable.”

The Ktunaxa Peoples have experienced the loss, pain and suffering caused by residential school policies and personnel. Ms. Brodie’s rhetoric and media grandstanding perpetuate the pain and suffering of families still mourning the loss of children who were forcibly removed and did not return home from residential school.

Ktunaxa First Nations’ leaders recognize when words and claims are intended to cause harm, to further divide British Columbians, and to frame our history and inherent rights in a way that promotes discrimination.

Like other First Nations across B.C., Ktunaxa First Nations have worked for decades to build relationships with our neighbours and government partners, to benefit everyone.

Anti-Indigenous racism and residential school denialism have no place in ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa.



ʔAQ'AM



YAQAN NUKIY
LOWER KOOTENAY BAND



Yaqit ʔa-knuqʔiʔit

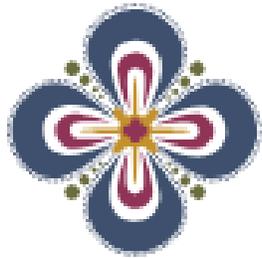
Takisqnuq First Nation
www.akisqnuq.org

ʔaqam
www.aqam.net

yaqan nuʔkiy
www.lowerkootenay.com

Yaqit ʔa-knuqʔiʔit
www.tobaccoplains.org

Odds & Ends



FEDERAL Indian Hospitals SETTLEMENT

Federal Indian Hospitals Settlement – Claims Process Now Open

Claims Opened: January 27, 2026

The Federal Indian Hospitals Settlement claims process is now active. Community members who believe they may be eligible are encouraged to review the official details.

What You'll Find Online:

- Eligibility requirements
- Required documentation
- Step-by-step claim instructions
- Deadlines and updates

Learn More & Begin a Claim:
ihsettlement.ca



WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU
VISITED KTUNAXAREADY.COM?

EYHH SLAXIN (GOOD MEDICINE) LINE LAUNCHED



New Pharmacy Phone Line launched for Indigenous callers

The [College of Pharmacists of British Columbia](#) (CPBC) has established [The Eyhh Slaxin \(Good Medicine\) Line](#) — a dedicated phone line for Indigenous individuals, their families, and their communities to share concerns about pharmacy care they've received in British Columbia.

This line offers Indigenous callers the option to speak directly with a person, rather than navigating formal intake steps before making contact.

The CPBC created this line based on guidance from Indigenous partners and communities who told the CPBC about the importance of being met with care, respect, and relationship when sharing concerns — particularly when those concerns involve experiences of harm, racism, or vulnerability.

Guided by CPBC's Indigenous Advisory Circle, this phone line is part of CPBC's broader work to decolonize its complaints and investigations processes. It reflects our commitment to create culturally safer spaces grounded in cultural humility, and respect.

The phone line supports initial information gathering and offers Indigenous individuals the opportunity to connect with a live person during scheduled hours. It is available only to Indigenous individuals, their families, communities and representatives, including those calling on behalf of an Indigenous family member, friend, or client. Non-Indigenous individuals will be directed to CPBC's standard concerns process.

Phone number and hours:

604-343-0614

Mon, Wed, Fri: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Tue, Thu: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Calls are answered during these hours. Messages left outside scheduled hours will be returned within one business day.

More information about the phone line and what to expect when contacting CPBC with a concern is [available here](#).



British Columbia Assembly of First Nations

YOUTH



FORUM!

2026

**WIN
PRIZES!**

Join Us For:

- Leadership Panels
- Advocacy
- Community
- Culture
- Games

MARCH 17

8:00AM - 4:30 PM

**Fairmont Waterfront
Vancouver, BC**

✦ Register at events.bcafn.ca