

PRINCE ALBERT GRAND COUNCIL



SPIRIT OF OUR ANCESTORS

ANNUAL 20 REPORT 24



Executive Office

Chief Joseph Custer Reserve #201 2nd Floor 2300 - 10th Avenue West P.O. Box 2350 Prince Albert, SK S6V 6Z1 Tel: 953-7200 Fax: 764-6272

Agriculture

Main Floor – McIntosh Mall P.O. Box 3003 Prince Albert, SK S6V 6G1 Tel: 953-2755 Fax: 953-2440

Child Care & Education Centre

Chief Joseph Custer Reserve #201 851 - 23rd Street West, Cottage 5 P.O. Box 1988 Prince Albert, SK S6V 4M4 Tel: 953-7210 Fax: 763-1270

Community Policing

P.O. Box 2770 2300-10th Ave. West, Cottage #11 Prince Albert, SK, S6V 6K1 Tel: 953-7333 Fax: 922-3270

Education

Chief Joseph Custer Reserve #201 2300 - 10th Ave West, Cottage 11 P.O. Box 2770 Prince Albert, SK S6V 6K1 Tel: 953-7290 Fax: 922-3270

Housing & Technical Services

Chief Joseph Custer Reserve #201 2300 - 10th Ave West, Cottage 12 Prince Albert, SK S6V 7G3 Tel: 953-7242 Fax: 922-1710

Forestry & Emergency Protective Services

Chief Joseph Custer Reserve #201 2300 - 10th Ave West, Cottage 11 P.O. Box 2350 Prince Albert, SK S6V 6Z1 Tel: 953-7290 Fax: 922-3270

Health & Social Development

Chief Joseph Custer Reserve #201 851 - 23rd Street West P.O. Box 1775 Prince Albert, SK S6V 5T3 Tel: 953-7283 Fax: 763-6611

Holistic Wellness Centre

Chief Joseph Custer Reserve #201 851 - 23rd Street West, Cottage 3 P.O. Box 2350 Prince Albert, SK S6V 4M4 Tel: 953-7285 Fax: 763-5223

Information Technology Services

851 - 23rd Street West, Cottage 4 Prince Albert, SK S6V 7G3 Tel: 953-7281

Justice Unit

77B-11th Street West P.O. Box 2350 Prince Albert, SK S6V 6Z1 Tel: 953-7254 Fax: 764-7295

Northern Lights Community Development Corporation

2nd Floor, 2300-10th Avenue West P.O. Box 2350 Prince Albert, SK S6V 6Z1 Ph: 953-7259 Fax: 764-0765

P.A. Development Corporation

Wahpeton Reserve #94A P.O. Box 478 Prince Albert, SK S6V 5R8 Tel: 922-0099 Fax: 922-5075

PAGC Learn & Grow Daycare

807-15th Street West P.O. Box 2350 Prince Albert, SK S6V 3S1 Tel: 765-5308 Fax: 763-0838

Personnel & Finance

2300-10th Avenue West, 2nd Floor P.O. Box 2410 Prince Albert, SK S6V 7G3 Tel: 953-7200 Fax: 953-1045 Finance Fax: 763-3635

Spiritual Healing Lodge

Wahpeton Reserve 94 B RR4 Site 1 Box 265 Prince Albert SK S6V 5R2 Tel: 953-2498 Fax: 953-2514

Sprucelodge Boarding Home

150 34 Street West P.O. Box 2350 Prince Albert, SK S6V 8E9 Tel: 953-1590 Fax: 922-2502

Urban Services

1211 1st Ave West P.O. Box 2350 Prince Albert, SK S6V 4Y8 Tel: 765-5300 Fax: 922-5544

Sports, Culture & Recreation

1211 1st Ave West P.O. Box 2350 Prince Albert, SK S6V 4Y8 Tel: 765-5300 Fax: 922-5544

Valley Hill Youth Treatment Centre

PO Box 761 2101-10th Avenue West Prince Albert, SK S6V 5S2 Tel: 764-2311 or 764-2312 or 764-2958 Fax: 764-2377

Yuasni Tipi Family Treatment Centre

P.O. Box 1775 Prince Albert SK S6V 5T3 Tel: 953-7270 Fax: 764-3052

Wahpeton Reserve 94 B





TRIBUTES

MAY YOU REST IN PEACE

Fred was married to Karen Charles for 43 years, they have 4 beautiful daughters Carol Charles, Colleen Ballantyne, Charlene Charles and Melissa Charles, they also have 7 grandchildren Zane Ballantyne, Hunter Ballantyne, Julie Roberts, Sophie Charles, Summer Ballantyne, Autumn Rain Ballantyne and Fred's baby boss Dean Bonaise. As we gather here to celebrate the life of Fred Charles, he had a passion for life that was truly inspiring, he embraced every moment with enthusiasm, whether it was pursuing his hobbies, spending time with family members, or lending a helping hand to those in need. His dedication to his work as a Housing Coordinator, Ceremonial Elder and the love he poured into the lives of his family and his co-workers were evident every day.

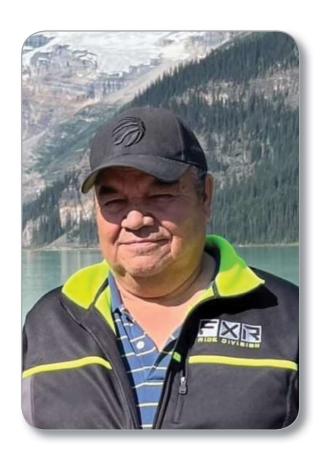
Though the loss of Fred leaves an irreplaceable void in our hearts, we find comfort in the legacy of love and joy he has left behind. We are grateful for the years we shared with him, the lessons we learned together and the countless memories that will forever remain a part of us. As we remember Fred today, let us honor his spirit by embracing one another with the same love and kindness he showed us. Let's carry forward his legacy by living our lives fully and cherishing our time together.

Thank you all for being here to celebrate Fred's life. He touched each of us in ways that words cannot fully express, and we know he would be grateful for the love and support you have all shown.

With Love,

His wife Karen Charles and his daughters

We thank Fred Charles for his contribution to our traditional ceremonies for PAGC and guidance throughout the years at many events. Thank you for your service and dedication.



FRED CHARLES
"STANDING TALL BEAR"

MAY 24, 1960 - FEBRUARY 18, 2024



SHIRLEY HENDERSON

JUNE 1, 1954 - DECEMBER 29, 2023

Residing for most of her life in Montreal Lake Cree Nation, this is where her work began. During this time, she began her life in politics as band councilor for 22 years. Within that time, she was also the Health director at the William Charles heath center for several years.

She was given recognition for:

- Volunteer of the year award
- Citizen of the year
- Mrs. Winter festival

- PAGC northern women's award
- Centennial medal from the government of Saskatchewan
- Women of the Dawn recognition

Shirley was instrumental in the establishment of the PAGC Women's Commission which is now over 33 years old. This organization was the first of its kind and has gone on to do many things

Some of their highlights are:

- 88 space daycare center
- 2 floor plex apartments for women
- Women's shelter in the making
- Monument for MMIW2S in the city of prince albert
- Ongoing scholarship banquet which has helped close to 200 women in PAGC with their post-secondary studies
- Providing winter wear each year to those in need
- Began the indigenous veteran's day for PAGC which is still ongoing
- Annual walk for MMIWG2S to bring awareness to everyone about this continuing crisis

Shirley sat on many boards, commissions and committees for Montreal Lake and PAGC. With a commitment to the betterment of her people, she volunteered many a time with such things as fundraisers, help with evacuations, summer and winter games etc. Shirley will be forever missed and remembered fondly.



PAGC FIRST NATION CHIEFS





CHIEF TAMMY COOK-SEARSON





RENE CHABOYER







CHIEF JOYCE NAYTOWHOW-MCLEOD



CHIEF ZACHARY WHITECAP







CHIEF PETER A. BEATTY



CHIEF MARCEL HEAD







CHIEF KIRBY CONSTANT



CHIEF COREEN SAYAZIE

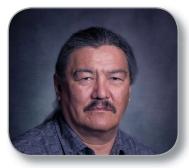


BLACK LAKE DENESULINE FIRST NATION





CHIEF
CHRISTINE LONGJOHN



CHIEF KEVIN MERCREDI



FOND DU LAC DENESULINE FIRST NATION



WAHPETON DAKOTA NATION

CHIEF JOHN WADITAKA



CHIEF BARTHOLOMEW J. TSANNIE



HATCHET LAKE DENESULINE FIRST NATION



GRAND CHIEF BRIAN HARDLOTTE

Tansi, Edlanete, Washte and Hello.

The Chiefs and our Executive have had a busy year with many issues to deal with. Our dealings with municipalities, the province and the federal government have been many. The Treaties are sacred and remain our paramount issue. We are always challenged defending our Treaties but we remain sworn to that obligation.

We remain committed in acknowledging and fighting for all issues our First Nations and communities have. I have travelled to all our First Nations and communities this year and have been met with nothing but good friendship and prayer. I hope you have seen the same from me.

It is such a pleasure to celebrate with you. The food and is great! People are great! There is no comparison in how our communities greet and care for visitors.

The Summer Games were sponsored by Lac La Ronge Indian Band this past summer. Thank you to them for doing so. Hey, our Tribal Council took both first and second place! We have some wonderful kids, and they have some great talent and skills.

If the future is our kids, as we all say, then our future should be in good hands!

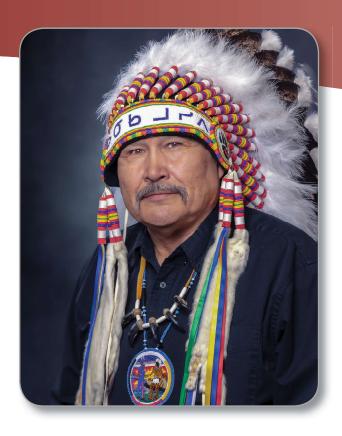
The summer is for wonderful cultural events. We hope you enjoyed the Gathering of Nations event we hosted this past summer. Meeting old friends and making new friends makes the twelve First Nations one of the strongest alliances in Canada.

You created the Tribal Council to take advantage of the strength the Treaty Alliance creates. The Prince Albert Grand Council has a powerful voice and is a powerful lobby group. That goal had been achieved. PAGC delivers services, so that goal has been achieved. The Prince Albert Grand Council provides powerful social network. That goal has been achieved.













When we host the Annual Assembly, this year look around at what you have created. When it is stated that PAGC is growing then all the twelve First Nations are growing.

Every time a municipality, the province or federal government passes legislation we must look at it carefully because each piece of legislation could breach our Treaty Rights. The new legislation is to be worried about but sometimes there is a continuing battle against old legislation. The Northern Resource Transfer Agreement (NRTRA) is an example. This battle is not yet won but we will continue the fight.

Our main concern is to protect and fight on all our member's behalf. We are now 47,000 members strong. I pray we remain strong.

Ninaskowmin, marsi cho, pidamaya. May our Creator be with you.

Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte

2024 ANNUAL REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Moving Our Communities Forward

I'm proud of the progress we've made this year. Our hard work on several key projects is already making a real difference in our communities. Here are some of the key highlights:

FIRST NATIONS POLICING INITIATIVE

Our First Nations Policing Initiative is advancing steadily. With 17 months left to complete the feasibility study, this is a crucial time for us to gather input from all our communities, ensuring every voice is heard. The goal is to create a policing model that reflects our values and addresses our unique safety needs. Once the study is complete, we'll move into the implementation phase, guided by a plan shaped by our people from the ground up.

RCMP ACADEMY DEPOT DIVISION ALL INDIGENOUS TROOPS

GUNNER MINE SITE

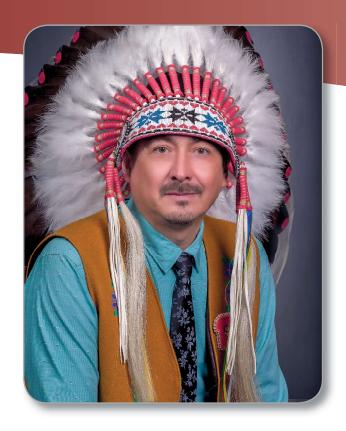
The remediation of the Gunner Mine site, which closed in 1963, is finally nearing completion. For decades, contaminants flowed into the lake, damaging our environment. In 2024, thanks to over \$300 million in provincial investment and the work of the Saskatchewan Research Council, we've entered the final stages of cleanup. This project focussed on restoring our land and it also created jobs and brought economic benefits to our communities. It's a major achievement for the Athabasca region.

PARTNERSHIP WITH ISC

This year, we forged a groundbreaking partnership with SaskPower and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to tackle energy costs and sustainability in our communities. Together, we are exploring cleaner, alternative energy options, focusing on reducing expenses and finding solutions that work for us. This partnership is the first of its kind, and by working with external experts, we're ensuring a brighter, more sustainable future for PAGC First Nations.



HATCHET LAKE ROAD PROJECT 47 KM



Addressing Overcrowding

We've also continued to take steps to address overcrowding in Athabasca communities and Pelican Narrows, which has worsened tuberculosis outbreaks. With significant additional funding secured over the past two years, we've been able to make progress on improving housing, food security, and public health. While these efforts are helping reduce overcrowding and improve health outcomes, particularly in communities hardest hit by TB, we know more needs to be done. This is an important step, but the work continues as we strive for lasting improvements in our region.

Dzirft'ái Pii ot Training Program

In 2024, we launched the Dziret'ái Pilot Training Program in partnership with Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources. Supported by over \$2 million from various partners, this program will train ten Indigenous pilots from our northern communities. The aim is to increase local capacity by having residents fly planes that serve the North. Training will begin at Mitchinson Flight Centre in early 2025, and upon completion, the pilots will join Rise Air as First Officers, strengthening the connection between our communities and air travel.



COMMUNITY SAFETY PLANNING MODEL

This year, we also brought together experts from across Canada to develop a Community Safety Planning Model tailored to our needs. This initiative takes best practices and strategies from around the country and applies them to the unique challenges we face. We're now moving into the next phase, where communities will review the model, and we'll work to secure funding and hire coordinators to put these plans into action. By focusing on proactive safety measures, we are setting the stage for safer, more secure communities.

SUMMARY

I want to express my deep gratitude to everyone involved—our community members, partners, and staff. Together, we've made remarkable progress, and I look forward to seeing the continued positive impact of these efforts. Let's keep working together to build a stronger future for all of us.

Vice Chief Joseph Tsannie



ATHABASCA BASIN LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY TOUR



Our work continues in a steadfast fashion to bring about change to the areas we feel need our full attention.

Of course, we are speaking of issues that come from the communities here are a few that I feel are important:

SOCIAL ISSUES

mental health in our young population and survivors of residential school

Homelessness in our urban centres where our PAGC members are struggling to find housing

The opioid crisis is found in both our communities and urban centres

Drugs and alcohol contributes to many of our people having their mental health compromised.

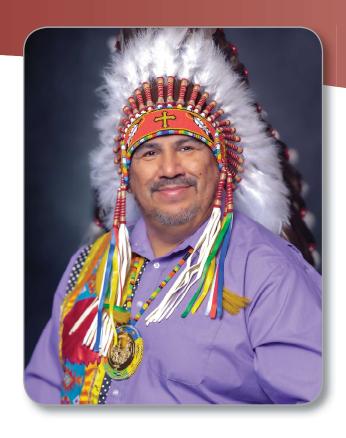
CLEAN ENERGY

we still need to get our communities attract and work with clean energy in areas of solar panels, wind power, biomass, energy storage (battery) and many other alternative energies to be more energy efficient and become leaders in clean energy.

Creating jobs in clean energy must also be priority and have our young population harness opportunities in the clean energy field. A positive.

Economic opportunities in clean energy must also be priority.







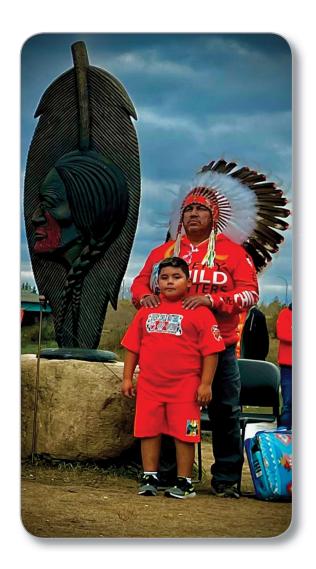
CLIMATE CHANGE

our fish are struggling to the onset of many affects of climate change. The temperature in water is causing the fish to die but also at the same time fish are adapting to warmer temperature in the water.

The fish will adapt in the future and we also must adapt to eating a different kind of fish

Reconciliation must be more of a government led initiative but we then become guides of change we want where we bring our pressing issues to the government and walk away as catalyst of change. I foresee a future where we are more involved with, self government, economic prosperity, creating laws for us that promotes self-sufficiency in areas like governance and law.

Vice Chief Chris Jobb





On behalf of all the staff at the Prince Albert Grand Council I bring you greetings. I hope that your year has been one of happiness and success. Many great events have taken place within your council throughout our many communities. Unfortunately, some events also happen that make us sad. Nevertheless, we have very supportive families to help celebrate and to support.

The Prince Albert Grand Council has once again been busy on your behalf. The fourteen departments provide valuable services to our many First Nations and our communities. The number of members continue to grow quickly and therefore the demands upon our delivery continue to increase. We sincerely hope that those services meet the standards and expectations you want.

Your Chiefs meet regularly to discuss issues that they wish the Tribal Council to deal with both internally and externally. There are many major political issues that they, along with the Tribal Council executive deal with on your behalf. I am sure that the Grand Chief and Tribal Chiefs will mention those in their messages.





With respect to the issues your PAGC Departments deal with they can be summarized by mentioning the following:

- Health Care and Treatment
- Mental Health and Wellness
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Gangs
- Housing

One of our greatest responsibilities is to become and remain knowledgeable regarding each of these issues so that we can prepare or deliver that information to our communities. It is our greatest responsibilities and is the most effective way to support our First Nations achieve a state of community health and safety that is equal to the rest of Canada.

My sincerest wishes to all our communities that as good a year as this past year has been, that we will do even better in the year to come. You and we are achieving the success all our members want us to have.

Thank you for your support of the Tribal Council

Al Ducharme

POPULATION STATISTICS

FIRST NATION	2024
Black Lake Denesuline Nation	2,297
Cumberland House Cree Nation	2,149
* Fond du Lac Denesuline Nation	2,254
Hatchet Lake Denesuline Nation	2,018
James Smith Cree Nation	1,899
Lac La Ronge Indian Band	12,318
Montreal Lake Cree Nation	4,405
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation	12,538
Red Earth Cree Nation	2,168
Shoal Lake Cree Nation	1,253
Sturgeon Lake First Nation	3,278
Wahpeton Dakota Nation	585
TOTAL	47,162









PROGRAM DIRECTORS



AL DUCHARME EXECUTVE DIRECTOR



CAROL CONNOLLY SPIRITUAL HEALING LODGE



MIKE WELLS
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



EDWARD MIRASTY EDUCATION



KAREN TIMMERMAN HUMAN RESOURCES



RUTH JOBB HUMAN RESOURCES



FRANK BIGHEAD HOUSING & TECHNICAL SERVICES



ROSIE CHARLES
HOUSING & TECHNICAL SERVICES



GEOFF DESPINS
URBAN SERVICES



SHIRLEY WOODS
HEALTH & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



PENNY CONSTANT
HEALTH & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



JOAN BRELAND
HOLISTIC WELLNESS &
YUASNI TIPI TREATMENT CENTRE



CLIFF BUETTNER FORESTRY & EMERG PROTECTIVE SERVICES



LEONA SORENSON CHILD CARE & EDUCATION CENTRE





BETTY MARLEAU AGRICULTURE



MICHELLE VANDEVORD EMERG PROTECTIVE SERVICES



LOUISE NADEAU CHILD CARE & EDUCATION CENTRE



RICK SANDERSON JUSTICE UNIT



GENE DER FINANCE



BONNIE MERASTY YUASNI TIPI TREATMENT CENTRE



CORRINE FIDDLER SPRUCE LODGE



HUMAN RESOURCES

The PAGC Human Resource Staff strive to create the best working environment for the Staff and Communities we serve. In doing so our department follows the Affirmative Action as set out in our policy manual:

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

It is the policy of PAGC to hire First Nation/Band members whenever possible. First Nation members are urged to obtain the necessary skills, training and education in order to present themselves as eligible candidates for hiring and promotion. First Nation members who:

- 1. have the necessary skills and experience; and/or
- through the interview process, demonstrate that they have the necessary and desired skills, attitudes and abilities.

will be given priority for hiring and promotion. In the event that no persons belonging to the Member First Nations can be found to fill a position, other qualified First Nation members will be given priority over similarly qualified non-Aboriginal applicants. All other things being equal, preferential consideration will also be given to persons with disabilities and persons of visible minorities.

This past year our department continued to recruit and hire employees, administer policies and procedures and manage employment actions and act as an advocate for both Management and the employees.

Our department adheres to the highest standards of personal and professional conduct to faithfully carry out our responsibilities, gain the respect of management and employees to ensure the company is in compliance with Federal law.

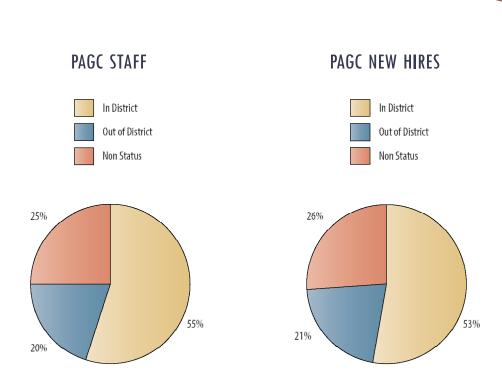
Furthermore, our staff have completed training sessions on healthy work environments and mental health in the workplace, in effort to better support our fellow employees. Additionally, our staff continue to support PAGC employees in areas such as

- Compensation and Benefits
- Training and Development
- Employee Relations
- Performance and Management

PAGC has more that 375 employees and continues to develop, grow and establish more programs and partnerships. Our team ensures that all staff are paid on a bi-weekly basis and administer benefits on their behalf.

We continue to engage in discussion with our various programs and monitor industry standards to ensure attractive and fair pay scales by conducting regular reviews of our salary grids to maintain our staff and remain competitive in the workforce.





PAGC STATISTICS

PAGC Stats	2024
Total Staff	381
% of Female Staff	63%
% of Male Staff	37%
Average Age	44.81
Average Years Worked	6.14
Most Years Worked	45.02
Total # of New Hires	117
Total # of Competitions	78



HISTORY

Prince Albert Grand Council operates an agriculture development program in the district. There is an agrologist on staff to help plan and implement agricultural projects. This agriculture program has been servicing the needs of First Nations for close to 40 years.

GOVERNANCE AND MANDATE

The Agriculture Program has a District Board that deals with agricultural issues and funding applications. There is a Board representative from each First Nation that contributes into the program along with a representative from the Women's Commission.

The Program's mandate includes the following objectives:

- 1. To promote the interest of First Nations and their membership in the agricultural industry.
- 2. To assist with technical information.
- 3. To develop viable farm business units.
- 4. To provide training in the different agricultural areas.
- 5. To assist in financial management and funding requirements.
- To be proactive in developing new agricultural opportunities.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Prince Albert Grand Council Agriculture Program has a contribution program to assist farmers from participating First Nation Bands. The following Bands contributed over \$100,000 toward agricultural development this year: Wahpeton, Sturgeon Lake, Red Earth and Cumberland House. Over 75 projects were funded for our clients. We continue to work with Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation that provides loans to our farmers for livestock and equipment. Over the past couple of years, we have been receiving food trucks from Ontario with fruits, vegetables and canned goods. We distribute that food to our communities. In addition, we also work with our partners to

provide food hampers at Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, etc. We also facilitated the "Coats for Kids" in the fall, and provided over 2000 new coats to children.

WAHPETON

Wahpeton has a small buffalo herd that they use for some economic development and for cultural/ceremonial purposes. PAGC assists with some purchases for livestock supplies and roundup costs.

Gardening is also popular on the reserve and we have workshops to assist them in their agricultural endeavors. There is also a goat project for meat and milk. PAGC funds these small scale and gardening projects.

STURGEON LAKE

One of the major projects at Sturgeon Lake is their Buffalo Ranch. They run up to 300 head. The calves are generally sold in the early winter. Some animals are also harvested for community use. The project employs 10 to 15 band members seasonally and 2 people on a regular basis. It provides training and hands on experience for individuals who want to work in the livestock field. We did a pasture and corral expansion recently.

There are also a number of cattle farming operations on the reserve. They have their own haying equipment and hay lands, so they generally produce their own feed.

A couple of people also have small scale poultry and swine operations and sell at the farm gate.

These farmers use some of the contributions they get from PAGC to lever loans from financial institutions or Sask. Indian Equity Foundation.

Gardening is also getting more popular on the reserve. There is one large market garden that sells their produce and numerous other individual gardens. PAGC assists with training and purchases to help establish these gardens. This past summer they participated in the Communities in Blook Project.

There has been some renewed interest in hunting, trapping and fishing and PAGC will assist with operating and small capital purchases.

SHOAL LAKE

Outfitting operations are active on Shoal Lake. They have American hunters come up and hunt deer, bear, moose, etc. PAGC helps with those projects, supporting infrastructure and capital costs.

There has also been an increase in gardening projects. There are individual gardens and a community garden.

There are some individuals that have wild rice operations and they get assistance for equipment and wild rice patch development.

RED EARTH

Red Earth is starting to develop more gardens again. One individual works up the gardens with horses and plows. PAGC assists with garden developments and other associated costs along with training. This year they started a community garden.

There are also band members who have wild rice operations and PAGC helps them out with capital and operating costs.

There is getting to be a renewed interest in traditional activities such as hunting, fishing and trapping. PAGC assists with trap and other purchases.

CUMBERLAND HOUSE

Cumberland House has some livestock operations and lots of pasture lands. The farmers put up their own hay.

Gardening is getting more popular. It always has had a lot of gardens, but there are more and larger ones now. PAGC assists with gardening, equipment supplies and seed potatoes.

Outfitting is common at Cumberland House and there are a few who have operations there. They cater mostly to Americans who come up to hunt deer, moose and bear. PAGC help these operators with capital and operating costs.

Also, trapping is popular and PAGC assists with training and trap purchases.

There are also a few wild rice operators in the community.

Lac La Ronge Indian Band

We assist the community of Stanley Mission with a garden workshop in the spring. In addition, we have helped out the area of commercial fishing, hunting and trapping.

Fresh produce and dry goods are shipped up to some of the northern communities.



VEGGIES FOR HAMPER PROJECTS



CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION CENTRE

MISSION STATEMENT

The Child Care & Education Centre will foster the development of each child, addressing their Physical, Mental, Emotional and Spiritual Well-being.

PROGRAM MANDATE AND GOVERNANCE

Characteristics of PAGC C.C.E.C. includes; flexibility, child-centered, family-focused, culturally responsive orientation, and a philosophy of empowering the child and family by building on their strengths.

The Child Care and Education Center provides therapeutic care for children/youth ages eighteen (18) months to fifteen (15) years old. Referrals for Emergency placements are by Child and Family Services Agencies and the Ministry of Social Services. The Child Care and Education Center is under the governance of the Prince Albert Grand Council.

The programs for the Child Care and Education Centre will meet or exceed the standards set by Saskatchewan Ministry of Social Services, including annual Fire, Health and Building Inspections.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES IN THE COTTAGES

We have the capacity to accommodate forty (40) children.

There are five (5) cottages for the children's accommodation/ residential services. We provide the care and supervision with a safe, nurturing and structured environment. Each cottage has a Housemother that provides home cooked meals and nutritional snacks. Cottages 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 are used for Child Care purposes.

The Staff consists of five (5) Cottage Case Managers, 40 Child Care Workers, 4 Shift Supervisors and 6 Security Personnel on the premises as scheduled.

COUNSELLING

Counselling services are provided to all the children and youth in care at our Centre. These services include:

- Treatment Planning
- Individual Counseling
- Specialized Group Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Discharge Planning
- Consultation

The children receive counselling services as required from the following resources/agencies:

- Catholic Family Services
- Mental Health
- Mobile Crisis
- School Counsellors
- Elders

ADMINISTRATION

The CCEC Administrative staff offices are located at Cottage 5 with Leona Sorenson, Director and Louise Nadeau, Assistant Director, along with Clerical Support.

ADMISSIONS FOR LONG TERM CARE

Placement for one (1) year or longer.

- Admission referrals from Indian Child & Family Services
- the Ministry of Social Services.
- Consideration for acceptance include:
 - i. Reason for referral
 - ii. Appropriateness of CCEC Program
 - iii. Age Group Current Openings

EMERGENCY PLACEMENTS

The Prince Albert Grand Council has contracted with the Ministry of Social Services for Emergency Placements:

- February 2016 Ten (10) Emergency Placements for children/youth ages six to twelve years old.
- February 2016 Three (3) Long-Term Placements
- February 2017 Additional Five (5) Emergency Placements for children/youth ages six to twelve years old.
- January 2019 Additional Six (6) Emergency Placements for children/youth ages six to twelve years old.
- March 2020 Additional Five (5) Placements for babies/children 18 months to five years old
- June 1, 2021 Additional Five (5) Placements for the long-term youth ages twelve to fifteen years old.
- MSS contracted five (5) additional spaces in Cottage
 10 for youth ages 12 to 15 years old.

Consideration and services for acceptance remains the same as for the long-term placements. The duration of placement varies, with a maximum of three (3) months or longer.

Every Child has.....

- The Right to be Respected
- The Right to Dream
- The Right to be Loved and Cared for
- Gifts that should be Recognized and Valued
- The Right to Achieve their Full Potential
- The Right to Be UNCONDITIONALLY LOVED

FAMILY VISITATION

The CCEC recognizes the importance of family involvement in programming for the children and youth.

Regular family involvement through visitation is an important factor in determining success of treatment at CCEC after discharge from the program. Family visitations are arranged by the ICFS or MSS and can include home or hotel visits.



Each child is enrolled in the Public or Catholic School systems thru out the Prince Albert area.

STAFF TRAINING

The Child Care and Education Center continues to provide training to all staff on a regular basis. Bonnie Michel is the Training Coordinator and provides the Core training which includes:

- Crisis Prevention Intervention
- CPR/First Aid / AED Certificates
- Suicide Intervention
- Behavioral Management Training
- Child and Adolescent Development
- Universal Body Fluids Precautions
- Administration of Medication
- Life Space Crisis Intervention
- Safe Food Handling
- WHMIS
- Autism Training
- Aquatic Safety Training
- Additional specialized training, relative to various aspects of treatment is provided as well.

The Child Care Workers continue to attend training for Group Homes offered by the First Nations Child and Family Institute.

PRACTICUM PLACEMENTS

The Child Care and Education Center continues to provide for practicum placements in various aspects of the program. Students from the Bachelor of Indian Social Work Program from the First Nations University of Canada have completed their practicum placements at the Child Care & Education Centre.

EDUCATION

The Prince Albert Grand Council's Education Department have been busy developing proposals and programs for the tribal council education program. Our office has been successful in accessing funding (1.4 million) for the tribal policing Feasibility Study. We started with the hiring of a Public Safety Implementation Team (PSIT) advisor, Dave Sanderson. He is hired to do research into the historical and cultural aspects of First Nation communities with a view to assisting in retaining First Nation culture and values into future policing.

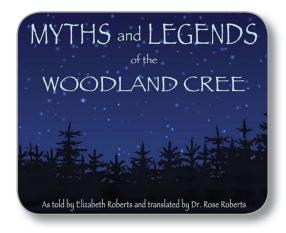
The office has also been involved in professional development opportunities with some of the education systems. For instance, there was a total of twelve members that participated in a two day workshop in Edmonton, Alberta. The Director of Education expressed interest in PAGC Education working with them in developing resources along with their elders as they liked the recently published Legends and Myths books. This opportunity re-establishes a positive relationship with our education authorities. PAGC Education has developed its capacity to offer many services, such as Board Training and Resource Development.

The Prince Albert Grand Council have submitted a Jordan's Principle worth 1.5 million to re-engage with First Nations urban youth ages 15-18 (grade 9-12). They will be part of a new initiative where trades-training and education credits will be facilitated by PAGC Education called "Walking Them Home." The program is an innovative and engaging initiative that can combat those

'at risk' students from becoming homelessness, deliver self-confidence and pride in building their own homes, as well as developing opportunities for getting into the trades (SIIT, SaskPolyTech). With the new federal investments in building homes for the young millennials, it is now more important to take advantage of the federal government's investments on building homes for our most vulnerable.

Back in May, PAGC Education worked on a five-year proposal that is called Restoring our People: A Reintegration Support Program for Federal and Provincial Offenders. It was a 5-million five-year investment on the following; Knowledge Building (36 months maximum), Knowledge Sharing (12 months maximum), Capacity building (24 months maximum), Implementation Readiness (24 months maximum), and Project Implementation (60 months maximum). This project is to help inmates integrate back into the community using traditional practices and customs. There should be a response back in the coming weeks and months on the outcome of this very important initiative.

Finally, the PAGC worked with Dr. Rose Roberts in using one of the Stanley Mission's local elder(s), where an interview approach took place in the community on local legends and myths. Through the interview process, local myths & legends of the Woodland Cree were collected through the use of storytelling. As First Nations continue to create resources, the creation of children's books telling local legends and myths will be instrumental for repatriation of Indigenous stories. This book was another publication made and distributed by the PAGC education and was distributed at the Fine Arts festival.





INDIGENOUS AUTHORS ROSE AND ELIZABETH ROBERTS HONOURED DURING PAGC FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

Sprucelodge Boarding Home



Sprucelodge Boarding Home is a medically approved home that provides meals, accommodations and transportation to registered First Nations clients who come to Prince Albert to access medical services that are not available in their home community.

There are four separate programs being delivered by Sprucelodge:

- 1. In City Transportation assist clients that "reside in" Prince Albert and have been referred to a specialist not available in our city.
- 2. Medical Transportation assists clients arriving from "outside" of Prince Albert who have medical appointments in the city.
- After Hours Call Centre assists registered clients who require assistance outside of regular working hours. This scope is across all of Saskatchewan.
- 4. Mental Health Benefit assists individuals and communities with assistance to access and/or approve mental health support services where needed.

Along with the growth of our PAGC membership, the support that Sprucelodge provides to its clients has grown 6x's since 2010. This growth identified the need for a new facility and this one will provide us with the opportunity to do that

In the last year, Sprucelodge has continued to work on their renovations and Stage 1 has a projected completion date of fall, 2024. The renovations include a commercial kitchen – the first one for PAGC, a modernized 22 seat board room and a spacious guest lounge. Stay tuned for our "Grand Opening" date which will be announced this summer.





PROGRAM SUMMARY

The 2023/24 year has been and a very busy for all the twenty-one PAGC Housing & Technical Services staff members. This office has five departments, and each department is responsible for delivery of services to the First Nations and Communities. There have been continued projects, services, and inspections completed this past year.

CAPITAL PLANNING

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STUDIES UPDATES

Updates are provided for each community on a five-year rotational basis. Annual updates for the capital plans are to be conducted with each community. In the 2023/24 FY it is planned to meet with each Band in throughout the year to update the five-year capital plan in preparation for the review meetings held in January 2023 with ISC to prioritize the next FY capital projects. Community Plan Update recommendations are currently be re-evaluated due to delays related to the pandemic.

Asset Condition Reports

Asset condition reports are updated on a 3-year rotational schedule for each community. The E-ACRS process was initiated in 2023. The reporting backlog resulting from the Covid 19 pandemic will be brought back to regular scheduled rotational activities once the RFP's are forwarded to selected engineering firms.

Advisory Services

Advisory services are provided for each Band community for major capital projects, projects that aren't fully funded by ISC or PAGC Band projects. Services provided in 2023/24 for most First Nation Communities include: If you would like to see the approved or status of the projects, feel free to contact Durwin Chartrand.

- Water and Sewer, Infrastructure Projects for 2023/2024
- Schools & Teacherage Projects 2023/2024
- Fire Protection Projects 2023/2024
- Other Projects 2023/2024
- Landfills 2023/2024

HOUSING SERVICES

- Conducts Capital inspection for new housing and renovations including:
 - ♦ Plans Evaluations
 - ♦ Site Inspections
 - Prior to backfill, Foundation inspections
 - Prior to Drywall, framing, insulation & vapour barrier
 - ♦ Progress & Final Inspections
- Conducts code compliance & Progress inspections & plan evaluations for:
 - ♦ CMHC Section 95 projects
 - ♦ *PAGC now Administers CMHC Progress Reviews for Northern Saskatchewan.
 - Daycare and Head-Start structures
 - Indian Child and Family Services structures
 - Teacherages, Nursing Residence and other small buildings
 - Manage and maintain PAGC's code plus housing specifications.
 - Adhere to the latest versions of the Canadian Model Construction Codes & Standards
 - Provides technical advice on engineering, construction and building design issues.
- Provide Housing Circuit Rider Trainer Program
 - Conduct housing program assessments, identify strengths and weaknesses

- Compile information into a strategic plan complete with one-on-one training and mentorship working toward the development of a manageable Housing Program.
- Coordinates / conducts training of First Nations Housing Coordinators & Staff
- Provide assistance and advisory services on housing programs including policy development, proposal development, housing authority development

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

This office can now provide the PAGC First Nations and Communities and their membership with an array of map products suitable for Resources Applications and Community Development, these maps are continually updated throughout the year.

Community Infrastructure & Housing Annual Report has replaced the Capital Management Database (CMDB), and the Saskatchewan Asset Inventory Funding Report has replaced the Capital Asset Inventory System (CAIS), annual reports. As in previous years, our department visits each community to update each report and submit our results by mid-October to ISC. This information is used to assist the PAGC First Nations in their Operation and Maintenance of Capital Assets. The housing portion gives the community a snapshot of current housing stocks.

Housing and preliminary building design. Several communities have been requesting architectural blueprints for new housing and building construction. This service is on a fee for service basis and is completed as time allows.

Asset Management Program (AMP), is a five-year, 3 phase-program, to assist with the implementation of Maintenance Management Systems (MMS) with those communities that would like to participate.





CIRCUIT RIDER TRAINING PROGRAM

Water & Wastewater Trainers

The Circuit Rider Training Program has continued with site visit training. Our trainers; Stan Merasty, Mervyn Keleman and Gordon McKenzie. We continue to visit the communities on a rotational basis. The trainers were given designated sites in order to better complete the Emergency Response Plans and Maintenance Management Plans.

We will continue to offer CEU training opportunities to help the operators get their CEU credits. CEU training is required in order to re-certify the operators every two years.

The Circuit Rider Trainers continue to schedule site visit training. The Water Operators have done a good job of operating the Water and Wastewater Facilities in the PAGC First Nations Communities. Our goal is to have a certified operator at level one of the water plant at every community.

WATER AND WASTEWATER INTERNS

We were approved by ISC to have two interns be mentored by our CRTP operators for 18 months. They will job shadow the operators, get certified as operators and travel to communities and be familiar with types of plants and systems in the Water and Wastewater plants.

Building Maintenance Trainers

We have three CRTP Building Maintenance Trainers: Darren Charles, Scot McHarg and Lloyd Madden has replaced Gary Harris who retired in January. They continue to visit the communities on a rotational basis or when the First Nation requires them to help out when they have an emergency with the Buildings.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Developed maintenance schedules for the schools of the PAGC district.
- Provide direct assistance in shut-down and annual maintenance of Boiler heating systems for the schools.
- The Circuit Rider Training Program is continuing with scheduled site visits and is always available to assist with operation problems and emergencies.
- The Circuit Rider training program is a valuable training tool for maintenance personnel and provides a place to call for help with their facilities.
- Training is provided to 12 Bands and 24 communities in the PAGC District as listed in the table below:

CIRCUIT RIDING TRAINING

FIRST NATION	COMMUNITY
Black Lake Denesuline Nation	Chicken 224
Cumberland House Cree Nation	Cumberland House 20
Fond du Lac Denesuline Nation	Fond du Lac 227
Hatchet Lake Denesuline Nation	Lac La Hache 220
James Smith Cree Nation	James Smith 100
Lac La Ronge Indian Band	Lac La Ronge Sucker River Grand Mother's Bay Stanley Mission Hall Lake Little Red 106C & D
Montreal Lake Cree Nation	Montreal Lake 106 Little Red 106B
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation	Pelican Narrows Deschambeault Lake Southend Sturgeon Weir Kinoosao Sandy Bay Kiskaciwan
Red Earth Cree Nation	Red Earth 29 & 29A
Shoal Lake Cree Nation	Shoal Lake 28A
Sturgeon Lake First Nation	Sturgeon Lake 101
Wahpeton Dakota Nation	Wahpeton 94

MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Maintenance Management Plans have been updated for each of our communities and will be continued to be reviewed with the local Water Wastewater operators and Building Maintenance personnel. Presently most of the management plans which are in place are part of the Operation and Maintenance Manuals which were provided to the operators at the completion of the Capital Project and subsequently added to as further assets were completed.

We have also provided the operators with a generic Maintenance plan which outlines required activities on a daily, weekly, monthly and annual basis. Recent requests by INAC for a more proactive maintenance plan have caused us to begin working on a maintenance plan in compliance for these requests. It is our plan to develop a plan more specific to the community infrastructure outlining a more detailed operational chart on which completion dates may be recorded. It is our plan to implement these in our smaller communities first as per the schedule noted below

It is also our intention to work with the Band personnel to implement a strategy for completing ACRS deficiencies as part of the maintenance plans.

Presently copies of all the O & M Manuals and copies of the record drawings for PAGC community capital projects are maintained at the offices of PAGC Housing and Technical Services. They are referenced on an on-going basis during the course of assisting Band maintenance and water wastewater personnel in completing repairs to their respective systems. Copies are also provided to the First Nation communities at the completion of the capital projects.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our Director, Frank Bighead or Associate Director, Rosie Charles









FORESTRY & EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE SERVICES

CURRENT ENVIRONMENT

Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) – Forestry and Emergency Protective Services had an above average year that deployed our teams assisting other agencies and providing leadership during emergency incidents across the province as required. Our teams on the ground provide much needed capacity for the communities we serve, offering steady employment and training opportunities for First Nations people at all levels of the organization. Over the years our fire crews, structural firefighters and our in-house Search and Rescue team have provided vital coverage for our communities at a time when serious incidents are on the rise, and broader scale emergencies are becoming more frequent across our treaty territories.

With the increase in serious incidents and emergencies being experienced across the 12 PAGC First Nations in recent years, our organization has expanded in key areas to address the most pressing concerns facing our communities. Some initiatives are new, while others have been implemented over the past several years and continue to receive project support in multi-year funding arrangements because of their success. These initiatives have already paid significant dividends by having additional supports when our First Nations call for assistance. Public safety remains a top priority for our organization. Through our collaborative approach to emergency management, our agency continues to make strides to improve the health and resiliency of our communities, helping foster self-reliance and improving the wellbeing of the Grand Councils First Nations members.

SASKATCHEWAN PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY

Forestry & Emergency Protective Services provides 36, five-person Sustained Action fire crews across our 12 First Nations as part of a multi-year Response Service Agreement with the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency.

Like previous years, our crews continue to make an impact, and are recognized as a critical resource for managing fires in Saskatchewan. We continuously receive compliments and reviews telling us about the hard work, skills, and knowledge that our firefighters provide, which speaks to the appreciation that we all have for their dedication for keeping our communities safe from wildfire.

Our department ensures that each firefighter is provided with the tools and training to respond safely and efficiently throughout Saskatchewan. The program also focuses on skills development, wildfire risk assessment, education, prevention, and mitigation through public awareness campaigns, and physically carrying out vegetation management projects that mitigate the potential impact fires could have on our communities, infrastructure, and livelihoods. This work is funded through Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) for on-reserve projects and supplemented through contracts tendered through the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency.

MUSKRATS TO MOOSE CULTURAL BURNING IN THE CUMBERLAND DELTA

After several years supporting trappers on the Cumberland House Delta, the PAGC Wildfire Resilience Initiative has documented and applied Indigenous wildland fire knowledge to reintroduce low intensity fires to improve habitat and protect values at risk in the vicinity. This project successfully built relationships across institutions and communities to facilitate intergenerational knowledge sharing and outreach. Our project staff have received considerable national and international attention and is an example of the positive impacts of managing vegetation through cultural practices. As work to restore wildlife habitat on the delta continues, PAGC will continue fostering educational opportunities that benefit all PAGC First Nations. For more information, please visit our website at www.wearefire.ca

PAGC Forestry has supported this project through ISC, NRCan and Indigenous Leadership Initiative funding in the attempt to establish cultural burning for habitat restoration in the Saskatchewan River Delta.

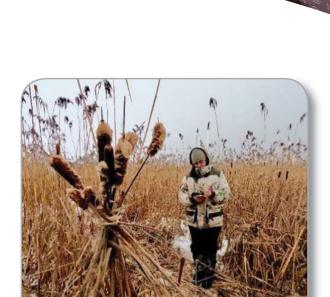
Through Field Camps we attempt to educate and involve other First Nation Communities that apply traditional ecological knowledge and the traditional practice of using fire on the landscape.

Muskrats to Moose Project Team (2023). We Are Fire: A Toolkit for Applying Indigenous-led Fire Practices and Western Fire Management in the Saskatchewan River Delta. http://www.wearefire.ca.

Prevention and mitigation are at the heart of our approach to long-term sustainable fire management. Under the direction of Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte during the '24 Wildfire Task Force meeting, our organization was tasked to become more proactive, resulting in the rollout of 10-person wildland attack kits to be delivered to each community this summer. We also developed and piloted a community FireSmart initiative that saw youth and Type-2 firefighters receive training and certification for community, neighborhood and residential FireSmart curriculum, supplemented by hands-on activities, equipment, and PPE necessary for the community to carry out FireSmart projects on their own.

FIRESMART - DISASTER MITIGATION ADAPTATION FUND

In addition to the long - term funding agreements with the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency, PAGC Forestry and Emergency Protective Services, through the ISC Community Infrastructure Program, accessed funding to deliver wildland firefighter training courses for First Nation Structural Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Fire Personnel in coordination with Saskatchewan Emergency Protective Services. Aspects of this training is an OH&S requirement to conduct Community Fuel Hazard Reduction projects in their respective communities.



MICHELA CARRIERE - FIELD TECHNICIAN



LA RONGE - FIRESMART RECOGNITION INITIATIVE

PAGC GUARDIANS' INITIATIVE

Safeguarding the lives, lands, and cultural heritage of First Nation communities in Northern Saskatchewan is a shared responsibility that reflects Canada's commitment to reconciliation and progress. Understanding the risk posed from forest fires on First Nation communities requires a comprehensive effort that can only be achieved by involving local wildfire specialists, emergency responders, industry partners, academic institutions, and community rights holders.

Determining the risk posed by forest fuels and identifying the areas that are more conducive to active fire behavior are critically important to decision makers during an emergency. By consolidating innovative technologies, this initiative aims to provide community leadership and emergency managers with the tools they need to make appropriate decisions and improve community resilience to wildfire.

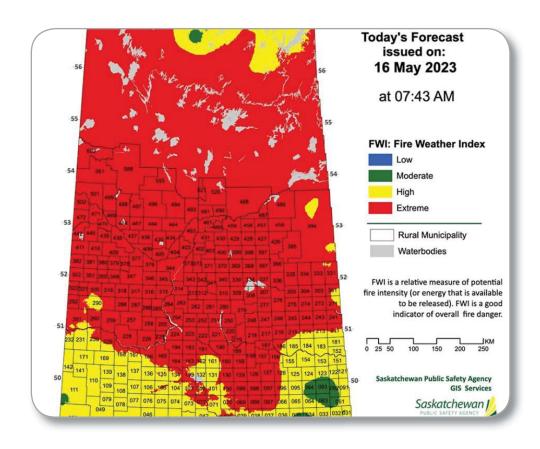
There is also a need to involve member First Nations in the management of lands and resources important to each Nation more broadly. Several grant applications have been submitted to create employment opportunities and new networks to help each First Nation adapt to the realities of climate change and increased industrial activity occurring throughout our Treaty territories. In doing so, these initiatives will enhance community capability to engage in

research; build practical tools for emergency coordinators and First Nations leadership responsible for emergency management. Our aim will continue to focus on creating opportunities for youth and community members to become involved in wildfire prevention and mitigation work, filling emergency gaps and requirements by developing our own policies and operations that are reflective of concerns each First Nation has brought forward.

SASKATCHEWAN FIRST NATIONS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

As PAGC continues to see a growth in housing, infrastructure, and populations we must ensure that our communities and its band members are prepared to deal with all emergencies. This means our Fire Fighters must be properly trained to ensure the safety of not only the First Nations and Community, but the Fire Fighters themselves. Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has provided funding to cover the cost of training for Fire Fighters for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Saskatchewan First Nations Emergency Management now has a staff of five to provide this training.

The number of Emergencies within the First Nations and Communities continues to rise. Flooding, Wildfires, Evacuations, and other Emergencies are a continued threat every year. This department must ensure that our First Nations have the training to mitigate the damages to



their community. ISC has provided funding to PAGC for training and response in these types of Emergencies.

The 2023-24 fiscal year was one of our departments most challenging and busiest years to date. Saskatchewan saw over 1.9 million hectares of fire which impacted many of our First Nation Communities. Saskatchewan First Nations Emergency Management responded to evacuations due to severe wildfires and smoke conditions. Throughout the course of these Emergencies, PAGC had approximately 2000 band members evacuated from their homes.

2023-2024 SFNEM EMERGENCY DEPLOYMENTS

PRINCE ALBERT GRAND COUNCIL.

Saskatchewan First Nations Emergency Management deployed its officers to out of control wildfires threatening the First Nation Communities of Deschambault Lake, Hall Lake, and Fond Du Lac. SFNEM officers, as well as PAGC EM coordinator Lorne Stewart were heavily involved in boots on the ground operations. Working closely with our Chief's and Leadership during evacuation of Community members. SFNEM officers responded accordingly to communities providing value protection equipment caches, Fire department support and staffing, and Emergency Operation Center Activities while working in conjunction with multi- agencies such as SPSA, Red Cross, ISC, Chartering services and various venders to support mass evacuations of our members.

BATTLEFORD AGENCY TRIBAL COUNCIL.

Saskatchewan First Nation Emergency Management deployed its officers to out of control wildfires threatening the First Nation Communities Saulteaux, Moosomin, and Sweetgrass. SFNEM officers were involved in values protection securement, Emergency Operation Center, and Community evacuation planning. Additionally, a fire truck was procured and donated to Battleford's Tribal Council.

MEADOW LAKE TRIBAL COUNCIL

Saskatchewan First Nations Emergency Management deployed its officers to out of control wildfires threatening the First Nation Communities Buffalo River, English River, Clear Water Lake, and Birch Narrows. SFNEM officers were involved in Value protection securement and deployment, Emergency Operation Center support, Community Evacuation Planning and essential wildfire equipment support and deliveries.

FIRE FIGHTING TRAINING AND SERVICES

We are dedicated to helping communities build capacity and respond to an array of emergencies in and around their homelands. SFMEN officers are actively in our First Nation Communities training structural fire department members, volunteers, and Emergency staffing. The detailed training allows for competent firefighting practices with the ability to respond safely to structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, water rescues and advanced pumping operations. Some of the course we have delivered this year are listed below.

Section A: Fire Fighter I (Structural)

- Introduction to the Fire Service and Firefighter Safety.
- Communications
- Building Construction
- Fire Dynamics
- Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment
- Portable Fire Extinguishers
- Ropes and Knots
- Ground Ladders
- Forcible Entry
- Structural Search and Rescue
- Tactical Ventilation
- Fire Hose
- Hose Operations and Hose Streams
- Fire Suppression
- Overhaul, Property Conservation, and Scene Preservation



STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTER TRAINING LITTLE RED RIVER FIRST NATION

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT FIREFIGHTER EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

This program was developed on a need's basis per community. Meaning it is decided upon a fire hall assessment what gear or equipment can benefit your bands fire department. It is important to make note that we do not have access to an unlimited amount of gear nor is it the goal of this program to fully equip your fire department. It is meant to provide First Nation fire departments that are struggling with funding issues, equipment shortages or maybe your community could benefit from a few extra sets of turn outs and SCBA's. We want to mention all the equipment provided in this program is secured by donation from other Fire Organizations. Although the equipment we are dispensing is inspected and deemed safe, it is still considered used and should not be accounted for when preforming Fire Hall inventories or assessments. The responsibility is of the funding agency to provide adequate funds to support Fire Departments, we are simply buying time.

In the fiscal year of 2023-2024 this program has supported Fire Trucks to Black Lake, South End, Grandmother's Bay, Cote, and Onion Lake. Numerous sets of turnout gear, firefighting PPE and equipment has also been donated to communities across the province.

The wildland program was designed and implemented to provide First Nation communities across the province with the skills to action a wildfire and equipment to safely do so. With the program receiving heavy funding support from ISC, SFNEM wildfire project has been extremely beneficial to all our First Nation Communities. Below is a listed completion and update with the ongoing roll out of the project.

Training: Wildland Firefighter Certification

- 21 OW-200 Type 3 Fire Crew Members courses. (5-day course) 238 Trained in 35 First Nation Communities across Saskatchewan.
- 15 OW 200 Type 3 recertification fitness test / Fireline orientation courses. (1-day course) 174 recertified in 22 First Nation communities across the province.

- 10 OW 305 Ground Ignition courses. (1-day course)
 107 Trained in 17 First Nation Communities across the province.
- 7 OW 324 Chainsaw Safety & Operations courses. (3-day course) 49 Trained in 7 First Nation Communities across the province.
- 5 OW 315 Wildland Suppression Awareness courses. (2- day course) 45 Trained in 5 First Nation Communities across the province.
- 21 ICS 100

EQUIPMENT & PPE:

- 56 PPE Packages (6 FR coveralls, 6 hardhats, 6 gloves, 6 safety glasses, 6 safety boots) distributed to 56 First Nation Communities across the province.
- 39 Wildland Package 1 wildland suppression trailer units distributed to First Nation Communities across the province.
- 9 Wildland Package 2 Wildland suppression skip units distributed to First Nation communities across the province.
- 10 Wildland Package 3 Mark 3 Wildland suppression kits distributed to First Nation communities across the province.

PRINCE ALBERT GRAND COUNCIL SEARCH AND RESCUE

Purpose: The purpose of this procedure is to define the process by which SARSAV and its member chapters are activated to perform search and rescue (SAR) activities



WILDLAND PROJECT

in the Province of Saskatchewan under the appropriate Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

Procedures: The RCMP SAR Coordinator will activate SARSAV. PAGC Search & Rescue will be activated and notified by SARSAV when a search will commence. In different circumstances, should a request by one of the 12 Chiefs to assist in a search in their respective First Nation is required, the PAGC Executive will notify PAGC/SARR to help.

Mission Statement: PAGC Search and Rescue is a community-based volunteer organization providing land, water search and rescue services. We provide the highest quality of Search and Rescue services utilizing a team approach.

Values: PAGC Search and Rescue is guided by the following values. They influence our conduct collectively as a society and as individual team members. We strive to have our actions reflect these values, demonstrate personal accountability and be publicly defensible:

As of year-end, PAGC search, rescue and recovery has been actively apart of 63 searches since becoming a recognized chapter within SARSAV in 2018 but has been a part of many more community-based searches throughout history.

In the fiscal year of 2023-2024 PAGC Searchers have been deployed on 8 missions. The names and details will be excluded from this report for conservation of information in respects to family and community members, but information is available to leadership at a moment's notice.

- Pelican Narrows x 2
- Wahpeton
- Sturgeon Lake
- Deschambault Lake
- Ahtahkakoop
- Red Pheasant
- Litte Red River

The skills and scope of our search team is consistently growing. Team members are training to the highest capability, matching tech, and innovation. This year PAGC/SARR has successfully been trained in advanced aerial drone operations. This highly sought after skill allows searchers to see search areas from aerial prospectives. While on a mission, officers can deploy a drone, use the specialty functions of our units such as infrared, night vision, GSI, aerial grid locks and Multiview camera review. The training and tech have opened many new advantages for our search members and will be able to serve all communities with additional services. PAGC/SARR has deployed drones on 5 searches and 4 wildfire missions in the 2023-2024 fiscal year and has logged 43 hours of flight time.

The success and skill level of **PAGC/SARR** continue to rise with thanks and support from our communities, its leadership, our Chief's, and all members.



FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES RECEIVING WILDLAND PROJECT ROLLOUT EQUIPMENT



PAGC/SARR PELICAN NARROW DEPLOYMENT 2023



HEALTH & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

It has been another busy year. The passionate and dedicated staff at Health & Social Development has led to a very successful year with growing programs and services. The following is a summary of these programs.

ABORIGINAL DIABETES INITIATIVE

The PAGC Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (ADI), Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP), and Nutrition North Canada (NNC) programs are led by a team of three Registered Dietitians and one Diabetes Nurse Educator. Both the ADI and CPNP programs provide services to seven PAGC communities: Wahpeton, Little Red, Montreal Lake, Shoal Lake, Red Earth, Cumberland House, and Hatchet Lake while the NNC program provides services to Hatchet Lake.

ADI aims to improve overall health and well-being of community members, with and without diabetes, by supporting health promotion, diabetes prevention, and self-management of diabetes. CPNP aims to improve the health of pregnant women, new mothers, and their babies by increasing the rates of healthy birth weights and promoting and supporting breastfeeding. The purpose of NNC is to support access to fresh and healthy foods in eligible remote communities.

These three programs incorporate a variety of activities, including: individual client counseling, diabetes and prenatal workshops, cooking classes, batch cooks, grocery store tours, social media educational posts, gardening and food security initiatives, infant feeding and baby food making classes, health fairs, and development of resources.

The dietitians participate in various nutrition and chronic disease related committees which work to improve health outcomes for First Nations through advocacy work, resource development, nutrition and food security initiative(s), and provincial programming.

Highlights of the 2023-24 fiscal year include:

 Provided supplies for raised garden beds and backyard garden cold frames to community members

- interested in learning to plant and grow food through the Harvester's Support Grant.
- Set up Food of the Month displays at on-reserve grocery stores and health clinics to promote healthy eating and provide free samples of select foods.
- Promoted heart health awareness with cooking class and educational presentations during Heart Health Month (February)
- Provided Daycare/Headstart with a Menu Workshop focused on incorporating healthy menu options for kids.
- Offered Family Cook Nights through MakeWay Canada.
- Promoted diabetes awareness by offering diabetes cooking classes and education sessions during Diabetes Month (November).
- Mentored two University of Saskatchewan nutrition students for their Population Health Promotion rotation.
- Partnered with communities from across
 Saskatchewan to support the Type 2 Diabetes in Youth Family Gathering at Dakota Dunes.
- Worked to support gardening initiatives in PAGC communities as part of dietitians' role with the NHCP Healthy Eating Team (HET). These initiatives included seed distribution to all of our communities.



FAMILY COOK NIGHT IN CUMBERLAND HOUSE

ACCREDITATION

Successes: Prince Albert Grand Council Health and Social Development has been awarded **Accredited with Commendation** under the Qmentum Global accreditation program. We have to follow up to maintain our status for the next four years. This was a huge initiative, and the staff all participated in this process! This has been an excellent quality improvement initiative, and we look forward to continued improvement in the quality of service.

Training: As part of the accreditation requirements, the majority of staff have also taken part in "Safety Awareness and Self-Protection" training with the company, Security J2J based out of Saskatoon, SK. February and April 2024.

What Is The Goal Of Accreditation?

What is the Goal of Accreditation? Accreditation lets you measure your organization against health care standards relevant to your organization. You can see what you're doing well and where you can to make improvements. The goal is to help you provide better health care and social services to your clients so you can do what you do best: improve the health and wellness of your clients and communities.

CHILDCARE & HEAD START

Early Childhood Programs

Childcare and Head Start programs remain focused on health, safety and the environment. Upgrades to the playgrounds has enhanced the outdoor environment.

Program and Environments

Planning an early childhood program and environment is more than just outlining what will happen in a week. It is about developing a process that will assist early childhood educators to decide and prepare creative, multisensory, and interactive experiences for both staff and children.

Another focus is on early childhood assessments and referrals for children requiring extra services. The ages and stages questionnaire (ASQ) have been utilized in the programs to support the application process to Jordan's Principle for one-on-one support workers.

The Role of the Early Childhood Director and the Role of the Early Childhood Educator are important roles in the Early Childhood Programs. Two manuals were developed for the PAGC on-reserve Childcare, and Head Start facilities to guide the programs with information on child and staff development.



MONTREAL LAKE 106B LITTLE RED RIVER DAYCARE AND HEADSTART



HATCHET LAKE HEAD START

DENTAL THERAPY

The PAGC Dental Therapy Program focuses on oral health and disease prevention, patient education, and overall health. Oral health and holistic health are linked and as many patients as possible are treated. The program fills a vital role in the community as it can be the first line of defense in maintaining good health. The priority of the program continues to be focused on providing school aged children with optimal dental treatment and facilitating prevention programs for all community members.

The PAGC Dental Therapy program also administers the Children's Oral Health Initiative (COHI). COHI is a community-based service that focuses on preventing dental disease in children from 0-7, their parents and caregivers and pregnant women. COHI services include annual screening, fluoride varnish applications, silver diamine fluoride, sealants, temporary fillings, oral health education and referrals.

All Dental Therapy staff continue to meet licensing requirements by attending CPR refreshers annually and continuing education sessions. The dental team in Hatchet Lake continue to safely provide nitrous oxide sedation to patients who are apprehensive or fearful of dental treatment. We continue to strive to have a strong knowledge base to meet the new challenges faced in dentistry.

PAGC is currently under contract with the University of Saskatchewan to provide comprehensive oral health services in the eastern communities. PAGC has also contracted a private dentist to provide these services in the community of Hatchet Lake.

Our dental team is comprised of Dental Therapists, Dental Aides and visiting Dentists. The dental team works together to give all community members the highest standard in patient care. They continue to identify needs of their communities, educate and promote the importance of receiving dental care from the earliest age possible onto one's adult life. This is done through well baby clinic, school promotion, prenatal and classroom presentations, and regular dental checkups.

Dental Therapists provide diagnostic, restorative and preventative services to the children and to adult patients on an emergency basis. The visiting dentists travel to the communities to provide dental services to the adult population and provide dental treatment beyond the scope of the Dental Therapist. Dental Aides provide support services and ensure the continuation of the COHI program.

With these combined efforts, all dental services within the PAGC communities will continue to progress.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Environmental Public Health Services encompassing the nine program areas were provided to all communities and urban facilities during this reporting period. A team of four Environmental Public Health Officers, a Supervisor and an Administrative Assistant were directly responsible for maintaining the program and service delivery in accordance with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) requirement. The mandatory programs of Water Quality Monitoring, Food Hygiene, Housing investigation and Communi¬cable Disease Control, as well as requests from Chiefs, Health Directors, Nurses, Community Health Representatives and residents received 100% coverage. It should be noted that as of this fiscal year, the PAGC Environmental Public Health program provides services to PAGC, Lac La Ronge, PBCN and Athabasca communities, PAGC urban facilities, PBCN urban facilities in addition to Waterhen Lake First Nation.

Water Quality Program

Safe Drinking Water continues to be a major focus. This program demands maximum attention to prevent the spread of water borne illnesses. It accounts for 40% of the workload. Concen¬tration on maintaining safe drinking water in keeping with Health Canada's Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality and ISC protocols resulted in the up¬grade and frequency of bacterial testing and the addition of sampling for chemical parameters to ensure a safe water supply to all communities. The following statistics provide a summary of water quality monitoring tests conducted during this reporting period as follows:

- 3487 bacteriological samples were field tested
- 400 samples were laboratory analyzed for routine water chemistry
- 144 samples were laboratory analyzed for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMS) and 144 samples were analyzed for Halo Acetic Acids (HAAs)

In addition, 29 Precautionary Drinking Water Advisories (PDWAs) were is sued or maintained in communities that experienced power outages and loss of pressure within the distribution system, operational problems within the water treatment plants, water main breaks or other water quality concerns to ensure public health and safety. Many communities have already witnessed water treatment plant upgrades and the Drinking Water Quality in each

community continues to meet Health Canada's Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality. A Precautionary Drinking Water Advisory (PDWA) is applicable to all homes on Trucked Water System (TWA) in Pelican Narrows since August 2015 due to limited availability and/or access to a routine cleaning program for cisterns. A Boil Water Order (BWO) applies to a well water source which supplies the community store located at Cumberland House-halfway point subdivision since January 1, 2003, due to unavailability of treatment system and disinfection. However, the well water supply is used for washing and cleaning purposes while bottled water supply is used for drinking water and food preparation.

Housing

There has been a high demand for various services in this area. Complaints and requests for inspections continue to increase due to overcrowding, disrepair, lack of main¬tenance, plumbing defects, dampness, poor indoor air quality, mold growth and presence of pests. Advice on corrective measures was provided, and in a few cases, relocation of families was recommended. Staff responded to 152 housing com¬plaints during this reporting period. They included the following:

- 68 for Mould
- 64 for Pest Control Insects and rodents
- 20 for sewage back up, diesel spill, indoor air quality or other health and safety concerns

FOOD SAFETY

Surveillance of safe food handling and hygiene practices were maintained at all food preparation facilities i.e. kitchens and food service facilities including restaurants, convenience stores, full-scale band-owned grocery stores, as well as those in urban areas. A total of 44 food preparation facility inspections and 42 food service facility inspections were completed during this reporting period to ensure safe food handling practices and protection of public health. Over 13 food inspections were completed of temporary food facilities at various Powwow events set up in Sturgeon Lake, Little Red, James Smith and Waterhen Lake during this reporting period.

Institutional Health

The number of public premises in our communities is on the rise. Many communities have seen upgrades and renovations to their existing childcare facilities while other communities have witnessed construction of new childcare and other community care facilities. Three Splash parks were constructed in the communities of Cumberland House, Shoal Lake and Red Earth. However, these parks have not been used to date due to concerns around water consumption and inadequate wastewater disposal.

The table below shows the number of health, childcare, community care, general, and recreational facilities inspected during this reporting period:

FACILITY TYPE	INSPECTIONS
Health Facilities including health centres, nursing stations, and hospital.	8
Childcare centres including day cares and head starts.	42
Community care facilities including schools, group homes, long term care, receiving homes, shelters and treatment centres	35
General Facilities including offices and public bldgs.	22
Recreational Facilities i.e. arenas	7

Solid & Liquid Waste

Solid Waste Disposal program concentrates on inspections of solid waste disposal sites and evaluates the methods of waste collection, waste segregation, site operation and maintenance, types of waste collected and waste containment measures, pest control, and monitors soil conditions, groundwa¬ter conditions and leachate analysis. Landfills and Solid Waste Disposal sites continue to pose an environmental hazard. Crude dumping, lack of covering material, equip¬ment, trained personnel and inadequate maintenance at the sites tend to create an environ¬ment that lends itself to spontaneous combustion with its resultant odours and smoke that contaminates and alters the air quality. Nine (9) inspections were made at Sanitary Landfill sites and Transfer Stations in response to public health complaints.

Wastewater Disposal program focuses on community wastewater treatment systems as well as on-site sewage disposal systems. Eight (8) inspections of community wastewater treatment systems or lagoons were completed during this reporting period.

Emergency Preparedness & Response

The Environmental Public Health Program continues to respond to sewage spills incidents whether reported from lift stations and manholes or other public buildings and facilities within the communities and provides assistance and recommendations on corrective measures when required. Sewage spills incidents are investigated, follow-up sewage spills incident reports are completed, and corrective measures are provided in coordination with PAGC Circuit Rider Training Program (CRTP) instructors. The EPH program responded to one sewage spill incident that was reported at Sucker River school during this reporting period.

CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTS

Climate change projects were initiated in the communities of Hatchet Lake Denesuline Nation, Red Earth Cree Nation and Shoal Lake Cree Nation back in 2019. All interviews were completed and a graduate student at the University of Saskatchewan was hired to analyse the data and complete the reports in coordination with University of Saskatchewan Professor and PAGC EPH program Supervisor. Interviews from all three communities were compiled and submitted to the graduate student for review and analysis in March 2020. The graduate student worked on compiling and summarising interviews from all three communities for his master's thesis. A summary report addressing climate change affects in the three First Nations communities was submitted to PAGC Environmental Public Health program in October 2022. A customized report was prepared and submitted to Hatchet Lake Denesuline Nation in November 2022. The reports were also shared with the health directors of the three First Nations communities. There is a plan to conduct further interviews and activities related to climate change within the communities of Red Earth and Shoal Lake during June 2024 and produce documentaries or videos related to climate change impacts in both communities.

Environmental Contaminants

An environmental contaminants project dealing with assessment of indoor exposure to radon gas among Red Earth Cree Nation community members was initiated in October 2019. Radon dosimeters were deployed in all private residences and public buildings in Red Earth Cree Nation in October 2019. The dosimeters were collected for analysis in October 2020. Radon test results showed that 11 houses had radon levels that exceeded the Health Canada guideline of 200 Bq/m3. All identified homes have undergone radon mitigation. A redeployment of radon dosimeters in homes where dosimeters were lost or misplaced was completed in April 2022. Radon dosimeters were collected and sent to Accustar lab for analysis in April 2023. Radon test results from the second deployment

showed that six houses in addition to the family centre had radon levels that exceeded the Health Canada guideline of 200 Bq/m3. Radon exposure levels could not be obtained for 41 housing units during this reporting period. A household radon survey was completed with all residents of Red Earth Cree Nation in June 2022. Analysis of survey results is underway to assess radon exposure and health related impacts among Red Earth Cree Nation community members.

Training & Education

The PAGC Environmental Public Health program provided compre¬hensive training in the areas of Water Quality Monitoring, Safe Food Handling, WHMIS and other program areas upon request. Food Hygiene training was provided to com¬munity groups, schools, and other facilities. In particular,

- 28 safe food handling training sessions were provided to 282 participants.
- 20 WQM training sessions were provided to 28 Water Quality monitors.
- 10 WHMIS training sessions were provided to 99 Workers.

The PAGC Environmental Public Health program collaborated with NITHA on the delivery of two Environmental Cleaning workshops to health centre janitors, band office janitors in addition to school janitors and maintenance personnel during this reporting period.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PAGC Environmental Public Health program staff attended relevant educational seminars, workshops and conferences to keep up with the latest developments in the environmental public health field.

Conclusion

In general, the Environmental Public Health program staff provided routine and regular services in all program areas with minimal interruption of services. All in all, the Environmental Public Health team func¬tioned without much disruption, was able to provide coverage in all areas to all the communities and continues to take proactive approach to ensure efficient and effective delivery of services to all First Nations communities within the Prince Albert Grand Council in addition to Waterhen Lake First Nation.

HEALTH FACILITIES COORDINATOR

The Health Facility Coordinator assists participating member First Nations with health facility capital planning activities including:

- Identifying projects through inspections and assessments of existing facilities.
- Prepare assessment reports on health facilities, identifying and prioritizing capital needs.
- Prepare capital submissions for ISC-FNIHB approval.
- Negotiate approved submissions with ISC-FNIHB.

MINOR/MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

Approved minor capital projects for various communities for the 2023/24 fiscal year included:

CUMBERLAND HOUSE CREE NATION

Victoria Laliberte Memorial Health Centre

- Completed remediation of the crawlspace sewer backup – completed by licensed contractor First General.
- Replaced the backup generator in the clinic.

Nursing Residence

 Replaced Home Care Nursing Residence with a new 3-bedroom. 2 bath RTM

Work completed:

- Developed 2 lots.
- Landscaping.
- Installed services water/sewer and power.
- Installed chain-link fencing.
- Installed new approach with 18" culvert.

HATCHET LAKE DENESULINE FIRST NATION

Nursing Station

 Pre-Planning of replacement of the Nursing Station with a new 2466.4 m² Nursing Station.

Work completed:

- Assessment Needs.
- Feasibility Study.
- Geotech Studies.

Nursing Residence

Installed backup generators for all nursing residences.

RED EARTH CREE NATION

Chief Miller Naywakayas Memorial Health Complex

Alterations to accommodate a Pharmacy.

Shoal Lake Cree Nation

Health Clinic

- Geotech studies of erosion under the basement slab floor.
- Structural assessment.

The Facility Manager is also responsible for the supervision of operations and maintenance of health facilities for participating First Nations by:

- Monitoring operation and maintenance activities.
- Assist and support maintenance staff.
- Providing vehicle maintenance for remotely located nursing vehicles.
- Complete annual fire inspection for all health centres.
- Complete annual HVAC inspections.
- Rodent control inspections.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Assisted by PAGC EHO's quarterly building inspection, report has been drafted and implementation of this service is currently underway for the communities. The content of the report has general building conditions as well a section for fire and safety. The intent of the report is to identify the need to repair or replace building components to ensure that they are in good working condition.

HEALTH PROMOTION

The 2023-2024 calendar period focused on identifying best practices, promoting effective strategies and creating supportive environments for communities' members within Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC). Health promotion strategies involved engaging in robust health education, awareness campaigns and promotional interventions geared at improving overall health and well-being. Interventions and campaigns focused on tackling pertinent health concerns such as bullying, healthy and unhealthy relationships, injury prevention, drug awareness/ prevention, vaping, smoking and marijuana usage, maternal programming and physical activity inactivity.

BULLYING PREVENTION / AWARENESS AND HEALTHY AND UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

The PAGC Health Promotion Team have undertaken substantial work to create awareness of the effects of bullying and the importance of a healthy respectful relationship. This year's goal is to equip all students with the skills needed to establish safe and healthy relationships. Efforts were mainly focused on creating educational campaigns within schools.

These campaigns mainly focused on promoting the importance of developing and maintaining healthy relationships. Students from the Wacihk Education Complex, Shoal Lake, J.W. Head ED. Centre, Red Earth and Nisto Awasisak, Cumberland House schools had the opportunity to learn about the importance of healthy and unhealthy relationships. It is estimated that over 300 students benefitted from this information.

Bullying prevention/awareness initiatives were also taught to students from grades 1-8 at the Wahpeton school. It is estimated over 30 students could accurately identify that bullying is unacceptable in all forms and promoting a positive school environment is essential for mental health.

Drug Awareness/Prevention Campaigns

As a part of National Addictions Week 2023, students in grades 7-12 in J.W. Head Education Centre in Red Earth received intensive education that focused on the effects and potential harms of drugs and alcohol on the body. This campaign targeted students to make informed decisions related to use of alcohol and other drugs. It is estimated that at least 100 students were educated on importance of saying "no" to drugs. Other initiatives to reduce the initiation of illicit drugs were also conducted in James Smith. It is estimated that at least 100 students from grades 7-12 were informed about the effects of drug abuse.

Community education on the effects of crystal meth (methamphetamine) were also conducted in Shoal Lake. The workshop focused on discussing the signs and symptoms as well as the effects of the drug. It estimated that over 20 communities benefited from this awareness campaign.

Injury Prevention Programming

Injury preventative measures such as water safety programs and swimming lessons were introduced into two communities with PAGC (Cumberland House and

Hatchet Lake). Life Jacket training was also conducted as major preventative strategy in Hatchet Lake. At least, 70 members from both communities benefited from these lifesaving skills. The long-term goal of these programs is to reduce the incidences of drowning, prevent potential injuries and promote safety within our communities.

Physical Activity Programming

Inactivity is major health concern within PAGC communities, as physical activity is not often prioritized. Physical activity is important because it helps to promote healthy development as well as aid with disease prevention. Because of its beneficial effects, the health promotion team was able to prioritize several activity workshops in Cumberland House. Programming included presentations that focused on discussing the benefits of exercise for diabetic patients. In addition, to several 45 minutes aerobics sessions that focused on improving balance, flexibility and strength.

Vaping, Commercial Tobacco and Marijuana Awareness Programming

Marijuana, commercial tobacco and vaping is still an increasingly major health concern within PAGC communities. The 2023-2024 term focused on reducing the initiation of smoking, vaping and marijuana usage among community members. This was done by conducting educational interventions focused on highlighting the risks factors associated with using these substances along with interactive activities that provided students with an opportunity to reinforce knowledge and enhance refusal skills. It is estimated that over 300 students benefited from this initiative.

Prenatal/Maternal Programming

Health promotion strategies focused on increasing awareness and the improving the adoption of healthy habits before and after pregnancy. Strategies include educational programs that focused on discussing the effects of cigarettes, drugs and cannabis on infants. Emphasis was also placed on the effects of second hand and third hand smoke as well as alcohol use during pregnancy. It is estimated that over 30 prenatal and postnatal mothers benefitted from this programming.

HEALTH FAIRS/EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

Health fairs was another strategy used to provide health education and services. Majority of community members within PAGC benefited from strategies that concentrated on distributing resources that promoted healthy lifestyles. It estimated that over 200 community members received some vital information that promotes a healthy lifestyle.

Workshops focused on cancer prevention were also held in some communities this term. The workshop focused on promoting physical activity, reducing or quitting commercial tobacco and limiting alcohol consumption. At least 15 community members also benefited from this initiative.

CONCLUSION

In summary, health promotion activities this reporting period concentrated on providing, education and awareness campaigns focused on pertinent health issues affecting PAGC communities. Despite the many challenges, innovative strategies were implemented to facilitate the improvement of the health outcomes and the adaptation of healthy habits.

Long term plans include the implementation of community cessation classes, promotion of physical activity and the development of new strategies that will track the progress on existing initiatives that protect and promote healthy behaviors which can expectantly act as a catalyst for continuous change in community members .

HOLISTIC WELLNESS CENTRE

CONTINUITY OF CARE

Provides community services to:

- Youth, families, and adults, affected by, alcohol and drug addictions, family/domestic violence, suicide awareness, responsible gambling or life -giving approaches.
- Mental Health supports by arranging office or community visits and or programming that educates participants.
- Emphasis on the prevention and early identification of domestic violence, problematic use /abuse that contribute to domestic violence, will assess clients, determines referral needs, liaises with community sources for further and/or specialized services
- Counsels' clients, formulates and implements treatment plans and provides case consultation and follow-up support on treatment decisions.

Domestic Violence Awareness

- Educating the community workers and the community members about prevention, and intervention to those who are suffering from violence in any way by either their spouse and/or family or community members.
- To incorporate and demonstrate what healthy behavior looks and feels like.
- To incorporate what healthy behavior looks and feels like
- Family enhancement.
- Individual, couple, family, and group counselling

2023-2024 Year End Statistics

Files opened for 23/24	373 (280 female, 93 male)
Treaty	338
Non-Status	7
Metis	28
Employed	191

Cultural Teachings

- The importance of healthy behaviors by using the Medicine Wheel Teaching
- The 7 sacred teachings: Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Wisdom, Humility, and Truth. Daily smudging, praying, and ceremonial sweats.
- Traditional teachings about the roles of a man and woman, in the different stages in life.

PROBLEM GAMBLING

- Empowering those who choose to gamble to make informed choices.
- Programs about prevention and how to stop problem gambling behaviors from developing.
- Building awareness and understanding the risks associated with gambling.
- Incorporate strategies to reduce the risk.

RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING ACTION PLAN

- Outpatient one-on- one counselling.
- GA Meetings.
- Telephone Counselling.
- Individual, couple, family and group counselling on:
 - ♦ Suicide Awareness
 - ♦ Life Promotion
 - ♦ Grief and Loss

Programming

- Cooking Classes.
- Men's Group.
- Women's Group.
- Healing Circles for families.
- Educational Workshops on Intimate Partner and Family Violence.
- Gender Based Violence.
- National Domestic Violence Walk
- Moosehide Campaign Walk
- International Women's Day
- Pink Shirt Day
- MMIMW Walk

YES & LAND - BASED PROGRAMS

Engaging one on one or small group with urban youth provides opportunity for the development of a therapeutic alliance.

- Healing on the land
- Emotional regulation
- Self-Esteem
- Centering Relationships
- Social skill development
- Healthy coping strategies
- Building engagement through healthy and safe relationships
- Using land as the first teacher
- Helping to build healthy/ positive engagement in school/ building capacity in schools
- Wellness (mental/ emotional/ physical/ spiritual)
 through land-based activity
- Youth Empowerment
- Complex Trauma Recovery
- Sustenance Practices
- Resiliency rooted in relationship with land



Responses to:

- Youth suicide + mental health needs
- Grief and Loss
- Loss of language and culture
- Loss of Indigenous ways of knowing and being
- Loss of connection to land
- Reconnection to home communities and families
- Isolation and loss of connection in an urbanized setting
- Decolonizing practices
- Cultural resurgence through place, name, language, storytelling
- Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action
 - ♦ Direct engagement with 900 urban youth
 - 4 18 Public/ Catholic/ Independent Schools in Prince Albert
 - ♦ Group Crisis Response Intervention In 5 PAGC communities
 - Volunteer work with PAGC Food hampers, at cultural events, at sports events
 - Equine therapy
 - Maintaining a positive, progressive partnership with SRDS 119
 - ♦ Land Based Healing activities

FATHERS AND SON'S PROGRAM

Over 30 men and sons have participated in programs, sharing circles, drumming and attendance at hockey games are activities provided.

Plans for Upcoming Months:

- Sweats and Ceremonies, with transportation provided.
- Powwows with Transportation provided.
- Drumming group for beginners, Father and Son's.
- Conferences for fathers.
- Hunting and preparing meat.
- Counselling in office.
- Fishing and boating.
- Work alongside Land based team and Mental health team
- Heading out with HIV, Dietician/Nursing teams and supporting mental health.

JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

In 2018 Prince Albert Grand Council Health and Social Development began providing mental health, education and social supports to First Nations families with children 0-18 years old living in Prince Albert through Jordan's Principle funding. With the original case load set at 25 families and one service coordinator, the number of families requiring supports increased drastically and the need for additional personnel was evident. To date the Jordan's principle program has increased capacity to enhance accessibility to mental health, education and social supports with the addition of two Jordan's Principle Service Coordinators, 2 Jordan's Principle Intake Workers and an administrative assistant.

Prince Albert Grand Council is one of the eighty Jordan's Principle First Nations Service Organizations in Saskatchewan that continues to support families navigating through systemic barriers to ensure that the needs of the children remain at the forefront. In 2023-2024, 600 First Nations families in Prince Albert and surrounding First Nations were able to access support for a variety of needs ranging from educational aides, medical transportation, mental health, respite, dental, housing, hotel accommodations and other social supports.

As the need for Jordan's Principle support services and catchment area(s) increases a data management and collection system will be implemented in the new year to enhance and improve records management.

MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH

All aspects of the Maternal Child Health program are voluntary, strength-based, and culturally safe. The Maternal Child Health and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder programs are designed to deliver culturally safe programs that acknowledge and respect diversity in each community.

The Maternal Child Health home visitors (MCHHV) plan and prepare for the delivery of visiting services for families, that are based on the supports identified by the parents. The home visitors offer cultural teachings in collaboration with the Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

The purpose of these programs are to enhance parenting skills and increase parents knowledge in early childhood development; to educate parents about the various stages of their child's development; to promote healthy pregnancies; to educate and help prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder; to implement cultural teachings for

parents and the community; to include fathers during home visits and programs that are of interest to them such as cradle board making, beading and land based activities.

The parents learn the importance of their child/ren's social, emotional, mental physical, and cognitive development, as these contribute to children's overall healthy development.

The Maternal Child Health program utilizes the Looksee, Nipissing District Developmental Screen for children. This helps parents to understand their child's various stages of their child's development. The Looksee screen also helps to support a referral process for early childhood intervention.

The Maternal Child Health program collaborates with other programs in the community such as the Public Health Nurses, Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP), Jordan's Principle, Prevention, Early Childhood Intervention, and other programs that may benefit families.

It is important for parents to learn traditional teachings such as childrearing practices of long ago; also, for parents to learn of ceremonies relevant to their communities. It is very important to retain First Nation languages during home visits and programming. Shirley Sanderson, Knowledge Keeper, references our Indigenous languages as medicine.

FAMILY CARE PACKAGES

The home visitors provided the parents with family care packages which included early learning toys, books with Indigenous authors and crafting supplies which helps to develop fine and gross motor skills for children. These activities promote parent and child interaction, early literacy, bonding and attachment and family wellness.

EARLY LEARNING KITS

These Early Learning Kits are incorporated during the Maternal Child Health home visits.

The benefits of Early Learning Kits provide early brain development for babies and children; provides an opportunity for parent child interaction; helps to develop children's cognitive, problem solving, social, and emotional skills. In addition, these kits, provide children opportunities to enhance their fine and gross motors skills. These kits help to develop social and emotional skills that are needed in preparation for their school readiness.

Our greatest gift that we can provide for our children is our time.

BIRTH BUNDLE, DOREEN DAY, INDIGENOUS MIDWIFE

In the old traditional way of parenting, the parents were supported by family and community members, parents were not alone while raising their children.

Shirley Sanderson, Knowledge Keeper and Elder, from James Smith Cree Nation, shared her knowledge with families regarding the Moss Bag teachings. One of her amazing teachings are when parents, grandparents, and the relatives sit in a circle; each person in the circle gently holds the baby while baby is in a Moss bag, the Aunties, Uncles and Grandparents take turns tying a ribbon to the lacing of the moss bag softly tells the baby of how they are going help raise the baby.

The purpose of these teaching are the relatives make a commitment to help raise a child using the moss bag teachings of long ago.

Red Earth Cree Nation and Shoal Lake Cree Nation started their Birth Bundles which includes making a moss bag, bonnet, moccasins, baby quilt and the book I Sang You Down. The parents will continue to learn the teachings from a knowledge Keeper about the moss bag, bonnet, and moccasins.

Tikiyakan Cradle Board Project, Red Earth Cree Nation

Sam Daniels, Knowledge Keeper, from Red Earth Cree Nation, is sharing his knowledge with fathers on how to make cradle boards. Every Tuesday evenings Sam teaches the fathers, and Mooshums (grandfathers) how to construct the wood part of the cradle board which includes harvesting smaller ash trees and another specific tree that is soft wood that is bendable for the front pieces that will be attached to the cradle board.

Veronica Daniels, Knowledge Keeper is teaching the women and the Kohkums how to make the cradle wrap, bonnets, moss bags. The women had a variety of fabrics to choose from; and various floral designs and beads to add to their cradle wraps and moss bags.

Each Tikiyakan's will be designed and completed depending on their wood working, sewing, and beading skills.

The home visitors provided booklets 10 Reasons to Breastfeed Your Baby, 10 Valuable Tips for Successful Breastfeeding, by Health Canada, to the parents and prenatal women. The MCH home visitors also shared the benefits of breast-feeding babies with the mothers and fathers, in collaboration of Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Some of the benefits are a special bond, and secure attachment, the baby's ability to self-regulation later on in life, and sharing positive child rearing practices of long ago.

HEALTHY EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Parents continue to receive early childhood development information either through pamphlets or through a PowerPoint and discussions.

Here are some of the topics discussed with the parents.

Emotions: Helping your Child Identify Feelings; Your Child's Brain, showing you care is Smart; Your Child's Brain, building a Strong Structure; Breastfeeding, Young Children and Technology, finding the right balance; Parent - Child Attachment, a bond of trust. Executive Functions help your child think before acting. Epigenetics, how experience" gets inside" our biology.

Another resource parents receive are the booklet series from National Collaborating Center for Indigenous Health are, Fatherhood is Forever, Growing up Healthy, Parents as First Teachers, and Family Connections

MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH REGIONAL MEETINGS WITH FIRST NATIONS INUIT HEALTH

Alternative, Regional F.A.S.D and Maternal Child Health meetings with First Nations Inuit Health, various Tribal Councils and Independent Bands.

MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH ORIENTATION

Maternal Child Health Orientation is ongoing for the communities of Hatchet Lake Denesuline Nation, Red Earth Cree Nation and Cumberland House Cree Nation as these Maternal Child Health home visitors were recently hired for these communities.

MEDICAL REPROCESSING

The Medical Reprocessing Department has successfully fulfilled the accreditation process meeting all the requirements. Provided accreditors the IP policies and health and safety forms including fire safety and hand hygiene audits that were requested for the accreditation process. The reprocessing department has had consistent

patrons using the reprocessing services. We have had no failed cycles past 7 years.

The reprocessing department services all the nursing communities that PAGC supports. We also have expanded to support Stanley Mission, Agency Tribal Council and urban facilities. The health centers that use the reprocessing services are Hatchet Lake, James Smith, Little Red, Pelican Narrows, Red Earth, Shoal Lake, Stanley Mission, and Willow Cree.

A biological spore test is present in each load and for added security test is also submitted to the U of S for machine accuracy and quality assurance. Along with reprocessing I work with the IP officer at NITHA to make sure we are getting the best Infection Prevention support for each community. An IP assessment is done yearly through NITHA. Adeshola Abati submits copies of each assessment and sends me a copy if the community needs extra support such as proper removal of expired supplies. We use BioMed to dispose of any sharps, biological waste disposal and expired medical supplies. PAGC uses a recycling and biological waste disposal company to get rid of any of the items that fit under biological/medical waste category. I'm also on the IP working group we have created IP policies and have updated and kept the IPC handbook current. IP policies are very important for accreditation and have been included with the accreditation process. I'm also still working in the Dental Therapy program just waiting to get confirmation from Health Director in Wahpeton to see how she wants to move ahead with the COHI program.

Reprocessing Services Usage in The Community

Reprocessing services are provided to Hatchet Lake, James Smith, Little Red River, Shoal Lake, Red Earth, Willow Cree, Agency Chiefs Tribal Council, Stanley Mission and Mistawasis. Footcare items are the most reprocessed items.

PAGC NURSING SERVICES

Primary Care, Public Health and Home Care Services:

PAGC Nursing Services provides first level nursing to six First Nations communities. Shoal Lake, Red Earth, Hatchet Lake, Little Red, Wahpeton and Cumberland House. Hatchet Lake receives Primary Care services.

Secondary level support is also provided to two additional PAGC First Nations: Montreal Lake and Sturgeon Lake.

PAGC Nursing Services are responsible for the following functions:

- Nursing administration including management/ supervision of nursing, HIV program and Diabetes Initiative personnel, obtaining supplies and equipment and capital resources.
- Ensure mandatory programs are provided.
 Immunization and Communicable Disease (Public Health), Home and Community Care, and Primary Care (Nursing Station)
- Recruitment and retention of Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses for PAGC first level First Nation communities and assistance with recruiting Registered Nurses for secondary level communities.
- Program development and implementation that reflects Best Standards of Practice.
- Program monitoring and evaluation to ensure high quality nursing service delivery.
- PAGC representation at NITHA Working Groups,
 FNIHB and FSIN Working Groups.
- Liaison with other health agencies, including Saskatchewan Health Authority
- Collaboration with other PAGC service providers to promote an interdisciplinary team approach.

PRIMARY CARE

The community of Hatchet Lake provides primary care nursing services. This facility is open 24/7 providing daily clinical services and emergency care. Services are provided by licensed Registered Nurses with Additional Authorized Practice, Nurse Practitioners, Physicians and Advanced Care Paramedics. There are currently 2 Permanent Nurse Practitioners, offering service 3 weeks each month. Nurse Practitioners have a broader scope than the RN (AAP). Staffing has varied throughout the reporting year, at various times the nurses are working short staffed due to travel issues along with nursing burnout. PAGC has been staffing the clinic with Advanced Care Paramedics offering increased skill set in emergency situations.

Public Health Program

Overview and Essential functions:

- Public health
- Health promotion

- Disease and injury prevention
- Health protection
- Health surveillance
- Population health assessment
- Emergency preparedness and response

The Canadian Public Health Association defines Public Health as the "organized effort to keep people healthy and prevent injury, illness and premature death. It is the combination of programs, services and policies that protect and promote the health of all Canadians." (www.cpha.ca/what-public-health). Public Health is a preventative combined effort from multiple disciplines of health to prevent, manage, and offer services to all ages of individuals in the community in which the people live. Immunization programs, prenatal/postnatal care, health promotion and communicable disease testing/follow-up are just a few of the programs and services public health nurses provide in PAGC communities.

For this current reporting year Public Health programming has stabilized in all PAGC communities since the Pandemic. The nurses have been focusing a majority of their time on increasing vaccination rates along with identifying and eradicating sexually transmitted blood borne infections. Testing, treatment, and follow up lab work is the main goal for nurses to provide service directly within the communities themselves. This ability over the past year has allowed for more efficient follow up. Public Health Nurses work tandemly with the PAGC Communicable Disease Outreach Nurse offering mobile testing days frequently in communities upon request. Decreasing the stigma involved with sexually transmitted infections has been successful as more individuals access regular testing.

Harm Reduction programming continues to be offered in select PAGC communities. Harm reduction programming identifies that many individuals coping with addiction and substance use may not be able to remain abstinent from their substance of choice. Harm reduction provides an option for users to engage with peers, medical and social services in a non-judgmental way that will 'meet them where they are' (https://ontario.cmha.ca/harm-reduction). The primary distribution in the select PAGC communities included clean needle exchange and methamphetamine pipes.

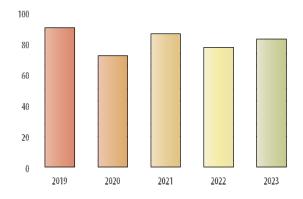
Immunization is a mandated program with a focus on preventing vaccine preventable disease amongst our society. With herd immunity of 95% of the population, a community develops enough protection to provide for the other 5% of those unable to be vaccinated. All PAGC communities continue to be below this 95% rate of protection. Provincial rates overall are well below this target rate as well.

The following charts below illustrate the average 2-year-old and 7-year-old immunization rate over the last five years in PAGC communities. There has been increase noted since the last reporting year for the 2-year-old age group and a decrease in the 7-year-old age group. Varying factors contribute to this decline seen in the 7-year-old children as the pandemic affected the ability for the nurses to offer regular services along with an increased vaccine hesitancy in specific families. Since the pandemic ended the nurses have focused on increasing vaccine rates offering more in school days to reach children attending, flexible options for caregivers and in house vaccination for hard to reach families.

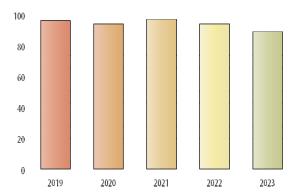
HOME AND COMMMUNITY CARE

The goal of the Home & Community Care Program is to assist families in helping the client in obtaining and maintaining optimum health and to remain living independently in their home and community, as long as it is safe and adequate support is available. It does not replace the responsibilities of the family. To achieve this goal, the program is based on nine essential elements (see diagram below).

Program management and supervision includes scheduling of services, orientation, obtaining office and medical supplies, and supervision of Home Health Aides (HHA). Nursing services include health education, medication



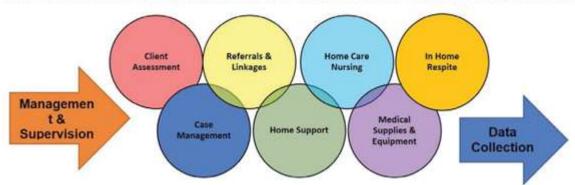
PAGC COMMUNITIES 7 YEAR OLD AVG. IMMUNIZATION RATE



monitoring and administration, dressing changes, foot care, health assessments, and monitoring of the client's health condition and advocacy. Home support includes personal care by a certified HHA and home maintenance. Finally, data collection includes information collection and data input into the electronic service delivery reporting template (e-SDRT).

The program receives a small amount of funding for Palliative Care. Funding is used to obtain palliative care equipment and supplies for all communities as well as provide palliative on call services on weekends in one community.

NINE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF THE HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM



PAGC Home Care Nurses are required to obtain training in Foot Care, Wound Care, Case Management and Diabetes's Education. Staff also have an opportunity to participate in other professional development.

The Diabetes Nurse Educator, who works closely with the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (ADI) Team, is also part of the Home and Community Care Program.

The Home & Community Care Nurse Informatics/Assessor continues to provide support to community nurses.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

We have increased testing for all STBBI's in our communities last year with approximately 1000 tests completed.

Syphilis has remained a concern, with focus to increase testing in our communities as well as treatment and follow up. We have increased testing for Syphilis, HIV and Hep C via DBS testing dramatically in our communities and now added on serology testing via phlebotomy in the communities of Wahpeton, Little Red, Shoal Lake, Red Earth and Cumberland House.

We have continued to utilize the Mobile Health van in our communities to be easily accessible for testing events, educational days and bringing awareness to sexual health. Community members know who we are with just simply driving in with the Wellness van.

Going forward into the new year of 2024 we anticipate regular trips to all our communities under PAGC to offer support to public health nurses in STBBI testing, treatment and follow up.

New goals of focusing more time on the younger population of communities directly in the school system to start early for awareness, teaching and health promotion as preventative health should be a large focus to protect the future of our youth through education.

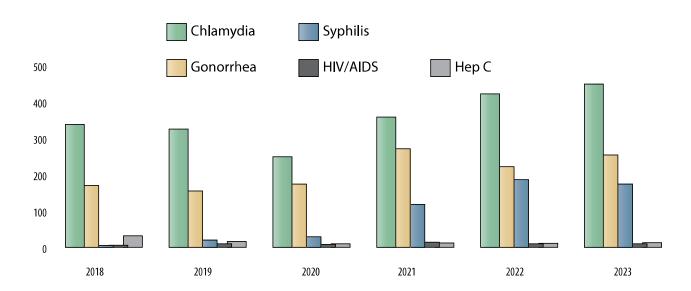
Also, we will focus more on combatting chlamydia and gonorrhea as these statistics continue to rise in all communities in the north.

We also reached our goal of having phlebotomy added to 5 of our communities as was planned in last years report. In addition, we still use dry blood spot testing (DBS) in our health van and clinics which enables us to offer more than one option to clients who may not want phlebotomy.

The following is a report for communicable disease rates in our PAGC communities in 2023. The graphs represent the data for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, HIV, Hep C and Syphilis for the last 6 years. As reflected in the chart, there has been an increase in chlamydia and gonorrhea and a slight decrease in syphilis.

- Syphilis decreased by 6.5% with 174 cases in 2023 compared to 186 cases in 2022
- HIV remained at the same cases at 10 cases each for 2023 and 2022
- Hepatitis C increased by 8% with 13 cases 2023 compared to 11 in 2022
- Chlamydia increased by 9% with 449 cases in 2023 compared to 422 in 2022
- Gonorrhea increased by 9% with 254 cases in 2023 compared to 222 cases in 2022

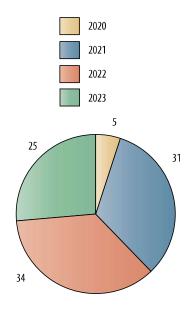
STBBI CASES BY YEAR, PAGC, 2018 - 2023



Tubercul osis

Tuberculosis remains present with a total of 25 cases in PAGC communities in 2023 which is down by 7% from 34 cases in 2022. 2021 had a total of 31 cases. And only 5 cases in 2020.



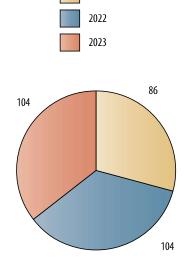


ANIMAL BITES

Reported animal bites for 2023 through all PAGC communities are at 104 which is the same number of cases for 2022 and up from a total of 86 in 2021 reported

ANIMAL BITES PAGC 2021 - 2023

2021



SEXUAL WELLNESS & HIV

The Sexual Wellness and HIV Program promoted the health and the well-being of PAGC community members with direct collaboration with the health promotion team. The PAGC Eastern Sector comprising Cumberland House, Red Earth and Shoal Lake experienced many visits and programming. The Sexual Wellness and HIV Program embraced the PAGC Health and Social Development goal of integrated community-centred care that offered members the quality services they deserved.

The southern communities - (James Smith, Little Red, Montreal Lake, Sturgeon Lake, and Wahpeton) also saw many events during the fiscal year. The northern communities in the Athabasca Basin (Hatchet Lake, Black Lake, and Fond Du Lac) had three days health educational events in each of the 3 communities. In Hatchet Lake and Black Lake much attention was paid to the rapid spread of syphilis, testing and treatment. The PAGC's STBBI testing team and the front-line nurses have started the discussion about a week of testing and treatment in Black Lake to help curb the spread of syphilis and other STBBIs. Observable findings seem to indicate that the stigma associated with HIV and other STIs has reduced drastically in the communities. This clearly reflects in the number of people who willingly participate during community testing events.

STI Education and Testing

STI education and testing campaigns were conducted concurrently in the schools and the communities at large. Educational events coupled with testing turned to be effective strategy based on the number of people that engage in testing after the educational sessions. The youth education and testing primarily occurred in the schools' visits, during summer camps and conferences. However, the adult education and testing occurred during events such as Healthy Family Conferences, Community Health Fairs, Treaty Days, and other community events. In addition to dry blood spot – (DBS) testing, HIV-point-of-care testing (POCT) kits trial was conducted in Montreal Lake to promote self-test kits to help in the fight against HIV.

In conjunction with the health promotion coordinator, the program also focused on drug awareness campaign considered to be one of the contributing factors to the spread of STIs in the communities. Several communities believe that drugs and alcohol misuse are becoming a growing challenge and have acknowledged the obvious negative effects of drugs and alcohol in their community.

Existing records indicate that substance misuse contribute immensely to the spread of HIV and other STIs like syphilis in the communities. Crystal meth in particular has been stated as one of the biggest problems facing the youth and the adult population currently in some of PAGC communities.

HARM REDUCTION - HR

The program also supported the communities with their HR supplies ranging from condoms, syringes with needles to the Needle Exchange programs to reduce the HIV and Hepatitis C transmission via sharing of needles. HR supplies like naloxone nasal sprays were distributed during community training and events to equip members deal with opioid overdose incidents when they occur. To help reduce needle injuries associated with injection drug use, crystal meth pipes have been promoted among users to switch from injecting to smoking. Finally, effort is being made to start a Needle Exchange and HR program in Fund Du Lac.

NURSE NAVIGATORS

Ruby Elderkin

The Nurse Navigator position is a joint venture between PAGC and the Saskatchewan Health Authority. The position is filled by a Registered Nurse who is employed by PAGC and managed collaboratively by both respectable agencies. The office is conveniently located at the Victoria Hospital.

The Nurse Navigator's role promotes culture appropriate safe care for Indigenous people who are seeking service at the Victoria hospital's Obstetrics and Pediatric unit. The service also enhances existing services by educating, advocating and being a liaison for patients, families and staff. Supporting a patient's journey that promotes cultural sensitivity during their hospital stay is essential and assists in an all-around good experience. The service also assists with the patient's transition to hospital care, which can be stressful and sometimes difficult. In addition to this, the Nurse Navigator is utilized in other areas of the Victoria hospital when requested and resources permit.

The patients benefit from this endeavor through teachings, referrals, and emotional support during their stay at the hospital. For example, medical instructions are explained, as well as the translation of medical terminology, explanation of tests or procedures, informed consent and to ensure care plans are understood. The result, the patient having a positive experience and a greater understanding

while in hospital, which greatly assists in the transition back to their respective communities.

Other roles that the Nurse Navigator plays, is finding Indigenous resources for hospital personnel (i.e. finding an elder or developing a protocol for elder consultations), as well as developing community programs (maternal and parenting programs). Having this bridge of information between patient, care givers and hospital generates the holistic patient care. In addition, this promotes reconciliation and patient understanding in healthcare, which leads to treating all with kindness and respect.

The Nurse Navigator role at the Victoria Hospital has made an impact that benefits both staff and the patients they serve. Listed below are indicators and a few examples that demonstrate the success of this invaluable role:

In this reporting year, I have connected with a total of 3433 Indigenous patients/families in the Obstetrics, Neonatal Intensive Care unit and Pediatrics unit at Victoria hospital. The number of patient interactions demonstrate the vital role of the Nurse Navigator, which continues to have an impact on the necessary assistance sought out by Indigenous patients.

Referral forms, although not mandatory to complete, it is a proactive way in connecting with patients who are seeking assistance from the Nurse Navigator. Referrals continue to be received from patients who are coming to Prince Albert and when they leave their community for confinement. I continue to receive referrals for prenatal patients from PAGC communities. I have been following up by making phone calls and connecting with expecting mothers prior to their admission to the Victoria Hospital, as well as answering any questions they may have.

Informational display board has been set up near the entrance of the Obstetrics unit for further awareness. The display board provides information on treaty status applications, birth certificate applications, the role of the Nurse Navigator, Patient Care Coordinator, Cultural Support Worker and other support services in Prince Albert. Patients accessing care on this unit can have easy access to these resources if needed and made aware of all support services in hospital and in Prince Albert.

The Tisdale sewing group generously donated blankets (30), which were distributed to the OBS and Pediatrics. The blankets were distributed to indigenous patients, and all were very pleased by the donation.

April 26, I attended the Prince Albert Victoria Hospital Collaborative Meeting. The meeting entailed a review of

the maternal floor plans for Obstetrics, NICU, Pediatrics and Ronald McDonald room.

May 29th-June 2nd, I attended the PAGC Nurses Professional Development training service. The week was informative as we reviewed nursing policies, were briefed on lung screening, Mental Health and CPR re-certification was also completed at this time.

June 5-6th LaRonge Nurse Navigator attended to the Victoria Hospital and spent the day with Alice and I, learning the role of a Nurse Navigator. The day was informative for the Nurse, as they observed the duties of a Nurse Navigator working in the pediatrics, obstetrics, and NICU. In addition, the Nurse was provided with resources to take back to LaRonge.

I have provided support in the labor and delivery unit several times for patients and families who require additional support. My assistance is requested at times when a patient may be refusing care. Some of the patients that do not understand the process usually do not have any prenatal care. So, after consultation with nurses/doctors, I can relay the necessary information to the patient, explain procedures in a way the client understands, and explain treatment plans that assist in a safe labor and delivery. With the reassurance, emotional support and providing the necessary education, successful deliveries are complete. This also helps with building trust and bridging that gap between the patient and healthcare professionals.

PORT (Prenatal Outreach Resource Team) was utilized this year and more awareness was delivered to the clients about the beneficial team. Patients that met the criteria were encouraged to connect with PORT. Initially, patients tend to decline PORT, but once they are informed on the benefits and how it can assist/support them, they agree to utilize the team. The reassurance that was provided has assisted with the referrals.

Referrals have been made to PAGC holistic health for parents in pediatrics whose kids have been deemed palliative. Emotional support is provided as well as connecting them to the necessary support groups.

A learning session was planned for the Maternity Unit with Lena Burns (Maternal Child Health) on Wednesday, February 28th from 1230-1:30 pm. This in-service training encompassed "Traditional birthing re: placenta, umbilical cord and birthing" with guest speaker, Elder/knowledge keeper, Shirley Sanderson. The objective for this inservice was for the staff to have a greater understanding on some traditional practices, in relation to labor and

delivery, which was an area that was identified from past incidents. The goal was to understand why some patients/ families request the placenta or keep the umbilical cord for traditional practices. Furthermore, for everyone to be aware of cultural sensitivity and first nations culture. There was a total of 17 participants that attended the in-service training. Everyone had positive feedback and input on this sensitive topic. The in-service also assisted in discussions with the Nurse Educator, who requested to meet and develop policy regarding placenta handling. Input from Lena and Elder Shirley would also be incorporated.

SHA mandatory online training on my connection (due March 30, 2024). I completed the Privacy Training, Trauma Informed Practice (Awareness and Cultural Safety), Infection Prevention and Control Annual Review, and Cultural Responsiveness Training. Three certificates were received upon completion.

ALICE BIRD

I was hired as the 2nd Nurse Navigator for PAGC in December of 2022 and am responsible for the following departments: Emergency Room, ICU, Level 4 – Surgical ward, Level 5- Medical ward and Level 6 – Medical/Palliative ward.

My schedule is as follows: Monday and Thursday - Level 4 (Surgery), Tuesday - Level 5 (Medicine), Wednesday - Level 6 (Medical/Palliative), and Friday - Emergency/ ICU. I participate in bedside rounds on each ward at 10am (Side 1) and 11am (Side 2) with all the disciplines that work closely with the patient during their admission (Patient, patients family if in attendance, doctor, Nurse in Charge, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Dietician if available, PCC's and Cultural Support). These rounds are called SiBR (Structured Interdisciplinary Bedside Rounds), where each discipline has a chance to discuss the patient's care in hospital, their goals of care for that day and plans for discharge, if there are any barriers or safety concerns that may hinder their discharge. Patient and families are encouraged to ask questions or voice any concerns during the bedside rounds.

The Nurse Navigator role in the Victoria Hospital has made a positive impact that benefits both staff and the patients they serve. Listed below are a few examples, strengths and indicators which demonstrate the success of this invaluable role:

Since I have been employed with the Victoria Union Hospital for many years, all staff (nursing unit managers, nurse in charge, doctors, patient care coordinators, physio

therapists, etc.) have a greater understanding of my role and ask for my assistance in obtaining more information about a patient from either family or nursing from their home community, asking me to come speak to a patient who is upset or has concerns re: their care or issues at home or assisting in arranging IV antibiotics either in community or outpatient basis, for example, I have been asked to call patient home communities to see if nursing staff is able to assist or support patients with IV antibiotics so stable patients can be discharged earlier instead of staying in hospital for the whole duration of their IV antibiotic regime. If the home community is unable to support the patient, arrangements are made with NIHB to have the patients stay in a hotel and return to the ward at scheduled times to complete their dose of antibiotic. There are times when the doctor is unable to switch the IV antibiotic to oral antibiotics due to the type of infection/ organism being treated.

Patients are comfortable talking to me about their concerns with their admission or staff as I am not an SHA employee. They are reluctant to voice their concerns directly to the nurse or doctor, in fear of retribution. I obtain verbal consent from the patient to bring their concern to the unit manager, reassuring them that it is to bring change in the care all patients receive. I provide the patient with an update after talking to the unit manager and any changes they may have initiated from their concerns.

I provide interpretation of medical terminology for the patients as most are not comfortable asking for clarification during SiBR rounds. I ask if they have a good understanding of their admission and answer any questions they may have in regards to upcoming procedures, medications, etc.

I have been asked to be present during family meetings in ICU and the wards to provide emotional support and answer any questions family may have in regards to their loved one. These are usually the difficult discussions where decisions need to be made for continuance of care for the patient ie) end of life care, DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) status or hospice care. I have sat with the family after the doctor and nurse leave to answer questions or just allow the family time to talk.

Advocate for patients to ensure a safe environment during their admission ie) ask for patient to be moved to a new room due to the patient not feeling comfortable or safe with the other patient if in a shared room.

Able to talk directly to unit managers and receive their support in regards to some doctors insisting I talk to families immediately regarding discharge plans or DNR status when I do not think it is the right time to have

those discussions ie) after receiving news of new cancer diagnosis or patient is palliative but doing poorly. Some families want to try traditional methods of symptom management so I advocate for the family to try traditional medicines first before insisting on Western medicine.

Able to have discussion with addiction counselor and ACAP worker about having AA meetings in the hospital as they already have NA meetings and now have both NA and AA meetings on certain days for admitted patients.

In June 2023, I started to work with 2 surgeons, Dr's Royeppen and Pillay, with calling their northern patients within the PAGC communities who come to Ambulatory Care for colonoscopies and gastroscopies. I call the patients, provide education, explain the procedure, ensure they have transportation with an escort and answer any questions they may have. Since then, I have expanded to all Indigenous patients from all communities, have added all of Dr Lumb's patients and all the surgeons booked on Thursdays.

Stats for Dr Royeppen and Pillays No Shows for June 2022 – March 2023 (Only tabulated Dr Royeppen and Pillay's patients as their patients were called majority of the year):

■ Total Amount No Shows: 23/33 = 69% no show rate

Results for No Show rate for June 2023 – March 2024 (All patients called including Lumb's and all Thursday surgeons):

Total Amount Indigenous patients: 125

Total Amount of patients who made appointment: 88

Total Amount No Shows: 37/125 = 29% no show rate

Total Amount Attendance: 88/125 = 70%

Total Amount of patients called: 46

Total Amount of patients who made appointment: 78%

Total Amount of Attempted calls: 48

Total Amount of patients who made appointment: 60%

Qualitative improvement received from patients, staff and physicians on satisfaction with care.

SHA requesting for another Nurse Navigator to assist with all pre-op education for all Indigenous patients. In the meantime, I am hoping to expand to more surgeons and provide more education with the scopes. I spend approximately 1 hour per surgeon date doing the calls and

education and about 1hr at the end of the month doing chart reviews of the patients procedure to collect data.

In January 2024, I was asked to join in on the OR utilization meeting in regards to the high amount of cancelled dental surgeries for the pediatric patients. For the month of January, out of 61 booked surgeries, 17 surgeries were cancelled (17/61= 27%). Dr. Jenna Gogolinski is one of the dentists who does a majority of the surgeries in the hospital and has been present for some of the meetings. We identified the barriers and are working to improve the attendance rate. Some of the **barriers** noted are as follows:

Jordan's Principle: Long wait times to see if the patient will be approved for coverage as they do not have their treaty numbers yet. Dr. Gogolinski said it can take up to 3 – 6 months before she receives approval from Jordan's Principle to do the surgery.

Certain communities refusing to transport patients if they are awaiting approval – being told they will only transport NIHB patients, not Jordan's Principle patients.

Requests for dental surgeries are being incorporated with basic need requests even if dental request is flagged as urgent/emergent. High rate of requests means high queue wait time of emails and approvals. Unsure if there is a triage system to sort out priority of requests.

Increase need for education from the community dental therapists and public health nurses in regards to NPO status and importance of dental health. Surgeries have to be cancelled as child arrives, having had a full breakfast or eating/ drinking as they are walking into Day Surgery.

Concerns with equitable dental care for residents of Northern and First Nation communities. There are a number of vacant dental therapist positions within the SHA communities that are in close proximity to First Nation communities.

Parent/Escort and child arrive from their community, check into the hotel but do not arrive at the hospital for surgery even after receiving a call in their hotel room from the hospital.

Parents unable to find childcare for their other children in their community so they bring their children with the patient to the hospital which is a concern as the parent has to be with the patient when they are taken to the OR then again in the Recovery Room so there is no one to watch the other children while the parent is gone from Day Surgery.

CHALLENGES/BARRIERS

Some escorts refusing to stay at the hospital with the patient (during the day) and nursing staff have difficulty contacting them to come to the hospital to either be with the patient, translate for patient or answer questions doctor/nursing may have yet the escorts are contacting Patient Care Coordinators to put in requests for extensions on their accommodations.

There is an inconsistency with patients and escorts. Underage patients (14-17 year olds) are being sent to the Emergency Room from primary care clinics without a parent/guardian or an adult escort for further medical treatment or a mental health consult. They are assessed, receive medical treatment or see the psychiatrist then discharged from the Emergency Room and ACAP worker (Acute Care Access Program – Social worker) has trouble contacting next of kin or an adult to ensure patient has a safe place to go. When NIHB or after hours NIHB called, they say the patient can be sent back to their community by in city taxi which is not feasible due to safety concerns of the teenager (ie: 15 year old girl to be sent by taxi back to Pelican Narrows alone with cab driver). On the other hand, patients who do not meet the NIHB criteria for requiring an escort, are being sent with an escort by the clinics then staff having difficulty getting the escort back home or to be set up for accommodations through NIHB, if patient is admitted to the hospital.

Patients are being sent out from their fly in communities as an emergency, for either admission/surgery or surgical/ Internal Medicine consult with no identification so once they are discharged, they are not allowed to board the flight home because they do not have Government issued ID and photocopies are not accepted. The airlines state it is due to their policy of requiring Gov't issued ID and that a letter written by the PCC or doctor is not accepted anymore. This causes a problem with getting them back to their communities.

Had an issue with NIHB refusing to arrange transportation for a patient to get back home to their community when they came to PA for personal reasons (shopping, visiting family, etc) and the patient ended up getting sick and required admission. I called and spoke to a supervisor who stated it was their policy if they (the patient) were not sent out by the home community then they are on their own to get back home. I advocated for the patient, saying the patient did not ask to be sick and admitted but was told "That is the risk they take when they decide to leave the reserve." I was told they can return home the way they came and

when I said the ice road is closed now, the supervisor said that ice roads were not a consideration when the policy was made.

Total Amount of Patients Seen for 2023-2024

- Level 4 (Surgery) 610
- Level 5 (Medical) 249
- Level 6 (Medical/Palliative) 223
- ER/ICU 91
- Total = 1,173 patients seen for 2023-2024 fiscal year

RESOLUTION HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES

The Resolution Health Support Services provides information and services to foremost the former Indian Residential School students and their families. The RHSW program recognizes the continued Intergenerational effects and serve clients who are directly affected by IRS including; Indian Day Scholar; Indian Day School; Sixties Scoop; Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIWP); and upcoming settlement agreements including child welfare and the boarding home program. We work the twelve bands within the Prince Albert Grand Council.

SUMMARY:

The RHSWs continue to provide emotional support when requested to attend at community and local gatherings; information sessions by Health Canada or the communities; and intervention crisis community support. Another component of work is to help individuals before, during and after they apply for their compensation. Individuals may qualify under different compensations and may also qualify at different levels depending on the compensation settlement. We also provide interpreting services in Cree and Dene to the survivors so there is a better understanding of a class action process. We also assist when requested to be in care homes, hospitals, home or in the penal institutions. This year the program began hosting weekly Monday Wellness Support meetings which follow the twelve-step program.

The Elder (CSP) offers opening prayer and/or smudge at invited functions and staff meetings within the Health and Social Development department. The Elder's role is vital as many claimants feel safe when an elder is present. The Elder is also available to survivors to make an appointment for one to one traditional counseling and if they request to

participate in a traditional event or ceremony. Each class action settlement is unique in what compensation it offers to the survivors and their families.

The RHSW program offers an educational element. The RHSWs facilitates the Kairos Blanket Exercise; Grief and Loss; Medicine Wheel Teaching; and Land Based Teaching. We have gone into the schools and communities to speak on the history of the Indian Residential Schools, reconciliation, and working towards healing together as a whole. The Kairos Blanket exercise is an interactive learning tool of history and the shaping of the Settlers and Indigenous Peoples relationship.

Indian Residential School

September 30th is observed as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and marks Orange Shirt Day which recognizes 'Every Child Matters'. This day honours the children who survived and did not survive the Indian Residential School. After five years of gathering survivors' statements, the Truth and Reconciliation released its 94 Calls to Action in 2015 this report is to better relationships and guided the RHSW program in the following years. In 2022 Kamloops Indian Residential School reported the findings of 215 graves on its grounds, this was the first of many searches on other Canadian Residential Schools grounds. Many survivors were triggered and sought emotional support as some had missing children from their families.

Our gathering was held on Saturday, September 28, 2023 beginning at the MMIWG Memorial in downtown Prince Albert followed by a walk to the residence.

Winnipeg August 2023 the RHSW and Elders were recognized by the National Centre for the Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR). Gabor Mate was the keynote speaker at the three-day event.

Vancouver 2024 the RHSW attended the Assembly of First Nations (AFN)'s National Wellness Gathering for Indian Residential School Survivors. The three-day conference had keynote speakers and break out sessions held through out the event.

Kairos Blanket Exercise was facilitated on March 12, 2024 at the Prince Albert Multi Cultural Centre.

NATIONAL INQUIRY INTO MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS (MMIWG)

On June 5th, 2018, the Government of Canada announced it would assist the National Inquiry into MMIWG and provide mental health support services to survivors, family members and those affected by the issue of MMIWG from now until June 30, 2020. To ensure that clients have access to these services immediately, Indigenous Services Canada is building upon its existing resources and processes through the established Non-Insured Health Benefits Counselling and Indian Residential Resolution Health Support Programs.

We held our MMIWG Awareness Round Dance March 9, 2024 at Urban Services.

INDIAN DAY SCHOOL

Indian Day Schools included all those day schools established or designated as such by the federal Department of Indian Affairs in which Aboriginal students across Canada were required by law (Indian Act) and were funded in part or solely by the federal government. Unlike Indian Residential Schools, students did not reside at Indian Day Schools.

Our office has applications and will assist survivors with their application forms if they request assistance including faxing applications. RHSWs and the Elder is also available for debriefing and will refer to other services if needed. The deadline date was extended to January 6, 2024.

There were many complaints about the Indian Day School settlement process and currently there is a group of survivors who have taken the agreement to Canada's Supreme Court and await a decision if the case will be heard in court.



CONTINUED TRAINING AND SELF-CARE

As RHSWs and Elder Support workers, we continue our training that will help us deliver programming to the communities. November 2023 and March 26 – 28, 2025 the RHSW attended the RHSW Gathering in Saskatoon. The gathering is provided by SIAST and is RHSW workforce development training; our topics this year included Sixties Scoop Training and Emotional and Mental Wellness.

SUMMARY:

The HSSW/RHSWs continue to provide emotional support to day school, day scholars, and sixty scoop claimants or survivors requested to attend by the claimants themselves or either by Health Canada. When requested, RHSW's will provide interpreting services in Cree and Dene to the claimants so there is a better understanding of the lawyers, legal process or application process. We also assist when requested to interpret to make sure we do our best to encourage and keep the claimant safe and able to tell his/her story.

The Elder continues to assist Day School claimants with applications and by providing prayers and smudging. The Elder's role is vital as many claimants feel safe when an elder is present. The Elder is also available to survivors to make an appointment for one to one traditional counseling and also if they request to go in the sweat lodge.



HSSW and RHSW's roles have shifted into an educational and healing component. The HSSW/RHSWs will be going into the communities to speak on the history of the Indian Residential Schools, reconciliation, and work towards healing together as a whole with program such as Grief, Life Skills and Traditional Cultural programs. The RHSWs can now facilitate the Kairos Blanket Exercise, which is a learning tool of how the Settlers took away the Turtle Island and put the First Peoples on little lands, called Reserves, and thus began the arduous relationship between the two. It is a very powerful workshop and gives a visual look into the history of where it began.

- April to June 2023 Every Monday afternoon support group for men.
- April to June and continuing Support Community programs (IRS, MMIWG, Cultural events, and Mental Health workshops.
- April 2023 Planning for the MMIWG2SGD & People conference – Writing letters for speakers/ planning the event
- April 25th & 26th/2023 RHSW gathering Saskatoon, Sask.
- May 3rd, 4th, 5th, 2023 MMIWG2SGDP conference at Travelodge in Prince Albert, SK.
- June 1st/ 2023 Red Earth Traditional Teaching Cultural Support
- June 12th/2023 Creating Hope Through Action EA Rawlinson Centre for the Arts.
- June 13th & 14th/2023 1st Aid and CPR training at Urban Services Center Prince Albert, Sask.
- **June 15th/2023** Tipi Teaching by Mary Lee from Pelican Lake

- June 22nd/2023 Women's Commission Memorial Walk starting at The MMIWG monument on River Street to Kinsmen Park
- June 27th & 28th/2023 Life is Sacred Training Suicide Prevention
- July 24th/2023 Sturgeon Lake Treaty Day

TELEHEALTH

Telehealth is a live two-way interactive video conferencing that remotely connects a healthcare provider with a patient.

Video conferencing connections are private and secure. They are made possible with Community Net (CNET), a private network, that is accessed by authorized users only.

Prince Albert Grand Council Health & Social Development (PAGC H&SD) Telehealth Program has 10 sites. They are operational and have trained health staff to support clinical, administrative, and educational sessions.

- 1. PAGC Holistic Wellness
- 2. Cumberland House Victoria Laliberte Health Centre
- 3. Hatchet Lake Health Centre
- 4. James Smith Health Centre
- Montreal Lake William Charles Memorial Health Centre
- 6. Red Earth Health Centre
- 7. Shoal Lake Health Centre
- 8. Sturgeon Lake Health Centre
- 9. Wahpeton Health Centre
- 10. * Little Red





MMIWG2SGDP CONFERENCE AT TRAVELODGE

*Little Red Telehealth site: clinical, administrative, and educational sessions are scheduled by Roderick Sanderson, Lac La Ronge Telehealth Coordinator. On request, I will also support scheduling and training.

PAGC H&SD Telehealth program was approved for a Telehealth Centralized Scheduling Project in November 2023. The project is to support scheduling and training to four independent First Nation sites: Mosquito First Nation, Leading Thunderbird Lodge, Cree Nations Healing Lodge, and Moosomin First Nation.

Video conferencing training is a Train the Trainer model for the main and backup telehealth support staff. The Train the Trainer model is also for other health staff that would prefer the complete training rather than the Introductory training that involves readying the system for audio/visual, remote control functions, and how to reset the codec and UPS.

Video Conferencing Training (VCT): 9 Sessions, 21 Participants, 7 locations.

Telehealth Sessions:

Clinical: 30

Administrative: 35

■ Educational: 17

IT Support

Support health staff with the basics of IT-MS Software, Adobe, MS Teams Software and Devices, MS Teams Virtual Conferencing System, laptops, and accessories

ID CARDS

PAGC Health Staff – 29, PAGC Nurses – 9; PAGC Daycare-5, PAGC Assembly – 28; Total 71

MANAGER CAPITAL PROJECT AT THE SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH AUTHORITY (SHA) PRINCE ALBERT VICTORIA HOSPITAL (PAVH)

Edith Kadachuk

Overview of the PAVH duties and commitments of the PAGC/SHA partnership are listed in 3 themes:

- 1. Model of Care
- 2. Representative Workforce
- 3. Physical Design

This position works to ensure PAGC is represented in all areas of the Victoria Hospital Project. Engaging with First Nations, individuals, families and communities. She acts as a liaison to ensure all voices are heard.

The SHA FNMH and PAGC are working closely and collaboratively with the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina and federated and affiliated college; Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, and Dumont Technical Institute, Saskatchewan's Regional Colleges; and Regional Colleges = Carlton Trail and Northlands College.



SASK POLYTECH CAREER FAIR MARCH 2024



VICTORIA HOSPITAL EXPANSION DESIGN



Information Technology Services provides support for all departments in the Prince Albert Grand Council as well as many of the communities. This support covers a broad range of services including purchasing, consulting, training, desktop publishing, website and database development, website hosting, networking, helpdesk, trouble-shooting and installations.

Along with our ongoing support for PAGC departments, health clinics and band offices, here are some of the projects the IT department worked on during the 2023-2024 fiscal year:

- Deployed new security hardware at all remote PAGC locations to allow for central management
- Updated to a more comprehensive antivirus protection software to also stop email phishing attacks
- Switched from a server based infrastructure to one that is more cloud based. This allows staff laptops to work securely and with all their files anywhere with an internet connection.
- Worked with various departments to lock down shared file access and streamline workflow processes using new technology such as Microsoft Teams and Sharepoint.



IT STAFF (LEFT TO RIGHT): PATRIK REMY, MIKE WELLS, MICHAEL WILLIAMS, PAUL KETCHAM

- An IT Service Management Database System (itsm. pagc.net) to keep track of support and purchase requests from other depts/communities.
- Deployed the reporting system for the Holistic Wellness Center and provided staff training
- An online registration, scoring and judging application for the Fine Arts festival
- Coordinated with vendors and implemented IT systems during the Spruce Lodge building renovations and the Yuasni Tipi Family Treatment Centre construction.

We continue to support and add functionality to existing department specific database systems made for the Spiritual Healing Lodge, Spruce Lodge, Health and Social Development, Technical Services, Emergency Operations, Forestry, Finance, Personnel, Justice and Education.

Security was a large focus again this year. Threat operators continue to attempt to compromise PAGC systems. Security measures implemented in the previous years held strong against such threats. As environments become more secure threat operators have discovered that people are the greatest security threat to an organization and we've taken steps to mitigate this.

When the IT Department was founded, the goal was to provide infrastructure and support required for staff to work. Today, we see a larger future for technology in our workplace and our lives. As we move away from a strictly infrastructure and support model, the IT department is always looking for ways technology can benefit all PAGC Communities.

WOMEN'S COMMISSION

The PAGC Women's Commission lost our founder, our heartbeat at the end of 2023. This loss halted us for awhile but we knew Shirley Henderson would want the work to continue. Special thanks to Deborah McLean for stepping up as interim chair during the period of restructure, policy development with new act in place, and our mourning.

We have been watching the construction of the women's shelter we worked so hard for continue in Montreal Lake. We continued on with our gathering of clothing for our annual giveaway.

On July third we held our 20th annual walk with a wonderful crowd coming to support. We do this to continue bringing awareness to the ongoing crisis of missing and murdered women & LGBTQ2S as well as our indigenous men. It is always so good to see our support from city and our communities.

As always, we have 14 members, one from each of the 12 communities with 2 each for the larger communities of PBCN & LLRIB, members are (as of this report):

- Chair: Anita Parenteau Sturgeon Lake
- Stephanie Waditaka Wahpeton
- Diane Mcdonald Fond Du Lac
- Beryl Whitecap Shoal Lake
- Pearl Doris Morin La Ronge
- Karen Charles Stanley Mission
- Sharlene Disain Black Lake
- Geena Mckay Red Earth
- Bella Dumais Southend
- Rose Dorion Pelican Narrows
- Vice Chair: Tanya Moostoos Jamesmith
- Annie Joseyounen Hatchet Lake
- Caroline Stewart Cumberland House
- Rachel Henderson Montreal Lake

Last year at our banquet we received well over 200 applicants for our annual scholarship and awarded 10 outstanding women in their post-secondary endeavors. We look forward to continued support in our desire to help those who need our assistance.



SILVER CROSS MOTHER



HONORING FOR SHIRLEY HENDERSON



WOMEN'S SHELTER CONSTRUCTION



JUSTICE UNIT

GUIDING PRINCIPAL

Alternative Measures is a Victim Based Program and does not only deal with those facing charges before the courts, but to work with and listen to the victim and to try to determine the underlying issues, concerns or factors which contributed to the situation.

Justice as Healing "to enhance and support the provision of justice services and develop new initiatives in a culturally sensitive manner, recognizing the importance of utilizing First Nations methods to heal both the individuals and communities within the Prince Albert Grand Council region and surrounding areas, while adhering to the Spirit and Intent of the Treaties".

PAGC Justice Unit consists of 4 Sections,

- Prince Albert Alternative Measures which attend court in Prince Albert daily.
- Rural Alternative Measures workers located in 12 PAGC Member Nations attending court anywhere from twice a month to 4 times a week.
- Court Workers are also in a majority of these 12 Member Nations and assist residents in dealing with and understanding the court process and repercussions.
- Sandy Bay Justice is a separate contract that Sask Justice had asked PAGC Justice to absorb along with their other programming as this was a program that was suffering with its services and administration of the program.

Types of programming provided are:

- Victim/Offender Mediation
- Accountability Hearing
- Formal Cautioning Agreements
- Family Group Conferencing
- Healing & Talking and Sentencing Circles
- Community Justice Forums.

RURAL COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAM

The Rural Justice Program continues to provide services to the communities such as, but not limited too:

- Crime Prevention Programming
- Aboriginal Shield Program (Alcohol & Drug Prevention)
- Anger Management Facilitation Training and classes
- Sentencing Circles/Healing Circles
- Gang Prevention and presentations in conjunction with the RCMP

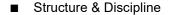
The Rural Community Justice Program is a community-based program that diverts youth and adult offenders away from the formal court system. The Program receives Pre-Charge and Post-charge referrals from RCMP, Crown Prosecutors schools and continues to see an increase of referrals from presiding Judges.

This year, we have seen an increase in pre-charge referrals. This is where police, schools, band administration can elect to have matters referred to Alternative Measures in lieu of going through the courts. If the post charge route is not successful, then the regular process can still be used.

Sentencing Circles, Healing Circles and Community Forums were held in various communities to deal with criminal matters committed by a group of youths. This forum consisted of bringing community members, the accused's, the police and representatives of the band together to deal with this matter in an open discussion and solution. These forums were found to be very beneficial and will be used more in the future. Frequency in which these types of resolutions have increased, and the Provincial Justice Program is more receptive to these types of resolutions.

FIRST NATIONS CADET CORPS

PAGC Urban Cadet Corps Program, Sturgeon Lake Cadets and Red Earth is now back up to full strength at the PAGC Urban Services Center every Wednesday along with special event requests as flag bearers and for Grand Entries.



- A Sense of Belonging
- Motivation
- Recreation
- An Opportunity to Lead
- Hope and Self Worth

Cadets from PA Urban, Sturgeon Lake and Red Earth were involved in Indigenous Day March and Grand entry as well as the Sturgeon Lake Pow Wow. The First Nations Cadet Corps is not only designed to keep youth out of trouble and out of our court system, but to encourage and prepare for the future in which we may need future officers for Self Administered policing which is presently sought by PAGC and some First Nations.

PRINCE ALBERT URBAN ALTERNATIVE MEASURES

The Prince Albert Urban Alternative Measures Program (PAUAMP) is under the umbrella of the Prince Albert Grand Council since launch in 1996-1997. PAUAMP is a status blind program which receives post charge referrals from the Crown Prosecutors office. Pre-Charges are received from the Prince Albert City Police and RCMP; however, the decision to refer a pre-charge is at the discretion of the Crown Prosecutors.

Most recently, we created a working group called "One Wheel" which is continually forming partnerships with other organizations to deal with issues within the community of Prince Albert. The name "One Wheel" was chosen because we have found that there are numerous organizations throughout PA receiving funding and developing programming for the same issue that others are dealing with. Our thought is "Why are we all re-inventing the Wheel to deal with the same problem and wasting resources and money when we could all work together. This group meets the second Thursday of each month and tasks are assigned and to be completed by the next meeting. Partners include, Bernice Sayese Center, John Howard Society, City of PA, Metis Center, Riverbank Developments, PAGC Holistic and as time marches on, we will be inviting other groups.

SASKATCHEWAN ABORIGINAL COURT WORKER PROGRAM

The Court Worker Program operates in conjunction with the Rural Community Justice Program as many of the Justice Workers divide their duties between both programs.

The role of the court worker is to support clients that are in the judicial system by attending court with the client, answering any questions the client may have, advising the client of their rights, and referring the client to specific services such as Legal Aid. Workers continue to receive training to upgrade their skills and level of service.

PAGC Court Workers Program has been able to continue service to clients through phone, social media and meetings held and adhering to preventative protocol.

The court worker program continues to improve and expand which has resulted in our funding for services doubling allowing the training of more court workers and workers at more points.

OVERALL

We continue to see an increase of files being diverted from the Courts to our program, and we maintain constant contact with the Crown and the Police to encourage more files to be directed to the program to be dealt with.

It is encouraging to see more jurisdictions going the Pre-Charge route with Alternative Measures instead of tying up our already stressed court system.

When called upon the Justice Unit mediators can assist in diffusing situations before they become a matter for the police and courts through mediation. This includes situations in the home, schools and workplaces.

Rick Sanderson - PAGC Director of Justice

URBAN SERVICES

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

PAGC Urban Services Cecntre's Success this past year is highlighted by the centre's productivity. Staff achievements, and community impact over the past year. The ability to deliver programming has enhanced the social and community wellbeing of the thousands of people and their families that come through our door in the past year.

Families from all across the 12 band catchment area of Prince Albert Grand Council have responded in a very positive fashion, highlighted by the recent success of our back to school program, where were able to help out and have an impact in the community, giving out over 1000 Back to School supply kits. The positive results instill confidence among both the staff and the public. Ensuring continued success and community benefit in the future.

The ongoing commitment of our staff aligns with out vision for the future, as we continue to develop course offering, programming that enrich the lives of our individuals, at a time that a service and facilities such as ours, is in high demand. Our ability to work with the City Of Prince Albert governance, as well as our First Nation governance has added strength to our momentum, that will continue in the years to come.

We look forward to an exciting fall and winter programming and community commitment that allows us to create a better Community.

Thank you to the staff the community for this past year, you have been great.

Geoff Despins

PROGRAM'S AND SERVICES

- 1. Pagc urban service labour force
- 2. Athabasca Dene Labour force
- 3. Reintegration
- 4. SGI Safety Program
- 5. Low Income Housing supports
- 6. Community Action Parenting Programs
- 7. Survey Annalist
- 8. Sports, Cultural and Recreational
- 9. Vulnerable Odd job/warming van

ANDY COOK RETIREMENT

On behalf of PAGC Urban Servies we would like to take a moment to acknowledge the well deserved retirement of PAGC's long term Employee Andy Cook. We wish you all the best happy retirement.



ANDY COOK RETIREMENT

BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT HAD A GREAT IMPACT

As one of our community initiatives in conjunction with Back to School, we hosted a back to school community event on the Thursday prior to the kids registering for school.

This event was well received in the community where we sent out over 1000 backpacks and school supply packages for kids and low income families from all walks of life.

In addition to offering a back to school supplies package, we also had local hairstylist's volunteer their time to do haircuts for kids to go back to school, this was all combined with a meal, that gave everyone the strength to start the school season in a positive fashion.



BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT



ODD JOB CLEANING CREW



ODD JOB CLEANING CREW

Throughout the summer months the PAGC Urban Services Odd Job Squad committed to our cities cleanliness with an effort to go out and pick up litter, remove materials from encampments and generally improve the visual appeal of 2ND Ave. in Prince Albert. The engagement from some of the people from the streets who showed up to volunteer over the summer months, was very impactful not only in the cleanliness but also to offer those individuals a better structure in their life, in an effort to find a better path moving forward.

This initiative had added value in the sense of volunteers who recognized the importance of creating a better standard for their own lives, being reliable, making a commitment to show up on time and be available and ultimately show their worthiness to have them find permanent residency in the city of Prince Albert. The business community embraced this initiative where they would've had opportunities to donate refreshments and some cases meals to those volunteers who were cleaning up restaurant and food service business is on 2nd Ave.

These individuals who are part of the volunteer are also encouraging others who have not been part of this initiative to come volunteer, obtain their free safe pick up kit and be part of the great success that is making all parts of Prince Albert look and feel better.

FOOTPRINTS FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

As part of our commitment to the permanent recognition of the National Truth and Reconciliation Day, we had some of our youth who were taking different courses over the summer months, paint their footprints on the sidewalks leading up to our building.

These orange footprints of all shapes and sizes are a welcoming invitation, as they all lead to the front door of the Prince Albert Grand Council Urban Services building.

During our Open House Week, we will add more footprints and we invite community members down to our location during our open house to add the significance of their footprint in this community initiative.



FOOTPRINTS FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN FOR CHILDREN

As we head into the fall, it is important to keep our children engaged in programming that adds to their back to school learning and uptake of community well being. We will be rolling out a host of initiatives that provide children and their families excellent opportunities for family bonding through play and traditional interaction. By creating these enriching experiences, we foster a supportive and connected community and environment for our children and their families.

RESIDENTIAL RENOVATION ASSISTANCE CARPENTRY

In addition to this exciting event, we proudly celebrated the graduation of students from our Residential Renovation Assistance Carpentry Program in mid-May. This program equips men and women with the skills needed to secure employment in the housing construction industry. SIIT Instructor Randy Hoover expressed his satisfaction with the students' skill set and knowledge, attributing their success to their committed effort throughout the program.

REACHING HOME HOUSING

In our ongoing committed effort to provide housing, our Reaching Home Housing Program has been very busy fulfilling the department's goal of assisting people in obtaining affordable housing through coordinated access. This approach involves working with various agencies in the community to seek out housing resources. Through the network of community relationships we have developed, we are able to find homes for families that were at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness. As part of our ongoing engagement with the community, we continue to address the complex issue of securing safe and quality housing.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT READINESS PROGRAM

Our Youth Employment Readiness Program has become a favorite within the organization, empowering the youth of tomorrow to break down generational cycles and become future leaders. This multi-week in-house program is specifically designed to build employability skills, create resumes, and provide entry-level training in areas such as First Aid, CPR, Serve It Best, Mental Health First Aid, WHMIS, Safe Food Handling, and other essential skill sets.

Each program is unique, allowing our instructors to get to know the youth on an individual basis. This personalizes approach helps guide them towards strategies that keep them in school and expose them to potential career paths, ultimately contributing to their personal and professional betterment.

TONY COTE GAMES A HUGE SUCCESS FOR PAGC ATHLETES

With the recent completion of the 2024 Tony Cote First Nations Games hosted by Lac La Ronge Indian Band, we showcased a large contingent of athletes that competed very well. This sporting and cultural awareness week of competition had athletes from the Woodlands sector, as well as our Athabasca region sector compete at various levels in all events. As one of the largest First Nation contingent of athletes in the province competing at the games, our youth and their families enjoyed a week full of competitive spirit and accomplishment.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the hosting First Nation as well as all the volunteers, that committed a huge effort to make this one of the best games ever.

ANOTHER POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY

Constable Robillard responded to our office recently, we were so happy to see her. Michelle is a member of Black Lake, she applied for our Indigenous Police Mentorship Program in partnership with Prince Albert Police Service.

In 2022, Constable Robillard became a Community Safety Officer and 2023 she attended Police college and officially became an officer in 2024.

We are so proud to have supported you through your journey and was great to see you.



CONSTABLE ROBILLARD



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT READINESS PROGRAM

The Men's Spiritual Healing Lodge - Section 81 & Section 84 Offenders are housed at the Healing Lodge.

SECTION #81

- a. The care and custody of an offender in an Aboriginal community where such services predominately address the rehabilitation of offenders through culture, spirituality and traditions of the community.
- To provide, through an Aboriginal community, services and benefits, that CSC cannot itself provide or cannot provide to an Aboriginal offender in a cost-effective or culturally sensitive manner, which will assist the Aboriginal offender to become a law-abiding citizen; and
- c. Facilitate the development of skills on accessing the broader Aboriginal social and community services network that support the reintegration of an offender, who would benefit from these specialized services.

SECTION #84 CORRECTIONS AND CONDITIONAL RELEASE ACT (CCRA)

Section #84 is a right under the law. The Corrections and Conditional Release Act states ...

"Where an inmate who is applying for parole has expressed an interest in being released to an Aboriginal Community, the service shall, if the inmate consents, give the Aboriginal community.

- a. adequate notice if the inmates parole application; and
- b. an opportunity to propose a plan for the inmate's release to the Aboriginal Community"

CAPACITY TO HOUSE (24) FEDERAL INMATES (RELATIVES)

- Elders from the four sectors of PAGC provide guidance and knowledge. One on one and group talking circles are vital for all Relatives.
- Programs such AA, NA, Men's Groups, Bereavement and other self-help programs are utilized within
 Prince Albert and area
- Life Skills
- Private Therapist comes to the Healing Lodge weekly.

The Relatives cut wood and gather rocks for weekly sweats. Medicines such as Sage, Sweat Grass, Muskeg Tea, Chaga and more, is picked throughout

the summer months. Enough is gathered to last until the next season.

The relatives also sell wood and rocks to communities or organizations when in abundance. All funds are put into a relative trust for outings such as Bingo, Movies Hockey Games etc.





This past year, the relatives attended ceremonies in Wahpeton, Sturgeon Lake, James Smith, Muskoday One Arrow and Beardy's. They also attended the PAGC Woodland Gathering and PAGC Gathering of Nations.

Relatives had the option to make a ribbon skirt or a ribbon shirt which they could send back home to a family member. The beautiful designs and the craftsmanship the relatives put into their project was amazing.

Some relatives attended the Annual Fishing Derby in Montreal Lake. None of the relatives caught the big one, however a good time was had by all that attended.

Relatives were broken into three groups. Each group had a budget to shop and prepare lunch for staff and all the residents at the Healing Lodge.

Saskatchewan Public Safety Association Chain Saw Course was offered, and seven recipients received certificates.

One relative received their Drivers License, wrote and passed their leaners for the first time.

...we are all on a personal journey ...





PAGC EXECUTIVE BOARD

GC Brian Hardlotte VC Joseph Tsannie VC Chris Jobb

Chief Ronnie Augier
Chief Rene Chaboyer
Chief Chritsine Longjohn
Chief Tammy Cook-Searson
Chief Peter A. Beatty
Anita Parenteau, WC
Senator: Charles Whitecap

FIRST NATIONS GOVT COMMISSION

GC Brian Hardlotte VC Joseph Tsannie VC Chris Jobb

Chief Coreen Sayazie
Chief Zachary Whitecap
Chief John Waditaka
Chief Tammy Cook-Searson
Chief Joyce McLeod
Tanya Moostoos, WC
Senator: James Burns

PAGC TREASURY BOARD

GC Brian Hardlotte VC Joseph Tsannie VC Chris Jobb

Chief Bart Tsannie Chief Marcel Head Chief Kirby Constant Chief Joyce McLeod Chief Peter A. Beatty Annie Joseyounen, WC Senator

PAGC HEALTH & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

GC Brian Hardlotte VC Chris Jobb

Chief Bart Tsannie
Chief Marcel Head
Chief Christine Longjohn
Chief Joyce McLeod
Rachel Henderson, WC
Senator Hector Kkailther
Senator Noland Henderson

PAGC EDUCATION COMMISSION

GC Brian Hardlotte VC Chris Jobb

Chief Zachary Whitecap Chief John Waditaka Chief Joyce McLeod Chief Christine Longjohn Bella Dumais, WC Senator Craig Bighead

PAGC HOUSING & TECHNICAL SERVICES

GC Brian Hardlotte

Chief Ronnie Augier
Chief Rene Chaboyer
Chief Christine Longjohn
Chief Tammy Cook-Searson
Chief Joyce McLeod
Stephanie Bird, WC
Senator Harry Cook

PAGC LANDS & RESOURCES

VC Joseph Tsannie

Chief Ronnie Augier Chief Rene Chaboyer Chief Kirby Constant Chief Joyce McLeod Chief Peter A. Beatty Beryl Whitecap, WC Senator Roy Head

PAGC JUSTICE & POLICING

GC Brian Hardlotte VC Chris Jobb

Chief Coreen Sayazie
Chief Rene Chaboyer
Chief Kirby Constant
Chief Peter A. Beatty
Chief Tammy Cook-Searson
Beryl Whitecap, WC
Senator Noland Henderson

PAGC URBAN SERVICES

VC Joseph Tsannie

Pearl D. Morin, WC Senator Craig Bighead

FSIN JOINT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL / INDIAN GOVT COMMISSION

GC Brian Hardlotte

Chief Zachary Whitecap Chief John Waditaka Chief Tammy Cook-Searson Alt: Chief Coreen Sayazie



FSIN TREASURY BOARD

GC Brian Hardlotte

Chief Bart Tsannie Chief Marcel Head Chief Tammy Cook-Searson Alt: Chief Christine Longjohn

FSIN HEALTH & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Chief Bart Tsannie Chief Christine Longjohn Chief Joyce McLeod Alt: Chief Fabian Head

FSIN EDUCATION COMMISSION

Chief Coreen Sayazie Chief Zachary Whitecap Chief John Waditaka Alt: Chief Peter A. Beatty

FSIN LANDS & RESOURCES

Chief Rene Chaboyer Chief Kirby Constant Chief Joyce McLeod Alt: Chief Ronnie Augier

FSIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Chief Ronnie Augier Chief Rene Chaboyer Chief Joyce McLeod Alt: Chief Kirby Constant

FSIN GAMING COMMISSION

Chief Rene Chaboyer Chief Kirby Constant Chief Peter A. Beatty Alt: Chief Bart Tsannie

FSIN JUSTICE

Chief Rene Chaboyer Chief Kirby Constant Chief Peter A. Beatty Alt: Chief Coreen Sayazie

FSIN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Chief Kirby Constant Alt: Chief Zachary Whitecap

IGR

Chief Christine Longjohn Alt: Chief Marcel Head

SIGA

Chief Tammy Cook-Searson

SICC

Chief John Waditaka Chief Peter A. Beatty Alt: GC Brian Hardlotte

SIIT

Chief Marcel Head Chief Christine Longjohn Chief Peter A. Beatty Alt: Chief Bart Tsannie

SITAG

Chief Marcel Head Chief John Waditaka Chief Peter A. Beatty Alt: Chief Ronnie Augier

NITHA

GC Brian Hardlotte Councillor Gerald McKenzie Vice Chief Justin Halcrow

Alt: VC Chris Jobb, Chair (PAGC) Alt: Devon Bernatchez (LLRIB)

Alt: Vacant (PBCN)

NLCDC

GC Brian Hardlotte

- Chair

Vice Chief Joseph Tsannie

- Vice Chair, Member at large

VC Chris Jobb

- Member at large

Chief Peter A. Beatty Chief Kirby Constant Chief Rene Chaboyer Chief Tyson Bear Chief Edwin Ananas Chief Teddy Clarke Councillor Anita Parenteau - Women's Commission Mayor Greg Dionne

Loren Sproat Eileen McDonald Margaret Michel

- Elder

PADC

Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte Vice Chief Joseph Tsannie Chief Bart Tsannie Chief Zachary Whitecap Chief John Waditaka Chief Joyce McLeod Anita Parenteau, WC Senator Harry Cook



PAGC EVENTS



PAGC 2023 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY



SANDY ISLAND PILGRIMAGE



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY



HAND GAMES AT GATHERING OF NATIONS



FINE ARTS OPENING CEREMONY



CLEAN ENERGY CONFERENCE



PAGC HEALTH WALK



PAGC HEALTH SEPT 30



REBECCA STRONG WELCOMING



WOODLAND GATHERING



REMEMBRANCE DAY



SENATOR CUP



PAGC EVENTS







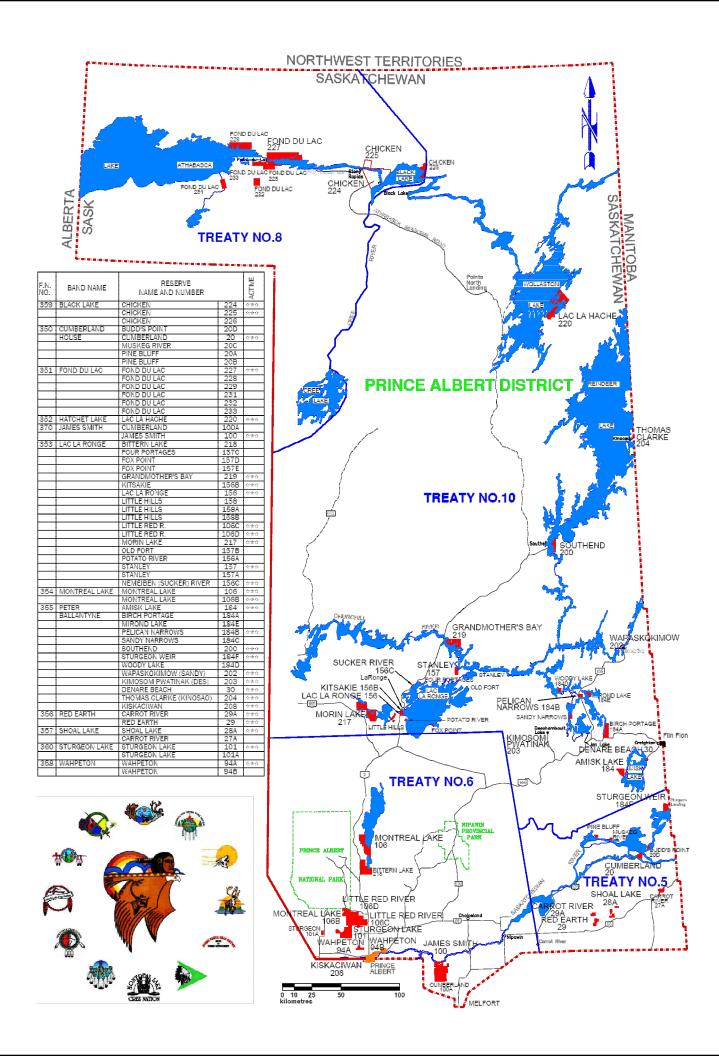














Black lake Denesuline First Nation



Cumberland House Cree Nation



Fond Du Lac Denesuline Nation



Hatchet Lake Denesuline Nation



James Smith Cree Nation



Lac La Ronge Indian Band



Montreal Lake Cree Nation



Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation



Red Earth Cree Nation



Shoa**l** Lake Cree Nation



Sturgeon Lake First Nation



Wahpeton Dakota Nation



Prince Albert Grand Council

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