



Lands Department Monthly Newsletter

UPCOMING EVENT POSTERS HOSTED BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IN THE BACK

**Coming
Soon!**

Planning Earth Week

In April, the Lands crew began preparing for our upcoming Earth Week presentations at the school. We focused on discussing our mission and the role of the Lands Department.

We brainstormed how we wanted to celebrate Earth day, we ended up deciding on a few ways to celebrate!



What is Energy Efficiency?

Energy efficiency means using less energy to perform the same task. This helps save money and reduce environmental impact.

APR 20 Garden tours with the school

We had the opportunity with the Garden's Team to have the students from the Sioux Valley School come tour our community gardens!

We hosted Ms. Bear's high school science class and Kindergarten to Grades 1, 2, 4, and 5. They got to see the main Greenhouse and the newest Greenhouse. The students also had the chance to go into the growcer to see where our lettuce is grown in our hydroponic unit.

We had pots, soil, and seeds for the kids to plant their own flowers and produce to take back with them, either at home or at school.

APR 19 Indoor Yard Sale at the Veteran's Hall

We hosted an Indoor Yard Sale for our community members at the Veteran's Hall on Sunday, April 19th 2026.

We had a decent turnout. Thank you to those who stopped by and set up to sell their items. We noticed some people selling their own Indian tacos. Very yummy!

One of our Youth at the Lands Department, Feather Smoke, hosted a bake sale to fundraise for future events by our department!



A picture during the setup for the Indoor Yard Sale



The Growcer unit with fresh produce growing

APR
21

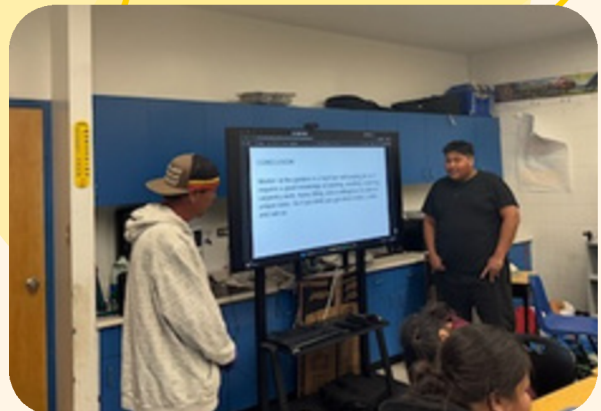
Presentations at the school

On Tuesday, we had presentations at the school with the students. We had both our Youth Lands team & Garden team present.

The Youth Lands team discussed what they've been working on since becoming Youth Energy Champions with CIER. The Lands team presented on energy efficiency, where energy comes from, types of renewable energy and the projects they've been working on with CIER and LEAP.

And the Garden's team talked about their composting projects, what they grew last summer and the lettuce they grow in their growcer unit, they even brought food samples for the students! Like lettuce wraps and chicken wraps.

Our team that helped with the Garden Tours



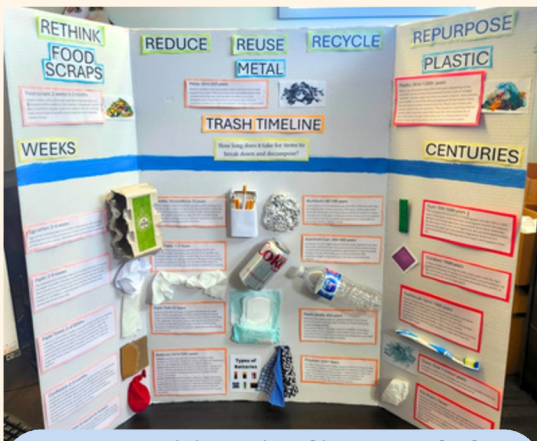
Did you know?



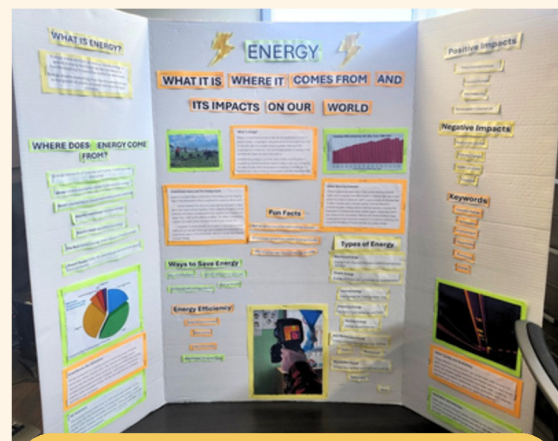
A conventional microwave oven uses more electricity to allow the digital clock to work continuously than heating your food.

Poster Boards

Our Youth Energy Champions made poster boards with information on them for the presentations. One about how long it takes for household items to decompose and types of energy, where it comes from and how it works in our daily lives.



Decomposition Timeline - Made by Feather Smoke & Alexis Antoine



Energy Information - Made by Rylie Bell & Alexis Antoine



A group photo of the
Garden's team



Updates in Our Community Gardens

The Gardens team recently hired 4 youth workers and 3 new seasonal workers until harvest time!

The Garden's team is about to start planting outdoors after the May long weekend. Tobacco, pshdyapi, a variety of vegetables and native wildflowers & grasses.

We are looking for those who would be interested in signing up for a garden plot and a composting pick up program, more details to come!

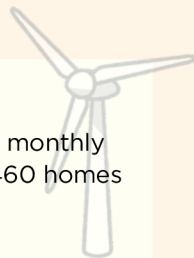


QR code for SVDN's
Composting Program
Survey



A Fact about Wind Turbines

A single wind turbine (with average monthly yield of 402,000 kWh) can power 460 homes for one month in the USA.



Updates With The Lands Projects



Mni Wiconi - Water is Life



Mni Wiconi is an environmental water quality project working to understand the health of the Assiniboine River and its tributaries within SVDN.

Last fall, with the help of the Lands Youth Council, we collected 120 water samples and analyzed them for 28 heavy metals, mercury, as well as pesticides and fertilizers levels.

This spring, sampling continues so we can compare seasons and see how planting and harvesting cycles affect water quality.

Flood Mapping in SVDN

This spring has brought significant flooding to Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, and a new project is underway in partnership with CIRNAC to better understand and prepare for future events.

Using LiDAR-equipped drones, the community will be mapped in detail to build hydrologic and hydraulic models as well as elevation maps that support land use planning and community safety.



What has the Land Department been up to in recent months?



Direct Install Kits

We had the opportunity to work with Efficiency Manitoba, and we received Direct Install Kits. The kits included LED lightbulbs, low-flow shower heads, weather stripping and more.

We went to houses that signed up with us and installed the easy fixes, improving the houses' energy efficiency in our reserve!



Building Assessments and Energy Audits

We started working on building assessments of this year. We chose community buildings in our reserve and assessed any cold spots or where heat is collecting with a thermal camera.

After our first visit, we came back and made notes of all the objects that use energy so we know where the energy is being used and wasted.

We then make an audit report that focuses on suggestions on how to reduce energy in a building and make it more efficient.



Photo of the thermal camera



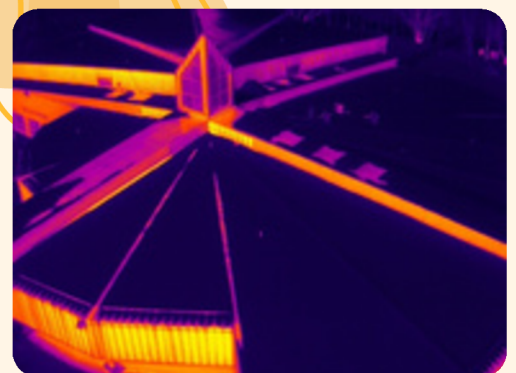
Our partners in our recent projects



CIER
Centre for Indigenous
Environmental Resources



Drone & thermal shots of the Elementary school





The Youth in the Lands Department



The Garden's team and the Youth Energy Champions



Attention On - Reserve Members:

The SVDN Lands Department will be receiving direct install kits from Efficiency Manitoba this month. Our team will be visiting homes in the community to replace outdated fixtures with new and energy efficient alternatives - at no cost to you!

Free Upgrades Include:

Window Weatherization Kits

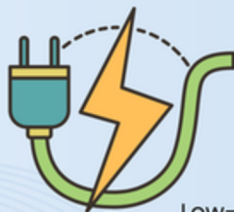
Weather Stripping

Faucet Aerators

Power Strips

LED Light bulbs

Low-flow showerheads



And More!

Contact Meadow Leaming if you're interested.
Email: meadow.leaming@svdngovernance.com
Phone: 204-855-2671

Direct Install Kits sign-up is still **ongoing!** Contact Information above if you are interested.



Thank you to Sioux Valley School for giving us an opportunity to speak, and thank you to all the members of the community who support us! It truly means a lot.

SPRING CLEANING CHECKLIST



KITCHEN & DINING AREA

- ☐ Clean countertops
- ☐ Wipe down cabinets and drawers
- ☐ Clean sink and faucet
- ☐ Stove: clean top, front, and inside
- ☐ Oven: clean inside and outside
- ☐ Microwave: clean inside and outside
- ☐ Refrigerator: clean outside and inside
- ☐ Dishwasher: clean outside and inside
- ☐ Sweep and mop floor

LIVING ROOM

- ☐ Dust surfaces (tables, shelves, etc.)
- ☐ Vacuum or sweep floors
- ☐ Clean windowsills
- ☐ Dust blinds or curtains
- ☐ Dust light fixtures
- ☐ Clean baseboards
- ☐ Vacuum upholstery (sofas, chairs)
- ☐ Clean ceiling fans
- ☐ Fluff and arrange cushions

BATHROOM

- ☐ Clean toilets (including bowl, seat and base)
- ☐ Scrub shower/tub (including tiles, grout, and showerhead)
- ☐ Clean sink and faucet
- ☐ Wipe down mirrors
- ☐ Clean light fixtures
- ☐ Clean counters, cabinets
- ☐ Sweep and mop floor
- ☐ Check exhaust fan
- ☐ Clean walls and baseboards
- ☐ Empty trash can
- ☐ Change towels

BEDROOM

- ☐ Dust surfaces
- ☐ Vacuum or sweep floors
- ☐ Dust blinds or curtains
- ☐ Clean baseboards
- ☐ Make bed

LAUNDRY

- ☐ Clean washer and dryer
- ☐ Vacuum or sweep floors
- ☐ Organize and straighten items

Upcoming Events hosted by the Lands Department

Come Join Us!

Outdoor Yard Sale

Sunday, May 24
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

The Powwow
Arbour, SVDN

Are you looking to declutter your space and make some extra cash? Come and be a part of our outdoor yard sale event!

No registration required! Just bring your items and set up your own booth. Anyone can participate as a seller. We will be using the bleachers in the Powwow Arbour.

For any inquiries or additional information, please contact us:

+431-542-1530

feather.smoke@svdngovernance.com

We look forward to seeing you there!



COME JOIN US FOR PRESENTATIONS + UPDATES

Hosted by the Lands Department

The youth of the Lands Department will be presenting on what projects they've been working on as Energy Champions.

Updates for the SVDN Cemeteries Project, Waste management, Water testing, Flood news, and Energy initiatives. And updates from the Community Gardens Team and BIRS Investigation Team.



THURSDAY
MAY 28th - 5:30PM-8:00PM

THE VETERAN'S HALL,
SIOUX VALLEY
DAKOTA NATION

SUPPER PROVIDED + DOOR PRIZES

JOIN US IN TAKING ACTION!



National Day of Action
for Residential School Searches and Healing



CANADA IS WALKING AWAY FROM THE CHILDREN WHO NEVER CAME HOME AND THE SURVIVORS WHO DID

Survivor-led and centered in ceremony, the Day of Action calls on Canada to honour families and Survivors with sustained funding for searches for unmarked graves and for cultural and healing supports.

DATE AND TIME

27 MAY 2026
1:00 - 3:00PM

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE
BUS LEAVES/RETURNS TO SVDN
HEALTH PARKING LOT

IF YOU NEED A RIDE TO BUS PICK UP
SPOT, CALL 204-717-1528

LOCATION

BRANDON
RESIDENTIAL
SCHOOL SITE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW.BIRSINVESTIGATION.COM

CALL 204-717-1528

Outdoor Yard Sale: Sunday, May 24, 11:00AM to 2:00PM at the Powwow Arbour, SVDN

Community Presentations + Updates: Thursday, May 28, 5:30PM to 8:00PM at the Veteran's Hall, SVDN

National Day of Action: Wednesday, May 27, 1:00PM to 3:00PM at the Brandon Residential School Site, Grand Valley

JOIN US IN TAKING ACTION!



Stand with Survivors and families sign petition e-7410



We are calling on all Nations, organizations, leadership, Survivors, grassroots people and Canadians across to country to stand together in unity and action.

BY SIGNING PETITION E-7410, YOU ARE CALLING ON PARLIAMENT TO:

- Commit to long-term sustainable funding for IRS investigations & Survivor healing supports
- Ensure these programs remain Indigenous-led, in keeping with TRC Calls 21, 22 & 72-76



Canada is walking away from the children who never came home and from the Survivors who did

DATE
May 29th

START
9:30am

END
11:00am

WHERE
Community Gardens
Behind the Veterans
Hall, SVDN

Pshdayapi Planting Workshop

Come join us at the gardens to learn how to plant pshdayapi

Shade and refreshments provided

Free Seeds Available (Limited Supplies)

SVDN IRS SURVIVORS: VOICES AND MEMORIES

YOUR STORY MATTERS

We are gathering stories of SVDN members who attended residential schools anywhere in Canada. These stories will be honored in a community book, and through new commemorations.

Your story does not need to focus on the time at residential school. We are interested in the whole person - your life, teachings and everything that came after.

What would you want your grandchildren and great-grandchildren to know about you?

Both Survivors, and families of departed Survivors, are invited to share as much or as little as feels right.

This is your story, told your way, at your pace

Join Us - Engagement Sessions

In partnership with Dakota Wicozani Tipi and SVDN Health

Thursday, May 21st: 2 - 3PM
Community Center

POSTPONED

Thursday, June 4th: 2 - 3PM
Community Center

Thursday, June 18th: 2 - 3PM
Community Center

UPDATE

To learn more, call Michelle Rosmus 204-922-0118 or Misty Wasteste at 204-855-2690

National Day of Action
Petition QR
code



Pshdayapi Planting Workshop: Friday, May 29th 9:30AM to 11:30AM at the Community Gardens Behind the Veteran's Hall, SVDN

IRS Survivors: Elder Engagement Sessions:
Thursday, June 4th 2-3PM at the Community Centre, SVDN
Thursday, June 18th 2-3PM at the Community Centre, SVDN