Lands Department Monthly Newsletter

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AUG 06 Radio Ads

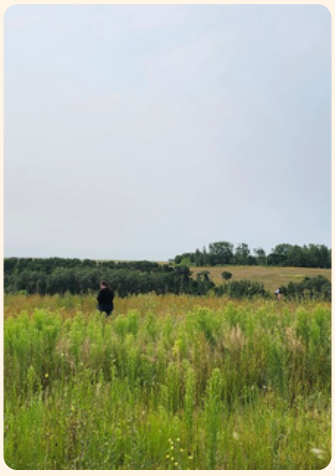
On August 6th, the team went to the radio station to record energy tips, recent Lands projects, and the upcoming Lands department presentations.

Take a listen to KODA 93.5 to hear energy efficiency tips. They are as easy as taking shorter showers or washing clothes on the cold setting, these small things add up to lower Hydro bills, lower energy waste and is better for our lands and water!









AUG 11 Grasslands Restoration Project

On this day the team went to our community gardens to asses the flood damages while we waited for founder of “Skinner native Seeds”, John Skinner.

When he arrived we toured some land that we plan on restoring with native grasses in the next coming years. He helped us identify some invasive species in the fields and plants we already have that are good for our grasses.

AUG 11-12 GIS Mapping Workshop

In the afternoon of August 11th and 12th, the Lands Department, including the Gardens Team, were taught how to use pictures from our drone and satellite photos to make maps using a program called QGIS. By the end of it we were all able to create maps, like mapping SVDN roads, waterwayss, and our reservation border.



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AUG 13 Drone Mapping

On august 13th, the Lands Team along with Chris Mancuso, conducted a survey on a parcel of land connected to the Brandon Indian Residential School site.

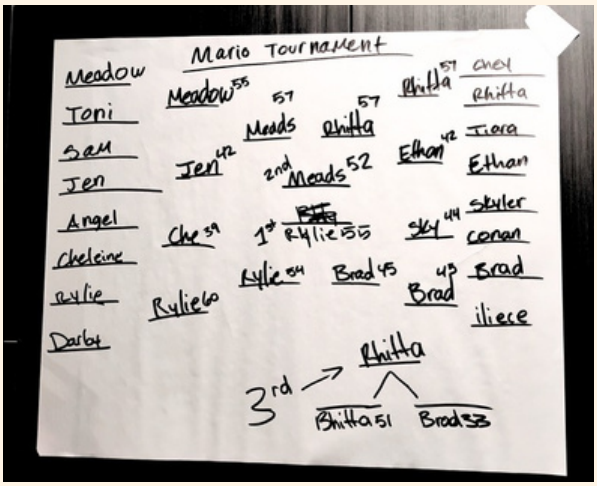
We utilized LIDAR scans to map out the terrain for research. Through this, our team gained more experience flying drones, which will help us earn our advanced licenses.













AUG 14 Lands VIP Meeting

On August 14th, our team invited the Gardens and BIRS team for a *very important* meeting where we discussed serious topics like: Who would be the best Mario Kart player on this side of the Assinibione.

Our team had a get-together on the third-floor boardroom of the Governance office, where we had pizza, chicken, fries, salad, pop and cake!

We decided it was time for a clash, a battle of who was the best Mario Kart warrior!

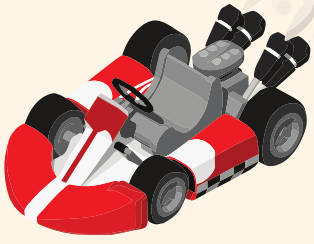
In the end of the fierce battle, Rylie came out at #1, then Meadow at #2, and finally Rhitta at #3. They all won prizes for their victories.

And can't forget the reason behind this get-together; on this day, we also held a birthday celebration for three of our gardens workers, Bradley, Iliece, and Conan! After our Mario Kart 8 Tournament, we sang Happy Birthday and gave the Birthday crew cake & icecream!









AUG 17

Community Presentations and Updates

On August 17th, 2026. The youth energy champions organized a community presentation event to give updates & spread awareness on the projects the Lands Department is currently working on.

We started off in a good way with a prayer from elder, Lorraine Pompana. Then ate food prepared by Roxanna Gott. Thank you for catering, the food was so tasty!



1 Climate & Waste Management

Director Cheyenne Ironman gave an update on the department as a whole. She shared what the lands department's role is in the community and upcoming plans for waste management, she also talked about climate adaptation and how storms are getting deadlier, floods, and power outages from climate change.



2 Energy & Youth-led projects

Our Youth Energy Champions Rhitta, Rylie, Meadow and Tiara had a presentation about renewable energies, where Manitoba's energy comes from and an update on what the Youth Energy Champions have done since they've been working in the Lands Department. All of this was possible from our funders & supporters from CIER & LEAP.



3 Gardens Updates & Flood Catastrophe

Community Gardeners Bradley Bone and Conan Beardy gave an update on the community gardens. The gardens team planted a pumpkin patch and traditional tobacco plants, but after the floodwaters came through Sioux Valley, they lost about half of them.

It was devastating, but Brad assured the community that the team would persevere past this catastrophe. Conan and Bradley shared how the hydroponic unit works to produce various types of lettuce.



4 Geothermal Energy & Renewable Energy in SV

Energy Advocate Darby Essie spoke about energy efficiency, he explained geothermal in more depth so people could understand how it works. He then shared some ideas on new renewable energy opportunities, like wind power on homes, as well as environmentally friendly hydroelectric dams.



5 SV Cemetery Project

Geophysicist Chris Mancuso presented on the SVDN Cemetery project, he explained the manner in which he handles the work. Cemetery work is sacred and protocols are to be followed. He explained that there is always a prayer and how it's important to include elders and youth in the work, because some day youth will be in the position of teaching and doing the work.



6 Water Testing & Flood Aftermath

Last but not least, Environmental Health Scientist Kate Dector shared a presentation about the waters in Sioux Valley. She gave results on last year's water testing and all the locations. She told the community that we will be going out again to test and see if there are any chemicals in the water that may be harmful after flood waters entered flood plains. Kate also asked if there were any spots the community wanted us to test the waters.



Evironmental Health Scientist Kate Dector had a display of micro scopes and specimins to look at. Some were bumble bee wings, and some were water samples to gove the community a chance to see what the regular eye can't. Kate also had maps so community members could mark locations they want water testing done this year.



Chris Mancuso had a display of the drones we utilize. DJI Mavic 400 is the big drone shown in the picture. Which included drone payloads. We also use Mavic 3, which is a smaller drone but still an amazing piece of equipment.

HVAC Maintence

Take good care of your Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system. Make sure vents are clear from furniture or obstructions, and regularly clean filters, coils and ductwork to make sure it's running as efficient as possible, so the system doesn't have to try harder to work properly.

After we finished all of our amazing presentations, we did our door prizes which included; a camping set, an emergency set, a fishing set, a cozy set, and a gardening kit.

Our winners were: **May Mazawasicuna, Penny Antoine, Dustin Smoke, Bryden Speiss, and Londyn Hotain.**

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Our Youth Energy Champions set up some of our boards to displays topics such as; How long it takes for trash to decompose, Energy, and lastly the Bison and Grasslands Projects.



Our Community Gardens Team also set up their own display of plants and their current projects.



AUG 23 Indoor Community Yard Sale

We hosted an Indoor Yard sale for anyone who was interested in selling or purchasing used goods on Sunday, August 23rd, 2026.

We had an amazing turnout! There was food sales and handmade crafts & jewlery.

And during the yard sale, a rez doggy walked in and joined the yard sale!







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Find these words:

conservation
efficiency
electricity
energy
fossil fuels
greenhouse gas
hydro dams
kilowatt
nuclear reactor
pollutant
power
renewable
solar panels
sustainability
watt
wind turbines

Direct Install Kits

Since temperatures are dropping, we wanted to remind the community that we still have direct install kits available for anyone on reserve.

Contact Meadow Leaming if you are interested:
meadow.leaming@svdngovernance.com
or call (204) 855-2671

Thank you to all the members of the community who support us! It truly means a lot.