

Lands Department Monthly Newsletter

[HTTPS://SVDNGOVERNANCE.COM/ENERGY-EFFICIENCY/#](https://svdngovernance.com/energy-efficiency/#)

OUR WEBSITE FOR ENERGY
EFFICIENCY

**MAY
05**

MMIWG Walk

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation held a walk to show recognition of Indigenous women and girls who went missing and never came home.

One of our Youth Energy Champions, Alexis Antoine, had a speech and talked about how MMIWG affected her as a person and how the Canadian Government doesn't put effort into finding these lost women and girls.



**MAY
07**

Wipazoka Wakpa Survivors: Voices and Memories Project

Brandon IRS Missing Children Investigation invites community members to upcoming engagement sessions for the Wipazoka Wakpa Survivors: Voices and Memories Project.

This project will be a commemorative book honouring SVDN members who attended Residential Schools anywhere in Canada. Both Survivors and families of departed Survivors are warmly welcomed to take part.

The book focuses on the whole person: your life, family, memories, and achievements. This is not IRS testimony gathering; it is a community-led tribute that asks, "What would you want your grandchildren and great-grandchildren to know about you?"

Join us at the Community Center from 2-3 PM on Friday, June 12th and Thursday, June 18th. To learn more, contact Michelle Rosmus at 204-922-0118 or Misty Wasteste at SVDN Health.



Incandescent and halogen lights are very inefficient

You'll be surprised to know that these bulbs require only 10% of the total of the energy usage to light up a space. The rest of 90% of energy is spent to just produce (waste) heat.

SVDN Cemeteries Project

The SVDN Cemeteries Project is using geophysics tools to locate unmarked graves and create a detailed map of existing graves for a community cemetery map.

The Pratt Cemetery is the first site on the schedule, with Wally Essie and Jace Pratt helping to guide the work with assistance from Lands Youth Energy Champions.

Any community members interested in seeing the mapping in action, or getting hands-on with remote sensing technology, are invited to come out and take part.



For more information, contact Chris Mancuso (chris.mancuso@svdngovernance.com),

MAY 14 & 15 Drone Training

Chris Mancuso & Kate Decter from the BIRS Investigation team taught the Youth in the Lands Department about drones.

Three of the youth energy champions and four youth in the community gardens team received their basic Pilot Certificate to fly a drone. Congrats!



Biomass is a Great Source of Energy



Biomass, such as organic waste or any type of wood or plant-based biomass, is a good source of renewable energy. It also can be used to generate electricity at any time irrespective of the daytime and weather conditions, e.g., compared to solar and wind energy.



**MAY
21**

Recording Radio ads for Koda Radio

The Youth Energy Champions recorded radio ads for: Elders to help with a Dakota language book project about energy. An announcement about the monthly newsletter from the Lands Department. SVDN Voices & Memories project, and an announcement that the Direct Install Kits are still available.

**MAY
24**

Outdoor Yard Sale at the Gazebo at the Powwow Grounds

We hosted an Outdoor Yard Sale for our community members at the Gazebo at the Powwow Grounds, which was originally going to be held at the Powwow Arbour.

Like last month's Indoor Yard Sale, we had one of our Youth in the Lands Department hold a bake sale for fundraising for our department!

A big thank you to those who all showed up, it means a lot!



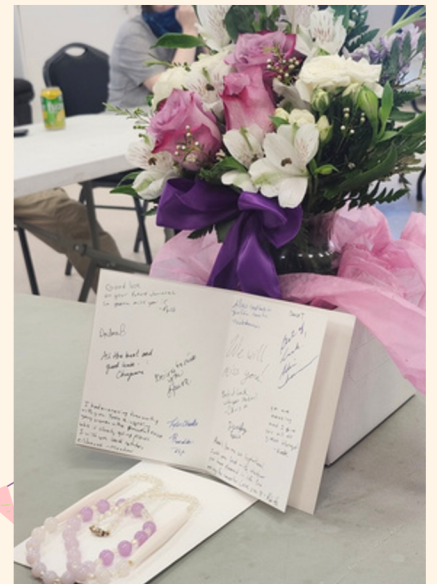
**MAY
25**

See You Around, Alexis Antoine!

May 25th, 2026, was Alexis Antoine's last day in the Lands Department. We held a potluck-style lunch for her, completed with cake & ice cream.

She learned a lot while being a Youth Energy Champion and working with us. She was very thankful to be a part of our team and grateful for the opportunities she had.

We all wish her luck on her journey in life. We will miss you lots!



Fossil Fuels Can Run Out in the Future

Fossil Fuels are being burnt to be converted into electricity at a higher rate than they're being formed in nature. Environmental experts are anticipating that it can run out soon if it's burnt at the same rate.



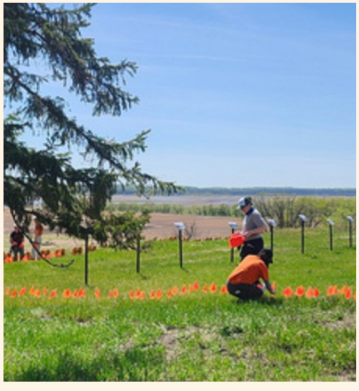
[HTTPS://WWW.BIRSinVESTIGATION.COM/](https://www.birsinvestigation.com/)

OUR WEBSITE FOR THE BRANDON INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL INVESTIGATION

MAY 25 National Day of Action - Preparation

The BIRS Investigation team & the Youth Energy Champions placed orange pin flags for every child who attended the Brandon Indian Residential School; each flag represented one child. Around 3,000 flags were placed in remembrance of the children who attended.

We cleaned up the site, removed old branches, and used a weed whacker to clear the area where we were planning to put down the pin flags.



QR Code for Petition E-7410
By signing, you are calling on Parliament to commit to long-term sustainable funding for IRS investigations & Survivor healing supports and ensure that these programs remain Indigenous-led, in keeping with TRC Calls 21, 22, and 72-76

MAY 27 National Day of Action



The central demand of the day was directed at the Government of Canada. Sioux Valley joined in calling on the federal government to protect and sustain the Residential Schools Missing Children Community Support Fund, and to ensure that Survivor supports remain in place.

On May 27, 2026, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation held a National Day of Action on the grounds of the former Brandon Residential School. The gathering was Survivor-led and centred in ceremony. Survivors returned to look for their names among more than 3,000 orange flags placed there for the children who attended and for those who never came home. A second gathering took place the same day in Winnipeg, and both carried the same call. The work of truth, healing, and the search for our missing children must be sustained, and the supports that make this work possible must be protected.



Sixties Scoop Survivors and Indigenous leaders call for continued federal support for residential school investigation and healing during a march to mark National Day of Action in Winnipeg on May 27, 2026



A Sacred fire was lit, and smudge was offered to those who gathered. Survivors Eleanor Elk and Lorraine Pompana spoke about their own experiences at residential school and about the need for this work to continue. "They took our language, they took us from our families and they took our childhoods," Eleanor Elk said. "This Sacred work is still here, and it must be allowed to continue." Lorraine Pompana spoke to what is at stake if Canada steps back: "Cutting federal funding is a massive step backward for the true reconciliation we need to heal. No matter the obstacles, we are not going anywhere." The SVDN high school drum group performed honour and prayer songs, and the day closed with a ceremony at the Brandon IRS cemetery.



Residential School survivor Lorraine Pompana speaks about her experiences as a student in residential school as a child to an audience of about 100 people during the event



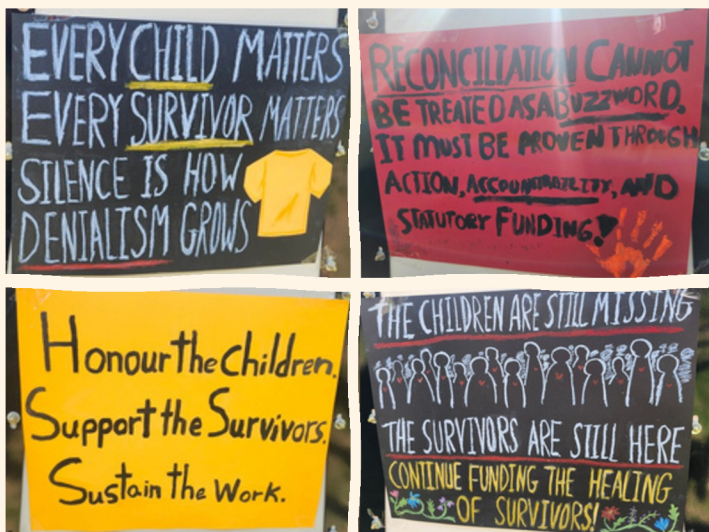
A photo of the Brandon Indian Residential School students in 1946

The Brandon Residential School operated for nearly a century, and children from Sioux Valley were among those taken there. The investigation into the missing children of that institution is ongoing, and it is led by our Nation. Christopher Mancuso, a geophysical scientist from Sioux Valley, has a personal connection to this work through his grandmother Gladys Hall, who was forced to attend the school after she and her family were taken there when she was four years old. He explained that the work allows the community to identify and mark graves: "This enables us to honour their spirits". Councillor Melissa Hotain spoke for the Nation, noting that "Our Nation has walked this path for many years, supporting our Survivors, caring for our families, and doing the Sacred work of remembering the children who never came home".

The Nation also recognized the rise of residential school denialism in this country. Survivors have spoken, the records exist, and children died while attending these institutions. Chief Jennifer Bone affirmed the Nation's commitment: "We stand committed to Survivors and families by ensuring the children who never returned are never forgotten, and by continuing to support our people as they heal and move forward together".



For Survivors and others affected, the 24-hour Residential Schools Crisis Line is available at 1-866-925-4419.



Art & signs created by the Youth Energy Champions



Upcoming Events hosted by the Lands Department

IRS Survivors: Voices & Memories Project - Engagement Sessions

When:
Friday, June 12th 2:00PM-3:00PM

Where:
Community Centre, SVDN

When:
Thursday, June 18th 2:00PM-3:00PM

Where:
Community Centre, SVDN

We are gathering stories of SVDN members who attended residential schools anywhere in Canada. These stories will be honoured 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.

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, June 4th: 2 - 3PM
 Community Center

POSTPONED

Friday, June 12th: 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



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.

Supper Provided + Door Prizes

Presentations + Updates for the Community, Hosted by the Lands Department

When:
Tuesday, June 30th 5:30PM-8:00PM

Where:
Veteran's Hall, SVDN

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.



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

