Lands Department Monthly Newsletter

HTTPS://SVDNGOVERNANCE.COM/LANDS-YOUTH-EDUCATION/ | **OUR WEBSITE FOR OUR YOUTH**

SEPT 15 Drone mission with BIRS

On September 15, Our Youth Energy Champions went on a drone mission with Darby Essie and Chris Mancuso.

We had a mission to perform a land survey on Turtle Crossing. But due to some technical difficulties and we weren't able to finish our mission, but we will try again!





SEPT 10 Suicide Prevention Walk

SVDN Health Center hosted a walk to show support who may be struggling with thoughts of suicide or people who lost a loved one to suicide. We want to ensure that our community knows that they have access to the tools, resources and support they need to talk openly about suicide prevention, recognize warning signs, and most importantly, gathering courage to seek help.

What is Suicide Prevention Month?

Every September is a time to raise awareness, spread hope and spark action to help others who may be dealing with mental health issues. Suicide is still often met with silence, stigma, or shame. Remember that they are people who are ready to truly listen and can help you through your journey. No one has to face this alone. Help exists. Healing is possible

Suicide is a leading cause of death and effects peoples of all ages. Resources are available to prevent. Hope is possible

988 - Suicide Crisis Helpline (24/7)

1-800-668-6868 - Kids Help Phone (24/7 for youth aged 5 to 29)

1-855-242-3310 - Hope for Wellness Help Line (24/7, culturallly compentent emotional spport for Indigneous peoples)

Air-dry laundry when you can!

A dryer is one of the highest-draw appliances in most homes, so skipping it even a few loads a week, using a drying rack or line, adds up over a month.





SEPT 16 Tiara's Bday and Site clean up for Truth and Reconciliation day



On September 16th We went to the Brandon Residential School Site with the BIRS Team and Darby Essie to get the school site ready for Truth and Reconcilitian Day.

It just happened to be Tiara's birthday that day, so Chris Mancuso took all of us out for lunch. She chose to go to Lee's Buffet and the food was really delicious! And after lunch, we went to the BIRS office to prepare the tobacco ties and the Survivor Welcome Bags for Truth and Reconciliation day.



SEPT 17 Grasslands assesment with ACC students



GO SIOUX VALLEY!! WOOO!

We had the opportunity to work with students from the Assiniboine Community College. They came out to Sioux Valley Dakota Nation to perform a grasslands assessment in our reserve.

We gave them a tour of our community gardens and growcer unit, then we set off to do the assessment. We chose the north of SVDN near the bison pastures.

The instructor taught the Gardens Crew & the Youth Energy Champions on how to do an assessment for our grasslands, we all learned a lot from her! We learned about different grasses, flowers and invasive species in our restored grasslands.

After the grasslands assessment, we went over our scores and found out we scored high, meaning our grasslands are healthy! And the insturctor mentioned that it's rare for any places to get that high of a score.





A giant leopard frog compared to an averaged size leopard frog, caught by Meadow and Rhitta

What uses the most electricity in a Canadian home?

Space heating, by a wide margin, at about 63.6 percent of average household energy use, followed by water heating and appliances.

SEPT 29 Survivor blanketing

On September 29, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation held a luncheon at the Veterans' Hall to honour SVDN Residential School Survivors.

Each Survivor received a star blanket. Sandra McKay led the honouring, with help from Rhitta Smoke and Rylie Bell. Michelle Rosmus was the emcee and gave remarks, and the drum group played an honour song for the Survivors.

Guests shared a catered roast beef dinner. The luncheon was held the day before Orange Shirt Day and gave the community time to recognize its own Survivors before the larger events on September 30.







SEPT 30 Truth and reconilliation day

On September 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, more than 900 people came to the grounds of the former Brandon Residential School. Survivors and community members from impacted First Nations travelled to be there, many of them with their families.



A Sacred Fire was lit in the morning, and the drum group played songs for Survivors and for children who didn't make it home. Chiefs from impacted communities also attended, along with Premier Wab Kinew and Grand Chief Garrison Settee. Over 600 people walked the seven kilometres from the Riverbank Discovery Centre to the school site.





That morning, Premier Kinew sat with Chief Bone, First Nations leaders and Elders at the former Turtle Crossing Campground, where Elders Frank Tacan and Oswald McKay offered prayer. The Premier announced that the Province of Manitoba and the City of Brandon have bought the campground, and that Sioux Valley Dakota Nation will guide decisions about its future. Elder Frank Tacan said, "We are so happy we got that land back, to use it for ceremonies now," and added, "It was about time." Youth Energy Champion Tiara Bell was also interviewed by CBC Manitoba! "We have to keep remembering, keep honouring and just keep telling their stories because it's really important," she told CBC News.





Later in the day, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation unveiled a black granite monument. The names of roughly a hundred First Nation communities from Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Quebec and Nunavut are engraved on the centre stone. Next to it, eight temporary panels list the names of about 2,700 students who attended the school. These panels are there so the names can be checked. Once community engagement on names, spellings and additions is finished, the names will be engraved in stone.

An event of this size depended on many people. The Youth Energy Champions returned to volunteer at this year's event! On the day, they handled traffic control, reception, grounds maintenance and crowd management. Youth Energy Champion Meadow Leaming drove a side-by-side around the grounds to support Survivors and make sure they were looked after.







In the weeks before, the Youth Energy Champions mowed the grounds, got the site ready for visitors, and helped pack Survivor welcome bags and tobacco ties. SVDN Gardens built the permanent flower boxes, which high school students helped paint. The boxes will stay at the site to keep it looking good year-round. Staff from SVDN Education, Public Works, Dakota Tiwahe Services and Justice also volunteered their time, working alongside the Lands department to prepare for both days. A huge thank you to everyone who helped bring this event together!

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Photograph courtesy of SVDN Communications & Kate Decter



SEP 25 - OCT 9

Indigenous Clean Energy Calalyst Program from Darby







Hau! My name is Darby Essie. I have completed training to further my Education in the Energy Field through a program called the Indigenous Clean Energy 20/20 Catalysts program. I got the opportunity to travel all over Canada to learn from mentors, project leads, college professors, and utility professionals.

Through the Catalyst program I got to go to 6 nation Ontario, Yukon Northwest Territories, and Metis Crossing in Alberta. Each location has incredible natural energy projects up and running.





For the final week the program brought each Catalyst group from 2016 to 2026 to Calgary, Alberta, to have a celebration on the accomplishment of 10 successful years of the program.

There I got to meet, get motivated from each Catalyst on what I can do for SVDN and having help from all over Canada.
To end the last part of the program Indigenous Clean Energy held a national gathering for networking and to see what is out there for helping lower energy use and energy projects.
I had a great year with the Indigenous Clean Energy Catalyst program making new connections, education, and more important new Friends who I would consider family.

Anpetu Washte yu ha wo. (Have a wonderful day)



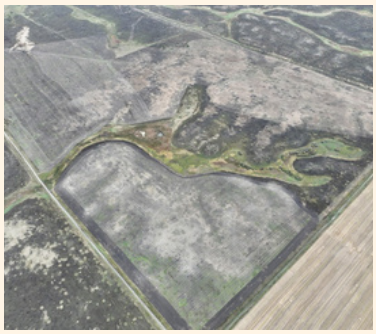




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OUR WEBSITE FOR OUR COMMUNITY GARDENS






Garden Update

In September, we harvested our Tobacco and hung it up to dry. This tobacco is too potent to smoke, so it is mainly used in prayer & ceremony.

The Gardens Crew is planning to plant native seeds in an area covering 250 acres. Once the 250 acres becomes established and rich with the seeds we have sown, a buffalo pasture will be built on the restored grassland. Giving room for more of our buffalo to grow and thrive.

This native grassland restoration project will take effort and a couple of years to see it flourishing.



Birthdays in September

Tiara Bell - September 16

Cheyenne Ironman - September 19

Chris Mancuso - September 21

Darby Essie - September 27

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