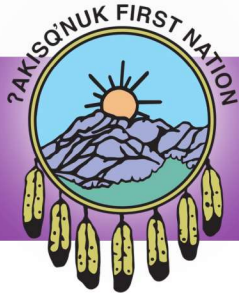


?AKISQ'NUK COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



JULY | KUKU S'QUMU



Wild Tiger Lily (Subdivision): Kevin McNab

ISSUE INDEX:

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Indigenous History Month Celebration

ʔAFN Community Strengthening Dinner

By: K R Austin

ʔakisq̓nuk Community Newsletter Editor | ʔAFN Administrative Assistant

June was National Indigenous History Month; a time to recognize and celebrate the rich cultures, histories, languages, and traditions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples across Canada. This year, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation gathered at Lakeshore Campground for an afternoon of cultural sharing and community celebration both as Ktunaxa First Nations as well as with the larger public.

Made possible through funding from Canadian Heritage and the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), the celebration welcomed community members of all ages while also inviting the broader public to engage respectfully with Indigenous culture and teachings.

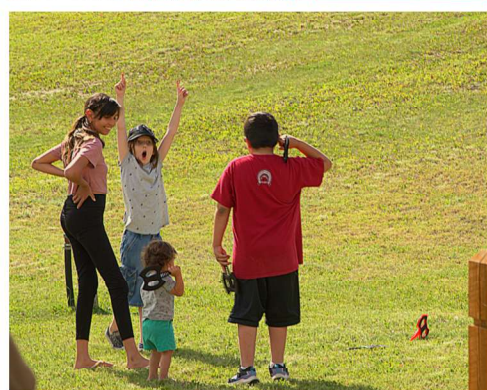
A heartfelt thank you goes to Susapnana for leading a community drum practice and sharing songs with resonant drumbeats and voices that beautifully echoed throughout the gathering. Appreciation is also extended to Leona, Richard, and Cheyanne for sharing traditional artifacts/practices and demonstrating the hide tanning process, offering participants a firsthand opportunity to learn about skills and knowledge that have been passed down through generations. Leona also created an informative Ktunaxa Land Acknowledgement Zine, which is featured on page 2 and provides readers with an

opportunity to learn more about the significance of acknowledging the lands and the Ktunaxa peoples.

One of the highlights of the day was learning about the traditional uses of the kamquq̓ukuᑦ ʔiyamu (buffalo). As Nasuʔkin Donald Sam explained, for many Indigenous Nations the buffalo is far more than a source of food, it is a symbol of respect, reciprocity, and abundance. Described by the Canada History Project, every part of the animal was used with intention and care. Hides became clothing, shelter, blankets, and drums; bones were crafted into tools, needles, scrapers, and ceremonial items; sinew served as strong thread and cordage; and horns and hooves were transformed into utensils, cups, and other practical tools. These teachings offered insight into a way of living rooted in respect for the land, thoughtful use of resources, and gratitude for the gifts of Creation.

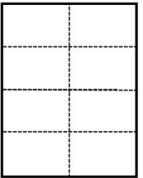
Events like these provide opportunities to strengthen community connections by supporting intergenerational learning, and celebrating the continued vitality of Indigenous cultures and traditions. Thank you to everyone who attended, shared their knowledge, and helped make the day such a meaningful success.

Source: "The Importance of the Buffalo," Canada History Project, <https://www.canadahistoryproject.ca>

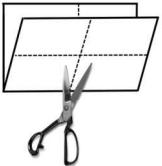




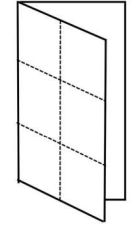
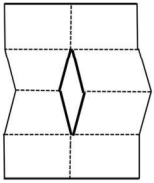
HOW TO FOLD AN 8-PAGE ZINE



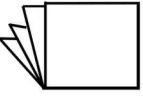
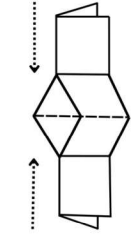
FOLD THE PAPER INTO 8 EQUAL SECTIONS



FOLD IN HALF AND CUT A SLIT IN THE CENTER



FOLD IN HALF LONG-WAY AND PUSH TOGETHER TO FOLD INTO A BOOKLET



The ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation shares a strong connection with other Ktunaxa communities through their unique language, Ktunaxa, which is unlike any other language in the world.

Ktunaxa is an isolated language

We acknowledge the traditional land of the Ktunaxa people and thank the ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation.

I was a scooper so I didn't know I was Ktunaxa until age 19 yrs

Ktunaxa Land Acknowledgement

THIS is a ZINE

Fast Words for this zine! ★

"If you search your heart for even a small spark of happiness, your life can transform. This *(change)* becomes even more powerful when you embrace gratitude, reach True Story. 80, reach

Feedback: ʔakisq̓nuk@gmail.com

The Ktunaxa have lived in the east and west Kootenays, and parts of Alberta and the United States, since ancient times, even before the ice age.

When the first settlers arrived, the Ktunaxa chose the lowlands of the Columbia Trench, near Windermere, BC, because of its rich resources, including water, fish, timber and

HOT SPRINGS

The Columbia Valley, where the Ktunaxa settled, is still attractive today for many of the same reasons.

Tourists love Kootenays

We recognize the harm and suffering caused to the Ktunaxa people in the past.

We promise to work together with the Ktunaxa people in a spirit of reconciliation and partnership.

We invite everyone to think about what it means to live on Ktunaxa land and to be a good guest if you are not from here, by supporting the land and its original people in meaningful ways.

Thanks

Taxas, Leona, Daniels



Chief & Council; Swearing-in Ceremony

A New Chapter for ʔAFN Council

By: K R Austin

ʔakisq̓nuk Community Newsletter Editor | ʔAFN Administrative Assistant

On June 19th, community members and local political figures gathered to bear witness to the official swearing-in ceremony for the elected Chief and Council of ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation.

The ceremony was beautifully catered by AFN staff Val Stackhouse and Sue Smythe and expertly photographed by Kimberley Rae. The local drumming group Susapnana also offered a performance in welcome of the newly sworn-in Chief and Council. During the ceremony, Elder Beatrice Stevens provided the opening prayer, and Elder Emilia Danyluck shared some opening statements before each elected official took their Oath of Office, marking the formal start of their collective service to the Nation.

Congratulations are extended to Nasuʔkin Donald Sam and Councillors Darcy Fisher, Janice Alpine, Faro Burgoyne, and Stephanie Sam as they officially begin this Council term.

This year's Council includes both returning and newly elected members. Recognition is given to Nasuʔkin Donald Sam and Councillor Darcy Fisher on their re-election, alongside a warm welcome to Councillor Stephanie Sam as she begins her first term on Council.

The ceremony concluded with photos in the new AFN Band Hall (still in its final stages of construction) and of course some celebratory cake.

Congratulations once again to our new Chief and Council!



Photo Credit: Kimberley Rae



2026 Grade School Ceremonies

Congratulations Graduates!

By: K R Austin

ʔakisq̓nuk Community Newsletter Editor | ʔAFN Administrative Assistant

June has been a season of celebration as students across our community reached important educational milestones. From preschool to highschool, our families gathered to recognize the hard work and accomplishments of our young learners.

Little Badgers Early Learning Centre

Little Badgers Early Learning Centre celebrated the graduation of two wonderful ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation students.

Congratulations to Ethan and Wanyuyit, who officially graduated from Little Badgers Preschool and will begin Kindergarten this September.

Windermere Elementary School

Congratulations to Takaya on completing Kindergarten this year!

This milestone marks another exciting step in your learning journey. Your family is so proud of all that you did this year and is looking forward to continue watching you grow into a young warrior. Well done!

David Thompson Secondary School & Mount Baker Secondary School

As graduation season continues, we also extend our heartfelt congratulations to our high school graduates, Leighton and Leland! Completing high school is an incredible achievement that reflects years of dedication and perseverance.

Whether you are continuing into post-secondary education, trades, employment, or new adventures, we wish each of you every success in the journey ahead. ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation is proud of all you have accomplished and we look forward to seeing the positive impact you will make in your communities.

Congratulations, Class of 2026!



Photo Credit: Carrie Rickards



Photo Credit: Theresa Kains



Photo Credit: Amanda Armstrong



Photo Credit: Lea Kirton



Pride Day 2026

ʔAFN Annual Pancake Breakfast

By: Val Stackhouse
ʔAFN Events Coordinator

Our 3rd Annual Pride Day Pancake Breakfast, held at the Invermere Office, was the perfect way to spend a sunny Saturday morning.

This year's event welcomed our largest turnout yet, with more than 160 people joining us for a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausages, and fresh mixed berries, all served by our incredible team of volunteers.

We were also excited to debut our new ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation branded canopies, which allowed us to proudly showcase our Nation while demonstrating our continued support for Two-Spirit people and the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, we welcomed a second DJ, bringing an even greater variety of music throughout the morning. A heartfelt thank you to DJ Kevin and DJ Dorell for helping create such a fun and welcoming environment.

This event is made possible each year by the generosity and dedication of our volunteers. A sincere thank you to Sherree, Lisa, Rachel, Ashley, Sue, Margot, John, Lisa and Paul for donating your time and energy to make this year's Pride Breakfast another outstanding success.



Photo Credit: Val Stackhouse



Soccer Summit Cup Congratulations Girls!

By: K R Austin

ʔakisq̓nuk Community Newsletter Editor

ʔAFN Administrative Assistant

Huge congratulations are in order for all CVFC Titans who travelled to Airdrie on the weekend of June 5th to take part in the Summit Cup. The tournament brought together 288 grassroots teams from across British Columbia and Alberta, making for a highly competitive and exciting weekend of soccer.

Representing the Columbia Valley with pride, our 11 Titan teams showed strong teamwork and determination throughout the tournament. Their efforts were reflected in an outstanding overall performance, bringing home an impressive medal count of 6 Gold, 3 Silver, and 1 Bronze.

A sincere thank you is extended to Airdrie FC Soccer Club for hosting a well-organized tournament and for managing the many challenges presented over the weekend, including unpredictable weather conditions.

A special shout-out goes to our U11 Girls team, who proudly earned Silver medals, with strong contributions from Vivienne Shovar-Stevens and Anna McLuskey. Way to go, girls!

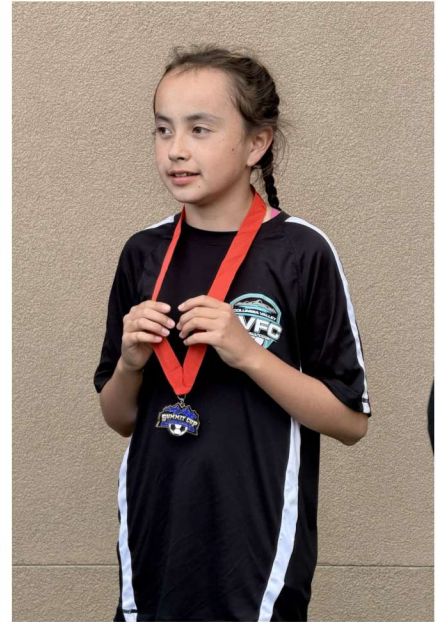


Photo Credit: Katherine Stevens

2026 B.C Summer Games Congratulations Ryder!

By: K R Austin

ʔakisq̓nuk Community Newsletter Editor

ʔAFN Administrative Assistant

Ryder has been selected to compete in baseball at the 2026 BC Summer Games in Kelowna, representing Team BC Baseball.

This is a major accomplishment and a reflection of his hard work and continued growth in the sport. Being chosen for the provincial games is a significant milestone and an exciting opportunity to compete at a high level. Congratulations to Ryder on this well-earned achievement. We look forward to seeing him represent his team in Kelowna!



Photo Credit: Sasha Swartzenberger



2026 First Nations Leadership Forum Early Learning and Child Care

By: K R Austin

ʔakisq̓nuk Community Newsletter Editor | AFN Administrative Assistant

Representatives from ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation and staff from Eva Joseph Learning and Culture Society (EJLCS), recently attended the 2026 First Nations Leadership Forum on Early Learning & Child Care, hosted by the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society.

Director of EJLCS Carrie Rickards, Inclusive Coordinator Olivia Rasilainen, and AFN Councillor Janice Alpine joined First Nations leaders, educators, and child care professionals from across British Columbia to share and explore innovative approaches to Indigenous early learning.

The forum provided opportunities to both celebrate community

successes, and discuss ways to continue creating culturally grounded, high-quality learning environments for Indigenous children and families.

By participating in gatherings like this, our early learning and child services team continues to bring back new ideas, valuable connections, and inspiration that support the growth and wellbeing of our youngest community members.

Thank you to Janice, Carrie and Olivia for representing ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation and for your continued commitment to ʔakisq̓nuk's future generations.



Photo Credit: Carrie Rickards

ʔAFN New Building Update The Finishing Touches

By: Bob Cotterall

AFN Captial Projects Manager

Dear Community Members, final work continues with in the Multipurpose Facility in regards to the interior finishes such as touch up painting, interior millwork, flooring and Mechanical and Electrical completion. The Commercial Kitchen elements are now installed and being tested. The roofing trim to the Band Hall will be starting this week and completed within the week. Final Grading of the site has started with completion towards the middle of July. The septic system will be tested towards the midpart of July. All interior furnishings and data connection to

work stations and offices are currently underway. Discussions are now taking place with Scott Builders as to dates of final completion and Occupancy. Dates of the official turn over to ʔakisq̓nuk is now under discussion.

Should you have any questions within the following Month please drop by the ʔakisq̓nuk site trailer, we would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,
Bob Cotterall.



ʔAKISQ̓NUK FIRST NATION invites you to

DRUM PRACTICE

Come enjoy an evening of drumming with community



July 2nd & July 9th
6:30 pm
Wiyu Lodge
*Final Practices
before Summer*

All ʔakisq̓nukniks and community welcome to
come learn how to drum and sing.

Call or text Glynda for more information at
250-409-5513 or email
reception@akisqnuk.org



2026 Ktunaxa Nation Annual General Assembly

July 15 & 16, 2026

Hosted by Yaqan Nukiy

All Ktunaxanihtik
& guests are
encouraged to
attend.



Register Now!

This year's Theme:
*Reconciliation
Through Economic
Strength*

Further details to be announced.
Check ktunaxa.org for agenda & updates closer to the AGA.

Visit us at
www.ktunaxa.org



YAQAN NUKIY
LOWEANDOTEMAYBAND



**KTUNAXA
NATION**



Yaminqan Point
on Kootenay Lake

KTUNAXA YOUTH CULTURE CAMP JULY 20-23

CONNECT WITH LAND, CULTURE AND
COMMUNITY AT YAMINQAN POINT ON
KOOTENAY LAKE

YAQAN NUKIY YOUTH GROUP INVITES
KTUNAXA YOUTH AGES 12-25 TO COME
TOGETHER FOR A CAMPOUT!

- Food provided, and transportation can potentially be arranged.
- Paddling to Pictographs, Huckleberry Harvesting, Land Based Learning Activities
- Food provided and camping gear can be arranged
- Youth 18 and over must provide a vulnerable populations criminal record check
- Fill out form by scanning the QR code on the flyer!



SCAN QR CODE
TO REGISTER
AND FOR MORE
INFORMATION!

For more information and if you have any questions or
concerns, please email youth@lowerkootenay.com



Nominate or apply for the 26th Annual **MALYAN MICHEL BURSARY**



Application
Deadline
July 13,2026

Bursary
Awarded
July 15,2026

This \$500.00 bursary was established in 2000 by friends and family of Malyan Michel to recognize deserving post-secondary students from the Ktunaxa Nation. Malyan was a language and culture teacher and always encouraged people to return to school and further their education while still holding onto their Ktunaxa heritage.

This bursary has been awarded to 42 Ktunaxa Nation students totalling \$21,000. The funds for these bursaries are raised every year through 50/50 draws, as well as donations from our generous supporters. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support over the years.

Application Form please contact: gregncindy88@gmail.com



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We Are Hiring!

MANAGER, GOVERNANCE SUPPORT

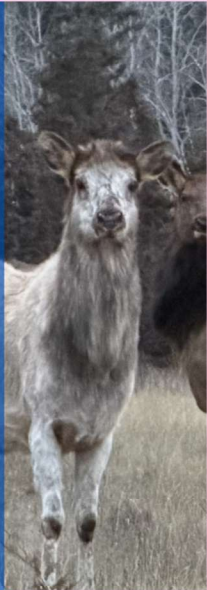
We are seeking a strategic and collaborative professional to support strong governance, informed decision-making, and the implementation of Chief & Council's priorities for ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation.



We Are Hiring!

DIRECTOR OF MEMBER SERVICES

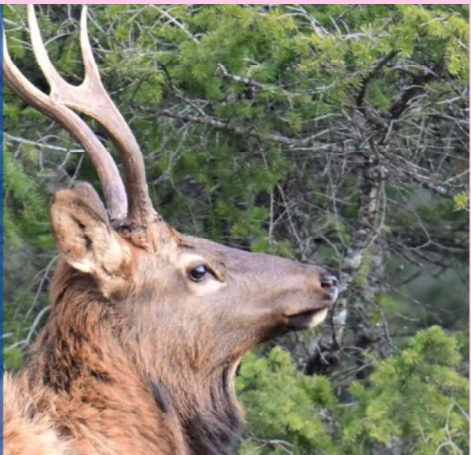
ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation is seeking a dedicated individual to provide leadership and oversight for programs that support the well-being of community members.



Still Available:

ʔAKISQ̓NUK GUARDIANS & COMMUNITY HELPERS – CASUAL

We are seeking values-aligned individuals to help support ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation



We Are Hiring!

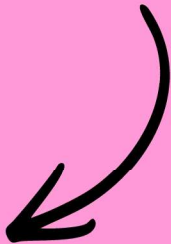
MEDICAL OFFICE ASSISTANT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE RECEPTIONIST

We're seeking motivated individuals to join the ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation team and contribute to a welcoming, professional, and culturally respectful environment that supports our community every day.



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.





FOR ʔAKISQ'NUK MEMBERSHIP FINANCE AUDIT INVESTMENT COMMITTEE (FAIC) BOARD



<https://akisqnuuk.org/governance>

Summit your interest to
Robby Roy at
robby.roy@akisqnuuk.org

MAKE AN IMPACT BEHIND THE SCENES!

- Detail-oriented individuals
- Strong critical thinkers
- Team players with integrity
- Anyone interested in finance (experience is a bonus, not required!)

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Honorarium provided
- Meetings typically last 2 hours, held every 1-2 months
- Occasional full-day meetings (mainly during budget discussions)



KTUNAXA ENTERPRISES LTD.

Brooke Burke, Business Manager

Phone: 778.860.7598 ext. 3

Website: www.ktunaxaenterprises.ca

“We have a few more meaningful employment opportunities to share:

**Heavy Equipment Operator, Heavy Duty Mechanic, Construction Surveyor,
and more...**

All positions are attached and can be found in the QR code below. We invite you to share with your network and encourage any Ktunaxa citizen with qualifications to send us their resume and identify themselves as a Ktunaxa citizen.

We have recently hired from within the Ktunaxa communities and we are thrilled to have them as part of our team and hope for even more to join.”





HEALTH & WELLNESS

Director: Rachel Bach

JUNE 2026							AUGUST 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
28	29	30					30	31					
JULY 2026													
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2	3	4							
			Canada Day - Office Closed	Akisq̓nuk Community Census 10am - 4:30pm									
				Dr. Page Clinic 2-4pm									
5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
			Foot Care Clinic 9:45am-3:15pm	Dr. Page Clinic 2-4pm		Valley Appreciation Days Downtown Invermere 9am-4pm							
19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
		Parflech Workshop: Wiyu Lodge 9am-4pm			Family Adventure Trip								
	Ktunaxa Youth Camping Trip												
		Massage Clinic 10am-3pm		Acupuncture Clinic 9:00am-1:00pm									
26	27	28	29	30	31	1							
	Star Blanket Workshop: Week 1 Intensive												
				Good Food Box									
Please contact the ʔakisq̓nuk Health & Wellness Centre at healthcentre@akisq̓nuk.org or 250-342-6379 for more information or to book or cancel an appointment													

For more Health & Wellness program information, please visit our Website through the QR code below





ʔakisq̓nuk Peer Support Team

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

Available Monday to Thursday from 12-8pm

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

There are resources available to you if you need support.

Circle of Care: KUU-US First Nations and Aboriginal Crisis Line Support is Available 24 Hours. Call 1-800-588-8717.



New Staff Introductions:



Kiʔsuʔk kyukyit, Shekoli,

My name is **Jenny Damstrom** and I am a Turtle Clan member of the Oneida Nation of the Thames (mom's side) and Slovakian/Polish from my dad's side. I am a wife to Scott and mom to 3 grown boys. I am happy to be joining the ʔakisq̓nuk health team as the **Health Services Manager**. I love exploring the outdoors, either on my bike or on my paddle board in the waters. I love learning and hearing stories and believe in the power of connection. Please stop in and say hi!

Taxa, Jenny



My name is **Gina Harting** and I'm grateful for the opportunity to have joined ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation as the **Wellness Programs Manager**. I was born and raised in Alberta and I've been fortunate to live, work, and play on beautiful Ktunaxa lands in the Columbia Valley for the past 2 years. I'm a Registered Social Worker with a background supporting children, youth, and families. Kindness, gratitude, compassion, and curiosity are values that guide my practice, alongside a commitment to decolonial social work. Outside of work, I enjoy hiking, reading, baking, and a good cup of coffee. My spouse and I have three amazing children and a goofy black lab. I'm here to listen, learn, and support the community. I look forward to getting to know everyone!



My name is **Denise McKinley**, I have been working in Indigenous communities for over 18 years and have always had a passion for supporting individuals, youth and families. My approach is client-centered and trauma informed with an emphasis in creating a trusting, safe and respectful environment for community members and my team. If I am not working you will find me hanging with my pups and husband, running and anything that allows me to be in nature! I am really excited to be joining the Health & Wellness department as the community's **Social Worker (position to be renamed in the near future)**, and look forward to meeting you all!



Programming Notice:

WIYU Wednesday and Women's Circle will be postponed through the months of July and August.

We encourage you to take this opportunity to enjoy your summer, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back when these programs resume in September!

**If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Gina Harting:
(250) - 342 - 6379 [Ex. 3828]**

Thank you, and have a wonderful summer!



STAR BLANKET WORKSHOP

Facilitated by Roberta Gravelle and Mara Nelson



*A five-day
gathering
to learn and
create.*

Participants will learn how to create a Star Blanket from start to finish. There is no cost to attend the workshop; however, the Star Blankets created during the workshop will be gifted through the Ktunaxa Citizen Excellence Awards.

Participants are also asked to commit to creating one Star Blanket per year for the awards program going forward, which KNC will purchase from you.

Materials, instruction and meals are included. Participants are responsible for arranging their own accommodations and transportation to and from the workshop. If you require assistance with local transportation, please contact the Health Centre to discuss available transportation supports.

OPEN TO ALL ʔAKISQ̓NUK COMMUNITY MEMBERS, INCLUDING FAMILY MEMBERS.

Questions? healthcentre@akisqnuk.org

July 27–31, 2026

Location: WIYU Lodge

**Maximum 15
participants**

**Register
Here!**





Land, Body, Belonging



WOMEN'S RETREAT

AUGUST 14TH - 16TH 2026

RAVEN'S NEST RESORT

**REGISTRATION FORM AVAILABLE
IN QR CODE ABOVE**



A weekend of connection, reflection, and time on the land.

Through shared conversations, wellness activities, and cultural teachings, we will explore topics related to sexual and reproductive health, body literacy, HIV awareness, stigma reduction, and self-care.

Open to ʔakisq̓nuk Community Members, identifying as women, ages 15+

Made possible through funding from the FNHA HIV Community Initiative.



MEMBER SERVICES

Overseer: Georgina Lieverse

ʔAKISQNUK
Family Adventure

SAVE THE DATE
July 24-26, 2026
Registration
OPEN NOW!

Adventure stops will include
Head Smashed in Buffalo
Jump, Telus Sparks Centre,
and Calaway Park.

Connect with Trisha Clowers for more information or questions
trisha.clowers@akisqnuḱ.org

BC Farmers' Markets
Coupons Are Back!

REGISTRATION
OPEN NOW!

Contact Person:
Trisha Clowers -
trisha.clowers@akisqnuḱ.org



‘a·kuḱwuk’is ksukikiḱ kikiḱ
Good Food Box

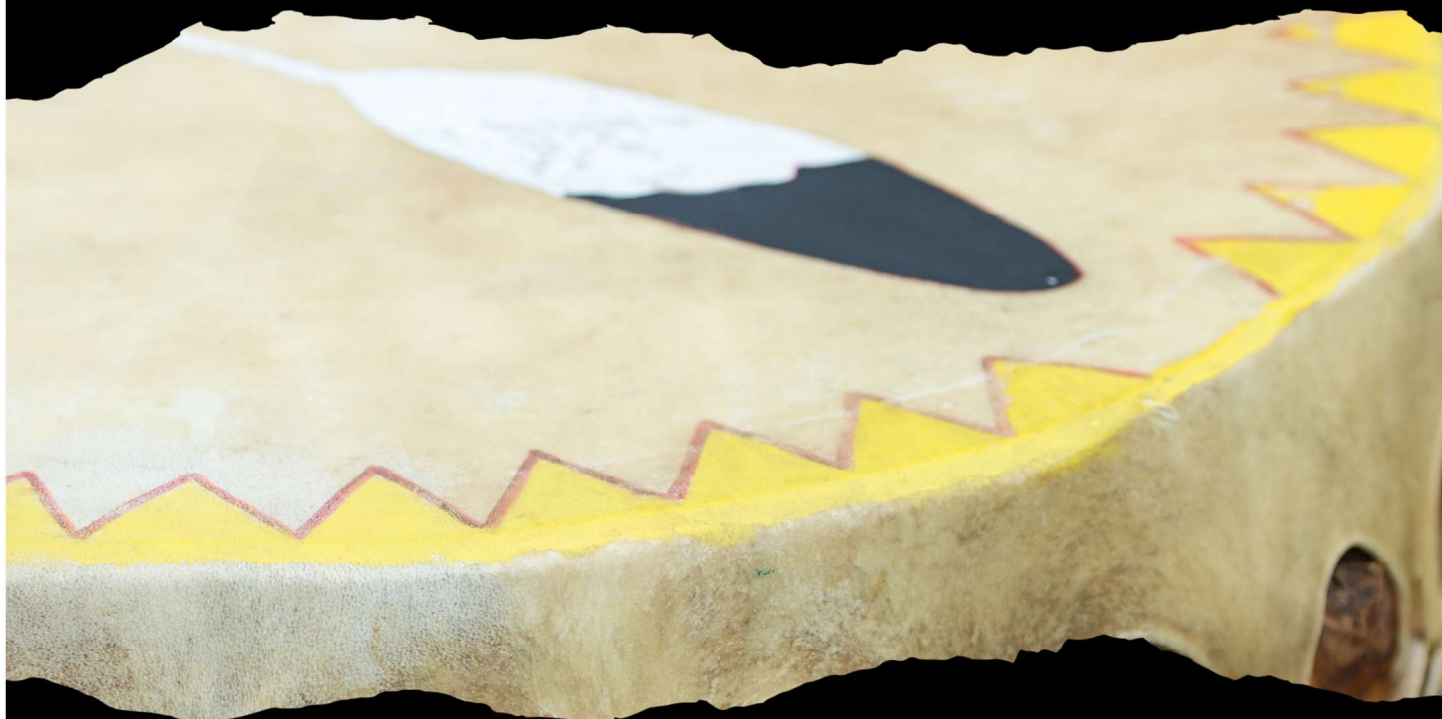
Thursday, July 30th
Pick up in the Recreation Centre
From 12pm - 3pm. Cost \$7.00

Contact Trisha Clowers if you need to make alternate pick
up arrangements: trisha.clowers@akisqnuḱ.org
250-342-6301 ext. 3215



ʔAKISQ̓NUKNIK ARE INVITED

PARFLECHE RAWHIDE WORKSHOP



July 21st & July 22nd, 2026

9am- 4pm @ Wiyu Lodge

Address: 2410 Alpine Rd, Windermere, BC VoB 2L2

Instructor: Jordan Stasso - Ƙupawiƙq̓nuk

For more information contact:

eldene.stanley@akisqnuk.org



YOUR BENEFITS YOUR WAY



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

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



Submit Online

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

It's easy:

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

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

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

my-benefits for Employers

my-benefits for Employees



LOGIN

Submitting claims with your phone or tablet?

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





LANDS & RESOURCES

Director: Lorne Shovar

Welcome to the Team, New ʔakisqnuq Guardians!

By: Angela Jones

ʔAFN Guardians Program Manager



A huge welcome to Dion Burgoyne and Kevin McNab, who joined the ʔakisqnuq Guardians team in June!

They have already hit the ground running, joining Ursus Heritage Consulting in Ktunwakanmituk Miꞌꞌqaaqas (Revelstoke) to learn about hydro dam impacts on archaeological sites along Arrow Lakes and discuss how best to protect these important places. Dion has also been out at Kootenay Crossing with Parks Canada as work moves forward toward establishing a cultural use area, and in the CBT block, checking kiꞌꞌqaaꞌꞌi (elk) cameras to support wildlife monitoring.

This is only the beginning. Over the coming

months, the Guardians will support lake stewardship for Windermere and Columbia Lakes, wildlife and habitat monitoring, cultural site protection, and land-based learning. Guided by ʔaꞌkxaꞌꞌis qꞌapi qapsin (All Living Things), this work reflects a responsibility to care for ʔamak (land), wuꞌu (water), and Ktunaxa places.

We are excited to have Kevin and Dion on the team and look forward to all that is ahead as the ʔakisqnuq Guardians program continues to grow.

Want to join the ʔakisqnuq Guardians? Reach out to angela.jones@akisqnuq.org to express your interest.



Angela Jones Photos



Water Stewardship Update

By: Caily Craig

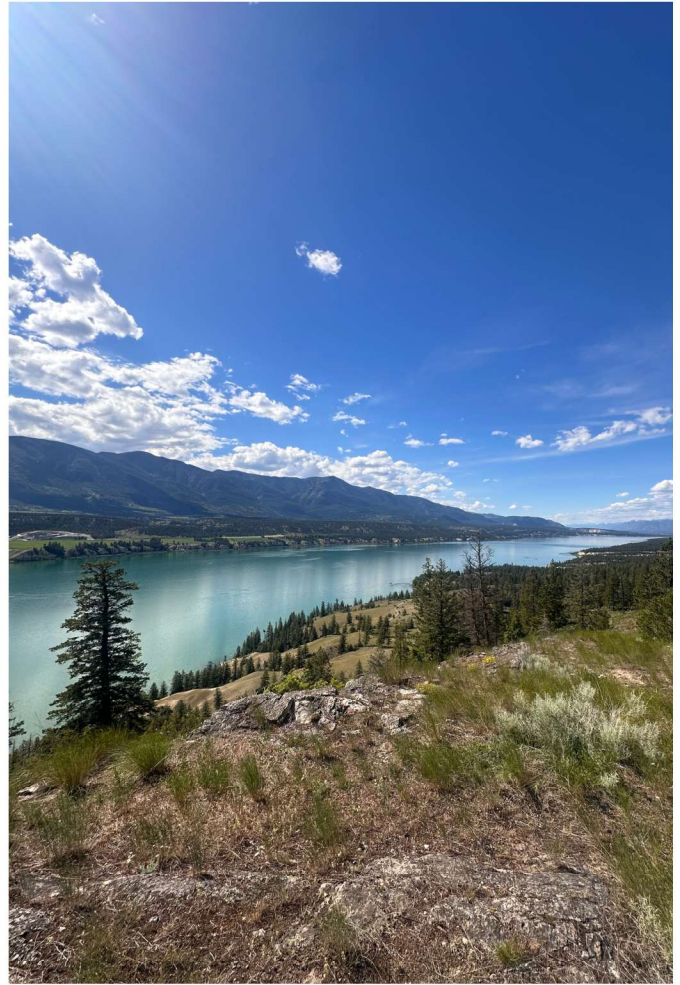
ʔAFN Water Stewardship Coordinator

ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation's Lands and Resources Department continues to advance stewardship efforts for Columbia Lake and Lake Windermere. One important project currently underway is bathymetric mapping, which measures and maps the depth of a lake. Existing bathymetry information for both lakes is outdated, with the most recent maps for Columbia Lake dating to August 28, 1958, and Lake Windermere to May 27, 1974. Updated mapping of both lakes is currently underway, with data collection expected to be completed by August 2026, and final maps to be generated by early 2027.

A Lake Stewardship page will soon be launched on the ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation website. The page will provide answers to frequently asked questions, information regarding ongoing projects and initiatives, and updates as stewardship work progresses.

Discussions with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship continue to move forward as we work together to develop coordinated approaches to addressing the cumulative impacts affecting Columbia Lake and Lake Windermere.

The Lands and Resources Department welcomes several ʔakisq̓nuk Guardians starting this month, whose contributions will play an important role in supporting and advancing water stewardship efforts throughout ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa.



Caily Craig Photos

Together, we honour the salmon, the water and the strength of our Nations



SAVE THE DATE
2026 SALMON FESTIVAL

September 12, 2026
James Chabot Beach,
Invermere, BC

For inquiries, please contact Josh Martin
250-421-1454 or jmartin@shuswapband.ca



When you see through
FireSmart eyes, wildfire
risks are clear.





GOVERNANCE

Overseer: David Bach

2026 AGA

August 21st, 22nd & 23rd

We are getting excited for the upcoming 2026 AGA!

A Facebook event will be set up again this year and a dedicated area on our website so that we can keep you informed as more details are confirmed.

The 2026 AGA Registration Form is available on Pg. 24, and must be submitted prior to August 17th.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Val Stackhouse: val.stackhouse@akisq̓nuk.org or by telephone 250-688-5254

We hope to see you there!



SAVE THE DATE:

ʔakisq̓nuk COMMUNITY CENSUS

STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS ENUMERATOR CHRISTOPHER LARGE IS INVITING RESIDENTS OF ʔAKISQ̓NUK TO COME OUT AND COMPLETE THEIR CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRES AT THE BAND OFFICE ON JULY 2ND AT 10:00. FULFILLING THE CENSUS IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT, AS ACCURATE POPULATION NUMBERS DIRECTLY HELP THE COMMUNITY SECURE VITAL FUNDING FOR ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS. THIS INCLUDES SUPPORT FOR CULTURAL AND NATIVE LANGUAGE TEACHING, HEALTH CARE, LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AND HOUSING. PLEASE DROP BY TO MEET CHRISTOPHER AND ENSURE OUR COMMUNITY IS FULLY COUNTED!

JULY 2ND 2026 @HEALTH CENTRE
STARTING AT 10:00



ʔAKISQNUK FIRST NATION

Annual General Assembly August 21-23, 2026

3050 Hwy 93/95 Windermere, BC V0B 2L2

Registration Form

Participant information is required in order to plan meals and childcare to AGA participants.
Please ensure your registration form is completed IN FULL and returned to ʔakisqnuq First Nation office by August 7, 2026
Drop off or email to val.stackhouse@akisqnuq.org

Print Name:	Phone:	Check all that apply. ☐ AFN Member ☐ Staff ☐ Guest
Address:		
Email:	Would you like to Subscribe to AFN Newsletter ☐ YES	

Print Name(s): Please indicate days attending. Only one person per vehicle can claim travel assistance, flights can include other family members but can not exceed the maximum amount. Carpooling encouraged
If you require Child Care at Little Badgers on Saturday, August 22, 2026 please let us know as soon as possible.

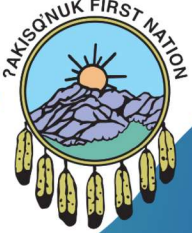
List ALL (include children and their ages) who will be attending with you. This information is necessary to help us coordinate events and games.	Friday, August 21	Saturday August 22	Sunday, August 23
	☐	☐ ☐ Child care	☐
Age:	☐	☐ ☐ Child care	☐
Age:	☐	☐ ☐ Child care	☐
Age:	☐	☐ ☐ Child care	☐
Age:	☐	☐ ☐ Child care	☐
Age:	☐	☐ ☐ Child care	☐
Age:	☐	☐ ☐ Child care	☐

Travel Assistance/Distance in Kilometers Round trip Vehicle or Airline Travel AFN Members Only
200km -500km =\$200 ☐
501km -1000km =\$400 ☐
1001km -1500km =\$600 ☐
1501km and higher =\$800 ☐
Traveling from:

Do you or anyone traveling with you have special dietary needs or food allergies? If yes, what are the specific dietary or allergy needs?

Signature:





FOR ʔAKISQ̓NUK MEMBERSHIP CHIEF & COUNCIL UPDATE

There is No Chief and Council meetings this Week of June 29th - July 3rd. The next chief and Council meeting is July 8th



WEDNESDAY, JULY 8TH

ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation Health Centre, Round Room
Dinner at 5p.m. meeting start time **5:30 - 7:30pm**
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85918263860?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85918263860?pwd=3v4wGuvAhl3kNqY1EPcOMocRoF2LYC.1)
 pwd=3v4wGuvAhl3kNqY1EPcOMocRoF2LYC.1
 Meeting ID: 859 1826 3860
 Passcode: 141636

<https://akisq̓nuk.org/governance>



FOR ʔAKISQ̓NUK MEMBERSHIP BAND MEETING

ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation members are welcome to submit agenda items until July 15th. Submissions can be emailed to Sue Smythe at sue.smythe@akisq̓nuk.org. A finalized agenda will be posted on July 21st.



TUESDAY, JULY 21ST

ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation Health Centre, Round Room
Dinner at 5p.m. meeting start time **5:30 - 7:30pm**
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85918263860?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85918263860?pwd=3v4wGuvAhl3kNqY1EPcOMocRoF2LYC.1)
 pwd=3v4wGuvAhl3kNqY1EPcOMocRoF2LYC.1
 Meeting ID: 859 1826 3860
 Passcode: 141636

<https://akisq̓nuk.org/governance>

CORE SERVICES

Director: Donna Melnychyn

Behind the Move: Building More Than a Workplace

By: Cassie Humber

ʔAFN Administrative Services Coordinator

As construction on the new ʔakisq̓nuk Multi-purpose Facility(MPF) nears completion, the Core Services team is working behind the scenes to prepare the building for its next chapter.

While much of our work involves setting up offices and technology, we're preparing much more than a workplace. We're helping create a welcoming space where the community can gather, connect, celebrate, learn, and continue building relationships for generations to come. Every detail is being considered to ensure the building reflects the warmth, pride, and spirit of ʔakisq̓nuk.

In anticipation of construction timelines moving forward as planned, starting the week of July 20, the Core Services team will be working in the new facility to prepare it for occupancy.

Some of our responsibilities include:

- Setting up all staff workstations with furniture, materials and supplies, computers, phones, and other technology.
- Testing connections, equipment, and other operational systems to ensure everything is working smoothly.
- Stocking office supply rooms and organizing inventory so departments have the resources they need from day one.
- Finalizing office processes and procedures that will support efficient operations throughout the new facility.
- Working with departments to ensure shared spaces are welcoming, functional, and ready to support both staff and community members.

While we are preparing the building from an operations perspective, our most important focus is preparing it for members –the community. We want every person who walks through the doors to feel welcomed, comfortable, and connected to ʔakisq̓nuk. From the first impression at the front reception desks to the gathering spaces throughout the building, our goal is to create an environment that reflects ʔakisq̓nuk values, culture, and commitment to serving the community.

This will be an all-hands-on-deck effort for the Core Services team. As we focus on preparing the building, some Core Services may experience minor delays during the transitional period – mid July to first week of August. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to ensure a smooth transition into the new building.

We are most excited to welcome community members into the building prior to the staff move in. We're exploring opportunities to offer guided walkthroughs during the week of July 20th, giving members a chance to experience the new Band Hall and Multipurpose Facility before it officially opens. More information will be shared as dates and times are confirmed.

We can't wait to welcome you into this beautiful space built not just for today, but for the future of ʔakisq̓nuk—a place where community can gather, grow, and be together for many years to come.



Learn Ktunaxa

CHIPMUNK AND GRASSHOPPER

Look for this legend in Ktunaxa Legends

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

quçac̓
(goo-ts-ats)
chipmunk

ṭawaçikxu
(ta-wa-tsick-hoo)
Grasshopper

ʔa·kitʔaʔnam
(a-kit-tha-a-nam)
house

çupnaktit
(tsup-nak-tit)
to survive summer

Hu ṇakakuʔni

(hoo na-ka-koo-nee)

naqamçu

(na-gam-tsoo)

I dig bitterroot



listen



ṇutmiʔiʔitni

(noot-mith-e-it-nee)

it's hot



kin haçakuʔ

(kin ha-ga-koo)

Are you(hot) perspiring?



Apps
Ktunaxa First
Voices



Facebook

ktunaxa/ksanka Language Group 2.0



Tiktok

@ksanka_ktunaxa



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