



DECEMBER 2021

THE BIRCH BARK REPORT

Official Newsletter of the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation





Chief's Report

BY CHIEF LARRY D. AHENAKEW

I would like to welcome you to our first Birch Bark Report to give our membership an update on each of our departments.

It has been a hectic year with COVID-19 for the last two years and would also like to thank our Pandemic Committee and Team working diligently with our community keeping us all safe with testing, COVID shots and distributing masks and hand sanitizer to homes. Also thanks to our security and food security teams assisting with those who were positive with COVID; helping with groceries and other necessities.

TLE is also an exciting time which was officially passed by a majority of membership votes. Thanks to the Council and staff members that assisted getting members to come out to vote in person, by mail in ballots and by on-line voting. We all look forward to purchasing land in Saskatchewan which will all benefit us and the future generations. Our TLE Committee plan on purchasing Crown Lands, private lands and commercial lands. Northern Crown Lands by a lake would be good to purchase so our school, youth and elders can use it for cultural, hunting and fishing purposes. Again thank you all that voted for our TLE.

We continue to complete and start new projects on reserve also. The north end road is complete and will be again adding calcium chloride again in the spring. Our new water treatment plant building is up and will be complete next fall. We are also eligible for a new lagoon or waste transfer system and that project will be starting next fall. The new lagoon will be moved away to west south side of the reserve.

Ahtahkakoop has been approved for a new Elementary School and planning will be starting next year. They will be placing the new school behind the second village south in the band field.

We look forward to Ahtahkakoop having our first annual Powwow in 2023. It will take 3 years to plan to having our powwow. This year 2021 our Powwow committee selected a place the arbor and the ground has been leveled and dirt has been leveled for the powwow arbor. Construction will take place in 2022. A date in 2023 has not been selected yet for our First Annual Powwow. I would like to also thank the Powwow Committee with them fundraising for our first powwow and helping out ACFS with how our Powwow grounds take shape. It will be located in the elk fence north central in the fence.

Again, I would like to thank each department head and Council with more updates on other projects or activities.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, keep safe. GOD BLESS



W: 306.468.2326

F: 306.468.2344

E: larryahenakew@acn104.ca



Councilor's Report

BY DEAN GENEREAUX

Tansi my people my name is Dean genereaux I'm a leader of are native nation of Ahtakakoop and I'm very proud of being a First Nation. It's been a good challenge being a leader and a good experience I wasn't into politics and I found out a lot of good things we have in ou community.

I have 3 portfolios and they are Health, Recreation and Finance.

We just finished receiving a big TLE settlement and many other good things happening in are First Nation we have a good team of leaders in are community we look forward to leading are people in a good direction.

I'm looking forward to leading are people in a good way and a good time. I'm sure looking forward to this 4 year term lots of planning and giving. There's been lots happening at this point and time of year. We're planning lots in the future for our kids and our elders.

Can't wait for our first year of leadership just to see what we all did in one year.

Don't forget to stop by the office and see are cool awesome staff and leaders.

Hats off to the ACFS and Health for all the things they did for are people and kids yahoo!!! I'm looking forward to speaking with you in the near future!

2021 was a good year except for COVID. I am looking forward to 2022 I pray for everyone in Ahtakakoop and to have a great 2022.

God Bless you all and have a good holiday!



C: 639.922.7224
E: deangeneraux@acn104.ca



Apprenticeship & Councilor's Report

BY EVAN WILLIAMS

Hello everyone, my name is Evan Williams. I am currently running our local Apprenticeship Program on reserve. We currently have 9 young people that are interested in the trade of Carpentry, some of whom are already enlisted in the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship Program. We have been running this program since October of 2020. The purpose of the program is to have our young people trained in Carpentry as our current Journeyman workforce is starting to dwindle due to aging. If this program wasn't started, we would have to hire outside help and our community has always been leaders in the trades.

Our current list of Apprentices is: Ian Abbott, Faith Ahenakew, Isaiah Arcand, Dion Charles, Chad McCallum, David Sasakamoose, Gesson Sasakamoose, Wesley Starblanket, Samuel Williams. We also have Henry Little helping me so we can have 2 crews going at the same time.

Projects to date: 5 Roofs
3 Major Renos
Currently building the Transitional Home
Future Projects
Old Bank Office Renovation
New house build

I am also an elected Council member for our Nation. To date I feel that we as a new council have made some positive changes for our community. The boards that I have been assigned to are Governance, Recreation and Health. Governance is a new department for our nation so a lot of our new director's work has been getting to know the role and what is expected of her.

Our plans for the Governance department is to help with the ratification of our housing policy, revamp our governance structure, assist in the creation of job descriptions, and help with any other policy or law making needed.

Recreation hasn't had much going on to date due to COVID-19.

Health is a department that is new to me, but from what I have learned in the times that we have met, is that our team is doing a great job in responding to the current issues that we have as a community, and they're always looking for more services to offer our people.



C: 306.370.6046
E: evanwilliams@acn104.ca



Councilor/Administrative Assistant's Report

BY LANNY S. AHENAKEW

Tansi! Lanny Ahenakew nisikason. I have been in my current position as Administrative Assistant for over 8 years and was elected as a Band Councilor 6 months ago. Thank you all for your support in my campaign for office.

My duties as an Administrative Assistant include navigating membership to the appropriate people, ordering office supplies, recording meeting minutes, general office duties, providing information to staff and membership, setup meetings as well as many other day-to-day duties. I do a little bit of everything around the office.

The past 6 months has been a really busy time in my office. It has also been an amazing learning experience serving the membership as a Band Councilor. I feel communication is very important between leadership and membership. It is my hope that the lines of communication will improve through a regular Birch Bark Report, and Annual Reports/Audits. Please also feel free to contact me at the Band Office should you have any questions. If I am not able to answer your questions, I will work hard to find you the correct answers.

As a Band Councilor, I am honoured to have been part of the project management teams for our many capital projects. We work closely with SAL Engineering out of Saskatoon on these projects. The following is a list of projects that are currently underway:

Projects Currently Underway:	Anticipated Project Cost
North End Road Repairs	3,887,461
Water Treatment Plant Upgrade	10,294,573
Sewer System Upgrade	9,800,000
New Elementary School	22,280,000
School Portable Classrooms	3,100,000
School Roof Replacement	2,900,000
TOTAL	52,262,034

The Governance Department is a new to the organization and is going to require a lot of hard work developing and revising policies and other important governance documents. I look forward to working with our Governance Director and Committee on these important materials.

In closing, I would like to wish you and your family a blessed holiday season and all the best in the new year. Ekosi!



P: 306.468.2326
F: 306.468.2344
E: lannyahenakew@acn104.ca



Councilor/Lands Manager's Report

BY CHAD PEEKEEKOOT

Tansi, I am Chad Peekeekoot Ahtahkakoop First Nations Land Manager. Since starting in the lands program back in early September, we have begun the process of identifying community needs in terms of lands protection, Agriculture, Hunting/Fishing and Environmental Protection.

We have hosted the provincial government alongside Sakaw Askiy Forestry to ensure the protection of the traditional territories of our trapping community. In early October our community had also accepted and passed the final step to our Treaty Land Entitlement, which will be a step forward in reclaiming our original land short fall. Through the lands component we have also apposed the sale of any federal crown land sales placed in auction by the federal/provincial governments.

Moving forward, the lands programs has identified the areas needed for the new Ahtahkakoop School, the new lagoon area and also will be assisting in the area of land designation for any new Treaty Land Entitlement purchases. We will also work along side all community members in any areas of concern they may have in relation to lands.



P: 306.468.2326

F: 306.468.2344

E: chadpeekeekoot@acn104.ca



Councilor's Report

BY PATRICIA ISBISTER

Greetings to Ahtakakoop membership.

Its been a different way of leading these past years – not ideal. We all know the best way of communicating is face to face contact. And I believe we all miss visiting each other and of course big family gatherings.

I just want to say that there are many promises yet to be fulfilled, many strides yet to be made by us leadership. Some of those things are:

- A Constitutional Law or Act for the band. This is important as we need to have clear purpose & specific duties for the Committees, Boards, Commissions and even Leadership.
- Accountability measures in place and adhered in regards to staff, directors, and again leadership. The policies that are formulated for the Constitutional Act would cover this.
- Housing Policy – needs to be presented to the membership again with final changes
- Fit for Duty Policy (drug policy) – needs to be implemented. I once again reference a Constitutional Act that would address issues that may arise in this area.
- ACD – what do we want from the Board of Directors – reporting, projections, income statements, etc. things we as leadership should be able to get upon request so we have answers for our members.
- Extravagant spending and misappropriation of funds may be controlled also with a Constitutional Act. Maybe have a Senate, Elders Group, etc.

An unprecedented claim that was approved for Ahtakakoop Band is the \$42,000,000 TLE claim. Some other promises that we can probably look forward to as becoming a reality because of the TLE would be:

- Youth Centre -a safe place for youth to congregate, play games, be in a mentorship role.
- Multiplex -with volleyball, badminton, basketball courts, indoor soccer, swimming, exercise room, etc.
- Elder's Lodge -let Elders decide what they will do here
- Elder's Independent Living Complex -often there are children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews living in elders homes crowding them out; sometimes elder abuse is happening,
- Emergency Shelter -people face crisis situations and need immediate help

I would like to extend my wishes for all to have a wonderful Christmas season. Remembering the reason for the season – Jesus Christ's birthday!!

Dear Lord,

I don't have the power on my own to lead others through difficult situations. But You are all-powerful. Give me the courage to help others as I rely on Your strength that cannot fail.

Amen.



W: 306.468.2747

F: 306.468.2344

E: patriciaisbister@acn104.ca



Band Administrator's Report

BY ELAINE VANDALL

Tansi.

My name is Elaine Vandall. I am the Band Manager for Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation. I am a Band member and come from the Vandall/Ahenakew family. My parents are Norman and Eileen Vandall. My grandparents are Peter & Mary (Cardinal)Vandall and Allen & Bertha (Hyman) Ahenakew. With great pride I take on this position. I have about 20 years experience working in private sector, Federal government, and First Nation Government. My education includes a business administration certificate, administration certificate and a degree in Administration with an accounting major. I have a great deal of volunteer experience on numerous boards: Prince Albert Winter Festival, Social Development Grants Board (City of Regina), Chilli for Children (Regina) and have sat as an advisor for other boards.

My vision for Ahtahkakoop is to provide services for the community in a fair and equitable manner. I also am committed to providing the staff and members a voice. I will follow up and deal with issues as they arise.

I would like to conclude by saying that working for my community has been my dream since I was a child. I have obtained my education to help my people. With great pride and appreciation, I take on this role as you Band Administrator.

Ekosi

Elaine Vandall

Band Administrator
Ahtahkakoop Cree nation

Box 220

Shell Lake, Sask

S0J 2G0

306-468-2326 Work

306-468-2344 Fax

306-980-9901 Cell



W: 306.468.2326

F: 306.468.2344

C: 306.980.9901

E: elainevandall@acn104.ca



Finance Director's Report

BY JANINE AHENAKEW

Tansi Ahtakakoop!

My name is Janine Ahenakew, I am the newly selected Finance Director and would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and optimism. I am proud to have the opportunity to serve our community! Coming home has been a true blessing. I began on October 18th, 2021. I have spent many years obtaining my Education and bring to you, my skills in Business Management, Commerce and Education. I have 5 years Management experience as a Program head and I am truly honored to have this incredible team working along side of me.

Within our team in our Accounts Payable department, we have Geraldine Pratt, A/P Clerk and Margaret Bowman A/P Clerk. G/L Clerk, Lana Netmaker, G/L Clerk, Marylynn Battersby who will be returning to us after her leave. We have Rosieta Vandall who works with us Part time as a finance assistant and we welcome to our Finance team, Cherie Ahenakew, Finance Clerk and coming soon is Connie Little, Finance Clerk.

As a continuation of the work of our Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements, the Finance team is credited with creation and completion of the TLE Covid19 Assistance payments. We have Geraldine and Margaret working very hard in completing the payments in addition to the Elder's Christmas payments as approved by Chief and Council and with contributions from other departments.

Our staff work very hard to complete Audit and keep things running, but with challenges we faced this year with Pandemic and experiencing great loss within our staff and community, we have a new and unique opportunity to welcome new Band Administrator , Elaine Vandall as well as out new Director of Health, Sekwun Ahenakew and Social Development, Christine Pechawis. We really appreciate those whose commitment goes above and beyond. Thank you to our wonderful team for all you do, each day to serve our people.

The Covid 19 Pandemic has been a great challenge, and we have strived within our community to provide the best possible services to assist and maintain the health and well-being of our membership through provision of gift cards for grocery and food boxes and supplies. Within our department, we had maintained the continuity of services with a small staff of four to five people, so we are extremely excited to have new staff start! I encourage everyone to continue the good practices of masking, sanitizing and keeping our community safe from Covid! We will stay strong and free of cases if we are diligent!

Take care, stay safe this holiday season and may you and your family receive the brightest blessings, ekosi, Pitama.



W: 306.468.2326

F: 306.468.2344

E: janineahenakew@acn104.ca



Payroll/Human Resources Officer's Report

BY SHARON AHENAKEW

Tansi and blessed greetings to you all. I'd like to give you a quick run down of the payroll-hr department. First and foremost I'd like to give a special welcome to all the new council and staff that have joined our team this year. Welcome and I look forward to working for and with you all towards the betterment of our people, our community and most of all our dedicated and valued staff because without all of you we could not prosper and succeed in all our endeavours in past, present and in the future. We have approximately 275 on payroll: this includes the two band offices, the school, daycare, head start, health centre, training & employment and all our students. They consist of full-time, salaried, term, temp, hourly, seasonal and casual employees and students. The payroll-hr department does payroll and everything that goes along with payroll, benefits including but not limited to group insurance, registered pension plan benefits, vacation days, vacation pay, pro-rated, accruals, etc. We also do attendance reconciliation and personnel for all staff. Payroll and student allowance cost per year for all above mentioned programs could top off at 10 million. We have a very busy office there is always something to do as this number and cost entails a lot of daily day to day up keep and paper work, data input and reconciliation on demand.

As of April 1st we've hired 51 new employees within our various departments. We continue to grow as a community and therefore we must also increase the number of personnel required to accommodate and assist per capita be it band members and/or students. We have also lost a lot of staff who have moved on or are on various leave of absences. There is a continuous flow on all levels and departments, staff leave and staff are replaced which can be a good thing but on another note it can also be a bad thing but we have learnt to accept change and work with what comes our way. We also have our dedicated employees who have been here for 20 plus years and their knowledge and expertise is indeed a valued asset to Ahtahkakoop. Our staff is growing and ever changing on a day to day basis. The needs are diverse, vast and new and we have to try and accommodate them all to the best of our ability. We continue to learn something new everyday the world continues to change and move along and we must also do the same so we don't get left behind in educational and technology terms.

We have had a couple job postings just end with interviews recently held and we also have a couple job posting on the go which are posted on our website at www.ahtahkakoo.ca please feel free to check it out under job opportunities.

We live in an on demand society and people expect, need and want answers and solutions immediately if not instantly. We have to be flexible and accommodate all types of needs. Mental health is at an all time high right now with covid, addictions and other socio economic issues. We are a very compassionate and understanding people and we try go above and beyond to assist our people and our employees with what they need. With technology everything is at our finger tips and people expect top notch service which is what we strive to give. We never stop learning in the payroll-hr department new things arise weekly; there is always something new and exciting on the go. Things come up and keep us on our toes with various in-depth issues. One concern I have is at times we may just need to communicate a little bit better and I know we can. We can be stronger together, stronger for our community, stronger for our employees stronger for our staff and stronger for our students. Our overall goal in this department is to accommodate our employees at all levels. I will strive to continue to meet your needs in the coming new year within this department. Ekosi God Bless you all.



P: 306.468.2326

F: 306.468.2344

E: sharonahenakew@acn104.ca



Payroll/HR Clerk's Report

BY MELANIE GENEREAUX

A bit about yourself and your program:

Hi, my name is Melanie Genereaux and I am the Payroll/Human Resources Clerk for Ahtahkakoop. When I first started working for the band January 21, 2021 my job title was Finance Assistant and as of July 19, 2021 I did a internal transfer to Payroll/Human Resources Clerk. My main duties are listed below;

- Process payroll for salaried, hourly, post secondary students, and subs.
- Reconcile all band staff attendance (Administration, Health, Education, Housing, Justice, and O&M).
- Benefits enrollment for all band staff and assist with all other insurance related issues.
- Assist Human Resource Manager with all other HR related duties.

I work closely with the Human Resources Manager Sharon Ahenakew. Sharon has taught me a lot and I would like to thank her for guiding me and making my job a lot easier. I will continue to work for Ahtahkakoop in a well organized and efficient manner.

Brief Program Update:

We are currently in the process of a payroll transition from Ceridian Insync to Dayforce. The Insync software platform will cease as of January 1, 2022. It's a lot of online training through Zoom but close to getting it done. I would also like to mention that as of November 16, 2021 Canada Life is moved to paperless enrolment which means all staff will have to download the Canada Life app on there mobile devices or desktop.

If you need help don't hesitate to contact me. Once you have the app and signed up you will have access to a digital benefits card as well as view and make changes to your plan. Employees will have access relevant to them.



P: 306.468.2326

F: 306.468.2344

E: melanie.genereaux@acn104.ca



General Ledger Clerk's Report

BY LANA NETMAKER

Hello, my name is Lana Netmaker and I am the general ledger clerk for our beautiful home of Ahtahkakoop. I have been in my position since 2013/2014. My job is to insure the maintenance of the chart of accounts. I enter the day-to-day expenses and revenues, bank reconciliations, bank deposits, CMHC rent and daycare payments, train new employees, enter payrolls into the GL, applications and reporting for CDC's, band funds, and Head start(along with the Head start program head).

I am from the Ahtahkakoop born and raised. I am married to Sheldon Netmaker and together we have five wonderful boys from ages 3 to 19. In our spare time, we spend our days taking the boys to lacrosse, if we aren't traveling for lacrosse we are watching lacrosse.



P: 306.468.2326

F: 306.468.2344

E: lananetmaker@acn104.ca



General Ledger Clerk's Report

BY CHERIE AHENAKEW

A bit about yourself and your program: I'm from Ahtahkakoop but spent most of the last twenty years working and raising my family in Saskatoon. I went to school at SBC, SIIT and take part-time classes at FNUC. I recently started working as a GL clerk at the band office. Excited to be working in our community and raising my kids close to home.



P: 306.468.2326

F: 306.468.2344

E: cherieahenakew@acn104.ca



Finance Assistant/Custodian's Report

BY ROSEITA VANDALL

Hello, my name is Rosieta Vandall. I started working for the Ahtahkakoop Band office August 4, 2021 as half time finance assistant and half time custodian. I also fill for Verna as secretary when needed. I love working with the women in the finance department, very hard working enjoyable people to work with. As a custodian in the afternoon makes my day go faster, something different from paperwork all morning, also subbing for Verna breaks up the workweek. I love being able to support and work with our community members in anyway I can.

I am from Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation and I have 3 beautiful grown children and 10 grandchildren. In my spare time I love to take long walks and listen to music.



P: 306.468.2326

F: 306.468.2344

E: roseitavandall@acn104.ca



Membership Clerk's Report

BY MAVIS BENJAMIN

Greetings to All, I've been the membership clerk for 3 years, I really enjoy working with Band Membership, I have to opportunity to communicate with a lot of you on a daily basis.

Here are some of the important points of what my job entails:

Assist Parents with the registration process for their child/ren, The registration application has changed from 2 pages to 6 pages, its quite new and lengthy. It requires a birth certificate with both parents names on it, This called a long form birth certificate, and you will need a photocopy of the applying parent's Photo Identification. If you haven't registered your child/ren please come in to the office, I will be happy to assist you.

Issuing Status Card upon availability, you must have 2 pieces of Identification for the status card application (health card, Government issued Identification card and/or Birth certificate), I also assist in applying for the hard copy secure certificate of Indian status cards as well, the requirements for this card are the same as above.

To record and maintain a current list of Population statistics of the general membership for Ahtahkakoop, This includes both on and off reserve residencies.

I work closely with Indigenous Services Canada, I report Births, Deaths, Marriages and all other important documentation to them on a monthly basis.

As you all know we haven't had our annual Treaty Annuity Payment Day (Treaty Day) for the past 2 years, You may still apply for your Annuity Payments as I do have applications in the office. On a positive note I hope To hear good news that we can do a Treaty Annuity Day in May 2022.

I have been assisting band members with Indian Day Applications, If you or anyone you know has not applied as of yet, Please do so as soon as possible, as the deadline is fast approaching. July 13,2022 is the deadline to apply.

In ending please practice safe protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic, lets keep the numbers down and stay safe.

Population Statistics:
On Reserve - 1367
Off Reserve - 2348
Under 18 - 1071
Elders - 249
Total Population - 3715



P: 306.468.2326
F: 306.468.2344
E: mavisbenjamin@acn104.ca



Chief Ahtahkakohp School Report

BY SHAUN SASAKAMOOSE

Tanisi, Shaun Sasakamoose nitsiykason, niya kiskinahamakewokimaw Chief Ahtahkakohp School. This has been a challenging year in the midst of the Pandemic and we have always kept your children's safety guiding us as we invented new ways to protect and prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

The Chief Ahtahkakohp School has gone beyond provincial standards providing extra covid 19 cleaners, dividers, sanitizing stations, mandatory masking, signage in the hallways, flow charts on the floor, staggered student attendance, online learning, chromebooks, Ipads, MIFI devices, online tutorials, online videos of school cleaning routines, Google Meetings, homework packages, lunch delivery, homework delivery, mandatory temperature readings on the bus and at the entrance to the school, students seated by family on the bus, mandatory bus sanitization before and after each run, isolation rooms, rapid testing on site for staff and students, BATC bus for vaccinations and testing, incentives for rapid testing and vaccinations and still our attendance is low. Thank you to the Clinic staff for all their help and support.

Most recently we have had a parent teacher interview night and it was very well attended with visitors having a chance to win 2 big screen televisions after being fed Kentucky Fried Chicken. The lucky winners were Vanessa Williams and Kerry and Barry Nayneecassum Morin.

Our Remembrance Day committee presented the ceremony on a virtual platform as we reached out via Facebook while our dignitaries and dancers filled the gymnasium with heartfelt words and energy. Inspire and the Elim Church are presenting all enrolled students with a gift and entertaining them with a Magician, a Hip-Hop Artist and a Graffiti artist on Tuesday December 14. The Christmas Concert scheduled for Wednesday December 15 will also be live streamed to our Facebook site and it is going to be a great celebration.

Our School is happy to be partnering with the Clinic this year to enhance our programming we have planned a winter survival camp open to 20 students from grade 10 to 12 on December 6 to 10 at Oskatakahk. The Clinic staff has also included the school in National Addictions Awareness Week and kicked off the week with a Pipe Ceremony on Monday November 22 with Daphie Pooyak visiting and presenting to our grade 10 to 12 students. On Tuesday the students from grades 6 to 12 took part in a Sobriety walk escorted by our local RCMP members. The week will culminate with horse-drawn sleigh rides on Friday November 26.

In hopes that parents will send their children back to school we are also having a draw for a quad on December 16 and all this is based on is student attendance. We need your children back in school, it is clean safe and awaiting their arrival, don't hesitate to call and speak to administration or staff. Mwestas.



P: 306.468.2854

F: 306.468.2344

E: shaun.sasakamoose@tsec.ca



Education Director's Report

BY DIANE AHENAKEW

Tansi,

Greetings to the Elders, community members and youth. As we approach the change in season we are also approaching a fresh perspective on the goals and objectives for Ahtahkakoop Education amidst a Global Pandemic. Ahtahkakoop is a community that is well known for the leadership and it is with this legacy that the Education Board, administration and I approach the challenges of student retention, community training needs and parental involvement. But through vision and support from all stakeholders, education will be at the forefront and our school will flourish with graduating students.

Community leadership gathered in July 2021 and set some action plans. Following are two Education strategic plans and actions to support these for the 2021-2022 school year;

1. Parental Engagement
 - a. Incentives for parents to support their children to attend classes.
 - b. Incentives for students to remain in classes, student allowance, and a draw in December 2021.
 - c. Parent Support Group
2. Remote Learning
3. Enhancing Language and Culture
 - a. Teaching Treaties in the Classroom
 - b. Enhanced Elders program
 - c. Enhanced Language program in School, Head Start, and Day Care Centre

We have observed a considerable increase of participation in extra-curricular activities and a decrease in youth criminal activity. This is a great movement toward positive and happy lifestyles and it is attributed to increased youth programming. However parental support is a very strong component to student success and we encourage the parents to honor the role of parenting and supporting the child. If both school and parent are supporting education, the student can only succeed.

TSEC (Treaty Six Education Council) has provided second level services to the school through a service agreement. These services are allocated by four educational needs in addition to language and culture programming. These needs are student retention, early learning, math and literacy therefore we have math and literacy consultants supporting the teachers and students, resources for all areas, and programs for early learning. These services are great and well received by the school.

The following school calendar is now approved by Education Board and we will follow this for the next school year.

"The road to a better life for Canada's Aboriginal people begins with a good education" (Cowley, 2006) and the way to achieve this is to work together as a community and work to support Education for our children by sending them to school every day.

Ekosi.



P: 306.468.2854
F: 306.468.2344
E: dianeahenakew@acn104.ca

Chief Ahtahkakohp School Operational Calendar

2021/2022 School Year

August 2021							Events	September 2021							Events		
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	August 23-31	Teacher's Prep Days	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	September 1 September 2-3 September 6 September 7 September 23 September 30	Teacher Prep Day Registration Days Labour Day First Day of Classes Community Engagement National Truth & Reconciliation Day
1	2	3	4	5	6	7						1	2	3	4		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14			5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21			12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28			19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
29	30	31							26	27	28	29	30				
Teacher Days (7) Student Days (0)									Teacher Days (21) Student Days (20)								
October 2021							Events	November 2021							Events		
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	October 1	School Closed in lieu of National Truth & Reconciliation Day	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	November 9 November 10 November 11 November 12 November 25	P/T Interviews Ceremony Day Remembrance Day First Nations Unity Day Early Dismissal – Staff Mtg
					1	2	October 11	Thanksgiving Monday									
							October 21	Early Dismissal – Staff Mtg	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
							October 29	Halloween Celebrations	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
									21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
									28	29	30						
									Teacher Days (20) Student Days (20)								
Teacher Days (19) Student Days (19)																	
December 2021							Events	January 2022							Event		
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	December 14	Inspire visit	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	January 3 January 20	School Reopens Early Dismissal – Staff Mtg
			1	2	3	4	December 15	Virtual Christmas Concert							1		
							December 16	Final Day for Students	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
							December 17	Final Day for Staff	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
							Dec 20-31	Christmas Break	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
									23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
									30	31							
Teacher Days (13) Student Days (12)									Teacher Days (21) Student Days (21)								
February 2022							Events	March 2022							Event		
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	February 17	Early Dismissal – Staff Mtg	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	March 17 March 24 & 25	Early Dismissal – Staff Mtg Staff Professional Development
			1	2	3	4	February 21	Family Day									
							February 22-25	Winter Break	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
									13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
									20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
									27	28	29	30	31				
Teacher Days (15) Student Days (15)									Teacher Days (23) Student Days (21)								
April 2022							Events	May 2022							Events		
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	April 14	Early Dismissal – Staff Mtg	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	May 19 May 20 May 23	Early Dismissal – Staff Mtg Treaty Day Victoria Day
					1	2	April 15	Good Friday	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
							April 18	Easter Monday	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
							April 19 – 22	Easter Break	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
									22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
									29	30	31						
Teacher Days (15) Student Days (15)									Teacher Days (20) Student Days (20)								
June 2022							Events	TOTAL DAYS OPEN									
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	June 16	K1 Graduation	Teacher Total Days – 196								
			1	2	3	4	June 17	K2 Graduation	Student Total Days – 182								
							June 20	National Indigenous Peoples' Day									
							June 24	Grade 12 Graduation									
							June 28	Report Card & Awards Day									
							June 29 & 30	Teacher Admin Days									
Teacher Days (21) Student Days (19)																	

	Statuary Holiday
	First Nations/Local Holiday
	School Closure
	Early Dismissal – Staff Mtg
	School Event
	School Opens/Re-Opens



Head Start Coordinator's Report

BY AMY PEEKEEKOOT

Tansi,

My name is Amy Peekeekoot. I just recently accepted the Head Start coordinator position in our community. I work alongside our teacher Marie Thomas. Before this, I was the Family Navigator for the Health Centre.

The goal of the Head Start program is to support the Early Childhood Development of aboriginal children through activities that help them grow socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Head start helps give children a positive sense of themselves as a Nehiyaw and to learn Nehiyaw knowledge, language and culture in our community.

We are running a full program while following COVID-19 protocols and regulations. We are currently running classes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays from 10am-2pm. We provide breakfast, lunch and snacks for the children every day and also provide rides for pick up and drop off. We have 8 kids registered in our program with two full time staff and one elder, Blanche Little. I encourage all parents to come and participate in our everyday activities. We try to support our parents as much as we can, as they are the primary teachers and caregivers to our children.

I am looking forward to starting a home visiting and outreach program for our families, which would give parents access to community resources, parent support groups as well as cultural based programming. I will be starting a private Facebook with community information, important upcoming dates as well as learning videos on child and parent development.

I look forward to working with our children and giving them a head start on their educational journey.

Tiniki,
Amy Peekeekoot
Head Start Coordinator
Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation



P: 306.468.2323

F: 306.468.2344

E: amypeekeekoot@acn104.ca



Post-Secondary Coordinator's Report

BY PEARL VANDALL

Welcome, hope to find everyone safe and well. I would like to start by introducing our Post-Secondary Board Members who govern and make all student selections, review post-secondary budgets and any upcoming new business. Board members also take a proactive approach to managing our Program financial situations. Due to the pandemic, shifting priorities and varying levels of program/service delivery are ever fast changing and challenging.

Types of Funding:

ISC: Indigenous Service Canada (Post-Secondary Programing – University Programs) Capped Funding (For both on & off reserve population)

SITAG: Saskatchewan Indian Training Assessment Group (Technical Training – Trades, program under two years, & Job Creation) Formula driven., (For on reserve only, Residency Driven)

The deadline dates for funding are as follows, applicants must have all required documentation submitted to the post-Secondary office by the dates to have a complete acceptable application for funding.

4 Yearly Funding Intake Deadline Dates:

Spring: (May-June)	March 31
Summer: (July-August)	May31
Fall:(September-December)	June 30
Winter: (January-April)	October 31

Student Orientation – Fall 2021 August – 2 days Travel Lodge Saskatoon
 - A student orientation was held for students to meet the Post-Secondary Education Board and staff, to have students meet and greet Addressing issued through Covid – 19.
 - New strategy needs of students. et, discuss the challenges and the services available too them at the different institution.

COVID – 19 Assistance

·What is COVID -19 Assistance: Additional Assistance over and above your regular monthly student allowance. These dollars are to be used to assist students in two ways:

1. COVID-19 BASE assistance; is paid to every full-time student and is meant to assist with internet/connectivity costs, ink, computer supplies, or computer needs. Any needed to do online studies.
- 2.COVID -19 Dependent assistance; is paid to students with biological dependent children, to help assist with childcare/daycare fees while doing exams or assignments.

P: 306.468.2100
F: 306.468.2344
E: pearlvandall@acn104.ca



Post-Secondary Coordinator's Report

BY PEARL VANDALL

·How COVID- 19 Assistance is paid out:

1. COVID-19 Base allowance: 100.00 /month. (All students get this additional assistance per month., over and above the regular allowance.
2. COVID -19 Dependent Assistance: \$50.00/child per month. Example: A Single or Married FULL TIME student with 3, biological children would get an additional \$150.00/month.

Single/Married Student: 1100

0 Dependent	$1100 + 100 + 0 =$	\$1200.00/month
1 Dependent:	$1300 + 100 + 50.00 =$	\$1450.00/month
2 Dependent:	$1400 + 100 + 100 =$	\$1600.00/ month

·Additional purchases will be more laptops, office screen for programing, a half time computer technician.

Monthly Meeting for students

Monthly meetings with students will be set up using the various platforms such as Zoom & Microsoft Meet to collaborate, discuss, and support one another through the pandemic. Engagement will allow for information sharing that will allow us to assist and meet student needs. Monthly meeting date will be set up and sent out to Post Secondary Students.

Congratulations Ahtahkakoop Post-Secondary 2020-2021 Graduates.

Cara Grimard Bachelor of Arts Business Administration University of Regina/First Nations University of Canada

Darien Masuskapoe Bachelor of Arts Business Management Acsenda School of Management

Jana Sasakamoose Bachelor of Arts Business Administration University of Regina/First Nations University of Canada

Kaylyn Greyeyes Bachelor of Arts Sociology University of Saskatchewan

Katarina Michael Bachelor of Science College of Nursing University of Saskatchewan

Kristian Sasakamoose Bachelor of Arts Social Work University of Regina First Nations University of Canada

Stacey Ahenakew Bachelor of Education Indian Teacher Education Program/ University of Saskatchewan

Victoria Penner Bachelor of Science College of Nursing University of Regina

Congratulations to the Ahtahkakoop 2020-2021 Scholarships Winners

Taylor Funk 2nd year

Gregory ZoBell 3rd year

Stacey Ahenakew – 4th year

Jordan Reynaud – 5th Year

P: 306.468.2100

F: 306.468.2344

E: pearlvandall@acn104.ca



Health Director's Report

BY SEKWUN AHENAKEW

Tansi kahkiyaw niwakomakanak, Sekwun Achak nitisiyikason

Hello relatives, my name is Sekwun Achak, the Ahtahkakoop Health Director. My parents are Barry L. and Hazel Ahenakew and my paternal grandparents are late Gustave Bird and Della Delorme. I stem from the Andrew and Alice Ahenakew bloodline. I started this position in July and am enjoying being of service to my community everyday. With a strong education background of over 18 years, I have finally come home with management experience, board experience and a master's degree. During my spare time, when I am not managing the health centre or teaching a university class, I am a podcaster. Tune in to springspiritpodcast.ca if you ever want to listen to good feeling indigenous stories, hosted by a nehiyaw iskwew. ekosi oma niya pitima.

The mental health of our people has been a central focus during this stage of the COVID pandemic. As a team, we make decisions that stive for the greatest impact. COVID has limited our regular reach, but with careful considerations and with covid protocols in place, we will proceed with community engagement activities, within our capacity. Last week, we contributed to the Holistic Wellness Week, (formerly National Addictions Awareness Week), with tons of virtual content. Next week our KYS team is planning events at the hall for National HIVAids Awareness Day. Stay tuned to our new Facebook page, Ahtahkakoop Health Clinic 2021, for all updates. On November 17th all fully vaccinated were automatically entered into a draw for \$250 where 20 on reserve band members received a prize! The next draw is on Friday, December 17th, just in time for the holidays.

Ahtahkakoop Health Centre Staff

Sekwun Ahenakew, Health Director
Tamara Eberts, Nursing Manager
Miranda Starblanket, Reception
Leigh-Anne Isbister, Office Manager
Starla Lachance, Home Care Coordinator
Vivian Knife, Home Health Aid
Darlene Benjamin, Home Health Aid
Mavis Ahenakew, Immunization/CHN RN
Steven Frazer, Prenatal/CHN/RN
Danielle Meiklejohn, MCH Outreach
Kathy D Ahenakew, CHR
Jody Masuskapoe, Nursing Clerk
Darren Skibinsky, KYS CHN/RN
Alexandra Pond, KYS CHN/RN
Patricia Isbister, KYS Case Worker
Tonya Bird, KYS Case Worker
Tanya Ahenakew, COVID Nurse
Stacey Peekeekoot, COVID Support
Carla Albert, COVID Support
Cathy Williams, COVID Support
Leona Peekeekoot, ADI Outreach
Sheldon Gaetz, Mental Health Reception
Jodie Albert, Addictions Intern
Allyssa Ernst, MH Therapist

Lorraine Quintal, MH Therapist
Howard Sangwais, MH Therapist
Linda Masuskapoe, Transportation
Ruth Ahenakew, Transportation
Sheldon Ahenakew, Medical Taxi
Dionne Thomas, Medical Taxi
Joanne Peekeekoot, Medical Taxi
Garth Peekeekoot, Maintenance
Marilyn Tait, Custodian
Blair McNeilly, COVID Cleaner
Wally Charles, COVID Cleaner
Kenny Williams, COVID Support
Mike Bodnarchuck, Dental Therapist
Tabetha Pearson, Dental Aid

Health Committee

James Isbister (Chairman)
Dean Genereaux
Evan Williams
Cindy Tootoosis
Eric Ahenakew
Dylan Kemp
Darlene Arnault (Elder)

AHTAHKAKOOP BAND STAFF & MEMBERSHIP:

THE VACCINE LIASON IS AVAILABLE

(formerly vaccine advocate)

Hours: 9am - 3pm
The Vaccine Liason will assist with navigating you through the Sk Vax Wallet QR Code & eSaskHealth registration.

You will need the following to begin the process: SGI ID (Drivers or ID), Health Card, and an email address.

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT:
CIPPIAHENAKEW@ACN104.CA OR CALL THE HEALTH CENTRE @ 306-468-2747




P: 306.468.2747
F: 306.468.2967
E: sekwunahenakew@acn104.ca



Health Office Manager's Report

BY LEIGH-ANNE ISBISTER

Hello beautiful members of Ahtahkakoop. My name is Leigh-Anne Isbister, I am the Office Manager at The Ahtahkakoop Health Centre.

Throughout the fiscal year, I engaged in many office operations including:

- Acting Health Director
- Office administration
- Office maintenance
- Equipment & furnishings
- Supervision
- Network maintenance
- Personnel management
- Communications
- Finance management
- Vehicle maintenance
- Community planning

As the Office manager I work closely with Director of Health on such issues as financial budgets and review, human resource support, attending meetings for communication. Sitting in on meetings with Staff, as an observer.

Became a member of the First Nations Health Managers Association. Participated in online learning and virtual meetings.

Recording of attendance for all Health Centre staff and reconciled timesheets when there was a layoff or termination of job and reported these to Sharon Ahenakew in payroll. Reviewed time sheets with staff members when requested.

Reconcile all store accounts.

Worked with PA Software, with respect to all issues with internet, computers or new staff emails and user accounts.

Set up interviews throughout the year and arranged interview committee.

Previously attended all planning meetings, Elder's Banquet, Winter Festival, Sports and Rodeo, Treaty Day etc. but due to COVID-19 these events had been cancelled, due to size limitations.

Attended, recorded minutes and contributed when asked at all Health Committee meetings. Arranged meeting rooms and meals for all.

I had spent time on planning and fundraising for our Elder's trip, which unfortunately was put on hold again, to ensure the safety of all Elder's and staff. This trip has been postponed until early 2022.

I have been busy planning, contacting supplies and donors for the Christmas Hampers. Going forward, I believe that we should have a Christmas Hamper committee, to aide in succession planning.

I've been a huge support to my coworkers, as they have navigated through this Pandemic, often times becoming overwhelmed and burnt out.

I have historical knowledge of the programs and funding arrangements and how we have evolved in health services and our funding.



P: 306.468.2747

F: 306.468.2967

E: leighanneisbister@acn104.ca



Jordan's Principle Coordinator's Report

BY AMY PEEKEEKOOT

Brief History on Jordan's Principle

Jordan River Anderson was a First Nations child from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba. He was born in 1999, in Winnipeg, with complex medical needs that could not be treated on-reserve. After spending two years in hospital, doctors agreed he could be cared for in a family home. However, due to a jurisdictional dispute between the federal and provincial governments on who would pay the costs for his in-home care, he passed away in hospital at the age of five. He did not get the opportunity to leave the hospital, and live in a family home. Jordan's family shared their story, and in response, Jordan's Principle was created. In December 2007, a motion was passed unanimously in the House of Commons, calling for a child-first approach to dealing with First Nations children's needs, establishing Jordan's Principle. In 2008, the federal Departments then known as Health Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs were tasked with implementing Jordan's Principle.

What is Jordan's Principle?

Jordan's Principle makes sure all First Nations children can access the products, services and supports they need, when they need them. It can help with a wide range of health, social and educational needs. The focus of Jordan's Principle is to help First Nations children's families navigate a complex health, social and educational system with often highly complex divisions of jurisdictional roles and responsibilities. Jordan's Principle applies to all government services to ensure there are no gaps in government services to First Nations Children.

Ahtahkakoop Jordan's Principle

I was the Family Navigator/Jordan's Principle Coordinator from October 2019- October 2021. I have since moved over to Head Start for a new position. During my time at the health centre I was able to connect families with services for their child/ren. Some of the services are:

- Respite
- Cribs
- Emergency housing
- Fences
- Beds/Bed frame/Bed bug covers
- Medical Equipment
- Speech therapy
- Chromebooks/ Laptops
- Alarm system
- Tutoring
- Car seats/Strollers
- Tracking device
- Lasik Eye surgery
- Swimming passes
- Bikes

These are just a few services I was able to bring to families here in Ahtahkakoop. Jordan's Principle can offer so much more. During my time at the clinic I seen the importance of a family doctor for children. Every child should have a family doctor so we can foster their growth and independence. When a child has a family doctor we are able to work with the family doctor and get the services your child needs. Jordan's Principle works with recommendations from pediatricians, teachers, mental health, and other professionals.

Some upcoming activities

Jordan River Anderson Scholarship -Named in loving memory of Jordan River Anderson, the Jordan's Principle Scholarship will be awarded to First Nations students studying children's health or children with disabilities. Due date for applications is March 31/2022. You can find the application online at ncaringsociety.com/jordan-principle-scholarship

Bear witness day- Show your support and "Bear Witness" to Jordan's Principle by bringing your bears to daycare, school or work on May 10th. Host a "Bear Party," coffee break or lunch to learn more about Jordan's Principle and to honour Jordan River Anderson.

Jordan River Anderson Birthday- October 22



P: 306.468.2323

F: 306.468.2344

E: amypeekeekoot@acn104.ca



CHR's Report

BY KATHY D. AHENAKEW

Tansi Niwahkumakanuk,

It is my pleasure to give a brief account of CHR duties in our community.

I am a liaison between community and Chief and Council and this is done by addressing your concerns and needs and informing the departments in question. Many days you may see me out and about in the community doing pickups and contacts for such days as Well Baby Clinics (every Tuesday and Thursday), contacts for school immunization consents (not COVID vaccine consents) which I am asked often. I also like to touch base and visit with people to see if they have any concerns or needs which can be addressed (like broken steps, water concerns, road concerns, membership info) and forwarded to the departments in question. Sometimes people just need a number or dept. to contact for themselves. I also try to stay in touch with people from other communities residing here or just visiting and informing them of services here at the Health Centre such as Dr. Day, KYS program, ADI, Mental Health, Transportation, Immunization clinics and much more. Due to Covid19 much of our programming is stalled like the Mini Workshops which provided information on Fire Safety in the home, Light Vehicle Maintenance, Light Home Maintenance and many more. We hope to see these start up as soon as we can gather safely again.

Congratulations to our community members that added a new baby to your family, what a blessed gift these tiny ones are. And best wishes to the couples that have pledged their love to one another in marriage. Truly happy events for our families. Much love sent to you all.

Also, I would like to send heartfelt condolences to our families that have one less plate setting at their Christmas Meal this year.... It has been a tough emotional year for many, and many have been unable to support at the awakes (due to Covid19 crowd limits), please know that we were there with you in prayer.

As we near this gentle season of Christmas, remember that Mother Earth is resting ... take your family skating at the arena, have that outdoor wiener roast that makes good memories and be kind to one another. The best gift of all is having family around, laughing together, sharing a meal together and giving thanks to Creator for all we have.

From my family to yours.... Happy Holidays



P: 306.468.2747

F: 306.468.2967

E: kathyahenakew@acn104.ca



Nurse Manager's Report

BY TAMARA EBERTS

Hi, my name is Tamara Eberts. I am currently transitioning from Home Care Coordinator into the Nurse Manager role. I have been Practicing as a Registered Nurse since 2002 and have been employed at the Ahtahkakoop Health Centre since March of 2015.

Ahtahkakoop Health Center is currently offering Covid testing (PCR) at the clinic three days a week – Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays 10 -2 at the drive thru trailer. We encourage anyone who has symptoms or has been in contact to a known Covid case to come in for testing.

Vaccine clinics are held at the Ahtahkakoop Health Center throughout the week. Both the pediatric Pfizer Vaccine and the adult Pfizer vaccine are available. Influenza vaccine is also available.

The Ahtahkakoop Health center also provides prescription pick up for individuals who receive services from Woodland Pharmacy in Canwood. Pick up is Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Prescriptions can be picked up at the clinic during working hours. Currently we do not provide home delivery.



P: 306.468.3013

C: 306.468.7180

F: 306.468.3018

E: tamaraeberts@acn104.ca



Community Health Nurse's Report

BY STEVEN FRAZER

I work in health care, believing that there is no greater calling than helping another. I've worked as a paramedic and over time transitioned into nursing, working on medicine units, psychiatric units, public health and now community health.

Community health is a specialized area of nursing that focuses on immunization, prevention and education. I ensure Provincial immunization schedules are initiated and maintained for infants, children as well as adults. Prenatal classes are held every Wednesday with educational teaching on a wide variety of topics for both mothers and fathers. Educational sessions support and empower mothers/fathers with everyday parenting with underlying themes of disease and injury prevention.

Prenatal and/or postnatal assessments help determine general health of not only the new born, but mother as well. Engaging with mothers and fathers, help identify areas of concern that may need additional teaching or if need be, link other health departments in the continuum of care.

Child health clinics provide a safe and confidential environment for young clients and parents, with incentives such as good food box and milk coupons.

Brief Program Update: Covid-19 has disrupted, and severed support structures, so reintroducing prenatal classes on Wednesdays has been successful. Prenatal and postnatal classes are held every Wednesday for both mothers and fathers, while following current COVID guidelines.

Upcoming Events/Activities: child health clinics that focus on immunizations are Tuesdays and Thursdays. Prenatal and postnatal classes are every Wednesday (weather permitting).



P: 306.468.2747

F: 306.468.2967

E: stevenfrazer@acn104.ca



Community Health Nurse's Report

BY MAVIS AHENAKEW

I am a registered band member of Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation. I have worked in the community since July of 2012 as a Community Health Nurse. I am the lead nurse for the Immunization Programs in Ahtahkakoop which includes Well Baby Clinics (Preschool Vaccinations), School Immunizations, Adult Immunizations, Influenza Clinics, and Covid-19 Vaccine Clinics.

Brief Program Update:

Preschool Immunization Clinics (Well Baby Clinics) are held every Tuesday & Thursday at the Ahtahkakoop Health Centre from 930am to 3pm. The Preschool Immunization Schedule includes 6 visits (2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, and 4-6 years old). Our Community Health Representative (CHR), Kathy Ahenakew, book appointments with half hour times slots for the infants, toddlers and preschool.

School Immunization Clinics are ongoing throughout the school year to ensure the nurses have provided the immunizations to the children that had their consents signed for regular school vaccines.

Influenza Clinics are held from October 12, 2021-March 31, 2022.

Covid 19 Vaccine Clinics are held Monday and Thursday weekly from 930am-3pm.

Upcoming Events/Activities:

Pediatric Covid-19 Vaccine Clinics for the 5 – 11-year-old population are being held November 29-30, 2021. Ongoing Pediatric Clinics will be held in conjunction with adult clinics going forward from these dates on Mondays & Thursdays weekly (subject to change).

Immunization Blitz for 2-month-old up to 4-6 year-olds will be held December 15-17, 2021 (tentatively).



P: 306.468.2747

F: 306.468.2967

E: mavisahenakew@acn104.ca



Food Security Worker's Report

BY DOROTHY AHENAKEW

My name is Dorothy Bowman-Ahenakew I have been a Food security worker since 2017 and I take the lead in the community garden initiative and the food forest initiative.

As a Food security worker I have Recognized the centrality of the relationship to land to Indigenous culture and acknowledging the loss of knowledge transfer due to colonization, residential schools, etc., and by supporting the movement towards reclaiming traditional activities and pride in identity. These activities could include activities geared towards reconnecting / strengthening connections to traditional activities related to food access and processing. Activities could include - snaring, hunting, fishing, gathering, preserving, etc., and other areas of need and priority as directed by the community.

Based on the needs identified and emerging from conversations in communities around the desire to re-center cultural ways of living with and from the land, CFTC will support the establishment of gardens, either school, community, or household level. Plant and gardening skills and knowledge are a part of the biocultural heritage of Indigenous Peoples. Colonization, residential schools, and globalized change have all impacted on the ongoing transfer of this lifestyle and knowledge between generations of Indigenous Peoples. Reconnecting to the knowledge and skills in gardening has potential to contribute to developing and enhancing local food systems
In 2020 Canadian Feed the Children (CFTC) had applied for a grant based on conversations that Ahtahkakoop community members had in 2019. One of the Questions is what do you like to see in the future for the Ahtahkakoop? We want to have more access to medicinal plants and fruits We received funding to build a Food Forest in November 2021.

What is a Food forest? A Food Forest is a multifunctional agriculture system which produces nutrient-dense fruits and other edibles, as well as medicines and cultural resources provided by nature.

Its design is inspired by nature and so it supports its own ecology and requires little maintenance or inputs once established. Planning expertise and community engagement is essential in year one to facilitate the long-term success of the Food Forest.

Planning of a Food Forest in is essential and needs to consider many factors personalized to each physical environment. Some of these factors include ethics of permaculture, access, soil creation, climate factors, natural systems, ecosystems designs, aquaculture, energy capture and diversity yield. On October 30th 2021 I received my Permaculture design certificate along with two young adults from our community

Year one planning community involvement, permaculture expert engagement, site selection and site preparation.

Year two Set up water systems, more planting, more infrastructure development.

Year 3 Knowledge sharing, harvesting, bringing people together, experiential learning. I hope my passion of my role as a food security worker and Food forest worker will pass on to the next generation and set us free from being food insecure.



P: 306.468.2747

F: 306.468.2967

E: dgahenakew7@gmail.com



Maternal Child Health/FASD Worker's Report

BY DANIELLE MEIKLEJOHN

Tansi My name is Danielle Meiklejohn and I am the Maternal Child Health/FASD worker at the clinic. I have been working in the community for almost 6 years now. I love to fish and spend time at home in Park Valley with my family and my cats 😊

The period from conception to age of 6 has the most influence of any time on the healthy growth and development of a child. This is a critical time for brain development, parent-child relationships, family functioning and cultural practices. It is also vital for mental and physical outcomes for the child, mother, family and ultimately the community. I work with families who have children under the age of 6 and help them set goals and find the best path to achieve them, advocate, offer direction, support, encouragement and help them see their strengths as they build skills and knowledge along the way.

I have 21 families I work with, and I also work with prenatals. Every Wednesday we have a prenatal class here at the clinic and every Thursday we have a Mom's group where we discuss a new topic every week. There is always hot coffee, lots of food, good laughs and prizes. If you are interested in participating, please call me at the clinic we offer rides and pay for baby-sitting. I am hoping in the near future I can start having family fun nights and outings again...fingers crossed!!



P: 306.468.2747

F: 306.468.2967

E: daniellemeiklejohn@acn104.ca



Diabetes Outreach Worker's Report

BY LEONA PEEKEEKOOT

Tansi, my name is Leona Peekeekoot. I work with the ADI Program here in our wonderful home Ahtahkakoop. I want to begin my report by explaining what the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative Program is and what are the goals.

Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (ADI) was created in 1999 to help improve the health status of First Nations Inuit and Metis communities through actions aimed at reducing the rate and reported new cases of diabetes and its risk factors. This done by supporting health promotions and primary prevention activities and service delivered by trained community diabetes workers and health service providers.

The goal of the ADI is to reduce type 2 diabetes among Ahtahkakoop people by supporting health promotion and primary prevention activities and services delivered by trained community diabetes workers and health service providers.

At the Ahtahkakoop Health Center, The Ahtahkakoop ADI team consists of a team of health service providers who are a Registered Nurse and Leona Peekeekoot the Community Outreach Worker, Laurie Ann Tetreault NP, Pharmacists, and the family.

The program provides support for individuals living with diabetes and their families to access programing and care, liaison between client and other services providers, transportation for individuals for targeted programs within the community. We also assist in community prevention and awareness by community wellness planning and needs by spreading awareness at our annual open houses, vaccine blitz, community conferences or screening days we provide a yearly.

Diabetes is the main highest chronic disease effecting people in Ahtahkakoop, the good news is it can be managed and controlled and prevented by educating yourself and talking to your doctor and coming in the health center and talking to one of the staff in the ADI Program. It would great if we can put Ahtahkakoop in the news again and do a province wide challenge for all First Nations to do a Diabetes free Reserve and prevention challenge, along with all the great programs in the reserve and very motivated band members we can achieve this. Keep your eyes and ears open for plans, it will be exciting to take in this challenge.

For more information on the ADI program, we encourage people to come to the health center to talk to one of the nurses or me the Community Diabetes Outreach worker or any of the other Health Staff.

Currently I'd like to close by leaving a message to our community members to have a safe healthy joyous Christmas and New Year holidays, and if you ever feel you need to talk to someone regarding your health, please feel free to call the health center. Beginning sick is tough but together we can be tougher.

Creator's blessing and wonderful health be with us all in Ahtahkakoop.



P: 306.468.2747

F: 306.468.2967

E: leonapeekeekoot@acn104.ca



Know Your Status Team Report

BY DARREN SKIBINSKY, RN, PATRICIA ISBISTER & ALEXANDRA POND, RN

A bit about yourselves:

Darren Skibinsky: I have been a registered nurse for 13 years and have worked everything from acute hospital to teaching. The bulk of my career has been in community working with communicable diseases with a focus on HIV, Hepatitis and sexually transmitted Infections.

Patricia Isbister: I have been working in the Know Your Status and CDC area as an Outreach Worker since 2015. I do case management and I manage the Harm Reduction program (Needle distribution program) with Alex and Darren. Some of my main tasks are: assist clients with adherence to meds, counsel and communicate well with clients to know their needs and issues we may assist with, advise or refer clients to appropriate professionals/programs, assist the CDC nurse in administrative duties when necessary.

Alexandra Pond: I am a registered nurse that has been practicing for nearly 3 years. Before coming to Ahtahkakoop most of my nursing experience was in rural emergency departments including Shellbrook and Meadow Lake. I have always had a passion for indigenous healthcare and harm reduction.

In our program we work with communicable diseases such as rabies and animal bites, TB, influenza, and diseases that would be vaccine preventable. A large portion of our program is working with HIV/Hepatitis, and sexually transmitted Infections. This includes testing, treatments and case management.

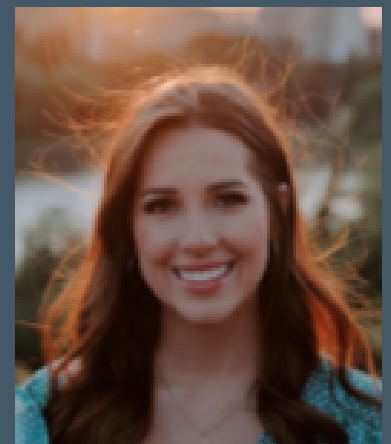
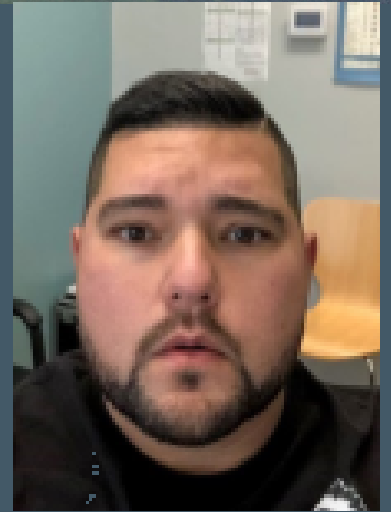
We offer the same services to people, who may have any one of these infections, as the people who live in city centres. This means we do testing, follow up, treatment with medication, coordinate doctor visits, and case management. We work with two infectious disease doctors one being, Dr. Skinner and the other is Dr. Loutfy. The other portion of our program is the harm reduction program where we operate a needle distribution site and distribute clean syringes for injection and provide education counselling and referrals to our most vulnerable populations.

As with every other program, COVID has had a large negative impact on our services. A lot of nursing time has gone to COVID testing, investigations, contact tracing and immunizations.

The staffing has been inconsistent over some time. Now we feel it has finally been addressed and we have developed an "A Team"! Moving forward you can expect to see more community awareness, education and services.

Upcoming Events/Activities:

HIV awareness week is November 29-December 3. We will be doing an "at risk" support group for anyone who maybe engaged in a riskier lifestyle. In addition, we will be looking to bring on a HIV and/or Hepatitis C Peer to our team to engage and educate others.



P: 306.468.2747

F: 306.468.2967

E: darrenskibinsky@acn104.ca

patriciaisbister@acn104.ca

alexandrapond@acn104.ca



Councilor/Pandemic Coordinator's Report

BY RODNEY SASAKAMOOSE

Tansi! My name is Rodney Sasakamoose. As band councillor, I would like to thank you for the support in this past election in which I was voted in to serve our community, and will do my best to be the leaders of the community.

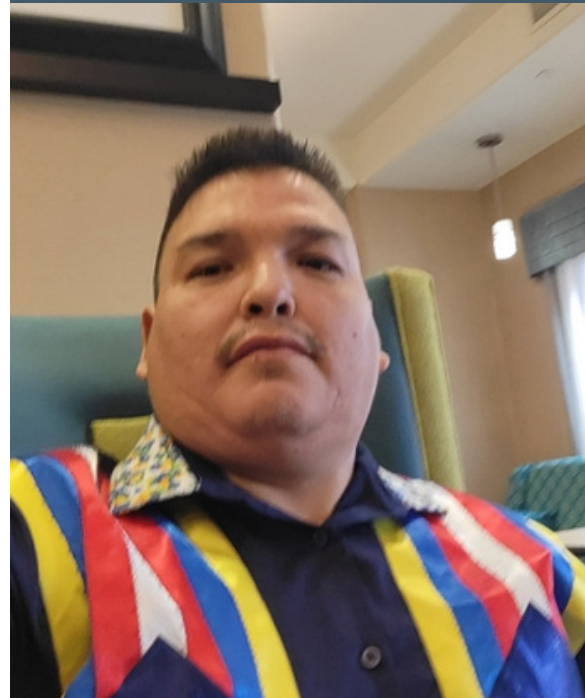
COVID-19 Pandemic

I have been the Pandemic coordinator since April this past spring and I tell you it has been a challenging time for our community, Province and country. What we have been doing is working closely with the health nurses. They tell me who is in isolation then I would deliver a letter of isolation orders and also ask what their needs are for the duration of isolation. The services that we provide is security to make sure the home is isolating, also we provide groceries and tobacco. We try to keep the home as comfortable as possible. If they are not isolating then we report them to the health officer. We also provide meals to ones that are ill to cook for their families. We also utilize the old hall for our groceries for the homes that require the services.

Transitional Home

This past summer it has been talked about to help our vulnerable/homeless, it has been approved by the pandemic committee that we buy 4 camper trailers to be able to house the homeless, their more permanent home is in the works as we speak. It is an old post secondary building and will have 10 rooms including a family room. The building will have laundry, a common area and will also have security.

Currently we are housing 8 people in the old radio station. They were in the trailers before I moved them in the building and they are happy that they have a warm place to sleep. I am hoping that the building will be finished soon so they can have more space. It's so cold so it is only beneficial to help out our people who are homeless and they have a warm place to stay. When the new Healing Home is built they will have programs to go to help them try to get back on their feet.



P: 306.468.2326

C: 306.941.1210

E: rodneysasakamoose@acn104.ca



Mental Health Intake/Reception's Report

BY SHELDON GAETZ

Tansi! I started working with the Health Centre in May 2021. My role in the Holistic Wellness Centre is the reception/intake worker. I have lived in Ahtahkakoop for 10 years; I know a lot of people in the community. I look forward to meeting the rest of the community as well.

My job duties include, but are not limited to:

- Greet clients and visitors and help navigate them to the appropriate staff member.
- Ensuring meeting minutes are recorded for Mental Health Committee Meetings.
- Assisted in the setup and outfitting of the Holistic Wellness Centre.
- Participate in Community Wellness planning initiatives for Ahtahkakoop.
- Answer telephones and place telephone calls as required.
- Take telephone messages and direct inquiries for those staff that are unavailable.
- Participate in training sessions, workshops. Since I started here, I have completed training for Mental Health First Aide, ASSIST and ASK.
- Compiling Monthly Statistics for the Holistic Wellness Team.
- Admin for the Ahtahkakoop Holistic Wellness Centre facebook page.

The Holistic Wellness Team recently relocated to the Ahtahkakoop Holistic Wellness Centre located behind the Health Centre. Our number is (306) 468-2027. Our after hours mental health support number is 639-922-7038.

We host Open House Meetings every Wednesday. Rides can be provided. For more information, please give the Centre a call.

We offer mental health services such as one-on-one therapy, family sessions, couple/relationships, group sessions, addictions/treatment, outreach/emergency.

I am excited to be apart of the Holistic Wellness Team and my door is always open for a visit.



P: 306.468.2027

F: 306.468.2028

E: sheldongaetz@acn104.ca



Mental Health Therapist's Report

BY ALLYSSHA OLSON

I am a wife, a mother of two children; a step mother to three children. I love the outdoors; I am also a strong enthusiast. I am a nurturing, caring person.

My passion is working with women/men who are or have gone through domestic violence in their lives. I also have a strong passion working with persons with disabilities; helping them to navigate systems.

I have been working on Ahtahkakoop Cree nation for two years.

I am a registered social worker; I hold my Bachelors of Indigenous Social Work. I recently obtained my Bachelors of Arts with a major of Indigenous Studies and minor in Psychology. I hope to obtain my masters of social work in 2022/2023.

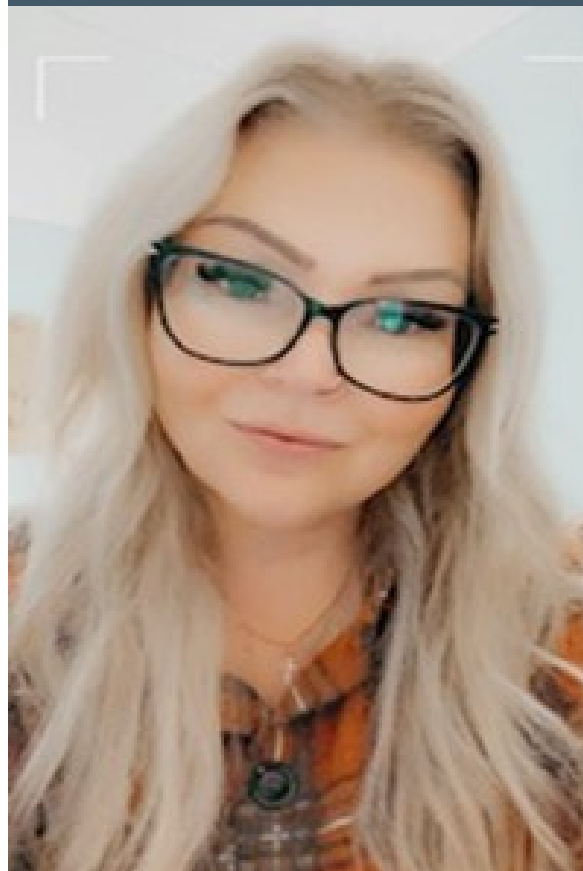
I have been working in the area of mental health for 20 years. I am honored to have had the opportunity to work in this beautiful community for the past two years.

The past 18 months has been challenging due to the pandemic. Through the dedication and admirable work done here to promote mental health, awareness, and well-being with the Indigenous lens; I believe that we are working to help others address areas in their lives that may have been impacted/affected by this pandemic.

Addressing the needs of individuals is case by case and a very individualized process.

To be able to build the report with clients I have has been great. In December of 2021 I will be taking the Ask facilitator training with hopes of utilizing these teachings to bring back to the community and share with others. With the pandemic, we have seen a rise in suicides and suicidal ideation, from young generations to older generations. Breaking the stigmas around suicide is something I strive for every day.

Navigating through one's journey is a strong passion. Helping my clients seek out and strive for success and personal growth is also a strong passion of mine, being able to engage with my clients; to promote healthy lifestyles. I look forward to all the positive things to come in the upcoming year here at Ahtahkakoop.



P: 306.468.2027

F: 306.468.2028

E: allyssaernst@acn104.ca



Mental Health Therapist's Report

BY OCTAVIA BELLEGARDE

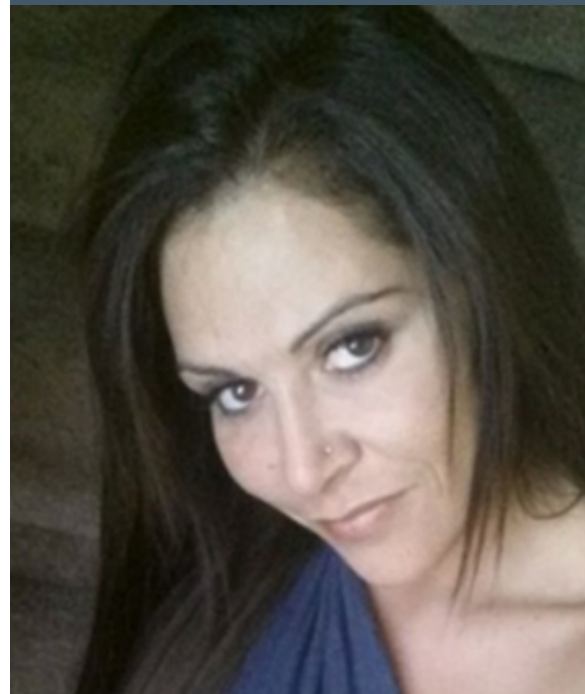
Octavia is a First Nation Therapist from the Peepeekisis Cree First Nation located in Southern Saskatchewan. She began her voyage with Ahtahkakoop Cree First Nation Health Center in 2020 and works with both the Chief Ahtahkakoop School and the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation Holistic Wellness Center to ensure members on their healing journey have a culturally safe place to experience their vulnerabilities, share their stories, and tap into their inner strengths for self-empowerment. Octavia is passionate about working alongside First Nation communities to overcome the impact of colonization, and the intergenerational trauma it has generated so that each generation breaks further away from the cycle of suffering.

Current Activity:

Octavia has partnered with the Chief Ahtahkakoop School's Treaty, Land, and Culture Catalysts, and Guidance Counsellor to facilitate Growth Mindset to Grades 4 to 12, and Emotional IQ to Grades 1-3 as part of the Traditional Medicine Wheel Teachings. These teachings are separated into four modules, each lesson building on the other. It is our hope that helping students to believe in themselves and their capacity to develop their skills, and abilities are things that can be cultivated through effort and perseverance. Additionally, younger students are able to develop a deeper understanding of their emotional odometer so they can navigate their internal controls, tap into their inner strengths, broaden their coping strategies, and in return, increase their self-empowerment to persist even during adversity. These lessons help to empower students, creates a love of life-long learning, and a resilience that is essential for accomplishment throughout their lifespan. Additionally, we are in the planning stages for the grade 10-12 Winter Culture Camp scheduled for Dec 6-10, 2021 and started sign-ups for Painting for all ages. Art is a therapeutic outlet to help build coping skills through creative expression, and strengthen relationships as a protective factor.

Upcoming Events/Activities:

School Wellness Event
Winter Carnival,
Ala-teen Group for students as peer support.



P: 306.468.2027

F: 306.468.2028

E: octaviabellegarde@acn104.ca



Mental Health Therapist's Report

BY HOWARD SANGWAIS

Hi. My name is Howard Sangwais. I am from the Zagime Anishnabek First Nation. I was born in Grenfell, Saskatchewan.

I have been working as a Mental Health Therapist at the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation Health Centre since November 2020.

I am a registered Social Worker with the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers and am an approved Mental Health Therapist under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program and Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program through Indigenous Services Canada.

My education career started at the Gordon's Indian Residential School and was completed at the University of Regina where I earned a Master's Degree in Aboriginal Social Work.

I am passionate about learning and teaching how colonization continues to affect the mental health of indigenous communities, families and individuals.



P: 306.468.2027

F: 306.468.2028

E: howardsangwais@acn104.ca



Mental Health Therapist's Report

BY LORRAINE QUINTAL

I am a member of the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation and have a strong understanding of Aboriginal culture and the connection between colonization and the current disparities Aboriginal people face. I am passionate about supporting each individual or family in their personal journey through life. I have worked with people from a variety of backgrounds in a variety of roles including a Crisis Intervention Worker at the Women's Shelter, a Parent Aide, and now as a Mental Health Therapist.

I support my clients by identifying areas of need, connect them to appropriate supports, and support them in their change efforts. For over 25 years I have worked with survivors of abuse, families, people struggling with addiction, and children.

My goal is to help my clients feel empowered and able to recognize the strength and gifts that they hold within themselves that will help them along their healing journeys.

Services offered: On-to-on counselling (in-person), Culturally competent services, Telephone Counselling services, LGBTQ2-affirming counselling.



P: 306.468.2027

F: 306.468.2028

E: lorrainequintal@acn104.ca



Addictions Intern's Report

BY JODIE ALBERT

Tansi, my name is Jodie Albert. I am the mother to 2 incredible children, who are my world. I am an addict who is in recovery and found that, I can connect with those still struggling with addictions on a different level, more-so than others who have not struggled with addictions.

In the time that I have worked here I have learned a lot from the staff, past and present and this includes the community members and the other programs. I learned, when the community gets together, we do great things and can empower one another.

I started working here the summer of 2017. I started off as a part time COHI worker and part time janitor, after that I was the outreach worker for the Know Your Status program then I transferred to Mental Health and Addictions.

Today, I am the Addictions Intern for the Holistic Wellness Team. My duties consist of, doing pick-ups and drop-offs for the therapists, hosting the weekly recovery support meeting, helping clients get into detox and treatment, going on home visits with the therapists, outreach work, getting out into the community to connect with those hard to reach and try get them into care. If the other programs need assistance with anything, I make myself available to them as well. I like to help when I can.



P: 306.468.2027
F: 306.468.2028
E: jodiealbert@acn104.ca



Director Of Social Development's Report

BY CHRISTINE PECHAWIS

Good day! My name is Christine Pechawis, and I am from the Mistawasis First Nation. I am the granddaughter of the Late Norman Johnstone & Late Evelyn (Isbister) Johnstone and Late Arnold Pechawis and the oldest living female First Nations veteran in Saskatchewan, Virginia (Bird) Pechawis. My parents are Norma Johnstone and Eric Pechawis. Being from the community that is just down the grid, around the corner and over the hill, I am very proud to say that I have a lot of family members that are from and reside on the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation.

On October 29, 2021, I was offered the position of Director for Social Development and Employment & Training. In my previous employment, I was the Director of Social Development for Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs (BATC). So already having previous experience working in the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, I gladly accepted.

Thankfully, I am not the only new face in the Social Development office. Valene Thomas, from the Big River First Nation, was offered and accepted the position of Income Assistance Administrator. Phyllis Starblanket, from the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, was also offered and accepted the Income Assistance Clerk. Ashton and Carol must shake their heads every morning knowing they have us to deal with!

Please feel free to stop by the office any time, where the coffee is fresh, atmosphere is positive and smiles are always free!

Brief Program Update:

- Proportional payments on utilities will be made directly to the supplier, reimbursement cheques will no longer be issued to the head of household
- Cell phone allowances – one allowance can be issued to a family unit
- proof of payment must be submitted if you purchase minutes contract must be in clients name
- cell phone must be active

Upcoming Events/Activities:

- Social Development Board Meeting – December 3
- Will update any further activities and notices on the “What’s Happening Ahtahkakoop” Facebook group



P: 306.468.2441

C: 306.841.7172

E: christinepechawis@acn104.ca



Income Assistance Administrator's Report

BY VALENE THOMAS

Tansi! I am Valene Thomas from the Big River First Nation. (neeteewaho) I'm the oldest and fastest swimmer of my parents last batch of kids they decided to have. I come from a big loving caring traditional family. I'm a somewhat comedian to others or plain laugh at my own jokes. Life is to precious to live the same lifestyle every day. I'm a adventurous individual, passionate about the outdoors.

I'm a widowed mother of 3 beautiful babies ages 13 yr old son, 10 yr old daughter and 14 month daughter. My partner passed when I was 7 months pregnant last summer of 2020. I am 1 of the lucky employees that was selected to fill the positions with the Social Development program. I'd love to thank Ahtakakoop First Nation for giving me the opportunity to pick myself up again, for giving me the opportunity to provide for my family once again.

I'm very familiar with the social program as I was currently employed years ago. I'm currently meeting new clients and getting to know my fellow colleagues. There has been a lot of getting use to the program software. I'm taking in a few clients already so giving me practice to the new system.

Brief Program Update:

We have been busy with the whole filing system, managed to catch up on the major work that needed to be done. By December we should be up to date (aiming) on basically data entry that is needed. Great staff as we all work together, help each other so no one is over swamped.

Upcoming Events:

We have a lash tech program first week of December, planning on staff potluck.



P: 306.468.2441

C: 306.841.7172

E: valenethomas@acn104.ca



Training & Employment Receptionist's Report

BY PHYLLIS STARBLANKET

Hello! I'm Phyllis Starblanket
I am the new receptionist at Ahtahkakoop Training & Employment.

I am happy to be onboard with new team members, I recently started working and I am greeted with a few new faces in this department. I look forward to learning more about the programs and assisting community members.

We are divided into two programs, Social Development and Training & Employment. Upcoming events for Training & Employment will be a Volume and Classic Lash course December 3rd, 4th, & 5th. Other upcoming courses will be announced. All Social Development client's need to bring in their updated identification cards to enter in the system.

P: 306.468.2441
E: phyllisstarblanket@acn104.ca



Housing Director's Report

BY WADE LITTLE

Hello to all Ahtahkakoop band members, both on and off reserve. It has been a year since I started working in the Director position, in that year I've learnt a lot about the housing program. I want to thank everyone for being patient with not just the me, but the whole department. It has been a major learning curve this year for every one of us as we are all still dealing with the pandemic. I have been involved in the housing program for several years working in the electrical trade for both new builds and renovations, also as a board member and have a good understanding of the current housing situation.

The new section 95 housing construction is well under way consisting of four units along side several minor and major renovations. Our goal is to have members in their new homes by early summer. We will also be selecting three new applicants for new housing in the spring of 2022. You can join our Facebook page to fill out section 95 applications or you can come into the sub office to fill them out in person. Both methods will be entered into our housing data base and selections will be made from there.

As I mentioned before we have a Facebook page called Ahtahkakoop Housing. With this page we utilize it to communicate with the band members that have concerns with any housing issues. We also have a link on the page that directs you to the application form for new section 95 or any available housing on reserve. We plan to build an application form for renovations in the future to make it more convenient for those that can't make it into the office. We advise you to fill out an application for both section 95 and renovations every new year as living conditions change on a yearly basis.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Respectfully yours.

Wade little



P: 306.468.3013
C: 306.468.4508
F: 306.468.3018
E: wadelittle@acn104.ca



O&M Director's Report

BY RONALD AHENAKEW

First of all, I would like to wish everyone Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It has been a very difficult year for a lot of people, it's only by the grace of God we made it this far. Anyways, it has been a very busy year we have quite a bit on our plate. There has been changes to my department.

The band hired Utin Ahenakew to look after the water trucks and also the machinery. So in the future, if you have any problems and you need some work done, get a hold of Utin. He will be a good asset to the band and is proving a big help to the program.

We have quite a few people working in the public works program. The following is a list of all staff in the O&M Department.

Ahtahkakoop O & M Staff

Ronald Ahenakew, Public Works Director

Utin Ahenakew, Public Works Assistant

Travis Hyman, Main Mechanic

William St. Dennis, Mechanic's Helper

Arnold Kenney, Helper

Marvin Genereaux, Grader Driver

Shawn Cox, Helper

Garvin Nayneecasum, Helper

Ben Ahenakew, Garbage Truck Driver

Zachary Ahenakew, Garbage Truck Driver

Thomas Isbister, Janitor

Jordan Isbister, COVID Worker

Frank Ahenakew, Water Truck Driver

Lane Genereaux, Water Truck Driver

Kevin Williams, Water Truck Driver

Glen Peekeekoot, Water Truck Driver

Lenny Sasakamoose, Sewer Truck Driver

Donald Isbister, School Maintenance

Francis Rabbitskin, School Maintenance

The band purchased a new grader and a back hoe so the next snow storm we will be better prepared. We apologize if we took a while to get to your yard but hopefully we can organize a quick response to the next storm.

Ahtahkakoop is also working on some major capital projects listed on the next page.

That's all I have to report for now. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year to you and your families, from my family.



P: 306.468.3013

F: 306.468.3018

E: ronaldahenakew@acn104.ca



O&M Supervisor's Report

BY UTIN AHENAKEW

Tansi, I am proud to serve and assist Ahtahkakoop with the water, sewer, and garbage truck operations. Other important services include the grader, back hoe and skid steer. Let's keep moving forward, hiy, hiy.

Program Update:

WATER SERVICES

Truck 1 (Grey & Brown Truck) – Lane Genereaux currently has 60 houses (Butcher Lake area)

Truck 2 (Silver Truck) – Sonny Ahenakew currently has 60 houses (North End and Core area)

Truck 3 (White Truck) – Cindy Williams-Johnstone (Kevin Williams cover) currently has 58 houses (Canwood road and Mont Nebo road)

Truck 4 (White Ford with Blue Tank) – Burton Benjamin is emergency casual when needed.

Truck 5 – Glen Peekeekoot is on contract with his own truck for 60 houses

SEWER SERVICES

Truck 1 (Yellow Truck) – Lenny Sasakamoose is driving with a Covid helper

Truck 2 (Spare Truck) – Currently needing repairs

GARBAGE SERVICES

Truck 1 – Ben Ahenakew plus COVID helper (Richie Bear)

Truck 2 – Zach Ahenakew plus COVID helper (Josh Ahenakew)

Truck 3 – Spare (4x4) – Currently needing repairs

GRADER SERVICES

Grader #1 (Old) Volvo – Needs repairs

Grader #2 (New) Cat – Marvin Genereaux main operator

BACKHOE SERVICES

Backhoe #1 (Old) – Needing repairs

Backhoe #2 (New)

SKID STEER SERVICES

Upcoming Events/Activities:

Update: Water routes are currently being reviewed and updated to help reduce service times.



P: 306.468.3013

F: 306.468.3018

E: utinahenakew@acn104.ca



Justice Coordinator's Report

BY ERIC AHENAKEW

Hello, I am Eric Ahenakew and I am the Ahtahkakoop Justice Coordinator. I have been working in the area of Justice for the Ahtahkakoop First Nation for the past 20 years. Before, I started working with the Ahtahkakoop Justice , I was attending the University of Saskatchewan where I graduated with four-year bachelor's degree in Sociology and I met the requirements for Aboriginal Justice and Criminology Program for Native Students. I am the proud son of late Chester Ahenakew and late Edna Ahenakew. I would like to share what I do in Justice and what is offered in the Ahtahkakoop Justice Department.

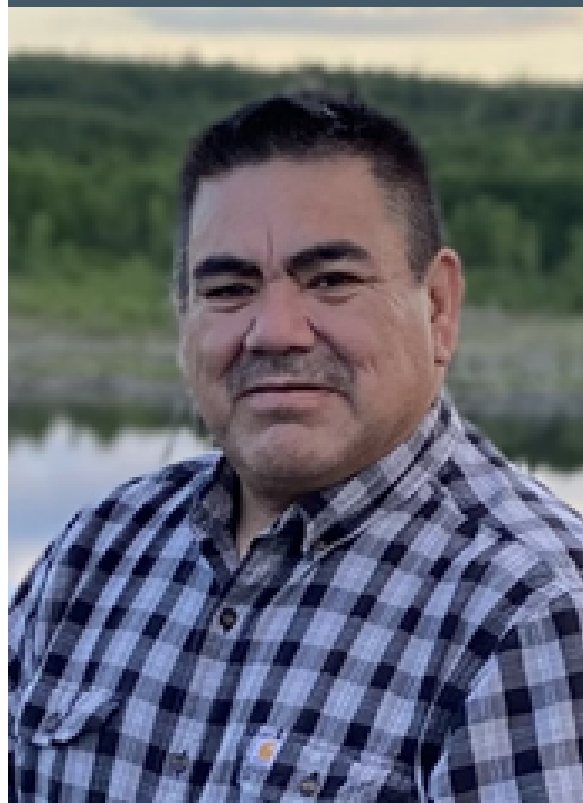
To begin, we have the Cree circuit court coming to the Ahtahkakoop First Nation on every second Monday of each month and every second Wednesday of the month. We have the probation officer coming into the sub-office (Old Band Office) every Tuesday and Thursday.

I, Eric Ahenakew help Ahtahkakoop people in court as "a Friend of the Court". I help people get in touch with legal aid and with private counsel. I help people in court by helping them to understand the court process and the charges they face in court.

We have Alternative measures program in the Ahtahkakoop Justice program. People are usually referred to mediation or alternative measures program when they do not have criminal record. This is process where the Victim and offender come together and make amends with each other. It is a process where the offender has a chance to make amends with his or her victim(s). If a person is successful or completes his/her conditions in a mediation, then the charges are withdrawn from the court and a person is given another chance to live without a criminal record.

The new Ahtahkakoop Fine Option and CSO worker for the Ahtahkakoop Band is Tarron Vandall. He is the person that deals with people working off provincial tickets and CSO form the court. Tarron must register a person before anyone starts working off their fine(s) or CSO hours. Tarron has an office in the Sub office or old band office. His office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Ahtahkakoop Band has a Justice Board that works with the Ahtahkakoop Band members concerns. The Ahtahkakoop Band has a Community Consultive Group (CCG) under the Community Tripartite Agreement (CTA) with the RCMP. The Ahtahkakoop Justice Board is presently working on developing a Justice rules and regulations manual for the Ahtahkakoop Band. The Ahtahkakoop Justice or CCG is planning activities with the RCMP for the Ahtahkakoop Band members.



P: 306.468.3013

C: 306.468.7180

F: 306.468.3018

E: ericahenakew@acn104.ca



Governance Director's Report

BY BELINDA NELSON

N

In July of 2021, I was hired as the Governance Director for Ahtahkakoop. The reason this position was created was to move forward on putting processes and structures in place, so we can collectively organize ourselves as a community, to manage our own affairs, share responsibilities, decide for ourselves what kind of society we want for our future, and to actually implement those decisions. In setting up these processes the most important aspect is to protect our Treaty Rights. The right to govern ourselves as a nation was never given up, even at the signing of Treaty.

The Governance process helps ensure:

- the welfare and human rights of our citizens are protected
- resources are managed properly
- our own rules, policies and laws are created
- essential programs and services are prioritized and delivered
- goals are set and achieved

Over the years, there have been many attempts at finalizing our own Constitution. Our latest draft was done by Racquel Fraser after a couple meetings with elders. This Constitution will be shared with the community for feedback.

What is a Constitution?

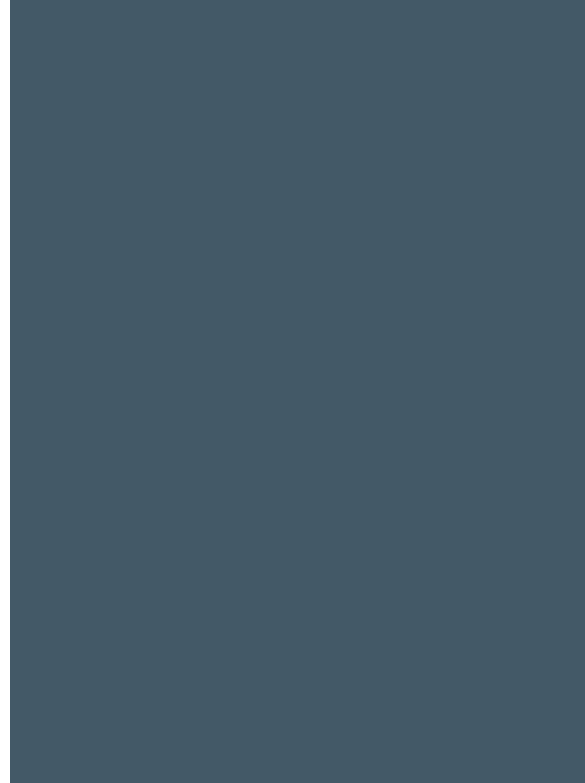
- Describes the “rules of the game”;
- Foundation upon which to build a strong government;
- Creates, empowers and regulates the governing body of the First Nation;
- Describes the values and principles that guides how to live and how we wish to govern ourselves;
- Legitimizes political authority;
- Sets out the basic principles that Chief and Council conform to, and the rights of the citizens in relation to one another and the land; and
- Can be everything the Indian Act is not

Our first Governance meeting was held with the Governance committee on November 24th, 2021.

During this meeting our first priorities were set.

- Terms of Reference (for Boards, Committees and Task Forces)
- Personnel Management Act
- Fit for Duty Policy
- Land Use Planning
- Financial Administration Law
- Housing Policy
- Drug Strategy Plan – Community Safety

All views, opinions, suggestions and questions, would be greatly appreciated in regards to setting up our Governance structure for Ahtahkakoop. You may contact myself or any of the Governance Committee members.



P: 306.468.3013

C: 306.468.7180

F: 306.468.3018

E: belindanelson@acn104.ca



TLE Officer's Report

BY LANA LEDOUX

For those of you that have not had the chance to meet me or come to know me; I would like to tell you, I am from the Mistawasis First Nation and I am a granddaughter of late Chief Norman C. Johnstone, my parents are Leonard & Marianne Johnstone. Growing up I was taught Specific Claims/ TLE (surrender claim) from Grampa and my Dad. When I was only 27 years old, I became a Community Trustee with Mistawasis and stayed on for 12 years to follow. I was contracted to work for the Mistawasis Trust thereafter for 18 months. 2003-2015 Mistawasis Trustee, 2015-2017 Mistawasis Trust Contractor
I am truly committed and passionate regarding the importance of communication & assisting our First Nations forward in a good way.

On your First Nation I am the TLE Officer in which I am contracted. Rhoda LeDoux is the TLE Assistant. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people that have helped make our TLE a success throughout the information meeting process and to date. It has been a fast paced working environment and I promise, things will settle soon.

Ahtakakoop has been working on TLE for the last 20 years and on October 2, 2021 your community successfully ratified the TLE next is the briefing; Ratification
Voting opened up as of Sept 2, 2021 online and ended on October 2, 2021. We had a successful vote with total voters: 1433 (54.86% showed)
In person ballots 66
Mail-in ballots 726
Electronic ballots 641

As a Voter of the First Nation you voted on the following:
(a) agree to all of the terms and conditions and releases of the Ahtakakoop Cree Nation Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement Agreement and to all the terms and conditions of the Trust Agreement; and (b) authorize and direct the Council of the Band to sign all documents and do everything necessary to give effect to the Ahtakakoop Cree Nation Treaty Land Entitlement

Settlement Agreement and the Trust Agreement?
Option Total Votes
YES 1385
NO 36
Spoiled 10



P: 306.468.3013
C: 306.468.7180
F: 306.468.3018
E: lanaledoux@acn104.ca



TLE Officer's Report

BY LANA LEDOUX

Trustee Selection

As many of you are aware, we had 31 applications for the Community Trustee positions, 7 of which were selected with 4 alternate Trustees as well. On October 15, 2021 - PriceWaterhouseCooper provided the following recommendations for Community Trustees;

Community Trustee – Three-year term

Diane Lynn Ahenakew (on-reserve)
William (Bill) Sherman Brent Greyeyes (off-reserve)
Leon Frank Isbister (on-reserve)
Tracey D Robinson (off-reserve)

Community Trustee – Two-year term

Karen Ann Greyeyes (on-reserve)
Roderick (Roddy) Carson Masuskapoe (off-reserve)
Elaine Vandall (on-reserve)

Alternates – in event of a vacancy (off-reserve)

Dylan Kemp
Sharon Marie Waughtal (Masuskapoe)

Alternates – in event of a vacancy (on-reserve)

Sheila Fay Knife
Belinda Veronica Ann Nelson

The Selection Committee recommendations were ratified via BCR in Saskatoon, SK on Friday October 22, 2021. Congratulations once again, to those selected, the position of Trustee carries great responsibility and commitment in which we know you will all do well with.

Community Trustees are beginning to meet monthly and there are many tasks that have to be carried out in the near future and of course ongoing. The most important of which is the creation of the Land Strategy / Strategic Plan 2022-2027.

Currently, we are patiently awaiting Government procedures to be carried out prior to the Ahtahkakoop Entitlement monies being transferred. We are anticipating the deposit of the Settlement monies as of April 2022. TLE is a good thing and can bring wealth creation and prosperity to your Nation. I am proud to say I have been apart of your journey.

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E: lanaledoux@acn104.ca







Phone Numbers

- Ahtakakoop Band Office - 306.468.2326
- Ahtakakoop Child & Family Services - 306.468.2520
- Ahtakakoop Daycare Centre - 306.468.2998
- Ahtakakoop Fire Hall - 306.468.5000 or 911
- Ahtakakoop General Store - 306.468.3094
- Ahtakakoop Head Start - 306.468.2323
- Ahtakakoop Health Centre - 306.468.2747
- Ahtakakoop Housing & CMHC - 306.468.3013
- Ahtakakoop Post-Secondary - 306.468.2100
- Ahtakakoop RCMP Detachment - 306.468.2969 or 911
- Ahtakakoop School - 306.468.2854
- Ahtakakoop Social Development - 306.468.2441
- CKRE Radio Station - 306.468.3126
- Cree Nations Treatment Haven - 306.468.2072
- Fred Sasakamoose Rec Centre - 306.468.3082