



Pakisq'nuk Community Newsletter May 1-31, 2025



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Notices



Notice:

Temporary Change to Health Centre Access

Due to ongoing construction and relocation of the barrier fencing for a trenching project, the main entrance to the Health Centre will be temporarily inaccessible beginning Friday, April 11.

During this time, PLEASE USE THE SIDE ENTRANCE to access the building. Signage will be posted to help guide you.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue construction.



Notice:

Logging trucks will be transporting loads from the FESBC/CBT Block on Kootenay Road #3 from April 28 to approximately May 16 (estimated 3 weeks). Please be aware of heavy traffic in the area during this time, and drive with caution.





AFN PROJECT MANAGER BOB COTTERALL UPDATE NO.11

MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY

COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO DROP BY THE PROJECT MANAGER'S OFFICE ANY TIME TO DISCUSS ANY QUESTIONS THEY MAY HAVE.

DEAR ʔAKISQNUK COMMUNITY,

With the approaching spring, work has picked up on site.

The framing crews are well underway with the Administration portion. Mechanical piping is progressing in the Band Hall and Health Centre components. Once the Administrative component is framed out the framing crews will start on the Band Hall (center atrium). This has changed as framing to the Health component will now occur when the Band Hall is framed out. This will allow BC Hydro to remove their line above the health component.

Scott builders will be starting their trenchwork next week subsequently allowing power, Telus, and fiber optics service to the completed Administrative, Band Hall, and new Health Centre. The trenching will make its way through the construction site and take approximately 2 weeks.

While this trench work is underway, construction fencing moves will close off the main entrance to the Health Centre, however, a secondary entrance will be available for entrance to the north of the existing entrance.

Construction worker parking will move off the construction site and they will park on the skating rink. Workers will gain access to the south of the skating rink instead of through the Little Badgers area.

With the return of spring, further attention will be given to the species at risk. Vast Resource Solutions is working with us. We have installed bat houses for the return of the bats.

Work continues on the fourplex and construction should be completed by mid-June 2025.



250-342-6301 ext.3860



bob.cotterall@akisqnuq.org

UPCOMING *events*

MAY 1-31, 2025

MAY
1

ᑭakisᑭnuk Open House
Columbia Lake Rec Centre
12-6PM
Everyone welcome!

MAY
1

Member's Wellness Day
Columbia Lake Rec Centre
12-6PM
ᑭakisᑭnuknik only

MAY
6

Health Centre closed
for Staff Meeting
12-4:30PM

MAY
13

Wiyu Lodge Visioning
Session
Wiyu Lodge: 2410 Alpine Rd
3-5PM

MAY
19

Offices closed for long
weekend

MAY
23/24

Lake Days
Meet at Lake Life Boat
Rentals
9:30-4PM

MAY
29

Good Food Box
Pickup @ Mural Room
12-3:30PM

JUN
16-20

Swaᑭmu Clinic Week 2
Wiyu Lodge
Register now!

JUN
23-27

Swaᑭmu Clinic Week 2
Wiyu Lodge
Drop-in available

RECURRING *events*

1st Mondays:

Community Shopping Trip @ 10AM - May 5

2nd Tuesdays:

Acupuncture Clinic @ 10AM - May 13

Every other Wednesday:

Chief & Council Meetings - May 14, 28

Every Tuesday & Thursday:

Healing Circle, Wiyu Lodge

1st Tuesdays: May 6 @ 12-4:30PM

Health Centre closed for Staff Meeting

3rd Tuesdays:

Massage Clinic @ 10AM - May 20

Elders Meeting - May 27

Third Thursday:

Dr. Page Clinic @ 2-4PM - May 22

Join Us! ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation is hosting an Open House!



Thursday, May 1st, 2025 from 12:00pm to 6:00pm

**Columbia Lake Recreation Centre
3050 Highway 93/95 Windermere, BC**

Learn about ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation and what we are working on!

Special guests include:

Columbia Lake Rec Centre, Lakeshore Campground, Little Badgers Day Care, GALS Animal Rescue, Blackstar Studio, HOCATT Therapy, and more!

Learn, snack, mingle, enjoy! Door prizes, and great conversation.

Plus! Presentation of Elks Hockey Jerseys to Elders and Youth @ 5:00pm

Everyone welcome!



For our members: ʔakisq̓nuk Health Fair!

**Columbia Lake Recreation Centre
Thursday, May 1st, 2025
12:00pm to 6:00pm**

Members Wellness Day (Members only area).
Enjoy an afternoon of wellness activities.
Relax and rejuvenate!

Services:

Threading
Acupuncture
Somatic Sessions
Women's Hair Cuts
Men's Hair Cuts

Craniosacral
Foot Care
Massage
Mini-Facials
Mini-Manicures

And More!

Plus, stop by the ʔakisq̓nuk Open House and find out
what we are working on.

Ktunaxa Nation-Wide Healing Strategy



You're invited

May 14, 2025
5:30pm - 8:00pm

ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation

Location to be determined

Contacts

Nation.Healing@ktunaxa.org

Martina.Escutin@urbanmatters.ca

Honorarium

\$25/hour for community
member participation

Meals provided.



Let's hold space for one another
& walk a healing journey together.

hu sukiłq̓ukni

Healing and Ceremony Circle

for ʔakisq̓nuk Members

We invite you to a gentle space for
healing, ceremony, and connection.

This circle will be held in a safe, supportive
space and grounded in ceremony.

Let's **share a meal**, connect with each other,
and help shape a path forward together.

We host this circle to contribute to and guide
the Ktunaxa Nation-Wide Healing Strategy.

As part of this, we'll invite those interested to
join a Collaborative Community Advisory Circle.

This is for you if you...

- Have experienced grief or loss
related to the toxic drug crisis
- Are on a personal healing journey
- Have lived or living experience
with substance use
- Feel called to join this conversation

Visit us at
www.ktunaxa.org



**KTUNAXA
NATION**



**kʔawʔa
SOCIAL
INVESTMENT**



LAKE DAYS ON LAKE WINDERMERE

**Friday, May 23 and Saturday, May 24
9:30am-4:00pm**

Join us for a fun two days on the lake to connect with the land and each other and share knowledge for future stewardship of this amazing place! Learn about ʔakisqnuknik current and historical uses, concerns, ideas, and more.

The agenda for the pontoon boat tour will be the same on Friday and Saturday, but you are welcome to join for one or both days.

Meet at Lake Life Boat Rentals in Invermere at 9:30am or ʔAkisqnu Rec Center at 9am to carpool. Lunch and honoraria will be provided.

Learn about and discuss Stewardship of this important lake!

Please register by e-mailing communication@akisqnuuk.org so we can plan accordingly.

Health & Wellness

APRIL 2025							JUNE 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
27	28	29	30				22	23	24	25	26	27	28
							29	30					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
				Wellness Day		
				Recovery Healing Circle at Wiyu Lodge		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Community Shopping Trip to Cranbrook	Health Centre Closed for Staff Meeting In Afternoon Women's Circle at Wiyu Lodge		Recovery Healing Circle at Wiyu Lodge		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		Acupuncture Clinic Women's Circle at Wiyu Lodge		Recovery Healing Circle at Wiyu Lodge		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Health Centre Closed	Massage Clinic Women's Circle at Wiyu Lodge		Dr. Page Clinic Recovery Healing Circle at Wiyu Lodge		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		Elder's Meeting Women's Circle at Wiyu Lodge		Good Food Box Recovery Healing Circle at Wiyu Lodge		

Please contact the ʔakisq̓nuq Health+ Wellness Center at healthcentre@akisqnuq.org or 250-342-6379 for more information or to book or cancel an appointment



ʔakisq̓nuq Health and Wellness Programs:
Scan the QR code for more details, or visit our [website](#).

- Mental wellness and trauma recovery
- One-on-one recovery mentorship
- Serenity After the Storm - Recovery Healing Circle
- Chiropractics
- Acupuncture
- Massage
- Nutrition coaching
- Vaccines
- Non-coverage medical




Don't forget to schedule your appointments for physician, massage, acupuncture, and foot clinics by calling the **Health Centre at (250) 342-6379**, or in-person at the Health Centre!




Register Now

for Week 1: Intensive Learning

SWAǾMU SKIN LEATHER WORKSHOP WITH ARTIST JANEY CHANG

 **June 16–20, 2025**

 **Wiyu Lodge (2410 Alpine Rd)**

Limited spots are available for this deep-dive, hands-on learning experience with artist Janey Chang.

➔ To register, use the link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/F3Ucnf9WiY>
or email healthcentre@akisqnuuk.org

◆ Learn more about Janey at
www.janeychang.ca


&

Save the Date

SwaǾmu Skin Leather Workshop with artist Janey Chang


ʔakisqnuuk First Nation is pleased to offer a special two-week opportunity to learn the art of traditional fish skin leather tanning!

 **Week 1: Intensive Learning (Limited Spots)**

 **June 16-20, 2025 | Wiyu Lodge (2410 Alpine Rd.)**

A deep-dive for dedicated learners. This small-group, hands-on experience will focus on the full tanning process, from raw skin to finished leather.

 **Week 2: Open Studio & Crafting (Drop-In Welcome)**


 **June 23-27, 2025 | Wiyu Lodge (2410 Alpine Rd.)**

A more flexible, learning opportunity. Participants from Week 1 will share their skills while continuing to learn leather dyeing. Drop-in learners are welcome to explore the process. Craft tables will be available for making beautiful creations with the finished fish leather.



Wiyu Lodge Visioning Session

Shaping a Hub for Community Wellness

 **Wiyu Lodge (2410 Alpine Road)**

 **Monday, May 13, 2025**

 **3:00–5:00 PM**

 **Dinner Provided**

Join us at Wiyu Lodge for an interactive visioning session to imagine what this land can become for our community. We've invited an Indigenous artist and landscape architecture senior student to facilitate the process and listen to our ideas. She will turn our collective vision into sketches and plans.

Let's dream together about:

 **Gardens & Food Sovereignty**

 **Butchering & Traditional Food Systems**

 **Wellness Programming & Gathering Spaces**

This is your opportunity to share what matters most — how can Wiyu Lodge support health, culture, and connection for ʔakisq̓nuknik and future generations?

We encourage and invite all ʔakisq̓nuknik to attend. Local transportation available, please contact the health centre to arrange.



Call for Expressions of Interest

Akisqnuq Data Sovereignty Task Force

Akisqnuq First Nation is seeking passionate and knowledgeable individuals to join a newly forming **Data Sovereignty Task Force**. The task force will guide and support the development of Akisqnuq-led approaches to data governance that respect Ktunaxa values, uphold our rights, and serve the needs of our community.

Why This Matters

As we continue to grow our capacity, services, and digital presence, it is essential that Akisqnuq maintains stewardship over our data — how it's collected, stored, shared, and used. Data sovereignty is about self-determination, accountability, and protecting our stories, knowledge, and identities for future generations.

What the Task Force Will Do

- Provide guidance on the development of Akisqnuq data sovereignty approaches
- Identify priority areas and data needs across departments and programs
- Explore policy and governance models rooted in Ktunaxa values
- Engage with community to ensure transparency and accountability
- Advise on partnerships, infrastructure, and training opportunities

Who We're Looking For

We welcome expressions of interest from Akisqnuqnik, including:

- Knowledge holders, Elders, youth, and community members interested in protecting and guiding our digital future
- Individuals with experience in research, tech, policy, or privacy are also encouraged

No formal data experience is required — just a commitment to and interest in learning, collaboration, and community wellbeing.

Time Commitment

The Task Force will meet once every 1-2 months for 1–2 hours, with some additional reading or prep between meetings. The term will run for 12 months, with the possibility of extension. Honoraria will be provided for community members who are not otherwise paid for their participation.



Akisqnuq First Nation

Health Centre

3048 Hwy 93/95 Windermere, B.C. V0B 2L2

Ph: 250.342.6379 Fax: 250.342.6279

www.akisqnuq.org

THE LAND OF THE TWO LAKES

How to Apply

Please submit a short expression of interest describing:

- Why you're interested in joining the Data Sovereignty Task Force
- Any experience, knowledge, or perspective you'd bring
- Anything you'd hope to learn or contribute

Send your expression of interest to: healthcentre@akisqnuq.org

Deadline: **May 15th, 2025** (first meeting will be the following week, details to follow)

Please reach out to healthcentre@akisqnuq.org to ask any questions or set up a to share your interest verbally.

Good Food Box

Pick Up Thursday, May 29th
in the Mural Room!
From 12 -3:30pm. Cost \$7.00

****Bring your own bags and be entered to win a grocery gift card!****

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

COMMUNITY SHOPPING TRIP TO CRANBROOK



FIRST MONDAYS!
MAY 5, JUNE 2, JULY 7

Details:

- Seats Available: Up to 7 passengers
- Registration: Required for all participants. Elders will have priority.
- Need a Ride? Let the Health Centre know if you need transportation to the Health Centre.

Book Early! Seats may fill up fast.

Depart from Health Centre at 10AM

Morning stops:

Superstore, Walmart (with optional stops at the second-hand store and dollar store)

Afternoon (time permitting):

Casino (2:00 PM - 4:00 PM)

Return:

Depart from the Casino at 4:00 PM

TO REGISTER CALL ROBERTA @ 250-342-6379



Save the Date

Family Summer Camp 2025
July 2nd - 4th, 2025

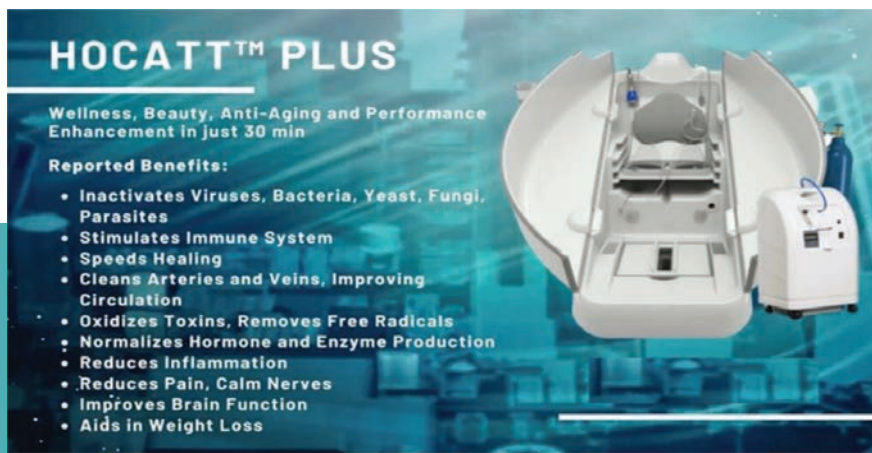
Get ready for adventure, connection, and unforgettable memories! Join us for a fun-filled family getaway with exciting activities, campfire nights, and quality time in nature.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for registration details!
#FamilyCamp2025 #SaveTheDate #SummerFun

If you or someone you know in the community is expecting a baby, we'd love to hear about it. Whether it's your first or a new addition to your family, let us know so we can offer any support or resources that may be helpful.

Please reach out to Akisqnuq Health center at 250-342-6379 or email ashley.killin@akisqnuq.org





Good day, my name is Hilary Vance, and I am offering community members an opportunity to visit my place for HOCATT (Hyperthermic Oxygen Carbonic Acid Transdermal Technology) and PEMF (Pulsating Electromagnetic Field) treatments.

Discover the Healing Power of HOCATT (Hyperthermic Oxygen Carbonic Acid Transdermal Technology)

Supports Detoxification – Sweats out toxins, heavy metals, and impurities. Boosts Oxygen Levels – Enhances oxygen absorption for improved energy and healing. Strengthens the Immune System – Helps the body fight infections and inflammation. Supports Joint & Muscle Health – Reduces pain, stiffness, and speeds up recovery. Improves Circulation – Enhances blood flow and nutrient delivery to cells. Promotes Relaxation & Stress Relief – Calms the nervous system and enhances well-being. Increases Cellular Energy – Helps the body function more efficiently. Revitalizes Skin & Anti-Aging – Improves complexion and promotes youthful skin.

These sessions are sponsored by the band, making them accessible to community members at no cost.

If you're interested in learning more about these treatments, feel free to reach out to me. There's also plenty of information available online for further research.

Contact me at 250-688-6135 to book a session. Start 2025 by healing and rejuvenating your body!



Invermere Family Chiropractic

We Want to Keep You Moving!

Invermere Family Chiropractic looks forward to meeting the musculoskeletal needs of the Akisqnuq band. We have a longstanding agreement with the band and welcome all members to receive treatment in our office.

To keep moving well you can call our office to make an appointment, 250-342-9666, or book online at <https://invermerefamilychiropractic.janeapp.com>.

We are located at 505B – 7 Ave. Invermere, between the barbershop and yoga studio.

It's always a great time for Flourishing Health!



We invite you to use the services of Flourishing Health! We offer Traditional Chinese Medicine which includes acupuncture, nutrition coaching, qi gong exercises, cupping or Chinese medical massage to address your health concerns.

We come to you! We are at the ʔakisqnuq Health Centre on the second Tuesday of each month. You can book an appointment or drop in by contacting the Health Centre.

Or, book an appointment at our clinic on our website: <https://flourishinghealth.janeapp.com/> or text (250) 688-0033 to request an appointment.

ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS



Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Bulletin

Claims Process Launch for First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle Settlement

Summary:

- The Federal Court has approved a launch date for the first claims period to begin for those affected by discrimination in the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and narrow application of Jordan's Principle class action settlement.
- This process is separate and distinct from ongoing efforts to secure an agreement on long-term reform of First Nations Child and Family Services. The negotiations on compensation and long-term reform are two different settlement agreements with different approvals processes.
- The first claims period will open on March 10, 2025, and applies to the Removed Child and Removed Child Family classes.
- Individuals who may be eligible for compensation under the period opening March 10, 2025 include First Nations individuals who were removed from their homes as Children between April 1, 1991, and March 31, 2022, while living on reserve or in the Yukon and placed into care funded by Indigenous Services Canada, as well as their Caregiving Parents or Caregiving Grandparents.
- The Removed Child and Removed Child Family classes are two of the nine classes under the final settlement agreement on compensation. The additional classes will have claims periods to be determined at a future date.
- Help is available to support applicants with the claims process. Visit www.fnchildclaims.ca for more information.

Federal Indian Hospitals Class Action

If you were admitted to a Federal Indian Hospital, you may be eligible to receive money as part of a proposed Canada-wide settlement that has been reached to compensate individuals for harms they suffered.

Compensation is not yet available – the Settlement Approval Hearing will be at the Federal Court of Canada from **June 10 – 11, 2025**.

Sign up for emails

<https://ihclassaction.ca/sign-up-for-updates/>

News release

Final agreement reached to resolve Hardy class action ↗

Lands & Resources

CALLING ALL ?AKISQNUK HUNTERS!



The province has engaged the Ktunaxa Nation to discuss hunting regulations for the upcoming regulatory period (2026-2028). We need your insights and perspectives on the current hunting situation.

Your Voice Matters in Shaping Future Hunting Regulations

Why Your Feedback is Important

Community Perspective: Share your experiences and observations about current hunts.

Population Trends: Help us understand changes in wildlife populations.

Regulatory Changes: Suggest modifications based on what you see in the field.

How You Can Contribute:

Your invited to have a conversation
with Tyra in person:

Email: tyra.joe@akisqnuuk.org

Phone: : (250)-342-6301 ext. 3824

or you can complete the survey link
at your convenience

Survey link



CLICK [HERE](#) for the BC Government's website on Surveillance and Testing for CWD.

Learn how to submit samples for the testing requirement in the CWD Management Zone (MUs 4-1 to 4-8 and 4-20 to 4-25) on our website.

Hunter samples from deer, elk, and moose are critical for science-based Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management.

Be part of the solution and help stop the spread of CWD.
Learn more at gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease



Request for participants on ?akisqnuuk Lands Committee

Do you want to have a voice and contribute your ideas and advice about how to steward ?akisqnuuk Lands both on and off reserve?

This is your chance!



Do you have:

- Traditional and modern on the land knowledge;
- Knowledge of Ktunaxa Perspective and Values including ?aknumu;ti;ti;
- Desire to improve ?akisqnuuk reserve lands and ?amak?is Ktunaxa;
- Interest in Land Stewardship and management;
- Willingness to work with other Ktunaxanintik in a positive and supportive environment;
- Willingness to learn new knowledge, skills and perspectives

Submit a resume and cover letter to lorne.shovar@akisqnuuk.org if you are interested in joining the ?akisqnuuk Lands Committee.

From risk to resilience: ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation leads wildfire mitigation work in the Kootenays

We are happy to share that the ʔakisq̓nuk Lands Department's wildfire mitigation work is receiving recognition from news outlets, websites, and magazines across the country. Congratulations to everyone for your hard work. Read the news release about the project on our [website](#).



Above left: Lawrence Williams and Grant Glessing with a worker from Nupqu at the project site. Photo Credit: Brian Watson. Above right: Mechanical Treatment Area.



Above left: One of the corridors cut to help increase wildlife grazing and water retention during snow melt. Above right: Logs to be removed from the area, and team members discussing the project (reminder to watch for logging trucks on KR#3 as these are being removed from late April to approximately May 16).

Welcome New Staff



MELISSA HESSEL

HOME CARE NURSE (RN)

Greetings! My name is Melissa Hessel. I am newly hired into the role of the Home Care RN at Akisqnuk First Nation. A little about me that I would like to share with you.

I'm a registered nurse with over 20 years of experience in healthcare. I come from a mixed European and Mi'kmaq Indigenous background on my maternal grandfather's side, and I'm deeply proud of my heritage. I was raised on Vancouver Island in Courtenay on the unceded territory of the K'omoks First Nation. I spent the last 4 yrs living between Vancouver Island and on Haida Gwaii with my husband.

I'm married, a mother of five, and a grandmother to three beautiful grandchildren. In my free time, I love spending time with my pets and exploring the world around me—whether it's through nature, travel, or simply trying something new. I love football and I am a huge Seahawks fan!

I truly enjoy working with Indigenous individuals, families, and communities in a way that honors culture, tradition, and holistic well-being. I'm passionate about providing compassionate, culturally respectful care and am always eager to learn and grow alongside others. I am eager to get started working for the Nation and its members!



Odds & Ends

CALLING ʔAKISQNUKNIK WHO ARE INTERESTED IN MENTORSHIP

As the Chief and Council address national matters, we would like to reach the members who are interested in attending conferences, workshops, etc., to get a glimpse into matters we address that impact our community.

Some of the events encourage Knowledge Holders and Youth to attend. If this interests you, please reach out to kevin.morrall@akisqnuk.org.

ʔakisqnuk First Nation Chief and Council



TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
11 AM - 12 PM

**DESIGNATED TIME FOR OUR
WOMEN, ELDERS, AND
SENIORS TO USE THE WEIGHT
ROOM AND WALKING TRACK!**

Elders are welcome to walk the outer boards of the main gym floor.

Faculty of Medicine UBC Learning Circle: Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Health - Upcoming Webinars

From Then to Now: Community Voices on Food Access and Climate Change in Remote BC

Date: May 22nd, 2025
Time: 10am - 11:30am PST
Free online webinar via Zoom

Register online at www.kccmproject.ca



May 22nd, 2025 – From Then to Now:
Community Voices on Food Access
and Climate Change in Remote BC

Challenges I faced growing up in a Northern First Nations Community: THE BALLANTYNE PROJECT

September 9th, 2025 | 10am - 11:30 am PST

Free online webinar via Zoom, register at:

www.kccmproject.ca



September 9th, 2025 – Challenges I
faced growing up in a Northern First
Nations Community: The Ballantyne
Project with Dwight Ballantyne



Water totes for Ktunaxa recipients.

Between 2021 & 2022, the KNC facilities team delivered 80 water totes to Ktunaxa recipients, generously gifted by Skookumchuk Pulp (Domtar, formerly Paper Excellence).

Totes are free (first come, first served), clean (but not for human drinking water), and delivered to you in late April/early May.

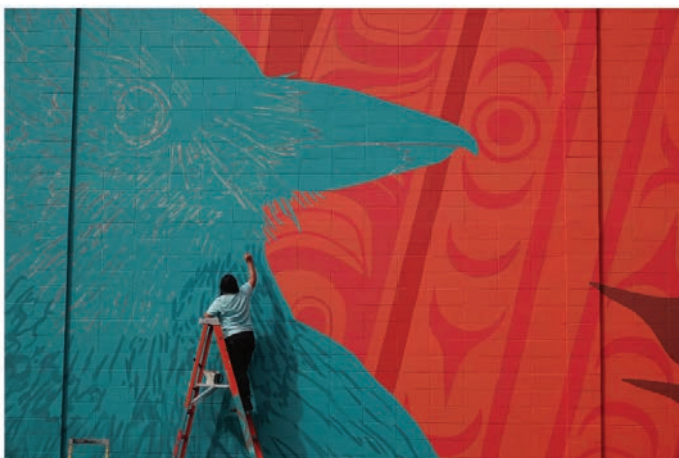
Great for fire protection, gardening, trees, critters, hot tubs & kiddie pools!

To claim your gift tote, contact communications@ktunaxa.org (250) 489-2464



Thank you to everyone who helped make Earth Day 2025 a success! Photos above of some “weird items” picked up at the event. Special thank you to Jim Penson with RDEK for his help as well.

Receive up to \$10,000 in funding with
FPCC's new Arts Vitality Grant!



Are you a B.C First Nations storyteller, artist, or arts organization sharing about the perseverance of stories, knowledge and arts practices in your community?

FPCC is now offering an Arts Vitality Grant which is a one-time opportunity to receive up to \$10,000 in funding for creative projects that contribute to research on the status and strength of B.C. First Nations storytelling and arts knowledge and practices.

Apply soon! Applications for our Arts Vitality Grant will be accepted **until May 28, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. PT.**

Visit the [program page](#) to learn more about the grant, eligibility, guidelines, application process and watch the recorded information session.

We are here to provide support

If you have any questions, please review the program guidelines and then email the program contact at avg@fpcc.ca.

Oshki Wupoowane The Blanket Fund

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**APPLICATIONS OPEN
APPLY NOW**

Hudson's Bay Foundation

**CHARTER
FOR CHANGE**

GORD
**DOWNIE & WENJACK
FUND**

OSHKI WUPOOWANE | THE BLANKET FUND

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OVERVIEW

Applications for Oshki Wupoowane | The Blanket Fund are now open. Oshki Wupoowane launched on September 30, with an initial \$1 million investment from Hudson's Bay Foundation and a commitment to direct 100% of net proceeds from the sale of all HBC Point Blankets to The Blanket Fund moving forward. Since then, The Blanket Fund has grown to more than \$1.5 million, which will be disbursed to successful applicants over multiple years.

Through two grant streams, The Blanket Fund will provide support for Indigenous cultural, artistic, and educational activities. Indigenous people, as well as Indigenous-led initiatives and organizations in Canada, are eligible.

The Ojibwe "Oshki Wupoowane", "a new blanket" in English, was chosen as the name of The Blanket Fund in collaboration with Chanie Wenjack's family. The Wenjack sisters guided us on the naming, with Chanie's sister Evelyn coaching us through proper pronunciation and syllabics.

Contact Us

If you have any questions or need any support submitting your application, please contact us at fund@downiewenjack.ca or 1-833-666-2414 ext. 13.

Reel Canada - Career Opportunities in Film

Join us at the Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce for an exciting event highlighting diverse career opportunities in the film industry. Whether you're passionate about directing, producing, acting, or behind-the-scenes work, this event is perfect for aspiring filmmakers and industry enthusiasts. Learn from professionals, network with like-minded individuals, and discover the endless possibilities in the world of film. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to jumpstart your career in film!

Thursday, May 14



REEL OPPORTUNITIES

CAREERS IN TV AND FILM WORKSHOP



COLUMBIA VALLEY
Community
Economic Development

Indigenous Entrepreneur Startup Program (IESP)

Futurpreneur empowers aspiring young Indigenous entrepreneurs on their journey to success. The Indigenous Entrepreneur Startup Program (IESP) provides start-up loan financing and up to two years of mentorship, supported by an Indigenous team, offering access to tools and networking.

Ready to learn more?



Inclusive financing

A flexible equity-free startup business loan of up to \$75,000* available to Indigenous entrepreneurs (including those on reserve).
*conditions apply



Mentorship

Receive up to two years of 1:1 mentorship from an experienced business leader.



Resources

From Futurpreneur's Ohpikiwin workshop series, designed to strengthen financial empowerment through an Indigenous lens, to our helpful business planning workshops and tools.



Networking opportunities

Engage with a national network of Indigenous entrepreneurs, leaders and Indigenous-led community organizations at a range of entrepreneurial events.

Futurpreneur is a national non-profit committed to building economic prosperity by equipping young entrepreneurs with the tools, education, and financing they need to launch a successful business.

While Futurpreneur serves all young entrepreneurs, our IESP team is fully Indigenous-led, and our primary focus is to support Indigenous entrepreneurs aged 18-39 by offering:

- Guidance on developing a strong business plan and cash-flow projections
- Free resources, workshops, and job-readiness programs
- Up to \$75,000 in start-up financing (\$25,000 for side hustles)
- A dedicated mentor for two years to help ensure long-term success

In addition, we offer free workshops and training open to all ages - available online or potentially in-person. My goal is not only to provide business knowledge but also to incorporate Indigenous culture, creative expression, and wellness-based practices into our workshops, fostering a well-rounded and meaningful experience for your community.



Devaiya Corbett (He/They, 2S)

Business Development Manager, Alberta & British Columbia
Indigenous Entrepreneur Startup Program (IESP)

C. (236) 638-4028 | dcorbett@futurpreneur.ca



www.indigenoustbc.com/training | **Indigenous Tourism BC** | training@indigenoustbc.com

SAVE THE DATE

CULTURE CAMP

You're Invited!

All Ktunaxa ʔaqʕsmakniʔ

JUNE 12-15, 2025

at Grave Prairie



MORE DETAILS SOON!

LandsCommunityEngagement@ktunaxa.org



CENTRE
DES
ARTS DE **BANFF**
CENTRE FOR ARTS AND CREATIVITY

Aknumuʕiʔis: Ecological Engagement Through the Seasons 2025

Program Information



Application Deadline May 07, 2025
Program Dates Sep 02, 2025 - Oct 03, 2025
Arrive Sep 07, 2025
Depart Oct 04, 2025

This program starts online:
Online September 02 - 06, 2025
In Person September 08 - October 03, 2025

[Apply Now](#)

This five-week hybrid residency will engage 12 visual artists whose artistic practice includes land-based themes, environmental sustainability, Indigenous narratives of the land, and/or use of natural materials.



ʔakisq'nuk First Nation Community
Consultative Group



Cpl. Jarret Cottrell of the Cranbrook RCMP and BC Indigenous Policing Services is looking for 3 - 10 member volunteers to meet 4 times a year or when issues arise to help provide suggestions, share community policing priorities, share issues from the RCMP, offer advice, and enhance police officers cultural sensitivity and awareness.

If you are interested contact jarret.cottrell@rcmp-grc.gc.ca



2025 WEST COAST INDIGENOUS ELDERS CONFERENCE

2025 West Coast Indigenous Elders' Conference—the conference theme is, Teachings from the Past, Shaping Our Future.

With that vision in mind, we will come together to share, teach, learn, create and celebrate our rich diversity of Indigenous culture.

- Ethnobotanist Dr. Nancy Turner on First Nation Traditional Plant & Land Tending
- New Possibilities for Health in Food as Medicine with Dr. Don Wilson, Heiltsuk Physician
- Love is Medicine, Monique Gray Smith, author of Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults and Speaking our Truth: A Journey of Reconciliation
- Workshops on Devil's Club, Regalia Making, Cedar Weaving, Formline & Bentwood Box Making
- Traditional Plants for Food & Medicine
- Ne'nagwa'nakwala Project on the former St. Michael's Residential School
- Welcome Reception & Casino Night
- Queneesh Regalia Walk & Indigenous Fashion Show Gala

MAY 27-29, 2025

CROWN ISLE RESORT
399 CLUBHOUSE DRIVE
COURTENAY, BRITISH COLUMBIA

QUENEESH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY
SOCIETY, 3100 SAHTLOOT CRESCENT
COMOX, BC, V9M 4G7

CONTACT INFORMATION
QUENEESH SOCIETY@GMAIL.COM

The Queneesh Indigenous Community Society invites First Nation, Inuit and Métis 50+ years young to come together on the Traditional Territory of the K'ómoks First Nation. Visit queneesh.com for more information. Registration link at komoksfestival.com.





UBC SUMMER SCIENCE PROGRAM

IS BACK FOR SUMMER 2025!

What is UBC Summer Science Program?

The UBC Summer Science Program is a one-week camp for Indigenous students in grades 8-11, held on the beautiful traditional Musqueam territory in Vancouver. Taking place primarily at the First Nations House of Learning at UBC, this exciting, Indigenous-led program offers students the chance to explore post-secondary pathways and land-based learning while participating in cultural workshops like drum-making, medicine bag crafting, and more. Join us this summer for an unforgettable experience where you'll have the opportunity to connect with Elders, explore the UBC campus, make lifelong friends, learn about university, and meet inspiring Indigenous role models!

Where: UBC Vancouver (Musqueam Territory)

Who/When: Week 1: August 3rd - August 9th

(For students going into Grades 11 & 12 in the fall)

Week 2: August 10th - August 16th

(For students going into Grades 9 & 10 in the fall)

SCAN ME



Application deadline June 1st, 2025

For more information: <https://bit.ly/UBCSP>

Got Questions? Email: summer.science@ubc.ca

Special thanks to our sponsors and supporters who have made the Summer Science Program possible:



Stem Cell
Network

Réseau de
Cellules Souches



NSERC
CRSNG



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Centre for Excellence in
Indigenous Health

DROP IN SUBSTANCE USE RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP

VIRTUAL
ZOOM

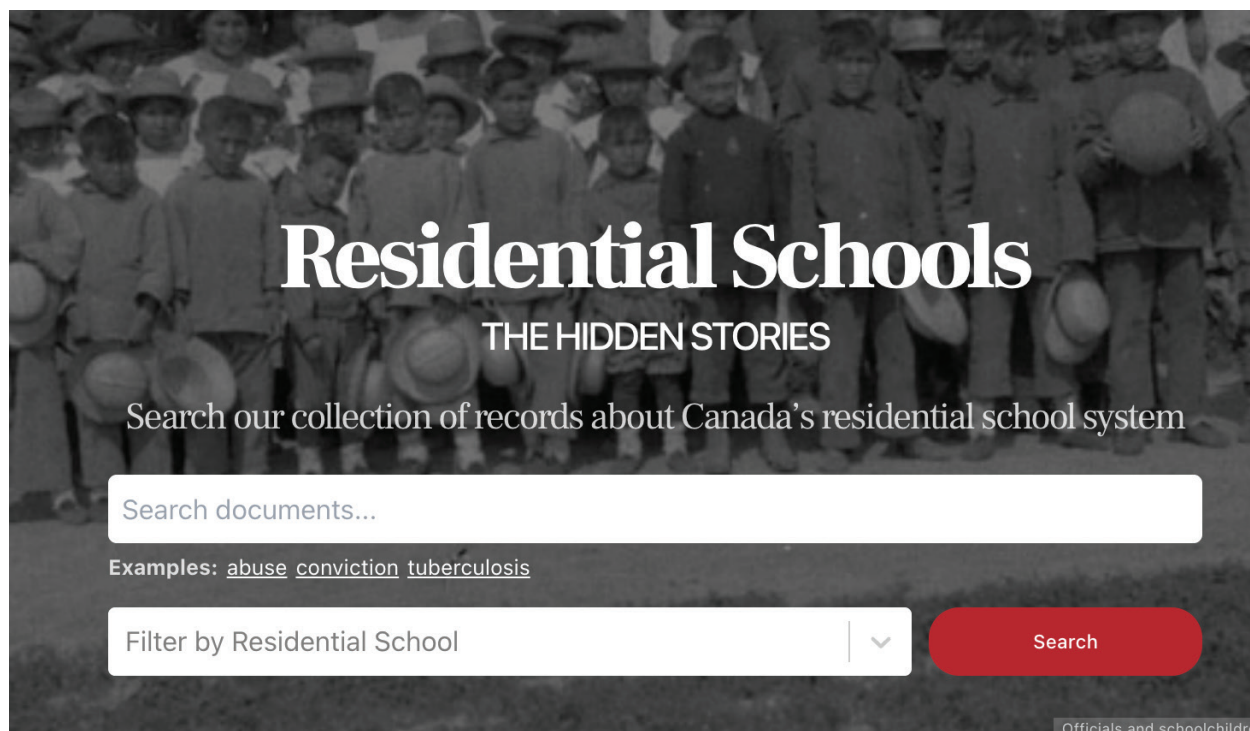
Tuesdays 3-4pm MST
Fridays 10-11am MST

PHONE: 250-420-2210

OR

310-MHSU

EMAIL: EKMHSUINTAKE@INTERIORHEALTH.CA



We're reaching out about a project you and your community may be interested in: Residential Schools: The Hidden Stories. The project includes a database with never-before-released documents about residential schools and a series of stories based on new information in those pages.

The database is fully searchable and free to use, and it includes documents related to 141 residential schools. We were given these documents by Ed Sadowski, a retired researcher at the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre in Ontario. Sadowski spent more than 10 years filing access to information requests to the federal government and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) in Winnipeg. He gave those documents to us at the Investigative Journalism Foundation (IJF) because we specialize in creating databases and publishing investigative reports.

If possible, please feel free to pass along this URL to your community members so they have access to the database: theijf.org/residential-schools.

If you have any questions, please contact Cecil Rosner at cecil.rosner@theijf.org.



CALLING ALL AKISQNUK ARTISTS!

We're building a contact list for ʔakisqnuq artists to keep you informed about opportunities and events. If you're an artist in our community, we want to hear from you!

How to Join:

- Email your name, contact details, and a brief description of your art.

Contact: communication@akisqnuq.org



CALLING ALL AKISQNUKNIK!

Calling All ʔakisqnuq Band Members!

Join our exclusive email list to stay connected and informed about community updates and events.

How to Join:

Email your name and contact details to communication@akisqnuq.org and/or your preferred direct contact method: email, text, or call.

Our goal would be to have all members!



ʔakisqnuq challenge: Share Your Story with Us!

We want to hear from you! Share your life stories, experiences, and memories with the ʔakisqnuq community. Whether you're an elder, youth, or a reclaimed status member, your story matters.

Why Share Your Story?

Sharing your stories helps us connect and understand each other better within the ʔakisqnuq community. By telling and listening to each other's experiences, we can heal together, witness each other's journeys, and educate ourselves about where we are as a people. Your story is a vital part of our collective history and future.

How to Participate:

- Submit your stories, and photos via email or set up an appointment with Theresa: theresa.kains@akisqnuq.org

Reach out now 28

ʔakisq̓nuk AGA Save the Date

AGA Dates:
August 22-24, 2025



LAND STEWARDSHIP VISIONING Community Meetings

May 27-30 2025

ʔaḡam | ʔakisq̓nuk | yaqan nuʔkiy | Yaḡit ʔa-knuq̓ti'it

Join us to learn about the Land Stewardship Vision project, hear about past research on Ktunaxa values, and help to identify key areas within ʔamakis Ktunaxa that are important to you

MAY 27 ʔaḡam Dan Joe Memorial Gym
10 am- 2 pm

MAY 28 yaḡit ʔa-knuq̓ti'it- Gym
10 am- 2 pm

MAY 29 yaqan nuʔkiy- Gym
3:30 pm- 6:30 pm

MAY 30 ʔakisq̓nuk- Lions Hall
10 am- 2 pm



Lunch and door prizes provided

For more information contact:
LandsCommunityEngagement@ktunaxa.org



**KTUNAXA
NATION**

HOW DO YOU WANT TO BE ENGAGED?

GET INVOLVED WITH KNC LANDS

How can we support you in becoming more involved with the Lands and Resources Sector at the Ktunaxa Nation Council?

- Would you like to be part of our Information Distribution list? - Project & Event Information
- Would you like to be invited to our On the Land Engagements?
- Are there obstacles restricting your participation?
- Everyone is valued and we welcome all Ktunaxa ʔaq̓smak̓nik voices.

Contact us: landscommunityengagement@ktunaxa.org

**KTUNAXA
NATION**

Get in touch!



**ʔAkisq̓nuk
First Nation**



Let us know if you have questions, comments, or submissions for our newsletter by emailing us! communication@akisq̓nuk.org

Employment Opportunities

If you are a community member re-entering the workforce, navigating a career change, or a recent graduate, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation (ʔAFN) is dedicated to your success. We offer training, coaching, mentorship, and professional development opportunities to support you.

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

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



We're hiring!

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

www.akisqnuk.org/employment-opportunities

Current Opportunities Available as of **May 1, 2025:**

Head Gardener (seasonal)

Peer Support Worker

Public Health Nurse/Home Care Nurse (RN)

Seasonal Gardeners

Education and Social Programs Facilitator



Columbia Lake Recreation Centre

Lakeshore Resort and Campground Job Postings for 2025 Season (5 Positions)

Seasonal Campground Maintenance Worker - 2025 (2 Positions)

Campground Attendant - 2025 (Store Clerk/Front Desk) (2 Positions)

Lakeshore Resort & Campground, All Around Worker - 2025

Columbia Lake Rec Centre - Job Postings

1 Part-Time Position

1 Casual Position

Please drop resumes off at the Columbia Lake Rec Centre front office, send to: AFN Enterprises:
P.O. Box 2217, Invermere, BC, V0A 1K0, or e-mail: friends@columbialakerecentre.com



MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Become a Correctional Officer I:

Correctional Service Canada (CSC)

Various work locations

CX-01 - Correctional Officer I

INDETERMINATE

\$66,974 to \$84,045

Who can apply: Persons residing in Canada, and Canadian citizens and Permanent residents abroad.

Work environment: We believe that our employees are the cornerstone of achieving our goals. This is why we offer them a positive and inclusive work environment that is worthy of their dedication and professionalism. We promote career advancement by providing opportunities to develop and acquire new skills and competencies. We value diversity as well as the use of both official languages (English/French).

Correctional Officers I (CX-01) are essential to fulfilling the CSC's mission of enhancing public safety by actively encouraging and assisting offenders to become law-abiding citizens, while exercising reasonable, safe, secure, and humane control.

For further information on the department, work environment, careers at CSC and application process, please visit our website at <https://www.canada.ca/en/correctional-service/services/you-csc/working-csc.html>

ESSENTIAL EDUCATION:

A secondary school diploma (high school), or a satisfactory score on the Public Service Commission test* approved as an alternative to a secondary school diploma, or successful completion of a provincially/territorially approved secondary school equivalency test.

*A federal government equivalency test arranged by CSC.

ASSET EXPERIENCE:

Experience working with ethnocultural or Indigenous peoples, communities or organizations.

Other qualifications to be evaluated throughout the recruitment process.

Candidates must successfully complete the CSC Correctional Training Program (CTP).**

** <https://www.canada.ca/en/correctional-service/services/you-csc/working-csc/apply-job.html#step-10>.

For all current positions open to the public, visit the GC Jobs portal on www.jobs.gc.ca regularly.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Primary Worker/Kimisinaw: Correctional Officer II:

Correctional Service Canada (CSC)

Various work locations

CX-02 - Primary Worker/Kimisinaw

INDETERMINATE

\$70,958 to \$89,068

Who can apply: Persons residing in Canada, and Canadian citizens and Permanent residents abroad.

Work environment: We believe that our employees are the cornerstone of achieving our goals. This is why we offer them a positive and inclusive work environment that is worthy of their dedication and professionalism. We promote career advancement by providing opportunities to develop and acquire new skills and competencies. We value diversity as well as the use of both official languages (English/French).

For further information on the department, work environment, careers at CSC and application process, please visit our website at <https://www.canada.ca/en/correctional-service/you-csc/working-csc.html>



For all current positions open to the public, visit the GC Jobs portal on www.jobs.gc.ca regularly.

ESSENTIAL EDUCATION:

A secondary school diploma (high school), or a satisfactory score on the Public Service Commission test* approved as an alternative to a secondary school diploma, or successful completion of a provincially/territorially approved secondary school equivalency test.

*A federal government equivalency test arranged by CSC

ASSET EXPERIENCE:

- Recent and extensive experience in performing correctional operational duties in a CSC institutional environment.
- Experience working in a correctional, policing, security, military, or emergency response environment.
- Experience working with vulnerable people in a work or volunteer environment (i.e. homeless, long-term care, people in conflict with the law).
- Experience working with ethnocultural or Indigenous peoples, communities or organizations.

Other qualifications to be evaluated throughout the recruitment process.

Candidates must successfully complete the CSC Correctional Training Program (CTP).**

**<https://www.canada.ca/en/correctional-service/services/you-csc/working-csc/apply-job.html#step-10>



MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Become a Correctional Officer I: Inventory for Indigenous peoples:

Correctional Service Canada (CSC)

Various work locations

CX-01 - Correctional Officer I

INDETERMINATE

\$66,974 to \$84,045

Who can apply: Persons residing in Canada, and Canadian citizens and Permanent residents abroad and members of the following Employment Equity group: Aboriginal persons.

Work environment: We believe that our employees are the cornerstone of achieving our goals. This is why we offer them a positive and inclusive work environment that is worthy of their dedication and professionalism. We promote career advancement by providing opportunities to develop and acquire new skills and competencies. We value diversity as well as the use of both official languages (English/French).

Correctional Officers I (CX-01) are essential to fulfilling the CSC's mission of enhancing public safety by actively encouraging and assisting offenders to become law-abiding citizens, while exercising reasonable, safe, secure, and humane control.

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For all current positions open to the public, visit the GC Jobs portal on www.jobs.gc.ca regularly.



ESSENTIAL EDUCATION:

A secondary school diploma (high school), or a satisfactory score on the Public Service Commission test* approved as an alternative to a secondary school diploma, or successful completion of a provincially/territorially approved secondary school equivalency test.

*A federal government equivalency test arranged by CSC

ASSET EXPERIENCE:

Experience working with ethnocultural or Indigenous peoples, communities or organizations.

Other qualifications to be evaluated throughout the recruitment process.

Candidates must successfully complete the CSC Correctional Training Program (CTP).**

**<https://www.canada.ca/en/correctional-service/services/you-csc/working-csc/apply-job.html#step-10>

