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ASINIWACIY  
ACIMOWINA  
ASENIWUCHE STORIES

## WORKING TOGETHER TO RESTORE CARIBOU HABITATS PRESS RELEASE

**Source: Alberta Government Website, Press Release**

Alberta's government and the Aseniwuche Winewak Nation of Canada are partnering to help recover caribou in west central Alberta.

In recent years, Alberta has invested significantly in caribou recovery, and most herds are stable or increasing. However, herds remain small and vulnerable to predators. Recovery work is also complex in large part because caribou live in forests that can take decades to establish. Caribou Recovery must also work together with local economies and the jobs that families rely on. Alberta's government and the Aseniwuche Winewak Nation of Canada have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to help advance caribou recovery in central Alberta. This MOU is another important step in the province's long term caribou recovery efforts, restoring critical habitats while also creating jobs and supporting local economies.



*((Left to right) David MacPhee, President of Aseniwuche Winewak Nation of Canada, and Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, signing the MOU*

*"Caribou recovery takes time, while habitat restoration is one aspect of this, as is predator control, we are working closely with industry and Indigenous partners, exploring other ideas that may have potential. I respect the Aseniwuche Winewak Nation of Canada's dedication to caribou habitat restoration and look forward to working together on caribou recovery in Alberta"*

**- Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas**

Both Alberta's government and the Aseniwuche Winewak Nation of Canada agree that collaboration plays a key role on the survival of woodland caribou. One of the main goals of the MOU is returning naturally self- sustaining caribou to areas of the importance to Aseniwuche Winewak Nation of Canada in west central Alberta.

The new agreement will also work towards: Enhancing the Aseniwuche Winewak Nation of Canada Caribou Patrol Program, Identifying opportunities for Aseniwuche Winewak Nation members to be involved in caribou habitat restoration efforts, exploring new ways to enhance area caribou recovery.

Over the next few months Alberta Environment and Protected Areas will work with Aseniwuche Winewak Nation members to establish a work plan that supports these objectives.

This MOU is another important step in the province's long term caribou recovery program, investing in the specialized work needed to restore critical habitats while maintaining working landscapes. **A few Quick Facts:** Alberta's woodland caribou population is listed as a threatened species, more than \$70 million has been invested into replanting and restoring caribou habitat across the province through the Caribou Habitat Recovery Program, more than 2,600 kilometers of seismic lines have been



(Left to right) Jaymie Campbell, David MacPhee, Yvonne MacPhee, AWN Board Member Joyce Plante, Rebecca Schulz,

***“Our Elders say we need to look at the landscape as a whole, and speak for the caribou as they cannot speak for themselves. When I can hunt caribou again, then I’ll know the forest is in balance. AWN hopes this MOU represents a stronger relationship and a renewed commitment to caribou recovery with the Government of Alberta” - David MacPhee, Aseniwuche Winewak Nation President***

treated and assessed and 1.8 million trees have been planted in the Little Smoky and A La Pêche caribou ranges since 2020, the MOU is not a funding agreement. Funding from the government as part as implementing the MOU will be determined after a work plan is formulated, subject to financial availability and the actions outlined in the plan.

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

### ASENIWUCHE WINEWAK CITIZENSHIP CODE UPDATE

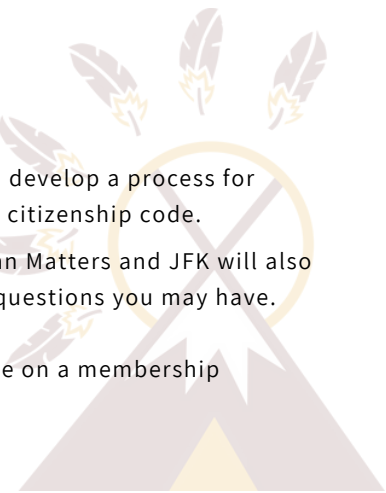
#### UPCOMING WEEKS

We are working with our legal support from JFK, and with Urban Matters to develop a process for community members to be formally recognized as members under our new citizenship code.

In the coming weeks please expect an information package with relevant details about this process, Urban Matters and JFK will also hold community information sessions (as previous) to speak directly about this process and answer any questions you may have.

As per the code, we will also be recruiting community members to support this work by volunteering to be on a membership application review committee and an appeal board. Both these committees are required under our code

*As always, please reach out to Michelle if you have any questions [michelle@aseniwuche.com](mailto:michelle@aseniwuche.com) or call 780-827-5510*



## INHERENT RIGHT TO SELF-GOVERNMENT WORKSHOP

**MARCH 15 - 17, 2025**  
**AWN OFFICE**

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

WORKSHOP FACILITATED BY  
SATSAN (HERB GEORGE)



- Our Inherent Right to Self Government
- The Origin and Content of the Indian Act
- The Historical struggle for Recognition for Aboriginal Treaty Rights
- Consultation and Accommodation
- Inherent Rights Strategy
- Organizing for our Future

*As always, please reach out to Michelle if you have any questions.  
[michelle@aseniwuche.com](mailto:michelle@aseniwuche.com) or 780-827-5510*

Lunch, refreshments  
provided daily

Registration required  
call 780-827-5510 or  
email [reception@aecalberta.com](mailto:reception@aecalberta.com)

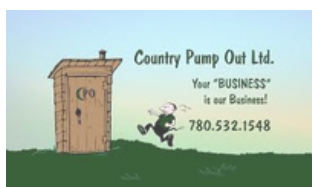


## WIN A FREE SEPTIC SERVICE WITH COUNTRY PUMPOUT

Every time you use CPO services, your name will be entered to win. There will be two draws a year. The 1st Wednesday of July and December.

Country Pump Out also provides potable water. We can service your septic system and provide you with potable water. 1 truck provides 2 services SEPTIC and POTABLE WATER saving you money with only 1 truck fee

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Pat McIntyre at 1-780-532-1548



Would you like to be featured in our monthly newsletter by submitting pictures, creations, art, sharing a story.

Please email Nadine at [admin@aseniwuche.com](mailto:admin@aseniwuche.com)

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION



## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY 14, 2025



Four NSD Students nominated for Honoring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award

- Brooklyn Wiltzen (Grade 5, Anzac Community School)
- Avery Gladue-Auger (Grade 12, Mistassiniy School)
- Miles Desjarlais (Grade 8, Northland Online School)
- Zoey Powderhorn-Desjarlais (Grade 11, Northland Online School)

This award recognizes outstanding Indigenous students who inspire others through leadership, culture and academic success

**The board nominates Pearl Lorentzen for Friends of Education Award**

The board has nominated Pearl Lorentzen, a journalist with the Lakeside Leader, for the Alberta School Boards Association's Friends of Education Award. Pearl has been reporting on education and community stories in northern Alberta since 2019.

**NSD moving ahead with purchasing new school buses**

The board approved the purchase of four new school buses to refresh the fleet using capital reserves. The buses will be acquired through a public tender process.

**NSD working with Athabasca Tribal Council on traditional ceremonies course**

Northland is working with Athabasca Tribal Council (ATC) to develop a course on traditional ceremonies. Feedback from Elders in Janvier and Fort McMurray #468 will be gathered before submitting the final course for approval by March 1, 2025.

**Superintendent's Highlights – updates on achieving Northland School Division's priorities**

Superintendent of Schools/CEO Cal Johnson shared progress on NSD's key priorities:

- Connections Supporting Reconciliation – Teachers participated in professional learning sessions on Métis knowledge and relationship-building with communities.
- Holistic Learning – NSD continues using the Collaborative Response Model to support student learning, including exam preparation and expanding Career and Dual Credit programs.
- Excellent People Supporting Students – NSD will present at upcoming provincial conferences on how data is improving student success.
- Responsible Resourcing – Jordan's Principle funding has been secured for this year, with early submission planned for 2025-2026.

To read the full Board Highlights, visit: <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/489357>.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:  
CELEBRATE SUCCESSES, SEE HOW  
WE'VE LISTENED, AND DISCUSS NEXT  
STEPS!**

**When:** March 25, 2025  
**Where:** Susa Creek School  
**Time:** 5:00PM-7:00PM  
  
**A meal will be provided**



**ATTEND FOR A CHANCE TO WIN  
A PRIZE!**

## INDIGENOUS WELLNESS CONFERENCE

*Contributed by Kim Hallock*

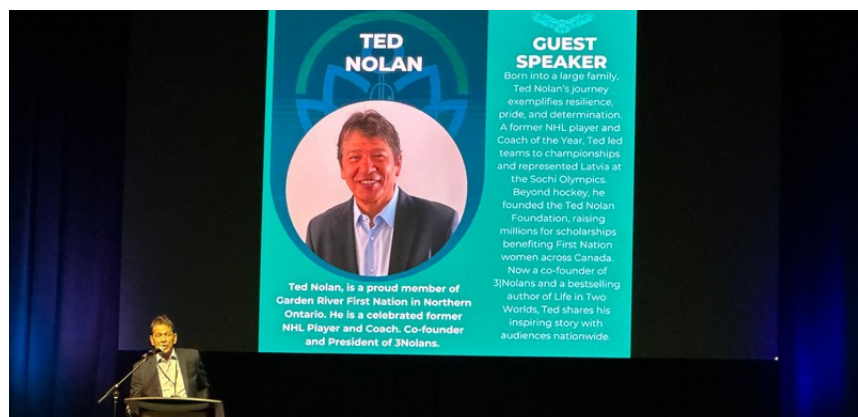
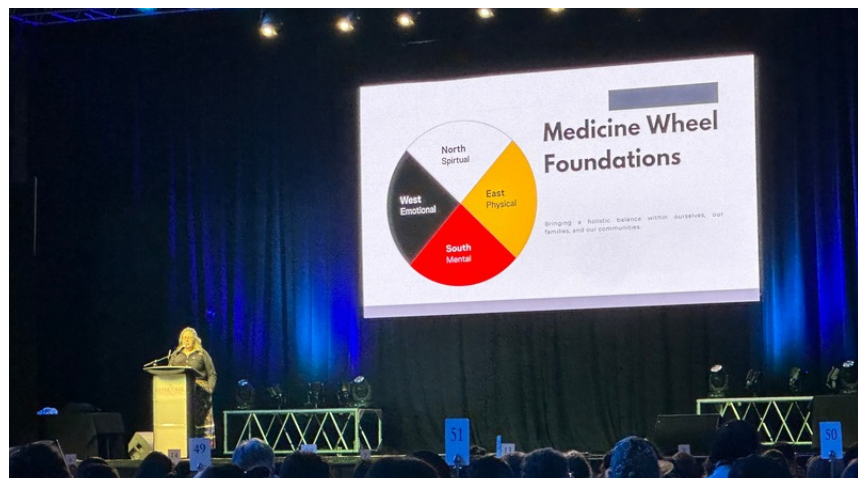
On February 24-26, 2025, AWN Tawow Staff Kim Hallock, Tara Crane, Lorraine Delorme and Board Member Vivian McDonald had the opportunity to attend the Indigenous Wellbeing Conference hosted by Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation at the River Cree Resort & Casino. They enjoyed it a lot.

It was an opportunity to learn some of Turtle Island's most experienced healers and helpers, and to catch up with old friends and to make new friends among the 750 delegates who dedicate their lives to helping our communities.

Chief Howard Mustus and Chief Tony Alexis envisioned a gathering for the helpers, mentors and healers to support and guide us as we work with the challenges that face our people. We were captivated by the powerful words of Chief Arvol Looking Horse, Chief Howard Mustus and Chief Tony Alexis who all spoke about the need for ceremony.

Franchise Mathieu and Marlene Orr taught us about finding the line between helping and rescuing- compassion and empathy. Alex Fire Thunder talked to us about his journey to learn and preserve his language in order to teach it to his children and students. We see journeys of our vulnerable people in new ways thanks to the teachings from Dr. Michael Yellow Bird, Dr. Anita Lafferty, Amanda Balsillie.

Wendy English was hilarious and the fan favorite was definitely Ted Nolan, his talk about overcoming adversity and sticking to your dreams despite setbacks and struggles was inspiring!



**Top Photo:** Medicine Wheel Foundations  
**Bottom Photo:** Guest Speaker Ted Nolan

**Top Photo:** Tara Crane, Chief Arvol Looking Horse, Kim Hallock  
**Bottom Photo:** Lorraine Delorme, Candice Moberly (Event Coordinator)

## AWN FISH AND STREAMS UPDATE

*Contributed by Natasha Formsma*



The Aquatic Habitat Restoration Fund (AHRF) and Terrestrial Cumulative Effects Initiative (TCEI) is a funding agreement between the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and AWN. The purpose of this agreement was to create a monitoring program focused on aquatic habitat assessment within AWN's Traditional Land Use Area (TLUA). In previously held community engagement sessions, the overall concerns were about negative impacts that industrial activities have on the aquatic ecosystems in the TLUA.

The Activities Funding Agreement between AWN and DFO (herein called the Fish and Streams Program) was a multi-year work plan to collect data on contaminants of potential concern and their concentrations in fish and fish habitat potentially occurring within AWN's TLUA. Many contaminants are associated with industrial activities (such as forestry practices and coal mining), but the focus of the Fish and Streams Program was on arsenic, mercury and selenium. The data collected included surface water, fish tissue and fin rays, benthic invertebrates and periphyton. The samples collected were analyzed at a laboratory, then summarized by the Aquatic Habitat Stewardship Coordinator.

The results on the project filled data gaps of aquatic habitat quality around the TLUA. This is important because it allows AWN to have the information at their disposal to make informed decisions regarding industry development occurring in the TLUA.

The fish and stream program is coming to an end- the current and former Aquatic Habitat Stewardship Coordinators are working on a comprehensive summarized report on the data collected between 2022-2025. A final presentation is planned for Friday March 28, 2025 at 5:30PM. Dinner and refreshments will be provided and everyone who attends will receive a gift card and have a chance to win a door prize!

We hope to see you there!

## FEBRUARY 26 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

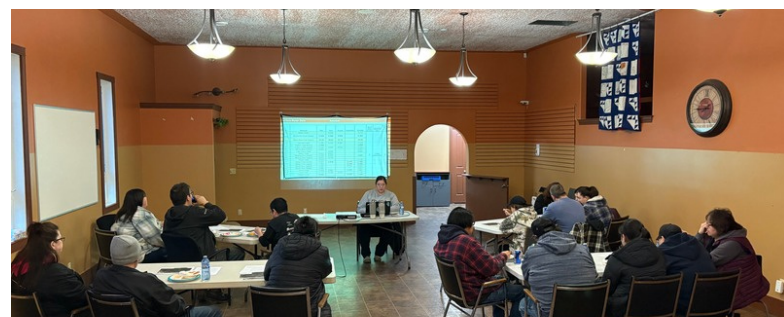
AWN Fish and Streams Program hosted two community engagement sessions on Wednesday February 26. Thank you to those who came out to learn about the 2024 results- we had some great questions and comments! We talked about Arsenic, Mercury and Selenium concentration levels in the water, fish and periphyton found around AWN's Traditional Land Use Area. An update on fish consumption advisories from Alberta Health Services were also talked about- that information will be published to the community soon.



### TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR MARCH 28, 2025 AT 5:30PM

- We will go over data collected from 2022-2024 and what it all means. The data collected over 3 summers were:
  - o Surface water
  - o Fish fin rays
  - o Fish muscle tissue
  - o Benthic invertebrates (little bugs in the water)
  - o Periphyton (slimy stuff growing on rocks/logs in the water)
  - o Water temperature
- An update on fish consumption advisories in the TLU area, a partnership between AWN and Alberta Health Services

If you have any questions or concerns you would like addressed at this presentation, please email Natasha at [ahrf@aseniwuche.com](mailto:ahrf@aseniwuche.com)



*Thank you to Sandra Moberly for the delicious stew and chili and Philomene Moberly for the bannock prepared for our lunch & supper session!*

## CARIBOU PATROL CORNER

Contributed by *Stephanie Leonard*



CARIBOU PATROL  
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### JASPER CARIBOU BREEDING CENTER OPENING

Aseniwuche Winewak Nation was honoured to have joined other Indigenous Peoples attending the Indigenous Ceremony to bless the Jasper Caribou Breeding Center on February 19th. Attendees were able to tour the facility before participating in the ceremony and feast, offering up prayers, singing, drumming, love, hope and good energy for our caribou friends and the success of this facility. AWN has been a partner in the planning of this facility for many years and we are incredibly excited to see it complete and ready to welcome its first caribou residents later this spring. A very special day indeed!



### UPCOMING EVENTS

Caribou Patrol doesn't have any events planned for the near future, but we are starting to look at a few possible events we would like to attend in June. As always, we will keep you updated as our plans are developed.

If you have any organization that is interested in having a presentation from Caribou Patrol, please reach out.

### THE CARIBOU

We are only getting a few reports of caribou sightings through what hopefully will be the last deep freeze of this winter. As spring slowly sets in, be prepared to see more caribou out along the highways and back roads as the Narraway, Red Rock Prairie Creek and A La Pêche herds prepare to move back into the mountains.

Please be sure to reach out and let us know where you see caribou so we can go out where we are needed when we are needed!

### CARIBOU TIDBIT: WHERE DO CARIBOU LIVE?

Caribou live across Canada and are present in the northern regions of all the provinces, except Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. There are 14 subspecies of caribou worldwide, Canada has four of those types- Peary, Grant's, Barren-ground and Woodland. A fifth Canadian subspecies, Dawson's or the Queen Charlotte Islands population of woodland caribou, died out in the 1930s and was declared extinct in 1984.

The historic range of the boreal woodland caribou covered over half of present-day Canada, stretching from Alaska to Newfoundland and Labrador. Their former range stretched south into the contiguous United States but by 2019, the last individual in the Lower 48 (a female) was captured and taken to a rehab center in British Columbia, thus marking the extirpation of the caribou in the contiguous U.S.

Caribou herds are classified by ecotype depending on several behavioural factors – predominant habitat use (northern, tundra, mountain, forest), spacing (small groups or large groups), and migration patterns (sedentary or migratory).

Peary caribou are small, light-coloured caribou found only in the islands of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. Peary caribou do not normally have significant migrations, although many move among islands, especially if hard icing conditions force them from their normal ranges.

About half of all caribou in Canada are barren-ground caribou. They are somewhat smaller and lighter in colour compared to woodland caribou. They spend much, or all, of the year on the tundra from Alaska to Baffin Island. Most of the barren-ground caribou in Canada live in eight large herds, which migrate seasonally from the tundra to the taiga.

Grant's caribou are transboundary, living on the Alaska/Yukon border. They resemble barren-ground caribou and are sometimes considered barren-ground caribou.

Woodland caribou do not form large groups and are more spread out compared to northern caribou. Group size is lowest during calving and summer and increases before the rut. Their seasonal movements are also less extensive.

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## MARCH 2025 SCHEDULE



| SUN | MON                                        | TUE                                    | WED                                                                                            | THU                                                                                      | FRI | SAT                                                                     |
|-----|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 02  | 03<br>CREE LANGUAGE CLASS<br>1:30PM-3:00PM | 04<br>WOMEN'S CRAFTS<br>1:00PM- 3:00PM | 05<br>DROP IN DAY<br>10:00AM- 2:00PM<br>IN PERSON WELLBRIETY<br>2:00PM-3:30PM                  | 06<br>DROP IN TAWOW CLINIC DAY<br>1:00PM-2:30PM<br>GRIEF SUPPORT CIRCLE<br>3:00PM-4:30PM | 07  | 08<br>SKIRT/SHIRT MAKING UNDER 18<br>12:00PM-3:00PM<br>CALL TO REGISTER |
| 09  | 10<br>CREE LANGUAGE CLASS<br>1:30PM-3:00PM | 11<br>WOMEN'S CRAFTS<br>1:00PM- 3:00PM | 12<br>DROP IN DAY<br>10:00AM- 2:00PM<br>FOOD BANK DAY<br>IN PERSON WELLBRIETY<br>2:00PM-3:30PM | 13<br>MAMMOGRAPHY CLINIC- TAWOW<br>BLOCK OF TIME<br>10:30AM- 12:30PM<br>CALL TO REGISTER | 14  | 15<br>SKIRT/SHIRT MAKING UNDER 18<br>12:00PM-3:00PM<br>CALL TO REGISTER |
| 16  | 17<br>CREE LANGUAGE CLASS<br>1:30PM-3:00PM | 18<br>WOMEN'S CRAFTS<br>1:00PM- 3:00PM | 19<br>DROP IN DAY<br>10:00AM- 2:00PM<br>IN PERSON WELLBRIETY<br>2:00PM-3:30PM                  | 20<br>GRIEF SUPPORT CIRCLE<br>3:00PM-4:30PM                                              | 21  | 22                                                                      |
| 23  | 24<br>CREE LANGUAGE CLASS<br>1:30PM-3:00PM | 25<br>WOMEN'S CRAFTS<br>1:00PM- 3:00PM | 26<br>DROP IN DAY<br>10:00AM- 2:00PM<br>FOOD BANK DAY<br>IN PERSON WELLBRIETY<br>2:00PM-3:30PM | 27                                                                                       | 28  | 29                                                                      |
| 30  | 31<br>CREE LANGUAGE CLASS<br>1:30PM-3:00PM |                                        |                                                                                                |                                                                                          |     |                                                                         |



## NEW PROGRAMS AT THE TAWOW COMMUNITY CENTRE

### GRIEF SUPPORT CIRCLE: MARCH 6, 2025 & MARCH 20, 2025

- A facilitated talking circle to help adults work through grief & loss

### CREE LANGUAGE CLASS: EVERY MONDAY IN MARCH

- Vicky Wanyandie is helping restore and preserve our unique dialect of Cree by offering classes to adults

\*March 8 & 15, 12pm to 3pm there will be skirt and shirt making for under 18  
call to register\*



Save  
the  
date

APRIL 26, 2025

Curling Rink at the Grande Cache  
Recreation Centre (10450 Hoppe Ave)

AWN 780-827-5510

[admin@aseniwuche.com](mailto:admin@aseniwuche.com)

MC: TBA

Stickman: TBA

Pipe Ceremony: 2:00pm

Feast will begin at 4:30pm and  
Round Dance to follow

50/50 raffles, giveaway & midnight  
lunch

Concession on site

ASENIWUCHE WINEWAK NATION  
SPRING ROUND DANCE

AWN and any affiliated entities will not be held responsible for any forms of theft, injury, forces of nature, vandalism, or short-funded guests. Absolutely no outside raffles. THIS IS A STRICTLY ENFORCED ALCOHOL AND DRUG-FREE EVENT.

*We will post an updated poster on our Facebook page in the coming weeks*