



# SIOUX VALLEY DAKOTA NATION COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Events and Activities at Sioux Valley  
Dakota Nation

## SELF-GOVERNMENT

The Self Government office has been closed as per community lock-down, however the staff continue to work from home and conduct business and meetings via zoom and other online platforms. When it is safe to do so, the offices will re-open and ensure that we are following necessary public health orders. Work has been underway to prepare for a ratification vote on both the Election Law and the Citizenship Law in April 2021. To prepare for this our office will be hiring a Process Officer to assist with the mail and in-person voting. The laws are in the final stages of drafting and information will be shared on these laws through in person sessions, radio, website and social media updates and video messages. We encourage members to join us in both the in person and online webinars as we provide information to ensure people are making an informed decision when they vote.

The Self Government Office coordinated the development of the 2020 Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Annual Report. The report has been delivered to homes on reserve and will be mailed to off reserve members in February.

The Office also coordinated the development of the 2021 Governance Calendar, this was provided to members living in SVDN.

Members living in urban areas will receive the calendar along with additional Self-Government documents in February. We thank Eugene Ross for providing the picture content throughout the calendar showcasing our Dakota culture and traditions.

### ***Community Engagement***

Community engagement continues to be impacted by COVID-19 cases in Manitoba and the resulting provincial government's public health orders to limit private and public group gathering sizes to a maximum of five people. Our office continues to monitor the situation and will proceed with community engagement sessions when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, our office continues to conduct committee meetings safely, participate in online meetings, coordinate the monthly newsletter, and provide updates through the radio, website and social media. A video has been developed to share information on the proposed citizenship law, with more to come on general information and from the other committees.

When the Self Government Office is open to the public we will enforce public health orders; there is signage informing visitors that masks are required, there is a hand sanitizing station, a sign in sheet at the door, and a limit of five people in our boardroom.

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We continue to encourage people who utilize our boardroom to comply with the COVID-19 protocols. We also encourage people to continue to use this space in a safe and healthy way, through scheduling of pre-arranged meetings and booking of the boardroom. Community members can call our office to schedule a time to meet with staff at (204) 855-2760 or via email at [info@svdngovernance.com](mailto:info@svdngovernance.com)

## **Committees**

The Election Law Review Committee has conducted its review of the current SVDN Election Law to enhance and make revisions with feedback from the community. The Committee made efforts this year to seek community feedback through in person information sessions and surveys. The Committee in collaboration with SVDN Legal Advisors have made a final draft and this will be presented to SVDN members through a summary and power point presentation both in person and online. The law will be voted on in April 2021.

The Citizenship Committee is also in the final stages of drafting a law that will oversee the SVDN citizenship process in the future. The Citizenship Committee have been meeting regularly via zoom and are 90% complete on the Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Citizenship Law.

The SVDO Citizenship Law will be voted on by all eligible citizens in April 2021 along with the revised SVDO Election Law. The committee held in-person meetings, developed 2 surveys and provided a video in 2020 to obtain feedback on the development of the SVDO Citizenship Law. The Citizenship Committee will continue to review options for future engagement session in preparation for the community approval vote in April of 2021.

A summary of the proposed SVDO Citizenship Law will be made available to each home in the community and mailed out to those residing off reserve. If you would like to submit your address and be included in our mail-out list, please email [info@svdngovernance.com](mailto:info@svdngovernance.com) or you can call Carol at 204-512-0873.

The Dakota Language Law Committee provides guidance for the development of a Dakota Language Law and makes recommendations for future translation and programming.

The Lands Advisory Committee meets twice a month in collaboration with the Lands Manager to develop a new lands management regime and process for SVDN.

## ***Intergovernmental Relations and Implementation Support (IRIS)***

SVDN continues to participate in negotiations with the provincial and federal government as per the Governance Agreement which was ratified in 2012. As Sioux Valley develops a law, it triggers the IRIS Committee to review and determine how SVDN's proposed law will harmonize with existing laws.

Meetings of the IRIS occur on average 4 times a year or as required. A meeting was held on December 8, 2020 with the federal and provincial governments, to discuss the amendment of the Governance Agreement to accommodate SVDN's proposed new Child and Family Law.

## ***Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination Discussion Table (RIRSD)***

In 2018, Sioux Valley signed a Framework Agreement for the Co-Development of a Reconciliation Negotiation Mandate with Canada and Manitoba. These tables are to renew the nation to nation and government to government relationship.

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A number of internal activities and meetings have occurred since then, and there have been ongoing discussions with the provincial and federal governments. Current discussion items include SVDN lands and research.

SVDN received funding to conduct important land research, mapping of traditional territories, and economic analysis of loss of lands. The final report and findings were presented to leadership in December and a summary will be shared with the community in February 2021.

## ***Lands Update***

Over the month of December, the Lands Manager continued working with the Lands Advisory Committee in developing a new land law for the SVDN reserve lands.

The Road Naming Project was announced in the December 2020 newsletter – thank you to those who have submitted ideas!

Ideas will be accepted until all roads have at least one submission, please note that we hope to order signs in the spring. There are three ways you can submit your ideas:

- 1) Phone: 204-761-3053 between 8:30-4:30 Monday to Friday
- 2) Email: [lands@svdngovernance.com](mailto:lands@svdngovernance.com)
- 3) Drop-off box: fill in a form and slip in the box located at the Self-Government Office.

**Please remember to include: your name, Road ID# (on the road maps), your name idea, a translation if it is in Dakota, and backstory (reason you suggest this name).**

To view the road map online please visit: <https://svdngovernance.com/news/sioux-valley-dakota-nation-road-naming-project-12-08-20/>

## ***Makoče un Dakota iapi Onspeunkičiyapi (Learning the Dakota Language on the Land)***

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation is a project partner with Canupawakpa Dakota Nation (CDN) and the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) to deliver land-based teachings and activities, funded by the Canadian Heritage Fund. This project will be delivered through the SVDN Lands program with the support of Dakota Tiwahe Services and Sioux Valley Education Authority.

The goal of the project is to support language revitalization, focusing on youth and families. The program will take place mainly outdoors, with hands-on activities involving Elders and fluent language speakers to share knowledge through oral stories, learning about traditional medicines, prayers, and environmental changes throughout the four seasons. The partners will work together in the month of February to start planning this project.

## ***Justice Update***

I would like to formally introduce myself to the SVDN Community, My name is Darryl Hodkin, I am the new Justice Coordinator for SVDN. I come with over 15 years of Law Enforcement experience, some of you may know me from The Rivers Police Service where I spent my entire career serving the citizens of the community.

I look forward to meeting each and every one of you as I continue to adapt, learn and serve the SVDN Community.

As you are aware of, we have placed monitored checkpoints throughout the community. The reasons for this are the following:

- Unacceptable Non-Compliance of a Provincial Health Order

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- To screen each individual coming into the community making sure they are from the community.

These are the two main reasons for the checkpoints. We as a community need to come together to stop the unacceptable behaviour of a small group of people in the community. Make no mistake, I have a zero tolerance for people who are not complying with a Provincial Health Order, as you are not only putting yourself in harms way, you are affecting loved ones as well as your neighbours.

We will continue to have monitored checkpoints throughout the community until our community is safe. Ask yourself whether you can afford to be fined \$1,295 for non compliance of the Provincial Health Order.

If you are in Non-Compliance of the Provincial Health Order you will be fined.

When approaching our checkpoints please do the following in order to ensure everyone's safety:

- Slow down
- Have your licence and registration available for employee's monitoring the checkpoints
- If you are in compliance with the Provincial Health Order you have nothing to worry about
- Have Patience, as there may be a line up of vehicles to be checked

Everybody is well aware of the situation we are in; I understand how some people are frustrated, yet I say if we pull together as a community, we will get through this.....together.

If you have any questions, or concerns I can be reached at anytime at the following:

1-204-851-0810

[justice.coordinator@svdngovernance.com](mailto:justice.coordinator@svdngovernance.com)

## POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The Post-Secondary Education and Employment and Training office has been closed due to the Community Lockdown that came into effect on January 11, 2021. We continue to support our students during this time.

We are available at the following contact information:

Diana Roulette, 204-512-0856

[post.secondary@svdngovernance.com](mailto:post.secondary@svdngovernance.com)

Jaci Branth, 204-512-0853

[employment.training@svdngovernance.com](mailto:employment.training@svdngovernance.com)

Colleen Hall, 204-740-7706

[colleen.hall@svdngovernance.com](mailto:colleen.hall@svdngovernance.com)

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Hello from the Social Development office! Our office is currently closed to the public, including window service. We will update on our social media page once we are able to meet with clients again.

At this time the health and safety of our staff, clients, and community are priority. We are available for essential services during normal work hours including new applications, and supplements. We do not offer after hours services at this time as it is not needed. Please have patience, any inquiries made to the page or to the administrators cell. Calls will be answered during work hours.

If you need to drop off any paperwork, you can do so using our drop box. The drop box is located at the Social Development office, outside on the right side of the door. Please refrain from knocking on our windows when dropping off paperwork.

If you need to speak to a worker you can call, text, message or email. All the contact information is listed below for the Administrator and File Clerk.

General information:

- Please do not drop off your hydro bill if we do not ask for it. The copy you receive in the mail is for your records.
- If you purchase your own special needs item, we do not reimburse unless you have prior approval. No exceptions.
- We cover the cost of ID's one time under special needs. This includes both adult and children on the file.

Contact the office for more information.

**Next issue date: February 25, 2021**

Contact information:

Phone: 204-855-2617

Fax: 204-855-2679

Facebook Page: SVDN Social Development

***Teresa Wasicuna, Administrator***

Phone: 204-855-2592

Cel: 204-720-6086

Email: [social.services@svdngovernance.com](mailto:social.services@svdngovernance.com)

***Lyla Tacan, File Clerk***

Phone: 204-855-2617

Email: [social.assistant@svdngovernance.com](mailto:social.assistant@svdngovernance.com)

## MEMBERSHIP

Our office continues to be open, but still closed to the public. Status Cards and Registrations is by appointment only so please call ahead and book.

At this time Membership services will NOT be available at the Brandon Sub-office. We will update you when we can resume services in Brandon.

If your status card is lost or stolen, there is a \$50 replacement fee. However, if your status card is expired it is free to renew.

I have registration forms to register your child. Parents have to order a Birth Certificate that is sent along with the registration application. The Birth Certificate will be sent back to you.

Just a reminder that my report's are mailed to Winnipeg by the 15th of every month.

Please contact our office if you have any questions or concern by email at [membership@svdngovernance.com](mailto:membership@svdngovernance.com)  
Office: 204-855-1671 ext. 304  
Cell: 204-922-2705

## EDUCATION

Hau Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, The Education Program continues to move forward with the creation of homework packages. With the current lock down in Sioux Valley, we had to postpone our original homework package delivery date. The date set for the next package delivery is Friday, February 5. Head Start/Nursery to grade 12 homework packages are set to go out. On this delivery date, If you have dogs please keep them inside or tied up away from the main door of your residents. We will be in contact with Mr. Bill Taylor at the radio station to confirm delivery of packages on February 5.

Just a reminder that the deadline for grades 9-12 semester #1 course work was also moved to February 12th at the end of the day. Please ensure that all coursework has been handed in by this date (grades 9-12 for semester #1 only). Along with the packages any electronics that were taken in, specifically the grade 5-6 tablets, will be sent back out to students. We have also received the back order of tablets that will go out to students in grades 2/3, 3/4, and 4.

As per usual, there will be videos emailed out to the students that coincide with the lessons in the home work pack. It is very important the students watch the videos, as they give examples and directions, to complete the assignments. Parents, please ensure your child can log into the email created for them to access the videos. There will be a paper included with the tablets to show how to access and sign into the email account.

The new tablets going out to the grades noted will have to be signed out. Parents, you will be required to sign a waiver form making you responsible for the tablet and any damages to the tablet. Please remember, any electronic device signed out from education to a specific student is to be used for school work only. We can see who has signed into their email accounts and, along with work turned in, which student is using the device properly. Sioux Valley Education reserves the right to take the electronic device back if misused. \*Please note, if there is not a parent home to accept responsibility for the electronic device, it will not be left with the homework package.

Please remember that teachers are available throughout the week to answer any questions that students or parents have regarding the work package. We encourage you to reach out to the teachers to provide feedback on how your child is learning. March report cards are not that far away and any information that you can relay is much appreciated. With the students not in school, we rely on the parents, the child's first teacher, to work with us for the benefit of your child's education. Do not give up, teachers are only an email or call away for support.

Many teachers are available for online virtual conferences utilizing the technology that has been signed out by parents. We look forward to discussing your child's education with you. If you need help with this, please ask your child's homeroom teacher. They are hoping to help with any problems that have arisen. Your continued safety is our main priority as we push through this pandemic we are all facing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those effected with difficult times we are facing. Please remain safe!

# Dakota Oyate Lodge

The Lodge remains open 24/7 providing nursing care to the 23 Elders currently residing in facility.

Due to the cold weather, the Elders have been staying safe indoors and enjoying the fireplace in the living area. We celebrated one birthday this past month and enjoyed some engaging Recreational activities.

At the Lodge, we remain diligently focused on keeping the COVID-19 virus out of the facility. Our Environmental Services staff continue their enhanced cleaning and disinfecting procedures to provide a safe environment. All Dakota Oyate Lodge staff are screened/temperature checked and the beginning and end of their shift and regularly tested with our Pan Bio Rapid Covid19 tests.

January 13th was a big day at the Lodge! Our Elders received the first dose of the Moderna Covid-19 vaccination along with several staff. A second dose has been scheduled for next month to ensure everyone is fully vaccinated and protected against the virus.



We are pleased to report that our visitation shelter arrived on January 25th. Once the installation of the shelter is complete and we are ready to schedule visitations, we will be contacting families.

The Lodge received a new maintenance truck this month. Thank you to Chief and Council for approving this purchase!



# *Sioux Valley Dakota Nation*

## *Community Notice*

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation declared a community lockdown in response to the pandemic. The Province declared a state of emergency March 20, 2020. Orders are in effect for Manitoba, including Prairie Mountain Health region under The Public Health Act.

Violating COVID-19 Health orders and failing to properly self-isolate is punishable by fine. Provincial fines for people who break public health rules are \$1,296.00. If you need to report someone in violation of public health rules you can call

**Enforcement Line : 1-866-626-4862 (press 3 on call menu) or you can also call 1-877-311-4974**

**Local Enforcement Line - 1-204-908-0466**

**Any tips of violations can also be given to Daryl Hodkin, Justice Coordinator 1-204-851-0810**

# ***Community Roadblocks***

Please be advised that the following roads are temporarily blocked until further notice:

Bridge Road by Billy Mazawasicuna  
Road by Chris Pratt  
Road by Donny Elk  
South End Road by Elk Cemetery  
Winding Road by Lyla Tacan  
Winding Road by Krystal Mazawasicuna  
Road into Town Area by Nicole Carins  
Pratt Cemetery, Road Behind Cemetery  
Highway 21 and Anglican Cemetery

***Please see attached maps for locations***

Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.





