

2018—2019 Oasis 26th 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 26th 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, 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.

The next year will be more challenging for us financially. We receive no core funding and no multi-year grants. We have been able to expand and maintain financial stability due to the fact that we have low admin wages. Our operating costs as a result of the addition increased in the areas of: property taxes (\$7700), insurance, and utilities. We were able to host a soup kitchen due to a grant from SaskEnergy—"Share the warmth" grant. We will need to do some forward thinking, succession and sustainability planning. This will be the work of the board this year as well as working on policies. We are grateful for the continued funding and support we receive and your part in making the Nipawin Oasis a valuable and much needed organization in the community.

Senator Philip Head
Board President
Joy Hanson
Executive Director

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If you would like more information please email

nipoasis1@sasktel.net
or call 306-862-5551.
we also have a website
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-operatives, 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 2018/19

President

Senator Philip Head

Vice—President

Chantal Diehl

Treasurer

Jean Hosaluk

Secretary

Diane Berge

Directors:

Debbie Peifer

Peter Nippi

Angela Bighead

EMPLOYEES (2018/19) (CURRENT)

Joy Hanson

—Executive Director

Rose Sinclair

- Homelessness Coordinator

Victoria Usselman

- Family Support Program Coordinator

Angeline Ironstar

– Family Support Specialist

Robyn Young

—Youth Program Leader and Family Support Specialist

Ethelena Bear

—Youth Program Coordinator & Literacy assistant

Reta and Ivy Nawakayas,

Hilda Roberts, Mary Dussion,

Brad Ironstar, Shirley

Moostoos, Leanne Mckay —

Cultural Leaders (part time) and Maintenance

Brad Ironstar, - Maintenance

Terry Snider/Phyllis Snider — Janitorial (part time)

Support Staff – Cultural Advisors, Youth workers, odd jobs,

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 the youth, individuals and families

Caring and Culture

Relationships

Action

Food and Fun

Teamwork and Time

Safety and Security

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, volunteers, and local fundraising), local, regional and provincial agencies.



Where people can come together in an environment where they feel secure enough through care to belong and connect to themselves, peers, and mentors and given ample opportunity to succeed both in and out of the group. The groups provide a lifelong learning opportunity and the freedom to excel and build strong leadership skills for themselves, families, and community as a whole.

2018—2019 OASIS PROGRAMS AND SUPPORTS

Family Support Program

Family Literacy Programming & Resources

Youth Nutrition, Literacy, Culture Program

Summer Youth and Family Literacy program

Traditional Time

Homelessness/Housing First & Drop in Support Services/

Opportunities



STATISTICS 2018_19

Afterschool snacks served	1730	# of Homeless - couch surfing and street this year	176
Afterschool meals served	1966	# of Homeless that were re-housed	125
After school program participants/# of sessions	1896/158	# Individuals addressed with housing and support services	190
Traditional Time/Community Kitchen Events Held/# participant	41/1093	# of new intakes completed (homelessness)	115
Diabetes Awareness Education Sessions Held/# of Participants	5/50	# of application assistance (Income, housing, ID)	281
Family Literacy Bags Initiative as of Nov—March	45	Family Support Program # of Families per month	30-45
Professional Development	11 Sessions/43 participants	June 21—NIPD	150
Social Media main FB page	766	Number of volunteers at centre	38
Family Literacy & Literacy Sessions not included above	87 Sessions/803 participants	July 21—Bannock at Regional Park	200
Summer Family Literacy	40 Sessions/788 participants		

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Family Support Program has been funded for a fifth 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 the Family Support Program working with the other Oasis programs such as Homelessness and Cultural activities for families. The Family Support Program at the moment is working with approximately 35 to 40 families each month for intensive support services. Besides those numbers we also work with a lot of families that may touch base with us on a monthly basis as they are fairly self sufficient but still need light supports.

The Family Support Program staff attended a couple of workshops to improve on services provided to families. These workshops were Positive Parenting Program and Facilitator training for the Anger Management Program. The Family Support Program staff members are: Victoria Usselman, as the Family Support Co-ordinator/Specialist, Angeline Ironstar and Robyn Young as a Family Support Specialists who provide assistance in the healthy development and support of families and children in the Northeast area by completing home or office visits.

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 Family Support Program:

“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 provided me with information and extra supports in the community for me to get healthy. She also helped me through dealing with Social Services.

“We love our Family Support Worker. “She helps us with anything that comes up for us and she even takes time with our children.”

“My Family Support Worker helped me work at getting my kids back. I’m learning how to parent and discipline in a positive way. I love the programming!”

“My Family Support Worker never gives up on me. She reminds me of all the positive things I do for my family and myself.”



FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAMMING

The Nipawin Oasis is one of the Family Literacy Hub Service provider serving the northeast of the province with funding from the Ministry of Education— Provincial Library and Literacy Office. Due to capacity concerns to deliver the funding requirements we have withdrawn from this for the 2019_20 year.

The primary objective is to ensure that Northeast families have access to family literacy programs, services and supports to strengthen literacy development at home and in their community.

Some of the Literacy programs/events offered this year at the Oasis were:

Youth Literacy—after school Mon.—Thurs and some weekends (Grades 1-12)

Traditional Time—Family Literacy—Every Wed from 10—3

Summer Youth and Family Literacy —July & August

Family Literacy program—drop in and scheduled throughout year

Computer & Internet usage—public use

Library Resources - includes Cultural resources and Red Earth History

Regularly contribute to Family Matters newsletter

Red Earth Justice Summit May 15 & 16

Cumberland College Family Literacy Presentation - August 21, 2018

Red Earth Cree Nation General Assembly - Literacy presentation Oct

Prov Literacy Network meeting - Traditional Family Literacy presentation Nov.

Cree Language Classes at Hospital

Regional Park Anniversary celebration—July 24th, sharing of culture and literacy resources, bridged cultures, most participants were non-Indigenous and were very interested in learning about the culture, language, traditional teachings

Family Literacy Fun day- Jan 29 – Increased knowledge of family literacy, Cree language and culture, hands on activities were very popular, increased family relationships

Family Literacy Fun Day – April 27th, 2019 – 150 plus – Rented Legion Hall – Dance & Box Social with Family Literacy items auctioned off, dancing, singing, family fun contests, literacy promotions, youth demonstrations, cooking, organizing, advertising all done by participants.

Family Literacy Statistics on page 4

Facebook:

Nipawin Oasis Parenting group— <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1456353187932702/>

Nipawin Oasis Cultural group—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1435786793328133/>

Nipawin Oasis Recipe group—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/388745721263475/>

Nipawin Oasis Craft group—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1487451708143078/>

Nipawin Oasis Literacy Group—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/349294951927436/>

Nipawin Oasis Housing Group—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/123076314434669/>

Nipawin Oasis and Area Job Postings—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/337088190028546/>



CHILD NUTRITION, LITERACY AND CULTURE PROGRAM

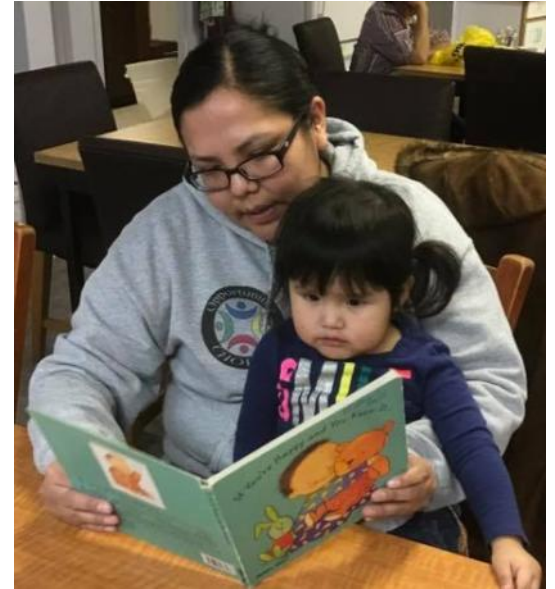
This program funded by Ministry of Education, Community Initiatives Fund and TIP, teaches good nutrition practices for children, youth and families, and helps develop independent living skills for children and their families including new ways to prepare food, budgeting, shopping, safe food handling, 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 Ethelena Bear and Robyn Young with support from Cultural Leaders, parents and volunteers.



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, 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, cu outdoor cooking, drumming, dancing, jigging, cultural crafting and loom-ing. Several of the women have gone on to start their own businesses. The women have also passed this onto their children and

FAMILY LITERACY DAY EAST CENTRAL RECORDER

Nipawin Oasis takes less by-the-book approach

Jessica R. Durling
REPORTER

NIPAWIN — The Nipawin Oasis Community Centre held Family Literacy Day workshops throughout the day, but literacy didn't just mean reading — it also meant singing and dancing.

Bradley Ironstar, cultural leader with the Oasis, said the reason for this day, for him, is to help families engage with their children.

"Not only reading and writing but also culturally, to be able to come and enjoy their kids, of singing and dancing and thanking the creator for all the good gifts he bestowed upon us," Ironstar said. "That's family literacy."

While singing and dancing may not seem like literacy, it is an important part of passing on culture and traditions.

"It has to do with literacy because it engages us to come together as First Nations to practice our traditions and our cultures, to keep it alive and keep it go-



ing to future generations. The little ones," Ironstar said. "Teach the little ones who are coming up in the world, so if the outside people who want to know about our ways, our dance and our songs, our drumming — we'll have an answer to them. They will pass this way on not just to the First Nations people but to the non-First Nations people as well."

While the focus of this was passing on traditional culture and tradition it was open for non-First Nation families as well.

Ironstar believes it's important for parents to be able to engage with their children without computers, and with face-to-face eye contact.

"The whole reason of having this day is get the kids off their computers, off their phones and to be able to engage one-on-one. Be able to read, interact, get to know their children and be open and honest and truthful with each other."

Oasis held the Family Literacy Day events on Jan. 30.

reporter@tisdalerecorder.ca



“OASIS NATIONS” DRUM AND DANCE GROUP

Cultural Leader-Brad Ironstar and I (Angeline Ironstar) have worked closely with the after youth program. We have seen tremendous growth from the youth singing and drumming. There has been an increase in participation, self esteem and confidence within the youth. Youth have shared that they look forward and eager to come to Oasis to drum and dance practice. It has been a positive outcome in their lifestyle teaching them to live a clean and sober life. Teaching the youth about respect, love and care for one another, the drum and dance group has provided the youth with passing on the culture knowledge to the up and coming younger generation. The drum also teaches the youth patience, understanding how to work as a team and how they have to be there together for encouragement and support for one another. It has been a lot of fun and enjoyable to build relationships with the younger generation.

Brad- It has been awesome to pass on the cultural knowledge onto the younger generation that has never been introduced to it. It was good to be able to teach them about the smudging teachings and the traditional medicines as we as first nations use. Also teaching the younger generation to make a hand drum and drum stick as a good life skill. The main thing I want to teach the youth is to love and respect all of God's creation.

Angeline- It has been a blessing to see the confidence and growth within the youth culturally. Building relationships and passing on teachings of braiding hair, taking care of regalia and to share my own cultural upbringing the younger generation. The young ladies have been drawn to the drum to sing, I have been working closely with Brad to learn to lead the younger ladies within drum group. It has been a very rewarding part of my job to part take and passing on the cultural knowledge to the younger generation.

Power point and pictures and youth singing will be shown on June 21.



Oasis celebrates National Aboriginal Day June 21

On June 21st, 2018 the Nipawin Oasis hosted its 5th 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, Drumming workshop, Cradle Board teachings &

carvings, animal calling, Moccasin teachings, Bracelets, Keychains, Cree Bingo and Artwork.



We would like to thank everyone that helped with today and for coming to help us celebrate!!

National Indigenous People's Day 2018 Activity Plan June 21, 2018

10:00

Opening Prayer – Elder Rev. Reta Nawakayas
Welcome Drum Song – Troy Nepitabo

Activities throughout the day 10-3

Outside:

Drumming – Troy Nepitabo and Leo Umpherville (teepee)
Powwow Dancing demonstration – Sundance Umpherville, Mattea Lofstrom, Isabelle Pakoo
Drum making, Teepee Teachings and Smudging – Clarence Whitehead and Darren Bighead (teepee)
Carving – Henry Crane & Rod Young
Archaeology dig: Sandbox
Sketching and Art Work – Tianna, Megan and Gia Bear
Worry Dolls – Raindance Umpherville
Birch Bark Crafts – Midsaw and Mistakasew Young and Carmen Voyageur
Watermelon Eating, Horse Races and games – Serena Garvin and Shaessa McKay
Rock Painting – Nikita Custer
Washboard activity –
Sandpainting – Chianne Bear
Pottery – Sheena Nawakayas
Teepee Craft & Weaving – Shaelynn McFarlane & Rheanne Young

Upstairs:

Treaties & Traditional Cultural Display
Beadwork, Traditional Parenting & Syllabics – Betsy Crane
Rattles – Vickie Lake
Medallions – Victoria Usseelman
Dream Catchers – Renna Young
Beaded Necklaces and Key chains – Janet Sanderson

Downstairs:

Bonnets, Sewing & Moss bags – Rev. Reta and Ivy Nawakayas, Hilda Roberts
Cradleboard demonstration – Doreen Cook
Hide Change Purse – Mary Dussion
Moccasin & Beadwork teachings – Thelma Schellenberg
Singing and Animal Calling – Dale Nawakayas
Cree Bingo – Ethelena Bear
Bannock – Annette Nawakayas, Alannah Voyageur, Linda Sewap

12:00

Lunch – downstairs and outside (can take your food to picnic area)

1:00 – 2:00

Annual General Meeting – downstairs



Homelessness Partnership Strategy

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.

Facilitating Programs:

Moss Bag Teaching

Youth camp – Language and Culture Teaching

Health and wellness – kidney care, diabetes, foot care, meth awareness

Woman's support group

Cree class at Oasis

Conversational Cree with hospital staff

Anger Management

Red Earth General Assembly Presentation

Diamond North Budget Session

Traditional Medicine Teaching

Melfort Woman's Conference – Missing and Murdered Woman

Walkers for Camp Justice – stop at Oasis

Written by Rose Sinclair



Oasis Soup Kitchen

I am very excited to say we were the recipients of the **Share the Warmth Grant**, funded through Sask. Energy to start up the Nipawin Oasis Soup Kitchen. The program was directed at those that were experiencing financial strains and address food security challenges faced by low income families/individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of being homeless. The Nipawin Oasis Soup Kitchen ran from November of 2018 through to April of 2019. It took place every Tuesday of the month from 11:00 – 1:00 pm and was free of charge. We had 16 volunteers and staffs throughout the time the Soup Kitchen ran that helped cook, clean and helped serve lunch. The volunteers were from the community and some in need themselves but did not want to be served but to earn what they were given. It also gave them a chance to get out of the house and able to visit with friends and family they would not usually get to see. We also delivered meals to individuals that were shut in or ill and could not attend due to health issues or the weather. We had also received donations from the Pineland Coop, IGA, and the Nipawin Family Bakery with gift cards and food items to help with our soup kitchen. The Soup Kitchen provided mainly hot soup, sandwiches and bannock.

Through the Nipawin Oasis Soup Kitchen, we served 554 people which included 89 children and in that we delivered 106 meals to people who could not get to Oasis due to health issues, or weather.

With the Share the Warmth Grant and along with donations, we were also able to supply individuals and families with winter clothing items such as toques, mitts, scarves, winter socks, long underwear, winter coats, winter boots, blankets, pillows, and hygiene products



Amazing volunteers, great turnout, and even better community spirit!

Written by Victoria Usselman

What difference has the Oasis made to you?

This place is amazing there is no other like it anywhere and I have been to a lot of places. This is what every community needs a centre like this...(new family to Nipawin)

I don't know where I would be without the Oasis—probably dead in some ditch....(participant)

I hadn't filed my taxes for 5 years and it was going to cost so much to get them done. Oasis did them for me for nothing thanks to volunteers and I was able to get my GST now.

Whenever I get lonely I know I can come to the Oasis and there will be somewhere there that can support me.

The Oasis helped me get into housing. I had been homeless ever since I was 16. This is the first time they helped me fill out the forms and now I am so happy that I have a place to sleep. They even helped me get my utilities hooked up.

I have learned a lot at the Oasis. I am a better parent now because of it. I enjoy going to the Oasis to learn from the Elders and to learn how to be a parent. I am very grateful

The Oasis has helped me deal with my problems and gave me someone to talk to when I was very alone.

I think more people should know all of the things the Oasis does for the community. They have given pride back to the First Nation culture and are passing this on to the youth so it is not lost. Where would we be without the Oasis? We would have no drumming, no dancing, no beading, no place for kids and families to go to get help.

The Oasis has helped me with literacy bags for me and my children and now I am reading more with my children and doing the activities in the bags.

I enjoy learning how to make different foods such as perogies and egg rolls. I am also glad that we get to have fruit at the Oasis sometimes. It is nice that people from Nipawin donate lots of furniture, clothing and sometimes food to help people like me who don't have much.

I went to the Oasis to get help making a resume. I was able to get a job afterwards too. So I appreciate that.

The Oasis does a lot for the community not just for the people that go there. They create jobs, teach kids how to cook, clean and about their language and culture. They are like family to many. Things would be a lot worse in Nipawin if there was no Oasis.

THANKYOU :) FUNDERS, PARTNERS AND DONORS 2018-2019



Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



Royal Purple
Bingo—



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*Providing Opportunities
for
Positive Choices*