

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 - Notice of Nomination Meeting
- 3 - Caribou Patrol Update
- 3 - Stay in School Awards & BBQ
- 4 - Nakota Strong Music Festival
- 5 - Citizenship Open House
- 6 - Elder Mabel Wanyandie
- 7 - AHRF Temperature Logging
- 8 - Community Events & Opportunities

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Aseniwuche Stories ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ

NEW FACES AT ASENIWUCHE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The team is growing with the addition of three new staff bringing their skills, experience and talent to ADC. We're excited to welcome Cheryl, Shannon and Don and look forward to working with them well into the future!

Contributed by Johanne Johnson

Meet Cheryl Kenworthy

As ADC's new Project and Procurement Coordinator, Cheryl oversees the bidding and procurement processes to ensure execution and profitability of company projects. Day-to-day, she manages the direct project bidding and RFP processes. She monitors project costs and progress to ensure everything remains on track. Cheryl also oversees ADC procurement practices, including monitoring purchase orders and taking necessary action to address defective or unacceptable goods or services. In this role, Cheryl can use her several years of training and management experience as a senior engineer. She is recognized for her practical, down-to-earth approach to developing and implementing change initiatives.

(continued on next page)



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Cheryl Kenworthy, Shannon Chowace and Don McNeil.

(cont'd from the front page)

Cheryl and her husband raised their two daughters in Hinton where they have lived for 23 years. They now share their acreage with 6 horses, 3 dogs and 2 cats. Cheryl enjoys horseback riding, skating and skiing. She takes advantage of all of the riding in Cadomin, Willmore Wilderness Park and Jasper. In the summer, she organizes and participates in gymkhanas, a timed obstacle race on horseback, for the River Valley Riding Association.

Meet Shannon Chowace

In the role of Energy Field Services Lead Hand, Shannon coordinates the activities of assigned projects and client contracts to ensure tasks are completed by Energy Field Services employees in an efficient and effective manner. Amongst his multiple duties, Shannon works closely with employees to complete required tasks for each project. He provides coaching to employees by tapping into his diverse work experiences in the resource industry. He builds relationships with customers by championing excellent customer service, high productivity and safe work practices.

Before taking on EFS Lead Hand, Shannon was already well respected by ADC field employees and supervisors for his work as a utility tree work (UTW) sub-contractor for Aseniwuche Winewak Group of Companies and several supervisory positions with ATCO.

Shannon, his wife Kristal, and their family, reside at Victor Lake Co-op, where he is a member of the Board of Directors. In his off time, he likes to golf and hunt. He speaks proudly about his six

children, and their strengths and achievements. The Alberta School Board Association recently awarded Shannon and Kristal's daughter, Brianna, with an Honouring the Spirit Award recognizing Indigenous students who model strength and commitment in their education and embrace their own potential while celebrating the ways of their people. Shannon is proud to represent his home community of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation where his children are registered Treaty and share a long lineage and ancestry.

Meet Don McNeil

Don was recently hired as the Energy Field Services Team Lead to direct the daily activities of the Operations Division. His responsibilities include the overall supervision and coordination of work crews and promoting workplace safety throughout the organization. He is responsible for overseeing the recruitment of field workers and mechanical shop staff, ensuring they receive the proper on-the-job training. Don is a mechanical engineer and brings many years of senior field operations experience working overseas to ADC. His expertise allows him to offer recommendations on operational matters including workflow, productivity, quality, profitability and continuous improvement.

Don and his wife Diane have been married for 32 years and have a daughter. Don and Diane are selling their home in BC in the coming months and are looking forward to moving back to Alberta. Besides his passion for work, Don is an avid golfer and fisherman. Welcome, Don!



2021 AWN ELECTIONS NOMINATION MEETING

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Eagle's Nest Hall - 10028 99 St, Grande Cache
10 a.m. to 7 p.m., paused for lunch from 1 to 2 p.m.

POSITIONS OPEN FOR NOMINATION:

- President, Aseniwuche Winewak Nation
- Director, Victor Lake Co-operative
- Director, Grande Cache Lake Enterprise
- Director, Susa Creek Co-operative
- Director, Muskeg Seepee Co-operative
- Director, Joachim Enterprise
- Director, Wanyandie Flats Co-operative

ELIGIBILITY

Nominees must be: a member of Aseniwuche Winewak Nation, 18 years of age or older and maintain their primary residence on a Co-operative or Enterprise or within the Hamlet of Grande Cache.

HOW TO MAKE A NOMINATION

An elector may nominate a candidate at the nomination meeting by stating their name, the name of the elector they are nominating, and whether they are nominating the elector for the position of President or one of the Director positions. The nomination must be seconded by another elector. The seconder must also state their name. The elector nominated must be at the meeting and state that they will accept the office if elected.

Please direct any questions about the upcoming AWN Elections to the Electoral Officer:

Peter Fortna, Willow Springs Strategic Solutions
peter@willowsspringss.com | (780) 381-9168

There's a lot to celebrate as we reach the midpoint of the Caribou Patrol Program's 10th season! We're excited to share our special Season 10 merchandise with everyone and announce how Pembina is helping us learn more about caribou.

-Contributed by Stephanie Leonard

CARIBOU PATROL

THE PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT CONTINUES!

Caribou Patrol is still accepting submissions for the Photo Scavenger Hunt. Two more draws are left, one at the end of August and a final draw on September 7, 2021. Snap a photo of the items on the scavenger list and send them to info@cariboupatrol.ca with your name and contact information. We'll enter you for a chance to win Caribou Patrol prizes! If you're unlucky in the August draw, you still have a chance with the final draw at the end of the summer. The sooner you enter, the more chances you have to win! We will accept submissions for the photo scavenger hunt throughout the summer, so get out there and [#careaboutcaribou!](#)

SUMMER SIGHTINGS

Even though caribou sightings have tapered off for the summer, several animals like to stay near Highway 40 throughout the year. We expect them to continue to be a regular sight. It is critical to slow down and watch for caribou and other wildlife over the next two months. However, we certainly advocate for extra care in the caribou corridor year-round. Thank you to everyone who has been reporting their sightings this year. We are grateful to all of you.

For any photographers looking to capture that perfect caribou shot, please be aware that several bigger bulls have been demonstrating more aggressive behaviour than in previous years. We're expecting things to escalate as we go into fall and the rut. Please exercise extreme caution if you are out of your vehicles near caribou or any other wildlife.



THANK YOU, PEMBINA!

We have more exciting news as Caribou Patrol develops a trail camera project to get better insight into caribou condition, behaviour, and habitat use. We're looking forward to learning more about these animals and their activity on and around the highway. The Caribou Patrol camera project is made possible thanks to the incredible generosity of Pembina Pipeline Corporation. We're planning to deploy the cameras this year. We're looking forward to sharing the results more about these amazing animals.

Caribou Patrol would also like to thank Pembina for inviting us to provide three Caribou Awareness sessions to their staff. We shared information on caribou biology, the needs and threats of the specific west-central caribou herds, the Caribou Patrol Program, and actions they can take to help caribou, both individually and as a company. We had a great time working with their team. If your company, school or public interest group is interested in hosting a presentation from Caribou Patrol, e-mail info@cariboupatrol.ca. We're excited to meet you!

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STAY IN SCHOOL AWARDS & BBQ

Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021
Time: 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Location: Susa Creek School
Contact Katie for more information
 780-827-5510 or katie@aseniwuche.com

Event details are subject to change as per health and safety guidelines.

Come celebrate our incredible Indigenous Northlands and Grande Yellowhead students!

- Performance by the James Gang Drummers
- Awards and special grad presentation
- Bannock burgers, hot dogs and refreshments

Parents, guardians and caregivers, please call us to confirm your students' information.



NAKOTA STRONG

-Contributed by Nadine Alexis

Asinîwaciyê Âcimowina is excited to feature a story from another community in northwest Alberta. We're fortunate to have Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation member, Nadine Alexis, part of the Asenîwuche Winewak community and on our staff at the AWN administrative office. In her second appearance in the newsletter, Nadine shares her experience attending the Nakota Strong Music Festival and how this annual celebration of resilience, community and healing came to be.

Tansi, abawasded, and hello! I'm Nadine Alexis, and I'm originally from Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation. The idea for the Nakota Strong Music Festival came from council member Henry "Hank" Alexis and his daughter Courtney Alexis in 2016. At the time, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation was dealing with deaths and drug addictions. The community felt dark; it wasn't normal. It was hard for struggling families because they couldn't leave to enjoy events outside of the community. Hank and Courtney wanted to bring joy, light, and hope to build unity within the nation. With the help of Chief Tony Alexis, Council and numerous sponsors, their idea became a reality—a free event that everyone was welcome to attend.

The first music festival was a two-day event with bouncy castles and face painting for kids, a BBQ, karaoke contest, and giveaways. There were performances from Tammy Lamouche, Armond Duckchief, Jarrid Lee, DJ Kookum, Joey Stylez, and Canadian country artist Charlie Major. Everyone from the community had a great time dancing and enjoying the music. The festival ended with fireworks and was considered a great success. Plans for the next year were already underway.

In 2018, Trooper, a well-known Canadian band, headlined the event along with country singer David Lee Murphy. The 2018 festival was a show to remember. People visited from the surrounding communities, increasing the number of spectators. I don't think Alexis Nation ever thought the festival would have become this big or have turned into the highly-anticipated summer tradition it is now.

In 2019, the festival was in its third year and continuing to grow. There were performances throughout the day, activities for kids and appearances from the Edmonton Oilers' mascot Hunter and player Ethan Bear. He signed autographs, posed for photos and was presented with a beaded medallion. The festival was capped off with Tom Cochrane, who played all of his fans' favourite songs. Everyone went crazy singing along and dancing while fireworks went off in the background. No one wanted the night to end. It's still one of the highlights of all the festivals to date.



LEFT: Nadine (right) with her cousin, Chasidy.
RIGHT: Orange balloons honouring the children's graves found at the Kamloops residential school site.
Credit: Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation

Unsurprisingly, the 2020 Nakota Strong Music Festival was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were faced with mandatory restrictions on travel, visiting, gathering and events. Everything was closed, and we were confined to our homes. Like many, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation experienced a year of sadness. The community was once again grieving with families dealing with loss from addictions and the virus. It felt dark, and there was deep pain.

By spring of 2021, everything was looking up. The restrictions were set to lift by summer. With this news, there was an increasing excitement as the Nation started putting plans in motion. Finally, there was something for the community to look forward to, some hope after a year of sadness, mourning and isolation from the outside world.

July 1, 2021, was finally here. The day so many were waiting for. However, this year was different because many Indigenous communities chose not to recognize Canada Day in response to the confirmation of unmarked graves of Indigenous children at former residential school sites. Instead of wearing red and white, some people chose to wear orange in memory of the lives lost and those impacted by the residential school system. Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation joined other Indigenous communities in resiliency to take a stand, raise awareness and advocate that every child matters.

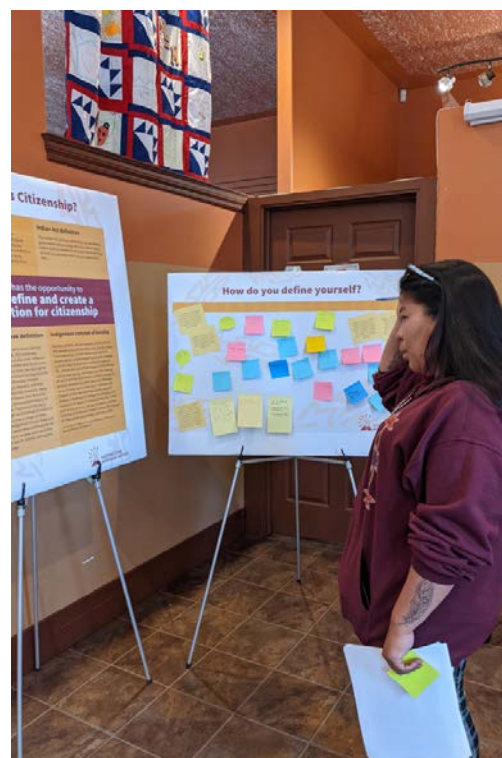
The Snotty Nose Rez Kids, an AC/DC cover band, and a Bryan Adams cover band performed before headliner Streetheart took the stage. During their song, "Look in Your Eyes," orange balloons were released into the sky, honouring the children. It was a beautiful moment.

The turnout for the 2021 festival was one of the largest crowds yet. It was great to see everyone enjoying themselves, singing along and dancing. The team involved in coordinating the music festival brought hope and light back to the community. Music is healing because it brings everyone together. At that moment, you're lost in the rhythm of the song. Nothing else matters. It was like the outside world didn't exist; COVID didn't exist.

It was the best feeling in the world to be surrounded by family and friends. After a long hard year, being at the festival brought me a sense of healing. July 1 has become a day about resilience. It's now a day for Alexis to celebrate our sovereign nation, to unite to the community, to celebrate our people, a day to bring healing to our members. In Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, we don't celebrate Canada Day. We celebrate Nakota Strong Day because we are Nakota strong.

AWN reached another milestone in our journey in citizenship. After being delayed by COVID, we finally hosted our first community engagement session to introduce the draft Citizenship Code. Leading off from previous work with the Wahkohtowin Law & Governance Lodge, Tonii Lerat and Brett Wellsch from Urban Matters ignited lively conversations about identity, community and the vision for membership. We're looking forward to hearing more voices at future events!

CITIZENSHIP & MEMBERSHIP





AUTO REPAIR & MECHANIC

The Aseniwuche Development Corporation Automotive Shop is open and ready to provide you with professional and timely automotive services. We have a full-time Journeyman Mechanic and Apprentice on staff to serve your automotive needs!

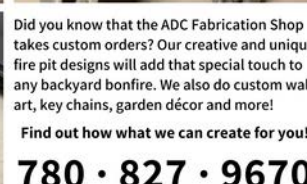


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ASENIWUCHE
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

A CONVERSATION WITH ELDER MABEL WANYANDIE

—Contributed by Mabel Wanyandie & Katie Wong

A few weeks ago, Mabel invited Stuart McDonald and me to her home in Susa Creek. We spent the morning around her kitchen table listening to her speak a little bit about herself, about being a member of AWN, and the things she valued most.

Born and raised in Grande Cache, Mabel is one of the late Lucy Wanyandie's 14 children. Years ago, she asked her mother if she could tag along to a meeting at AWN, curious about what kinds of things were being discussed. Mabel went on to join the Elders Council where she has served as a member for the last 23 years. She has also been involved in AWN's consultation process, sharing what she knows about the land and significant sites. She loves helicopter trips having been on many in her consultation and fire fighting work. When asked if riding in the helicopters was scary, she answered without hesitation, "No, not at all."

Mabel's fearlessness about flying thousands of feet in the air translates to other parts of her life, too. "People have to have a strong mind," she said. During the pandemic, Mabel made a point to keep up with the latest news but remained confident she would stay healthy and well. She was happy with AWN's care packages and septic service and is glad to see community events making their return.

Like her mother, who granddaughter Doris called "a woman of influence, faith and integrity," Mabel draws and gives strength through prayer. "That's how we live," she said, sharing that she often prays for her grandchildren, Marc, Marshall and Mercedes.

Thinking of her final message for the newsletter, Mabel had advice that is always good to be reminded of: be thoughtful, be happy, show respect, and find someone to talk to when you're feeling down.



LEFT: Mabel (left) with late sister Marie (right) and sister Philomene (back) at the 2011 Stay in School Awards.

RIGHT: Mabel's home in Susa Creek Co-operative.

BOTTOM: Mabel and her nephew Randy Karakuntie making a drum.



NEW SECURITY SHACK FOR ADC

The security shack at 17 km on the Smoky Main has provided community members with steady employment since March 2013. The old shack was well used, but more maintenance was required to keep it in good shape. ADC approached Dunkley about a replacement shack and with their support, a new shack was installed on the Smoky Main this past June.

ADC would like to thank the four security staff for their patience during the transition, the labourers for their hard work cleaning up the site, Black Diamond for supplying us with a wonderful unit and, of course, Dunkley for their unwavering support of the project.

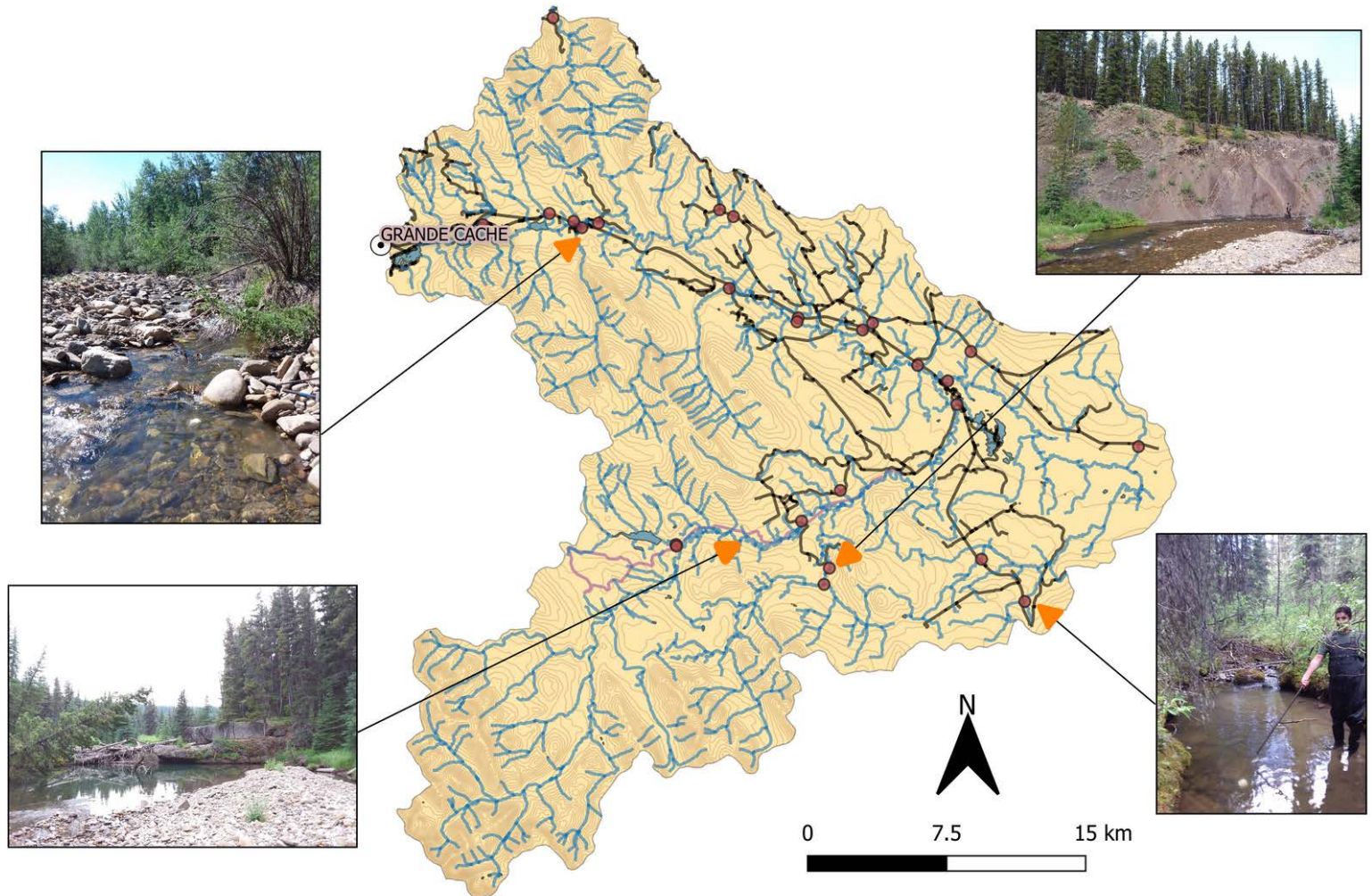
We look forward to many more years at 17 km on the Smoky Main.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Aimee Couture, Brenda McFadyen-Landry, Bella Karakuntie, Eileen Hall, Vickie Lee, Chase Moberly, Carl Gopher, Shannon Chowace, Sandra Moberly, and Gladys Wanyandie.

AWN's Habitat Stewardship Coordinator Nate Medinski has completed deploying temperature loggers in the Muskeg River HUC 8 watershed. A total of 26 stream temperature loggers are currently collecting important data about habitat conditions for fish and other species. Nate will be looking for assistance from community members in a few weeks to help uninstall the loggers. If you are interested in participating, please contact ahrnf@aseniwuche.com. Work will be compensated.

FISH & STREAMS

2021 Muskeg River Watershed Temperature Monitoring Locations



ᑕᓐᑕᓚᓂᓄᓐᑕᓐ CHEHALA LEONARD NAMED PRODUCER WITH THE NFB NORTH WEST STUDIO IN EDMONTON

August 4, 2021 – Montreal – National Film Board of Canada (NFB)
Executive Producer David Christensen announced today that Chehala Leonard has been named Producer at the NFB's North West Studio, where she will be based out of the studio's Edmonton office.

Chehala is a member of the Aseniwuche Winewak Nation and is the founder of ɁPʔ Askiy Media Inc., an Indigenous-owned production company that focuses on sharing land-based stories through film and media. She has worked as a producer on the 13-part Canadian Rockies Series that's airing on WILD TV and has worked on co-productions that involved pre-development, development and production with APTN. This includes producing the pilot When Spirit Comes Through in 2018 and being the executive producer for the documentary Living a Legacy.

Chehala's on-screen work includes *Road Scholars*, filmed in the Arctic for APTN in 2005, and *The Link*. She worked as a journalist for IndigiNews, and her reporting has been republished by APTN National News, The Discourse, Global News, the Toronto Star, Yahoo News and more. Alongside her colleagues, she was a finalist for the 2020 Webster Awards for Best Community Reporting.

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Chehala graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies from the University of Alberta, where she also spent one year

studying abroad at the University of Queensland in Australia. During her studies, she produced several short films, including *Sharing Languages*. She also completed a Certificate in Adventure Film from Serac Adventure Film School in Colorado.

"We're so pleased that Chehala is joining the NFB, because she brings invaluable experience and insight to the producing work that we're doing—which also reflects the NFB's ongoing commitments to include diverse voices and perspectives. She will work with a broad range of creators, and I know that Chehala is going to be positively engaged with all of them. She'll be kept busy as a public producer, where I know she will flourish," said David Christensen.



Credit: William Lau

Source: National Film Board

A photograph of a reindeer with large, light-colored antlers grazing in a field of green grass. The reindeer has dark brown fur on its back and white fur on its underbelly. The background is a blurred forest of tall trees. The image is partially covered by a yellow circular graphic on the left side.

Public event to learn more about organizations, clubs and sports teams in Grande Cache.