

Kikinaw – Our Home

Exciting news towards equity and excellence

Finding Inspiration: **Inspired By Wonder's** Land Acknowledgement Process

As a childcare provider of multiple sites, during our Nations' Truth and Reconciliation process our organization wanted to learn more about land acknowledgments and how creating our own contributes to the 94 Calls to Action.

We formed a small committee of educators who collaborated to create our own personal land acknowledgement. Through this process we researched the land that we reside on and attended workshops including "How to write a land acknowledgment" by Elder Mary Wilson and Grandmother Helen Settee. We also contacted Joanna White, Cultural and Curriculum advisor with RRC Polytech, who offered us her guidance and wisdom during the creation of our land acknowledgment. After we devised our first draft, we presented it to our Board of Directors and fellow educators for their feedback and approval.

We learned how this process strengthened our culture within the program. We began to think deeply about our relationship with our land and how we value and honor it each day and the "heart work" it took to create it with competing truths. Our children and youngest citizens lead us to new discoveries of who we are as an organization and how our painful history defines who we are today and into the future. The children's contributions of gratitude towards our outdoor spaces led us to think more deeply about stewardship and sustainability practices. We are learning how most of us are "uninvited guests" of this land and we have the responsibility to it and to pay tribute to its original custodians.

Here is the link here to our land acknowledgement which is also posted on our website:
<https://www.inspiredbywonder.ca/who-we-are/land-acknowledgement/>



Submitted by Pat Furman, Executive Director, Inspired by Wonder



Webinar

Each month, Knowledge Keeper (Elder) Mary Wilson leads a webinar for SSCY staff and clients. Everyone is encouraged to attend in order to increase their understanding of Indigenous culture, develop their skills of cultural safety and reflect on allyship and anti-racism. Each webinar takes place over the lunch hour: come, eat, discuss and learn! Please contact SSCY reception if you need a link to these events, or click [here](#) for the meeting link. You can also email kikinaw@rccinc.ca for more information.

Full Moon Ceremony

Full moon ceremonies are a monthly time of strength when women and two spirit individuals gather outdoors to celebrate the feminine energy of grandmother moon in ceremony. Men who wish to join can participate in a supportive role. If you are interested in learning more please [connect with Elder Mary](#).

December 21st is Winter Solstice: the first day of winter, and the longest night of the year.

Upcoming webinars
January 12
February 9
March 9

Upcoming full moons
January 6
February 5
March 7

Seeking Participants: RCC & SSCY Indigenous Family Advisory Council



INDIGENOUS FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Rehabilitation Centre for Children (RCC) and Specialized Services for Children and Youth (SSCY) Centre are seeking Indigenous family representation to join the Indigenous Family Advisory Committee. Recruitment is commencing September 2022 for family members who are accessing or have accessed services and programs at SSCY Centre and RCC, this includes participants who identify as Indigenous; First Nations, Inuit or Métis.

SSCY Centre and RCC wish to promote inclusivity and participation for Indigenous families to raise and advocate any concerns, public expectations, and/or issues that are within the scope of SSCY and RCC board. Virtual meetings will occur approximately every other month for families to provide input and feedback on various strategic goals and initiatives.

If you are interested in joining or learning more please email indigenousservices@rccinc.ca or phone 204-452-4311 and ask for Michelle Klippenstein.

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Jordan's Principle Clinician Honoured with Star Blanket

On October 12, 2022, Shiri Berkowitz, a physiotherapist with Jordan's Principle was presented with a Star Blanket from the students and staff at Opaskwayak Educational Authority for her contributions towards the development of the Kakinaw Mêtawêwak (Everyone is Playing) Inclusive Play Structure in the community.



Our vision for this play structure began in December 2020, when Shiri and staff in Jordan's Principle on Opaskwayak Cree Nation had a discussion about the difficulties in finding treatment spaces for Physiotherapy.

They envisioned a culturally appropriate environment for families and a fun and exciting space for children while still providing adequate opportunities for movement and therapy to take place.



Over nearly 2 years we worked with many organizations both within and outside of the community to gain funding, resources and ultimately get the project built. This past summer we were able to see all of our efforts and dreams fulfilled as the Play Structure opened and we watched children, youth, caregivers and even Elders play and enjoy themselves, together.



Submitted by Pam Becker & Shiri Berkowitz

On November 4th, Knowledge Keeper Mary Wilson and Lodge Keeper Cecil Sveinson hosted a Sweatlodge for SSCY Centre staff. 10 staff were able to participate in the Sweatlodge, located in Mary's back yard along the Assiniboine river. Although the weather was cool outside, the lodge was hot with the heat from the 48 grandfather rocks which were carefully prepared by the firekeepers over the morning. Cecil shared teachings about the lodge and songs of healing with the group. Stephanie van Haute also supported our learning with guidance and songs.

Thank you to everyone who participated:

- The fire keepers- Jason and Stephanie for the time and effort to prepare the grandfathers
- Cecil and Mary for the teaching, stories and songs shared both inside and outside of the sweat lodge to create that healing place of safety.
- Each participant for sharing your stories and burdens and for the support offered to each other.
- The entire community present that day for feasting and sharing together afterwards.

The Kikinaw Newsletter is put together by a small group from the Jordan's Principle / Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Committee. If you are interested in contributing to this publication, please email us at kikinaw@rccinc.ca.

We always welcome feedback, so please contact us with any questions or concerns.



RCC Jordan's Principle
Facebook Group



For caregivers, Jordan's
Principle staff,
healthcare workers,
daycare staff, etc.

Check out shared resources,
tips, information AND MORE!

Scan the QR code
OR search "RCC
Jordan's Principle"



Jordan's Principle / Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Jordan's Principle / Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Committee is to ensure that Rehabilitation Centre for Children (RCC) is providing culturally safe and culturally appropriate services with and for Indigenous clients and families and is facilitating the ongoing movement towards First Nations-led health services. The Committee was formed in 2018 and since then has spearheaded many initiatives across the SSCY Centre and beyond, including education, outreach and special events.

The Kikinaw Newsletter is the latest endeavour of the Committee, to inform SSCY staff, families and partners about all our activities. In this newsletter we share reflections from cultural activities around the SSCY Centre, let you know about upcoming events, and share quality and equity initiatives. In each edition we share reflections on teachings from our Elders and Knowledge Keepers in the previous season as well as resources that may be helpful in your work and personal lives.

Committee Members:

Pam Becker, Krista Buchanan, Jeanette Edwards, Chris Froese, Allison Hasselfield, Michelle Klippenstein, Charlene Landicho, Diana Renaud, Maynan Robinson, Grandmother Helen Robinson-Settee, Cheryl Susinski, Knowledge Keeper Mary Wilson, Dianna Watts, Kristy Wittmeier

Winter Solstice Celebration & giveaway drive

Monday December 19th
11:30AM-1PM
Northern Lights Room (SSCY Centre)

- Teachings by Elder Mary Wilson
- Carol singing
- Lunch provided*

- Dress up as your favourite animal, or in a winter theme
- Bring something to give away (see next page for list)

*Participants will be asked to spread out to various rooms in order to socially-distance for the lunch

All SSCY partners are welcome as well as children and families!

Giveaway Drive

Winter Solstice marks the end of fall-away time, a time when we need to let go of the things that are no longer serving us, and give away things that others need more. In the spirit of the season we will be collecting donations for families in need.

Please donate the following:

- coats, hats, pants, scarves, gloves, toques, ski pants
- blankets, towels
- hygiene products, toilet paper
- hot packs that keep your hands warm
- backpacks, purses, bags
- non-perishable food & drinks
- kids clothing, toys, games, books
- kitchen items, décor

Please do not donate:

- religious based holiday items or big housing items

Items will be taken to Main Street Project and/or Mama Bear Clan (North Point Douglas Women's Centre).

Donations will be collected in-person at our Winter Solstice Celebration December 19th, 2022 at SSCY. You can also drop off in advance at the SSCY Family Resource Centre if you're unable to attend the event.