

SIOUX VALLEY DAKOTA NATION



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Han/Hau Mitakyapi, Wipazoka Wakpa Oyate

The Sioux Valley Dakota Nation (SVDN) Chief and Council are pleased to present the 2023 annual report to highlight key initiatives and events that occurred throughout the year. We give thanks to our Directors, Program Managers and Staff for their commitment to providing quality programs and services to the SVDN Citizens.

A Chief and Council election was held on October 19, 2023, resulting in a change in some of the leadership positions. The new Chief and Council include: Chief Vincent Tacan, Councillors Jonathon Bell, Melissa Hotain, Carol Johnson, Anthony D. Tacan, and Russell (Rusty) Taylor. The new leadership were sworn into office the following day. The mandate of leadership is to ensure the best interests of the Nation through the delivery of high-level oversight, management, and advocacy through accountable and transparent processes.

Chiefs Message

Since returning to the office as Chief of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation I have the following to report:

- I was sworn in on a Friday and the following Monday all the data that was the property of SVDN was erased. This created issues and delays for a twomonth period.
- ➤ I also learned that there was one person paid roughly \$406,000, with no employee file or contract.
- There were five and a half pages of NORR reports to be completed. Some of the reports (3) dated as far back as six years.
- There is no commitment from ISC to fund a new early years, middle years or high school.
- > We have a much-needed water treatment plant, but there are no funds for a new waterline.
- There was no work towards finalizing our specific claim since 2018.



This is the reality. Moving forward, it will take a monumental effort to turn things around. We need the youth to re-engage. This is your opportunity, your one chance at employment, housing and education. I understand that Self-Government did not create the results we wanted. But it's not the fault of the Self-Government agreement or constitution. It's people that vote. So collectively, we have to take responsibility for how things turn out. Hoping for better days ahead.

Chief Vince Tacan

CHIEF AND COUNCIL PORTFOLIOS 2023-2025

Chief Vincent Tacan

Finance & Administration

Legal

Lands

Economic Development

Gaming/Gas Bar/Diner/Petro

Media Relations

Membership

Governance – Shared

Dakota Tiwahe Services - Shared

Housing – Shared

Youth Advisory

Councillor Jon Bell

Public Works
Emergency Services
Dakota Oyate Lodge
Justice & Policing
Brandon IRS Project
Bison
Health & Jordan's Princi

Health & Jordan's Principle
Governance - Shared
Housing - Shared
Dakota Tiwahe Services - Shared

Councillor Melissa Hotain

Education
Dakota Oyate Lodge
Brandon IRS Project
Finance & Administration
IT & Communications
Veteran's Affairs
Dakota Tiwahe Services - Shared
Governance - Shared
Housing - Shared

Councillor Carol Johnson

Health
IT & Communications
Veteran's Affairs
Post-Secondary Education
Employment & Training
Governance - Shared
Housing - Shared
Dakota Tiwahe Services - Shared

Councillor Anthony Tacan

Justice & Policing

Social Development
Post Secondary Education
Employment & Training
Buildings & Maintenance
Bison
Dakota Ojibway Community Futures
Governance - Shared
Housing - Shared
Dakota Tiwahe Services - Shared

Councillor Russell Taylor

Public Works
Social Development
Emergency Services
Education
Buildings & Maintenance
Justice & Policing
Governance - Shared
Housing - Shared
Dakota Tiwahe Services - Shared

CHIEF AND COUNCIL

We acknowledge and give thanks to the outgoing Chief and Council, who served their term with dedication and commitment to the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation from 2021 – 2023. Each successive leadership has provided ongoing guidance and advancement to the goals and objectives of our community.



SVDN elders, members & leadership at Whitecap Dakota Nation



This report will outline chronologically the events that occurred in 2023.





In January 2023 SVDN hosted the annual Dakota Nation Winterfest, an opportunity for community and dedicated coordinators and volunteers to showcase our Dakota hospitality through sport and culture. We have been proud hosts and organizers for this event for many years and will continue to plan and make better each successive year.

CHIEF AND COUNCIL





Sioux Valley Dakota Nation hosted a Dakota, Nakota, Lakota Elder's Gathering on January 24 and 25, 2023 to document traditional knowledge, history, genealogy, kinship and songs through videos.

Elders heard presentations on SVDN cultural projects and were invited to participate in Elder interviews by sharing their knowledge on Dakota/Lakota/Nakoda worldview, kinship, songs, genealogy, lands and environment, and language.

There were invitations sent to 33 Dakota/Nakota/Lakota communities in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Montana. There were 169 participants that attended the Elders Gathering. Participants attended from communities such as Whitecap, Birdtail Sioux, Canupawakpa, Dakota Tipi, Dakota Plains, Standing Buffalo, Wahpeton Dakota Nation, Carry the Kettle, and Ocean Man.

In May and June, our land researchers Calliou Group provided presentation and updates on the ongoing land research for the SVDN. This was an opportunity to hear the progress and importance of documenting our traditional territories for the future generations.

On May 23rd, SVDN hosted Minister Marc Miller, Crown Indigenous and Northern Relations Canada. The purpose was the official announcement of Canada's contribution of funding for the new water treatment plant.





In June, SVDN leadership was in attendance for Elder Katherine Whitecloud as she received the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal (Manitoba). This medal is awarded to outstanding individuals who have made a positive impact on society through their dedication to the service of family, community, and country. We are pleased to see our Elders lifted in honour and acknowledge her long standing contributions to our Dakota Nation.





In June, SVDN hosted a Grand Opening Summer Celebration at the Grand Valley Campground. It was a fun filled day of games, activities and music from various artists including C-Weed and Tracy Bone. SVDN purchased the Grand Valley Campground a well-known Dakota location on the traditional territories of the people.

In July, SVDN hosted a blessing of the new ranch site, a place that was acquired to conduct land based and cultural activities for the SVDN members.







In July, youth from the SVDN participated in the North American Indigenous Games in Halifax, Nova Scotia. We extend thanks for Theo Pratt, Danica Chaske, and Bailey Tacanwaste for their participation and bringing home medals in their respective sports.



In July the SVDN passed a Community Safety Law, that was formally enacted through resolution on August 9, 2023. Due to the rising issues and concerns for community safety related to the increase of illegal drugs in the community this law was enacted by SVDN members. The health and safety of our community is a priority, and we continue to work together to advance and address the ongoing challenges.

On July 14-16, 2023, SVDN hosted our annual Dakota Oyate Wacipi, one of the longest running Dakota powwows. We are reminded that there were many years when our culture was outlawed and our ancestors maintained this way of life quietly to ensure the language and songs were passed down, for that we give thanks for their determination and commitment to our way of life. The powwow was held in our brand-new arbour completed by Keller Developments and members of the SVDN.











In August, SVDN proudly hosted the return of Zach Whitecloud of the Vegas Golden Knights and the Stanley Cup. It as a day filled with honour and pride as we welcomed many visitors who came to Zach and congratulate him and his team on winning the Stanley Cup on June 13, 2023. He was brought into the powwow grounds on a wagon led by a team of horses from a family of neighbouring supporters. Prior to this day, SVDN hosted community viewing parties to watch the hockey playoffs which were well attended and enjoyed by all.

In August the SVDN Chief and Council joined the 2023 SVDN High School graduates on a trip to Minnesota. These are annual trips for graduating classes to learn about Dakota culture and history throughout the Dakota territories.





In September there was a groundbreaking for the new water treatment plant to provide safe and clean drinking water to our community.

On September 30th, SVDN recognized Truth and Reconciliation Day at the former Brandon Indian Residential School grounds. The day was spent honouring our residential school survivors and the children who never made it home. The day was spent with prayers, education, songs, and feast by various SVDN members. A walk was also held from the Riverbank Discovery Centre to the BIRS site.

On October 19, 2023, Reaching Home Project had the Grand Opening of our building Waunshida Tipi: The House Of Caring. The invite was open to all community members, staff, as well as outside organizations we work with. We had well over 150 people in attendance. Everyone enjoyed a free BBQ lunch while intaking program information and meeting the RHP staff. During this time people were able to tour our building, seeing inside each of the units, and ask staff questions in regard to our services.





On November 20th, SVDN officially signed the First Nation Safety Officer Mandate to expand the enforcement powers of the existing FNSO program. Some of these powers include The Highway Traffic Act, SVDN By-Laws, The Off-Road Vehicles Act, The Liquor and Gaming Act, The Child and Family Services Act, Public Safety and Crime Prevention, Victims and Social Services, Arrests, Search and Seizures etc.



In December SVDN hosted Christmas Dinners for both off and on reserve members in SVDN, Brandon and Winnipeg. There was also a specific dinner for the Elders to come together to visit and share a meal together. They were also provided an early Christmas gift for those in attendance.





HUMAN RESOURCES

Staff

- > HR Director Richard Stevenson
- HR Officer Sarah Hobson
- HR Administrative Assistant Tia Smoke
- HR Administrative Assistant (Assisting in Benefit Administration)
 -Kirsten Dick

Introduction

The Human Resources Department provides policy direction on human resources related matters and provides support to SVDN employees, program managers, and directors relating to employee relations. The Human Resources Department's purpose is to provide ethical, transparent, and unbiased hiring practices while trying to ensure that employees have the skills, experience, qualifications, and competencies necessary to perform their role efficiently and effectively. SVDN Human Resources team manages the cycle of an employee ranging from recruitment, on-boarding process, development, retention, and separation. The mission for the Department of Human Resources is to work collaboratively with all SVDN departments and employees to create a heathier, communitive, well-organized, and ethical work environment. In addition, the HR department is responsible for administering Group Benefits to SVDN employees, registering SVDN employees in the Pension Plan, and assisting with employee disability claims.

Key Challenges and Issues

Delegating the time to ensure that HR is getting answers in a timely manner and communicating with stakeholders, our employees, and managers

Engaging the workforce within SVDN to attend work regularly and on time; the HR Department is looking into ways to try and improve this issue

Organizational Structure – Failure to implement and follow the SVDN Employee Policy Handbook; Unfamiliarity of the hierarchy structure; Failure to follow the Lack of establishing a holistic and communicative relationship with SVDN departments, and employees

We are continually looking at ways for improvement in the HR department and are working towards simplifying our postings for community members. Specifically streamlining qualifications with the goal of encouraging more members to apply for positions within the community

HUMAN RESOURCES

Objectives and Initiatives

Human Resources has posted one hundred and thirty-six career opportunities in 2023, and the HR staff continuously work at trying to fill job vacancies effectively and in a timely manner. Our team has had some new implementations in the department this year and had experienced unforeseen circumstances, however, HR staff continues to work diligently and effectively to do the best we can for the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation.

In terms of recruitment, our focal point is to hire community members that have the right skills for the right position and to mentor the future generation of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation.



Administration – AHS/Daycare, Bison Project, E&T/PTE, FNSO, Finance, Housing, Infrastructure, iT, OSR, and RHP. (Term; summer students, demo crew)

Education

Gaming Centre – DQS, Diner, GC Cashiers, and Security.

Health – Health Centre and Jordan's Principle

Lodge

Petro

Self Government – C&C, BIRS, Climate Change, Communications, CFS Law, HR, IRID, Healing Centre, Records Tech.

Total Gross Payroll for all departments = \$16,921,902.63

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION DEPARTMENT (IRID)

Staff

- > Tricia Hayward Director
- > Carol Johnson
 - Implementation Coordinator
- Kendra Kakewash
 - Executive Assistant/Coordinator

Introduction

The IRID collaborates and oversee negotiations with the Federal and Provincial Government and collaboration and partnerships with other Self-Governing Indigenous Nations. The IRID serves the IRIS Table (Intergovernmental Relations and Indigenous Support), the RRISD table (Recognition of Indigenous Rights & Self-Determination and the SGIG table) Self-Governing Indigenous Governments) which fulfill the requirements of the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Self-Governance Agreement and the Tripartite Agreement. The IRID oversees the development and coordination of new and existing SVDN laws and conducts internal and external communications, projects, initiatives, and activities with the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

Community Engagement

Engagement and Consultation sessions on the proposed SVDN Community Safety Law were held on:

Safety Law engagement sessions

- Sioux Valley Dakota Nation June 13 and 18, 2023
- Brandon June 14, 2023
- Winnipeg June 15, 2023

SVDN Community Safety Law Readings

- Sioux Valley Dakota Nation July 5 & 20, 2023
- ➤ Brandon July 12, 2023
- Winnipeg July 18, 2023

Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Community Safety Law

- ➤ Winnipeg July 24, 2023
- ➤ Brandon July 25, 2023
- ➤ Sioux Valley July 27. 2023

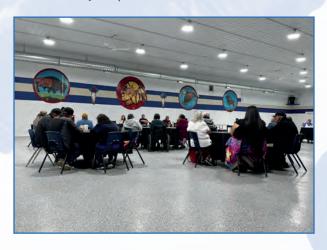


INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION DEPARTMENT (IRID)

The IRID also hosted the following Engagement sessions:

Elders Information Session

– Sioux Valley- September 6, 2023



Elders Christmas Dinner – Sioux Valley – December 19, 2023



Negotiations

IRID facilitates and assists in coordinating negotiations at two tables with the federal and provincial governments: Intergovernmental Relations and Implementation Support, and Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination Discussion Table. IRID also participates in ongoing joint advocacy at the Self-Governing Indigenous Governments (SGIG's) Collaborative Fiscal Policy Development Table

Intergovernmental Relations and Implementation Support (IRIS)

Committee Members: Representatives from Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Canada and Manitoba

The IRIS committee plays a crucial role in reviewing laws developed by Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. The review is aimed at ensuring that existing and new laws align harmoniously with existing legal frameworks, fostering effective collaboration between the involved parties. When Sioux Valley Dakota Nation formulates a law, the committee conducts a thorough assessment to guarantee cohesion and compatibility, thereby enhancing the overall success of Intergovernmental Relations and Implementation Support.

On October 11, 2023, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation hosted an in-person meeting with the Federal Government (Canada) and Provincial Government (Manitoba) in Sioux Valley Dakota Nation.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION DEPARTMENT (IRID)

Recognition of Indigenous Rights & Self-Determination (RIRSD)

There have been several meetings at this negotiation table. The result has seen SVDN seek funding to conduct essential research in areas of land and culture. Objectives and projects include; Communications, Historical research, and health surveys.

Self-Governing Indigenous Governments (SGIG's)

SVDN participates in ongoing discussions with 24 other Self-Governing Nations in BC, Yukon, Nunatsiavut, and NWT. The SGIG's have developed a Collaborative Fiscal Policy process with Canada to work collectively to improve the quality of life for Indigenous people and to close socio-economic gaps between the Indigenous community and other Canadians.

SVDN Committees/Boards

The Community Safety law board was established in February 2023 and consists of 7 members.

Harold Blacksmith, Wendy Whitecloud, Lee Pompana, Jeff Taylor, Arlene McKay, Bonnie Essie and Eleanor Elk. The Board meets on a bi-weekly basis.

Training

SVDN participated in the First Nations
University of Canada Board Governance
Program. Contributing significantly to building
organizational capacity.



Challenges/Key Issues

- The absence of a community engagement strategy poses a challenge in fostering meaningful connections with the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation community members. Developing and implementing a robust strategy will enhance involvement and participation.
- The need for a communications strategy is evident to improve both internal and external communications. A well-defined strategy will enhance the dissemination of information, fostering transparency and understanding among stakeholders.

Staff:

- > Katherine Nichols, Project Manager
- Brent Perrin, Community and Field Survey Coordinator
- Lashawnda Hildebrandt, Administration and Education Coordinator
- Ling Jin, Records Research Coordinator
- > Tasha Ross, Project Assistant
- Kimberly Figura, Ashley Austin, Alexandra MacKay-Brown and Dayle Blackbird, Part-Time Research Assistants
- > Jack Bell, Summer Student

SVDN Residential School Elder Committee:

Sandra McKay, Lorraine Pompana, Oswald McKay, Gerry Bell, Wilson Kennedy with Jessie Chaske and Terry Pratt joining in the summer of 2023

Collaborators:

Chris Mancuso and Katie Decter

Introduction:

Since 2012, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Wipazoka Wakpa, has led the investigation into missing children at the Brandon Indian Residential School (Brandon IRS). To do this, we have built partnerships with affected communities, survivors, regional and national organizations. The significant strides towards locating and protecting the schools' cemeteries and unmarked graves, identifying the names of children have been made with the help and guidance of our SVDN Residential School Elders Committee. To remember the children, their families and all survivors of residential schools, we are working on

establishing commemoration and memorialization gardens, signage and displays. This investigation brings together the many voices of those impacted by the Brandon IRS, including affected communities, living relatives of missing children and survivors to guide this search is done in a respectful and collaborative manner. At its heart, we are working to honour the children, their families and all survivors of residential schools.

Key Issues/Challenges

Notwithstanding the progress achieved, much work remains to move this investigation forward in a good way and continue the pursuit of truth, justice, and reconciliation.

Archival Access, Gaps and Locating Historical Documents. Locating records containing information about the children who were taken to the Brandon IRS is ongoing. The types of institutional documents are wide-ranging and are not systematically archived, with many having restricted access. There are also gaps in records resulting from the institutions' inadequate documentation, inefficient reporting practices, and deplorably poor preservation of their records which has led to records being destroyed. Finally, accessing records continues to be met with serious roadblocks. Colonial legislation and outdated policies are preventing families and communities from accessing their records. Even records held by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) are challenging to access. Our team is working on a Memorandum of Agreement and Information Sharing Agreement with the NCTR; however, this has been a timeconsuming process.

Jurisdiction and Legislation. Restricted and prohibited access to sacred lands is a national issue. Negotiations with the Turtle Crossing Campground private landowner and government officials have not allowed a path forward for a community-led geophysical survey to take place to determine the cemetery boundaries or solutions for long-term protection and access. Despite the 94 Calls to Action released by Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, there continues to be a lack of movement on legislation protection of sacred sites, Ancestors and their cultural belongings. The Independent Special Interlocutor, Kimberly Murray is responsible for recommendations on a new federal legal framework to improve Canada's legal processes to help identify and protect the unmarked graves and burial sites associated with former Indian Residential Schools across the country. Her final report will be released this summer.

Activities and Accomplishments:

The Residential School Missing Children Investigation continues to be guided by the SVDN Residential School Elder Committee. We cannot thank them enough for the support and counsel.

Our dedicated staff has been working very hard going through the roughly 14,000 records in the archives, with thousands more yet to go. The repositories we have searched so far include municipal, provincial, and federal agencies, religious entities, universities and local libraries, special record collections, individual personal collections and online websites and databases. To

date, we have identified 21 affected communities, over 100 impacted communities, 104 potential graves and 113 names of children who died in association with Brandon IRS. This work will continue with the addition of a specially designed database that will ensure these records are preserved for the future and will help with information sharing with impacted communities across Manitoba.

SVDN hosted a Healing the Generations
Conference this past September 11-14th, 2023.
The gathering was held at the Victoria Inn in
Brandon and at the former Brandon IRS site. Our
team worked along with the MKO Path Forward
Project to bring survivors from affected families
and communities from across Manitoba. We
held information sessions with speakers sharing
knowledge about how to conduct searches, how
to apply for funding, and search for records.
We also had breakout rooms where we asked
people how they would like the project to move
forward both in search strategies but also in
commemoration and memorialization options.

Our project team has planned and hosted the last 2 Orange Shirt (National Day of Truth and Reconciliation) Day events on September 30th, at the Brandon IRS site as well as working with the Brandon BUPAC committee for the Truth and Reconciliation week activities. Hundreds of people walked from the Riverbank Discovery center to the Brandon IRS where tents, displays and events were scheduled. The Unity Riders attended and a photo display from Knox United Church was available to give the public a better understanding of the experience and history of the Brandon IRS. Children's activities were planned throughout the day and the event

began and ended in ceremony with a sacred fire, blessings, prayers, and drum songs led by Billy McKay.

This past summer, our team along with Geophysicist Chris Mancuso and Environmental Health Researcher Katie Decter and partners from Brandon University, University of Manitoba, Queen's University, Laurentian University, Agriculture Canada, held hands-on training workshops. The name Wakanhezan Wokiksuye Makoce – Sacred Children was gifted to the workshop series by the Residential School Elder's Committee and the logo was designed by Nichole Antoine. This 4-part workshop had participants from all over Manitoba and Saskatchewan come to learn about different techniques involved in search strategies and how to use equipment for mapping, drone aerial photography and geophysical surveying. We would like to thank all participants for their willingness to learn and to share their knowledge with us, as well as SSHRC Partnership Engagement Grants for Residential Schools Joint Initiatives for funding. We are grateful to Elk and Hapa families who supported these workshops and allowed us to use space in their cemeteries.

We have also hosted several families from multiple communities who have come to the Brandon IRS site to pay their respects. Some of these include Long Plains FN, Paul FN, Nelson House CN, Brokenhead ON and Poplar River FN. Additionally, we were able to host a delegation from Columbia, who are undertaking similar work in their home community, where they worked to find and repatriate the remains of their loved ones. They gave a presentation and talk at Brandon University to a group of interested

individuals about the struggles they went through as well as the significance of the work.

To expand the capacity of the investigation, we were able to get drone certification and training through Indigenous Aerospace this past year and we are happy to report that SVDN now has five staff who have their advanced drone pilot's license: Adam Subject, Darby Essie, Lashawnda Hildebrandt, Brent Perrin and Katherine Nichols. We are thankful to the newly formed SVDN drone team for their commitment as this was an intensive process of studying, a written online exam and in-person flight test. Drone mapping and surveying provides an essential supporting role in these searches, which helps to document and safeguard the history of these sites, and survivor testimonies. The drone footage has been used in several short films that have been produced of events taking place in the community as well as the Sacred Children workshop series.

Our team is working to also identify SVDN cultural belongings in museums and institutions and to work on repatriation of those items back to the community. We were able to work with the Heritage Resource Branch to repatriate Ancestors held by the Province of Manitoba and they were reburied this fall in SVDN. An Ancestor from Killarney may also need SVDN's support in this coming year.

We have reached out to the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto about some items that may belong to the community. A small group of us went to the museum to look at the items and get some pictures of the items as well as to discuss what are the options for SVDN to have these items returned. We are currently reaching out to

the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa as they have many images, recordings and items that belong to SVDN. A small group of individuals were able to go there in November to discuss options. Currently we are also working with the Canadian Museum of Nature to review items from the Stott Site (Located at the Grand Valley Campground now run by SVDN). The Field Museum in Chicago also reached out about hair clippings found in their collection that came from southwestern Manitoba. The University of Manitoba, the Manitoba Museum and Province of Manitoba are working towards an approach for the Ancestors held in their custody, and SVDN

may receive notification from these institutions, if these Ancestors are to be from SVDN or Dakota traditional territories.

Our team also would like to hold a photo day where people can come and see the photos that our project has come across in the hopes of individuals being able to share any knowledge or information. We also hope that any individuals that may have images, items, or documents regarding the Brandon Residential School to bring them in to share with us. We will be working on a date and location for this to take place and will let the SVDN community know in advance.



Photo of SVDN Residential School Elder Committee and technical team at the Oceti Sakowin icipes unkikcupte conference in January 2023. From left to right: Brent Perrin, Lashawnda Hildebrandt, Oswald McKay, Lorraine Pompana, Sandra McKay, Gerry Bell and Katherine Nichols.



Photo taken during week-long drone training and flight reviews with Jacob Taylor, Indigenous Aerospace, and Darby Essie, SVDN Energy Efficiency and Adam Subject, SVDN Lands Manager at Veterans Hall.



Photo of SVDN's DJI's Matrice 300 and lidar payload first flight at the Brandon IRS site.



Photo of SVDN's 5 newly certified advanced drone pilots, taken with SVDN's new Mavic 3 drone.



Photos of Brent Perrin undertaking GPS point collection (left) and Chris Mancuso with Dual EM unit survey (right).



Photo of the technical team and collaborators preparing the Sage Site.

WAKANHEZAN WOKIKSUYE MAKOCE SACRED CHILDREN

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SITE SEARCH WORKSHOP SERIES Sioux Valley Dakota Nation



INTRODUCING OUR NEW LOGO CREATED BY NICOLE ANTOINE

ARTIST STATEMENT: THIS LOGO IS
MEANT TO REPRESENT OUR
RESILIENCY; TO BE THE VOICE, TO
HONOR AND COMMIT OUR
DEDICATION FOR THE SACRED
CHILDREN ESPECIALLY THOSE
WHO DIDN'T MAKE IT HOME FROM
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL. "THEY
TRIED TO BURY US, BUT THEY
DIDN'T KNOW WE WERE THE
SEEDS."



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY: HAN, NICOLE ANTOINE EMAKIYAPI YE, BORN AND RAISED IN WIPAZOKA WAKPA OYATE, IM A FULL TIME STUDENT AT BRANDON UNIVERSITY AIMING TO OBTAIN MY BACHELOR'S OF ARTS DEGREE. AFTER THIS, I HOPE TO ACHIEVE AN ART THERAPY DIPLOMA SO I CAN ONE DAY WORK WITH OUR YOUTH AND ELDERS IN THE COMMUNITY.

STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR WORKSHOPS!
LINK IN TEXT BOX OR VISIT SVDN GOVERNANCE PAGE ON FACEBOOK



Photo of the class portion of the workshop series, capturing the morning dedicated to teaching about geophysics in SVDN's governance training room.



Photo of participants and collaborators on the last day of the workshop, where participants spent time learning how to process data using Brandon University's computer lab.



Photo of the field portion of the workshop, capturing the afternoon dedicated to drones and aerial photography.



Photo of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation members and delegates from the Committee for the Rights of the Victims of Bojayá meet at Brandon University for knowledge exchange. Photo taken by Chelsea Kemp of CBC.



Photo of Unity Riders arriving at the Brandon IRS site on Orange Shirt Day.



Photo of SVDN's cultural belongings held at the Royal Ontario Museum.



Photo of orange hands prints of SVDN's daycare on children's tipi set up during SVDN's orange shirt day event at the Brandon IRS site.



Repatriation Delegation bringing Ancestors back to SVDN for burial.

HEALTH

Staff:

- > Pauline Taylor Administration
- > Cher Taylor Administration
- Deanna Wacanta Reception
- Natalie Orgryzlo Nurse in Charge
- **➤ Elicia Taylor**
 - Community Health Representative
- > Chrissy Branth
 - Community Health Representative
- Melissa Dyck Licensed Practical Nurse
- > Rhyan Sawyer
 - Speech Language Pathologist
- > Georgia Hayward
 - Speech Language Assistant
- > Allison Taylor
 - Speech Language Assistant
- Lora Rawlings Registered Dietician
- > Candice Kennedy NADAP
- > Justin Packo NADAP
- Darryl Hapa Maintenance
- Bryson Wanbdiska Maintenance
- > Melvina Genaille Housekeeping
- > Ira Taylor Housekeeping
- Nicole Cairns Medical Transport Clerk
- > Adrian Ironman Driver
- Gerald Bell Driver
- ➤ Lydia Taylor
 - Implementation Coordinator
- > Ronald Bone
 - Home and Community Care
- Teresa Tacan Dental Assistant
- > Shannon Laneeverde-Cameron
 - Dental Therapist
- Laura Jean Thompson Wellness Worker
- Michael Tagay Wellness Worker
- Perry Blacksmith
 - Community Health Care Aide
- Kylie Bell
 - Community Based Water Technician
- Tyris Bell Community Based Water Technician (Apprentice)



In the heart of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation stands the Health Centre. The facility is not just a building; it is a beacon of holistic well-being, providing a haven for the community's physical, mental, and spiritual health.

The Health Centre is a hub of diverse services, seamlessly blending modern healthcare with traditional healing practices. In one wing, nurses and doctors work diligently to provide primary care, vaccinations, and health education. The walls adorned with artwork depicting the rich cultural history of the Dakota Oyate serves as a reminder of the importance of cultural sensitivity in healthcare.

The community garden, tended by a group of dedicated individuals, flourished just outside the health centre. Here, traditional herbs and plants were grown, connecting the community with the land and its healing properties. The garden wasn't just a source of medicinal plants; it was a space for communal gatherings, where people shared stories and knowledge about traditional healing practices.

The mental health wing of the Centre provides a safe space for counseling and therapy. Elders and mental health professionals collaborate to create culturally relevant programs that

HEALTH



address the unique challenges faced by the community. Talking circles, art therapy, and storytelling sessions are integral parts of the healing process, fostering a sense of connection and resilience.

The Health Centre also plays a pivotal role in preventive care, organizing community workshops on nutrition, exercise, and wellness. Traditional healers conduct workshops on



smudging ceremonies, drum circles, and other practices that promote spiritual well-being.

The Centre serves as a bridge between the old and the new, honoring tradition while adapting to the evolving needs of the community. The Sioux Valley Health Centre stands as a testament to the resilience and unity of the community. It is more than just a place for healthcare; it is a living



embodiment
of cultural
pride, holistic
healing,
and the
unwavering
spirit of
a people
determined to
thrive.

Key Challenges:

Culturally Responsive Healthcare:

Integration of traditional cultural practices into healthcare services to ensure cultural sensitivity and respect for the community's beliefs.

Training healthcare providers on the cultural nuances of the community to enhance patient-provider relationships.

Community Health Workshops:

Regular workshops on nutrition, exercise, and overall wellness to promote preventive care and healthy lifestyle choices.

Educational sessions on chronic disease management, emphasizing the importance of early detection and proactive healthcare.

Traditional Healing Programs:

Incorporation of traditional healing practices, such as herbal medicine and healing ceremonies, into the healthcare framework.

Collaboration with traditional healers to provide services that complement modern medical treatments.

Mental Health and Wellness:

Creation of a dedicated mental health wing offering counseling, therapy, and support groups.

Development of culturally relevant mental health programs to address the unique challenges faced by the community.

Community Garden and Nutrition Programs:

Establishment of a community garden to cultivate traditional herbs and plants for medicinal purposes.

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Nutrition programs to educate community members on healthy eating habits and the

HEALTH

nutritional value of traditional foods.

Preventive Care Clinics:

Regular health check-ups, screenings, and vaccination clinics to ensure early detection and prevention of illnesses.

Outreach programs to increase awareness about the importance of preventive healthcare within the community.

Health Education and Literacy:

Development of educational materials in Dakota to improve health literacy.

Collaboration with local schools to integrate health education into the curriculum, fostering a culture of proactive health awareness.

Ceremonial and Cultural Activities:

Organization of cultural events, dance performances, and storytelling sessions to promote community engagement and cultural pride.

Incorporation of traditional ceremonies, such as smudging and drum circles, into the health center's activities to address spiritual well-being.

Eldercare Programs:

Specialized care programs for elders, recognizing their unique health needs and providing support for physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

Initiatives to preserve and pass down traditional knowledge and practices through intergenerational activities.



Collaboration with External Partners:

Partnerships with external healthcare organizations, governmental agencies, and Non-governmental Organizations to enhance the range and quality of healthcare services.

Collaboration with researchers and academics to integrate evidence-based practices into traditional healing methods.





Staff:

- > Christopher Hersak RN BN Director
- Tara Kelly Charge Nurse
- Bradley WoodRegistered Psychiatric Nurse
- > Maybelle Bico Registered Nurse
- Laura Pratt Licensed Practical Nurse
- Tranna DeCroliereLicensed Practical Nurse
- > Bev Perry Licensed Practical Nurse
- Anne McTavishLicensed Practical Nurse
- > Asia Pierone Licensed Practical Nurse
- Jodie SaundersLicensed Practical Nurse
- Michael ThompsonLicensed Practical Nurse
- > Jackie Neill License Practical Nurse
- > Heather Nowosad Physician
- > Laura Rawlings Dietician
- > Candace Blahy Physiotherapist
- > Emily Wanbdiska Health Care Aide
- > Michelle Pratt Health Care Aide
- > Agatha Pratt Health Care Aide
- > Karen Demas Health Care Aide
- > Sky Blacksmith Health Care Aide
- Lee Pompana Health Care Aide
- > Pernell Scott Health Care Aide
- > Nancy Smith Health Care Aide
- > Charmaine Osborne Health Care Aide

- > Taylor Harper Health Care Aide
- Jessica Brown Health Care Aide
- > Nikitta Miller Health Care Aide
- > Leslie Roulette Health Care Aide
- > Arlene Blacksmith Health Care Aide
- > Audrey Wanbdiska
 - Environmental Services Lead
- Lynita Hall Environmental Services
- > Tiara Bell Environmental Services
- Joseph Blacksmith Environmental Services
- > Oceana Hall Environmental Services
- Amiira Pangman
 - Environmental Services
- Ashley Roulette Environmental Services
- Lucinda Bunn Nutritional Services Lead
- > Patricia Paul Nutritional Services
- Rebecca Taylor Nutritional Services
- > Harmony Eastman-Tacan
 - Nutritional Services
- > Jean Taylor Nutritional Services
- > Jodeci Mazawasicuna
 - Nutritional Services
- > Brylee Wombdiska Nutritional Services
- Rachel Shingoose Recreation
- > Olivia Hayward Recreation
- Breanne Taylor Recreation
- John Melville Facility Engineering Lead
- > Shayla Pratt Facility Engineering
- > Shauna Bone Administrative Assistant



Introduction:

Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Lodge first opened its doors for business in 1983. It is since recognized as a passionate and committed service provider offering care determined by individual needs while showing dignity and respect to all our Residents.

The Dakota Oyate Lodge provides a range of services and support designed to meet the health and personal care needs of individuals who may have chronic illnesses, disabilities, or conditions that limit their ability to perform daily activities independently. This type of care is typically provided over an extended period, often involving assistance with activities such as bathing, dressing, eating, and medication management. Our aim is to maintain or improve the quality of life for those who require ongoing assistance due to age, disability, or illness, addressing not only medical needs but also the broader aspects of well-being.

Key Issues/Challenges: Certainly, when considering long-term care challenges from a Sioux Valley Dakota Nation perspective, specific cultural, historical, and community-based factors come into play. Here are some fundamental topics specific to Long Term Care Planning:

Cultural Healing Practices: Recognizing and incorporating traditional Dakota healing practices, ceremonies, and spirituality into long-term care services are crucial for the wellbeing of individuals within the Lodge. This involves respecting cultural protocols and integrating traditional healing methods alongside conventional healthcare.

Historical Trauma and Intergenerational Effects: We, like many Indigenous communities,



have experienced historical traumas, including the impact of residential schools. The intergenerational effects of these traumas can affect the mental and emotional well-being of our Residents in need of long-term care.

Elders as Keepers of Knowledge: Elders play a significant role in preserving Dakota culture and passing down traditional knowledge. Ensuring that long-term care services honor and leverage the wisdom of elders is essential for maintaining cultural continuity and promoting a sense of community.

Language Revitalization: The Dakota language is integral to the identity of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. Efforts to revitalize and preserve the Dakota language are being integrated into long-term care services, as language is a key aspect of cultural connection and communication.

Community Involvement and Decision-Making:

Community involvement in decision-making processes for long-term care is essential. Respect for community autonomy and self-determination in healthcare planning and governance is crucial for ensuring our services align with the needs and values of the community.

Cultural Competency in Healthcare Workforce:

Training healthcare professionals in the specific cultural nuances of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

is vital. This includes understanding cultural practices, communication styles, and the historical context of the community to provide more effective and respectful care.

Access to Traditional Foods: Traditional foods hold cultural and nutritional significance for our Residents. Ensuring access to these foods in long-term care settings supports cultural practices and contributes to the overall well-being of individuals.

Cultural Spaces and Design: The design and layout of long-term care facilities should consider cultural preferences and the importance of communal spaces. As COVID-19 had highlighted, physical distancing within these shared spaces have been challenging. Creating environments that reflect Dakota culture and values contributes to a sense of comfort and belonging for individuals receiving care.

Youth Engagement and Intergenerational
Programming: Involving youth in cultural
activities and creating intergenerational programs
within long-term care services helps bridge
generational gaps and ensures the transmission
of cultural knowledge to younger community
members.

Holistic Health Approaches: Recognizing the interconnectedness of physical, mental, and spiritual well-being is crucial. Holistic health approaches that address all aspects of a person's health, in alignment with Dakota cultural beliefs, continue to be integrated into long-term care services.

In addressing long-term care challenges specific to Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, a tailored approach that respects cultural practices, historical context, and community dynamics is essential for providing effective and culturally competent care. Collaboration with community leaders, elders, and members is key to developing sustainable and meaningful solutions.

Activities and Accomplishments: As we enter the next chapter of COVID-19 response, the Dakota Oyate Lodge will continue to be guided by science and data to inform decisions surrounding policies and procedures. The safety of our staff, Residents and their loved ones will always be top priority as we continue to serve those in need within Sioux Valley Dakota Nation.

We are grateful to our network of community partners, primary care providers and our staff for coming together to continue to provide high-quality and safe care to our Residents and their families while also respecting and supporting each other.

Resident Entertainment

- > Butch Fleury/Lyons Entertainment
- Elder Reading Month: "I Love to Read"(Waywayseecappo Education)
- Dakota Nation Winterfest Hall of Fame Induction
- Royal Manitoba Winter Fair Attendance
- > Wrestling Event
- Fastball Hall of Fame Attendance
- Rivers to Bingo Events
- National Indigenous Day
- Sioux Valley Powwow; Waywayseecapo Powwow
- Kick off Wiener Roast with New Fireplace
- > Spirit Week
- Stanley Cup Celebration
- Halloween Parade (Sioux Valley Education)
- > Honoring the Buffalo Event
- Remembrance Day Service Honoring our Elders.
- Monthly Resident Birthday Celebrations

Special Projects

- 'Welcome Back' Grand Reopening EventCommunity Garage Sale
- Staff Appreciation Week
- 5th Annual Dakota Oyate Lodge Resident Golf Tournament
- Dakota Oyate Lodge Elder Care Renewable Energy Net Zero Announcement
- Phase Development Deep Building Retrofit with HVAC conversion to Geothermal Heat Pump and Site Renewable Solar Energy.
- Capital Upgrades
- > Palliative Care Room
- Dakota Oyate Lodge Interior Paint Project
 Phases I IV

- ➤ Courtyard Upgrades
 - > Fireplace Installation
 - Outdoor Patio Installation / Brick Apron Installation
 - Patio Furniture Replacement
- Installation of New Resident Ceiling Lifts
- 2023 Internal Fire Suppression/Sprinkler Deficiency Repair
- Coordination and Replacement of Commercial Hot Water Tanks
- > HVAC System Duct Cleaning Project
- Occupancy Senor Installation (collaboration with Efficiency Manitoba)
- > Plumbing deficiency repairs
- Removal and replacement of Commercial Laundry Machines (Electrolux Professional Series EED6065PNNSA0)





Staff

Evelyn Wanbdiska
Case Manager

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 Supervisor
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 com

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Harlene Hotain Child Development Worker harlene.hotain@svdngovernance.com

➤ Tiffany Pratt
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➤ Teaghan Dyck
Child Development Worker
teaghan.dyck@svdngovernance.com

- > Tim Roulette Custodian
- > Shelby Sioux Driver
- Patrick Moose Driver

> Office Phone Number: 204-855-3284

Office Cell Number: 204-720-2450

Office Fax Number: 204-515-1229

Jordan's Principle provides program supports to families and children in the community. By providing program supports to families in need, the goal is to help enhance a child's life and provide health care interventions and development stimulation without denial, delay, or disruption. Jordan's Principle aims to work with stakeholders to provide support, address gaps in service, avoid jurisdictional disputes and improve needed care. Our focus is on the children in the community as we are located within community but are now providing more services to off-reserve.

Current Client List:

Jordan's Principle currently has 172 individual files + 22 family files with an estimated 80 children.



Key Issues & Challenges

Limited Space / Small Older Building

Jordan's Principle continues to operate in a space that limits the number of staff that can be hired. Thus, we currently operate understaffed for the number of clients and caseloads being handled. Jordan's Principle, along with concerned stakeholders are currently still working on developing plans for a new building.

Abuse of services

When handling social requests, there is occasionally those who misuse funding that is received for the benefit of the children. When this happens, a collaborative effort is taken between departments to ensure that the children in these homes are receiving appropriate support.

We also encounter individuals that will ask for the same type of assistance from different departments – what is known as "double-dipping". More open and frequent communication between departments with shared clients is one way to resolve this dilemma.

Off-Reserve Requests

Now that Sioux Valley Jordan's Principle has been accepting off-reserve requests, the caseloads have quickly multiplied. It is difficult to process requests in a timely manner from both on and off community members. Regarding our off-reserve community members, it is difficult to easily schedule home visits or follow ups when members live further away than in the local area.

Back to Basics:

Under the "Back to Basics and Best Practices" guidelines, Jordan's Principe can assist with basic needs requests such as but not limited to furniture, clothing, hydro, rent and food security. The idea is that if the most basic home needs can be met, the child will have a more stable and healthy home environment.

Back to School Clothing Allowance:

476 school-aged children, both on and off reserve, were helped with "Back to School" clothing allowance in the form of gift cards. \$142,000 expended.

Winter Clothing Allowance:

701 children aged 0-17/school aged, both on and off reserve, were helped with winter clothing allowance in the form of \$300 per child. \$209,700 expended.

Social Requests:

Jordan's Principal has assisted many parents with help by paying for registration fees, tournament fees, and providing gift cards for family activities. We encourage healthy family activity by providing family YMCA passes. So long as the family shows that they are using it regularly, we will continue to sponsor the passes.

Educational Requests:

Now that Jordan's Principle has been helping more off reserve families, we have been receiving requests for school fees, lunch fees, and fees for before and after school programs. We have also aided with laptops for youth that are taking higher level classes or require an online program for schoolwork.

Medical & Health Requests:

In partnership with Medical Transportation, we ensure that children and parents can make their scheduled appointments. Medical Transportation provides mileage and Jordan's Principle will provide meals and hotel costs – if needed for early morning appointments.

If there are medical supports needed for a child that go beyond what is covered by NIHB or Health, Jordan's Principle can cover those costs.

Note about braces: When a child is needing braces, the funding is covered by Regional Jordan's Principle whose office is in Winnipeg. The paperwork needed is the dental plan by the orthodontist office, the denial letter for coverage by NIHB and the request forms for Jordan's Principle. We can help you with the request forms. Once all paperwork is ready, it is sent off to the regional office for processing.

Events:

During Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Winterfest 2023, Jordan's Principle set up a Kid's Corner play station. We had bouncy castles and games available for children and parents to occupy time during the busy event.



In April 2023, community member and Jordan's Principle employee Kayla Pratt organized the second annual Walk for Autism on behalf of her son. Kayla has been successful in organizing a good turn out each year and bringing awareness to and support from the community. Jordan's Principle has been happy to support each year by providing the funding for t-shirts each year.

In collaboration with Sioux Valley Health Centre and Dakota Tiwahe Services, Jordan's Principle played host to a series of events for the community Spring Carnival.

In partnership with Dakota Tiwahe Services, Jordan's Principle worked to provide all children of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation on and off reserve with a Brandon Summer Fair pass. Approximately 500 passes were purchased for children.

Jordan's Principle was happy to take part in the Grand Valley Grand Re-Opening. We set up



tents and tables with several crafts available to children. Art supplies were available. To reduce the amount of plastic water bottles, children were provided with a reusable water bottle to decorate and take home. We had face painting. Youth and adult uphill races were hosted, and we had two grand prize draws available on site.

On June 29, Jordan's Principle hosted an Open House with the idea of meeting with community members, addressing concerns, inviting more children to sign up with the program. We offered food and prizes for those in attendance.

On July 1st, Jordan's Principle took part in Canada Day activities by sponsoring several fun events during the day. Bike races, softball, basketball, horseshoe, archery, bouncy castles and a free BBQ were all set up around the community and at the pow-wow grounds.

On July 12, Jordan's Principle was set up at the Community Wellness Fair, held at the pow-wow grounds. Staff had an informational table set up, along with a prize draw. Our rehabilitation assistants happened to be in the community that day and were able to take part in the tipi-building along side community members. We are happy to share our culture with our service providers, creating a stronger connection.

In August and September, Jordan's Principle set up at the School Registration Fair and Headstart/ Nursery Registration Fair to take sign-ups for the "Back to School" clothing allowance. The goal was to also sign-up children with the program, while also identifying children heading into Headstart & Nursery that may benefit from additional help via rehabilitation therapy.

This year's Monster Mash was held on October 28. A collaborative effort between Dakota Tiwahe Services and Jordan's Principle. The evening was a success with many children and families coming to participate in the night's events. Many games were played, many prizes were given away, supper was provided for and at the end of the evening, and many of our community members stayed to help clean up with the Youth Council team. Excellent showmanship from community members and staff departments.

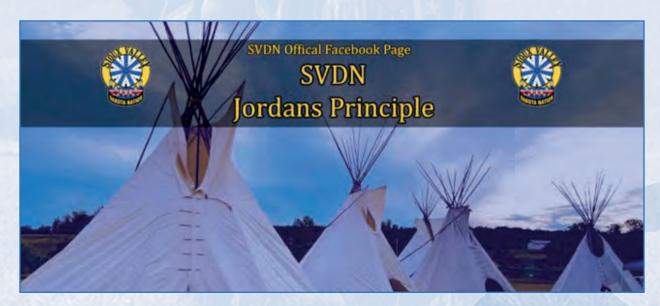
On Saturday, November 11 our Cultural Worker was gracious enough to quickly organize, plan and implement a Pow-wow last minute for the community. The Pow-wow was held in honour of Aboriginal Veterans and National Veteran's Day. They did a wonderful job bringing people together to help and putting on a local event for our people.

JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

Programming Offered Throughout the Year:

- ➤ Kids Club
- > Play Group
- ➤ Homework Club
- > Equine Therapy
- Boy's Club Cultural NightMoccasins Evening
- Lacrosse Night
- ➤ Girls Club
- > Dakota Lessons
- > Art Therapy
- > Adolescent Therapy
- > SCCY Therapy
- Budget Workshops
- Parent Support Group





DAKOTA LAW PROJECT

WIPAZOKA WAKPA CFS DAKOTA LAW DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Staff:

- Gloria Rach, Project Manager
- Jennifer McKay, Implementation Coordinator
- Laura Chaske, Advocacy Coordinator

Introduction:

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation has the right to exercise its legislative authority in relation to Child and Family Services and to deliver these services to its membership in accordance with its own culture and Indigenous legal traditions and as part of its right to self-determination.

Therefore, the CFS Dakota Law Development and Implementation Project is tasked with developing and implementing its own Dakota Law. This Law will embody and promote the basic traditional beliefs and values regarding the safety and security of our children in that it is the responsibility of the community, Nation and extended families to nurture and look after our children.

Key Issues/Challenges:

- Since starting the project, we have identified, assessed, and mitigated risks which have minimize potential disruptions and negative impacts on the project's objectives.
- The Project Team is committed to the highest quality output. There has been turnover however the scope, or objectives have not changed, and we are minimizing disruptions and maintaining project momentum.
- Another challenge is adhering to relevant laws, regulations, and industry standards. This adds to the complexity of this project, especially in such a highly regulated industry.
- Balancing the needs and expectations of various stakeholder opinions can be complex and challenging. We are moving into our next engagement process to build on what has already been gathered.
- Leveraging appropriate technologies and tools to support the project activities, collaboration, and productivity has been challenging due to compatibility issues, learning curves, or budget constraints.
- Finally, efficiently allocating and managing limited resources, including personnel, time, budget, and materials has been a challenge.

DAKOTA LAW PROJECT

Activities and Accomplishments:

- Selection process for hiring of employees was established and the following team was created in October 2023:
 - > Project Manager
 - Implementation Coordinator
 - Advocacy Coordinator
 - > Administrative Assistant
- Project Team continues to build a relationship with existing mandated Dakota Tiwahe Services to develop a transition plan.
- > A thorough Environmental Scan completed.
- > Framework has been development building on previous engagement of community membership and leadership.
- Next phase further engagement and discussion document to be presented for feedback, consensus, and ratification.

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Lands Department, Land, Water, Sky and Soil

Staff:

Lands Manager:
 Adam C. Subject,
 Lands.manager@SVDNgovernance.com

> Admin: Cora-leigh Demas

> Events Coordinator: Kolby Pratt

Energy Efficiency: Darby Essie

A note from the Manager: Introduction:

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Lands Department is working hard to establish the new requirements needed to restore jurisdiction back to SVDN. We can regain the inherit rights our people have to govern these important ancestral lands. Dakotas have been the conservationist and caretakers and stewards of the plains and prairie grassland region. They identify as innovative farmers and domination of this part of the land base and were quickly established and known as the horse nation.

We aim to help SVDN create environmental land laws to help return governance jurisdiction over these lands through the self-governing agreement and tripartite agreements in accordance with SVDN constitution of the people. These laws and the protections they offer are put in place to ensure quality of life for all SVDN Oyate. Additionally, ensure best practices of land management are met both on land and water and are governed and supported by varying bodies of government to ensure policy and laws in accordance with the unwritten laws of the Dakota.

As our environment changes (climate change), and to further act as protection and insurance to allow and ensure the protection of the Dakota way of life and way of boing for the next 7 generations. Truth and reconciliation and strengthened resolve has led to self determination and greater traction for first nation lands governance across the globe as western science realizes that traditional land knowledge and wisdom was right form the beginning and now has invaluable teachings and program depth.

By joining western sciences and math with traditional land knowledge wisdom and practices and with the new UNDRIP mandate, we allow balance to the system through these important laws and policies, when they are present and in place with the right staff, we can allow the delicate eco system to restore balance and allow the entire eco chain to rebuild and strengthen it self, environmental laws become essential in protecting the lands not only for the Dakotas, but for all life that call this place home.

The accumulative effects and intergenerational trauma residential schools have had, the damage that this has caused, the build up over time, Indigenous nations have been systematically stripped not only of their inherit traditional rights, but they have been clearly been violated by the loss of language and culture which are now identified as key components to all Indigenous Nations and their connections to the land. For the Dakotas, this is even more significant. They had a distinct connection to the greater plains and the prairie grassland regions.

My hope is to showcase the 2023 land work in a proud way, we achieved all deliverables.

I just wanted to thank the Oyate for giving me chance, and to allow me to represent SVDN.

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Lands Relation Plan



The voice of the Oyate, Elders, youth, leadership and the family that call SVDN home.

The first step along this path is the creation of the land use plan. Here in Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, we call this the Community Development Plan. This was completed through a series of community engagement over the year and has finally been complied for final review.

By creating a high degree of legality and legislation with clear and concise language that protects First Nations against environmental disasters and environmental contamination, these laws and protections allow First Nation to pursue legal rights and lawsuits against these types of infringements on First Nation lands and allows those First Nations people protection.

This Plan also acts as the biggest SVDN law and policy ever.

WHY IT MATTERS! Liability and Environmental Disaster

Many First Nations have ventured forth in trying to quickly control their lands and assume governance of their lands without having the proper legal protection and legislation in place to do so. Environmental law, policy or well written contracts to their lands with zoning in place, with clear and concise language on policy land laws must be present in lands governance programs or policy.

We can hold violators liable for dumping on our lands.

Key Issues/Challenges: The Importance of Laws

-Community driven and community led, what mattered to the citizens of SVDN



Ensure SVDN lands have proper legal protection and legislation in place. Environmental law and policy to govern lands and a plan with zoning in place, with clear and concise language on policy land laws must be present in lands governance programs or policy.

ISC has jurisdiction over SVDN Lands. This jurisdiction wont be passed onto to SVDN until such laws can be put into place. To help First Nation's start to meet the criteria suggested to be in place before assuming governance of the land. Examples of laws include, environmental and land laws with onus on it being better then existing laws and policies ensuring protection of First Nations lands and the people who call theses lands home.

It's just not the Land, it's the water underneath.

SVDN Off-Reserve Land Lease Completed, 2023

No more chemicals on SVDN Lands. No more SVDN youth subject to chemical spraying.



With extensive help from our Lands Committee, Leadership, C&C and Lands Department staff, we were able to draw up our first ever SVDN off-reserve land lease which led to the ban of chemicals on SVDN lands and the stop to outside farming operations.

The federal government does indeed have provisions and a federal outline in their permit of land process (ISC) around spraying. They put the onus on the farmer to learn about it if your farm is not considered a commercial farm. No license required for private farmers needed for them to spray these chemicals. That means that the farmers don't need to pass any sort of licence or educational test or program when handling or implementation or applying these chemicals to the lands and spraying on fields. That means that they spray these chemicals without any requirement of a licence, only commercial farms have too.

I am not against our surrounding farmers; many have ties within SVDN community.

I feel we could help to make the system safer if everyone was required to be licensed to spray chemicals, or least have strict rules and policy. In SVDN we can make things better for the Oyate. We have families and children living in homes sitting along the edges of many of these fields and many need repairs, chemicals were just drifting in with wind.

7 Generational Thinking



Not every house in Sioux Valley Dakota Nation is in pristine condition, and I say this with love. Many houses need some minor or major repairs, with cracked siding or windows, it isn't hard to imagine that when you spray those fields you might as well be spraying the people. There is no way those chemicals are not getting inside these homes where our children sleep.

SVDN Citizen and Lands Committee chairman
James Pratt invited me to his property to show me
how close he is to one of these fields his house
sits along. I said to him, "When they spray this
field, you might as well say they are spraying your
family". I was literally a few feet from the field at
the edge of his property. James replied, "This is
why it has to change, for the Oyate, for our Future
Generation".

C & C also agreed. They brought up major concerns for the Oyate. Councillor Jon Bell brought up concerns with the uptick in birth problems and Autism and that we should do something about it. They voted, and spray was banned.

It was a proud day in SVDN history. It was decided, unanimously and instantly motioned, there would no longer be chemicals on SVDN lands. The community responded with incredible happiness, 99 percent agreed.

No More Chemicals Farming on SVDN Lands!

Youth and Resting the Proud Dakota Agriculture Heritage



Focus was put on converting the lands back to the traditional Prairie grasslands to help with our Bison health and program and the species at risk that call these habitats home. Our youth will be incorporated on all thing's lands moving forward. This is in direct alignment with creating an independent and sovereign food program with a diverse emphasis on a portfolio that includes a variety of foods with a built-in legacy for the next generation to take over. Substantial agricultural practices or BMI help First Nations become more self-sufficient and get First Nations back to governing the very lands and the Dakota restoring their identities as the original protector of mother earth, and the leaders and stewards of the great plains.

With full control of the land, SVDN now dictates a massive farming land base with a huge potential.

AAFC along with SCAP and MAW and the New LLMB are aligned to help First Nations establish sustainable farming practices and to ensure protection of these lands not only improve sovereign food sources but help to improve soil quality and enrich the soil beneath the land and share best practices.

SVDN has become one of 3 other First Nations in Manitoba to officially have a Living

Labs Manitoba. This program will help to improve soil quality and produce advanced and superior improvements and make some of our food production areas more abundant and enriched food sources for years to come, and the next generation.

With the inclusion of meaningful Science and research to these practices, we can truly achieve two eyed seeing. Utilizing the traditional ways of the Dakotas and have it interweaved with western sciences and technology, we can truly impart an enhanced teaching and education paths towards our youth. Braided with the traditional and cultural ways of being Dakota, and through the use of the Dakota Language written in our land based teachings and our next generation trained on the cutting edge of technology with familiarity of flying drones and automated vehicles and their systems, gives them valuable experience on the future of the agriculture sector and where it is headed.

Lands had created the SVDN YES Program (Youth Empowerment Strategy)

Mapping for the Future and Protecting the Past

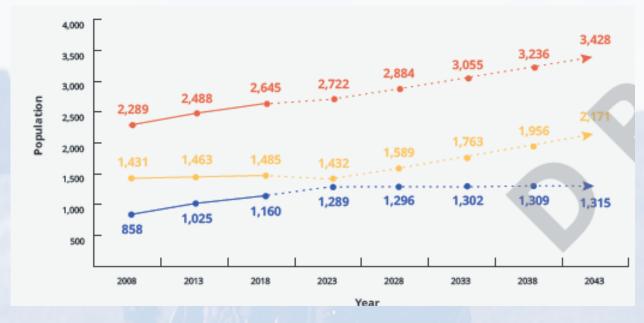


This plan allows us to protect sacred areas and have extensive mapping of SVDN drawn out so that we can clearly protect burial sites, Sundance locations, ceremonial areas, conservations efforts and important tracts of lands where herbs and medicines are found. It also sets aside lands that we deem important as we develop our community Ensuring we protect the areas that we all can agree, makes Sioux Valley so special.

With an influx and the very real requirements of building many new homes in SVDN over the next twenty years and to ensure our new housing is built utilizing existing infrastructure and to be built in such a fashion as to access the new water treatment plant capabilities, we can zone areas and build homes with an actual viable working plan in place. The plan also protects and helps to curb building in the flood zones. Yes! It is possible to do so. It just creates challenges that would have to be mitigated to do so safely. The plan clearly outlines this with special provisions that would need to be met to do

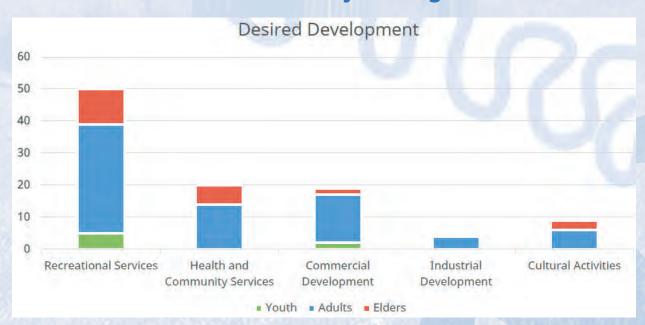
so in the future. This plan also does something incredibly important. It better estimates SVDN projected population growth so that we can support the growth and in a good holistic way.





I wanted to thank my team for all the long hours on this one. Thanks Kolby and Cora for the long hours going door to door several times in 2023.

Recreational Demand: Community Walking Paths



Many SVDN citizens indicated that they would like to see recreational walking path's established that connects to an extensive walking path system and improves current conditions. In some instances, SVDN citizens can be walking upwards of two hours or more, getting to work everyday. This is an almost impossible for many of our Oyate, by connecting interwoven community nodes down to this connected Dyke walking path system we can reduce this travel time to less than 15 mins from the outward edge to the core.

This could also be done in such a fashion, that we could establish beautification along these walking trails, and connect it to our governance buildings, our schools, our gardens and greenhouses and our central commercial area. We could beautify the trails with traditional medicines and herbs and even paint the trail with a glow in the dark paint for nighttime use.

With diabetes and other health related concerns, it made sense why community wanted to see outlets for our youth and more recreational walking paths built throughout community. One idea was to connect the dikes and to establish a better flood prevention system at the same time allowing for both things to be accomplished with the same work.

This is still in creation and being worked on. Please stay tuned.

Traditional Prairie Grassland Restoration Project



One of my favorite projects is the restoration and enhanced protection of the prairie grassland region and the revitalization of our bison pastures with extensive upgrades of the bison pastures grasses enrichment program for our bison.

By re-creating the diet bison traditionally ate in the wild before fencing and the creation of fields, our wood bison, (a federally protected and threatened species), would in return be afforded the opportunity to exponentially improve their overall health by eating plants grasses and crops that were actually apart of their healthy diets hundreds of years ago.

AAFC has partnered and with ECCC on our pastures so that they could offer some help and some expert advice. One of their lead Scientist Melanie Dubois offered us great help in many areas on SVDN Lands. Her passion is pollinators. She and other experts from AAFC like Mae Elsinger, have been helping SVDN and land management practices for many years.

Bison Herds



I should also mention that SVDN band member and former co-worker Cheynne Ironman started the grassland project, special Thank- you Cheyenne!

Native pastures and Grasslands. The art of greenery!

Our grassland expert Mr. John Skinner has helped lead SVDN to restore these grasslands. As a former Principal and teacher, I couldn't think of no one better to help our Youth bring these traditional grasses to the SVDN lands. What a better way to ensure this is taught properly to the a youth than a teacher and principal himself.



Our story went viral. As everyone wanted to see a First Nation, SVDN, exercise its jurisdiction and governance of the lands and to stand up for what's right, for mother earth. The story went viral putting our restoration Prairie Grassland Project on the map for conservation priority area ranking. It offered the 10 other species at risk on the lands that call the grasslands home protection of their home and habitats too. I am tremendously proud of that and our entire team's efforts! We had over 100 SVDN youth come to the fields and be apart of the grasslands.

Improving SVDN Soils and Fields & Soil Quality

Within the SVDN community, the Oyate would like to see soils and the surrounding fields returned to their once fertile quality and state, that had been lost over the years. The Lands department decided to make this a priority. Not only would we start adopting land practices that improve SVDN soils and soil quality measures, but we would also ensure the youth would be included every step of the way of those processes.

With soils quality health and soil improvement, some of the best things you can offer in terms of improving it is to transition to traditional grasslands, which we have started. The most important factor to improving soil health is the acquisition of Bison and the reintroduction of them to your lands, which we already have done. This offers compaction and seed spread of those important grasses bloom. Happy to report we are well on our way with this initiative.

Bison Importance: The Culture, Land and Soil!

New research from the Living Labs movement, an initiative that is Nationwide study. Involves producers, corporations, large scale farming producers and big pharma industries, and First Nations across Canada to better redefine their relationships with the lands and the better agricultural practices that could be adopted and indoctrinated and used as best practice on those said lands for better sustainability methods and for carbon sequestration.



AAFC and scientists from across the country are working hard at concepts and science-based solutions to climate change and global warming patterns being witnessed across the globe.

As it turns out and as they started perfecting some techniques in better way of farming. A key biodiverse species started to establish itself as the key factor in restoring, improving or even upgrading soil health's and thus, improving carbon sequestration and retaining soil fertility and revitalization of soil health and long-term better soil health solutions. Also, the soils life cycle in terms of longevity, and the programs most important goal which is the pursuit and attempt to battle climate change and global warming in an impactful and meaningful way.

Their results now conclude several important components to have soils fertility and soils quality improve. One of the most important things you can do, is house Bison on your lands or at the very least, have them reintroduced into our land's programs. This is key and one of the essential components you can

have in achieving and improving soil quality on your lands. Others include traditional grasses which we have started as well. A host of other things as represented in the pictures here, but the key biodiverse species is the bison.

I hope this helped to answer questions that some of the Oyate had of their value and importance on the land, both to the soils, land health and to the Dakota Culture.

Land Acquisitions and the Seven Sacred Fires

SVDN has acquired many new lands a whirlwind of growth and opportunity not only for our cultural pursuits, our spirituality and way of being, it also offers many of our other programming places to host important cultural teachings and events and the room necessary to allow for growth and expansion.

This year saw Valley L, Grand Valley Provincial Park and the reclaiming of all leased lands.

First Nations Unity Ride, All Children Matter

I was personally asked if I could help tell the incredible story of the First Nation unity riders and their full-fledged contribution and sacrifice that they partake on an annual basis. The unity riders honour and feed the children for the families who have loved ones and children who never made it home for the residential schools sites from Brandon and several of the surrounding areas that had residential schools located on them. The carry to love and the prayer and the voices of thrones that never made it



home and bring them all to meet in Brnadon. It was by far my biggest spiritual journey of my life.





Thank You Gentlemen, big thank you to Travis Mazawasicuna and Vince and Tony Tacan

(BIRS) Brandon Residential School Site: Sacred Children

One year later, we have many accomplishments in Lands. The Brandon Indian Residential Site team have made a lot of improvements on the burials site, the BIRS team had cleared away all the brush and broken tree branches and all the overgrown grass was cut and now trimmed proper. A brand-new black fence had been erected and built along the edge, orange feathers now mark each grave site within the fences perimeter signaling where a grave is located of a child that never made it home. No more walking and not knowing were you step.

Each of our land staff was helped with the site in some way, shape or fashion. We hope to be the first in a new approach to finding graves we use Drones Technologies, (GPR) ground penetrating radar, Mag Tech and (EM) electronic magnetic pulse to help locate burials and perfect the search techniques.

To be asked by this elder to help feed the children one year later, I had felt like I had earned it, and it was an honour. A one year, cycle of healing now closing its loop. I had come full circle to where my journey began. I just wanted to say thank you to the BIRS crew and to all our Dakota Community and the Oyate for allowing to learn and become a better Indigenous man every day I am here in the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Community. It has been a privilege working as your lands manager for the past year. We have accomplished many great things together. I can't wait to see what we can accomplish for year two as we work towards building a safer, brighter, and more sustainable future for this generation and the next.



CLIMATE CHANGE

Efficiency Manitoba Energy Advocate

Licensed Drone Pilot, Lands helper, Aki Energy Board member, and Geothermal Installer.

Staff:

> Thurman Darby Essie, Energy advocate.

Email:

Energy.efficiency@svdngovernance.com

Work phone: (204)-720-4500





Introduction:

Hau, Darby e'makiyapedo (hello, my name is Darby). I am the Energy Advocate of Sioux Valley. I help with lowering hydro bills, home upgrades with Efficiency Manitoba packages, and bring in new technologies into the community to help the environment.

While working at Efficiency Manitoba and Sioux Valley, leadership (2022) approached me within 15 minutes of each other to acquire my knowledge about Aki Energy. I didn't. So, they gave me a call to see if Sioux Valley would be interested in Geothermal Ground Source Heat Pumps. After that the rest is history. With being on the board of Aki Energy, I got to send 4 individuals plus myself to Geothermal Ground Source Heat Pump Training in Selkirk, Manitoba (check out the Sioux Valley web site to see the graduation). While being on Aki Energy Board, I got introduced to Raven. A non-profit corporation that helps aboriginal communities get funding for Geothermal heat pumps, and home repairs.

There are times where I'm waiting for emails or things to start up again. I fill in those times with helping the lands department with anything they need. Either by helping at an event or sitting in on a webinar teaching about the land and how to take care of it.

I'm also a licenced Drone Pilot. I do this for our community and other projects that will need a drone. This is done on my spare time or after work hours to better my skills with a Drone. I got video footage of the day when Zach Whitecloud came to Sioux Valley with the Stanley Cup.

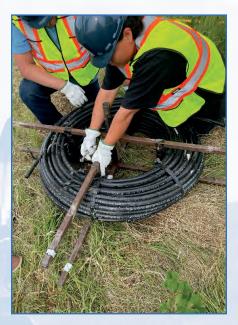
CLIMATE CHANGE

Key Issues/Challenges:

Efficiency Manitoba:

With being apart of Efficiency Manitoba, I have upgraded 10 businesses in Sioux valley with LED lighting, light switch sensors, and Green Exit signs. There was some down time waiting for things to be approved which can take time, but worth it in the end.

Efficiency Manitoba has also got Energy Audits done for 25 homes that are on the Geothermal Project that I'm working on. The only issues I have had with this is booking times for the homes to be audited. You never know what's going to happen either family emergencies, moving to a new home, or the family wanting to be present for it.



Aki energy:



Working with Aki Energy I got to send 4 plus myself to Geothermal Ground Source Heat Pump training in Selkirk MB, where we were certified in Grod loop, Piping Design, Residential Installation, loop fusion, heat loss/gain, and ground loop design. The issues we had is the weather. That's what makes the geothermal heat pump course all year round. It has its benefits being all year round, we get a re-minder of the course every time we go back for training.

I'm Proud to say that on November, 2023, Sioux Valley has 25 homes that can be renovated with windows, siding, other repairs to make the home more energy efficient and get Geothermal Ground Source Heat Pumps. This is the only the beginning. The plan is to get to every home in Sioux Valley. The main issue I have had was waiting to get everything approved. The next step going into the new year is making the plan to get into these homes and do what is needed to make the homes more energy efficient.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Drone Pilot:

Getting a Drone Pilot license is a challenge. The test is not easy, but for a good reason. You got to understand what goes on in the sky. Not just birds or planes, but winds speeds, altitude, air spaces you can fly in, knowing the difference between main land flying and sea flying, etc.

Once you get your Drone license, you got to practice what you have learned. Theres heavy fines that come with not following the rules and you can lose you Drone License. Each event I work on, I got to do my checks the night before, also getting everything ready and making sure things are working and have replacements on hand if needed.

One of the key issues of flying a Drone is storage space for the footage you want to get. Either you have memory cards on hand or you plan a head to where you want to get those shots you want.

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION - EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

STAFF

Diana Roulette, Program Manager

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Jaci Branth, Administrative Assistant

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com

Tanya Wanbdiska,

Training & Development Coordinator

Phone: (204) 855-2671 Cell: (204) 441-7400

Email address: tanya.wanbdiska@svdn.ca

Our current office location is on the second floor of the Governance Building. Tanya is still working out of the Wicozani building.

Tanya also assists on location with the Mature 12 program, which is held at the Wicozani building also.

We are available during regular office hours Monday to Friday.

POST- SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Our commitment is to our members, both on and off reserve members, to strengthen and promote the educational opportunities for SVDN. A compilation of graduates is also included.

One of our key issues that is outstanding along with the Employment & Training Department is the need for a training centre, complete with computer lab. Also, having additional classroom space as this hinders our current progress in delivering programming to the community.

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

We are also including the current areas of training completed under the Service Canada agreement for our community. Our purpose is to lead in the development of a skilled Indigenous workforce that empowers the clients of the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation through providing assistance from Employment and Training.

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION - EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

Employment and Training provided funding for the following training programs in 2022:

>	First Nations Security Officer Training	8 participants
>	Maintenance workers	3 participants
>	Mature Grade 12 program	8 participants
>	Class 01 Truck Driving	3 participants
>	Casual labour	32 participants
>	Nail Technology	1 participant
>	Eyelash Extension course	1 participant
>	Eyebrow Course	1 participant
\triangleright	Mental wellness and Harm Reduction	3 participants
\triangleright	Women in Power	6 participants
\triangleright	Plumber Apprenticeship	1 participant
\triangleright	Message Therapy	1 participant
\triangleright	Customer Service	14 participants
\triangleright	P.O.S. Systems Training	2 participants
>	Standard First Aid	7 participants
>	Summer Student Employment	14 participants
>	Train the Trainer- Awaken The Spirit	15 participants
>	Firearms Safety Training	36 participants
>	Hunter Safety Training	30 participants
>	Drivers Ed. Program	28 participants

One of our key issues and a challenge to the program is not having a Training Centre that would be suitable to house more training in the community.

- > Having the addition of two to three more classrooms would increase training endeavours.
- Having a computer lab to facilitate different levels of computer training from Computer Literacy, Basics, Microsoft Word, Outlook, Excel, Power point to a whole host of other programs.
- Having a computer lab would also increase other training opportunities to do distance online training right in the community. Evening programs would also be beneficial.

BAND MEMBERSHIP

Staff

> Robin Mckay – Membership Manager

Introduction

Sioux Valley Dakota Nations Band Membership provides a wide variety of services for all band members. These include assisting all band members with Birth Registrations, Band Transfers, Status Card Renewals, SCIS (white) Status Cards, Administrator of Estate forms.

Key Issues/challenges

Birth Registration

One of the key issues is Birth Registration. We have a lot of young parents who need to come into the office to complete their birth registration for their children. It is vital for their children's health coverage and future events in the community that they are properly registered with their own status number. A lot of young parents on the reserve are not registering their children or have started the process and never came back and I have no number to get in contact with you.

Lost Status Cards

Lost or stolen status cards are a big issue this year for Band Membership. A very high percentage of band members who needed a status card renewal this year were all due to lost or stolen status cards. I can't express enough how important it is for all band members to take care of their identification. There is a \$50.00 fee for lost or stolen card. For everyone who has lost their status card, or their status card was stolen, and in the new year band membership will charge every band member \$50.00 who looses their status card.

Activities and Accomplishments

AIS System

The AIS System is a new computer program that will help band membership with numbers, statistics, and population reports for future programs. It is designed to keep all different kinds of information regarding our band members like their addresses, social media links, phone numbers, ID documents, genealogy charts, cultural Background, and language level.

Citrix System

For the last year, Membership has been successfully running their own program from Indigenous Services Canada. This program helps get faster population statistics, reports, and statistic numbers to different departments faster for programs that benefit all community members.

MEMBERSHIP

Birth Certificates

With inflation high across Canada, Band membership is once again helping cover the cost of their child's birth certificate for birth registrations. Parents who need help with their children's birth certificate are more than welcome to come see me and we will order one to register your child.

In the last year, membership has seen some successful increases in our numbers from population statistics to birth registrations. This numbers are as follows:

	Total Population:	270
>	On Reserve:	140
>	Off Reserve:	130
>	New Registered Births:	60
\triangleright	Registered Deaths:	28

PUBLIC WORKS

Department of Infrastructure

Public Works/Building Maintenance is a combination of physical assets, management practises, policies, and personnel necessary for Sioux Valley Dakota Nation to provide and sustain structures and services essential for quality of life for all Sioux Valley Dakota Nation community members.

Essential Services we provide are water delivery and septic/sanitation services. Currently we have 119 homes the water truck delivers water to, some 2-3 times a week. We have 304 homes with septic fields and services 53 homes a week, plus any of the 304 homes that require pump outs.

The Department of Infrastructure currently has 30 staff members - 17 Public Works, 10 Maintenance and 3 in Greenhouse. We are establishing ourselves within the community and are continuing to grow. We are the underlying foundation that keeps our community strong.

STAFF

- Neil Wanbdiska Director
- Kristin Isnana Administrative Assistant
- Kristen Elk-Fontaine Administrative Assistant
- > Eric Beaulieu Maintenance Supervisor
- > Richard Brown Fire Chief
- Billy McKay Heavy Equipment Operator, Labourer Lead Hand
- Darnell Essie Shop Mechanic/Lagoon Technician
- Dennis Taylor Water Treatment Plant Operator
- > Jennifer McIvor Garden Coordinator
- Derek Mazawasicuna Water Truck Driver
- Pam Taylor Water Truck Driver
- > Trae Chaske Septic/Sanitation Driver
- > Josh Papequash Septic/Sanitation Driver
- Derek Taylor Heavy Equipment Operator/Labourer
- Tremaine Hotain Heavy Equipment Operator/Labourer
- Dryden Wanbdiska Heavy Equipment Operator/Labourer
- Ryan Taylor Public Works Labourer
- Jude Hotain Public Works Labourer
- Shaun Taylor Public Works Labourer
- Jordan Melville Building Maintenance
- Zach Melville Building Maintenance
- Isaac Wanbdiska Building Maintenance
- Damont Elk Building Maintenance
- Malcolm Taylor Building Maintenance
- Denny Pratt Janitor
- Rob Taylor Janitor
- Nathan Isnana Janitor
- Cam Noel Janitor
- > Ainsley Tacan Gardener
- > Shane Mazawasicuna Gardener

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works helps clean and maintain all pavement, roads and public grounds in the community. They dig ditches and trenches for culverts or flood water diversion. Load and unload trucks with supplies and equipment. Recently, they have posted the civic signs with reflective signs, to help provide essential service vehicles and emergency vehicles for easy recognition for quicker response time.

There has been new pavement throughout the community, along with new roads to the new housing projects. Also, have helped assemble new playground structures in various parts of the community.

We have done some preventative maintenance to some buildings.

Our vehicles are at capacity service right now and as Sioux Valley Dakota Nation grows, we will need more trucks and equipment. We see the need for more equipment to build roads, keeping our ditches clean of obstructions such as trees and tall bushes.

Some current activities we have going on are street lighting project with Manitoba Hydro and adding more lighting to our main roads. Waterline at Petro started October 26, 2023, we are preparing the building for that project.

The Infrastructure Department is proud of the progress over the 2023 year and remains committed to the maintenance, ongoing growth and development of our community. As 2024 approaches, the Department plans to acquire more equipment to undertake more work locally and further improve services to our residents. To ensure a safe and vibrant environment for all Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Oyate.

Sioux Valley Community Gardens & Greenhouse

Staff:

- Jennifer McIvor, Greenhouse & Garden Coordinator
- > Ainsley Tacan, Full-time Gardener
- > Shane Mazawasicuna, Full-time Gardener
- > Conrad Hapa, Seasonal
- > Claude Elk, Seasonal
- > Samantha Pratt, Seasonal



The SVDN Community Garden completed year 2 on expansion of the Community Gardens located behind the Hall. This year, all produce that was harvested was canned, pickled, or given away to local community members. Produce was donated to the Dakota Diner and Dakota Oyate Lodge to be used in their culinary dishes. We had community members come into the gardens to pick their own vegetables and we had vegetables on hand for those who came by the gardens. We successfully grew and harvested approximately 10,000lbs of produce, which was either eaten fresh, preserved by canning or pickling, or used as compost for this upcoming season to be used as fertilizer in the gardens.

SVDN Community Gardens and Greenhouse operates sustainably to provide fresh food to the community all- year round. Started in May of 2022, this is the second year at the new location behind the Hall and has since constructed a Poly Tunnel Greenhouse, purchased a Growcer (Hydroponic Modular Farm), and includes





Garden plots, Saskatoon Orchard, and Native Plant Garden. We look forward to expanding this year and to eventually produce enough fresh vegetables for the entire community.



Key Issues/Challenges:

Soil Composition - Soil is one the most important components of growing healthy vegetables and continues to be a challenge to work within the SVDN Community Gardens. The gardens are located in a previous flood zone and the underground sediment is very clay packed which makes it difficult for roots to grow. We have raised the garden plots with the help of Alternative Landscaping, by bringing in black soil and compost to bring back and enrich the soil.

Flooding & Drainage - During the Spring, the gardens become very mucky and muddy and this is because the clay packed soil causes issues for drainage in numerous areas. This has made it difficult for not only growing and the soil, but also has made it difficult to access certain areas of the gardens. In order to divert water and improve the drainage issue, the gardens and infrastructure team have been working hard on raising plots and adding organic matter into the soil, which can take time and hard work.

Accessibility/Pest Intrusion - Food safety is a very important component to growing fresh produce. A major issue that was seen in the gardens was the presence of stray dogs and cats. Fortunately, none of the animals have seemed aggressive, however they do like to dig up the roots of vegetables and like to mark their territories. Because the grow plots are easily accessible by the public and wandering animals and because the days are limited by working day hours, there is no evening and nighttime supervision. This upcoming year, a fence will be constructed around the gardens so that it becomes a controlled access area.









Activities and Accomplishments:

Growcer Hydroponic Modular Farm- A Growcer unit was purchased in the Fall of 2023 by The Growcer Inc, in Ottawa, Ontario. The Community Gardener and Coordinator took a trip to Ottawa, in April 2023 for training on how to operate the unit and receive hands-on training in an actual operating unit. The Growcer hydroponic farm will allow the gardeners to grow leafy greens and herbs hydroponically, all year round and contribute to the economic development of the Community Garden Program and community by providing fresh greens to all local businesses and community members.

All Terrain Vehicle from Valleyview Co-op Valleyview Co-op from Virden, MB graciously provided the community garden program with a K9 Kioti UTV to be used during the growing season in the gardens. This has been a significant contribution to the workers in the gardens, as we work on expansion of the gardens. In previous years, all work was done on foot or by vehicle, which can be time-consuming and not particularly good for grounds. By utilizing a UTV, the gardeners can travel efficiently and work more effectively.









Workshops with our children and youth: During the course of the year, we had a Vermicomposting Workshop with the high school students, picked native plant seeds with the students and John Skinner from Skinner Native Seeds, and fed pumpkins to the local buffalo. These are all workshops that we plan to continue with our children and youth of the Oyate.

Harvesting, Canning, and Preservation The community gardeners are continuously learning and have had the opportunity to try canning and pickling this year. Home-made salsa was made using only fresh vegetables and herbs from the gardens which will now become an annual staple for the gardens. We learned how to grow pshydapi with the help of local elders and collect seed for the next year's season. We are committed to sustainable methods of growing and harvesting which include saving seeds and collecting seeds from the wild as well.







JUSTICE

First Nations Safety Officer

Staff:

Helena Mazawasicuna Justice Coordinator/FNSO Program Coordinator

Phone: 204-851-0810

- > Travis Mazawasicuna FNSO Level 2
- Silvia Tacan FNSO Level 1
- ➤ Lance Mancheese FNSO Level 1
- Christopher Tacan FNSO Level 1
- Cheyanne Noel FNSO Level 1
- Jeremy Wasicuna FNSO Level 1
- Melissa Jensen Justice Assistant 204-512-0873

Introduction:

Manitoba Justice's Safety Officer Program (SOP) provides municipalities, First Nation communities, and designated employers the option to enhance public safety. Through the employment of community safety officers (CSO), First Nation safety officers (FNSO), and institutional safety officers (ISO), the SOP delivers low risk community safety services and an increased uniformed presence. Its intention is to address community safety concerns and support local police agencies. Overall, the program supports a community driven approach to improving community well-being. The SOP is an alternative service to mainstream policing developed by Manitoba Justice's Policing Services and Public Safety Branch, the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and Manitoba Association of Chiefs of Police. The program forms part of a continuum of policing that adds a flexible, layered approach to enforcement. Given that some situations do not require police officers, layered policing engages individuals with diverse levels of training and authority allowing law enforcement to focus their expertise on more complex policing and investigations. Within Manitoba's Public Safety Model, safety officers enforce applicable legislation and often work hand-in-hand with local police as required. Manitoba's Police Services Act appoints safety officers with peace officer status under section 77 and provides them with the authority to conduct their duties. This Policy acts as a guide to the SOP. It contains the authorities and responsibilities to ensure compliance with applicable legislation and to maintain consistent program standards, integrity, and accreditation. Municipalize, First Nation communities, designated employers, and safety officers must all be familiar and comply with the Policy's

JUSTICE

content. In Manitoba's Public Safety Model, safety officers refer to various types of safety officers, including CSOs, FNSOs, and ISOs. These specific safety officers are employed by municipalities, First Nations communities, and designated institutions to fulfill a range of roles. Roles include enforcement of some provincial statutes and attending some designated Criminal Code of Canada (Criminal Code) offences for the purposes of receiving and evaluating information as well as liaising with the police agency of jurisdiction, as required.

Through their peace officer appointment, safety officers are MANITOBA JUSTICE I PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION | SAFETY OFFICER PROGRAM Revised May 19, 2023, 5 of 73 granted the authority to enforce applicable acts and regulations listed in Part 4 of this Policy. Peace Officer Status Manitoba's Police Services Act (PSA) grants peace officers with powers and protections not available to ordinary citizens such as enhanced powers of arrest. In Canada, the Criminal Code affords the legal definition of a peace officer including the following: (c) a police officer, police constable, bailiff, constable, or other person employed for the preservation and maintenance of the public peace or for the service or execution of civil process by virtue of being a CSO, FNSO, and/or ISO, they fall within Canada's legal definition of a peace officer.

Key Issues/Challenges:

More training and Funding.

Activities and Accomplishments:

FNSO has now trained all officers. Also, two with Level two training. Two officers to go into level two training in wintertime. We have now two new off-road units fully equipped in police packaging. In the spring we got funding to do Domestic Violence awareness. We went into our Mandate on November 20th, 2023. We are applying for funding for search and rescue. Also to add to our training a separate course in medical emergency training. All officers are certified in Assist training and CPR and First Aid.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Events Coordinator

Staff:

> Jocelyn Ross

Introduction:

An Events Coordinator is responsible for planning, organizing a wide range of events, ensuring they meet the objectives and expectations of the host organization or client. This role requires a combination of strong organizational, communication, and problem-solving skills, as well as creativity and attention to detail. An Events Coordinator plays a crucial role in ensuring the success of diverse events, ranging from corporate meetings and conferences to community gatherings. Being able to work in a high-pressure environment while maintaining a keen eye for detail and delivering exceptional experiences for all participants.

Activities and Accomplishments:

- Brandon Community Christmas Dinner
- Winnipeg Community Christmas Dinner
- SVDN Staff Christmas Dinner
- > SVDN Community Christmas Dinner
- Zach Whitecloud Meet and Greet
- Stanley Cup Visit Zach Whitecloud
- International Women's Day
- International Men's Day
- Grand Reopening of Grand Valley Campground
- Summer Celebration Indigenous Day
- ➤ Grad Trips
- Elders Casino Trip
- 1st Annual Dakota Nation Winterfest Golf Tournament
- Dakota Nation Winterfest



COMMUNICATIONS

SVDN Radio & Communications

Staff:

> Elton Taylor:

Communications Coordinator elton.taylor@svdn.ca

> Daniza DePaola:

Media Productions Coordinator daniza.depaola@svdngovernance.com

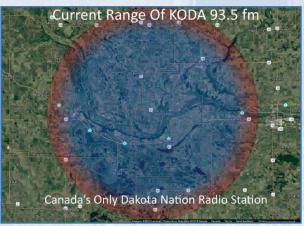
Bryden Speiss:

Communication Media Editor bryden.speiss@svdngovernance.com

Bill Taylor:

KODA FM Announcer & MC koda@svdngovernance.com





Introduction:

SVDN Radio & Communications oversees many facets of communication for the community. We oversee and/or assist with 2 SVDN related websites, 30+ Social Media pages, KODA 93.5 FM airwaves and live-stream and our YouTube channel. We handle photography, audio/video, live-streams and set up PA & Video equipment for public events. We continue to grow in our skills and abilities, and we enjoy providing information for our members all around the world.

Key Issues/Challenges:

Getting the information early enough to deliver it to the general community in a timely manner. We must continually do things last minute as often times we are given information or dates at the last possible moment and we must pull off miracles to achieve the end goal of informing the public.

Having enough equipment and/or the appropriate equipment to accommodate staff and presenters at an event. Often times we have used staff's personal equipment to accommodate our goal.



COMMUNICATIONS

Activities and Accomplishments:

SVDN Radio and Communications have been at most major events over the course of the last year. Our biggest achievements this past year include the airing of several filming projects, such as working with Jennifer Podemski on the "Little Bird" series, working with Shawn Leonard on "Spirit Talker", working with Red Earth on a documentary and working alongside Chuck Hughes for an SVDN episode of "The First People's Kitchen". We have demonstrated some professional level YouTube livestreams including our summer Wacipi, a combined SVDN & MKO Press Conference, Zach Whitecloud bringing the Stanley Cup to SVDN, as well as our election livestream coverage.

Additionally, we recently took care of the annual elementary school photos. Rather than hiring an outside company to come in, doing our photos "in-house" allows for more attention to our students and easier access to reshoots without the extra costs. We continue to increase what we are capable of doing and hope to inspire other communities to follow our lead by telling their own stories in their own way.



Notes		
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THE PAY (BE)		

Notes	



