

## 2019—2020 Oasis 27th Annual Report

On behalf of the Nipawin Oasis Board of Directors we would like to welcome you to the Nipawin Oasis Community Centre and thank you for attending our 27th Annual General Meeting.

We thank all of the employees for another successful year. I would also like to thank the Board of Directors for their support, dedication and their time they gave out of their busy schedules towards the success of the Nipawin Oasis Community Centre.

We would like to thank the Elders, Cultural leaders, participants, funders, volunteers, members, supporters, and donors that provided support this year. Programs that are being offered through the Nipawin Oasis have provided positive results for program participants.

This year we expanded our supports by purchasing a supportive home, formed the Oasis Nations drum and dance group, increased our Culture presence, continued with our main programs and did some succession and sustainability planning. Our staff continue to meet the challenging work environment due to the ever increasing needs in the community and the concerns during the pandemic. We do not receive any core funding nor property tax relief. We are able to be sustainable due to our low administration costs, numerous volunteers and continued support from the funders and donors. We are grateful for the continued funding and support we receive for the programs and your part in making the Nipawin Oasis a valuable and much needed organization in the community. Stay safe everyone!

Senator Philip Head  
Board President  
Joy Hanson

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If you would like more information please email [nipoasis1@sasktel.net](mailto:nipoasis1@sasktel.net) or call 306-862-5551. we also have a website [www.nipawinoasis.com](http://www.nipawinoasis.com).

Please like us on Facebook.

We appreciate donations that we receive.



## WHAT IS THE OASIS COMMUNITY CENTRE?

The Nipawin Oasis is a community resource centre that provides cultural, prevention, educational, and intervention programming, services, support and employment opportunities to the community of Nipawin and area in Northeast Saskatchewan. Approximately 150-200 individuals use the centre weekly.

The Centre operates its activities and conducts its affairs under the Co-operative, 1996 Act and is registered with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice with the Corporation Branch. The Community Centre is also registered with the Government of Canada with the Canada Revenue Agency as a registered charity. There are no dividends or interest on share capital to the members or patrons and no part of the surplus is to benefit the members or patrons.

The Board of Directors serve in a solely volunteer capacity of the Co-operative and are elected from the membership. The board meets monthly along with the advisory committee to review the Co-operative's financials, mission and objectives while identifying potential risks and opportunities in consultation with stakeholders. The direction determined guides the operations of programs and services in the development of plans and annual goals.

The Nipawin Oasis Community Centre Co-operative Limited was incorporated in 1992.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019/20

#### **President**

Senator Philip Head

#### **Vice—President**

Chantal Diehl

#### **Treasurer**

Jean Hosaluk

#### **Secretary**

Diane Berge

#### **Directors:**

Debbie Peifer

Laverna Bear

Jean Perkins

### EMPLOYEES (2019/20) (CURRENT)

#### **Joy Hanson**

—Executive Director

#### **Leigh Landry**

- Homelessness Coord/Program Manager

#### **Victoria Usselman**

- Family Support Program Coordinator

#### **Angeline Ironstar**

– Family Support Specialist

#### **Brad Ironstar**

—Program Support Worker/  
Cultural Leader

#### **Serena Garvin**

—Program Support Worker

#### **Melisa Bear**

- Program Support Worker

**Reta and Ivy Nawakayas,**  
**Hilda Roberts, Mary Dussion,**  
**Shirley Moostoos, Clarence**  
**Whitehead** Cultural Leaders  
(part time) and Maintenance

## VISION AND MISSION

### **Our Vision:**

Our Centre will be a place where people care, belong, and get involved. Our Vision is to be one of the leaders in building an inclusive, supportive, safe and healthy community.

### **Our Mission:**

We are a Community Resource Co-operative Centre that provides cultural, prevention, educational, and intervention programming, services, support and employment opportunities to the community of Nipawin and area in Northeast Saskatchewan.

We strive to provide opportunities and **CHOICES** along with the values of:

Caring, supportive, non-judgemental, and respectful, using a

Holistic approach that promotes wellness and that provides

Opportunities and uses as its guides

Integrity which is accountable, transparent and responsible valuing a

Community that works together and that is

Effective in meeting the needs of the community and provides

Security within a safe, respectful, supportive environment.

Our programming focus is on **CRAFTS** which also serves as a strong foundation for the cultural, personal and leadership development of youth, individuals and families

Caring and Culture

Relationships

Action

Food and Fun

Teamwork and Time

Safety and Security



the

The Oasis was conceived as an umbrella that promotes sharing between user groups. The ownership, financial support, and responsibility for programs is shared by the local community (through the Board, members, volunteers, and local fundraising), local, regional and provincial agencies.

## 2019—2020 OASIS PROGRAMS AND SUPPORTS

***Family Support Program  
Youth Nutrition, Literacy, Culture Program  
Summer Youth Literacy program  
Traditional Time—Culture Programming  
Reaching Home Program  
Drop in Support Services/Opportunities***



### STATISTICS 2019\_20

Afterschool snacks served	1525	# of Homeless - couch surfing and street this year	139
Afterschool meals served	1763	# of Homeless that were re-housed	76
After school program participants	1654	# Individuals addressed with housing and support services	166
Traditional Time # sessions/participant	40/1400	Family Support Program # of Families per month	35-50
Social Media Facebook page	955	June 21—NIPD	150
Number of volunteers at centre	50		

### 20\_21 DEVELOPMENTS

- Developed a pandemic response plan to Covid 19—rented a home for isolation due to the overcrowding situations (April—June)
- See increased homelessness—April to June worked with 170 Homeless with 136 currently homeless. We are working with landlords to assist with housing and housed 35 from April—June 2020
- We have 25 families with 60 children in the summer reading program—it is online with our private facebook group—we have been making up activity bags with everything they need to do the activities with each book. We are working with 36 families and 119 children over the summer for additional supports.
- We are exploring additional supports for housing as well as exploring additional partners/funders and supports to assist us with the ever increasing need. Our strengths are the wrap around services we provide and the employees that are connected to the community and have lived experience.

## FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Family Support Program has been funded for a Sixth year by the Ministry of Social Services under two contracts, mandated and diversion, to provide support and education to families. We offer wrap around services in which the Family Support Program works with Oasis programming, Homelessness, and promotes Cultural activities and Cultural parenting for families and individuals as well as supports for family units. We are working with anywhere from 35 – 50 plus families a month, both in Mandated and Diversion.

The Family Support Program staff members are: Victoria Usselman - Family Support Co-ordinator/Specialist, Angeline Ironstar - Family Support Specialist, Brad Ironstar - Family Support Specialist and Serena Garvin - Family Support Specialist who are providing assistance in the healthy development and support of families and children in the Northeast area by completing home, office visits, and visits by phone due to the Corona Virus.

The Family Support Program staff attend a few workshops to improve on services provided to families. These workshops were Safe Food Handling, Traditional Parenting, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous women.

The Family Support Program goals are:

- To maintain the family unit and well-being of the child or children
- To enhance family wellness
- To empower families
- To ease reunification between children in care and their families

### **Reports from families of the FSP:**

“My Family Support Worker is great. She listens to me even when I just have to vent, and even if I do not have an appointment, she makes time for me.”

“My Family Support Worker helps me to find ways to be a better parent and a better me.

“My worker helped me through a very difficult time and always checked on my Mental Health.”

“My Family Support Worker helps me reach my personal goals in my work plan.”



Written by Victoria Usselman—Family Support Co-ordinator



## CHILD NUTRITION, LITERACY AND CULTURE PROGRAM

This program funded by Ministry of Education, Community Initiatives Fund and TIP, teaches good nutrition practices for children, youth and families, and helps develop independent living skills for children and their families including new ways to prepare food, budgeting, shopping, safe food handling, gardening, cooking, preserving, Cree culture and language, literacy and outdoor activities. The youth are picked up at school and driven home after the program.

The after school nutrition program runs from Sept to June, for three to four hours each day from Mondays—Thursdays for students in grades 1-12. We had over 90 children involved in the afterschool and summer program this year. During the summer months we ran a family and youth literacy program. We also had additional programming that included Family kitchens, special events, weekends and evening programs, and included bridging to community programs and activities.



Youth Program Leaders are Serena Garvin, Brad Ironstar and Melisa Bear with support from Cultural Leaders, parents

and volunteers.

We involved the older teens as role models in program delivery which gives them pre-employment skills, communication, social and emotional skills, strengthens their resumes and in addition provides peer support.

Each day the youth were involved with physical literacy in the program, whether it was traditional dancing and singing, playing at numerous parks, sports, oasis gardening, or enjoying the outdoor and inside play area at the Oasis.

We saw an increase in school attendance as a result of the social skills, friendships, inclusion, improvement in literacy and the support and encouragement the youth received in the project. Increased knowledge of budgeting, shopping, nutrition, following recipes, measurements, kitchen safety, cooking, and safe food handling. This also provided the much needed food security.



## CULTURE AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION PROGRAM

Culture programming is funded for the most part by SaskCulture with support from other funders. Culture and Cree language is included in all the programming at the Oasis. Weekly programming is Traditional time that is held every Wednesday from 10—3 with Elders and Cultural leaders leading the program. The time is spent preparing and cooking traditional foods, sharing, beadwork, making moccasins, cultural activities, having fun and supporting one another. Activities have included traditional foods, gathering medicines, Cree language, Cultural teachings, traditional parenting, healing and talking circles, beadwork, moccasins, sewing, dresses, ribbon skirts, bonnets, moss bags, quilting, star blankets, outdoor cooking, drumming, dancing,



jigging, birch bark basket making, preparing hides, smoking meat, hunting, skinning, cultural crafting and looming. Several of the women have gone on to start their own businesses. The women have also passed this onto their children and the girls are doing beadwork



and making their own regalia.



## “OASIS NATIONS” DRUM AND DANCE GROUP

This year our cultural activities have been cut short due to Covid-19, but before the pandemic came about, we were enjoying singing and dancing, and learning more about our traditional teachings. As a Cultural leader, I've been learning more about my traditional ways such as taking traditional parenting also reading more about our history and the different tribes and the way we went about life. So far, I've learned a lot about our people and animals also plants, our natural pharmacy. The land has all kinds of flowers and plants, animals that are very important to us. Creator gave us these gifts to use and enjoy. The plants can be made into many different medicines to help our bodies in time of sickness. I have been learning the overall aspects of the way Indigenous peoples lived and thrived on this planet we call earth.

In the month of June 2019, we had the privilege to sing and dance at our first powwow as Oasis nations in Sakimay First Nation, which is located in southern Sask. The teenagers, both young men and women who came to the afterschool program became good singers and dancers, after much practice and overcoming hurdles such as the way their voice sounded, and how they looked when they danced. It built up their self-esteem and confidence to sing and dance for Creator, their families, themselves, and also for the people. We usually had about 8 singers and 2-3 dancers come every week to sing and practice. 4 out of the 8 singers and 1 out 3 dancers went to the powwows because they were using their voices and giving warrior calls and were not afraid to sing and dance. In the following months of July and August we were so thankful to sing and dance at 7 more powwows throughout Saskatchewan and 1 powwow in Manitoba. We also were invited to showcase our cultural talents, singing and dancing at the Carrot River Outback rodeo. It was very nice to be recognized and perform for the local rodeo. We have also had the chance to watch rodeo as well as take part in the activities and enjoy some good food while we were there.





## “OASIS NATIONS” DRUM AND DANCE GROUP

Our summer was not over yet, as we were asked to come and sing and dance at the nearby communities of Cumberland house, Red Earth and Shoal Lake. We were all treated with great hospitality and we were honoured to perform for the First Nation communities and have the youth at the camps be involved around the drum and dancing as well. We have also provided over 500 beading kits to the communities that wanted to bead or to teach others that wanted to learn how to bead.

When school began in the fall, the principal of Nipawin LP miller high school had contacted cultural leader Brad Ironstar to sing an honor song to start off the school year. The singers were happy to do so and were very thankful for the opportunity to sing for their school they attend

Here at Oasis, we continued to sing and dance in the after-school program. The young men were encouraged and began to practice dancing. I myself cultural leader (Brad) had grass dance regalia and began showing the young boys different dance moves I've learned as a young man. The other teenagers both young men and women also practiced dancing. Thanks for the Oasis for providing jingle and traditional, fancy shawl regalia for the women of all ages and grass dance regalia for the men and boys, also some even brought their own traditional regalia from home. We sang while they danced and they began to learn to respect and praise one another for their talents they were learning. We learned new songs and their voices were getting louder and dance moves were getting sharper as we kept on practicing.

During the month of November Oasis Nations (our drum group name) was asked to come to LP miller high school to sing an honor song for their Remembrance Day service, again the singers were happy to perform and we also brought some dancers to perform as well. It was so awesome to sing for so many people in our community.

Elders came in to show us how to scrape hides and how to clean it, both big and small game. As Winter was approaching, the teenagers from the after-school program had the privilege to make hand drums which is prime time for round dance time. I taught them that after powwow season is over which is in the summer, we have many indoor round dances. The round dance is a gathering during the long cold season of singing and dancing also known as the friendship dance. The round dance came about many years ago and was time to visit and eat with one another. Just before the snow fell, we took down the Oasis teepee and was preparing for winter season. The cold season was a time for beading, visiting and telling stories of past events, being outdoors, volunteering, sitting with the Kookums and listening to how it was long ago was so humbling to be around. Oasis has lots of Culture to share and we will continue to build on what we have learned thus far.

## “OASIS NATIONS” DRUM AND DANCE GROUP



I could see the love and enjoyment in the people who attend the programs here at the



Oasis. The drum has brought closeness and has built up self-esteem, not only the drum but the dancing regalia as well. As a Cultural leader for Nipawin Oasis it's been rewarding to

see growth in the young people. The teachings of our ancestors are very much alive and well and I'm honored to have learned it and to share what I have been taught to the up and coming generation. I'm very thankful for the recognition of the nearby communities and also our community for their support.



## Oasis celebrates National Aboriginal Day June 21



On June 21st, 2019 the Nipawin Oasis hosted its 6th successful National Aboriginal Day Celebration with Elders, and Cultural Leaders. We had a high number of youth and families attend the weather was beautiful, lots of volunteers and the hands on activities were enjoyed by all. The participation from the community. High interest and engagement. Weather was beautiful. The number and variety of activities that were held were:

Red Earth & Shoal Lake History, Teepee Teachings , Treaty Teachings, Bannock making & preparing lunch, Bonnets & Moss bags, ribbon skirts making, Drumming workshop, Cradle Board teachings & carvings , animal calling, Moccasin teachings, Bracelets, Keychains, Cree Bingo and Artwork . We had 3 classes from Wagner School attend this day.









## Pine Bluff Canoe Quest—Cumberland House



We were so excited for the youth that went on this trip! Chaperone Serena along with Raindance, Leona, Shaessa, Rhaelene, Jade, and Gia. The youth were selected who came to the Oasis that day as it was short notice and we just found out they had 6 spots open for youth to attend. Amazing opportunity! It was an idea from the youth leads Stan Custer and Jared Settee. The canoe quest teaches survival, healing and culture. We enjoyed learning the history of the canoe quest, learning how to canoe, meeting the Elders,

fellow canoers and the leaders. Some of the activities were fire starting, tea boiling, bannock on a stick, making a shelter, cooking over a open fire, fishing and filleting, archery, survival cooking, storytelling, swimming, traditional arts and crafts, dreamcatcher, beaded headbands, Elders workshop, grief and loss, buckskin making, sharing circle, mini birch bark canoe making, painting, drum teachings, paddling, music and games. It was a great experience and we are grateful we were given the opportunity to participate in this life long learning journey. The "Oasis Nations" drum group and dancers welcomed them home as well with drumming and dancing in Cumberland house on the 28th. Written by Serena.



## Bold Eagle—Sundance Umpherville



When I was 15 I had a friend who went to Bold Eagle, ever since I wanted to experience it myself. I heard it was a challenge, and I wanted to take on that challenge. In 2019, I turned 16 and was old enough to apply. That was exactly what I did. The process of applying took awhile, and the wait for someone to contact me about my application made me think I wasn't going to get accepted. Surprisingly, I was! The course was 6 weeks long and I couldn't imagine being away from my family so long it made me nervous but I was also really excited. Gladly, I was apart of air cadets couple years before and it gave

me an idea of what Bold Eagle might be like. It sure did give me a head start in the drill they taught. At the start of Bold Eagle we had a cultural week where we learn and did hand games, learned how to set up Tipi's, listened to elders tell stories and talk about culture. There was even sweat lodges where we got to sweat one time during cultural week and one more time halfway through the course. We had elder time in the evening once a week throughout the whole course.





## Bold Eagle—Sundance Umpherville

When the actual military training began, we woke up at 4:45am, Monday to Friday for PT-physical training. Every other day we would go for 5km runs, and the next day we would do workouts. Saturdays and Sundays were sort of our rest days and we'd wake up at 6am, which was sleeping in for us. After PT, there was inspection, then breakfast, then Classes. In class we learned things like order of rank, dress code, the phonetic alphabet, navigation, and gun safety. We carried rifles, and we had to carry them everywhere with us. There were

strict rules when it came to our guns, they could never go unsupervised. Halfway through the course there was a trip to Moose Jaw Air Base where we got a tour and learn a bit about what pilots do and how they trained. The next day we went to a Powwow in Muskoday, as another part of the cultural aspect in Bold Eagle. The last part of Bold Eagle was field training. Early in the morning, we got our gear and walked out 5+ kilometres out to the field where we set up camp. In the field we did range, finally getting to shoot our rifles. I was trynna go for top shot,



and award you could get at the end of the course, but I messed up my first shot and I knew I wouldn't get it. We also practiced the navigation we learned which was a lot of walking but I really liked it. We even had a small demonstration of some of the small explosives they had. It was sad going back to the base because you could feel it all ending. We practiced for graduation, and slowly handed in gear that we didn't need anymore. By surprise I received the award

of 2nd top cadet in my platoon. It was an honour, I was so happy. All of my hard work and growth had paid off and did not go unrecognized. I miss Bold Eagle and all the people I met there. It is an experience I love to talk about and definitely won't forget. I encourage anyone who loves a challenge to go. In the beginning, all the training, the early mornings, the running is a little dreadful but in the end you won't wanna leave.

Oasis helped me with the application, filling it out and faxing it out extra information. They also helped with transportation when I had to go to Saskatoon for physical testing, which was necessary to make sure I was fit to go to Bold Eagle

## Reaching Home—Homelessness/Housing Program

**Housing placement and housing loss prevention (only for families and individuals at imminent risk of homelessness);** We assisted and supported tenants with hauling garbage, furniture, giveaway items, emergent needs, cultural programming a, removal of bed bugs, and use of the washer and dryer. We have been assisting families, individuals and youth with items from the Oasis giveaway shed as well as assisting several families and individuals with emergent food needs. Several families/individuals we work with are housing numerous couch surfers and some with extremely high numbers. We are supporting them with emergent needs. We are working with youth for community service hours that are involved in the justice system, assisting with court conditions and court support. Working with tenants and landlords to access available housing and to prevent eviction.

**Connecting clients to income support, pre-employment support, and bridging to the labour market:** Assisted several individuals and families with filling out forms, income tax, accessing job postings, resumes, interview skills, working with the public, handling money, volunteer opportunities, accessing available education programs, agency referrals, obtaining ID such as birth certificate, SIN, workplace literacy and essential skills.

**Life skills development and support to improve clients' social integration;** We provided life skills and literacy programming – such as health and wellness, financial literacy, budgeting, cooking, hygiene, gardening, home and yard upkeep, safe food handling, nutrition, Cree culture, family literacy, lunch and learns, transportation to attend Oasis programming and weekly support program.

**Connecting clients to education and supporting successes:** Assist with accessing education opportunities at the regional college, secondary school, online resources, and community educational opportunities.

**Provide drop in support services** – supportive listening, counselling services, family support, mental health support, phone, computers, internet, fax and photocopy, laundry, filling out forms, ID, nutrition, cultural resources, cultural advisors, tutoring, community service hours (justice) and literacy. Assist with emergent and basic needs – such as emergent transportation to hospital, Dr. Appt's, court support, immediate emergent food issues and housing.

**Supportive Housing Home**—We purchased a supportive housing home and provide supportive services to be able to maintain stable housing.

### **Outcomes in:**

Reduction in accessing higher costly services such as health, corrections and emergency services.

Reduction in homelessness and assist the Reaching Home clients with supports and services to obtain housing, access benefits, increase self sufficiency and prevent evictions.

Improved community inclusion and social integration through cultural programming, Cree language, sense of belonging and provision of opportunities.

## What difference has the Oasis made to you?

### **Kathleen Mclean**

Good morning I glad that I'm part of oasis as an elder I seen an lot of things going on for the youth to teach them the cultural ways as for us we passed on the way we were thought n im happy the teaching r helpful with all the family that r living in nipawin like passing on the generations to our family n traditional ways of living n it's been helpful for everyone that joint the oasis n with that thank u very much for the oasis team n

### **Sundance Umpherville**

I have been going to traditional time for about 7 years, maybe even longer. I've have always loved the people there, everyone is very welcoming and polite. Oasis Traditional time is a place where people come to socialize and learn about our culture. Through traditional time I've learned so many things. I've learned to bead, sew, make moccasins, dance Jingle Dress Powwow, Drum and sing Powwow songs. In the past we have also made Baby Cradle boards, the elders and adults got to make the life size boards and to include the youth we got to made doll sized. I still have mine and I had so much fun making it. With the cultural Programming and Traditional Time we are able to teach others, those who want to learn more about our culture. We are able to pass on our culture. I love Oasis and it is where I can go for support and no feel judged, where I feel I belong and welcomed. I love going to traditional time, and hated missing it due to school. Because of oasis I've always had people to talk too and they always supported me. The people that work and those who have worked at Oasis in the past have always motivated me to do good in life and they have taught to be a role model.

**Kelsey Head** This community center is a place where people come together to get away from home, to come learn new things or learn about history. Oasis has so much to offer to families and individuals who are just looking to belong. Oasis community is a part of us in our daily lives we learn parenting skills we are offered parent aid and staff work with our children babies to teen and also, young adults not only young families or big families. I am happy we have all kinds of resources of support

### **Bernice Seesaquasis**

That's our home away from home. This pandemic will pass will get back to normal. Might not be now. But eventually we will. I'm totally missing my cultural time I want to learn how to paint. If it wasn't for oasis. I wouldn't know what I have learned. I've learn so much. I'm so glad I went to oasis. N yes we would like to continue as for me. I want to learn more. I'm far from being done. N I've met a lot of nice people. Elders. We are like one big family. Joy is a great n very kind helps us in anyway she can. As for me. I wish I can just blow this virus away. We are missing our home away from home.



## What difference has the Oasis made to you?

### **Carrieanne Sewap**

I totally miss going to oasis and but with all the help we have been getting from joy and all the stuff they have been a big help when we need with clothes and beading stuff and missing all the people that were around us at oasis

### **Belinda Dussion**

Awesome! I really appreciate for what the oasis does for the ppl n community in helping families for everything the support system family time n traditional time and especially for the supporting the children in learning new things n making all the cooking n making all sorts of dresses traditional ones that's so am happy to be a member in your team Joy Hanson n all the staff thank you

### **Harriet Burns**

Yes. this is where we as elders come and pass our knowledge and teachings to our future generations. culture. Oasis has been wonderful to me. I got to be part of the oasis team when I got hired to be the cultural leader when i moved to Nipawin. worked there for 2 years. but i still go there for workshops,

### **Hilda Roberts**

The oasis center has been our place to relax, have grown , learned to cook , come together, socialize, visit, learn to bead and sew and also teach what I have learned from elders ,my mom, my aunts, my friends, and respect others .oasis is a part of our lives and happy with all the support and help .oasis has always been welcoming. ❤️❤️.

### **Leonard Daniels**

Oasis supported me and my family found a home to live in when we moved to nipawin. Food, shelter, family dinners, workshops, rides to hospital and a variety of taxi ways within the community, cultural exercises of medicines harvest, clothing needs on donations from sources, music teachings, native singing, the rest too much activities at oasis kitchen to mention, a variety of helpful ways. Personally I recommended this a very much needed program

### **Thelma Schellenberg**

I've said before that Oasis is a blessing to the community. I'm proud,as an elder, to see the enthusiasm in our youth in whatever they're working on. Drumming, dancers, singers & even preparing meals.The beading & moccasin making & sewing ribbon skirts/ etc is taught by gifted elders. Many of these projects wouldn't be available without the funding Oasis requires & we are so grateful for the support we get & hope we continue to receive. We have dedicated staff that are truly helpful & an Exec. Director who gives her all. Ty Joy Hanson!

## What difference has the Oasis made to you?

**Mary Dussion** I learned how to bead and make moccasins ribbon skirts, that's what oasis has given me and that is huge. Harriet Burns taught at the Oasis. Thank you Joy for everything that you do for us. I've been going to the Oasis for a few yrs now, in that time i've made a lot friends. Oasis has helped and is still helping me in so many ways. I've learned how to bead, how to make moccasins, how to make ribbon skirts, jingle dresses. We share with each other what we've learned. We've had a young man named Mitch Fineday come and teach us how to make birch baskets. From all these teachings/learnings, we've been able to make and sell our art creations. There are so many ways i've been helped through Oasis, i'd need more time to list everything. This past while we've played bingo, through a bingo app of course, we're socially distanced, no money exchange, we make our own cards at home, prizes are food/cleaning items provided by oasis, this is something Joy thought of to help us take our minds off this stressful coronavirus. Thank you Sask Culture for all that you do, thank you Joy for your endless giving and all that you do for us.

### **Hilda Roberts**

The oasis center has been our place to relax, have grown , learned to cook , come together, socialize, visit, learn to bead and sew and also teach what I have learned from elders ,my mom, my aunts, my friends, and respect others .oasis is a part of our lives and happy with all the support and help .oasis has always been welcoming. ❤️❤️.

### **Pamela Fosseneuve**

I just absolutely love your articles & posts

### **Angela Bighead**

Thank you for donations -clothes, that are free, to take what u need as family

### **Brenda Garvin**

Yes it did helped me when I needed help

### **Mattea Lofstrom**

Oasis has always been there to lend an extra hand when needed

### **Josephine Morin**

there awesome helping ppl out when needed

### **Mathew Larkin Voyageur**

Theyve helped out my fam alot, hat off to u guys 🙌🙌🙌🙌

### **Samantha bear**

Thank you for providing programming for my children

## What difference has the Oasis made to you?

### **Henry Crane**

It makes my day when the younger ones recognize me in town. From my stints at Oasis, that is a lot of kids that I didn't know before.

### **Debrena mckay**

Oasis helped me by giving back to my community volunteering. Staying sober and helping me I needed things like groceries or clothing giveaway or furniture .

### **Marlene Whitehead**

It's a centre of open arms of comfort and support. Great job, ladies.

### **Janetta Lonechild**

Merry christmas!! The oasis is an amazing place!! Helped me more than once get on my feet as well as gave me knowledge in beading and cooking . As well as finding friends for life!! They have helped me find bits of myself as u worked threw a few things in programs!! So very very thankful for the oasis

### **Dave Whitecap**

Oasis referred me and helped me get the place where am living now, thanks again and merry christmas. Dave Wc.

### **Billy Head**

Oasis helped me and my family for our time of need thx and merry christmas staff of oasis

### **Melissa Moorman**

Nipawin Oasis has helped myself and my kids through some tough times. we had for the past couple years went through a lot of ups and downs. with Oasis being there for us, they helped support us in every way possible and for that, I am forever grateful. ♥

### **Harmony Whitecap**

Oasis helped me with my depression, i loved going to any kind of activities they had.

### **June Young**

Bringing Elders to teach beading like mocassins etc

### **Tanja Voyageur**

Volunteering and furniture:)

### **Mary Daniels**

Thank you for helping me and my family when we're in a bad situation In need a home.they helped us right away and helping me loom beading,and beading,and made friends there too.

### **Saphiya Stewart**

The Oasis has helped me getting to where I am now! Thank you! & Merry Christmas everyone!



## What difference has the Oasis made to you?

### **Marion Silverquill**

The Oasis worker's was there for me when i need help awesome workers

### **Jenine Burns**

Oasis has helped me to understand how important it is to give back/help our families and continuing to work with our youth/children.

### **Rayna Mckay**

Thank you for helping me through my rough times when I needed it I'm thankful for the oasis in so many ways an thank you for helping me n my little family... God bless you ladies

### **Sally Gerski**

Thank you to the Oasis and to Joy Hanson..I have learned to do a lot of different crafts and met so many wonderful people..nice to talk to the elders and always learning new things..love you all ♥

### **Bernice Seesequasis**

I really enjoy learning learning things I've never done. I love beading I'm hooked. I'm comfortable I'm happy I met a lot of people became friends. I had so much fun Christmas dinner & bingo. Thank you. Much appreciated.

### **Alannah Voyageur**

Thank you oasis,for helping and teaching my son,carman

### **Jenn Rogers**

It has helped me over the years by feeling like a second home, a place where I feel comfortable to sort through life when it's not so easy. I love waking through the doors there and being greeted by genuine people who really care about myself and my family. I'm so blessed we have the oasis center in our community helping out so many people. Keeping the culture alive and well in Nipawin too.

### **Thelma Schellenberg**

Just a thought as we close another year & begin a new year. We reflect on all that happened in 2019. We lost loved ones & gained more. The circle of life. When the time of grieving becomes easier to bear, it's comforting to have friends who share in your loss & it gives you strength to go on. The circle of friends. Webster says: Oasis = A fertile place in a desert due to the presence of water. To me, we represent the water to keep "our Oasis" fertile. I enjoy getting together with the other elders & the up and coming. We learn & share our skills with one another. We're able to laugh & visit using our native language while we do bead-work. The younger women prepare delicious meals. Joy Hanson, our E. D. is a kind, compassionate lady who is very much one of us. LoL! Her helpful staff are amazing! Yes, the circle of friends!Happy New Year family & friends!

THANKYOU :) FUNDERS, PARTNERS AND DONORS 2019-2020



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Bingo—

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## Our Mission

*We are a community resource co-operative centre that provides cultural, prevention, educational, and intervention programming, services, support and employment opportunities to the community of Nipawin and area in Northeast Saskatchewan.*

## Our Vision

*Our Centre will be a place where people care, belong, and get involved. Our Vision is to be one of the leaders in building an inclusive, supportive, safe and healthy community.*

**C**aring, supportive, non-judgemental and respectful, using a

**H**olistic approach that promotes wellness and that provides

**O**pportunities and uses as its guides

**I**ntegrity which is accountability, transparency and responsible while valuing a

**C**ommunity that works together and that is

**E**ffective in meeting the needs of the community and provides

**S**ecurity within a safe, respectful, and supportive environment

*Our programming focus is on **CRAFTS** which also serves as a strong foundation for the cultural, personal and leadership development of the youth, individuals and families*

**C** Caring and Culture

**R** Relationships

**A** Action

**F** Food and Fun

**T** Teamwork and Time

**S** Safety and Security



*Providing Opportunities  
for  
Positive Choices*