

ʔAKISQNUK COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER | KUʔ#MAKAKU



Photo Credit: Angela Jones

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ʔAkisq̓nuk Calendar



Sep-26							Oct-26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30	31												
SEPTEMBER													
SUNDAY			TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		
30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			Play Group 10:30AM - 12PM		Family Fun Night 4:30 - 6:30PM								
6	5 Labour Day Office Closed	8	9	10	11	12							
			Play Group 10:30AM - 12PM		Dr. Page Clinic 2-4PM								Salmon Festival
			ʔakisq̓nuk Member Engagement Session Page 17										
13	14	15	16	17	18	19							
	ʔakisq̓nuk Member Engagement Session Page 17	Message Clinic 10AM - 3PM	Play Group 10:30AM - 12PM	ʔakisq̓nuk Member Engagement Session Page 17									
			Foot Care Clinic 9:45AM - 3PM										
			WYU Wednesday										
20	21	22	23	24	25	26							
				Fishing Camp (Must Register)									
				Canada Revenue Agency and Service Canada Drop-in Clinic 10 - 3PM, Band Hall									
		Acupuncture Clinic 1-4PM	Play Group 10:30AM - 12PM	Good Food Box 12 - 3PM									
				Dr. Page Clinic 2-4PM									
27	28	29	30	1	2	3							
			Play Group 10:30AM - 12PM										
			Office Closed										
			National Truth & Reconciliation Day Wear Your Orange Shirt!										

Excel Template © calendarlabs.com

Health & Wellness:

Governance:

Member Services:

Core Services:

Lands & Resources:

Other:

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Core Services
 - **Administrative Assistant**
- Governance
 - **Manager, Governance Support**
- Health and Wellness
 - **Director of Health and Wellness**
- Lands and Resources
 - **Emergency Program & FireSmart Coordinator**
 - **ʔAkisq̓nuk Guardians**

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.





HEALTH & WELLNESS

Overseer: David Bach, Chief Administrative Officer

ʔAFN Patient Travel Support: Helping Make Medical Travel Easier

By: K R Austin

ʔAkisq̓nuk Community Newsletter Editor | ʔAFN AA

When community members need to travel for medical care, there can be a lot to coordinate – from transportation and accommodations to unexpected changes along the way. Patient Travel Clerks are here to help make that process a little easier.

ʔAkisq̓nuk First Nation is proud to have MOA Lindsey supporting community members as a Patient Travel Clerk. Lindsey recently attended a gathering focused on the important work Patient Travel Clerks do to help ease the burden of medical travel. We have also recently welcomed Sammy, who will be training to become a Patient Travel Clerk and provide additional support to our community.

A big thank you to Lindsey and welcome to Sammy for helping support our community and making medical travel a little easier to navigate.

For more information about Patient Travel and available supports, please connect with our Health Centre team @ 250-342-6379

Could better transit in the Columbia Valley make life easier?

- Do you have kids who do after school activities?
- Do you or someone you know work later some days?
- Does your teen want an after school job that could benefit from a later bus?
- Having a late bus could support a range of people in our communities looking to get between **Canal Flats > Invermere > Radium** later in the evening.

TAKE THE SHORT SURVEY and let us know your thoughts to help improve transit in the Columbia Valley.

Learn more at wildsight.ca

Fresh Eggs Available

Our chickens at Wiyu Lodge have been busy, and fresh eggs are now available through the Health Centre!

FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

- First 2 cartons are FREE
- Additional cartons: \$3 each
- Large 18-egg cartons: \$5 each

FOR STAFF:

- Regular carton: \$7
- Large 18-egg carton: \$10

Please call the Health Centre to arrange pickup. 250-342-6379

Cash only

Proceeds help support the care of our chickens and the maintenance of the chicken coop. We encourage everyone to pick up some fresh eggs while supplies last! For more information, please contact the Health Centre or reach out to Gina, Wellness Program Manager.

Fresh Eggs Still Available for Members

By: K R Austin

ʔAkisq̓nuk Community Newsletter Editor | ʔAFN Administrative Assistant

Our Wiyu Lodge chickens have been busy, and we still have plenty of fresh eggs available through the Health Centre! Community members can enjoy their first two cartons FREE, with additional cartons and large 18-egg cartons available for purchase.

This is a great way to enjoy fresh, locally raised eggs while supporting our community coop. Proceeds help with the care of the chickens and ongoing maintenance of the coop.

If you'd like to pick some up, please call the Health Centre at 250-342-6379 to arrange pickup. **Cash only.**

There are lots available, so be sure to grab yours!

ʔakisq̓nuk Peer Support Team

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

Available Monday to Thursday from 8:30am-4pm

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

There are resources available to you if you need support. Circle of Care: KUUS First Nations and Aboriginal Crisis Line Support is Available 24 Hours. Call 1-800-588-8717.



Our Community Bookshelf: Book of the Month

"My Heart is a Chainsaw"

By: Sean Tonelli

ʔAFN Communications Manager

Written by: Stephen Graham Jones, Published by: Saga Press

Stephen Graham Jones' *My Heart Is a Chainsaw* is a blood soaked love letter to slasher movies and the damaged people who find comfort in them. As someone who owns every *Scream* movie physically and is a sucker for all things Robert Eggers and John Carpenter, this novel felt tailor made for me. It's clever, brutal and packed with enough horror references to satisfy even the most dedicated genre fan.

The novel follows Jade Daniels, a troubled Indigenous teenager living in Proofrock, Idaho. Jade doesn't just love slashers. She sees the entire world through them. When a group of wealthy newcomers begins developing the area around Indian Lake, Jade becomes convinced that the pieces are falling into place for a real life massacre. There's a final girl, a dark local history and more than enough potential victims. All that's missing is the killer.

Jade could have easily become an exhausting collection of horror references, but Jones gives her an incredible amount of depth. Her knowledge of the genre isn't just a fun character trait. It's armour. Slashers give her rules for understanding a world that has repeatedly failed her. They allow her to turn pain into mythology and imagine that, no matter how terrible things become, someone might still survive until morning.

Jones also handles the darker elements of Jade's past with an incredible amount of care. Rather than spelling everything out or using her pain for a cheap reveal, he allows the truth to slowly take shape through her behaviour, relationships and obsession with final girls. It informs the way she sees herself and gives her love of horror a heartbreaking purpose. Jade believes other people can be saved, even when she has trouble believing the same thing about herself.

While the story takes its time putting every piece into place, it never feels wasted. Jones' prose is dense, energetic and completely tied to Jade's point of view. Her essays about slasher history, written as extra credit assignments, are particularly fun and help establish the rules the novel will eventually put to the test. The slow burn makes the blood soaked final act land even harder.

Best of all, *My Heart Is a Chainsaw* sticks to its guns when it comes to the supernatural elements. Too many horror stories spend hundreds of pages building an impossible threat only to pivot towards a safe, rational explanation. Jones doesn't blink. When the violence erupts, the novel embraces the strange, the mythic and the outright horrific. The result feels closer to Carpenter's unapologetic menace, with a touch of the folklore and atmosphere that makes Eggers' work so compelling.

My Heart Is a Chainsaw is smart without forgetting to be scary, emotional without losing its edge. Thanks to a fantastic lead, a tight story and a genuine love for the genre, Jones has crafted a modern slasher worthy of standing alongside the films that inspired it.

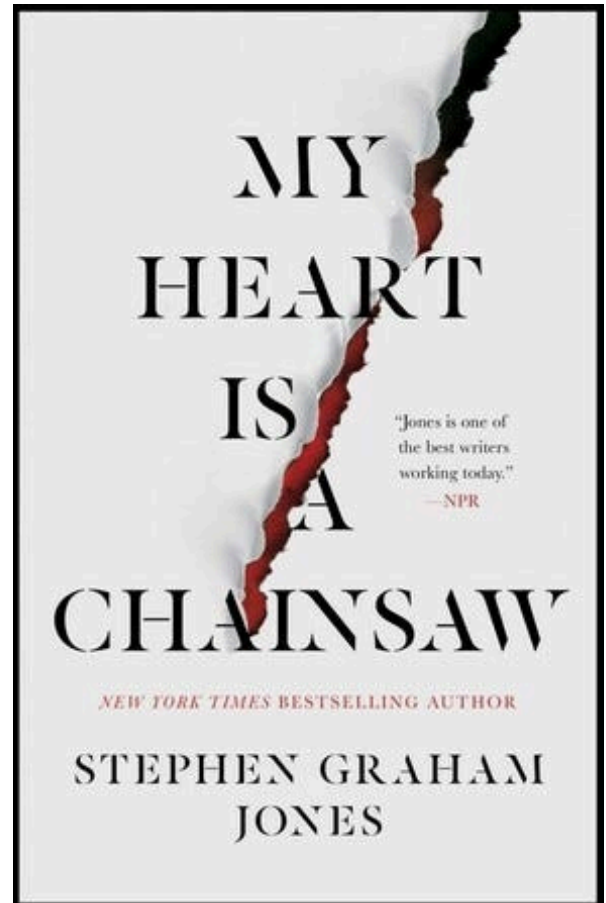


Photo Credit: Colorado.edu & medium.com

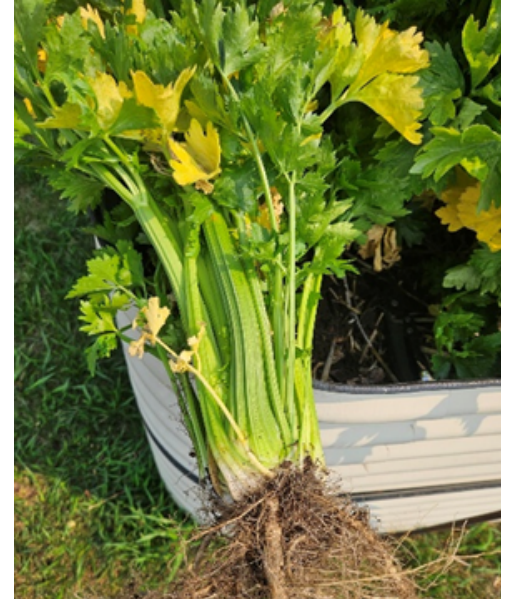


WHAT'S GROWING ON AT THE GARDENS?

James Sullivan, ʔAFN Agriculture & Grounds Coordinator

Back to School? Feed Your Brain!

Back to school means back to routine and we hope that includes healthy eating routines. Good food box is always filled with nutritious food from the community garden. If you are after healthier food you are always welcome to come see us up at WIYU where we are hard at work preserving and storing food like squirrels to help get our community through the winter. Want to keep away the vampires? We have plenty of garlic for you to munch on if you want to keep vampires (and everyone else) at bay.



Our Little Dinosaurs are Getting BIG!

We have successfully hatched 9 chicks in the basement up at WIYU. They are still enjoying the warmth and privacy of their basement suite but will soon need a bigger house. Need a smile or a laugh? Come on up and watch the chicks grow or settle into one of our lawn chairs and watch some chicken TV. If you watch long enough I'm certain they will make you laugh.



2026 AGA; supported by food from the ʔAkisq̓nuk garden

We had a good haul of produce pulled from the garden that was enjoyed by community as part of the AGA's event meals. From eggs to onions and garlic the garden team was proud to provide food for the community event. We were also happy to provide a beautiful food and flower basket as a door prize.

Photo Credit: James Sullivan



‘a-kuq̓wuk’is ksukikiṭ kikiṭ

Good Food Box

Thursday, Sept 24th

Location: Columbia Lake Rec Centre

From 12pm - 3pm. Cost \$7.00

Contact Margot Cain if you need to make alternate pick up arrangements: margot.cain@akisq̓nuk.org
250-342-6301 ext. 3881



MEMBER SERVICES

Overseer: Georgina Lieverse, Director of People & Workplace Culture

New Dual Credit Opportunity: Ktunaxa Language Course

By: Kevin Morrall

ʔAFN Education Coordinator

Starting this fall, Rocky Mountain School District 6 students will have a new way to earn both high school and post-secondary credit at the same time. College of the Rockies is developing a Ktunaxa language course, with dual credit opportunities expected to launch in the 2026-27 school year.

Students will be able to take the course in high school and have it count toward both their Dogwood diploma and a post-secondary credential, a great way to connect with Ktunaxa language and culture while getting a head start on their education and career goals.

More details on how to apply will be shared by schools as the program firms up over the coming weeks.

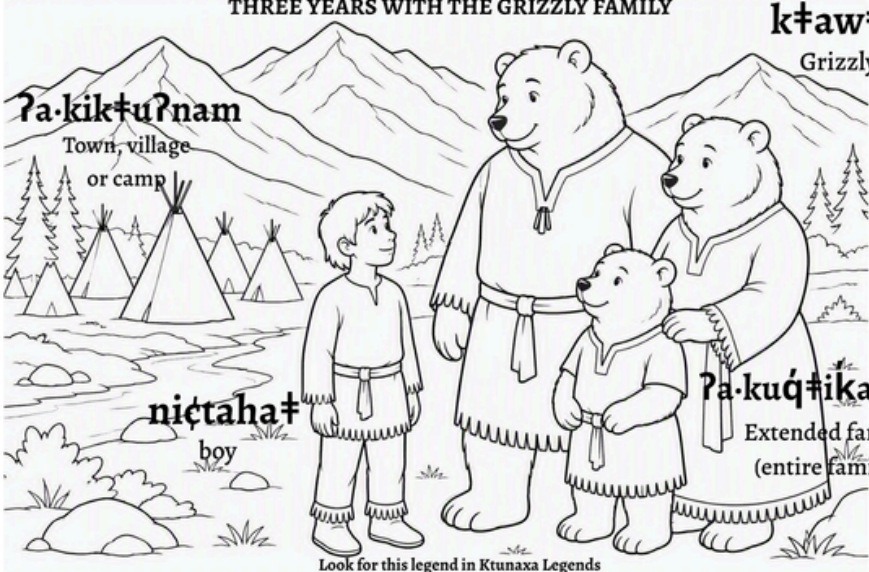


scan QR codes to listen



Learn Ktunaxa

THREE YEARS WITH THE GRIZZLY FAMILY



Look for this legend in Ktunaxa Legends

compiled and translated by Kootenai Culture Committee Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Phrase of the Month:

Kaʔas kaqaqa
ʔituqʔiʔqakcamnamki?



How was school?

ya·kiʔ
ʔituqʔiʔqakcamnamki
School
(lit. place where writing is taught)



Qapsin kin ʔupxa nawsanmiyitki?

What did you learn today?





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 Working Group. Your ideas, energy, and perspective are vital to shaping a future that works for everyone.

For questions, comments, or suggestions contact:

Jose Galdamez:

jgaldamez@ktunaxa.org

Theresa Kains:

theresa.kains@akisq̓nuk.org

Lisa Cannady: lisa.cannady@akisq̓nuk.org



YOUR BENEFITS YOUR WAY

Kiʔsuʔk kyukyit ʔapiniskit. We have had over 200 ʔakisq̓nuk 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@akisq̓nuk.org more assistance.

[Who We Are](#) ▾ [What We Do](#) ▾ [Community Resources](#) ▾ [Client Resources](#) ▾ [Contact Us](#) ▾ [LOGIN](#)

my-benefits

CHECK YOUR 72 HOUR KITS!

✓

Have you used any supplies that need to be replaced, such as water or food?

✉

Please contact Emergency Manager at janice.dallaire@akisq̓nuk.org

Did You Know?: The Sacred Heart Church

By: K R Austin

ʔAkisq̓nuk Community Newsletter Editor | ʔAFN AA

Did you know that the Sacred Heart Church has been part of Akisq̓nuk's history for more than 125 years?

The history of the Sacred Heart Church was recorded by French Oblate Father Fr. Nicholas Coccola. In 1894, he wrote about the Kootenays of Columbia Lake deciding to build a church. By April 25, 1899, the church had reached its opening day, with the name Sacred Heart being chosen.

Located in the central portion of I.R. #3, the church has served the community through weddings, funerals, small community meetings, and gatherings. In 1998, the Sacred Heart Church was designated a heritage building by the Chief and Council of the Columbia Lake Band.

This article suggests there was even a long-term goal to restore the building and create a facility or museum where archaeological and cultural displays can be housed, helping preserve this important piece of community history for generations to come.

A huge thank you to Theresa Kains for submitting this article and helping us share a piece of Akisq̓nuk's history with our community!

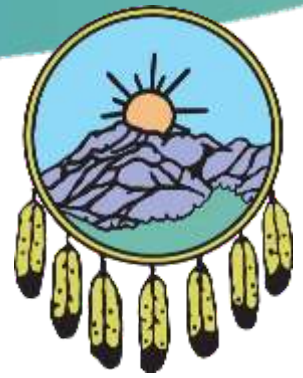
Do you have a story, photo, or piece of Akisq̓nuk history you'd like to share? We'd love to hear from you at communications@akisq̓nuk.org

THE SACRED HEART CHURCH RESTORATION

Photo Credit: Theresa Kains

ᑭᓱᓱᓱᓱᓱᓱ First Nation

Own Source Revenue



Overview

ᑭᓱᓱᓱᓱᓱᓱ First Nation is committed to maintaining the Nation as strong and financially resilient. This allows us to support members, meet community needs, and continue saving for future generations.

Based on a significant drop in own-source revenue and in line with the Own Source Revenue (OSR) policy, the monthly payments to members must be adjusted until revenue becomes strong enough to support member payments in a sustainable way. Payments at the current rate will change to \$0 effective April 1, 2028.

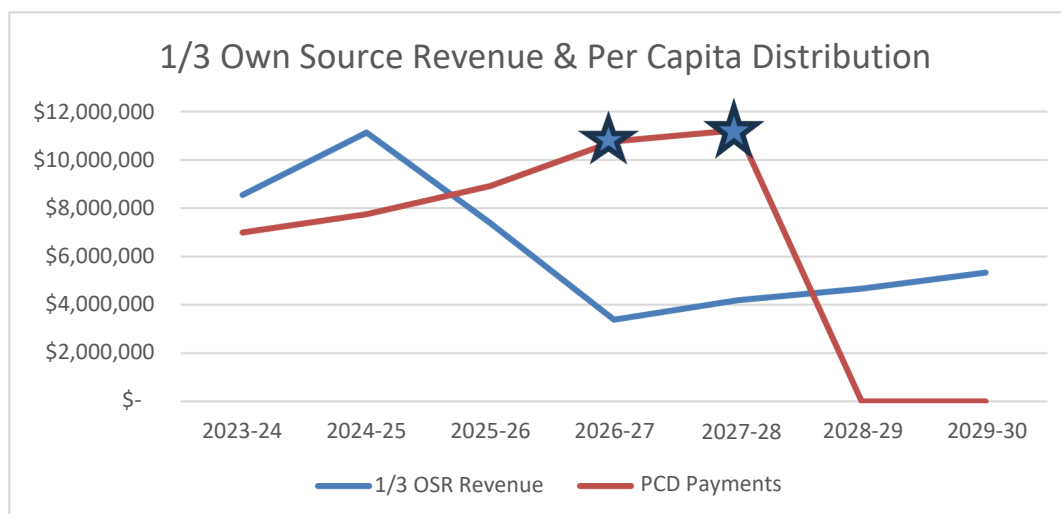
While the OSR member payments for 2028 and 2029 have been set to zero, this does not mean monthly payments won't return when finances improve. Each year, once AFN's annual financial audit process is completed, ᑭᓱᓱᓱᓱᓱᓱ Council reviews the Nation's financial health and determines OSR member allocations for the upcoming years. When revenue becomes strong enough to support member payments again in a sustainable way, they will start again.

Since the OSR policy was introduced and member payments began in 2024, AFN has received less money than originally expected from various revenue sources, especially mineral tax revenue. At the same time, our Nation continues to grow and we need to plan for the needs of members today and in the future. Given these changes in revenue, continuing the current monthly payments is not sustainable over the long term.

What changed and why was this decision needed?

Mineral taxation revenue has dropped significantly. This move is necessary to keep the Nation financially resilient for the future. AFN Council sets the monthly per capita distribution amount for the next fiscal year for which a monthly amount has not yet been set using the OSR policy formula of 1/3 to savings, 1/3 to members, and 1/3 to services. OSR is expected to drop significantly over the next few years.

Shown below is the portion of revenue ear-marked for member distribution. In the last, current, and next fiscal year, we will be putting 100% of our own source revenue to per capita payments instead of only 1/3, to maintain the rates established in 2024. Keeping the member allocations at the same rate set in 2024 has created a large gap which is not sustainable.



★ 100% of OSR is going to members

Who made the decision?

Council set the rate based on the OSR policy, which was developed in 2023/24 following broad member consultation. In making financial decisions, Council uses this policy alongside member priorities, financial due diligence and forecasting to make financial decisions that protect and support the Nation now and in the future.

Did Council consider other options?

The new rate is in line with the OSR policy which reflects members' priorities shared during past community discussions. While other options were explored, our goal is to protect AFN's long-term financial plan, while continuing to support important programs, services and future investments. Council did not want future generations to carry the cost and did not want to reduce or stop savings or cut community programs.

Can money from other sources make up for the drop in mineral tax revenue?

At this time, other sources cannot fully replace the mineral tax money that has been lost. AFN continues to look for new investments and other ways to diversify our revenue sources. Building more sources of income will help make our finances more sustainable and resilient in the future.

Is this decision final?

Yes. Members are receiving almost two years' notice so they have time to prepare for this adjustment. Council will continue to regularly review the Nation's financial position over time and adjust the monthly OSR allocations when the Nation's finances improve.

How will this affect members?

Per capita distributions were meant to supplement members' income. We understand that this change will affect member finances and members will need time to adjust. That's why we are giving two years' notice to prepare and to connect to AFN services.

What supports are available for those most impacted?

Supporting members remains a priority during this change. Current programs and services will continue. Members who need more help preparing for this adjustment can contact the AFN Service team. The team can connect members with available programs, resources, and support.

Where can we learn more about AFN's finances?

AFN shares audited financial statements every year. These reports explain how we receive, spend, and manage our money. Council is committed to sharing clear financial information and stewarding the Nation's money with care and listening to member feedback when making decisions.

REGISTRATION OPEN

?AKISQNUK FISH CAMP

FOR ?Akisqnuknik ONLY



SCAN TO REGISTER



**KINBASKET RESERVOIR
SEPTEMBER 24-27, 2026**

Registration is open to ?Akisqnuknik only.

Join us for time together, sharing knowledge
and fishing as a community.

Register by 11:59 p.m. on September 7th, 2026

Registering by the deadline will help us
prepare for camp.



LANDS & RESOURCES

Director: Lorne Shovar

Hunting & Chronic Wasting Disease Support

By: Angela Jones

ʔAFN Guardians Program Manager

This fall, ʔAkisq̓nuk Guardians are available to collect samples from harvested deer, elk and moose for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing. Guardians can also accompany members on hunts and help carry out harvested animals. To arrange support:

Email lands.resources@akisqnuk.org or

Call 250-341-1987



Photo Credit: Angela Jones

Happy Fall from Little Badgers!

By: Olivia Rasilainen

Little Badgers Early Learning, Inclusive Coordinator/Manager

We are ready to welcome the new season and with it, we say goodbye to some of our students who will be entering Kindergarten. We wish them all the best on their new adventure. It has brought us great joy watching them grow.

The Little Badgers community continues to learn and play on this beautiful land. We are in full swing in registering and welcoming back both continuing and new students. Our enrollment remains very full and we are truly thriving.

The summer was the season for exploring, fun and adventure. Our students spent countless hours, at the outdoor class, running through sprinklers, and soaking up the sun!

Fall is the season in which we focus on connection and togetherness, while enjoying the crisp mornings and warm afternoons.

We look forward to harvesting our apple and plum trees soon.

- All the best,

Little Badgers staff and community.

CONNECT WITH

THE LANDS

For ʔAkisq̓nuk only



LANDS ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES SIGN-UP

Do you want to be notified of opportunities to participate in Lands projects?

The Lands department is working to increase opportunities for members to engage with and provide input on various projects.

Opportunities will vary widely, from providing feedback and guidance on ʔAkisq̓nuk priorities, to participating in project planning discussions, to attending field days and on-the-lands engagement opportunities.

There will be both virtual and in-person opportunities to engage.

If you are interested in hearing about these opportunities via email, please reach out to

lands.resources@akisqnuk.org

to share your contact information; opportunities will be shared as they arise.

Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or are interested in participating in any opportunities.



Photo Credit: Olivia Rasilainen



COMMUNITY SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Janicé Dallaire, ʔAFN Emergency Program Manager

Back to School Means Sharing the Road

By: Sean Tonelli

ʔAFN Communications Manager

A new school year means busier mornings, changing routines and more people travelling through our community. As everyone adjusts, please allow extra time and be patient on the road.

Our community has few sidewalks, so children and families may be walking along roadsides or waiting near bus stops. Drivers should slow down, watch the road shoulders and stay alert near driveways, parked vehicles and intersections.

Always stop when a school bus has its red lights flashing and stop arm extended.



Never pass a stopped school bus. Children may be crossing from either direction and can be difficult to see.

Parents and caregivers should review bus safety with children. Students should wait away from the roadway, remain visible and approach only after the bus stops. They should also follow the driver's instructions when boarding, leaving or crossing.

Students should use a familiar route, avoid distractions and wear bright clothing when possible. By slowing down and staying alert, we can help keep ʔAkisᑕᓄᓃᓃ safe.

WORKING SMOKE ALARMS

SAVE LIVES

A working smoke alarm gives you early warning so you and your loved ones can get out safely.

Install working smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.

- TEST MONTHLY**
Press the test button to make sure it works.
- CHANGE BATTERIES AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR**
Change batteries or replace the alarm when needed.

BE PREPARED. BE SAFE.
PLAN AND PRACTICE YOUR HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN.

Working smoke alarms. A simple step that saves lives.
Gov.bc.ca/FireSafety

SPACE HEATER SAFETY

WARM YOUR HOME—SAFELY

Follow these simple tips to help prevent home fires and keep your family safe.

- KEEP IT CLEAR**
Keep space heaters at least 3 feet (1 metre) away from anything that can burn, such as curtains, furniture, bedding, or papers.
- PLUG DIRECTLY IN**
Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use extension cords or power bars.
- TURN IT OFF**
Turn off space heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.
- USE APPROVED**
Use space heaters that are approved by a recognized testing organization (CSA or UL).
- CHECK REGULARLY**
Inspect your heater regularly. Stop using it if it has damaged cords, plugs, or is not working properly.

MAKE A SAFETY PLAN
Have working smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area. Test them monthly. Plan and practice your home fire escape plan with your family.

BE PREPARED. BE SAFE.
PLAN AND PRACTICE YOUR HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN.

A few simple steps today can prevent a tragedy tomorrow.
Gov.bc.ca/FireSafety



GOVERNANCE

Overseer: David Bach, Chief Administrative Officer

2026 ʔAkisq̓nuk First Nation Annual General Assembly

By: Val Stackhouse

ʔAFN Events Coordinator

A huge thank you to all Members and Staff who joined us, pitched in, shared ideas, helped out and, most importantly, brought such great energy to the 2026 AGA.

Our AGA Committee may have been small, but it was definitely mighty! Thank you to Patsy Nicholas, Stephanie Sam and Kevin Morrell for your ideas, support, decision-making and for showing up to all those meetings that helped bring the weekend together.

I was also very lucky to have an amazing support crew behind the scenes. From registration and set-up to take-down, helping vendors, answering questions and jumping in whenever something needed to be done—you were there. Events like this simply don't happen without people willing to roll up their sleeves and help.

A very special thank you goes to our Sewing Bee ladies—Mary Jimmy, Patsy Nicholas, Irene Burgoyne, Yvonne Stanley and Stephanie Sam. The beautiful hand-sewn bags added such a special touch to this year's AGA and were put to very good use holding reusable dishes, cutlery and a few other goodies.

Speaking of reusable dishes... they made a huge difference in the amount of waste produced over the weekend. And who knew a dishwashing station could become a social event? Apparently, nothing brings people together quite like a sink full of dishes.

Cutting Ribbons & Making Memories

We kicked off the AGA with the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new ʔAFN multipurpose building, and attendance exceeded our expectations. It was wonderful to see so many people come together to celebrate this important accomplishment.

There were plenty of positive comments heard throughout the afternoon—everything from “impressive” to “what an accomplishment!” The pride and excitement surrounding the new building could definitely be felt.

From there, Members made their way to Lakeshore Campground for a delicious meal followed by “The Price is Right—ʔAkisq̓nuk style.”

The laughter echoed through the Pavilion thanks to our quick-witted host and organizer, Councillor Stephanie Sam, along with her co-hosts Skyla Sam and Nyla Nicholas. It was also a wonderful opportunity to welcome and visit with Members, some of whom travelled specially to attend the AGA.



Photo Credit: Since Aspen & Val Stackhouse



Saturday Night Fun

After dinner Saturday evening, the festivities got underway with the drawing of the door prizes—and this year we had a very special helper.

Young Tommy Burgoyne quickly proved he may have a future in comedy! He captivated the room and had everyone laughing, bringing a whole lot of personality and joy to the evening.

Then came bingo!

A big thank you to Paul Morigeau, who bravely agreed to call bingo despite having never done it before. It takes courage to stand in front of a room full of experienced bingo players when you're learning on the fly! Thankfully, he survived the challenge—and gave us a few laughs along the way.

Sunday Activities

Sunday's farewell breakfast was filled with hugs, goodbyes and Members beginning their journeys home. But for those who weren't quite ready for the fun to end, there was still one last AGA adventure—a pontoon trip on Lake Windermere.

Thank you to Captain Hilary Vance and Captain Kevin Morrell for taking everyone out on the water and helping create a few more lasting memories before the weekend officially came to a close.

One of the most meaningful moments of this year's AGA happened before each meal, when Nasuʔkin Sam shared teachings with the children. Before the meal, a lesson was shared and the dinner song was enthusiastically sung by the children. As the weekend went on, their voices grew stronger and their confidence grew with them. It was a beautiful thing to witness and a special reminder of what gathering together is all about.

There were meetings and meals, bingo and boat rides, laughter and learning, new connections and familiar faces—and probably more than a few dishes washed along the way.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2026 AGA such a memorable gathering.

Special acknowledgment to our AGA sponsors BC Hydro, Canfor, Columbia Basin Trust, Columbia Power, EVR, TC Energy

Until next year...





2026 AGA

Shout-Out Corner

THANK
YOU MOM (Martin)

Dominic

THANK YOU TO
EVERYONE WHO HELPED
MAKE THIS WEEKEND
SPECIAL

Thank you AGA
Committee!
Patsy Nicholas
Stephanie Sam
Kean Maxwell
❤️

THANK
YOU
for everything

LIONEL M & CHRIS C.
Thank you for your
help w my flower
garden!!
😊

Thank-you
Val + all the
amazing staff!

Thank You for the
beautiful Handsewn bags
made by Mary Jimmy, Patsy
Nicholas, Irene Burgoyne,
Yvonne Stanley, Stephanie Sam

Bryn + Yasu
Thank you for
the treats!

THANK YOU
MOM (Marilyn)

AVA

THANK YOU
ʔAKISQ̓NUK ❤️
FOR THE Hospitality
and love!
Dwight

Thank you to all
the organizers for AGA!
& thank you to all the members
for being so welcoming to
my family
❤️ -Chelsea

LAWRENCE
NICHOLAS

Thank you for continuing
to share your knowledge of
AFN history; Family ties,
past changes, etc...
I always enjoy listening
to your stories.

Val !!
Thanks for an
amazing meeting
❤️

Thanks
Everyone!
Bryn + Yasu



CORE SERVICES

Director: Donna Melnychyn



paper, book, letter



shoes



bus, taxi



paint brush



measuring tape/ruler



paint



Download

YA·KI# ?ITUQ#I#QAK&AMNAMKI
(SCHOOL)
WORD SEARCH

FIND THE HIDDEN KTUNAXA WORDS & MATCH TO THE PICTURES

?	A	Á	K	T	I	T	Q	?	É	A	Á	U
U	N	·	P	A	K	A	Q	Á	É	U	M	Í
T	É	U	M	?	U	Á	W	A	Y	K	T	A
K	U	?	É	M	A	Á	A	K	U	W	Á	M
A	M	U	I	Y	?	A	?	Q	?	É	A	Á
Q	N	Y	K	K	I	N	Q	É	A	Q	É	I
Q	I	K	A	É	M	A	Á	Q	?	A	T	T
W	·	K	A	·	P	A	K	W	É	Y	A	W
A	A	É	U	Q	?	I	A	Q	U	K	T	I
K	N	?	U	K	É	A	K	Y	I	N	M	·
U	U	P	N	Q	I	?	T	K	A	?	U	Q
T	Q	A	U	·	P	É	A	Y	Á	Q	É	A
A	K	T	?	I	K	U	N	I	K	K	-	É
T	I	Y	I	M	N	I	K	U	?	A	É	K
Á	U	É	K	Y	A	W	Á	U	É	A	Á	A



bag, sack




teacher



scissors



coat

Monday

7A7Q7EA	KU7E·MAKAKU	ÁITKÁETITMUE	KYAWÁKUE
ÉAÑ	KQUNA·KINMUE	KÉA?UKINMIYIT	KKINUKI?TKA
KYAWÁKUE?MU#	ÁITKI·KÉAÉKA	ÉIKA·PU	ÁITUQÉILOAÉ

New Staff Introduction

“My name is Christina Boucher. I am the new receptionist working alongside Glynda in the ?Akisq̓nuk Multipurpose Facility.

I was born and raised in Canal Flats. I have lived my whole life in the valley. You may know me from my previous jobs at BMO Bank of Montreal, Palliser Printing and most recently our local newspaper- The Columbia Valley Pioneer.

I am looking forward to this new role and getting to know the members. Stop by anytime to say hi. “



Help Shape Your Newsletter

By: Sean Tonelli

?AFN Communications Manager

The ?Akisq̓nuk newsletter is created to keep our community informed, connected and involved. Now, we want your help making it even better. By completing our short newsletter survey, you can tell us what stories you want to read and what information matters most to you.

Would you like to see more community updates, cultural teachings, Elder and youth features, upcoming events, program information or stories celebrating the achievements of ?akisq̓nuknik? Maybe there is something you feel is missing or an idea you would like us to explore. This is your opportunity to let us know.

Your feedback is important because a strong newsletter should

reflect the people it serves. It should help members understand what is happening within the Nation, recognize the work taking place throughout the community and celebrate the people who make ?Akisq̓nuk special. It should also make important information easy to find, understand and share.

Every response will help guide future editions and give us a clearer picture of what readers value. Whether you read every issue from beginning to end or only look for certain updates, we want to hear from you. Your experience and ideas can help us create a newsletter that is more useful, interesting and representative of our community.

The survey only takes a few minutes to complete. Please share your thoughts and help shape a newsletter that keeps ?Akisq̓nuknik informed, connected and proud.

Paper survey available on next page...

HELP SHAPE YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Tell us what would make the newsletter worth opening every month.



1 Are you a member?

☐ Yes

☐ No

2 If yes, do you live: MEMBERS ONLY

☐ On Reserve

☐ Off Reserve

3 What would you most like to see? SELECT UP TO 3

☐ Community news and updates

☐ Programs and services

☐ Job and training opportunities

☐ Health and wellness information

☐ Member achievements and profiles

☐ Other: _____

☐ Upcoming events

☐ Chief and Council updates

☐ Culture, language, and history

☐ Youth and Elder stories

☐ Contests, puzzles, and giveaways

4 How do you prefer to receive it?

☐ Printed copy

☐ Email

☐ Website or social media

☐ No preference

5 How much detail do you prefer?

☐ Short highlights

☐ A mix of short updates and longer stories

☐ More detailed articles

6 What would make you more likely to read it each month?

RETURN YOUR PAPER SURVEY

Hand it in at the reception desk of our new office.

3050 BC-93

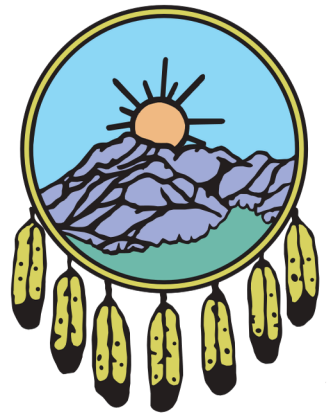
Windermere, BC V0B 2L2

Thank you for helping us make the newsletter better.

SCAN TO RESPOND ONLINE



Help Shape How ʔAkisq̓nuk Communicates Our Story



We want to hear from you.

What values and teachings should guide how ʔAFN communicates? What works well? What needs to improve?

Join us for a session.

**Wednesday,
September 9
5:30-7 pm**

Location:
St. Eugene's Resort

**Dinner provided
at 5 PM.**



**Monday,
September 14
6:30-8 pm**

Location:
Zoom



**September 17
5:30–7 PM**

Location:
**Kelowna, venue
to be confirmed**

**Dinner provided
at 5 PM.**



**All ʔAFN members invited. Facilitated by ChangeMakers.
Your voice matters. Join the conversation.**



The Past, The Present and The Furture: *An Exposé from our Core Services Director*

By: Donna Melnychyn

ʔAFN Core Services Director

The official opening of the new ʔAkisq̓nuk First Nation multi-purpose centre was a milestone years in the making and a moment worth celebrating. Appreciation is extended to the members, Elders, leadership, committees, staff, contractors and many others who contributed their knowledge, guidance, time and care throughout the process.

Many will remember when the building existed only as an idea and a conceptual drawing. Nasuʔkin Sam described the vision as “weaving dreams, preserving heritage, and shaping a brighter tomorrow.” That vision has now moved off the page and into a place people can walk through.

Throughout the new centre, the presence of the former building can still be felt. The old and new are woven together, carrying forward the memories, work and relationships connected to the previous building while opening a path for what comes next.

At 20,903 square feet, the centre brings together the health clinic, Band Hall and administration teams under one shared roofline at 3050 Highway 93/95, the site of the former administration building. After operating from different locations for the past two years, departments are now together again. Having teams, services, offices and gathering spaces in one place will also make it easier for members to find the support they are looking for, connect with staff and access multiple services during the same visit. It also creates more opportunities for departments to communicate and work together in responding to the needs and priorities of members.

The building was shaped through the guidance and contributions of many people. This included feedback from the Elders Advisory Committee and an Elder walkthrough held before the official opening. Danny Burgoyne, and Eldene Stanley also blessed the building in preparation for welcoming people into the space.

The opening was marked by several events. Elders and members

were invited to separate walkthroughs before the ribbon-cutting ceremony, giving them time to explore the completed building, visit its different spaces and see the vision brought to life. On August 22, the centre also welcomed members attending the 2026 Annual General Assembly, one of the first major gatherings held in the new space. The building itself was designed with intention. At its heart is a large gathering space and commercial kitchen for feasts, ceremonies, traditional food preparation and other gatherings. The flooring carries the image of river tributaries defining ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa, allowing the lands and waters to remain present throughout the space. The centre also includes dedicated areas for health care, administration and services for Elders.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony formally opened the centre on a beautiful, sunshine-filled day. Three generations, including Elders, adults and youth, stood together to cut the ribbon. At the front left, empty chairs were set aside for those who are no longer with us, holding their place within the occasion.

Seeing the building filled with people after years of planning made the transition from vision to reality feel especially powerful. The Elder and member walkthroughs, blessing, ribbon cutting and Annual General Assembly each brought people into the building in a different way and began the next chapter of its story.

This building will continue to develop and evolve over the months and years ahead, with everyday moments: Elders being cared for, children learning, decisions being made, and community simply living. That's exactly what Nasuʔkin Sam hoped for when this project began.

We look forward to filling walls and spaces with art from ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa, cultural artifacts, and historical images. Thank you for your patience throughout the time it took to arrive at this destination point in ʔAkisq̓nuk history. A final thank you for walking through these doors and making this building what it was always meant to be, a home for ʔAkisq̓nuknik.



Photo Credit: Paul Stackhouse



Community Events

Families Invited to Join Interactive Climate Change Event

By: Lauren Anstey

Facilitator of Future Ready Families

When we care deeply about the Earth, it can often feel like we're alone or among the minority. Yet, as awareness of climate change grows, more people feel a mix of emotions and a desire to act in meaningful ways as families and as communities.

Future Ready Families: Let's Talk Climate Change is a special event happening in Invermere at the Columbia Valley Centre on Saturday September 26, 2026 starting at 10am. Designed for parents, caregivers, and their children, the event will combine kids' activities and crafts with interactive conversations, all with a focus on navigating climate emotions in ourselves and others and identifying meaningful actions that can guide next steps and future ideas for individuals, families, and communities.

ʔAkisq̓nuk have a long history of stewarding the lands and waterways of ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa, and climate change conversations are an important part of that ongoing care. The Future Ready Families event brings together a diversity of local families who share concerns for how the changing climate is affecting the Columbia Valley, and ʔAkisq̓nuk are an integral part of that diversity. Attending the event is a chance to connect with other families and show children what is possible when caring adults come together to openly talk about the air, waters,

and habitats we share on earth and how they sustain all life. As the group works to collectively imagine what can be done as families and communities to act on climate change, everyone in the room will bring unique perspectives and strengths to the ideas and possibilities generated. If you're interested in joining, reserve spots for you and your family by registering today. More information about the event is available on the Future Ready Families event website, including a link to event registration: bit.ly/frfinvermere26

FUTURE READY FAMILIES
Let's Talk Climate Change
Saturday September 26, 10-11:30am
Columbia Valley Centre, Invermere

A free community event of positive activities, crafts, and conversation for families, focused on climate change.

Register Today!

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ROBERT LOUIE III
1994 - 2025
Forever 31

In memory of his son, Robert Louie III, whose life was lost to overdose.

"Self-care is a big part of recovery. Shaving with a Dollar Store razor, or using generic \$2 bath soap doesn't really help lift one's self-esteem. It's the small things like using beautiful scented bubble bath soap or a 5-blade Gillette razor that make a big difference in a person's recovery," said Rob Louie.

He added, "We do recover. And, I have seen all walks of life recover from addiction, such as a Member of Parliament, chiefs, doctors, lawyers, teachers, dentists, social workers, CEOs, real estate agents, truck drivers, accountants, hair salon stylists, and equally important, I have seen many hard members in Canada and tribal members in the USA recover from addiction."

He will provide a photo of the toiletries and receipt that will be posted it on his Facebook Page.

Rob Louie is padding his way to a 1 year milestone. September 13th will see him being 1 year free of addiction from alcohol, drugs, weed, gambling, and smoking. He has the medical evidence to confirm his recovery.

Rob Louie will take his 1 year AA cake on Friday, September 25th at 7:00 PM at 422 7 Avenue North in Creston, BC.

THE RECOVERY RIDE HOPES TO RAISE
\$1,000
to purchase toiletries like Gillette razors and high-end shower gel and bath soap for clients who will attend the Seven Nations Soaring Eagle Treatment Centre at Yaqan Nukiy in Creston, BC.

The \$1,000 fund raise is a way of showing support to this much-needed treatment centre that will help save lives.

ITEMS WILL INCLUDE:

- Gillette razors
- High-end shower gel
- Bath soap
- Other toiletries that help support dignity and self-care in recovery

TO CONNECT WITH ROB LOUIE

- To connect with Rob Louie regarding the Recovery Ride: 672-472-3113
- To donate via etransfer: rob-louie@hotmail.com

WE DO RECOVER.
Recovery is real. Hope is real. Change is real.
— TOGETHER, WE CAN SAVE LIVES. —

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT | EVERY DONATION HELPS RESTORE HOPE. PAGE 2 OF 2

RECOVERY RIDE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

On Wednesday, September 23, 2026, Rob Louie from Yaqan Nukiy will paddle a canoe across the US/Canada Border at noon as a symbolic act to promote recovery.

People in the drug trade go through this international border; the recovery community goes through this international border, too.

Historically, "Lower Kootenay" was one collective group of Ktunaxa People found in present-day Bonners Ferry, Idaho (Kootenai Tribe of Idaho) and Creston, BC (Yaqan Nukiy) that traveled this Kootenay River in the sturgeon-nose canoe long before this international border was established.

The sturgeon-nose canoe is a defining cultural feature that distinguished Lower Kootenay from everyone else.

To paddle a canoe on the Kootenay River across the international border – like what Rob Louie's Lower Kootenay predecessors have done right up to the 1960's – is a form of empowerment amid the overdose crisis.

In the past decade, addiction hit the Ktunaxa Nation hard. Consequently, some Ktunaxa people have found themselves incarcerated for years for trafficking drugs, some Ktunaxa families have seen intense child apprehensions due to drug use, some Ktunaxa remain in the throes of drug addiction, and some Ktunaxa have died, as a result of drug overdose.

Rob Louie's 31 year-old son (Robert Louie III) passed away of a drug overdose last year.

A JOURNEY OF HOPE. A PADDLE FOR RECOVERY.
Honoring our ancestors. Supporting our future. Saving lives.

IN MEMORY. IN RECOVERY. IN HOPE. PAGE 1 OF 2

Salmon Festival Returns
September 12th!

Everyone is invited to attend the Salmon Festival at James Chabot Park in Invermere for a day of culture, community and celebration.

The event begins at 9:00 am with the Canoe Brigade, followed by singers and drummers at 10:00 am.

There will be storytelling, salmon sharing, local vendors, door prizes and a BBQ by donation.

Bring your family and friends, enjoy the day, connect with the community and celebrate together! Everyone is welcome!

Presented by
the Shuswap Band, ʔAkisq̓nuk First Nation and Ktunaxa Nation



?Akisq'nuk First Nation

Membership Survey – 2026 Labour Market Study



PERSONAL INFORMATION (Please print clearly)

Name: _____
Phone Number: _____
Email Address: _____
Mailing Address: _____

1. What is your age?

- a) Under 18 b) 18 – 24 c) 25 – 34 d) 35 – 44 e) 45 – 54 f) 55 – 64 g) 65 or older h) Prefer not to say

2. Where do you currently live?

- a) On reserve b) Off reserve

If you answered off reserve, do you have plans to live on reserve, or anticipate living on reserve in the future?

- a) Yes Timeframe (optional): _____ b) No c) Unsure

If you answered Yes, what are the main reasons you plan or anticipate to live on reserve? (optional): _____

If you answered No, what are the main reasons you choose to reside off reserve? (optional): _____

If you answered off reserve, where do you currently live?

- a) East Kootenay region, on another reserve Please specify (optional): _____
b) East Kootenay region, off reserve Please specify (optional): _____
c) Outside the East Kootenay region, within B.C. Please specify (optional): _____
d) Outside B.C., on another reserve Please specify (optional): _____
e) Outside B.C. Please specify (optional): _____
f) Prefer not to say

3. What is your current employment status?

- a) Employed full-time b) Employed part-time c) Self-employed
d) Unemployed and seeking work e) Unemployed and not seeking work

If you answered unemployed and not seeking work, what is the main reason that you are not seeking employment?

- a) Retired b) Attending school and/or training courses c) Medical reasons d) Caring for children and/or family
e) Other reasons Please specify (optional): _____ f) Prefer not to say

4. Have you considered working for ?akisq'nuk First Nation?

- a) Yes Why? (optional): _____ b) No Why? (optional): _____

5. Do you feel that there are employment opportunities with ?akisq'nuk First Nation which match your education, experience, knowledge, and/or skillset?

- a) Yes Why? (optional): _____ b) No Why? (optional): _____

6. If you live outside of the East Kootenay region, do you feel that there are employment opportunities within the East Kootenay region which are equivalent to your current employment and/or match your education, experience or skillset?

- a) Yes Please specify (optional): _____
b) No Please specify (optional): _____

7. Which sector are you currently working in or seeking employment in?

- a) Trades/Construction b) Healthcare/Social Services c) Technology/Office Work
d) Retail/Hospitality/Tourism e) Other Please specify (optional): _____

8. What level of education have you completed?

- a) Did not complete High school b) High school or equivalent
c) College, trades or technical diploma Please specify (optional): _____
d) University degree Please specify (optional): _____

Please return to Band Office or
fill it out online using the QR Code.



Thank you for your time and consideration when filling out this survey, your input is appreciated and valued. The information gathered is confidential and will support leadership in sound decision making to enhance our communities training and employment opportunities. On September the 14th, the survey will close and there will be a prize draw for all participants of this survey.



?Akisq'nuk First Nation

Membership Survey – 2026 Labour Market Study



9. What is the biggest challenge you face in finding work?

- a) Lack of experience
- b) Lack of qualifications/training
- c) Limited job opportunities / lack of job search options
- d) Personal barriers (transportation, childcare, etc.)
- e) Other

Please specify (optional): _____

10. Which skill area do you most want to improve?

- a) Technical/digital skills
- b) Communication skills
- c) Leadership/teamwork skills
- d) Trade-specific or hands-on skills

11. Which type of training and/or employment supports would help you most?

- a) Short-term courses
- b) Pre-apprenticeship or post-secondary upgrading programs
- c) Post-secondary degree/diploma programs
- d) Certifications/licenses
- e) Career coaching or mentoring

12. Do you believe there are enough quality jobs available locally?

- a) Yes, many opportunities
- b) Some opportunities
- c) Very few opportunities
- d) No opportunities

13. What is the most important factor when choosing a job?

- a) Salary/wages
- b) Benefits and job security
- c) Flexible schedule/work-life balance
- d) Career advancement opportunities

14. Which sector do you believe will have the most job opportunities in the future?

- a) Healthcare
- b) Skilled trades/construction
- c) Technology
- d) Energy/environmental industries
- e) Other, please specify: _____

15. What aspect of the workplace environment is most important to you?

- a) Inclusive, culturally respectful, and supportive of diversity
- b) Professional, cooperative, and open to learning from others
- c) Fast-paced and focused on competition and individual achievement
- d) Independence with main focus on results and productivity

16. Comments: _____

**Please return to Band Office or
fill it out online using the QR Code.**



Thank you for your time and consideration when filling out this survey, your input is appreciated and valued. The information gathered is confidential and will support leadership in sound decision making to enhance our communities training and employment opportunities. On September the 14th, the survey will close and there will be a prize draw for all participants of this survey.



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Orange Shirt Decorating Contest

Children ages 3-7 are invited to decorate an orange shirt to show kindness, respect, belonging and friendship

Orange Shirt Day is a time to honour the children who attended residential schools, the Survivors, and the children who never returned home. It reminds children that everyone deserves to feel safe, loved, respected, and proud of who they are, their family, culture and community



How to Join

Win
Prizes!

1. Colour your paper shirt orange
2. Decorate the shirts however you choose using beads, feathers, pom-poms, sequins, tissue paper, and other materials
3. Share something you like about your orange shirt and one kind thing they can do for someone else today

Submit your designs to:

coordinator@acc-society.bc.ca
by September 23, 2026



Check our BCACCS Facebook page to see your art featured and the winner announcement



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

