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Aseniwuche Stories ᐱᓂᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ ᓄᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ



Aseniwuche community members and staff enjoyed snacks around the fire at Grande Cache Lake at AWN's Ice Fishing Day on February 16, 2022.

Photo credit: Nadine Alexis

MAKING THE MOST OF WINTER WEATHER

AWN had a great time co-hosting a community event alongside PVT Group at Grande Cache Lake.

AWN would like to thank Marko Hackenberg and the PVT Group Grande Cache and Calgary teams for making sure we had everything we needed for a great afternoon out on the lake. It was a great time roasting hot dogs, marshmallows and trying our hand at ice fishing. AWN's Habitat Stewardship Coordinator Nate Medinski was on location with updates about our fish and streams work (check out the next page to learn how to get involved in our fieldwork this summer). Highlight of the event? Ronnie Moberly's 8 lb turbot coincidentally just days before the upcoming weekend's fishing derby.



NOW HIRING: AWN COMMUNITY AQUATIC TECHNICIAN

Are you interested in the environment, rivers and fish?
If so, this could be the job for you!

Aseniwuche Winewak Nation (AWN) is hiring an Aquatic Technician to help with fieldwork, data entry and community education and outreach, including collecting fish and aquatic habitat information from streams throughout AWN's Traditional Land Use (TLU) area. The Aquatic Technician will work under the direct supervision of the Aquatic Habitat Stewardship Coordinator to assist with a fish and aquatic habitat contaminants project developed through AWN community engagement and funded through Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Aquatic Habitat Restoration Fund. Formal technical training and mentorship will be provided to the successful applicant to develop the capacity needed to participate in or lead future fish and aquatic habitat projects.

Some activities that the successful candidate will participate in include collecting surface water samples sampling fish by electrofishing and angling, recording field data, preparing samples for laboratory analysis, entering field data into spreadsheets, presenting findings to the AWN community in engagement and knowledge transfer sessions, and typing field notes and summary reports. This is a 6-month term position (May to October 2022), with the possibility of extension. The wage is \$20.00 – 22.00 per hour, depending on experience and qualifications.

HOW TO APPLY

Please send your resume along with the following information:

1. Your previous work experience, the highest level of education completed, and career goals.
2. Clear description of how you meet the requirements for this position.
3. Your interest in taking on more responsibility and leadership to represent AWN in future fish and aquatic habitat projects.
4. Any prior experience communicating with stakeholders, such as AWN community members or members of the Grande Cache public.
5. Your availability for full-time work between May and October 2022.



The ideal candidate meets the following requirements:

- Interested in learning more about aquatic ecosystems by pursuing post-secondary education (ex. a diploma or degree in environmental or biological sciences/technology) or through traditional learning opportunities.
- Familiar with using computer programs such as Microsoft Excel, Powerpoint and Word for data entry, technical reports, and public presentations. A strong interest in learning about methods and technologies used to collect fish and aquatic habitat data is desirable.
- Experience spending time out on the land and water (fishing, wading in rivers, boating, or canoeing) and working with/handling fish and wildlife.
- Capable and willing to occasionally work long days in the field, carrying heavy loads (up to 50 pounds) and walking several kilometres through the bush to access remote sample sites.
- Available to work full-time from May to October, with a possibility of extension.

Send applications to Habitat
Stewardship Coordinator,
Nate Medinski at:
ahrf@aseniwuche.com

Applications will be accepted
until March 18, 2022

A THANK YOU FROM THE FAMILY OF RAYMOND MOBERLY

AWN was saddened to hear of the passing of community Elder Raymond Moberly on February 26, 2022. Ray worked at Aseniwuche Development Corporation for many years, served on the Elders Council and was active in consultation. He will be greatly missed by his loved ones and remembered always. His sister, Vivian, had the following words to share.

The family would like to express our sincere gratitude for all of the help we received following our brother Ray's passing. Thank you to Aseniwuche Winewak Nation, the Louis Delorme Memorial Committee, Winston Delorme, Landon Delorme, Cathy, Kyleigh and Dee Wanyandie, and David MacPhee for all of their help over the past few days. Thank you to Big Horn Restaurant for the food. A special thank you to Ronnie Moberly for all his help and visits with Ray over the last few years. Much appreciation to Danika Gill for her visits to Ray and for always bringing him treats.

We would also like to thank Dr. Gillette, the nursing staff, Danielle in Home Care and all the others at the Grande Cache Community Health Complex who looked after Ray with such care and compassion.

Thank you to the staff at Whispering Pines Lodge for all the care they provided to Ray while he was a resident there. Thank you Caroline Moberly for going above and beyond for him. Also sending a thank you to Fr. Rajesh and to Olivers Funeral Home for providing such kind and considerate services.

My apologies if I have forgotten anyone, please know all of the kindness, friendship, kind words, comfort and help given were very much appreciated. May Creator bless every single one of you.

Sincerely, Vivian McDonald





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!

ADC SERVICES

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- Oil & lube
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- Suspension
- Drive train
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Call us today!

Open Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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ASENIWUCHE
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION





Did you know that the ADC Fabrication Shop takes custom orders? Our creative and unique fire pit designs will add that special touch to any backyard bonfire. We also do custom wall art, key chains, garden décor and more!

Find out how what we can create for you!

780 • 827 • 9670



LOCAL ASENIWUCHE-MADE ART ON DISPLAY IN EDSON

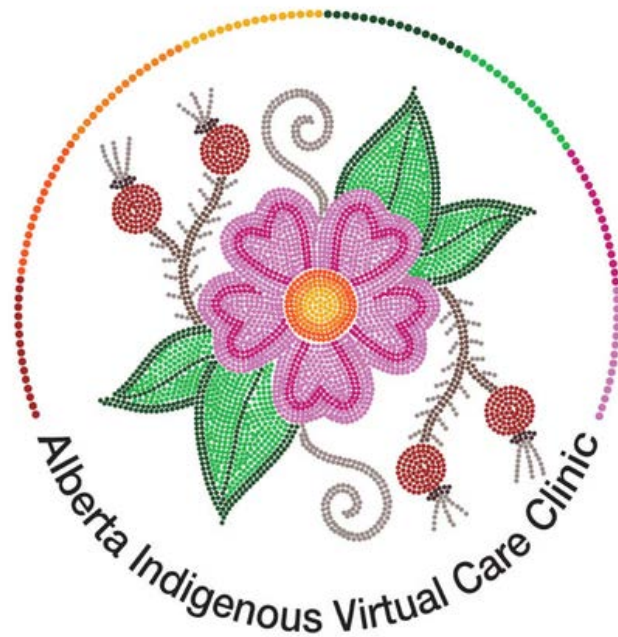
AWN was fortunate to be introduced to Lorill Waschuk through community member Brent McDonald in late 2021. We posted a call out for local artists on our Facebook page who would be interested in displaying their goods at Waschuk Pipeline's Edson office. With the immense help of Lorill and Brent, the works of Linda Danforth, Garry McDonald, Selena Moberly, Stephen McDonald and Rebecca Wanyandie have been available for many to enjoy and purchase since the beginning of the year.

Lorill's team even made up a beautiful sign and posted the artists' biographies so those passing through can learn about the incredible people behind the art and goods. In addition, Lorill has kindly collected and tracked purchases for the artists. The art display is coming to a close at the end of March.

We would like to share our sincerest thanks and gratitude to Brent McDonald and Lorill Waschuk for making this possible.



Photo credit: Lorill Waschuk



The Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic unveiled its new logo in December 2021 as part of the celebrations to mark its first anniversary. Designed by Indigenous artist, Maelan Tsatoke, organizers say the new logo is more identifiable and better represents all Indigenous cultures served by the clinic.

— Logo supplied by the Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic

REASONS TO CALL THE AIVCC

- ALLERGIES
- CANCER SCREENING
- COGNITIVE FUNCTION
- COLD OR COUGH
- CONCUSSION CONCERNS
- CONTRACEPTION/BIRTH CONTROL
- DIABETES CARE AND MANAGEMENT
- DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING
- GASTROINTESTINAL ISSUES
- HOME CARE SUPPLIES
- HYPERTENSION
- MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT FOLLOW-UP CARE
- PALLIATIVE CARE
- POST-SURGICAL FOLLOW UP
- PREGNANCY CONCERNS
- PRESCRIPTION REFILLS
- SEXUAL HEALTH (ED, STI, HIV CONCERNS)
- SICK NOTES
- SKIN CONDITIONS
- SORE THROAT
- SPECIAL DRUG AUTHORIZATION FORMS
- THERAPY AND COUNSELING
- URINARY TRACT INFECTION

Learn more about the AIVCC team, the doctors working within the organization, hours of the clinic, and appointment availability, by calling 1-888-342-4822, emailing info@aivcc.ca, or visiting them at <https://aivcc.ca/>.

VIRTUAL CLINIC IMPROVES HEALTHCARE OPTIONS FOR INDIGENOUS ALBERTANS

Written by Lesley Allan, Rural Health Professionals Action Plan

Nearly 1,240 Indigenous Albertans met with physicians in a new virtual clinic during its first year of operation. The Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic (AIVCC) opened in December 2020 as another option for Indigenous people to access medical appointments. Since then, more than 3,000 physician visits have been arranged.

“It’s a strong team that we have at AIVCC, and it’s been a joy to start the clinic over the past year and have that service available for Indigenous people in Alberta,” said clinic manager Michelle Hoeber, reflecting on the growth of the clinic in its first year. “It’s been rewarding to hear feedback from [patients.] We had a lot of new patients in the beginning because we were a new service, and now we’re having quite a few returning patients,” she said. “People must be getting the services that they need because they’re coming back.”

A new program for the province, AIVCC, grew from the concerns of doctors already working within Indigenous communities. Accessibility has always been an issue, and with COVID-19 putting even more strain on an already limited resource, the program was welcomed by communities and proved educational for doctors.

“For myself, being a physician who has only ever worked in the southern half of the province, [it was rewarding] talking to patients in the northern half of the province and feeling like we were helping people in communities that are quite under serviced,” said Dr. Sonya Regehr, medical lead for AIVCC, and one of 17 physicians who worked with the clinic in its first year. “What I had to learn about was resources, especially in the north,” she explained.

The AIVCC service is available to any self-identifying Indigenous person and their family. Over the past year, AIVCC healthcare professionals saw patients from both urban and remote parts of the province, including as far north as Fitzgerald, an unincorporated Alberta community roughly 20 km from the Northwest Territories.

“In some of these under serviced communities, doctors are very busy, and they’re often seeing patients in the emergency department and can only deal with one issue,” said Regehr. The virtual clinic’s schedule allows 30 minutes for each appointment to give patients and doctors more one-on-one time. “I find that patients really appreciate having a place where they can talk about all of their [concerns] as a whole.”

Although the program initially started as a way to help Indigenous communities during COVID, over the last year, AIVCC physicians most often handled cases regarding other concerns such as chronic disease management and requests for mental health support.

“[One-in-four patients came forward with] a mental health concern or a mental wellness question, some to a chronic [degree] where they might need a referral to see a psychiatrist,” said Hoeber, explaining why the clinic decided it was time to expand the services AIVCC offered. Doctors previously referred patients to professionals outside of the virtual clinic. Still, organizers hope with the addition of a psychiatrist, psychologist, and mental health therapist will lead to more seamless care. “Working as part of a team is so much more effective and enjoyable,” said Dr. Katharine Hibbard, a consulting psychiatrist. She joined AIVCC in November 2021 after previously working with the organization through referrals. “Mental health care takes a team approach. Many aspects of a person’s life can affect mental health.”

Source: <https://rhpap.ca/news-events/virtual-clinic-improves-health-care-options-for-indigenous-albertans/>



BECOME A HEALTH CARE AIDE AT AHS

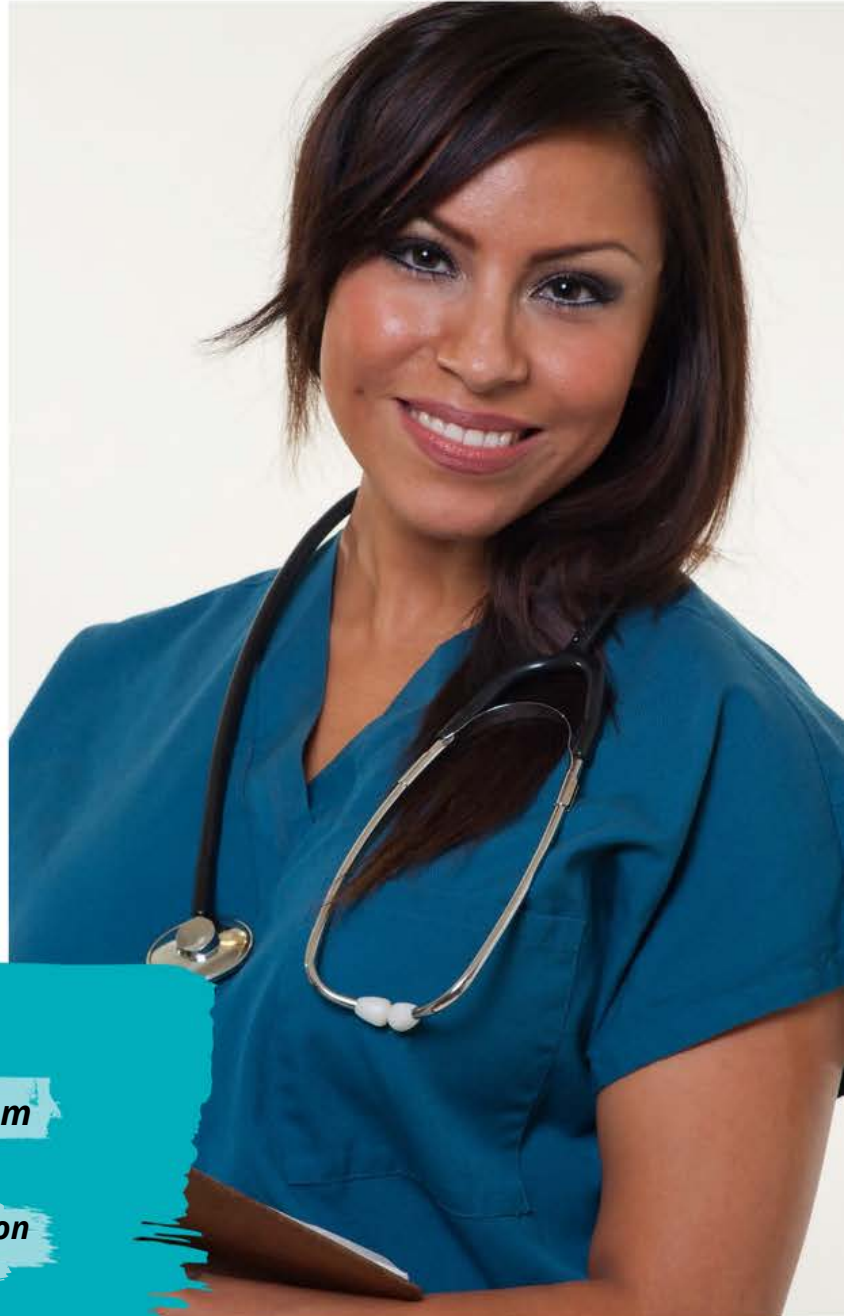
Health Care Aides are familiar faces and trusted members of the community, supporting patients with feeding, hygiene, mobility to maintain their comfort, safety and dignity.

Our Grande Cache Community Health Complex and Whispering Pines Lodge have an exciting opportunity for members of Aseniwuche Winewak Nation to launch their career as a Health Care Aide. No experience is necessary.

To be eligible, you must complete the online Health Care Aide Program at NorQuest College and obtain active status on the Alberta Health Care Aide Directory within your first 18 months of employment. **AHS funding may be available to support students with tuition.**

This is a unique opportunity to “earn as you learn”, allowing you to grow and make the most of every day. NorQuest College has an extensive network of services tailored to your needs, such as support with the admission process, guidance for getting financial support, and Elder support. **For more information, please contact indigenous@norquest.ca.**

**Criminal record check and Vulnerable Sector Search and proof of COVID vaccination is required.*



> To apply:

Email courteney@aseniwuche.com

For any questions:

**Contact Aseniwuche Winewak Nation
(780) 827-5510**

CARIBOU PATROL UPDATE

A film premiere and an exciting partnership with the Calgary Zoo make March an exciting month for the Caribou Patrol crew

Contributed by Stephanie Leonard

Caribou sightings have started to come in and will become more frequent as we get closer to the spring migration which normally starts in April and continues through to June. We ask road users to pay close attention in the coming months, to scan the ditches, and report any caribou sightings. We don't only document caribou sightings near Highway 40, we also appreciate any reports of caribou in the Willmore, the A La Peche, or in the Little Smoky area. Knowing where the caribou are and what they're doing outside of migration periods is very valuable information for us and other caribou researchers. When in doubt, report!

The talented C.I.A Solutions has finished Atih Acimowina (Caribou Stories), our video sharing caribou stories from Aseniwuche Elders. We're thrilled to invite the Aseniwuche and Grande Cache community to a special event on March 19 to celebrate ten seasons of Caribou Patrol and the premiere of our short film. We'll have prizes, a free BBQ, and a red carpet for our starring Elders to arrive in style. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for event info and details about additional showings in Hinton.

In even more exciting news, the Calgary Zoo has approached us about a unique program they run with school groups. The zoo partners with youth groups to collect lichen, caribou's favourite and primary source of food. Lichen requires specific environmental conditions and ample time to grow properly. Lichen is used as an enrichment item for the zoo's caribou and can only be collected from the wild. Through this program, students can learn about caribou habitat and diet while helping the zoo collect lichen for their animals. Participating students will get to go to the Calgary Zoo and meet the resident caribou and learn about other amazing North American wildlife. We're reaching out to teachers with Aseniwuche students in grades 4-9 to take part in our pilot year.



**CARIBOU PATROL PRESENTS:
SEASON 10 CELEBRATION**

featuring the premiere of our Caribou Stories short film!

FREE BBQ · PRIZES · FILM VIEWINGS EVERY 30 MINS

Join us in celebrating our 10th season with an open house event and premiere of our new 20-minute film Atih Acimowina (Caribou Stories) featuring Elders from the community.

SEE OUR STARRING ELDERS WALK THE RED CARPET AT 12:15

March 19 from 12 to 4 pm, AEC - 10003 99 Street

CARIBOU PATROL **ASENIWUCHE WINEWAK NATION**

WILDFIRE SEASON STARTS MARCH 1

We would like to remind residents and industry that starting March 1, any current burning projects must be fully extinguished and all new burns will require a fire permit, with the exception of a campfire, within the Forest Protection Area of Alberta. If you're burning without a fire permit or outside fire permit conditions, your fire is considered a wildfire. Fire permits help us to track what is burning on the landscape and help keep our firefighters free to fight real wildfires instead of responding to reported smoke. **Fire permits are free and can be requested from your local forestry office at: (780) 723-8527.**

Remember to revisit all winter burn piles before March 1. When checking your winter burns, spread around any remaining debris so you can probe the area for hotspots. If you see or smell smoke or feel heat with your bare hand, the fire is still burning. Douse any remaining hotspots with water and stir up the ashes. A fire is



not out until there is absolutely no heat emanating from the ashes. Last year in Alberta 62 per cent of wildfires were human caused and could have been prevented. Please do your part to prevent wildfires this season. For more information about Alberta Wildfire, visit www.wildfire.alberta.ca.

Caroline Charbonneau, Wildfire Information Officer, Alberta Wildfire
caroline.charbonneau@gov.ab.ca

