

RIEL ISSUES

NEWSLETTER

Métis Nation Local '8'

Medicine Hat, AB

July 2021



Silver Saddle Gang playing at the July Summer BBQ at Camp Miywasin.

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Métis Nation Local 8: (403) 504-4060
Miywasin Friendship Centre (Medicine Hat): (403) 526-0756
Métis Urban Housing: (403) 504-4062
Miywasin Centre - 517 3rd Street SE, Medicine Hat, T1A 0H2

Miywasin Program Contacts:

Marlene Cadotte, BSW, RSW - Counselor
 Chasity Cairns, BSW, RSW – Parenting Program Counselor
 Rae Ann Godfrey, Support Worker
 Carol Syrette, BSW, RSW, Youth Program Manager
 Carlee Eagleplume, Youth Program Coordinator
 Brenda Mercer, Cultural Coordinator
 Ken Turner, Cultural Addictions Counselor

On vacation for August
 587-253-0105
 403-866-6109
 403-866-3366
 403-878-5069
 403-878-5548
 403-866-2717



MIYWASIN

Youth Development Program

July 2021 **ALL EVENTS ARE FREE**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	AGES 10 - 17 **Events are subject to change**			1 No Programming	2 No Programming	3
4	5 Drumming @ Kin Coulee 1-4pm	6 FOT Echo Dale 1-4pm Youth & Caregivers	7 FOT Medicine Picking 10am -12pm	8 No Programming	9 No Programming	10
11	12 Water Park 1-4pm	13 FOT Camp Miywasin 10am-4pm	14 No Programming	15 Camp Miywasin 10am-4pm Youth & Caregivers	16 No Programming	17
18	19 Drumming @ Kin Coulee 1-4pm	20 No Programming	21 FOT Camp Miywasin Overnight with Caregivers	22 Come Back from Overnight	23 No Programming	24
25	26 FOT Drum Making 10am-3pm	27 FOT Camp Miywasin 10am-4pm	28 Hooplas Mini Golf 1-3:30pm	29 Camp Miywasin 10am-4pm Youth & Caregivers	30	31

PRE-REGISTRATION is required.

Registration forms and consent forms are required

Thank you to our funders and supporters

Miywasin Centre
 517—3rd St. SE
 Medicine Hat
 Alberta



Find us on:
facebook®

"Miywasin Youth Development Program"

Contact: Carol or Carlee
Phone: (403) 526-0756
Text: (403) 866-3366



Alberta

INDIGENOUS SENIORS WEEKLY MEAL PROGRAM



Miywasin Friendship Centre will continue to make weekly meals FREE to Indigenous seniors 65+ for delivery within Medicine Hat or pick up. You must pre-register for this program. It is free to our Indigenous Seniors 65+. Please call Marina at 403-526-0756 to register. Those pre-registered will be able to pick up their meal on Fridays at Miywasin Centre – main reception area, 517 3rd Street SE between 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Pandemic safety protocols still in effect – hand sanitizing, wearing gloves and wearing masks. If you need Personal Protective Equipment masks, hand sanitizer and gloves, please let us know and we will prepare packages for you to take with you or deliver.

Yoga classes are suspended and will start up again in September with Pamela Goodine. Please call Marina at 403-526-0756 to register.

Seniors Programs sponsored by ANFCA COVID Relief program.



CHECK OUT THE METIS NATION OF ALBERTA WEBSITE ON COVID 19 SUPPORTS AVAILABLE.

www.albertametis.com

Every Albertan 12+ or older may book an appointment through Alberta HealthServices (call 811) or at a participating pharmacy for a COVID19 first shot vaccine or for these eligible for a second shot.



Hi folks & Fellow Harvesters, Darcy Stach here.

As your Metis Local #8 'Captain of the Hunt' I felt it was high time for me to introduce myself, give you some of my history, our history, where are we at now, and my thoughts. Bear with me, I ramble! Also, most of my writing is off the cuff so if there are some mistakes, please accept my apologies up front.

For our purposes, 'Harvesters' are hunters, fisherman, and gathers (wild berry's, etc) for the purpose of sustainability (food, etc.) or beliefs. Approved 'Harvesters' under the current MNA and Government of Alberta (GoA) agreement, are MNA members who meet the criteria above and who have proven a pre-1900 ancestral connection to Alberta. These harvesters are confined to a specific area within the province. The southern area is not included in this agreement. Please visit the MNA website for further info.

Who's Darcy? I have been involved with the Metis Nation of Alberta and Metis Local #8 for many years. I sat on the Local #8 board, and I have been the 'Captain of the Harvest' since about 2004. I was appointed to the Provincial Harvest Committee by the late Marlene Lanz and our Jeannette Hansen. I have had a rod, gun or trap in my hands since I was a wee baby boy. I have walked through nettles and poison ivy, fell in creeks and out of trees.

I like, so many of our people grew up without knowledge of our cultural heritage. My most distant Metis grandfather was born in 1805 to a European Hudson's Bay Company employee and a Swampy Cree woman, at Fort Edmonton in 1805. In the early 1820's, the family moved to the Red River Settlement. My grandmother, on my mother's side, has lineage to this and many other aboriginal families. Grandma was orphaned at 13 and lived with her aunt. As she grew older, she worked as a home maker for a variety of farmers to make ends meet. She eventually moved from the Red River area to Saskatchewan, after applying for a home maker job. Grandma and both her parents drew Scrip, but with her parents both dying within months of each other and her and her siblings being orphaned you can be sure they never saw either 160 acres or \$160.00. So true for so many of our Metis families.

Grandma never spoke of having aboriginal blood to any of her children, no doubt for fear of reprisal, so our parents and their children did not know of our culture. It was always felt, but not until my cousin dug deeper, that we had an ancestral aboriginal connection. And just imagine trying to prove a pre-1900 ancestral connection to Alberta. Alberta did not exist till 1905. But with the help of our genealogists in Edmonton we did after more than a year of research.

I am a Proud Metis. There is no 'more Metis' or 'less Metis', or 'part Metis', or Metis who have more rights. We are all Metis! Metis are folks with mixed Indigenous and European history who are traceable to Rupertsland. Members of MNA must also prove Scrip and reside in Alberta. We are all Indigenous peoples under the Constitution, It's that simple. I am a Proud Metis Harvester, and I am sure you are too. As such, we are on a quest for our inherent rights!

Our quest for harvesting rights dates back many, many years but I was not involved until about 1997. During the period of 1997 - 2004 there were several attempts by our people to prove our harvesting rights, but it was not until about 2004 that our right to harvest was recognized by the then Progressive Conservative Party under Premier Ralph Klein, it was a temporary agreement and when Ralph Klein retired, our agreement was wrongfully squashed by the newly party elected representatives of the PC government, Ed Stelmach and Ted Morton. We had our 'Right to Harvest' recognized for 2 or 3 years as I recall, and it was a wonderous time!

Following this illegitimate move by the PC government, and our failed negotiations, our harvesters under the direction of our leadership, across the MNA, rallied. There were several hunts conducted across Alberta. Following each hunt, each individual group of harvesters contact Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division and turned ourselves in to authorities.

Our harvest in the Cypress Hills was chosen by our Provincial Leadership and our Legal Counsel to go to trial. It was a tactical move, but history has shown, a bad move. It should have been easy and straight forward, but we lost every legal argument up to and including Alberta's highest court. It was a travesty! Our harvesters did everything exactly as asked but our legal counsel fell short, and this set our 'Right to Harvest' in Alberta back years. These harvesters were and are heroes, but they were dusted under the rug and forgotten, and largely blamed for the loss of the very battle we were asked to fight. Our harvesters, like Gabriel Dumont, did it for the people, and some of them paid for it dearly. We had harvesters across Alberta who suffered.... And our local harvester, who was at the center of it all, was and is an unsung hero, like those who came before him. I hope in time he gets the recognition from our people he deserves. Thank You G!

Where are we at now? Well, just prior to the NDP being voted out of government in 2019 our Provincial Leaders and Provincial Harvest Committee, to which I was a part of, settled on a Provincial Harvesting Agreement with the Government of Alberta. It was done behind closed doors, and none of your representation in the south were consulted or informed, one day we just found out like everyone else, it was done. I feel all Metis were sold out, we agreed to be fenced to specific areas and the south was completely left out. Our homeland is not one town, one area or even one province. Our homeland is Rupertsland, in all it's splendor.

Please NOTE: It is important going forward that all MNA life members identify themselves to their respective local, not only for your 'Right to Harvest', but our harvesters have input into gas and oil development, rural and urban developments, etc. Anything that may impact our traditional harvesting areas. This can and will impact all of our respective rights, realized or not, in some form. Our battle has just begun! Please share whether you are traceable to pre-1900 in Alberta or not, as this discussion will come up in future negotiations. We cannot contact you unless you stand up and be recognized, and strength is in numbers. And if you need help with tracing your genealogy, etc., our folks are there to help.

Good luck, good hunting. Till we meet again! Darcy.



Summer BBQ'S

WHERE: Camp Miywasin (in Elkwater,
take Camp Road heading south by water tower)
WHEN: Saturday, August 7, 2021
TIME: starts at 12:00 noon

If you would like to camp over, bring your tenting equipment or RV, call Marina to book your space at 403-526-0756. Set up on the Friday and stay over till Sunday. We will have the Silver Saddle Gang entertaining us, so bring your musical instruments to join in the jam. Food and Refreshments will be provided. This is a **FREE EVENT** and open to all members.



Metis Nation of Alberta Annual Assembly

WHERE: Metis Crossing near Smokey Lake
WHEN: August 20 – 22, 2021

Lifetime MNA card carrying members of the Metis Nation Local 8, may be helped with meals going and returning from the AGA. Day money is provided to registrants at the assembly from Region 3 to help with travel costs. Please visit the Métis Nation Local '8' office at 517 3rd St. SE. or call at 403-504-4060 if you are interested in attending this year's assembly.

COVID-19 Supports available for Metis, First Nations and Inuit:

Rent relief & emergency housing,
grocery gift cards & traditional meat,
utility & phone bill arrears, staying connected online,
prescription medications filled, transportation/bus fare,
counseling supports, COVID-19 funding applications, and more.
The Metis Nation and Miywasin Friendship Centre are here to help.



Need assistance during this pandemic?

Call **Miywasin Friendship Centre**

403-526-0756

to register for COVID-19 Support.

Following health and safety guidelines,
we will deliver supports to your home.

In partnership with



Employment and
Social Development Canada

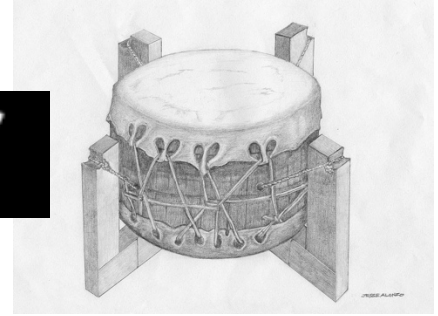
Emploi et
Développement social Canada



National Association
of Friendship Centres
Association nationale
des centres d'amitié



'Community Healing'



Through Music & Dance

Miywasin Friendship Centre is pleased to host a music and dance cultural event to foster healing and reconciliation in our community. This event will feature Metis musicians - 'Chinook' and the Buffalo Calf drummers from Nikaneet. Indigenous Crafters will be present selling their creations and a Food & Refreshment truck will be on site.

This is a FREE event and everyone is welcome to attend.

WHEN: On Monday, August 9, 2021

TIME: 6:00 pm– 8:00 pm

WHERE: Kin Coulee Park at the band shell, please bring your own chairs.



**MNA Annual General Assembly
August 20 – 22, 2021**