



SVDN Council Corner

Submitted by: Councillor Melissa Hotain

Han/Hau,
 We are pleased to share our first update as newly elected Chief and Council for Wipazoka Wakpa. Since assuming office in November, and following the completion of the second ballot count, we have undertaken a comprehensive review of existing files and received briefings from Directors and Program Managers regarding program activities and budgets. Our immediate priority is to finalize all outstanding reports for funding received prior to the end of the fiscal year. We have also met with Indigenous Services Canada to review outstanding items and identify next steps for completion.

We have supported the formalization of the Otanka Council by ensuring they have the necessary space and time for their meetings and by keeping them informed of leadership activities. We strongly value transparent communication and the exchange of perspectives from community members. To this end, we continue to encourage all programs to promote meaningful community engagement across all age groups.

We remain committed to strengthening governance through clear structures and the full implementation of policies, particularly those related to finance and human resources. Effective governance also requires ensuring that key positions are staffed appropriately and that employees have access to ongoing professional development.

We have directed the Intergovernmental Relations and Implementation Department to initiate a review of key laws, including the Constitution, Election Law, and the proposed Governance and Leadership Law.

As a leadership team, we are dedicated to improving communication and upholding integrity, accountability and transparency. We look forward to hosting an Annual General Assembly this spring and presenting the 2025/2026 Annual Report.

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IRID (Intergovernmental Relations Implementation Dept) Update

Background

The second time IRID was attempting to pass the Children and Family Law, additions to the IRID team were brought in. Tea Rampanen, an outside consultant, Bill Taylor - Communications, Laura Chaske - Child's Advocate, and Shayla Bell - Dakota Claims Researcher were brought onboard. This was to re-invigorate the Children and Family Law, fresh new faces with new perspectives were thought to help the cause. Shayla, Lily, and Nick were to work with the younger demographics (18-34 years), while the rest of the IRID team would concentrate on working with the older age groups (35 - 54 years and 55+ years). The second vote took place during our Elections for Chief and Council on November 13, 2025. The second vote failed and a new Chief and Council were elected, However, the Election was appealed and, it went to court.

The Election decision went to court, while this occurred the IRID team was working on the Election speech objectives the current Chief identified on her platform speech.

These objectives are:

- 1.) Constitutional Review
- 2.) Elders and Womens Committee
- 3.) Community Leadership Training Program
- 4.) Communications and Transparency
- 5.) Dakota Claims and Apology
- 6.) Children and Family Law

Downsizing & Draft Projects

During the court proceedings the IRID team came to a standstill, the Process Officers were given layoff notices and their last day of work was on Friday, January 30, 2026. At this time IRID developed in DRAFT form the following initiatives:

- 1.) A First Nations Guide for Chief and Council - Fiduciary obligations, Self-Governing - 5 Year Block funding, etc.
- 2.) Community Wellness Project - for community and individual healing
- 3.) Community Safety Initiative - for awareness of Drug Dealers, Banishment and, Gang Awareness
- 4.) Sports and Recreation Initiative (two parts) - Part 1 Administration, Part 2 Implementation - Sports Board development and to have our children, youth and young adults actively involved in sports
- 5.) Constitutional Amendments - the IRID team went through the SVDO Constitution making notes that we felt should be addressed
- 6.) IRID Workplan - identifies the objectives identified in the Chief's platform speech

Upcoming Months

The IRID program awaits direction for Info Session dates from Chief and Council and is committed to fulfilling the obligations identified in the 2025-26 IRID Workplan.

Pidamiya do,
Adrian Ironman, IRID Facilitator

SVDN Education Update

Tatiyopa Mazawayawa Tipi - Strength in Tradition, Excellence in Learning

A Message from the Principal,

Han Mitakuyapi!

I am very excited to announce that we are more than half way through the school year. I wanted to way Wopida to our community for your continued support as we navigate a busy winter season. From adjusting to snow days to celebrating student success, our staff and students have shown incredible resilience. We are committed to providing a safe, high-quality learning environment rooted in our Dakota values.

Tatiyopa Mazawayawa Tipi has approximately 360 students registered for this 2025-2026 school year.

The schools consist of three areas, Early Years (Headstart to Grade 2), Elementary (Grade 3 to Grade 8), High School (Grade 9 to 12).

Brief overview of our school year thus far:

Planning for our school year begins during the summer months, we look at the “big picture”. Our Administrative team collectively drafts up an academic calendar. We aren’t just picking dates; we are balancing instructional hours, teacher wellness and, community needs. We have many days that are not only learning and instruction, but out month to month is filled with many activities for staff and students. Many of the activities are held throughout the school year.

Equinox feasts for the whole school four times per year. Staff and students come together at these times to eat and listen to song and traditional stories of the season.

Hot lunch program/breakfast program is offered to students every year. All three areas do provide menus each month. The hot lunch that is offered is free for students.

Land based activities - staff have been planning for land based activities for students to participate in since the start of the school year. An example of some of the activities are: picking traditional plants/medicines, berry pickiing, community clean up, wood cutting, drumming, fishing, filleting, preparing traditional foods, deer skinning, beading, preparing rabbit soup, making leather pouches, storytelling, moccasin making, snow shoeing, tipi making, preparing a procupine, leaf picking and etc...

Dakota Language Teachers - the school has three language teachers on staff; in early years, elementary and high school. The Dakota Language teachers teach the language, history, culture/traditions, and roles.

Knowledge Keepers in the classroom - we have a total of four knowledge keepers in the school. Each of the knowledge keepers have various strengths, knowledge and gifts to share with staff and students. They provide support in the classrooms.

The staff and students are please to have a wonderful Resource and Clincial Team in the school. The team consists of two resource teachers, occupational therapist, school psychologist and physiotherapist. Many students have utilized the two sensory rooms in the schools...

SVDN Education Update cont'd...

Before and after school Program is designed to provide a service for working parents/guardians who are in need of childcare. The program runs from 7:30am to 5:00pm on regular school days. The structured program is supervised, students in the program are provided with activities and snacks.

School committees - the school staff have done an excellent job of forming committees this year. Committees are formed to prepare and plan for activities throughout the school year. Some examples of activities that the school committees have planned are; open house, Veterans Day services, equinox feasts, winter showcase, Halloween, Valentine's Day, Spirit Week activities and, cultural events. After-school clubs activities fun from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. Some examples of clubs offered are: homework club, volleyball club, karaoke club, cooking club and, wellness club, etc...

School canteen - our school canteen is up and running and offers various items with special items on Fridays. The canteen is open every day from 11:30am to 12:15pm.

Student Handbook - our student handbook 2025-2026 school year is available at the schools for parents/guardians/students. The handbook contains graduation requirements, high school courses, internet policy, attendance policy and, school code of behaviour.

Safety and procedures - fire drills are scheduled for once a month, depending on weather. Bus evacuations are planned and practiced every few months.

Upcoming Activities:

Tatiyopa Mazawayawa Tipi Scholastic Book Fair - March 2-6, 2026 @ the Elementary School

Asessipi Ski Trips:

Elementary (Grades 3-8) Ski Trip - Monday, March 9, 2026

High School (Grades 9-12) Ski Trip - Thursday, March 12, 2026

Parent/Teacher Interview Day (Kindergarten to Grade 8) - Friday, March 13, 2026

Dakota Language Bowl - March 15-17, 2026 @ Keystone Centre

Science Fair - Wednesday, March 25, 2026 @ the Elementary School Gymnasium

Spring Break - March 30 to April 6, 2026 - Classes Resume Tuesday, April 7, 2026

High School Midterm Exams - April 13-17, 2026

Parent/Teacher Interview Day (High School) - Friday, April 24, 2026

Post-Secondary Education Update

Greetings from our departments, just a few things to mention for the update from our departments:

We are located at the Wichozani Centre, Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm daily.

There is computer access available for people to job search and resume prep. Unfortunately, we have had people abuse this by being on Facebook and other Social Media sites, please be aware that this is not acceptable and current use is strictly for employment purposes only.

Staff Listing:

Diana Roulette, Program Manager

Phone: 431-302-5314

Email: post.secondary@svdngovernance.com

Michael Wasicuna, Mature 12 Instructor

Phone: 204-819-4599

Email: michael.wasicuna@svdngovernance.com

Jaci Branth, Administrative Assistant

Phone: 431-302-5232

Email: employment.training@svdngovernance.com

Carmelle McCreery, Education Assistant for Mature 12

Phone: 431-808-0200

Tanya Wanbdiska, Employment & Training

Phone: 204-813-6284

Email: tanya.wanbdiska@svdngovernance.com

Update:

Students are all progressing and University students are headed into their Winter Terms and scheduled completion for end of April. College students will be completing first week in May. Some current students are involved with regularly scheduled practicums for their programs and doing quite well in their respective programs.

PENT students who are participating will be back for spring and summer over April, May, June, July, and University students who are eligible may also apply for spring and summer.

Graduation time is fast approaching and an exciting time as students complete their education journey and prepare to join the work force or continuing Education.

Post-Secondary is proud to announce that our program (and Employment & Training) information and application forms are now up and functional on the official Sioux Valley Governance website! Please visit svdngovernance.com and look for 'Post-Secondary' under the 'Education' tab and for 'Employment & Training' under the 'Programs' tab!

Pidamiya ye,
Diana Roulette, Program Manager

Mature 12/ELS Program (Wichozani Building) Update

Good morning! My name is Michael Wasicuna I am the instructor for the Employability and Life Skills Program and the Mature 12 Program my support/EA is Carmelle McCreery-Pratt. The Employability and Life Skills Program has been running for the last (2) two summer's, and it is geared toward members in need of refresher courses and skills to help them re-enter the employment sector.

The ELS program runs through July and August each year, any members who are NOT employed or may feel that they are not prepared to maintain employment our program helps them overcome those obstacles. Some of the components to the program are helping students/clients with attaining their Criminal Record Checks, Child and Adult Abuse Checks, Cover Letter, Resume and mock interviews. Some other skills and training we provide are CPR/First Aide, Safe Food Handling, WHMIS, Anxiety and Stress management to name a few. We have also integrated some key skills into the program such as career selection and management, how to apply for a credit card and TFSA to help manage money, how to budget their money and addiction and alcoholism self care.

Once students have successfully completed the program with an attendance rate of 80% or better, they will receive a certificate of completion along with an attendance certificate. We feel that attendance is a huge factor in maintaining employment as we have seen time and time again many youth and adults apply for jobs and begin work after the first pay cheque most do not return or attendance rates plummet. The ELS program essentially provides the enrolled students or clients with all the skills necessary to apply for, maintain and provide some success for their incomes via credit cards and Tax Free Saving Accounts TFSA. We also provide students with the opportunity to gain their driver's license via the driver's ed program. Another component to the program we would like to make as an addition is the cooking portion and eating healthier by providing them with the skills to cook those healthier meals for their children or homes. When students have successfully completed the program they have a choice to either apply for and enter the work force by applying for jobs locally or pursue their Mature 12 certification.

The Mature 12 program, which is an extension from the Yellow Quill College community based education program, provides our ELS students/clients with the opportunity to pursue their Mature 12 diplomas. We then open the Mature 12 Program for the rest of the community who may be interested in graduating with their mature 12 certificate. We offer an open house in April/May of each year for members to attend and ask questions about both programs and how they can apply. It is open to all members who have NOT graduated with a grade 12 diploma from a high school or another Mature 12 Program (we are NOT an upgrading program).

Throughout the year we have our students take a number of training to assist them in their endeavours such as drivers ed and safe food handling/cpr. We offer these as students will need to fundraise and safe food handling allows our students to conduct catering services for programs and events in the community. We fundraise for our graduation, decorations for grad, catering for graduation ceremonies and any other field trips that may benefit student success. For example, we attend the Brandon career symposium and the Yellowquill College career fair as well as any other workshops that may help our students.

Mature 12/ELS Program (Wichozani Building) Update cont'd...

Recently, we have made the cost sharing purchase of a van to help our students during the cold months attend class. As the weather gets more favourable are students are encouraged to walk and get used to walking as this will help them with future employment success. We also have examined the concept of possibly constructing two more classrooms as an extension of the Wichozani centre. We are pursuing more space to help our students pursue post-secondary education based and taught out of the two additional classrooms. We understand that most of the graduated students have a tough time in finding accommodations in Brandon or a dependable transportation to and from school. As these are the two largest issues our youth and young adults face when pursuing a higher education why not bring the courses to the community? This is where we begin to look at more space as being beneficial for our members success. Should these classrooms receive funding we could offer courses such as addiction counsellor certification, Health Care Aide certification, Social Worker Certification and FNSO training to name a few.

Our success: we have successfully graduated 16 students last year and we hope to graduate another 12 in June 2026. Within the last two years we have 28 mature 12 graduates and in addition to our high school graduates would benefit from community-based education.

We will be offering another open house for our prospective students in April 2026 (watch for posters) this is open to our members. Keep in mind that we do have limited space for 20 students each year for the Mature 12 Program. We had approximately, 44 applicants who expressed interest in the program however, only 26 showed up for interviews and we accepted 22. However, due to attendance and poor work ethic our classroom population has now dipped to 12 students for graduation in June 2026.

Pidamiya do,
Michael Wasicuna

Employment & Training Update

Current Programming:

We are currently collaborating with Social Development with training clients in resume building workshops. The new Pre-Employment Program that is upcoming will include a repeat of some of the training offered in case some clients missed the others that were offered.

Training that has been offered thus far:

Food Safe, CPR/First Aid, Job Readiness, Work Ethics, Awakenning the Spirit, Money Matters, and Wills and Estates. These were offered on a bi-weekly basis since November.

We also helped set up an ID (Identification) Clinic to help our community members obtain any documentation they were currently missing. These Clinics took place both in-community and in Brandon at our Sub-Office. We had Service Canada - SIN numbers, Band Membership - Status Cards, and SVDN Health - MB Health Cards come and help. We are scheduling another in-community in case members couldn't attend, please watch for details.

Employment & Training Update cont'd...

Upcoming Programming:

Our program is very limited on training space; this affects being able to do longer term trainings. We have been looking into short term training until we can commit to a facility or a space for a longer time period.

We are currently planning:

- PAL - Hunters Safety - as requested February 28 and March 1st
- Basic Computer Training
- Receptionist Training, this includes clerical and filing
- Health Care Aide - we are currently looking into how we can do this with limited space

If you are interested in any of the above training please submit your application to our office, applications are now available online at our official website (<https://svdngovernance.com/svdn-employment-training-new/>) and/or can be picked up from our office at the Wichozani. These applications can also be used for the basic trainings so we can contact you when they are going to be offered.

We will continue to provide basic resume building training workshops as space is open.

Our program also provides limited assistance to those who are trying to acquire employment within and outside the community. Please feel free to call our office and speak with Diana Roulette, Jaci Branth, or Tanya Wanbdiska to see if you qualify for our program.

Pidamiya ye,
Tanya Wanbdiska

Social Development Update

Social Development will host an information session regarding the upcoming PESP Project. The date and place of this session are still to be determined. We have 58 Clients from our Economic/Employable category applying. This opportunity will allow you to gain certificates and work experience. Please be aware that there will be consequences for failure to participate according to the Social Policy which is available to review for all clients.

Working with Employment & Training, we had a full month of training and workshops geared towards helping our economically-disadvantaged clients get certificates. We offered 2 full weeks for the 18-30 age group, followed by the 31-45 age group. We offered free lunch for two weeks and provided a Workers Incentive Allowance for those who completed the two weeks. We also had transportation available to and from the workshops. We encourage all our clients to get motivated and involved!

Please keep in mind; Annual File Review for 2026-2027. All files will close on March 2nd. Everyone MUST re-apply by completing the entire intake process which includes: IDs for you and your child(ren), Financial Statements for Jan, Feb, and March and, a new intake form for the file review.

Social Development Update cont'd...

Contacts for Social Development:

Lyla Tacan, Administrator - lyla.tacan@svdngovernance.com

April Taylor, Admin Assistant - april.taylor@svdngovernance.com

Val Sumner, File/Intake Clerk - val.sumner@svdngovernance.com

Portfolio Holders:

Jon Bell - jon.bell@svdngovernance.com

Darryl Hapa - darryl.hapa@svdngovernance.com

Quick reminder: Social Development has approved some new items through the Special Needs Program, come and see us to find out what you and your household may be eligible for!

Pidamiya ye,
Lyla Tacan, Social Development Administrator

Dakota Quick Stop Update

Hau Mitakuyapi,

Recently, the Dakota Quick Stop has expanded the back of the building to make room for more items, products, and options for our customers. We encourage everyone to stop in and check out this new expansion if you haven't already!

The Dakota Quick Stop would also like to express our sincere appreciation for the community's continued support, it is because of customers like you that we are able to do things such as expand our building and our product options! Please remember to like/follow our Facebook page by searching 'SVDN Dakota Quick Stop' where we will be posting updates and new/sale items!

If there are any products or suggestions you would like to see available at the Dakota Quick Stop I highly encourage you to PLEASE feel free to message our Facebook page or email myself directly at:
dqs.manager@svdngovernance.com

Our hours are:

Monday - Friday: 8:00am - 10:00pm

Saturday + Sunday: 11:00am - 6:00pm

Holidays: 11:00am - 6:00pm

Pidamiya do,
Jordan Beardy, Manager

Lands Department Update

Lands Update

The Lands Department has some exciting updates and many things we are looking forward to in the coming months. The team at the gardens have had some successful harvests from the Growcer, set up a new greenhouse and are starting new projects as they prepare for this planting season. We have a more detailed update below from the Gardens, Greenhouse, and Grasslands Manager, Jennifer McIvor. We recently started working on more energy efficiency projects to save on energy costs for homes and buildings and have been exploring more renewable energy projects. The team will be presenting in the schools and to the community on how to bring costs down even further through everyday habits and small changes. We will also be providing more education and awareness on recycling and composting because we're working on offering more recycling services in Sioux Valley.

We will be working on mapping projects with the BIRS Research team this spring. The projects require the use of drones so we will work with small groups of youth and community members who want to learn how to use drones for science. We will be doing flood mapping, which will help us plan where to put future homes and buildings and how we can protect against future floods. We will also start mapping the cemeteries again this summer and we invite community members to help us with this process. We will share more information about these events soon.

This past month we started working with elders, the Dakota Language Coordinator, Andrea Bone, and artists from the high school to create a Dakota language book all about water. The book will be 50/50 Dakota iapi and English and include the names for plants, animals, fish, birds and many other things that are found around water (lakes, rivers, ocean, etc.), it will include different ways of describing water and include sentences for example, "bde heche hokuwa wa i hechun hoghan gistina wabduze ye/do." (I caught a minnow while fishing at the lake." We are planning more Dakota language projects in the coming months and will be helping at the Dakota Language Bowl next month.

There is a lot to look forward to, and we will share more information and event details as we go!

Energy Efficiency Update

Hau my name is Thurman Darby Essie and I have been working on lowering the energy costs for homes and buildings in Sioux Valley by working with Efficiency Manitoba, the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) and Leap. I work with the four Youth Energy Champions, Meadow Leaming, Feather (Rita) Smoke, Riley Bell, and Alexis Antione. Our partners taught them how to do energy readings for buildings and how to use tools like a thermal camera and drone for these audits. We started going to homes this past month to install small items from Efficiency Manitoba's Direct Install Kits. These upgrades will help lower the cost of energy bills and are free.

To see what's in the kit and other updates, you can check out the video we made with the help of the Communications Department at: <https://svdngovernance.com/energy-efficiency/>

Lands Department Update cont'd...

Energy Efficiency cont'd...

See below: Our Energy Champions with Paul from LEAP and Thermal Reader in action!



Community Gardens & Greenhouse Update

New Greenhouse from Winkler Structures

The SV Gardens purchased a brand new 20ft x 60ft Greenhouse in 2025, which was constructed in January of 2026. The Gardens & Lands Teams are partnering with SVDN Education and will invite students to use the new greenhouse to learn about food sovereignty and begin producing their own food. This will benefit the food security and land-based education of all SVDN students.

Growcer Harvests

The Hydroponic Unit that was commissioned in the winter of 2024, began successfully growing leafy greens including 5 different varieties of lettuce, bok choy, and spinach. Other crops that were tried were kale and a few different types of herbs. Over 3000 heads were harvested, with 1200 lettuces, Asian greens & spinach being sold, the rest were either donated, given away, or composted.

Lands Department Update cont'd...

Community Gardens & Greenhouse cont'd...

See below: Our new Greenhouse and Lettuce from our Growcer!



Prairie Grasslands & Wildflower Seed Production funding from World Wildlife Fund

The Seed Production operations begin this year 2026, with development beginning in the spring. In the winter of 2025, Garden Staff began the moist-cold stratification of 10,000+ native wildflower and prairies grass seed, which will be planted in June of 2026.

Sioux Valley Gardens & Growcer gain recognition on an international level

SVDN Greenhouse, Gardens, & Grasslands Manager, Jennifer McIvor, was nominated and won the 2025 CBC Future 40 Award, for business, entrepreneurship, and economy. This recognises Sioux Valley as the leading indigenous community in Manitoba in Gardens, Greenhouses, and Hydroponic leafy green production. CBC Manitoba posted the award and interview on their website, which broadcasts local, national, and international news.

Assiniboine College's Horticulture Program

This program from ACC has been granted funding from Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership to research sustainable soil-less media and has selected Sioux Valley as their Research Partner, to begin on April 1, 2026!

Dakota Oyate Lodge Update

The past two months at Dakota Oyate Lodge have been full of celebration, connection, and steady progress as we moved from the holiday season into a brand new year.

Following a joyful Christmas season, January began with energy and excitement as Residents and staff rang in the New Year together with a festive celebration. What a great way to ring in the new year! Since then, Residents have continued to enjoy regular social activities, including sports watch parties where we proudly cheered on Canada at the Olympics and celebrated their medal wins together. These moments bring everyone together and create a real sense of pride and shared excitement throughout the Lodge.

February brought more opportunities to celebrate, including our Valentine's Day party filled with treats, decorations, and good company. We also continued our monthly birthday celebrations, recognizing each Resident's special day with cake, smiles, and well-deserved attention.

While outings have been more limited due to the colder winter weather, safety has remained our top priority. As temperatures begin to rise, we look forward to resuming community outings and spending more time outdoors. In the meantime, there is no shortage of activity inside the Lodge. Residents continue to enjoy games of pool, cards, and visits with family and friends. We warmly invite community members and visitors to stop by, share a cup of coffee, and spend some time visiting with our Residents.

Outside, there has been exciting progress as well. The Deep Energy Retrofit Project is currently underway, bringing important improvements to the Lodge that will support long-term sustainability and comfort. It has also been wonderful to witness the arrival of the new homes for the Elder's Village. There is a sense of growth and momentum surrounding us, and despite the busy construction activity outdoors, our Residents and staff have remained warm, safe, and comfortable inside.

Most importantly, we continue to recognize and celebrate our staff each day. Their dedication, compassion, and commitment to our Residents do not go unnoticed. We are deeply grateful for everything they do and for the positive spirit they bring to Dakota Oyate Lodge.

As we look ahead to the coming months and the return of warmer weather, we remain focused on providing a safe, welcoming, and vibrant home for our Residents.

SVDN Health Update

Department Accomplishments

Over the past several months, Sioux Valley Health has continued strengthening community health services with a strong focus on prevention, child wellness, and infrastructure development. A major milestone has been the continued development and preparation for the new Jordan's Principle building and expansion of the clinical service delivery model. This building represents a significant investment in the health and wellbeing of Sioux Valley children and families. Planning efforts have included coordinating program delivery spaces, enhancing collaboration between service providers, ensuring accessibility, and preparing culturally safe environments that reflect community values.

SVDN Health Update cont'd...

Department Accomplishments cont'd...

Our team has also increased public health readiness in response to rising measles activity across Manitoba and neighbouring regions. We have intensified immunization record reviews, community education efforts, and preparedness planning to ensure rapid response with local case occurrence. Staff have participated in updated infection prevention training, and internal protocols have been reviewed to ensure community safety remains a top priority.

Additionally, Sioux Valley Health has continued delivering routine community health nursing services, supporting prenatal and postnatal care, well-child visits, chronic disease management, and health promotion initiatives.

Primary Focus Areas

Our primary focus areas have included:

1.) Jordan's Principle New Building Development

- Preparing the space to support coordinated, child-centered services
- Planning for integrated programming including developmental supports, case management, and health services
- Ensuring the building promotes privacy, safety, accessibility, and cultural safety
- Strengthening partnerships between Health, Education, and Social programs to provide wraparound supports for children and families

The New Jordan's Principle building will improve access to timely assessments, therapeutic services, and advocacy supports, reducing barriers for families seeking care.

2.) Measels Awareness and Prevention Efforts

- Increasing Community education on measles symptoms, transmission, and prevention
- Hosting and promoting immunization clinics for routine and catch-up vaccines
- Reviewing immunization records to identify gaps in protection
- Sharing accurate, evidence-based information to address vaccine hesitancy and misinformation
- Developing response plans in coordination with regional public health authorities

Measels is one of the most contagious viral illnesses, spreading through the air and remaining in a space for up to two hours after an infected person has left. Because of this, maintaining high vaccination coverage is critical to protecting infants, Elders, and immunocompromised community members

Looking Forward

In the coming months, SVDN Health will:

- Finalize operational planning and begin service delivery within the new Jordan's Principle building
- Continue strengthening integrated care pathways for children with complex medical, developmental, and social needs

SVDN Health Update cont'd...

Looking Forward cont'd...

- Expand community health education sessions focused on communicable disease prevention
- Continue routine and catch-up immunization clinics to maintain high levels of protection within the community
- Provide ongoing staff training in outbreak management and infection prevention

The Jordan's Principle building will serve as a centralized hub for child and family supports, allowing for more efficient service delivery, improved collaboration among providers, and reduced travel barriers for families. This space reflects our commitment to ensuring every child receives the care they need, when they need it.

Available Services

SVDN Health continues to offer comprehensive services including:

- Community Health Nursing
- Routine childhood and adult immunizations
- Prenatal and postnatal care
- Well-child clinics and developmental monitoring
- Chronic disease management
- Communicable disease monitoring and outbreak response
- Health education and promotion programming
- Jordan's Principle service coordination and advocacy
- Referrals to specialize services and assessments
- Recurring monthly footcare service
- Weekly doctor and Nurse Practitioner appointments

Please call us at 204-855-2690 to book your appointment!

Services delivered through the new Jordan's Principle building will further enhance access to coordinated supports for eligible children, ensuring timely intervention and holistic care.

Important Information

Measles awareness remains a priority. Early symptoms typically include fever, cough, runny nose, and red eyes, followed by a red rash that begins on the face and spreads downward. Individuals are contagious before the rash appears, which is why early identification and vaccination are essential.

Vaccination is the safest and most effective way to prevent measles. Two doses of the measles-containing vaccine provide long-lasting protection. Families are encouraged to check their immunization records and contact SVDN Health if they are unsure about their status.

The opening of the new Jordan's Principle building represents a major step forward in strengthening child health services within Sioux Valley. By investing in prevention, education, and accessible care, we continue working toward a healthier future for all children and families in our community.

BIRS Investigation Update

Hello, and thank you for taking the time to read the latest update from the Brandon Residential School Missing Children Investigation team. In this issue, we'll look back at some key highlights from our 2025 events and introduce our new project website. We're also excited to share details about two important projects launching this spring and summer.

One of these is the Wipazoka Wakpa Survivors: Voices and Memories project, which will honour the stories and lives of Survivors in a commemorative book. In addition, we're beginning work on a new monument that will include the names of all the children who attended the Brandon Residential School. Over the coming months, we'll invite community members to review the student lists, search for their names or those of loved ones, and help ensure that everyone is remembered and represented on the monument.

We look forward to working on these projects with you!

Survivor Blanketing Ceremony: Honouring Our Community's Strength

On September 29th, 2025, a Survivor Blanketing Ceremony took place at Veterans Hall, honouring 20 community members who attended Indian Residential Schools. The event, organized by our team in collaboration with the SVDN Planning Committee and the First Nation Unity Riders, celebrated Survivor resilience through songs, community sharing, and youth involvement.

See below:

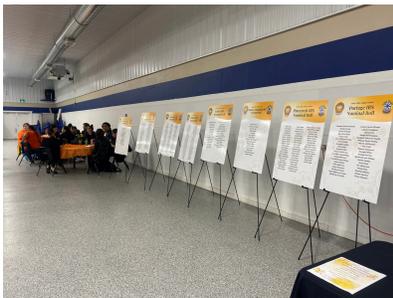
Photo 1: Display of Nominal Rolls from all Residential Schools they attended

Photo 2: Sharing a meal with SVDN Survivors, their families, and the First Nations Unity Riders

Photo 3: Drum Group at event

Photo 4: Councillor Hotain sharing remarks

Photo 5: Blanketing of SVDN Survivors



BIRS Investigation Update cont'd...**National Day of Truth and Reconciliation - Orange Shirt Day (Sept 30, 2025) Highlights**

Orange Shirt Day at the Brandon Residential School site brought together Survivors, families, and community members to honour the children who never came home and those who are still healing. The day opened with prayer and Survivor remarks, followed by an honour drum song. Michelle Rosmus graciously served as emcee, and Elder Eleanor Elk opened the event with prayer and words of guidance. The newly created, Survivor Sacred Fire area was dedicated in a good way, ensuring that future visitations at the former school can continue to take place in a ceremonial space. We would like to extend our thanks to the Fire Keepers and everyone who contributed their time, knowledge and support with the dedication and ceremony.

Throughout the morning, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation families who had children pass away at BIRS were honoured with songs, prayers, and settings. In addition, more than 20 settings, prepared by different SVDN departments, were carefully arranged around the Memorial Tipi. We would like to thank the Lands Committee and Youth Council group for helping with the setup of this and support for activities during the day. We would like to thank all departments that brought settings, and Dakota Tiwahe Services, Brenda Smoke and Newella Bell for preparing an amazing community lunch that was shared by all.

In the afternoon, the First Nation Unity Riders and Runners led the walk from the Riverbank Discovery Centre, accompanied by an estimated 300-500 members of the general public. Guests were invited to walk around the site, visit the Memorial Tipi, explore the United Church mobile learning centre with archival photos of Brandon Residential School, and spend time at the new Survivor Sacred Fire area. There was also a children's area with colouring sheets and an archaeology display to support learning and reflection for all ages. Tobacco ties and candy offerings were shared as part of teachings about respect and remembrance, and the Riders and Runners were honoured in ceremony with remarks from SVDN leadership, City of Brandon Mayor Jeff Fawcett, and Hon. Glen Simard, MLA for Brandon East.

A second, public dedication of the Survivor Sacred Fire area brought Survivors and guests to witness a drum honour song, and end the day with a Kahomni (round dance), closing remarks, and prayer, bringing everyone together in a circle of culture, community, and remembrance.

See below:

Photo 6: Survivor Elenor Elk delivering remarks

Photo 7: Fire Keepers at the New Survivor Sacred Fire Area

Photo 8: Settings surrounding the Memorial Tipi



BIRS Investigation Update cont'd...

See below:

Photo 9: First Nation Unity Riders and Runners

Photo 10: Kahomani Dance to end Orange Shirt Day Event



BIRS-MCI Website Launch

We are also pleased to share that our new project website (www.birsinvestigation.com) is now live and can be accessed through the official Sioux Valley Dakota Nation website under the Programs section. The site was created to offer a central place where community members, Survivors, families, and partners can learn about the work taking place at the former Brandon Residential School site and stay connected with ongoing initiatives.

On the website, you will find a list of past and upcoming events, along with information on our projects, including fieldwork, commemoration activities, and community gatherings. The site also includes online submission forms where you can ensure that your name, or the name of a loved one who attended Brandon Residential School or any SVDN Residential School Survivors, are included in our commemoration projects. These forms will support the creation of the new monument with student names, as well as other memorial work. We encourage community members to visit the website regularly, share it with family and friends, and use it as a tool to stay informed and involved in this important work.

BIRS Investigation Update cont'd...

Upcoming Events:

Wipazoka Wakpa Survivors: Voices and Memories Project

The Wipazoka Wakpa Survivors: Voices and Memories Project is a new initiative now underway as part of the Brandon Residential School Missing Children Investigation. This project focuses on gathering stories and profiles of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation members who attended Residential Schools anywhere in Canada, so that their stories, lives, strength, and teachings can be preserved for children, grandchildren, and future generations. It will result in a community book, an interactive online map of Survivor stories, and commemorative monuments that honour Survivors by name.

Over the coming weeks, the project team will be inviting Survivors and families to participate in whichever way feels most comfortable. Community members can write their own stories, meet with our staff for help preparing or completing their profile, use an online submission form through the Brandon Residential School Missing Children Investigation website. Each participant will be able to decide what to share and how their profile will appear, from a short entry to a more detailed tribute, and families may also submit on behalf of loved ones who have passed on.

See below:

Photos: Some of the Survivor: Voices and Memories Book Layout Options



PERSON NAME

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS AND YEARS ATTENDED

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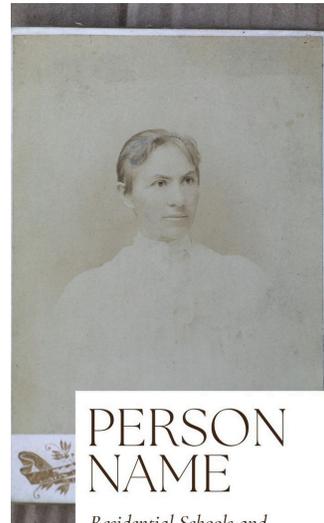
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BIRS Investigation Update cont'd...

As this new project moves forward, there will be ongoing opportunities to get involved, ask questions, and review materials before anything is finalized. Honorariums and copies of the book will be provided to those who contribute, in recognition of the time, courage, and care it takes to share these histories. Future social media posts, community events, and the project website will continue to share updates, key dates, and ways to participate, so that all who wish to be included in the book, map, and monuments have the chance to do so.

Commemoration Monument and Archival Gathering

We are creating a stone commemoration monument using the names recorded in our Residential School nominal rolls, along with information shared by families and Survivors. This monument will honour all SVDN members who attended any Residential School, recognizing that official records are often incomplete and that community knowledge is essential to telling the full story.

Over the coming months, we will also host an archival event focused on gathering photos, names, and memories connected to SVDN Residential School attendees. This event has not taken place yet, so we are encouraging families to begin sending in names now to ensure their loved ones are included in future commemoration and monument initiatives. Please use the QR code or use the link (<http://bit.ly/4cQ9MAK>) on the poster below to access the fillable form and share names of SVDN members who attended any Residential School, the schools they attended, and any additional information you wish to provide. You're also welcome to get in touch with our office if you'd like a paper copy of the form.

Community members are also invited to stay tuned for future open sessions that will focus on the design and location of the commemoration monument. These sessions will provide an opportunity for Survivors, families, and community members to guide how this monument looks and where it will stand.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support and engage with the work of the Brandon Residential School Missing Children Investigation. We are deeply grateful to all who contribute in any way, and we look forward to connecting with you again in our next newsletter update!

Phone: (204) 717-1528

Email: birsinvestigation@svdngovernance.com

Website: www.birsinvestigation.com

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

**Creating a Memorial List:
SVDN Residential School Attendees**

Commemoration

- We would like to honor all SVDN Survivors who attended any residential school. Official records are often incomplete.
- Your family knowledge helps fill these gaps.

We are seeking...

- Names of SVDN members who attended any IRS (living or departed)
- Schools attended
- Any information you wish to share

Scan the QR code or click the link: <http://bit.ly/4cQ9MAK> to access the fillable form

SVDN Petro-Canada Update

Petro is keeping up with its primary objectives of delivering exceptional customer service to all customers in our trade area. The business activities in the last couple of months have been consistent in terms of volume deliverable on Fuel and store items. Our customers are top priority in our strategic plans and implementation, hence the attached pictures on the last Customer Appreciation Day.

Just for community information, we organize team meeting every month where we review our operation in terms of achievement, challenges for the Month and the plans to make the new Month a better one. We also use the opportunity to discuss safety issue and carry out demonstrations – See team pictures on team meeting day and Fuel Spill demonstration.

The partnership with our vendors is also supporting our business and this is at a cost advantage to us. Towards the end of last year, the Sandwiches Cooler went bad and after it was repaired, it was not performing at optimal level, and so Complete Distribution gave a new Sandwiches Refrigerator Cooler. Same as PepsiCo Rockstar Refrigerator Cooler for drinks.

As the winter wind down, we will roll out activities in spring and summer to increase traffic at the gas station and ensure that we secured maximum patronage. We will also start making Hot Pizza available during lunch time in the next few weeks. We appeal to all SVDN employee and community members to secure and make use of their Petro-Point Cards to gain maximum advantage of Fuel purchased at SVDN Petro- Canada.

Pidamiya do,
Raphael, Petro Manager



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