

# **SIOUX VALLEY DAKOTA NATION A YEAR IN REVIEW 2017-2018**



***"ADVANCING THE NATION"***

**WELCOME  
FROM CHIEF AND COUNCIL  
(2016-2017-2018)**



*Back Row: Councillor Wilson Kennedy, Councillor Anthony D. Tacan, Chief Vince Tacan, Councillor Elton Taylor*

*Front Row: Councillor Eleanore Elk, Councillor Jennifer Bone*

We are pleased and proud to provide you with our Year in Review since our last edition which highlights the progress and achievements of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation over the past 2 ½ years.

The title of this edition “Advancing the Nation” shows how Sioux Valley continues to build stable and consistent governance with a rising profile.

Enjoy this report!

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



As I think about my message to the community I am conflicted. As a Dakota person, I was taught never to brag about one's accomplishments. However, I was told recently if you don't say what you have accomplished others will try to take credit for your success. With that in mind I have the following to report:

I have walked in the hallways of the Parliament buildings and the Manitoba Legislature always feeling a little bit intimidated. However, the needs of our people and our hopes for the future would override my fears. I would then try to do my best to articulate our position. I have used stories from my own life experiences and others experiences to make my point.

If I am lucky I will have a few more years of good health to see the benefits of the accomplishments we have made to date. Results take time. It's like a good teacher, it is believed that it takes 5 years before you see the benefits of good instruction in a student's progress. A good foundation is required.

To the people who have always supported me, I say "thank you." With your support, we have successfully concluded a self-government agreement. A first in the Prairie Provinces and the first in Canada where a province has signed on. Our agreement gives us a new status and we now have the attention of the federal and provincial governments. A trifecta of announcements recently by the Federal and Provincial ministers is proof of our new status.

- We have purchased and leased more land and expanded our land base.
- We brought in the RCMP to keep our community safe.
- We built a Petro Canada station which proves that we can do what others said we couldn't.
- We converted 80 acres of land with more to follow.
- We have our own Department of Families and Dakota Tiwahe Services, a first in the Province and in Canada.

Safety for our members, expanding our reserve with new jobs created and more to come. Creating our own Dakota Tiwahe Services. Working to bring our kids home.

All promises kept.

To the people who do not support me I say this; just because you don't like the leadership don't ruin it for the rest of the community. Let others speak with pride about their community and remain optimistic.

To the undecided, I say there is more work to be done. I agree we need some changes to assist our youth to achieve success in whatever career path they choose. I agree we need to do more for women in the community. I was expecting more from our council on this issue but I have not seen much happening. I would like to see a women's advocate position created to assist. Someone who is approachable who will take the time to listen and work towards assisting women and children without judging. I agree the Health department needs to change to benefit the community by responding to our basic needs. Why are nurses jumping ship? We need to immunize our children and have nurses available at all times. We also need to train more people to do suicide interventions. I pledge to personally look for the training we need and will set it up. It's frustrating when recommendations are made and there is no action. We need to stay on top of the health needs of the community.

We need to find solutions to our housing crisis. In this regard, we have worked to get a trained work force. I believe we now have our own local workers who can put together our homes at a reasonable price. We do have a plan.

We currently have three good opportunities at getting the money we need for more housing. Outside of the current CMHC program.

Recently the youth in the community were polled as to what they would like to see. The list is long but I feel everything on that list is achievable. We all have similar ideas of what we would like to see on our new commercial reserve on the Trans Canada. New businesses mean new jobs. I recall a band member telling me he didn't like me but I was his best chance for a job. I will take that as a compliment. I don't need people to like me, this is about getting the job done. We will attract new opportunities to that site. That will require an experienced leader and someone who can get things done through good old fashioned hard work and perseverance.

Recently Sioux Valley has signed a framework agreement. This means that we are now finally able to negotiate a resolution to our longstanding claims and resolving and refuting Canada's assertion that the Dakota are refugees. We need to address the harmful labelling and the subsequent affects this has had on our people.

We are the only First Nation to file a court case in defence of our sixties scoop band members. We have laid the groundwork for our reasons as to why some of our sixties scoop survivors should receive more than what is currently being offered. We will be meeting with the courts in November and hopefully we will have some positive news to report. This will require a lot of work and effort in convincing Canada that the class action settlement offered to those who have been abused is not fair and that we need to work with the survivors to find a resolution.

In closing I wish to say that it has been my honor to represent Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. It is not a position where just anyone can go in and represent us. We need proven leadership as we cannot afford to lose three years on speculation and hoping for the best. We have had leaders who have refused to live on Sioux Valley. We have had leaders who have made the papers and not in a good way. Sioux Valley finally has a reputation for being progressive! I have worked hard to develop a relationship with people in government who are in a position to help us achieve our goals. I want the same things as our members, better services, more new businesses and jobs, a new way of providing housing for our members on and off reserve. Many of our members want to return home. Improved health outcomes. I have a reputation of doing what I set out to do. The proof is there.

Together we can keep showing the way for others and set the good precedents.

- Chief Vince Tacan

## STRENGTHENING OUR NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIPS

On November 1, 2017, Chief Tacan met with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Ottawa at the first ever Prime Minister's Indigenous Government Summit and represented Sioux Valley Dakota Nation's interests as Canada's first Indigenous government with an agreement recognizing its Constitution by both the Governments of Canada and Manitoba. Chief Tacan stressed the importance to Canada of maintaining direct Nation-to-Nation communication in his speech as follows:



*Prime Minister Trudeau with Chief Tacan*

### **November 1, 2017 Ottawa ON -**

*“Good afternoon Mr. Prime Minister, Honourable Ministers, Elected Leaders and Representatives. My name is Chief Vince Tacan of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. As self-governing Nations, we have realized that the opportunity for structuring our own governments brings new possibilities to our Nations for stability, growth, innovation, and development. In particular, we know that economic development leads to new sources of revenue, which should be seen as a worthy pursuit, and encouraged under a new Fiscal Policy for self-governing Nations. As opportunities are realized, we strive to eliminate poverty in our communities and make sure our People are well-educated, healthy, happy, and safe. We want to raise their sense of pride and self-esteem to become free from outside colonial labels, stereotypes, and programs that have impacted our Nations negatively.*

*Also of importance to our Nations is making sure that the distinct aspects of our government structures, heritage, culture, traditions, and histories are practiced and protected. The preservation of our language and culture is vital to reconciliation, social development, the application of justice, and the development of our laws with traditional practices. Our self-governing Nations have also taken steps to enact laws and processes to manage and protect our lands through our own unique stewardships and the expectation of meaningful consultation and accommodation. Sioux Valley, Deline, Westbank, and Sechelt are equally committed through our culturally unique governance arrangements and Constitutions to develop our government departments, institutions, processes and protocols necessary to pass and implement laws, govern effectively, and be financially accountable to our citizens.*

*Of fundamental importance to our Indigenous government structures is the recognition that we are First Nation governments, self-governing under our own agreements, and not operating under an imposed system of governance. For these reasons, the concept of the Nation-to-Nation relationship with Canada takes on a special meaning. We must therefore take care to make sure that our governance mandates stay as Nation-to-Nation mandates, and are not reduced to local, regional, provincial, or territorial classifications and agendas. We suggest that our respective Departments and Ministries work closely together and find solutions to support our mutual agendas and implement our self-government agreements.*

*Being self-governing is a significant achievement and a major step forward requiring on-going effort of all Parties for success. We believe that through consistent communication, our respective governments can identify existing systemic challenges, share mutual objectives and goals, and collaborate for a more prosperous future for all of our citizens. By meeting today and recognizing our mutual challenges between our unique self-governing Nations and Canada, we have taken the first of many necessary steps towards building a stronger Nation-to-Nation relationship.*

*Thank you*

*- Chief Vincent Tacan*

The office of Sioux Valley's legal counsel is presently working with Canada to plan for the next Prime Minister's Summit in either late 2018 or early 2019.



*Prime Minister Trudeau*



*Chief Tacan*



*Gov. Leaders of Sioux Valley Dakota, Sechelt, Westbank, and Deline Nations, Legal Counsel and Assistants*



*Prime Minister and Chief Tacan at Summit*

## STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP WITH CANADA'S MINISTRIES



*Chief Tacan & Minister Bennet*

On September 22, 2017, Chief Tacan, Elders and Council met with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) Minister Carolyn Bennett and Regional Director General Stephen Traynor at the Regional offices in Winnipeg to address implementing the Sioux Valley Governance agenda including reconciliation of Dakota issues, additions of land to Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Reserve, resolution of murdered and missing women, promotion of healing and wellness, and eliminating assimilation policies affecting Sioux Valley families and children. A gift exchange between Chief Tacan and Minister Bennett symbolized their commitment to continue working collaboratively Nation-to-Nation.



*Meeting with Crown-Indigenous Relations at Regional Office in Winnipeg MB*

## STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS WITH CANADA

Chief Tacan, Council, representatives of the Governance Office, and Sioux Valley legal counsel have attended several meetings in Gatineau, Quebec with Senior Assistant Deputy Minister Joe Wild to discuss advancing Sioux Valley's negotiation of a new Financial Arrangements Agreement for stable, predictable and sustainable funding with Canada, working on a national model for self-governing Indigenous governments, and completion of a Framework Reconciliation Agreement to negotiate outstanding issues related to the history and treatment of Sioux Valley and its citizens. Continuing to work with the Senior Assistant Deputy Minister and his staff promotes progress towards Canada and Manitoba signing a three-party Framework Agreement with Sioux Valley.



*Chief Tacan and Senior Assistant Deputy Minister Joe Wild*



*Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Negotiating Team, Gatineau Que*



## **SIOUX VALLEY DAKOTA NATION NEGOTIATES RECONCILIATION OF HISTORICAL ISSUES WITH CANADA AND MANTIOBA AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNANCE**

Since 2004, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation requested from Canada an enduring agreement to reconcile outstanding historical issues relating to treatment of the Dakota people of Sioux Valley where they received less land and assistance than First Nations who entered into Treaty and gave up territorial rights. In 2009, Sioux Valley commenced a Claim in the Federal Court of Canada resulting in an exploration table to negotiate issues of importance to Sioux Valley in reconciling its relationship with Canada and Manitoba.

Since July 2014, Sioux Valley met with representatives of Canada and Manitoba to advance the implementation of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Self-Government in areas including education, health and wellness, social development, economic development, and language and culture. All-Party meetings held each month alternate between Ottawa/Gatineau, Winnipeg or Sioux Valley Dakota Nation and involve Chief and Council, legal counsel, Canada, Manitoba, the Regional Office, and other government Departments.

Meetings will continue to intensify following signing of the Framework Reconciliation Agreement which commits Canada and Manitoba to explore a negotiation of issues which will result in enduring arrangements of reconciliation to be ratified by the citizens of Sioux Valley.



## GOVERNANCE FOUNDATION THROUGH ELDERS

Chief Tacan and Council believe in honouring the Elders of Sioux Valley and building upon their ancestral history, experience, and wisdom in guiding the members of today and the youth of tomorrow.

On September 8, 2017, Chief Tacan and legal counsel Bruce Slusar wrote to the University of Brandon recommending Elder Doris Pratt for a Lifetime Achievement Award given her honesty, integrity and lifelong passion of learning, teaching and achievement. On October 14, 2017, the President of Brandon University accepted the recommendations and presented Elder Doris Pratt with a Lifetime Achievement Award recognizing her contributions to the citizens of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation and others as a respected Elder and educator.



*SVDN Elder Doris Pratt receiving her Lifetime Achievement award from Brandon University*

**BRUCE J. SLUSAR**  
Barrister & Solicitor

*Also of the Alberta and British Columbia Bars*

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September 8, 2017

Brandon University  
270 18th Street  
Brandon MB R7A 6A9

Sent via e-mail: [KGross@BrandonU.CA](mailto:KGross@BrandonU.CA)

ATTENTION: MS. KATIE GROSS

Dear Madam:

RE: NOMINATION OF DORIS PRATT  
FOR A BRANDON UNIVERSITY  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

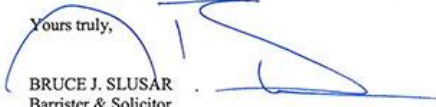
We are writing on behalf of Chief Vincent Tacan of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation and ourselves to register our support for recognizing Doris Pratt for a Brandon University Lifetime Achievement Award.

We have worked closely with Doris since 2004 and have appreciated her support and guidance throughout the important initiatives of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation including self-government and reconciliation of Dakota history with that of the Crown in Canada.

Doris has been a tireless and passionate advocate on behalf of her people, and through her contribution to children's literature, promotion of Dakota culture, and the Dakota language through various publications has been an inspiring educator for all who are and should be interested in the Dakota and their contribution to the fabric of what is today Canadian and American society.

We therefore endorse Doris Pratt and thank you for your consideration of her for this award.

Yours truly,

  
BRUCE J. SLUSAR  
Barrister & Solicitor

BJS:dms

cc: Chief Vincent Tacan, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation



Sioux Valley regularly arranges travel for Elders to attend meetings with Canada and Manitoba to support the Sioux Valley negotiating team in advancing implementation, reconciliation and the Nation-to-Nation relationships.



## MAKING GOVERNANCE HISTORY

### ***Additions to Sioux Valley Dakota Nation lands for commercial development***

In the fall of 2017, Sioux Valley entered purchased 160 acres of land adjacent to the TransCanada Highway and applied to have this land designated as Sioux Valley Reserve land. In the spring of 2017, Sioux Valley also leased 209 acres of agricultural land from Agriculture Canada.

On September 22, 2018, another vision was realized for Sioux Valley Dakota Nation when Canada designated 80 acres of land at the corner of Highways 1 and 21 as Reserve land with full jurisdiction to develop to the Government of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. These are the first lands ever added to a Dakota Nation Reserve by way of the Sioux Valley Governance Agreement which provides for the expansion and management of Reserve lands by Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Government.



Chief Tacan presents at Addition to Reserve Signing Ceremony

### ***Sioux Valley Dakota Nation opens the first Petro-Canada service station gas bar and store as Dakota Valley Gas Mart in the RM of Sifton***

After almost 3 years of development, Sioux Valley officially opened its Dakota Valley Gas Mart Petro-Canada Convenience Store and Service Station with full Reserve status on September 22, 2018. Attending the historic ceremony included CIRNA Minister Carolyn Bennett and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Manitoba (INA) Minister Eileen Clarke to assist Chief Vince Tacan with the official ribbon cutting ceremony and announcement. As a result of the Petro-Canada operating on Reserve lands, Sioux Valley employees and citizens and all persons of Indigenous and Metis status are able to be employed and purchase products tax free, and the business of the Dakota Valley Gas Mart is expected to grow.



Federal, Provincial and RM Officials attending with RCMP and SVDN to open Petro-Canada



Cutting the ribbon to officially open SVDN Petro-Canada

## **THE FIRST SIOUX VALLEY DAKOTA NATION DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DAKOTA TIWAHE SERVICES**

In June 2015, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation became Canada's first and only Indigenous government to develop a Department of Families focussed on the health, well-being, and uniting of Sioux Valley families dedicated to replace the existing Federal and Provincial model of apprehension.

After over 20 negotiation meetings with Justice lawyers, Sioux Valley legal counsel, and working groups from Canada, Manitoba and Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Government, agreements were reached in 2017 to fund the Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Department of Families.

Chief Tacan gave notice to the Dakota Ojibway Family Services Agency to leave Sioux Valley's offices to be taken over by the new Department of Families with a focus on prevention services and uniting Sioux Valley families with their children. Chief Tacan spoke to the media stating that the children of Sioux Valley families are no longer to be apprehended and placed with persons who are not Dakota or not family. The new Department of Families will implement its Dakota Tiwahe Services founded upon Dakota principles of sacred teachings. The Department of Families employs staff and is administered by Carol McKay-Whitecloud as Director and Mark Hall as Assistant Director.

The Department of Families is planning an expansion this coming year to open offices in Winnipeg and Brandon to deliver Dakota Tiwahe Services directly to citizens and families who live in urban centres.



*(Manitoba) Minister Philpott, Chief Tacan, Council members and Dakota Tiwahe Services staff members*

In Winnipeg on September 6, 2018, Chief Tacan met with Minister Philpott of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to confirm the ongoing work and support from Canada as Sioux Valley pursues a new holistic model of delivering services to its families.

# ***THE FIRST FRAMEWORK RECONCILIATION AGREEMENT WITH CANADA AND MANITOBA COMMITTING TO THE CO-DEVELOPMENT OF A NEGOTIATION MANDATE OF OUTSTANDING HISTORICAL ISSUES OF THE DAKOTA OF SIOUX VALLEY DAKOTA NATION***

After presenting a legal paper in 2005, filing a Claim in 2009 in the Federal Court, and following many negotiating sessions at Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Winnipeg and Ottawa/Gatineau, Chief Vince Tacan was joined by ANA Minister Eileen Clarke and CIRNA Minister Carolyn Bennett to sign the only Framework Agreement in Canada committing all three constitutional levels of government to co-develop a negotiation mandate of an enduring reconciliation agreement.

This achievement is one of a kind and was celebrated by Chief and Council, Minister Bennett and Minister Clarke together with Federal Member of Parliament, Larry Maguire, Provincial Member of the Legislative Assembly, Doyle Piwniuk, Mayor of Brandon, Rick Chrest, Mayor of Virden, Jeff McConnell, and Councillor Stan Cochrane of the RM of Sifton on September 22, 2018 at an event with citizens of Sioux Valley who witnessed the historic signing of this Framework Agreement. The Agreement could not have been achieved without the cooperation, persistence, collaboration and patience of all three governments and negotiation teams who worked hard to make this a reality.

The Framework Agreement commits the Governments of Sioux Valley, Canada and Manitoba to continue to work towards an agreement of enduring reconciliation and a long-term sustainable future for Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. Once complete, an Agreement of Reconciliation will be ratified by the citizens and will provide the necessary constitutional protections of Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate government with Canada and Manitoba.



*Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Canada and Manitoba sign Framework Reconciliation Agreement*



*Chief Tacan, (Canada) Minister Philpott and (Manitoba) Minister Clarke*



*Chief and Council with dignitaries*

## **MOVING FORWARD WITH PROTECTING DAKOTA RIGHTS**

1. ***Achieving a Framework Agreement with Canada and Manitoba to develop a negotiation of outstanding historical issues between the Dakota of Sioux Valley and the Crown***
  - On July 24, 2009, Sioux Valley filed a Claim against the Crown in Right of Canada to seek remedies for outstanding historical issues including labelling of its citizens as refugees and not recognizing the ancestral territories of Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate.
  - In July of 2014, Sioux Valley, Canada and Manitoba committed to explore these outstanding issues which resulted in the development of a Framework Agreement to seek an agreement of reconciliation.
  - On September 22, 2018, Chief Vince Tacan was pleased and proud to sign an historic Framework Agreement with both Canada and Manitoba committing to move forward with a formal process to address the important issues requiring reconciliation between these governments.
  - Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate government expects full participation of Elders, staff and citizens over the next several years to reach an agreement to present for ratification of the entire community of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation.
2. ***Protecting the rights of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation to its assets from Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council***
  - In 2009, the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council Housing Authorities decided to distribute houses that they acquired over the years when Sioux Valley was a member First Nation. As Sioux Valley Dakota Nation became self-governing and did not need Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council services, the Tribal Council and its Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council Housing Authority Inc. and its Dakota Ojibway First Nation Housing Authority Inc. refused to provide Sioux Valley with the off-Reserve houses it was entitled to.
  - As Sioux Valley received less houses than it should have, on June 1, 2016, Chief and Council directed a lawsuit be commenced in the Court of Queen's Bench against the DOTC housing corporations to deliver the houses to Sioux Valley that it is entitled to.
  - Chief Tacan and members of Council attended the Court of Queen's Bench, have undergone Examinations for Discovery in 2017, and have scheduled a Trial in the Court of Queen's Bench in November 2018.
3. ***Protecting the rights of Dakota families and lost children – SVDN 60s Scoop Action***
  - Since 2014, Sioux Valley Chief and Council directed that research be done into the taking of Sioux Valley children over decades and placing them with non-Dakota foster homes and families throughout Canada and the United States.
  - Research conducted by the Governance Office and now through the SVDN Department of Families has uncovered over 250 members who, as children, were taken from their families and placed into non-Dakota foster care and homes.
  - Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate government seeks remedies on behalf of all of their children who were taken away and the families who have suffered at the hands of CFS apprehension Agencies.
  - On May 8, 2017, Chief and Council directed Sioux Valley legal counsel to commence a Claim in the Federal Court against Canada for remedies including compensation for those Sioux Valley children and citizens who have suffered as a result of the policies of Canada.

- On May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Chief Vince Tacan and Governance 60s Scoop Researcher Louise Hall attended Federal Court Hearings with legal counsel Bruce Slusar in Saskatoon to present the position of Sioux Valley on behalf of its lost children and citizens.
- In 2018, the Federal Court appointed a case management Judge and a Case Management Conference is scheduled for November 2018.



*Governance Office Researcher Louise Hall, Legal Counsel Bruce Slusar, and Chief Vince Tacan attend Federal Court Hearing in Saskatoon SK*

**4. Protecting the rights of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation to its ancestral territories**

- Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate government is concerned about the number of resource projects supported by Federal and Provincial governments involving pipelines and transmission lines through Dakota traditional territories without properly consulting Sioux Valley Dakota Nation government.
- The Chief and members of Council have developed a consultation protocol and attended a number of meetings with entities who are promoting these projects and are considering what remedies are required to address the rights of the citizens and Government of Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate. More information will be coming following further discussions with the Federal and Provincial governments at the end of 2018.

**5. Protecting the rights of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation citizens to own their own homes**

- Sioux Valley has purchased lots in the surrounding area for the benefit of those citizens of Sioux Valley who are willing and capable of owning and building their own houses.
- Since purchasing the lots, some outside organizations have expressed an interest to develop the lots and wanted the lots to be transferred to them with no guarantees that Sioux Valley citizens would own the lots or be involved in building houses.
- Without guarantees for Sioux Valley citizens to own these houses or to create jobs for Sioux Valley workers to build the houses, this outside organization was cancelled. Other plans are now already underway by Chief and Council to begin building new houses for Sioux Valley citizens by Sioux Valley workers.



*ACC Framing School at Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, students raising an exterior wall.*



*ACC Framing School at Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, near completion of a fully framed home.*





Chief Tacan addresses ACC Framing Course Grads



ACC Framing Course Grads of 2017

- This is one example of how Sioux Valley Dakota Nation government remains vigilant and makes sure that all benefits flow to the citizens of Sioux Valley and that its own work force is given priority at all times in keeping with the *Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Constitution of the People*.

6. **Protecting the dignity of Residential School survivors and the deceased**

- The Sioux Valley Department of Health has continued to participate in organizing gatherings to address systemic and generational harms caused by federal and provincial policies including Residential School survivor gatherings at the site of the former Brandon Residential School which is owned by Sioux Valley Dakota Nation.



Residential School Site Gathering



Attendees at Gathering



Chief Tacan and Virden MLA Doyle Piwniuk at Gathering

- The Chief and Portfolio Councillor along with the Department of Health have taken steps to transfer the former Brandon Residential School site to Sioux Valley Reserve lands and are planning the develop-



Chief Tacan with Representatives from Canada and the Regional Office of CIRNA at Gathering

ment of a holistic healing lodge with a focus on Residential School survivor issues including addictions and family dysfunction.

Since 2016, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Chief and Council have been working with the University of Manitoba Architecture Department to develop a series of conceptual plans for the former Brandon Residential School site which has resulted in a number of presentations to the Governments of Canada and Manitoba and to Residential School site gatherings.



U of M Architecture Class visits Residential School Site



Chief Tacan hears presentations from U of M students



U of M student architecture models

- Plans are underway for further artistic renderings and feasibility studies involving this development which is proposed to become Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Reserve.
- Sioux Valley governance researchers have located the site of a former historic cemetery which holds the remains of over 50 students of the former Brandon Residential School and which is now encompassed by the Turtle Crossing Camp Grounds.
- Historical research has disclosed that the City of Brandon received the cemetery from the Government of Canada on condition that they maintain its sacred nature. However, the City of Brandon sold the site. When a second owner began proposing to build campgrounds over the sacred cemetery, Chief Tacan, members of Council and legal counsel held several meetings with the owner, the City of Brandon, and Manitoba Heritage. Unless the cemetery is restored or the remains removed and transferred to the North Hill Cemetery near the former Brandon Residential School site, Sioux Valley will take legal action to ensure that the rights of its citizens and other First Nation families are honoured and respected, and their dignity protected.

- Sioux Valley governance gained access to the cemetery for its archaeological researcher who will be conducting tests on location and will be compiling a report. Following the research, Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Government will continue protecting the rights of these deceased children.

7. **Moving forward with community priorities**

- Sioux Valley Dakota Chief and Council have maintained their commitment to the priority of improving education, health, wellness, social development, economic development, language and culture, and report the following significant initiatives in each of these areas:

a) **Department of Health**

- Sioux Valley strives to maintain and enhance its clinic with qualified nurses and physicians for the benefit of all Sioux Valley citizens. The Department of Health has taken steps necessary to bring awareness and prevention to all age groups and in preparing for what is described as a crisis involving both distribution of illicit opiate drugs and sexually transmitted diseases.



*Marge Roscelli, Director of Health speaks at opening of Teen Clinic*



*Ribbon cutting at opening of Teen Clinic*

- Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Government continues to support and never forget issues relating to women’s rights including never forgetting those missing and murdered citizens of Sioux Valley whose stories, lives, and disappearance continue to be the focus of remembrance of their community and families and investigation.



*Councillor Tony Tacan with wife Leaha at the 2017 Walk Against Violence*

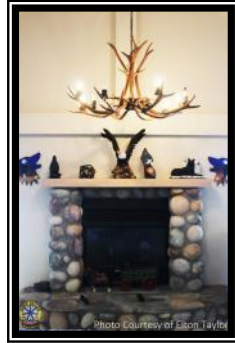


*Attendee of the 2018 Walk Against Violence*

b) **Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Elders Lodge**

- The Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Elders Lodge has undergone extensive renovations and upgrading since 2016 resulting in meeting all standards required for a Level IV care facility to provide the highest level of quality care to the Elders and those citizens of Sioux Valley who require 24 hour care.

- Chief and Council continue to work with both the Province and its Regional Health Authority in promoting the Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Elders Lodge as the premier Elders Care Home in southwestern Manitoba to meet the needs of Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate citizens and those of the surrounding region.
- The Lodge is also promoting good health for its Residents who have enjoyed planting and harvesting a variety of their own fresh food to eat.



c) ***Jordan's Principle***

- Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Government was successful in receiving additional funding to enhance its capability to deliver services to those children who might otherwise have been subjected to what in the past was known as a gap between Federal and Provincial funding for Indigenous health services.
- The funding has been put to use to bridge this gap including developing additional health facilities adjacent to the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation School. These enhancements are the proud result of using Sioux Valley skilled tradespeople and labour.

d) ***Education***

- Sioux Valley Chief and Council have continued to request of Canada the necessity of new educational facilities both at Sioux Valley Dakota Nation and in the City of Brandon resulting in a number of tours of government representatives from Canada and Manitoba as well as additional funding for both repairs and upgrades to the existing facilities such as repairing the High School in Brandon.



- After extensive repairs to four sections of the High School roof are completed, plans are already under way for some interior repairs.
- Sioux Valley continues to graduate increased number of students with Grade 12 education and those who have continued to pursue post-secondary education in University, College, Applied Arts and Technical Schools.

- Also, a Mature Grade 12 Program works with Yellow Quill College to provide adults with the opportunity to acquire a Grade 12 Diploma and be employment and post-secondary ready.



- The Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Chistinapida Day Care has upgraded its building to accommodate increasing numbers of pre-school and infant children. New state-of-the-art safety features including 360 degree cameras provides for the safety of the children.



- The Day Care works closely with Sioux Valley Head Start, Department of Health, and Department of Finance to meet or exceed Manitoba Day Care licencing standards and to follow a best practices initiative.

- Sioux Valley Dakota Nation education promotes post-secondary education and sponsors an annual Career Fair to introduce students to many opportunities provided by higher education.

- Sioux Valley Dakota Nation annually rewards its Grade 12 graduates with a field trip to places of historical and cultural significance to the Dakota Oyate.



e) **Social Development**

- One of the biggest challenges recognized by Chief and Council is the creation of training and employment opportunities to reduce the number of citizens who rely on income assistance.
- Chief and Council recognize that the current Income Assistance policies imposed by the Federal and Provincial governments on Sioux Valley citizens who live both on and off the Reserve does not encourage or facilitate taking further training or working because there is no means for citizens to comfortably transition from income assistance to working and being fully self-supporting.
- Chief and Council have directed that a new Income Assistance Policy be created to allow citizens of Sioux Valley who currently rely on income assistance to work at Sioux Valley businesses such as the newly built Petro-Canada store and gas bar and earn income while still being supported by the income assistance program for a reasonable period of time to become self-supporting without penalty of disqualification.

Chief and Council have continued to successfully obtain additional funding for training programs to encourage both youth and adults willing to take programming that allows training and certification of marketable skills. A recent example was the well-attended heavy equipment training course in the spring of 2018 which saw 100% graduation of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation participants with certification in a series of heavy equipment applications which also resulted in the development of roadwork through the 80 acre Sioux Valley Dakota Nation addition to Reserve commercial site.



f) **Economic Development**

- Chief and Council continue to seek and develop opportunities for Sioux Valley citizens to access training and employment for creating sustainability of Sioux Valley families and community.
- The 80 acre commercial development site has recently undergone transformation with the enhancement of pavement as well as putting the heavy equipment operator course to good use in both preparing the site and creating temporary roadways, grading and water diversion with installation of culverts.



*Chief Tacan, the first customer*



*Chief and Council with General Manager Dave Brennan*



Photo Courtesy of Elton Taylor



Photo Courtesy of Helena Mazawasicuna

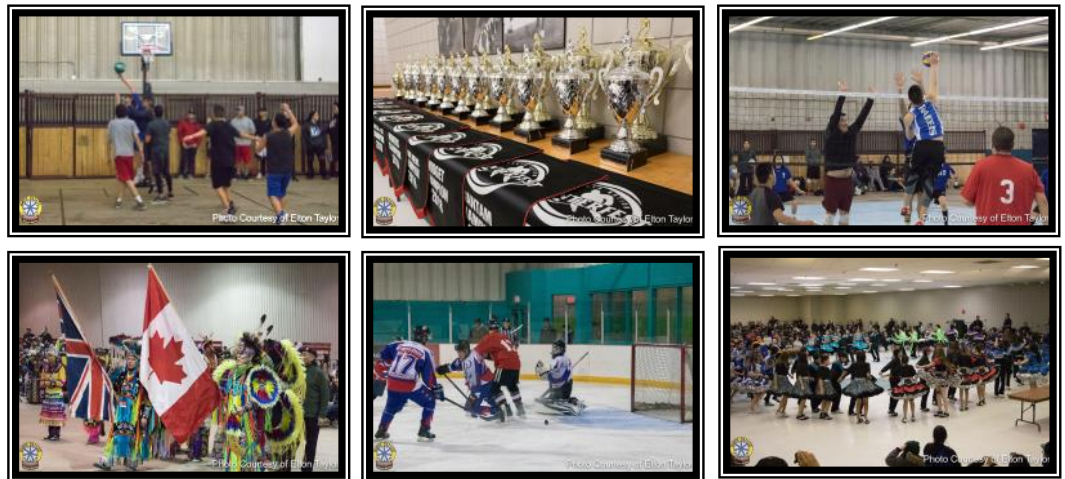
- In addition, enhanced communication infrastructure has recently been installed with high-speed fibre optic cable replacing the wireless operation to enhance computer activities for citizens, homes, and operations of Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Government.
- Chief and Council have proposed plans for the *Commercial Development and Land Management Law* to facilitate enhanced gaming and commercial operations at the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Highways 1 and 21 Reserve location which developments are ongoing and propose to be accelerated in late 2018 and early 2019.

g) **A New Department of Language and Culture**

- Sioux Valley Dakota Nation continues to host the popular International Dakota Nation Winterfest in January of each year and International Pow Wow in July of each year.



- Each of these significant events continue to grow in popularity and require additional attention to detail and financial support.



- Chief and Council are committed to continue these events and to develop and provide the facilities necessary to showcase these cultural events of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation for the Province, Canada, and the World.
- Chief and Council recognize that the Dakota language is central and critical to the sustainability of Dakota culture, and Sioux Valley is blessed with Elders and Dakota language speakers.
- Chief and Council have successfully applied for funding to create a new Department of Language and Culture which is due to be implemented in late 2018 and early 2019 with a mandate to promote Dakota language and culture throughout all Sioux Valley



Dakota Oyate Government Departments and the community including an immersion program for both children and adult citizens of Sioux Valley. This new Department will be coordinated with all government Departments to ensure that the cultural teachings of Dakota values are instilled from an early age.

- Sioux Valley Dakota Nation promotes healthy youth and honours their achievements such as at the Sioux Valley Youth Hockey Dinner for minor hockey players.



**h) Housing – New and Existing**

- Sioux Valley Dakota Nation is similar to other First Nations in striving to meet the demands of an increasing population with young families who require houses.
- Chief and Council have continued to work with existing programs such as CMHC to build and deliver high quality houses to accommodate those new families seeking to remain residence of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation and raise their families.
- Chief and Council recognize that CMHC programs are insufficient to meet the pace required for developing houses, and are developing alternative means to finance the building of additional houses using Sioux Valley skilled tradespeople who are in a position to undertake these activities.
- Sioux Valley tradespeople include carpenters, framers, plumbers, electricians and skilled labour required to both repair and renovate existing houses and build new houses for citizens of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation and their families who wish to remain on Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Reserve lands and those that are willing to branch out



and own houses of their own in fee simple title as planned with the new lots in Griswold.



Sioux Valley Dakota Nation continues to seek the additional houses owed to it by the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council Housing Authorities to add to the 23 houses currently managed by Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Housing Authority in the urban centres of Brandon, Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg.

## **BUILDING A FINANCIALLY STRONGER AND SAFER COMMUNITY**

Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Government continues to pass laws and take responsibility for areas including financial accountability by passing the recent *Financial Management Law* which will provide for further opportunities for financing additional major projects to create employment and capacity-building for its citizens.

Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Government has entered into a three Party agreement with the Province of Manitoba and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for training its Security Officers and enhancing their status to Peace Officers. Chief and Council are planning towards developing a Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Police Service working hand in hand with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and encouraging Sioux Valley youth to consider careers in law, justice and policing.

Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Government has recently identified additional threats to its governance, health and well-being in the form of criminal activity which it is addressing through the passing and implementation of a proposed Safer Community Law which is due to be introduced later in 2018 and early 2019.

Recently, Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Government passed an Animal Control By-law to address incidents involving dangerous animals in the community.

## **BRINGING GOVERNMENTS TOGETHER**

On September 22, 2018, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation was recently honoured by the presence of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Red Serge regalia at the all government meeting of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Canada, Manitoba and local municipal governments of Brandon and Virden, rural municipalities and regional government representation.



## **BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER**

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation continues to thrive on increasing participation of its members in community events that continue to gain in popularity and attendance.

## Christmas Dinners

The annual Christmas dinners held at the Veteran's Hall at Sioux Valley, and in Brandon and Winnipeg are continuous reminders that the community is expanding and the venues are becoming more and more full to accommodate all of the citizens in one sitting at this wonderful event which exhibits both Dakota culture and the culinary skills of its cooks. The annual Christmas gathering is suggesting to Chief and Council that an expansion of this community event may be considered for both Thanksgiving and Easter.



# INCREASING STRENGTH OF THE BUFFALO

The progress and advancement of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation continues to be reflected by the increasing herd of buffalo which Chief and Council have committed to preserving and caring for. The white buffalo which was given as a gift to Sioux Valley Dakota Nation from the Winnipeg Zoo and which occurs as 1 in 1 million births has now multiplied over the past decade to provide Sioux Valley with an unprecedented 4 white buffalo and represents the significant achievements of Sioux Valley to date and the promise of many more opportunities and achievements for the future.



## A CHECKLIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In previous Years in Review, we listed what we wanted to achieve for our community and our citizens. We are proud and pleased to check off what we accomplished since then:

- ✓ Completed construction of the Dakota Valley Gas Mart at TransCanada No. 1 and Highway No. 21 with a Gas Bar and Convenience Store
- ✓ Completed Reserve Creation to allow citizens to earn income in a tax free environment along with purchases of fuel and other products
- ✓ Developed the new Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Department of Families and Dakota Tiwahe Services with staff and offices to focus on bringing home the children of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation citizens
- ✓ Signed the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Framework Agreement for the Co-Development of a Reconciliation Negotiation Mandate with Canada and the Province of Manitoba, and are continuing discussions to seek a mandate to negotiate recognition and settlement of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation issues in Canada
- ✓ Developed and passed new Election Law; Amusements, Recreation and Gaming Law; Land Management Law; and Financial Administration Law
- ✓ Enhanced police services with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and enhancing security services
- ✓ Adding more houses for Sioux Valley Dakota Nation citizens
- ✓ Enhanced opportunities for education, training, and employment
- ✓ Enhanced community infrastructure including construction and maintenance of dykes to keep houses and infrastructure safe
- ✓ Improved communication and infrastructure by delivery of high-speed internet services and fibre-optic infrastructure
- ✓ Consecutive annual financial audits with no qualifications

We could only have achieved these successes with your support and with the dedication and hard work from our directors, managers, and staff who worked together with Chief and Council to accomplish so much in such a short period of time.

There are many more opportunities to come for Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, and our Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Government will continue to work hard to support each other and to serve the best interests of our citizens.



## **2018-2019 – WHAT’S PLANNED FOR THE ROAD AHEAD?**

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation has accomplished many achievements over the past few years and Chief and Council are committed to continuing this progress to improve the community and lives of all citizens of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. The focus remains on community priorities of better health, education, culture, economic and social development, and more opportunities for employment through training and capacity development.

Look forward to more of the following:

- Enhanced and better programs and services
- Commercial building infrastructure
- Businesses
- Increased and better quality housing
- Employment and training
- National, provincial and regional collaboration with other governments
- Passing of more Laws
- Implementing our Financial Administration Law to become certified at national levels of accountability
- Uniting and securing our families
- Bringing our 60s Scoop children home
- Securing our rights for future generations through negotiation of an enduring reconciliation

**Exploring new industries and businesses for Sioux Valley Dakota Nation**



*Touring a tire recycling facility*



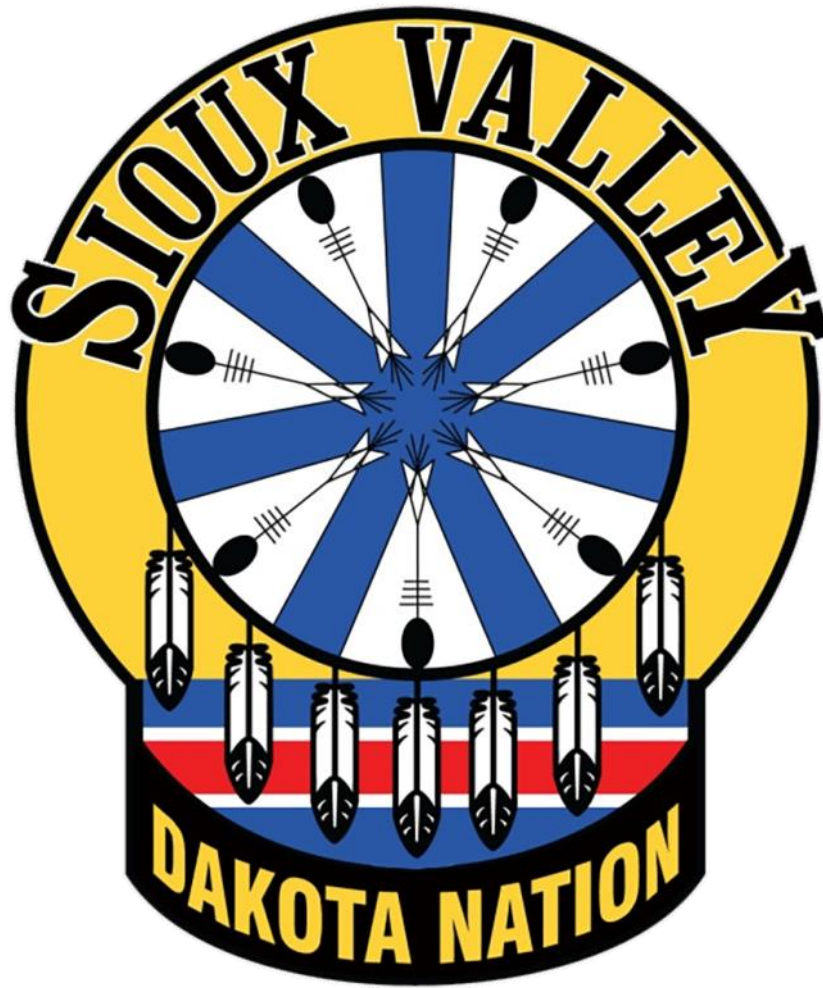
*Touring the ATCO modular building factory*



*Touring a plastic recycling facility*



*Vision of a new gaming facility*



For further information, please visit the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Website at:

[www.svdngovernance.com](http://www.svdngovernance.com)

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