

WOODLAND CREE FIRST NATION

May 25, 2021



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Tansi Kakiyaw Miyo Kisikaw Anoch,

CHIEF AND COUNCIL

Tansi Kakiyaw Miyo Kisikaw Anoch,

We would like to take this time to express our heartfelt gratitude to the community of Woodland Cree. We as a First Nation are ensuring that all precautions are in place to protect our community members from the Co Vid 19 Virus. It has been over a year since the virus had initially made its way into Canada. In the past year, we owe our appreciation to the employees and departments who continue to work together to ensure our community is safe. At the time of printing the newsletter, Woodland Cree still has Zero positive causes.

As we move forward, in these challenging times, we as a Nation have committed to do our best in providing the Nation with updated information via the Newsletter and ensuring the Facebook page and website is updated and maintained. In the future, we are looking to do live Facebook feeds for Community Updates along with the Newsletter.

Indigenous Bloom

Woodland Cree Chief and Council are proud to announce that they are part owners in two major projects. Projects that will see revenues and job creation within the community. Indigenous Bloom is based out of Penticton, British Columbia. The company does business with First Nation partners across Canada. Indigenous Bloom is a private for-profit company and has a partnership with Woodland Cree. The partnership was formed as a business venture to create employment and training opportunities, while being able to generate sources of revenue for the Nation.

Indigenous Bloom operates a medical pharmacy in Penticton and a Tobacco plant in Ontario. The plan is to open 2 stores that will operate on reserve, a dispensary, and a Tobacco shop. Indigenous Bloom Penticton, British Columbia



Indigenous Bloom

The Nation has committed to open their own medical pharmacy and Tobacco shop. Before any of the shops are set to open expansion plans are underway to start a grow op for Tobacco and Marijuana.

Woodland Cree First Nation Indigenous Bloom Site



Photo courtesy of Dean Patch May 2021

This site is located on reserve and will be used to grow marijuana. The proposed pharmacy and Tobacco shop will be operated next to the grow op plant.

Proposed site where Tobacco shop and Pharmacy will be located. Both Stores will be located at this site.



Indigenous Tobacco

In partnership with Woodland Cree Nation, the Tobacco Shop and Pharmacy. The partnership will focus on sales and Licenses to produce Tobacco products. In addition to job creation and training to community members.



The partnership will focus on sales and Licenses to produce Marijuana and Tobacco products.

Woodland Cree Child and Family Services Update

On March 31, 2021, Woodland Cree First Nation, gave KTC notice that it will officially be withdrawing from KTC Child and Family Services. Woodland Cree is currently in the process of pursuing its own jurisdiction under Bill C 92. Bill C 92 derives from the Truth and Reconciliation calls to action where, the Federal government committed to changes in how Child and Family Services were operated. Bill C 92 allows First Nations greater authority in jurisdiction over their member children. It allows First Nations to provide services that are conducive to the child and family's needs. Which means First Nations can write their own policies and procedures that are relevant to their community and cultural background.

The CFS working team is developing a Child and Family Service authority for its members on and off reserve. Several tasks need to occur to before this can happen. Woodland Cree would have to develop its own Society, in which the final phase of the Bylaws have been completed to date, which means the Society can be formed. The working team is in discussions with the federal and provincial governments. The next steps to working on a Coordination Agreement and Bi Lateral Agreement. These Agreements will give Woodland Cree the operating authority to develop and implement their own Agency. The Agency will implement the following action plan:

This Action Plan will be guided by the following Principles:

- **Self-Determination:** First Nations have the inherent right to self-determination including jurisdiction with respect to children and family matters.
- **Culture and Tradition:** Governance, programs, and services must be conducted in a culturally appropriate way and provide opportunities for cultural transmission.
- **Sustainability:** All human and social decisions must be assessed considering the spectrum of needs of future generations.
- **Holistic Approach:** The best child protection approach is to make investments in all issues relating to the health and well-being of the child.
- **Inclusivity:** The needs of Elders, youth, women, the disabled, the mobile population, and those with special needs will be considered.

- **Collaboration and Partnership:** Respectful, effective working relationships contribute to effective governance and service delivery.
- **Commitment to Action:** A proactive and dedicated approach by all those involved will underpin all activities.
- **Communication, Transparency and Accountability:** All initiatives will be conducted in an open and clear widely understood fashion.
- **Flexibility:** This Plan, and the approach used to implement this Plan, must adapt with changing circumstances.

Goals and Actions:

1. To create a safe, nurturing environment for the health and well-being of First Nations children, youth, families, and communities
2. To enable First Nations governance and Nation-building capacity
3. To participate in the ongoing development of culturally appropriate Policy and Legislation
4. To acquire appropriate financial resources and build human resource capacity
5. To build effective relationships and partnerships
6. To enable information and data development and sharing

Housing Update

CMHC RAPID HOUSING INITIATIVE

Background

CMHC-RHI put out a call for proposals to help deal with targeted vulnerable populations in the community. Homelessness is defined as a person of age who does not have their own living situation and may not have permanent address or may be living with others. Homelessness and vulnerable populations are a major issue which has existed due to the rapidly increasing population and despite people leaving the community for employment, education the Nation is confronted with attempting to confront the following reality:

- Currently overcrowded housing inventory = 86 homes
- 145 adults comprised of single adults, single parents and two parent families.
- Number of boarded/abandoned homes:

The units applied for will create solutions not only for the families chosen for the new homes acquired through this project but will also provide relief for the 20 homes that they leave. Therefore, less stress, conflict, relationship breakdowns and restoration of hope and empowerment. The WCFN Housing authority will provide a mandatory orientation and training (minor repairs) to ensure occupants assigned to a home are able to maintain it. Failure to attend will result in loss of assignment of the new CMHC unit. The Housing authority will manage all units to ensure the property is maintained, and subject to annual inspections. Minor repairs and regular maintenance will be a cooperative venture between the home occupier and the Housing authority. The Woodland Cree has managed the housing inventory (including CMHC houses) since the creation of the Band in 1992 so that we are confident in the ability of the Nation to ensure affordability exceeding 20 years.

Action:

The Council applied for a grant in response for a call for proposals through CHMC, Rapid Housing Initiative, to obtain funding for 20 homes related to the homelessness and the overcrowding issues experienced within the communities of Cadotte Lake, Martin Lake and Simon Lake. This application was submitted in November 2020 and in March 2021, CMHC announced we were one of the successful applicants and obtained a grant for \$ 4,357,584.00 out of a total budget of \$ 4,841,760.00. This means that the Nation will have to cover 484,176.00 to accomplish building 20 modular homes which comprises the following:

- 1.4 - 5 Bedroom Units
- 2.9 - 4 Bedroom Units
- 3.3 – 3 Bedroom Units
- 4.2 – 3 Barrier Free Bedroom Units
- 5.2 – 2 Bedroom Units

Current Situation At this time, the housing units are on order and infrastructure work has begun on a limited basis but will increase over the next few months. It is our goal to have units ready for occupancy by September 30, 2021. Additionally, Council is reviewing and will make decisions regarding allocation of housing.

WOODLAND CREE TELECOM

Background

The WCFN is applying for funding to enable the Band to provide fiber optic services to households, Band operations and businesses. Fiber optic cable is stable and allows for more reliable services that are not affected by the weather. Fiber optic cables are resistant to fire, electromagnetic interference, lightning, radio signals and signal scrambling. Fiber networks are far less likely to go out during a power outage. Fiber is even largely immune to the most common cause of internet outages—overload.

A reliable internet connection is not only convenient, but necessary. Average household users are demanding quality online access increasingly. Whether it is for streaming, downloading music, video, movies, surfing, or gaming, households need better performance. For business, internet is critical for survival, whether it is for processing payments and orders, sending emails, tracking inventory, crunching numbers, or building an online presence.

The proposal covers the cost of equipment and construction and other associated costs of providing this service under the authority of the Band. The construction includes laying the fiber optic to Simon Lake, Cadotte Lake and Martin Lake including other households accessible for fiber installation)

Current Situation

As an isolated community opportunity for employment, education and learning are limited due to the cost of community members leaving the community to access education and learning opportunities. Fiber optic connections at households would allow more robust connectivity that

would allow school age children and youth to complete work assignments and research augmenting the existing availability within the school environment. Just as importantly, if not more so, are for the adult and some youth who do not attend school and have challenging opportunities for adult learning from their home in the community. Fiber optic services provide for personal interests, professional work related, upgrading, post secondary and adult learning. This is not available now and would have a major impact on the community.

Improvements to connectivity would allow for Band agencies to deliver and use online meetings with community members related to physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual healing. Assessing and advising on situations treatment and interventions would be ideal particularly when people are challenged by the absence of public and personal transportation. The Covid-19 experience has made changes to the way that programs will operate and connectivity capacities in households will allow for more consistent, timely involvements through computer based on-line meeting and interactions (audio-visual). Meeting on-line can create efficiencies and therefore more effective management of member needs, staffing time and the appropriate programs meant to address them. The timely communication facilitated by this approach is incalculable in cost savings and the problem solving that can be done. We do recognize that in some cases, this does not replace the need for face-to-face contact, however there are significant solutions offered through connectivity.

Having increased capacity for current needs and the possibility of expansion is essential for servicing the existing industry and business already established in the area. The availability of broadband fiber optic is a definite draw for many of the industry that works in the area (forestry, logging, oil, and gas) who could relocate to the WCFN territory with these services in place. This is particularly true for opportunities to develop services and partnerships related to remote monitoring of equipment and other requirements mandate by the industry, Provincial and Federal governments. The capacity to expand services that promotes business opportunities with the business entities of the Nation and individual members would be a positive situation. In terms of Internet service provider status, staffing to support this activity related to connectivity service with “boots on the ground” is a vastly different situation than exists now. At all levels within the community, service has always been a challenging dilemma experienced by the Band and the

community as service providers have not been in the community. As a Band owned entity, the intended company Woodland Cree Telecom will operate for profit to expand services and access to community members. Long term plans will see television capacity offered, telephony services offered for free to ensure all community members have access to a reliable phone line in case of emergencies, reestablishment of a radio station for local programming especially cultural teachings. This opportunity provides the Band the ability to cater to the diverse needs of the community.

Pending Activity

While waiting for a decision on the WCFN submission made on February 14, 2021, we will be circulating a survey regarding use and thought about fibre optic services controlled and managed by the Band or a non-profit corporate entity that will also be responsible for telephone, radio, and television transmissions. When distributed, we encourage everybody to add your voice to the scope and delivery of services

Jordan's Principal

Hello Everyone! My name is La Dawn Brule, I am the Therapy Assistant under Jordan's Principal.

I work under the direction of rehabilitation therapists (occupational therapist, physical therapist, speech and language pathologist, and behavioral coach).

I help children and youth that are having difficulty learning, or physically challenged and need help with activities of daily life.

Therapy Assistants support the needs physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually pending on the child's interests and deliver care individually or in groups. I deliver care accordingly through the treatment plans. The treatment plans are assessed with the Therapists on a 2 week to monthly basis pending on the child's needs and ensure a progress report is delivered to the parents. I encourage to reach each goal with the children to move on to the next challenge and make it fun!

I collaborate with the Head Start teachers and JP team members to ensure the children's learning, and activities are aimed towards the treatment plans. I understand each child limitations so we can modify our delivery of instruction correctly.

Each week the Head start staff and JP team will plan our weekly activities together so we can bring our program a fun, healthy, loving and learning environment for the children.

I am located at the Head Start/ Daycare center. My contact email is: JP_OT@woodlandhealth.ca
If you have questions or would like to learn more about our program.



La Dawn Brule, Therapy Assistant



Hello members of Woodland Cree First Nations:



My name is Wanda Laboucan, I am the speech/language assistant at the Head Start funding through Jordan's Principle.

The role of a speech/language assistant is to help children manipulate words.
Speech: refers to the actual sound of their spoken language. The ability to clearly and verbally communicate messages to others.

Language: there are two areas of language including receptive language defined as the words we use to communicate messages to others. Language refers to a whole system of words and symbols written, spoken, or expressed with gestures and body language.

I can be reached by email:
JP_SPL@woodlandhealth.ca

Wanda Laboucan
Speech Therapist Assistant



Hello everyone! My name is Rebecca Cardinal, and I am a Learning Teacher Aide hired under Jordan's Principle for Head start.

I work with children who are having trouble learning the concepts in the classroom. It could be anything from holding a pencil/crayon correctly, cutting with a scissors, one on one learning sessions or teaching through song or play.

If you have any additional questions, I can be reached by email: JP_LA1@woodlandhealth.ca
Rebecca Cardinal



Teacher Aide



My name is Bernice Merrier, and I was hired as Family Support Worker through Jordan's Principle. I am a part of the team with LaDawn, Rebecca and Wanda.

I am the connection of families living on reserve to the programs and services such as speech therapy, etc.... available through KeeTasKeeNow and work with the various departments in Woodland Cree.

I can be reached through email jp_fsw@woodlandhealth.ca or on my cell 7806171978 for any questions.

Bernice Merrier



Family Support Worker



KTC Health provides many services for children in partnership with Woodland Health Centre, Head Start & Daycare. All services are free to access and are provided in community. Some of the services we provide are listed here. We also provide mental health supports, FASD and Autism testing, audiology (hearing) testing, and dietitian services for children. If you think any of these services could help your child, please call our Referral Admin, Gen, at 780-316-9541 or email childreferral@kctadmin.ca for more information.



Health Update

Tanis, here is a quick update from the Community Health Representative (CHR):

As you are all aware it has been very busy this past year due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Although, I have been taken extra precaution in running the following programs and following the Alberta health guidelines.

- Water samples are taken by our water sample lady Robyn Favel weekly and as requested by homeowners, if you are wanting your water sampled you can call me at the Health center in which I can send Robyn on her available dates Mondays – Wednesdays.
- Home inspections are done upon the request of the Homeowner in which you call me to book a home inspection with the E.H.O Dominique Joseph, MSc, CPHI©.
- Immunizations are still on-going for our babies and preschoolers throughout their lives. It is important we have our children and community members up to date and updated with immunizations. We do still book every Wednesdays through our baby wellness clinics and immunizations.
- CPNP Program is always open to ladies who are pregnant or are breastfeeding 0-18 months of age. Open to everyone living on reserve just give me a call or come see me to sign up.
- Homecare, I am working with homecare one day out of the week until they find a suitable candidate for the full time Health Care Aide position.
- COVID-19 testing is available at the Health Center. Call and book a Covid testing. Also, we do have vaccine days every Wednesday's call Amanda for more information and if wanting to get vaccinated.

Health Update

- I also take part in other programs with their planned activities; our Community Wellness, Community Connections, Maternal Child Health (MCH), and NADDAP ladies.

Here is a bit of information that surrounds each of the programs sitting here as your Community Health Representative:

The Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program provides information and support to women who may be at risk of having a low-birth-weight baby and to new mothers who may need a little extra assistance after their pregnancy, up to six months postpartum or if breastfeeding you can stay on until your child reaches the age of eighteen months of age.

Once in the program ladies receive milk vouchers and gift cards for each month. Post-natal visits are done once baby and mom come home from hospital and they receive a baby/mommy bag. I also give the ladies' gift bags from the program on such special occasions as; Halloween with healthy treats, Christmas gift bags and receive Easter basket.

I will be hosting virtual pre/post-natal classes for the ladies. Although it would be nice to gather once our restrictions open more, we will be having limited gatherings for the CPNP program. I will be following all covid-19 gathering guidelines.

In these classes the discussed topics include nutrition, childbirth, breastfeeding, meal planning, budgeting, smoking and/or drug addiction, alcohol use or parenting traditional teachings and other health related issues. If the ladies have any ideas, they like to bring to my attention it is much appreciated. I love to hear feedback on what they would like to learn more about or if they have any ideas on what to make such as baby quilts, baby hats/bibs, and of course moccasins. It has always been incorporated into the program.

The purpose of our Housing and Public Facilities inspections and what I do is I assist the E.H.O Dominique Joseph, MSc, CPHI© in ensuring safe and healthy housing and public facilities by:

1. Advising the EHO of any housing complaints related to health
2. Accompany EHO during housing inspections and public facilities
3. Follow-up as requested by EHO

Once I receive each housing and Public Facilities report through Via-email I do print it off and give a copy to the homeowner. Also, the Housing & Band Manager do get a copy as well. The purpose of our water samples is to reduce the possibility of waterborne disease outbreaks by:

Monitoring the safety of the community and public water supplies:

1. To ensure the system is disinfected.
2. To ensure it meets bacteriological guidelines.
3. To ensure it meets quality assurance requirements.
4. Monitoring the bacteriological quality of individual water supplies (wells).
5. Monitor the bacteriological quality of the trucked water supplies (cisterns)
6. Respond to complaints and suspected enteric illnesses associated with either private, public, or community water supplies.
7. Follow the Water Quality Advisory Protocol as outlined in the “Community Based Drinking Water Manual” for situations which may affect the safety of the water supply and ensuring that any follow-up, instructed by the EHO, is carried out.
8. Establishing an Alternate Community Based Water Monitor to always ensure effective water quality monitoring.
9. Ensuring that the Community-based water quality monitor’s skills are updated and maintained by documenting water monitoring activities by keeping accurate records.

If I receive a boil water advisory from the E.H.O I do notify the homeowner & the report is also notified to Public Works and Band Manager.

My plans for this year are to bring back health promotion and injury prevention back into our community. I plan on introducing workout/yoga sessions into the community through a virtual

class. Once our restrictions lift, I plan on having the sessions into a every week rotation. These sessions will be open to the community for those who are interested.

Please feel free to call me Monday – Friday 9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m. If you have any questions. Thanks, Stay safe and healthy.

Joycelin Carifelle
Community Health Representative
780.629.8963

Community Connections Coordinator

The primary role is to provide programming, services, and resources to support Youth ages 13-17, Mental Health and Wellness with a focus on suicide prevention.

April is almost over with our crazy weather. For Easter we had quite a few Youth that received Easter Bag goodies and for the Home Scavenger Hunt we had 10 participants. 3 Winners.

In May I would like to promote National Mental Health Week (May 3-9), we will be promoting Awareness & information for the Community, and don't forget Mother's Day on May 9th, Youth will have a Craft activity that can be given to their Mothers and will have a chance to be entered into a draw. Prizes to be determined.

If any Youth ages 13-17 would like to help plan or have any suggestions for future activities, please contact Gladys Christian @ (780)629-8963/ (780)618-3660 or by Fb Messenger.