



## SVDN Council Corner

Submitted by: Councillor Melissa Hotain



Han Mitakuyapi

On September 30th, 2024, National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (formerly Orange Shirt Day) our community hosted an event at the former Brandon Indian Residential School site. The day was planned by our BIRS Project Team and with assistance from Public Works to clear the grounds. The morning was set to honour our residential school survivors, it was a chilly and windy day, and we are thankful for those that attended. We were fortunate to have 17 residential school survivors

attend; they were honoured with a song and blanketed with star blankets by our Junior Chief and Council members. Following this another honour song was sung and everyone shook hands, hugged and acknowledged the survivors. It was an emotional day but an important one to honour our survivors, remember those that have passed on, and the children who never made it home.

The BIRS team in collaboration with the Elders Advisory Committee worked to install new metal orange hearts with the known names of the children who are buried at the school sites. They also designed and installed a new metal tipi that also has the names and First Nations of the children. I thank the BIRS team for going over and above their work which includes research, education, and building relationships with the culturally affiliated First Nations with children buried at the site, collection of survivor stories, mapping of the known and potential burial sites, ongoing GPR work and preparing the land, collaborating with our partners and other First Nations, and advocating and providing support at the government level.

The day concluded with the welcoming of the walkers from the Discovery Centre and the unveiling of the memorial tipi. An official ribbon cutting occurred by a survivor and a youth from our Dakota Nation. Joining us for this was Glen Simard, Minister of Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism, and Mayor Jeff Fawcett, each acknowledged and reflected on the importance of



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## Council Corner Cont...



the day and their ongoing support for access to the Turtle Crossing lands so we can complete the groundwork and properly commemorate the space.

I continue to advocate on this file, most recently I was able to meet with Dr. Morris Tidball-Binz, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions at the Historical Grievances and International Laws Gathering held in Edmonton, AB on October 3-4, 2024. Following his presentation, I shared our concerns with regards to our efforts to investigate and protect the known cemeteries and clandestine graves located outside these cemeteries, and the absence of a NAGPRA like law and policies results in jurisdictional voids and lack of action. I will be working with the BIRS Team to develop a written submission and a call for an official formal visit to Canada to investigate these issues.



I will be turning my attention to more advocacy for increased and sustainable funding to complete the work at the BIRS and will also be creating a small working group of experts on the development of our own cultural, sacred sites and repatriation and rematriation law. Rematriation is more than repatriation, it is the return of the sacred to our Mother Earth.

I encourage all our members to participate in the Dakota language programming occurring each week at the Community Centre. If you cannot attend in person, then make time to watch the videos online, they are all available on our YouTube channel. We all have a responsibility to protect, revitalize and retain our precious Dakota language.

As we near Veteran's Day, a day to honour and remember our Dakota Veteran's. From our community alone, we had 14 WW1 Veterans and 2 we acknowledge from St Ambroise, and 16 WW2 Veterans, 2 that served in the Korean War, and approximately 23 Peace Time Veterans in both Canada and the United States. Please join us on November 11th, as we gather to honour our Dakota Veterans.



## Intergovernmental Relations and Implementation (IRID)

### Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Joins Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

On July 23, 2024, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) welcomed Sioux Valley Dakota Nation (SVDN) to their organization. This new membership strengthens the collaborative efforts to advocate for the rights and well-being of our Nations. SVDN's unique contributions will play a vital role in addressing challenges.



### Importance of Policy Review and Strategic Planning

The directors' retreat in August emphasized the crucial role of policy in guiding our daily operations. Indigenous peoples have always been planners, traditionally preparing for seasons and community needs. Today, we continue this legacy with modern methods to ensure effective governance within our Nation.



### Minister Visit Recap

On August 12, a meeting with the Minister highlighted the importance of addressing key issues impacting SVDN, particularly surrounding education facilities and community development.



### Current Initiatives by IRID

The Information Department is implementing a Records and Information Management Program. This initiative will help departments track meaningful data, ensuring resources reach where they are needed within the community. Furthermore, improving communication efforts by renewing members' contact information is essential for supporting future initiatives.

### Insights from Treaty 1-11 Gathering

Discussions at the Treaty 1-11 Gathering emphasized strengthening cultural identity, youth involvement and supporting knowledge keepers. While we all have different agreements as Nations, we face parallel issues of being subjected to the same colonial systems, policies, and governance structures, which often overlook the distinct rights, sovereignty, and cultural practices of Indigenous Nations, resulting in uniform treatment.

### Takeaways:

- Traditional values must always be upheld. Our identity as a people is deeply rooted in our traditions, and maintaining these values is essential for the continued strength of our community.
- Our language, culture, and traditions are not lost; it is our people who need help finding their way back to them. Revitalization of our heritage is key to restoring our collective identity.
- Support for adoptees from the 60's Scoop and Child Welfare System is critical. These individuals will need assistance in reconnecting with their community and heritage.
- We need to take control of our own narrative. By doing so, we ensure that our stories, struggles, and successes are authentically represented and understood.
- Empowering the next generation (youth) is crucial to ensuring that Indigenous traditions, governance, and culture are carried forward.





## Intergovernmental Relations and Implementation (IRID) cont...

### Challenges Discussed in Ottawa for IRIS Meeting

At the IRIS Meeting, we addressed the significant challenges faced by Sioux Valley Dakota Nation in securing self-governance recognition and improving education facilities. Concerns were raised about outdated school facilities and the need for better data management. Addressing these challenges remains a priority.

### Elders Meeting

On September 16, we hosted an Elders information session. Topics included updating the IRS Survivors List and the introduction of the TRC. Please look out for the next Elders Info Session details.

### Youth Council Importance

The Youth Council's active involvement is vital for nurturing leadership and ensuring the transmission of Indigenous governance and culture to the next generation. Upcoming Youth Council Events: Elder's & Youth Gathering and Halloween Monster Mash.

### Directors Meeting Summary

The Directors Meeting held on September 27 focused on assessing training needs and the importance of ongoing collaboration.

### Events Committee Formation

An Events Committee has been formed to enhance communication within SVDN. Keep an eye out for future engagements, information sessions, and meetings.

### New IRID Staff

We want to welcome our new IRID Staff:

Nicole Ironman – Administrative Assistant

Nick Pompana – Process Officer

Lily Blue – Process Officer

### Tiospaye Representative Council

An initial Tiospaye Representative Council ("TRC") is being set up.

The TRC is an integral part of the Sioux Valley Dakota Oyate Governing Assembly.

Over the next month, meetings are being held to appoint the first 7 members of the TRC.

Once appointed, the first members of the TRC will:

1. *Participate in the governance of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation in accordance with the constitution;*
2. *Develop and propose laws and procedures for the reestablishment of the Traditional Sioux Valley Dakota Tiospaye; and*
3. *Carry out all activities necessary to identify, promote and reestablish the traditional Tiospaye groups*

### Looking Forward

In the coming months, IRID will continue to focus on tracking meaningful data, improving communication, and assessing community needs. Your active participation is crucial for the success of our department and our initiatives. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Kendra Kakewash, IRID





## SVDN Health

The Sioux Valley Health Centre kitchen and classroom were busy over the summer months! A Food and Friends Initiative took place in August, which offered an opportunity for those 18 and under to drop in for socialization, activities and to grab a lunch.

A four week kids cooking class was also held in August which generated a tremendous amount of interest and warranted adding a second class time! Kids who attended class gained food safety knowledge, basic cooking/baking skills and went home with confidence to make some meals and snacks for their families.

The Community Dietitian and Community Health Representatives have been taking various facilitator training opportunities to bring more valuable programs to the community. 'Get Better Together' is a 6 week program which aims to help individuals with ongoing health conditions to take control of their health and live better. A class session is planned to start in early 2025.

'Empowered Eating' is another exciting program we aim to facilitate in the New Year. This four week program encourages people to explore their relationship with food by looking at their beliefs, feelings and behaviours with food. The goal of the program is to empower people in their eating habits and build a confident relationship with food.

ADI 'Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative' offered evening programs during the warmer months and continues to offer informative and supportive monthly programs to those navigating life with diabetes. World Diabetes Day is November 14th so please stay tuned for our upcoming community event to recognize this important day!

The renovation project at the Sioux Valley Health Centre has been progressing nicely. With the exterior largely renewed, we have now turned our attention inward to concentrate on the interior phases of development. Despite some anticipated logistical challenges, we look forward to our continued service provision.

We are pleased to advise of the resumption of the Sioux Valley High School Teen Clinic held monthly at the Sioux Valley High School. Our 2024-25 dates are:

Wednesday - October 23 2024

Wednesday - November 6 2024

Wednesday - December 18 2024

Wednesday - January 15 2025

Wednesday - February 12 2025

Wednesday - March 12 2025

Wednesday - April 16 2025

Wednesday - May 14 2025

Wednesday - June 11 2025

With flu season on our doorstep, we would like to mention the following:

Influenza in humans is a respiratory infection caused primarily by influenza A & B viruses. Seasonal influenza epidemics occur annually in Canada, generally in the late fall and winter months.

Influenza vaccines are the best protection against influenza and their benefits outweigh the potential risks following immunization. The safety profile of influenza vaccines has been well established. Please call the Sioux Valley Health Centre at 204-855-2960 to book your appointment today!

Please be reminded Dr. Sopel attends the Health Centre each Tuesday and Dr. Beaupre attends the facility on Thursdays. On-reserve pickup is available for members requiring the service. Please ensure adequate notice for appointment transportation Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays with Medical Transportation. We require a one-week notice (i.e. 5 business days) to ensure provisions for transportation to Winnipeg. Also of note, for those members wishing pharmacy delivery, please ensure you notify the pharmacy to release the medications to the Sioux Valley Health Centre driver. On days in which this service is requested, ensure you are at home to accept the delivery for signature.

Pidamiyedo / Thank you

Christopher Hersak, RN, BN

Director of Health

Appointed Incident Response Commander

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation







## Membership

HAPPY HALLOWEEN FROM BAND MEMBERSHIP...!!

With the new school year in full swing, we have a lot of children who ARE NOT registered yet and I can't emphasize how important it is for your children to be registered with their own status number. It's not only vital for their doctors/prescriptions, dental, and vision coverage, It plays a vital role in your children's education and eligibility for a variety of programs provided by Jordan's Principle. I encourage all mothers whose children are not registered yet to come see me at the office and I will help you get your children set up with their own status number.

Also, I have several mother's who ordered birth certificates though band member who still have not come in to see me to complete their children's birth registration. If band membership paid for your birth certificate, you need to come back to the office and complete your children's registration.

Indian Boarding Homes Class Action Forms: August 21, 2024, is when the Indian Boarding Homes Claim Forms were available. There are 2 claim forms, Category 1 claim form and Category 2 claim form. The Category 1 claim form is for the basic payment for attending and the Category 2 claim form is for anyone who was affected by trauma, abuse, etc. Please let me know which package you need, and I will prepare it for you. The deadline for all Indian Boarding Home Class Action Claim forms is February 22, 2027. If you need any help mailing your Indian Boarding Homes Claim Form, you are more than welcome to come see me and I will mail it off for you and keep a copy of your application on file for future use.

SCIS (white) Status Cards: If anyone is interested in applying for their SCIS (white) status cards, please feel free to come in and apply. It is important that all band members are aware that the red status card IS NOT accepted anymore in most business. The only card they are accepting is the SCIS (white) status card. All you need is a copy of a government issued ID or you can apply with a copy of your CIS (red) status card and your health card.

### Population Stats as of July 2024

Total Population	2749	Male:	1319
On Reserve:	1418	Female:	1430
Off Reserve	1331		

Robin Mckay

IRA/CBA for Sioux Valley Dakota Nation.

## Grand Valley Park



Summer has come and gone for another year at the Grand Valley Campground. In addition to our regular camping sites we hosted summer culture camps for: The Little teaching Lodge- Aboriginal HeadStart , Child & Family Services – West Region and Dakota Ojibway Child & Family Services. Sioux Valley High School continues their regular visits and they even processed a deer as part of there teachings. Dakota Tiwahe Services also uses the park for cultural teachings and activities. We had a concert in July with the king of the north Ernest Monias and three other bands.

Grim Valley Haunted House 2024 !! GV Park is currently preparing the Halloween Haunted house. This is a fun family event from 6- 10 pm on Weekends : Oct 19 & 20, 26 & 27-31st, Please check our website and FB Page for more info , Hope to see you all there !

GV Tubin – Tubing hill is getting ready for upcoming season. The Tow rope is under repair and remains our number one priority. After repair we will schedule our annual lift inspection and permit. We are testing our snow making equipment and should have snowmaking this season which will help us tremendously with opening the business. Please keep checking all our websites for job postings in the near future



## Residential School Missing Children Investigation



September is always an especially busy event time for the Brandon Residential School Missing Children Investigation team! For Truth and Reconciliation week, on Friday Sioux Valley Dakota High School students came out to the site of the former residential school for some hands-on learning about the different technologies involved in the search. There were drones, GPR, and metal detectors available to try out and Elders Lorraine Pompana and Sandra McKay were on hand to help guide the students in learning about the residential school and its impact on communities. We appreciate the enthusiasm the high school students had for the technology and how quickly they wanted to put it into practice - there are some great future scientists in the bunch!

In conjunction with the City of Brandon, BIRS team members volunteered at the Cultural Camp for Kids in Care event with a drone flight demonstration and we brought our training drones so that the kids could have the opportunity to fly them as well. The kids had fun flying the training mini drones all over the park and often set them flying off the paths into the high grass areas.

On September 30th, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation hosted a powerful Orange Shirt Day event, bringing together community members, dignitaries and survivors to honor those affected by the residential school system and to unveil the memorial tipi and orange hearts.

The event, held at the site of the former Brandon Residential School, saw a large turnout of community members and public dressed in orange, symbolizing the commitment to the principle that Every Child Matters. The day was marked by honoring SVDN survivors, powerful speeches, Unity Riders and moments of reflection. Mayor Jeff Fawcett delivered remarks, emphasizing the city's commitment to reconciliation and acknowledging the painful history of the Brandon Residential School. "We must confront our past to build a better future," Mayor Fawcett stated, pledging continued support for SVDN's efforts to locate and honor missing children. Additionally, The Honorable Glen Simard, Minister of Sport Culture and Culture, also addressed the gathering, highlighting the provinces' dedication to recognizing the ongoing impact of the residential school system and the importance of education and awareness of these events across Canada.

This year's Orange Shirt Day events focused on honoring survivors and remembering the children who never made it home. SVDN survivors were honored with a handmade star blanket, presented/blanketed by the Junior Chief and Council from Sioux Valley High School, with each survivor's name being called out with a drum honor song being performed subsequently. We would like to thank Junior Chief and Council members: Jason McKay, Aleah Beaulieu, Feather Smoke, Rylie Bell, Tylan Wasteste, Peyton Dowd and Meadow Leaming for all your hard work and dedication at this event. Survivors shared their personal stories, providing attendees with a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by those affected by residential schools. Their courage in recounting these experiences highlighted the need for continued dialogue and action toward reconciliation.





**Residential School Missing Children Investigation...cont**

Lunch was sponsored by Dakota Tiwahe Services and we would like to thank Brenda Smoke, Nicole Antoine and Tracy Campbell for organizing the food and to caterers Choloe Sheane and her team for its preparation. It was delicious and the warm meal was very much welcomed on such a cold day! We would also like to thank Michelle Rosmus for preparing the setting and spirit dish ceremony for the lost children.

The afternoon activities were filled with the City of Brandon Remembrance Walk participants who walked 6 km from the Riverbank Discovery Center. This year's walk was particularly challenging due to the high wind but everyone was welcomed and joined us for the dedication of the metal memorial tipi and unveiling of the new wooden orange hearts on the hillside.

The Unity Riders, led by Travis Mazawasicuna, arrived at the site after previously visiting and performing ceremonies at Elkhorn Residential School and Birtle Residential School. Travis spoke about the importance of the horse in Dakota culture and the multi-day journey that the riders have taken to join us at the Orange Shirt Day event. Thank you riders for again coming to the site during the event and raising awareness for the "Every Child Matters" movement. The event concluded with the dedication and ribbon cutting of the metal memorial tipi, constructed by Pasqua First Nation's Pro Metal Company and features the 113 names of the children who died in association with the Brandon Residential School and their 20 home communities. These names and home communities have been identified through survivor testimonies and archival work, but do not represent a completed list. There will be more names and communities added as the archival work progresses and more records become available. The tipi represents not just the pain, but also the resilience of the survivors of the residential school system. It's a place for remembrance and for looking forward, as such, the ribbon was cut by a residential school survivor and a youth. Tobacco ties were offered in prayer to the missing children and a drum honor song was played.

The residential school system took an estimated 150,000 children from their families and communities across Canada. If you held a minute of silence for each of those children, you would be silent for roughly 104 days. Orange Shirt Day events play a vital role in raising awareness about the history of residential schools, honoring survivors and remembering the children who were lost. We would like to extend our appreciation to everyone who participated and contributed to making the event a success.

Thank you!





## SVDN Communications Department

SVDN Communications oversee our 30+ social media pages, 2 website, mobile app, YouTube channel and KODA 93.5FM radio station. We have done some consolidating of our social media pages and will continue to streamline social media to a more impactful presence. Additionally, we are continuing to add more content to our YouTube channel, so don't forget to like and subscribe.

In recent months we completed filming for another show, this time CBC's Still Standing, with comedian Jonny Harris. The filming was capped off with a live comedy show in our very own SVDN Veterans Hall.

SVDN Communications is once again doing SV School's portraits this year and we look forward to all the smiling faces coming through our department for class pictures. We look forward to anytime our youth and grads come to us for their portraits. We hope to open this up to community portraits in the future.



### SVDN Communications Staff:

#### Elton Taylor

*Communications Coordinator*

#### Bryden Speiss

*Communication Media Editor*

#### Bill Taylor

*KODA FM Announcer & MC*



**Important Numbers**

Emergency (fire, police).....	911
Crisis Help Line.....	1-204-512-0874
Toll Free Crisis Help Line.....	1-888-316-3511
SVDN Administration/Finance.....	1-204-855-2671
SDVN Toll Free Admin/Finance.....	1-866-721-0293
E&T/Post-Sec Fax.....	1-204-855-2436
SVDN FNSO.....	1-204-512-0858
SVDN Health Centre.....	1-204-855-2690
Health Director after hours emergency.....	1-204-316-0221
Health Text Line.....	1-204-512-0883
Medical Van.....	1-204-512-0860
SVDN Housing.....	1-204-674-4914
Housing after hours emergency.....	1-204-574-8043
SVDN Public Works.....	1-204-855-2052
Sanitation.....	1-204-512-0870
South End Water Truck.....	1-204-851-3681
North End Water Truck.....	1-204-512-0852
SVDN Social Development.....	1-204-855-2617
.....	1-204-855-2592
SVDN Governance Office	1-204-855-2760
.....	1-204-855-3087
SVDN Governance Toll Free.....	1-866-794-3196
SVDN Sub-Office Building.....	1-204-728-6012
Unit D, 535-34th St. Brandon, MB	
SVDN School.....	1-204-818-0886
SVDN Headstart.....	1-204-674-4632
SVDN High School.....	1-204-729-2770
2320 Louise Ave. Brandon, MB R7B 2C6	
SVDN High School Toll Free.....	1-877-300-9375
SVDN Daycare.....	1-204-855-2431
SVDN Community Centre.....	1-204-542-0456
SVDN Gaming Centre.....	1-204-855-2043
SVDN Petro-Canada.....	1-431-645-1000
SVDN Dakota Tiwahe Services Inc. ....	1-204-855-2205
Dakota Diner.....	1-204-500-1615
Dakota Quick Stop (Gasbar).....	1-204-855-3062
Dakota Oyate Lodge.....	1-204-855-2354
KODA 93.5 Radio.....	1-204-818-7718