

***SIOUX VALLEY DAKOTA NATION  
A YEAR IN REVIEW  
2015 – 2016***

***“Securing our rights for  
future generations”***



***“Uniting the Nation”***

## LEGEND OF THE WHITE BUFFALO

Many years ago, the Seven Sacred Council Fires of the Dakota were gathered in an encampment, ravaged by famine. Two scouts were sent out by the camp to hunt for food in the area. While they were travelling, the two men came upon a beautiful woman wearing an outfit of white buckskin. The first man saw the woman as a potential mate and wife. The second man warned that the woman seemed more sacred and holy, and that to approach her in such a way would be sacrilegious. The first man did not heed the second man's warning, and approached the woman. As he attempted to embrace her, the two were surrounded by a thick, white cloud. Many moments passed, and when the cloud finally dissipated, the first man had disappeared. In his place lay a pile of dust and bones at the woman's feet. Stunned, the second man began to draw his bow but was stopped by the woman. She promised that she did not intend to harm him, and that she was sacred and holy. The woman explained that her name was Ptesan-Wi, and that she would help the Dakota people rise to full strength again. She instructed the man to return to his people, gather them and prepare a large feast for her arrival. When she arrived at the encampment, she taught the people the Seven Sacred Rites and gifted them the sacred pipe. After she had given them her gifts, she left the people but promised to one day return as a white buffalo.



*Tatanka Ska of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation*

*In March 2010, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation accepted the gift of a rare white buffalo from the Assiniboine Park Zoo in Winnipeg. The white buffalo is a sacred symbol for the Dakota, and its arrival in the community is not only a cherished gesture of friendship and unity between the people of Manitoba and Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, but a good omen of peace and prosperity for our community as we unite together to move forward to strengthen our governance and self-determination based on the Seven Sacred Rites of the Dakota.*

*The appearance of a white buffalo is a very rare and unique event where some suggest a birth rate of one white buffalo for every 1 million births. With the population of buffalo in Canada estimated at around 250,000, the appearance of a white buffalo is an even rarer occurrence today.*



## **“IN MY OWN WORDS”**

My relatives,

Since the last IMOW, there have been lots of positive developments in my opinion. We passed three laws that can only benefit our nation. The Election Law was designed to keep us out of expensive court cases, and spend our money on better things. The Land Law will create stability in terms of issuing leases/licences etc. The Gaming and Amusements Law and Self-government Agreement gives us the confidence to pursue a gaming agreement which will be beneficial to our nation. Thank you to the Governance Team, Process Officers, Deputies, and a big thank you to the members for having faith in the leadership. You did your part, now it's up to the leadership to use these governance tools. We understand that it's difficult for people, and we are doing our best to achieve success for our members.

Currently, the Petro Canada Gas/Convenience Store is in the early phases of construction. Following this, our commercial development project will house some of our gaming machines and some office space. We hope to maintain some machines in the community for those who don't want to drive to the new development. Our Dakota Quick Stop will also continue to operate as usual. WE DON'T NEED THE RM TO GIVE US PERMISSION TO GO AHEAD WITH THIS PROJECT. The days of the Indian Agent are over. I'm also aware there are folks crying around about "borrowing money" and they haven't been "consulted." For the rest of us, we want to see Sioux Valley expand with more opportunities. All of a sudden a small number of former chiefs and councillors are criticizing the project which begs the question, "why didn't you create jobs?" We are our own worst enemies and critics, but in spite of a small handful of negative people, we continue to press on. I heard a former chief who is a great speaker say "let's have a forum," see if these people can speak. Anyone can speak in my view, but not everyone can think and execute a plan. I believe this factor and the Indian Act have caused our community to stand still for far too long. I would rather side with positive people and look at the good things that set Sioux Valley apart from others. Sometimes we don't know what we have, or that we are better off than other communities who are still under the Indian Act.

My team understands that we need more housing, and we are also working on finishing our MOU discussion started by former Chief Donna Elk. A thank you to her for starting this process. Recently, I attended Tsuu Tina First Nation where due to settling a claim, each member received roughly \$65,000. Now they have the resources to invest in their community and prosper. That is our wish for Sioux Valley and our future generations. We are in an enviable position. Let's not go backwards and undo the progress made.

In closing, despite the difficulties and challenges, it is still an honour to serve and represent Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. We have a good name out there. Let's keep it that way.

Mitaku Owas, All my relatives

Chief Vince Tacan

## MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

The job of being a Chief and Councillor of a self-governing nation is very demanding, and Sioux Valley Dakota Nation citizens expect the best from their elected leadership as good ambassadors who can deal with governments of Manitoba, Canada, and the United States, and work to develop a united Dakota community. This past fiscal year 2015-2016 has been a particularly busy one for Chief and Council who have focused their efforts on working to unite and improve the lives of Sioux Valley citizens by:



**Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Council**  
(back left to right) Anthony D. Tacan,  
Wilson Kennedy and Mark Hall  
(front left to right) Jennifer Bone, Eleanor Elk  
and Chief Vincent Tacan

- passing laws to improve governance;
- improving Sioux Valley finances;
- Finding resources for economic development for jobs and higher standards of living;
- working to bring better houses and more businesses to the community;
- bringing better, faster, and more reliable internet services to the community;
- taking control of Child and Family Services to bring children back to Sioux Valley;
- establishing Sioux Valley's own Oyate Child and Family Services Agency to assist Dakota families and citizens in need based on the Seven Sacred Rites of the Dakota;
- making Sioux Valley safer by transitioning to the RCMP and creating a Sioux Valley Security Service;
- making the health and well-being of Sioux Valley citizens a priority; and
- making cultural celebrations, international festivals, and Pow Wows sponsored by Sioux Valley of high quality events so that we can all be proud of our achievements.

Since becoming self-governing in 2014-2015, we got out from the *Indian Act* and laid the foundation for a nation-to-nation and government-to-government relationship between the Governments of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Canada, and Manitoba.

This past year 2015-2016, we have been busy following the direction of the community to pass our first laws to control economic development over Sioux Valley lands for commercial purposes including building a Gas Bar and Convenience Store followed by a commercial building to house expanded gaming operation to promote and support employment, health, social and cultural development for the benefit of all Sioux Valley citizens. The Government of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation also intervened in the Court of Queen's Bench of Saskatchewan to successfully oppose the permanent wardship of a three year old Sioux Valley child who was in the care of Saskatchewan and going to be adopted out. Chief and Council opposed the



Saskatchewan Ministry of Family Services and brought the three year old child back home to Sioux Valley to live with his Grandmother and family. This type of action is only one example of what can be done when the Government of Sioux Valley practices Oyate Witayan Wa-Acupi where the community works together united.

## GOVERNANCE FOUNDATION THROUGH ELDERS

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation and its elected Chief and Council rely upon the representation and guidance of its families Elders for direction and advice as well as to keep their Tiospaye informed of what is happening. Meetings with Sioux Valley Elders occur regularly during the summer, fall, winter, and spring, and have included the communities of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation citizens who reside in Winnipeg, Brandon, and Regina.



*Chief Tacan receives advice provided by Elders and Program Directors in relation to health and family initiatives*



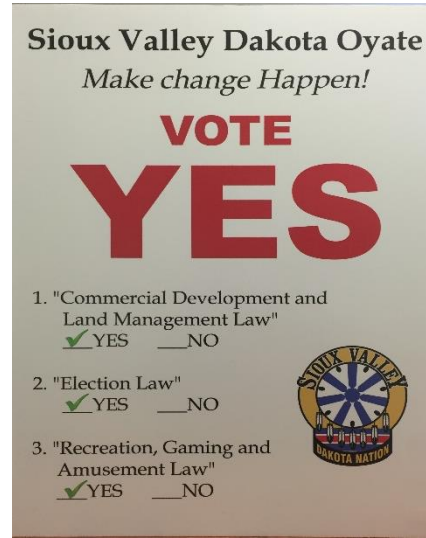
*Elders are informed of various governance initiatives*

## MAKING GOVERNANCE HISTORY: ANOTHER FIRST FOR SIOUX VALLEY

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation again made history by passing three new laws this past November 27, 2015. A “Law-Act-Rule-Decree-Policy” is known in Dakota as “wo-ope” as taught by Elder Doris Pratt in her book, “Dakota lapi Ehdakub.”

To further displace the *Indian Act* with Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Laws and implement the Governance Arrangements with Canada and Manitoba, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation citizens voted overwhelmingly in favour of passing the three new laws on November 27, 2015. The vote was preceded by a series of community meetings and information sessions held at Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Brandon and Winnipeg with both on and off Reserve members participating. Packages of information were also distributed to Sioux Valley Dakota Nation households so that all citizens could become informed of the importance of passing these laws

for the future creation of jobs and a better run election process, all of which contributes to the better governance of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation for the benefit of all citizens.



*(left to right) Lisa Sinclair, Brent Pratt, Louise Hall, Jackie Branth, Andrea Bone and Koda Tacan - Process Officers who facilitated citizens to participate in the vote for Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Laws*

## STRENGTHENING THE NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIP

### *Dakota Reconciliation Process: The Governments of Sioux Valley and Canada*



*Chief, Council, Elders, Tribal Attorney, and Federal Negotiators*

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Canada to find a means to resolve outstanding issues between Sioux Valley and Canada which resulted in a claim commenced by Sioux Valley in the summer of 2009.

Through meetings with representatives of Canada, Sioux Valley continues to present Dakota history including the recent legacy of Residential School impacts on the lives of Sioux Valley members, and the opportunity to create a healing facility to benefit the survivors of Residential Schools.

Chief Tacan, members of Council, and Elders revealed to Canada’s representatives and senior negotiators the legacy of the unmarked graves at the Brandon Residential School site, and requested resources to honour and potentially repatriate those deceased children to their rightful places of rest in their home communities.

The Dakota reconciliation process continues to work towards finding a long-lasting resolution of all outstanding issues, particularly those where the Dakota have historically been marginalized and labelled as “refugees” from the United States and were granted less than others.

## **STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP OF SIOUX VALLEY, MANITOBA, AND CANADA**

### ***The New “Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Child and Family Services Agency Inc.”***

To address issues from the “60’s scoop” and avoid apprehension of Dakota children by outside agencies, on October 5, 2015, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation incorporated its own “Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Child and Family Services Agency Inc.” pursuant to its self-government arrangements with Canada and the Province of Manitoba recognizing that Sioux Valley has jurisdiction over its own child and family services, based upon the Seven Sacred Rites of the Dakota.

To exercise this jurisdiction, the Government of Sioux Valley has continued to meet with representatives from the Governments of Manitoba and Canada to plan for the transfer and responsibility of files and administration from the existing Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services Agency to the new Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Child and Family Services Agency Inc.

*Portfolio Councillors Mark Hall, Wilson Kennedy, representatives of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Governance and Tribal Attorney meet with representatives from INAC Canada, Federal Justice, ANA Manitoba, and Manitoba Justice to plan for the success of the new Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Child and Family Services Agency Inc.*



Part of this process will also involve developing a Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Child and Family Services Law, and staffing the new Agency with qualified individuals who share the same vision of the elected Chief and Council.



*Councillors Mark Hall (Portfolio holder for CFS) and Wilson Kennedy (Chair of Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Child and Family Services Agency Inc.) accept the first cheque from the Province of Manitoba to assist with the implementation and initial staffing of Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Child and Family Services Agency Inc.*

The Government of Sioux Valley also recently exercised its rights to protect the children of Dakota families when it intervened this past fall 2015 in a Court of Queen’s Bench matter in Saskatoon, SK to rescue a three year old Dakota child from being placed in more than thirteen foster homes, and on the verge of being adopted as a ward of the Saskatchewan government. As the Government of Sioux Valley possesses the status of a government, Sioux Valley successfully returned the three year old child safely to his Grandmother and extended family at Sioux Valley Dakota Nation.

With this strength of their jurisdiction over child and family services, the elected Chief and Council of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation intend to intervene in as many similar cases involving children and family services in the future, wherever they may be throughout Canada, the United States, or internationally to bring home Sioux Valley Dakota children who are in need of protection and care.

## **MOVING FORWARD WITH COMMUNITY PRIORITIES**

### ***Creating Healthy Families and Relationships***

Chief and Council together with Health Director Marge Roscelli of the Sioux Valley Health Department and her dedicated staff have been working diligently to address the question of “what do we need to have happy, healthy families, and children?” The illnesses of today were not created by Dakota people, and the Health Department is promoting the citizens of Sioux Valley to focus on their culture and cultural traditional food as a means towards restoring and maintaining good health.

Another big project being worked on is planning for a traditional healing centre to be located on the site of the former Brandon Residential School which is now owned by Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. The Sioux Valley Health Department supported by Chief and Council are proposing a 30 bed treatment centre along with a 10 bed detoxification facility to be placed on



these sacred lands where the Residential School contributed to much suffering and dysfunction of the Dakota people.

The Health Department together with the Elders' Lodge staff are working to obtain the funding necessary to plan for the treatment and healing facility to address the abuse and addiction issues of its citizens to get people healthy and on the road to recovery and happiness. This means working closely with the First Nation and Inuit Health Branch, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, the Ministries of Health in Canada and Manitoba, and Aboriginal and Northern Affairs of Manitoba on a government-to-government and department-to-department basis.



*Health Director Marge Roscelli with Minister Eric Robinson at the Manitoba Legislature*

### ***Pursuing full Certification and Expansion for Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Elders' Lodge***



*Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Elders' Lodge*

The Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Lodge continues to work towards finalizing arrangements with the Manitoba Regional Health Authority to obtain full certification for the highest level of care in the Province and Sioux Valley is on track and expects to achieve this later in 2016. Certification to a Level IV care facility will make the Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Lodge the only facility with unique capacity and equipment in the region to provide for Elders' care. In addition, the Sioux Valley Department of Elder Care and the Elders' Lodge is planning to enhance the

Home and Community Care Program under the umbrella of the Sioux Valley Elders' Lodge staff. This enhancement will include expanding the Lodge compound by building 10 new living quarters near the Elders' Lodge to accommodate Sioux Valley Elders who can still manage to live on their own, but who need some assistance from the Lodge staff. The Elders' Lodge is also planning the building of a dedicated dialysis unit to be added to the Lodge.

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Elders' Lodge Director Della Mansoff and her dedicated staff together with the Sioux Valley Health Department through the support of the Government of

Sioux Valley continually work together to consider programming that directly impacts the health and well-being of all Sioux Valley citizens, both young and elderly.

### ***Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Education***

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation continues to grow and produce graduates from its high school and Post-Secondary education and training programs. Sioux Valley schools, under the senior administration of Director Kevin Nabess and Principal Bruce Lyons, have been maintaining over 320 student enrolments each year with a continuing increase in students at the Head Start and Kindergarten levels. The past 2015-2016 school year required the hiring of an extra teacher to handle and accommodate the increased numbers of kindergarten students. This increased enrolment continues to place pressure on the facilities of Sioux Valley, and Chief and Council have recognized the need for a new school to accommodate increasing numbers of students.



*Sioux Valley Elementary School*



*Sioux Valley High School*

Over the past 5 years, Sioux Valley is proud to have recorded 46 graduates including 32 from Sioux Valley High School, 13 from Brandon, and 1 from the Winnipeg School Division. The increasing numbers are placing additional pressure on the existing Sioux Valley facilities and Chief and Council are taking steps to plan for the future needs which will include extra staff, classrooms and eventually a new school to accommodate the student numbers. In addition to the expanding Kindergarten to Grade 8 programs, the school system requires a wider range of human resources support including an additional 6 educational assistants, a reading recovery teacher, language teacher, Dakota teacher, librarian, certified guidance counsellor teacher, computer technician teacher, and custodian. Plans are currently underway for new teaching materials in the mathematics area and to supplement the library with additional books.

The Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Mature Grade 12 Program, operated through Yellowquill College, is a 10 month program offering classes in math, English, family studies, and cultural studies over a period of 4 terms between September and June each year. Yellowquill College also provides these students with a wide range of employment-related workshops and training

programs that include CPR and First Aide, food safety, customer service, in addition to hosting career fairs and guest speakers.

### ***Post-Secondary Employment and Training***

Employment and training over the past 5 years has seen 242 post-secondary students participate of which Sioux Valley is proud to note 59 have graduated including 18 college graduates in the last 2 years.

The Government of Sioux Valley continues to plan to increase the number of graduates from both High School and its post-secondary employment and training as the new Governance Arrangements and economic development projects will require the services of the increasing number of Sioux Valley citizens and entrepreneurs as Sioux Valley continues to grow and develop its own capacity now that it is free from the historical imposition of the Indian Act of Canada.

### ***Keeping Watch for a Safer Community***

Sioux Valley government encourages Dakota youth to consider a career in policing, and have transitioned Sioux Valley Dakota Nation policing to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who have been very responsive to the needs of the community and strive to set high standards.

Sioux Valley government has enhanced the safety of the community by formalizing the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Security Services. This security service has already established a good working relationship with the RCMP and members have played an important role in diffusing some tense situations and by keeping watch over the commercial development property to deter thieves who have tried to pillage property from the construction site. Chief and Council thank the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation security team for its service in keeping Sioux Valley citizens and property safe.



*Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Security Department -  
Moses Elk and Francis Elk*



## ***On-Reserve Housing***

This past year, due to a short deadline with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Government of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation contracted with STAR Homes of Winnipeg, MB and monitored the progress of building three (3) brand new homes which showcase the direction taken by Chief and Council to improve the quality of houses built for Sioux Valley citizens.

In the future, Chief and Council intend to expand the Housing Department to build high quality houses at Sioux Valley by Sioux Valley tradespeople. Keeping a good relationship with quality builders such as STAR Homes will help get Sioux Valley citizens become trained in the necessary trades in the future. The Government of Sioux Valley is also planning to build houses independently without the need for CMHC funding which will allow more houses to be built in less time.



*Building foundation one of three new houses for Sioux Valley families*



*One of three new houses from STAR Homes moved from Winnipeg to Sioux Valley Dakota*

## ***Off-Reserve Housing***



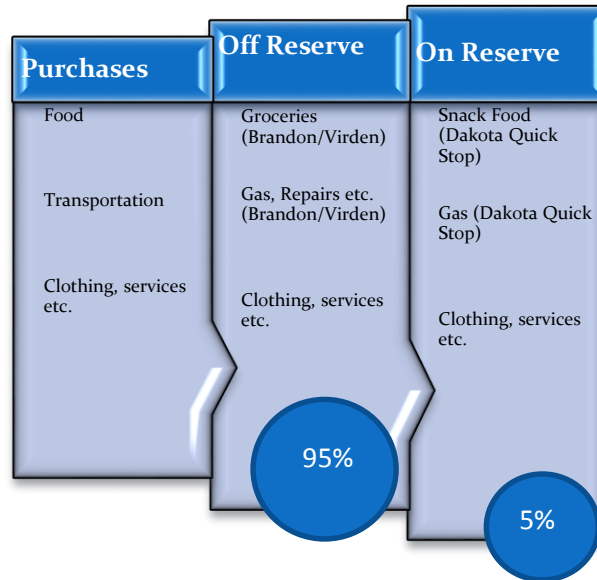
*One of Sioux Valley's homes in Winnipeg MB*

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation maintains and leases twenty-four (24) houses off Sioux Valley lands in the cities of Winnipeg, Brandon, and Portage la Prairie. These houses are maintained and operated by the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Housing Authority Inc. and are growing in value and rental income which provide regular income for Sioux Valley to support other economic development projects and future housing developments.



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC EXPANSION AND BUILDING A STRONG ECONOMY

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Chief and Council have recognized that the economy of Sioux Valley can be improved by keeping money leaking out of the community by creating projects and opportunities which will retain money spent by Sioux Valley citizens for goods and services provided within Sioux Valley as long as possible before going outside the community.



Sioux Valley Dakota Nation citizens, out of necessity, must travel to other communities outside Sioux Valley lands to purchase most of their groceries, clothing, fuel, tobacco, and services such as vehicle repairs and maintenance. In the future, by working towards building those services on Sioux Valley lands, the elected Government of Sioux Valley intends to provide opportunities for its citizens to enjoy long-term jobs and careers, and to spend their hard earned dollars within Sioux Valley lands which will be of benefit to all its citizens.

Starting with a Petro-Canada Gas Service Station/Convenience Store and expanding to a larger Gaming Centre and facility, followed by other opportunities for commercial leasing and development including support for recreational facilities such as hotels, restaurants, theatres and recreational complexes, the vision exists for Sioux Valley to possess a strong and self-sustaining economy.

## ***New High Speed Broadband Internet***

Chief Tacan, Council and internet technician Gerald Thunderbirdsky have arranged to contract with high speed internet provider, RF Now, resulting in the construction of a temporary tower at the commercial development site of highways 1 and 21.

*Chief Tacan and Internet Technician Gerald Thunderbirdsky meet with RF Now of Virden to plan for future delivery of high speed broadband internet service through fibre-optic cables directly to Sioux Valley.*



This acquisition now provides Sioux Valley Dakota Nation with improved, reliable, and faster internet services for the benefit of the Government of Sioux Valley and its citizens. As well, fibre-optic cables are being installed to provide Sioux Valley with virtually unlimited capacity and speed which will serve its government and businesses well into the future.



*New broadband internet tower on Sioux Valley lands*

## ***New Petro-Canada Gas Bar/Convenience Store and Commercial Buildings on Sioux Valley Land***

Construction is now well underway on Sioux Valley lands at the intersection of the TransCanada Highway and Eva McKay Highway towards completion of both a Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Petro-Canada Gas Bar/Convenience Store as well as a large and modern commercial building to house an expanded Gaming Centre, restaurant, and community meeting facility.

Currently, the present Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Gaming Centre is scheduled to move into new and expanded premises at the development site of TransCanada Highway #1 and Eva McKay Memorial Highway #21 following completion of construction in late 2016 to early 2017.



*Schematic drawing of the new Petro-Canada Gas Bar/Convenience Centre and Commercial Building at the TransCanada and Eva McKay Highways*

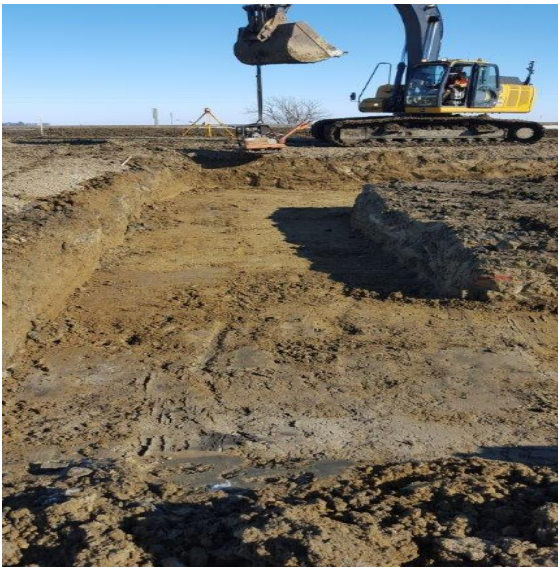


*Chief Tacan, representatives of Council, Tribal Attorney, Consultant, and Architect meet with representatives of PCL Contracting (Canada's largest building developer) and engineering firm TetraTech to review development plans for the Petro-Canada Gas Bar/Convenience Store and commercial building which is the start of the development that has been in the planning phase for the past two years.*





*Sioux Valley government contracts with Canada's largest builder*



*The work begins: laying a strong foundation by pile-driving pilings deep into the alluvial soil along the banks of the Assiniboine River valley to support the Petro-Canada Gas Bar and Convenience Store and commercial buildings on Sioux Valley lands at Highways 1 and 21.*



*In preparation for new developments, Chief Tacan, Councillors Mark Hall, Anthony D. Tacan, and Wilson Kennedy have met regularly with representatives from the Manitoba Department of Lotteries and Gaming for the purpose of discussing and reviewing new gaming arrangements which will eventually result in an expansion of gaming on Sioux Valley Dakota Nation lands.*



## Dakota Valley Golf Course

The Government of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation through its elected Chief and Council have received funding through grants to complete a master plan of a golf course on lands owned by Sioux Valley which are adjacent to the Assiniboine River and very near the commercial development site at the intersection of Highways 1 and 21.



The Dakota Valley Golf Course proposes to be the first 18-hole course in the Province of Manitoba which also includes an executive 12-holes for flexibility and a new trend in golf course development. This course proposes to be one of the finest golf courses in Manitoba and Canada, and will be an added attraction to making Sioux Valley and its businesses a destination for travelers and golfers from all over. Working with the same golf course developer that designed the Dakota Dunes Golf Course, which is one of Canada's top golf courses on Whitecap Dakota Nation lands, the Government of Sioux Valley will require many seasonal employees such as youth who will have the opportunity to learn and work in an exciting field, as well as permanent employees who will be required to maintain the golf course and club house business as a year-round destination and facility including summer and winter activities. The Government of Sioux Valley also looks forward to the golf course being well-used by the communities' youth, and expects to see young golfers taking up the sport on a competitive basis, and making Sioux Valley proud by participating in national and international competitions. Construction is due to begin in spring and summer 2016.

## CELEBRATING OUR DAKOTA CULTURE

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation has developed a reputation for successfully hosting traditional Dakota celebrations which bring the Dakota Oyate and others together from afar.

### *Summer Pow Wow*

Hosting a summer Pow Wow requires a lot of planning, community teamwork, and volunteers who support this worthwhile gatherings to ensure success. Over the past few years, Chief and Council are proud to say that the Pow Wow has been well-attended by participants locally, nationally, and internationally.



*Chief Vincent Tacan overseeing preparation of the Pow Wow site*



*Chief Tacan and Councillor Hall welcome international dancer, Travis Lovett of Georgia, USA to the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Pow Wow 2015*



*Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Pow Wow Summer 2015*



## ***Dakota Nation Winterfest***

Sioux Valley's Dakota Nation Winterfest celebration of culture includes a Pow Wow and sports events, and has become bigger and better every year.

This past Winterfest saw record numbers of attendees and sponsors who contributed to making the annual event self-sustaining with a small profit that is put towards the next summer Pow Wow and Winterfest. Planning for the next Winterfest and sponsorships are sought throughout the year and in the early fall. Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Chief and Council look forward to the day when all Dakota cultural events will be hosted in hotels, arenas, and facilities on Sioux Valley lands.



*Dakota Nation Winterfest 2016 includes a Pow Wow and Sports Events*

## ***Keeping Dakota Culture Alive***

The Government of Sioux Valley encourages and promotes the Dakota culture and language by providing assistance to the Dakota language program. The Dakota language program was held weekly in the evenings from September 2015 to December 2015 and open to all ages and members of Sioux Valley. The Dakota Language program is looking at different ways to encourage members to participate in this important part of Dakota identity.

The community members of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation continue to hold the annual “Flowers Day” at the local cemeteries through the late spring and summer months. During this time, the families prepare food and “settings” of offerings to feed the family members that have passed on. After the settings have been distributed, the remaining food is passed out and there is a feast. Many relatives on and off reserve attend the annual Flowers Days at the different cemeteries in the community.

Sundances are held throughout the summer, hosted by different families. The Sundances are one of the Seven Sacred Rites and are attended by many members of the community as well as visitors from Canada and the United States.

Other community events sponsored by Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Government are Kahomni dances, Halloween activities, Sports days, Canada Day fireworks and activities, Walks for Addictions, Diabetes and Women’s Wellness.



*2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Memory Walk*

Chief and Council of Sioux Valley Government support all activities that promote Dakota culture, language and community wellness.



## ***Bringing the Community Together***

The past year was celebrated by even more citizens of Sioux Valley at the annual Christmas dinner. This past year saw greater numbers of citizens fill the Veterans Hall in multiple sittings to join in a happy and united atmosphere, and enjoy a wonderful meal and festive occasion.

*Sioux Valley Community  
Dinner December 2015 at  
Veterans Hall*



## ***Strength of the Buffalo***



*Tatanka Ska and Tatanka at Sioux Valley*

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation continues to maintain an increasing healthy herd of buffalo and is continuing to build the herd that will sustain Sioux Valley for health and ceremonies. “The buffalo share our history,” Chief Tacan says, and “Our culture is tied with theirs and our legends and teachings are also tied together.”

## 2016-2017 – WHAT’S PLANNED FOR THE ROAD AHEAD?

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Chief and Council have continued to work hard over the past year in planning and implementing a strategy to improve the community and the lives of Sioux Valley citizens by focusing on community priorities of enhancing health, education, culture, economic and social development, increasing opportunities for training and employment, and by committing to:



- finish the Reserve Creation process on the commercial development site to allow Sioux Valley citizens to have more jobs and earn income in a tax free environment along with purchases of fuel and other products with over 400 long-term quality jobs predicted over the coming years
- complete construction of the commercial property at the TransCanada and Eva McKay Memorial Highways starting with a Petro-Canada Gas Bar/Convenience Store
- complete construction of commercial buildings to include housing a new and improved gaming centre, restaurant, and other businesses
- begin and complete construction of an 18-hole executive golf course to create more jobs, attract more business, and revenue
- develop and pass new laws with the support of Sioux Valley citizens including a Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Child and Family Services Law, a Financial Management and Investments Law, and a Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Trust Management Law
- build better police facilities with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to support police and security services on Sioux Valley Dakota Nation lands
- complete staffing of the new Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Child and Family Services Agency, and complete the take-over of its self-governing jurisdiction
- complete discussions and obtain a mandate to negotiate Dakota reconciliation and settlement of Sioux Valley issues with Canada over lands
- build more and better quality houses for Sioux Valley citizens on Reserve
- create more opportunities for education and training in the trades and professions
- complete more recreational structures and facilities for Sioux Valley youth and citizens
- build new separate assisted-living quarters for Elders near the Elders’ Lodge
- arrange for funding and financing to plan and execute building a new Sioux Valley school and educational facilities

## ***To the Citizens***

Chief Tacan, Councillors Jennifer Bone, Anthony D. Tacan, Mark Hall, Eleanor Elk and Wilson Kennedy extend their deepest thanks to all citizens of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation for the unending support shown to Chief and Council and the employees of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation over the past fiscal year 2015-2016. Chief and Council look forward to the upcoming year for greater opportunities of success throughout the community, for the good health and wellness of the citizens, and growth and prosperity as the Government of Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate continues to work in the best interests of its citizens and the community as we all work together in the spirit of Oyate Witayan Wa-Acupi.



*Remembering with  
appreciation former  
Sioux Valley  
Chief and Councillor  
Ivan Ironman (1944-2015)*

**For further information, please visit the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Website at:**  
[www.svdngovernance.com](http://www.svdngovernance.com)

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