Issue No. 11 | November 1st | 2026 Curated by the ʔAFN Core Services Department

ʔAKISQ̓NUK COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER | KT̓A+UʔK ¢UPQA



Photo Credit: Sean Tonelli

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ʔAkisq̓nuk Calendar

NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Women's Circle, 5 - 8pm Virtual Communcations Session, 6:30 - 8pm	3	4	5 Family Night, 4:30 - 6:30pm	6	7
8	9 Women's Circle, 5 - 8pm	10 Yourway Member Engagement, 5 - 8pm	11 Office Closure* Remembrance Day	12	13	14
15	16 Women's Circle, 5 - 8pm	17 Massage Clinic, 10am - 3:45pm Money Management Workshop, 12 - 7pm	18 Foot Care Clinic, 9:45am - 4pm WIYU Wednesday, 4 - 7pm	19 Lunch & Learn, 11:30am - 1:30pm Dr. Page Clinic, 2 - 4pm	20 Community Dance, 3:30 - 8pm	21
22	23 Women's Circle, 5 - 8pm	24 Acupuncture Clinic, 10am - 4pm	25	26 Good Food Box, 12 - 3pm Yourway Member Engagement, 5 - 8pm	27	28
29	30 Women's Circle, 5 - 8pm					

Health & Wellness: Member Services: Lands & Resources:

Governance: Core Services: Other:

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Governance
  - **Manager, Governance Support**
    Windermere, BC
- Health and Wellness
  - **Community Nurse (LPN)**
    Windermere, BC
- Lands and Resources
  - **ʔAkisq̓nuk Guardians**
    Windermere, BC (Hybrid)
- Infrastructure
  - **Housing Maintenance Worker**
    Windermere, BC

- AFN Enterprises LP
  - **Recreation Facility Attendant (Casual part-time)**
    Windermere, BC

If you are interested in any of our ʔAkisq̓nuk First Nation employment opportunities, please visit our website to see the full requirements and submit your application.

~ A Poem ~

The beating of the drums
As it echoes throughout the land
Bid farewell to families and loved ones
Before the long journey abroad
Words of wisdom and strength
From the leaders of yesterdays' war
Guidance from the eagle
As it spreads its wings
Now you are ready to march on!

Listening to the sounds of
A different drum
Watching out for silver wings
In the sky
Living in the darkness
Not knowing what's ahead
Memories of loved ones so far behind.

The sounds of the war
Still ringing in your ears
As you wake up to another day
Wondering where you are
Remember, we your children love you
for who you are
BRAVE as the warrior of yesterday.

By: Anne Jimmy

Remembrance Day: A Look Into ʔAkisq̓nuk History

By: Paul Morigeau
ʔAFN Researcher

As we reflect on Remembrance Day in ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa it is important that we remember the sacrifices of our forefathers. Many of our forefathers served honourably in various conflicts including WWI, WWII, Korea and Afghanistan. A partial list follows this article.

Prior to the wars for Canada the Ktunaxa had a proud history of defending themselves in battle. They are described as peaceful but stubborn. Unbending when threatened, and protective of their land and people. Generally, we got along with the Stoney, Salish and Flatbow but we had a running conflict with the Blackfoot over the years and we never backed down in conflict.

David Thompson describes the Ktunaxa as tenacious and proud in their efforts to break the blockade the Blackfoot tried to maintain against the Ktunaxa trading with the Fur Traders across the mountain. He describes smaller groups of Ktunaxa all along the Eastern slopes of the Rockies being harassed by the Blackfoot and not ever backing down no matter what the odds were. One could imagine this kind of attitude, combined with hunting skills, equipping a soldier well.

Two such soldiers from the ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa were Toby Nicholas and Sebastien Mike. Both joined the Canadian Forces in WWII and distinguished themselves and made the ultimate sacrifice in totally different areas of Europe.

Sebastian Mike hailed from ʔaq̓am. He was born February 24, 1924 and attended St Eugene's Residential School and at nineteen, like many Ktunaxa young men, he joined the Canadian Expeditionary force. He trained in Canada from April 7, 1943 to April 17, 1943. His Services paperwork describes him as 5'11, 135 pounds, and rather shy to begin with but eventually he is described as a "Well-adjusted Kootenay Indian Soldier". He had to grow up fast. Eventually Mike was deployed with the Calgary Highlanders Unit.

Toby Nicholas was born on June 12, 1912 at ʔAkisq̓nuk and at age 29 on February 25, 1941 he joined the Seaforth Highlanders at Vancouver after training for a year in Canada. Toby was the son of Dominic and Sophie Nicholas. He was married to Angelica Nicholas and the father to Joan Madelene Nicholas who was a baby when he deployed. He is not described as shy at all and fit in well with his company right away. Toby was a strapping 6'-1 and 200 pounds and is described as having a very developed physique. He was eventually deployed to Scotland with his Highlander unit. The Highlanders unit had a dress uniform which featured them wearing kilts while on parade and this may have seemed odd to Toby and Mike.

Toby Nicholas



Photo Credit: Toby Nicholas | Veterans Affairs Canada





Seaforth Badge

Photo Credit: canadian seaforth artillery badge - Search

At the time Toby and Mike were joining their Highlander Units things looked pretty grim for the Allies. All of Continental Europe had been conquered and occupied by the Axis powers (Germany and Italy) and a good part of Asia was conquered by the expanding Japanese Forces. The axis powers were building a defensive wall along the coast of Europe. An attempted coastal raid by the Canadian forces at Dieppe in France was a disaster with Canadian forces suffering near one hundred per cent casualties or captured. Toby and Mike's Highlander units would be deployed on totally different parts of the continent of Europe to break the Axis grip on the continent and they and their units were instrumental in winning the war.

Rather than try to strike at France again the Axis opted to attack Italy. This was regarded, incorrectly, as the "soft underbelly" of Europe. Toby's Highlander unit deployed from Scotland for a harrowing sea voyage through the U-boat infested waters of the Atlantic to Africa in anticipation of the Attack on Mediterranean Island of Sicily which would lead to the invasion of Italy. Three allied ships were sunk by German U-boats and 58 men lost before the invasion could occur. The invasion of Sicily began with a sea landing at Pachino, Sicily on July 10, 1943.

Sicily Campaign Map



Photo Credit: Sicily, Italy - Bing Maps

The landing was not as difficult as expected and it turned out that the Italians, who were guarding the beaches opposite the Canadians, were demoralized, and did not put up much of a resistance. They are described as "surrendering in droves". Toby's unit secured the landing area and then moved on from Pachino on the southern tip, up to the more heavily defended Leonforte area. This was to be the key battles for the conquest of Sicily.

On July 12 the Canadians pushed forward through choking dust, a blistering sun and over tortuous mine-filled roads. At first all went well, but resistance stiffened as the Canadians were engaged increasingly by determined German troops who fought tough delaying actions from the vantage points of well defended villages and impregnable hill positions.

Each of these well dug in German positions had to be enveloped and stormed by Toby's unit. Casualties began to mount for the unit. The roads were not suitable for Tanks or troop transport so the soldiers had to move by foot. On July 14th they covered 30 miles in a 24-hour period with mules carrying their supplies. The terrain reminded some of the Okanagan valley in the hot, dry summer months.

On July 18 the unit was approaching the Leonforte position. Just north of the town the Seaforth's came under heavy machine gun, artillery and mortar fire. The Germans were waiting to spring an ambush against the whole battalion. A disaster was narrowly averted and a plan had to be put into place to take this well defended position. In order to more safely take the position the Unit opted to blanket bomb the German positions with artillery and have the troops come in right behind the plotted bombardment while the enemy was disoriented by the bombing. This approach had been effectively used by the Canadian army at Vimy Ridge in World War one. The timed blanket artillery approach is subject to human error but, if done correctly, it is very effective in attacking entrenched positions. Errors did occur and 30 Seaforth's in Toby's unit were killed by "friendly fire".

The final assault on Leonforte occurred on July 21, 1943. Toby's unit forced the Germans from the position and then circled around to block their retreat and it is in this part of the battle that Toby was killed in action. The Seaforths suffered 28 killed and 48 wounded on this day. The unit moved on to Agira and Toby is buried at the Castogiovanni Cemetery at Agira, Sicily. The Leonforte battles in July 1943 forced the Germans to abandon Sicily and paved the way for the Conquest of Italy. Toby received 5 service medals for his and his Units actions at Sicily.

Agira Cemetery

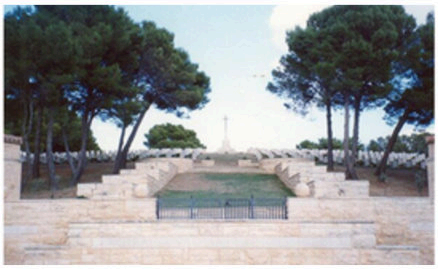


Photo Credit: Agira Canadian War Cemetery in Agira, Sicilia - Find a Grave Cemetery

At about the time Toby Nicholas was fighting through Sicily and driving the Germans forces out Sebastian Mike was finishing his training in Canada and joining the Calgary Highlanders unit.

While he did not go over with the first assault on D-Day on June 6th, his group, the Calgary Highlanders, came over for what would turn out to be the deadliest part of the Canadian mission in WW2. He was involved in the final battles of Caen which culminated In the Allied breakout from Normandy in the fall the Canadians were tasked with clearing the Scheldt in the lowlands to the North along the wet and canalled coast. Without a proper dock to unload the millions of tons of supplies the Allies needed in crossing Europe and the Canadian job was to clear out the stubborn German resistance. The Germans blew the dikes and the attacks along the Scheldt were basically continued assaults in waist deep water or on Dinghies to attack well defended positions.

Thousands of Canadian soldiers were killed or injured in the first three

months of the effort in this muddy hell as they moved out from Northern France to try to clear the Scheldt all the way to the great port of Antwerp. The Canadian's graves are all along the Belgian and Dutch Countryside in immaculately maintained commonwealth war graves. I stopped in at one cemetery in Adejem, Belgium and it was a moving site to see over a thousand perfectly tended Canadian war graves of young Canadian boys all killed over about a three-month period.

Sebastian Mike's unit was deployed in France August, 8, 1944 and shortly thereafter he saw his first battle at the mopping up of Verrieres Ridge. Up to the point of this battle for Caen the Allies were bottlenecked in the Normandy area and unable to break out. The unit were deployed to clear the numerous stone building villages that dot the farmland of this area from stubborn very German resistance. Stone walls and prevalent Bocage—a thick type of windrow of thick hedges and trees that line small French fields- these are ideal defensive positions. At Varrieres Ridge Sebastian's unit was in constant battle over two weeks when he, along with 65 of his fellow Highlanders, came under heavy fire on an assault and, he was shot in the thigh. In total Canadian losses were 800 dead and 2000 captured or wounded. This injury could have been his ticket home.

Mike was evacuated and received medical attention but he wanted to return to his friends and on September 15th, Sebastian returned to his Unit which had moved up the Scheldt proper on September 15th. He fought at Albert Canal, Eindhoven, and Hoogerheid in intense battles as the Highlanders cleared these areas.

The Dutch hold Canada, and the Canadian soldiers because at the time the Canadians cleared the Germans out. The Dutch were starving after 4 years of German occupation.

Eventually Sebastian's unit was at the Walcheren Causeway where the Highlanders were thrown into an epic battle alongside a French-Canadian regiment, Le Regiment de Maisonneuve and the Scottish Highlanders. The battle was the culmination of the Canadians march north to Antwerp.



Photo Credit: Battle of Walcheren Causeway - Wikipedia

Walcheren is a strategic island blocking the port of Antwerp that was heavily defended by the Germans. The task was to proceed across a narrow barren constructed land bridge 130 feet wide and 0.6 miles long that lead to the island and secure a foothold for the assault of the position. Sebastian's unit had to cross this land bridge under heavy fire to secure the island and allow for the use of the Antwerp port. Sebastian was in this human wave. It is at this point that he, along with sixty-four of his compatriots, were killed in the assault that eventually secured the foothold that allowed the rest of the force to secure the island. Sebastian is buried at Bergen-Op Zoom Canadian Military Cemetery in Belgium along with over 500 of his Unit.



Photo Credit: Canada, Commonwealth. A Calgary Highlanders Cap Badge – eMedals

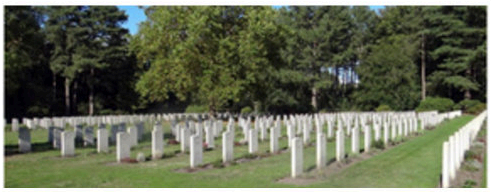


Photo Credit: Comonwealth War Graves

Bergen-op-Zoom Canadian Military Cemetery, Grave 5, Row B, Plot 4.
Born on February 24, 1924
Died Netherlands on October 23, 1944

That is not the end of the story for Sebastian. The Calgary Highlanders were approached in 1946 by the BC Government about whether there were any Kootenay soldiers who deserved an honour and Sebastian's name was put forward and subsequently Mount Mike was designated. This is a 3294-foot peak in the Quinn Range, west of Elkford. The approach to the peak can be gained by taking the Whiteswan Forestry Road for about 2 hours.

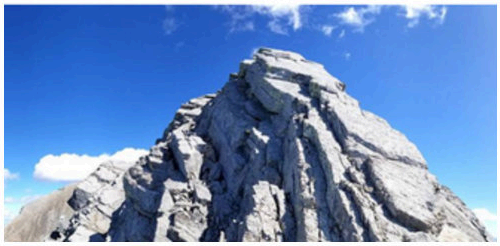


Photo Credit: A journey to a mountain, and into a Ktunaxa soldier's story | Trail Times

While Sebastian and Toby did not return from overseas, other Ktunaxa warriors did. Many local soldiers returned to ʔAkisq̓nuk with stories and challenges of their own.

Returning Ktunaxa soldiers were volunteers in WW2. When they returned they were not eligible for the land grants and low interest loans for farming equipment that other Canadian Soldiers got under the Veterans Act. They also didn't have the right to vote for another 3 years. In 2005 Joan Nichoals, along with her aunt Phyllis, and cousins, Lola, and Martina visisted Toby Nicholas's gravesite in Sicily.

Langauge, Memory, and Remembrance: The Power of Words

By: Theresa Kains
ʔAFN Guardian

As I was looking for Ktunaxa words for the November Ktunaxa Word Search, I immediately wanted to find words related to our veterans.

I have only had the honour of knowing a few veterans from my community.

For many years, I thought one of them was Young Toby Nicholas. I had the honour of knowing Young Toby when I was a little girl on the reserve. To me, he was an Elder I would see walking to town or around town. My mom always made sure to give him a ride whenever we saw him travelling. I remember hearing that the little alleyway between the old BMO Bank and what is now the thrift store was unofficially called "Toby's Alley" because he used it so often.

It was only recently, while participating in a Ktunaxa event, that I learned the Toby I remembered was not a veteran himself, but was named after one.

What I remember most about Toby was his kindness. He was always good to my mom and me, and there was always laughter when he was around. Many people in the community have their own stories about him. It wasn't until after he passed away, when I was older, that I began to understand the strength it takes to remain kind despite the hardships Indigenous people have endured.

The veteran I knew as a child was Frank Sam Sr. He became my image of what an Indigenous veteran was. Every Remembrance Day, he would proudly wear his uniform, often supported by his close family. Beyond those ceremonies, I remember seeing him around town, visiting with community members and sharing his big, beautiful smile, a smile that his children inherited.

When he passed away, it felt like the closing of an important chapter. Even today, I still feel the absence of both Toby and Frank.

As a child, I didn't understand what I know now.

I have at least one known close family member who served: my great-grandfather, Louis Kaius, who enlisted during the First World War. From what I have been able to learn, his service was cut short due to injury and he was returned home.

My husband also had the honour of knowing his grandfather, Jack Stevens, who served during the Second World War and was a decorated soldier.

These are the men who come to mind when I reflect on what Indigenous Veterans Day means to me.

They fought for their families, their communities, and future generations of Ktunaxa and Indigenous people. Through their service and sacrifice, they helped ensure our people would endure, survive, and continue forward. Because of their sacrifices, we are here today.

Many Indigenous veterans returned home to a country that did not honour them in the same way as other veterans. Promises that had been made were often broken. They returned to restrictions imposed through government policies, discrimination, and the ongoing realities of life under the Indian Act. Many had attended residential schools themselves and later saw their own children forced into those same systems.

Despite everything they carried, they continued on. They raised families, supported their communities, and did their best to move forward.

Sometimes when I walk behind the reserve, I come across old brown beer bottles scattered in the grass and bush. They remind me that people often carried grief in silence. For some, gathering together and drinking became a way of coping with pain that was too heavy to speak about.

When I reflect on all that was taken from these generations, I also reflect on what they gave. They fought for our survival. They endured hardships many of us can scarcely imagine. The healing we do today honours the struggles they faced and the sacrifices they made.

So as you reflect, may the words in this word search give you strength.

Words Have Power

This Veterans Month, I invite you and your family to reflect on the words in this puzzle. Some of these words may have been spoken by our ancestors on the land or by Ktunaxa veterans during their service. While some words carry great weight, it is our actions that give them power.

May these words encourage us to honour the values of courage, respect, service, and remembrance while strengthening our connection to Ktunaxa language, culture, community, and one another.





Accessing Residential School Records Through the NCTR

By: Sean Tonelli
ʔAFN Communications Manager

For Survivors and families looking to learn more about their residential school history, the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) provides a process for requesting records and personal statements.

The NCTR was created to be a responsible and accountable steward for the experiences, photos, and memories entrusted to the Centre by the Survivors of Canada's Residential School system and to ensure that Survivors and their families can access their own history for generations to come. Support is also available for people who may have limited access to a computer or the internet.

Survivors can request their own residential school records or a copy of a statement they previously provided by completing the NCTR's Survivor Inquiry Form and submitting it by mail or email. Family members can also request records on behalf of a Survivor through the NCTR's Third Party Inquiry process. If the Survivor is living, their consent is required. If the Survivor has passed away and was born less than 100 years ago, the NCTR requires proof of death. This can include documents such as an obituary, death certificate, funeral program or a photograph of a grave marker.

The NCTR continues to make additional archival records available through its proactive disclosure process, while requests for records that are not already publicly available are reviewed based on the purpose and scope of the request. The Centre also supports community-led research and can work with communities seeking access to archival materials.

The NCTR's How to Access Records page includes the necessary forms, instructions and contact information.

https://nctr.ca/archives-and-collections/how-to-access-records

The NCTR can be contacted at 1-855-415-4534 for assistance.

Accessing residential school records can bring forward difficult memories and emotions. The National Residential School Crisis Line is available at 1-866-925-4419 for whomever may need support.

Dwight Parman



MEET THE ARTIST: ʔAKISQ̓NUK ART GALLERY

“I am a 58-year-old artist connected to the ʔAkisq̓nuk First Nation through the Morigeau family line. My great-grandmother, Josephine Isabel Morigeau (Lightbown), is the root of my connection. Although I only recently reconnected with the ʔAkisq̓nuk people, I carry that heritage with pride. Born in Victoria and now living in Langley, I have created art throughout my life, but it became a deeper calling after the passing of my father six years ago. Painting and drawing became a way to mourn, heal, and celebrate his life. I work mainly in acrylic and watercolour on paper, and also enjoy woodworking — skills I feel come naturally from my Indigenous ancestry.

A mechanic by trade and an artist by night, my intention is simply to create art for myself and to share it with others. I proudly display my work at my workplace, where it brings joy and connection to coworkers. My favourite artist is Picasso, and people often tell me that some of my pieces remind them of his work — a compliment that encourages me to keep exploring bold and expressive shapes. An avid cyclist, I carry a portable watercolour kit wherever I ride, ready to capture whatever moment inspires me. I am grateful and proud that some of my artwork has been chosen for the ʔAkisq̓nuk newsletter, where my kinship can enjoy it too.”

“My artistic journey began around the age of four or five, deeply inspired by my Aunty Linda. She was a creative, mid-century free spirit, and I spent hours with her making macramé, string art, and paintings. Though she passed away many years ago, her early influence remains a guiding force in my life, and I often reflect on those cherished days knowing how proud she would be to see my work featured today.

Although I graduated with honours in art and was accepted to art school, family life took precedence. I made sure to pass that creative spark on to my children, spending plenty of time making art with them. Both showed real talent, and my daughter still actively draws and paints today.

Decades passed before I picked up a pencil and paintbrush again. After becoming an empty nester, I took an evening watercolour class at my local community arts centre. I wasn't sure what to expect, but I immediately discovered that my artistic drive was still there, eager to break out. I haven’t stopped drawing and painting since. The compulsion to create is stronger now than ever. As I near retirement, my plan is simple: to make as much art as possible. Creating brings me immense happiness, pride, and satisfaction.”







“First, are three black and white water colour/acrylic pieces I created following my fathers passing. They’re renditions of his favourite artist, Johnny Cash. My dad, Charles (or Chuck, as he was known), was every bit as cool and as loved as Johnny himself.
Creating these pieces helped me mourn the loss of my dad while also celebrating his life.”





“Second, the three colour pieces, a tryptic, are painted in acrylic on reclaimed fir and framed in the same material. These images represent my indigenous ancestors living, hunting, and surviving in the forests of our lands. Creating these pieces made me feel connected to them in a time long passed.”

“My message to fellow artists—young and old—is to never put the pencil or brush down. Being creative is a unique gift, and sharing it enriches both our own lives and our community in ways only art can.”

-Dwight Parman

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Director: Angela Jones

New Staff Introduction: Health & Wellness Director

Ki?su?k kyukyit,

For those I haven't met yet, I'm Angela Jones. You may know me through my work as Guardians Manager. I'm honoured to continue serving ʔAkisq̓nuk First Nation as Director of Health and Wellness.

My husband, Elliott, and I moved with our kids, Aspen and Everest, from Ontario's Lake Huron shore, just over a year ago. We feel thankful to watch our kids grow up in the valley. We spend a lot of time out on the land, hiking and snowboarding, often following our kids' curiosity; being outside together feels healing, especially in winter, our favourite season. A fun fact about us: we built a shipping container home back in Ontario and acted as our own general contractors!

I bring over a decade of leadership in regulated industry and post-secondary education, including launching ʔAkisq̓nuk's Guardian program. As a Lambton College Professor and Program Coordinator, I developed and taught food safety, quality management systems, greenhouse systems and nutrition programs, building on students' strengths and connecting them with support. Through Enactus, I supported three Treaty 6 Nations in Saskatchewan with food sovereignty goals. I hold a Bachelor of Applied Science (Biotechnology), with additional studies in biomedical science and psychology at Western University. My professional training spans mental health, gender equity, trauma-informed teaching and reconciliation. This learning guides how I support people, build relationships and strengthen programs.

Guided by the Health Plan's commitment to holistic wellness and Ktunaxa values, I'll work with Jenny, Gina and the team to support care and members' priorities across community wellness, food sovereignty, primary care and health promotion, in the spirit of ʔukin̓iɬwitiyaɬa (many people working with one heart).

I'm grateful to the Elders, Knowledge Holders and members for their time, knowledge and guidance over the past year. I believe trust grows when we make time for one another, listen carefully and follow through. Whether you have a concern, an idea or want to chat, let's connect over tea or coffee, on a walk or by phone - wherever you feel most comfortable.

Hu su?kni (thank you),

Angela Jones

angela.jones@akisqnuk.org or 250-341-1987









FOR MEMBERS

FIRST 2 CARTONS **FREE**
EACH ADDITIONAL CARTON $3

LARGE 18 EGG CARTON $5

CASH ONLY - EXACT CHANGE



www.akisqnuk.org

NOVEMBER 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

WOMEN'S CIRCLE

WIYU LODGE

5-8PM
Dinner Included
Shuttles Available

Call/text: 250-961-0993
for more info

November 18th

WIYU WEDNESDAY

TIME FOR CREATION, CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY

4–7 PM

Come join us for an evening of crafting, sewing, beading and painting!
(Supplied Materials)

Dinner included • No sign-up required
Rides available

For more information or to arrange a ride:
Call our Health Line
250-342-6379



ELDERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Visit and Tea at DTSS

EVERY SECOND TUESDAY@10:00 -11:00

OCTOBER 13TH
NOVEMBER 10TH
DECEMBER 8TH
JANUARY 12TH
FEBRUARY 9TH
MARCH 9TH
APRIL 13TH
MAY 11
JUNE 8

We warmly invite you to visit our school for a special time of connection and fellowship over tea. This gathering is an opportunity for us to spend meaningful time together, share stories, and strengthen the bond between our school and the community.

Your presence and wisdom mean so much to us, and we would be honored to welcome you into our school for this relaxed and friendly visit. We truly hope you can join us for tea and conversation. Please feel free to bring a friend along.

MEMBER SERVICES

Director: Victoria Stevens

New Staff Introduction: Member Services Director

Ki?su?k Kyukyit all my family and friends.

First let me apologize if I haven't had time to come by and connect in person. It has been a busy few weeks and I can assure you that every day is filled with new learning. I am working as quickly as I can to get caught up to all that is happening in ʔakisqnuk. I am happy to be in the Valley, I love the comfort and peace of the community. It is bittersweet to be here and not have my mom to support me. I do trust that she would have liked that I accepted the employment offer. Sadly, I was not able to share with her, that I had already started this employment process just days before she passed away. I am committed to doing my best to support ʔAkisqnukniks in my work. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions…I look forward to working here. A few people have commented that I have a big job, and I want to assure you that I have had other leadership responsibilities in my career path, so I believe I am up for the challenge. Member Services Director oversees Social Development, Housing, Education and Culture and Language, I look forward to continuing the great work already accomplished and am excited to see what new things can be developed.

Taxas, Victoria Stevens

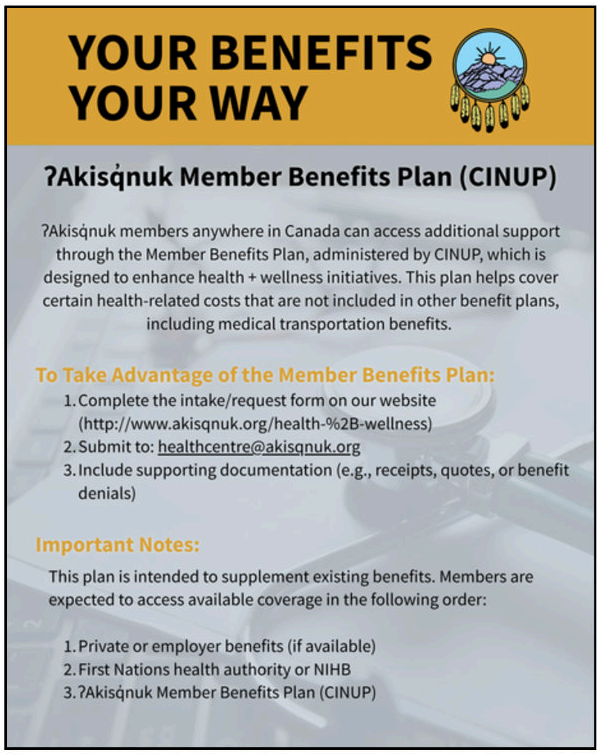
Lovely Family Gathering

The Lovely family shared a special reunion photo, celebrating the importance of family and spending time together over the Thanksgiving season. Thank you to Sharon Lovely for sharing this wonderful moment with the ʔAkisq̓nuk community!

If you have a special family moment or community memory to share, send your photos and stories to communication@akisqnuk.org to be featured in an upcoming newsletter!







Columbia Lake Recreation Centre

ʔAkisq̓nuk First Nation

FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5TH
4:30 - 6:30PM



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

3050 Highway 93 95, Windermere BC

ʔAKISQ̓NUKNIK!

LUNCH AND LEARN

November 19, 26 & December 3rd

11:30am-1:30pm @ AFN Band Hall

Course Overview:

Join us for a *lunch and learn* on the basics of home maintenance topics designed to equip you with need-to-know knowledge. When to call a professional.

What You'll Learn:

- Electrical safety and maintenance loose connection to tripping circuits, etc.
- Heating and cooling system upkeep
- General home repair techniques hanging light bulb, clean vents, etc.
- Preventative maintenance tips

Hosted By:

Don McBlain - Home Inspector - November 19
Matt Kopp - Electrician - November 26
Aaron Clark - Chimney Sweep - December 3

Lunch Provided

ALL KTUNAXA CITIZENS WELCOME

ENGAGE WITH US!
YOU'RE INVITED

creating a

LEGACY

ʔAKISQ̓NUK

IN PERSON

Round 1 - November 10, 2026, 5-8pm
Round 2 - November 26, 2026, 5-8pm

VIRTUAL

Round 1 - October 27, 2026, 5-8pm
Round 2 - November 19, 2026, 5-8pm

WHAT'S PROVIDED

Kin nuwas
Lunch/dinner will be provided
Door prizes! Stipend provided.

LOCATION

Kinɂ ɂi·kam
Band office, meeting room

LEARN MORE AND HAVE YOUR SAY

Round 1

- Learn about how the Trust can support the Nation and future generations.
- What has been decided by the community and what still needs help shaping.

Round 2

- Walk through investment scenarios and help shape the threshold amount.
- Give input on Trustee direction.
- Give input on the application process and how the Nation accesses funds.

KTUNAXA NATION

rsvp

walk-ins also welcome

YOUR HOSTS



These sessions are facilitated by Creston-based Your Wayfinders Management Solutions Ltd. on behalf of Ktunaxa Nation.

ʔa·kikɬiyiʔis
Jared Basil
Kala Hooker

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where did the money come from?

The money comes from IRSA contributions since 2013, which come from Ktunaxa Rights and Title. Because the money has been sitting in an invested Trust, it has grown significantly. The Legacy Trust focuses on protecting, managing, and using these funds to create long-term collective benefits for the Ktunaxa Nation.

Will money from the Legacy Trust be distributed directly to Citizens or Communities?

Not necessarily. The Legacy Trust will not provide direct payments or per-capita distributions to individual Citizens. Its purpose is to create long-term, collective benefits for the Ktunaxa Nation.

Engagement will help explore how the Trust and its future earnings could support Nation-level priorities within the Trust's established parameters. Depending on engagement input, communities may be able to apply for funding for specific programs/initiatives.

How will my voice make a difference in this?

Citizens will be invited to share their needs, priorities and perspectives for the future. Topics may include how decisions should be made, accountability and transparency, trustee selection, decision-making criteria, and how Trust earnings could support long-term Nation priorities. The Ktunaxa Legacy Trust Creation Committee will take citizen input and bring recommendations to the Ktunaxa Nation Council Leadership.

visit ktunaxahakqyit.org for more questions and answers

LANDS & RESOURCES

Director: Lorne Shovar

What Have the Indigenous Stewardship Monitors (ISMs) been up to?

By: Vanessa DeSousa

ʔAFN ISM

Some of you may be asking: what have the Indigenous Stewardship Monitors been up to this past month? We're here to help answer that question!

Although construction work for the Revelstoke Dam Unit 6 project has been on the slower side, ʔAkisq̓nuk Indigenous Stewardship Monitors have had a busy month of monitoring and field work. Their primary focus continues to be monitoring the 6th generating unit construction, while participating in complementary field opportunities that strengthen their stewardship knowledge, monitoring skills, and Ktunaxa and ʔAkisq̓nuk First Nation presence in the Revelstoke area.

The monitors have been present on the Revelstoke dam construction site twice weekly to observe activities, with the purpose of watching over ʔa·kxamis q̓api qapsin (all living things). Wildlife observed on site to date includes various bird species such as swallows, ¢ik̓ku (robins), kyaq̓nukaʔt (eagles), and ¢u·¢u (ospreys), as well as nupqu (black bears), kamnuq‡uqat (deer), watak (frogs), and alligator lizards. Regular downstream monitoring also continues to support observations of conditions beyond the immediate construction site. Looking ahead, the monitors are planning to develop a herbarium to help document plant species and support ongoing stewardship monitoring.

To kick off this month's additional field work, Indigenous Stewardship Monitors and ʔAkisq̓nuk Land Guardians joined Parks Canada to spend time on the land, while retrieving and replacing memory cards and batteries in wildlife cameras located in the Revelstoke backcountry. This provided valuable experience in wildlife monitoring methods and strengthened relationships with partners working in the area.

The field work didn't stop there! The monitors had an opportunity to participate in a fish spawning boat tour of the Columbia River, focused on documenting fish numbers and environmental conditions. These included substrate type (such as gravel or sand), weather conditions, water temperature, water depth, and flow speed. Through this experience, the monitors gained a better understanding of how and why fish select specific spawning areas and why some locations may be more more suitable than others. This knowledge will help inform future water and habitat monitoring associated with the Revelstoke Dam Unit 6 project.

Later in the month, the monitors joined Wildsight Golden to conduct field work for their Beaver Dam Analogue Project in the ʔaknuk‡uk (Golden, BC). This consisted of walking survey sites to look for physical signs of sina (beaver) presence, such as scat and chewed logs, sina preferred foods, and collecting field data, including water flow measurements. The experience provided additional opportunities to build skills in habitat assessment and ecological monitoring.

Lastly, the monitors joined Ursus Archaeology and other First Nations to conduct archaeological field work along the Revelstoke Reservoir. This work involved boating to several areas of archaeological potential along the reservoir to look for artifacts through shovel testing and ground surveys. This opportunity supported continued learning, collaboration, and Ktunaxa cultural presence in the Revelstoke area.

The ʔAkisq̓nuk Indigenous Stewardship Monitors are proud to represent Ktunaxa cultural and environmental interests in their roles. Through consistent construction monitoring, downstream observations, and opportunities to learn alongside partners, they continue building the knowledge and relationships that support their monitoring responsibilities and a stronger Ktunaxa presence in the Revelstoke area.



Photo Credit: Vanessa DeSousa

COMMUNITY SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Janice Dallaire, ʔAFN Emergency Program Manager

Emergency Programming: ʔa·kinq̓uku ha‡wi·

ʔa·kinq̓uku = (Fire) ha‡wi· = (to be smart, to be aware)

By: James Sullivan

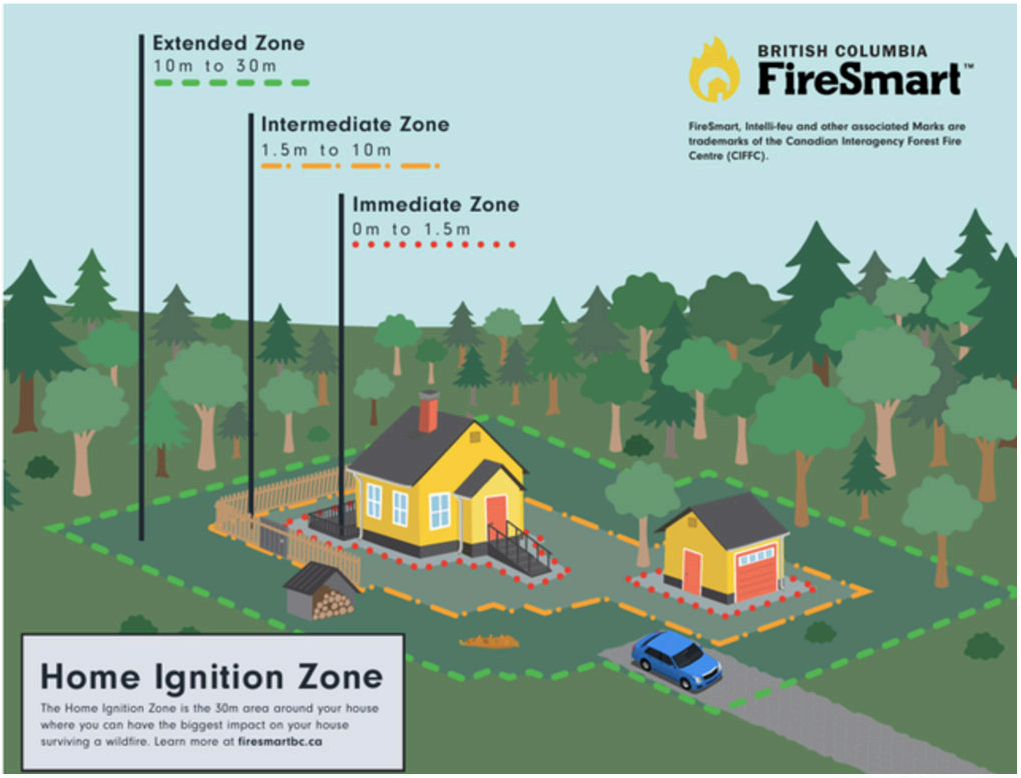
ʔAFN Emergency Program & Firesmart Coordinator

Ki?su?k kyukyit, my name is James Sullivan and I am the new Emergency Program & FireSmart Coordinator for ʔAkisq̓nuk First Nation working under the Emergency Program Manager within the Lands department. Some of you may remember me as the Garden/Agriculture Coordinator. Although I have changed roles, I know there are many correlations between agriculture and FireSmart/ wildfire resiliency and I look forward to exploring these relationships with you all and seeing how we can all work together to create an even more resilient and prepared community.

I've been told by ʔAkisq̓nuknik that FireSmart must once again be viewed as "a way of life" and not just something we think about during the hot smoky season. Therefore I will work hard to present FireSmart in this way rather than just another programming effort. It is a continued effort that needs the ball to keep rolling and carried forward throughout the whole year to be prepared for our ever-increasing wildfire threats. I know many community members have done an incredible amount of work on their properties and on these lands already and I aim to help keep this ball rolling. Wildfire resiliency takes all of us working together to make our communities safer.

This time of year is an excellent time to do your part in protecting your home and property. Many of us including myself are busy moving our firewood closer to our homes for convenience in staying cozy this winter. Personally, I like to use this time to tidy up the immediate zone surrounding my home because I'm aware that things can get very busy in the spring and it helps to have a head start on your spring cleanup. As you stack your firewood perhaps take this opportunity to do a quick assessment of your home. Do your best to remove branches, tall grasses and other combustibles that are sitting up next to your home before the snow covers everything up. Wildfire season comes earlier and earlier each year and a clean non-combustible 0-1.5m immediate zone around your home and outbuildings has been proven to be an effective method of protecting your home in the event of a wildfire. Take all of your branches and sticks and create a pile in your extended zone in a location that is accessible to the brush chipper. During our spring clean-up we will be available upon request to chip this material. It is important to remember to remove any unused firewood back out to your extended zone in the spring before fire season begins. Please refer to the BC FireSmart Home Ignition Zone drawing or firesmartbc.ca for more information.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding FireSmart feel free to reach out via email: james.sullivan@akisqnuk.org or come say hi at the office.



GOVERNANCE

Overseer: David Bach, Chief Administrative Officer

Council-to-Council Gathering Strengthens Regional Relationships

By: Sean Tonelli

ʔAFN Communications Manager

On October 6, ʔAkisq̓nuk First Nation welcomed representatives from the District of Invermere, Village of Radium Hot Springs, Regional District of East Kootenay, Shuswap Band, Ktunaxa Nation Council and Village of Canal Flats to our new Band Hall for a Council-to-Council gathering. The meeting provided an opportunity to share perspectives and discuss how our communities can continue working together. Conversations focused on stewardship, governance, collaboration and the importance of presenting a unified regional voice on issues that affect us all. Gatherings like this help build stronger partnerships and create opportunities to move forward together with greater understanding and cooperation.









Repaying it forward

Councillor Darcy Fisher was on hand to accept a repayment cheque from St. Eugene Golf Resort & Casino, marking the full repayment of a loan provided during the difficult COVID years.

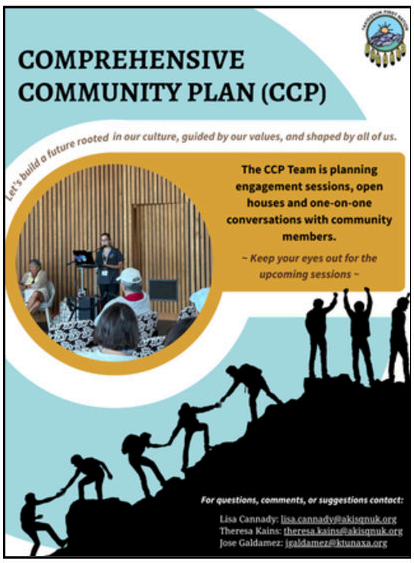
The support helped St. Eugene navigate an exceptionally challenging period, and the loan has now been repaid ahead of expectations following a strong business recovery.

Three Owner bands originally loaned SEM Resort $1,000,000. From December 2022 through October 27, 2026, SEM Resort paid each Owner $295,060.64 in interest. On October 27, 2026, SEM Resort made a final payment of $944,678.07 per Owner, fully repaying the outstanding loan balances.

A special thank you to Corrie Walkley, Lyndsay Kirkham, Darcy Fisher, Sandra van Steijn, and the teams at St. Eugene and Ktunaxa Enterprises Limited for their hard work and commitment.

This milestone is a reminder of what can happen when your Ktunaxa communities and organizations work together, support one another through difficult times, and continue lifting each other up.







CORE SERVICES

Director: Donna Melnychyn

You Spoke, We're Listening: Newsletter Survey Results

By: Sean Tonelli

ʔAFN Communications Manager

Earlier this year, we asked ʔAkisq̓nuknik to tell us what you want from your community newsletter, what information matters most, how they prefer to receive it, and what would make them more likely to read each month.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond. Out of everyone who responded, all are band-members with 57% of responders living off-reserve with the remaining members living on-reserve. The responses gave us some clear direction and a useful starting point as we continue improving the newsletter.

One message came through especially strongly: Members want a newsletter that covers a broad range of community information.

Among those who answered the content question, everyone selected community news and updates, upcoming events, programs and services, Nasuʔkin and Council updates, culture, language and history, and health and wellness information. Youth and Elder stories, Member achievements and profiles, and contests, puzzles and giveaways were also highly rated.

Some respondents also asked for more opportunities to learn about traditions through practical "how-to" content, such as beading and other cultural knowledge.

Members were equally clear about the kind of newsletter they want to read. More than 80% preferred a mix of short updates and longer stories, rather than a newsletter made up entirely of quick notices or lengthy articles.

Email was the most popular way to receive the newsletter, followed by printed copies. Feedback also told us that relevance matters: Members want information that connects directly to their community and their lives.

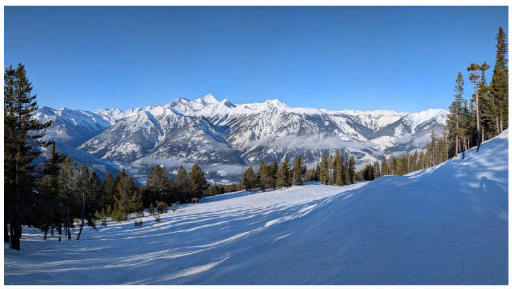
Some of the ideas shared for making the newsletter more engaging included language challenges, contests and prizes, a celebration-of-success column, and more contributions from children and youth, including stories, artwork, accomplishments and questions.

We are already using this feedback to help shape future issues. You can expect us to continue balancing important information with stronger community storytelling, while creating more opportunities to celebrate ʔAkisq̓nuknik, share culture and language, and hear from different generations.

The survey may be finished, but the conversation isn't. The newsletter belongs to the community, and we want it to continue growing with your input.

Have a story idea, photograph, achievement or suggestion you would like to share?

Please reach out to communication@akisqnuk.org.





Community Events Update

By: Val Stackhouse
ʔAFN Events Coordinator

Community Strengthening Dinner

A big thank you to everyone from ʔAkisq̓nuk First Nation, Columbia Valley Métis Association, and KKCSFF who joined us for the Community Strengthening Dinner on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at the Band Hall.

We had a good turnout of more than 45 people who came together to enjoy delicious food, meaningful conversations, and an evening of connection.

Gatherings like these provide a valuable opportunity to strengthen relationships, build friendships, and bring our communities closer together.

The next Community Strengthening Dinner will take place in November, hosted by the Columbia Valley Métis Association. Stay tuned for more details!

Upcoming Event: Annual Dance with Shuswap Band

Dust off your cowboy boots and hats! It's time for our 3rd Annual Dance with Shuswap Band in recognition of National Addictions Awareness Week.

Join us for an evening of great food, music, dancing, and fun for the whole family.

Friday, November 20, 2026
Columbia Lake Recreation Centre
Doors open: 5:00 pm
Dinner: 5:30 pm | Dancing to follow

This year's theme is Western, so come dressed in your best Western attire! Prizes will be awarded to our best-dressed.

For the kids, we'll have the always-popular bouncy castle, along with a surprise inflatable that's sure to bring some extra excitement! There will also be a photo booth to capture memories and a great variety of music to keep everyone entertained.

We look forward to another wonderful evening of bringing our communities together.

Hope to see you on November 20!

Festive Season Gathering – We Want Your Input!

For the past two years, our Winter Solstice Celebration has taken place on the Saturday closest to December 21, bringing ʔAkisq̓nuknik together to celebrate the season.

Due to a scheduling conflict this year, we are looking at an earlier date, with Saturday, December 12, 2026, tentatively selected for our Festive Season Gathering.

Before finalizing the plans, we'd love to hear from you! Your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions are important to us and help shape gatherings that are meaningful, welcoming, and enjoyable for everyone.

Please take a few moments to complete our short survey and share your feedback. Every response is appreciated and will help us plan a celebration that reflects what our members would like to see.

The survey is included in this newsletter, or you can complete it online using the following link:



https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/HZc6iB1Qv0

If you'd rather share your thoughts by phone or in person, please contact Val Stackhouse at 250-688-5254 or stop by the Administration Offices.

Please note that Val will be away on vacation during the first week of November.

We look forward to hearing your ideas and celebrating the season together!





ʔAKISQ'NUKNIK!

Festive Gathering Survey

* Required

1.**Theme Please check your favorite** *

- ○ Winter Wonderland
- ○ Holiday Celebration
- ○ Jolly Jamboree
- ○ A Clause for Celebration
- ○ Solstice
- ○ Other

2.Food *

	Yes	No	N/A
We/I would like to make a dish (see question 3)	○	○	○
We/I would prefer that groceries are provided in advance	○	○	○
We/I would prefer to have the food catered	○	○	○

3.We/I would like to bring the following food dish:

Please submit this paper form to the Administration Reception Desk

4.Entertainment Please Rank from 1-5 (1 being your first choice) *

DJ with Music and Dancing

4 Game Bingo following the meal

Make a festive decoration

Play Trivia

Other (see question 5)

5.Other Entertainment Choices

6.Children & Youth *

	Yes	No	N/A
Should there be a Santa with gifts for the children and youth?			
Should there be a gift table with donated items for children to wrap for their loved ones?			
Do the kids enjoy the inflatables?			
Should we set up one pickleball court?			

7.Your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions are truly valued and appreciated, this celebration is for you, please don't hesitate to share your thoughts.

Columbia Basin trust

THE ʔAKISQNUK & SHUSWAP WESTERN ROUND-UP

WANTED

WESTERN DANCE PARTY

SADDLE UP, DRESS WESTERN & COME DANCE!
THE DRESS CODE IS WESTERN. THE PLAYLIST IS WIDE OPEN.



DATE: FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20TH

TIME: 5:00–8:30PM, DINNER @ 5:30PM

LOCATION: COLUMBIA LAKE REC CENTRE

ʔAKISQNUK FIRST NATION

Shuswap Band



Call for Board of Directors
Eva Joseph Learning and Culture Society

By: Carrie Rickards

Eva Joseph Learning and Culture Society

Your Voice. Your Knowledge. Our Community.

The Eva Joseph Learning and Cultural Society is inviting interested community members to consider joining our Board of Directors.

We believe that learning, culture, and community connection are essential to building a strong future for our people. We are seeking individuals who are passionate about supporting our vision and who would like to contribute their time, knowledge, skills, and perspectives to help guide the Society's work.

We welcome community members who are interested in supporting cultural learning, education, community well-being, and opportunities for future generations.

You do not need previous board experience to express your interest. We value the knowledge, experience, ideas, and strengths that each person brings.

If you are interested in being part of this important work, we encourage you to reach out and learn more about joining the Board of Directors.

Together, we can help nurture learning, honour culture, strengthen connections, and support the generations to come.

To express your interest or ask questions, please contact:

Carrie Rickards,
Executive Director,
Eva Joseph learning and Cultural Society
carrie.littlebadgers@gmail.com
250-342-6331

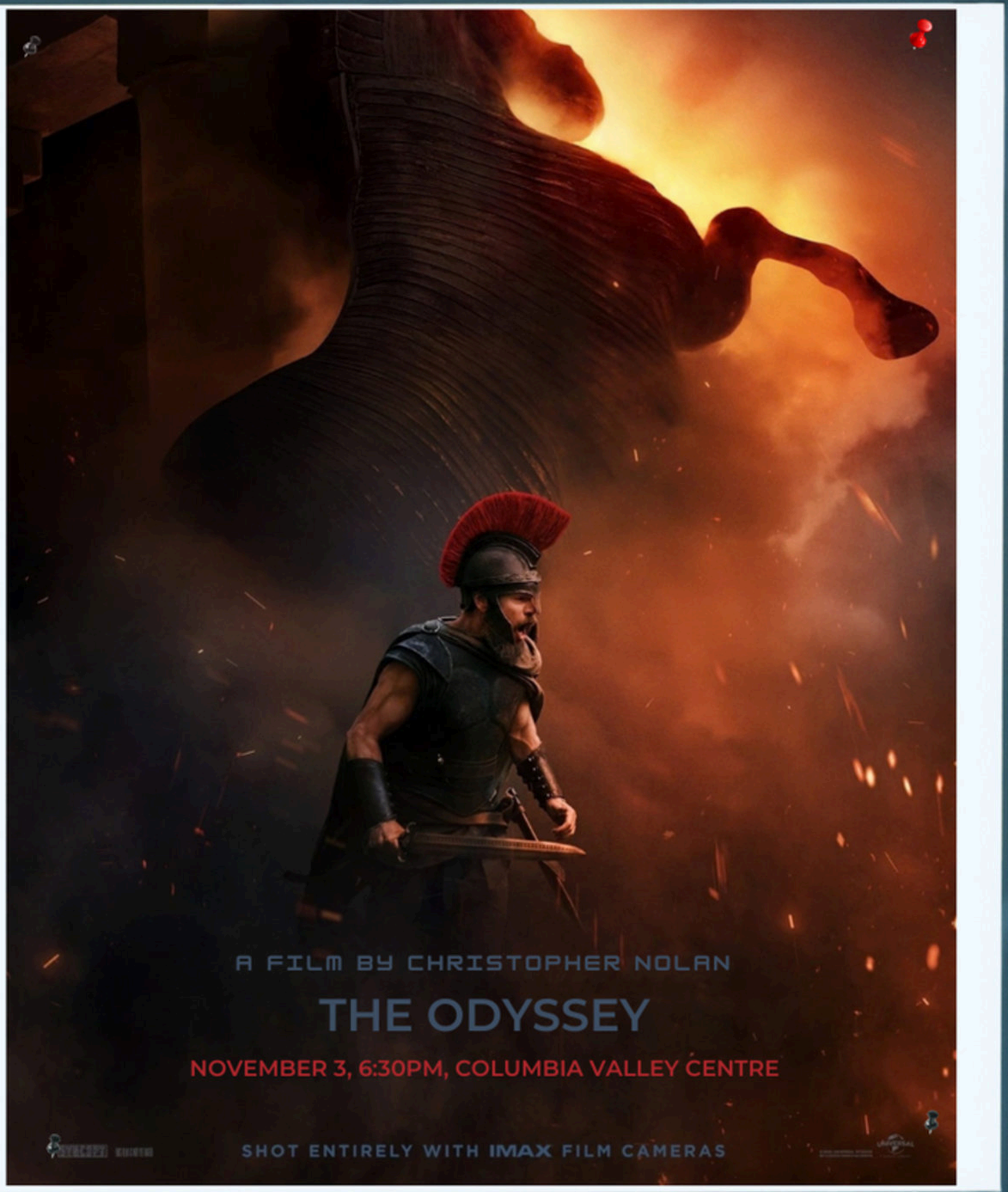




INVERMERE FILM FESTIVAL

COMING SOON

Complimentary Movie Tickets Available!



We have 6 complimentary tickets available for ʔAkisq̓nuknik.
First come, first serve.

Call the ʔAkisq̓nuk Band Office at 250-342-6301





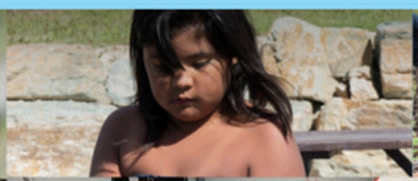
















Community is built on people, stories, and accomplishments that should be recognized!

It's all about lifting each other up and sharing moments of pride together

Membership Spotlight!

Work Anniversaries & Achievements
Birthdays & Wedding Announcements
Education & Training Achievements
New Additions to Families
Special Celebrations

Know someone who should be celebrated?

Submit a Membership Spotlight to celebrate them in our monthly newsletter!

Please make sure the person you are celebrating is comfortable being featured. We want every shoutout to feel positive, respectful, and something they're happy to share with the community.

Send your submission to communication@akisqnuk.org