



# Fire Starter

## Social Development

Rylan Smaaslet has been hired for the Coordinator of Employee Development position. That means Rylan can assist you with training, career planning, resume writing, filling out government applications for identification and Social Insurance Number. He will be setting up a program for Driving Training and will be bringing in workshops on budgeting.

If there is anything that you need regarding gaining meaningful employment, please see Rylan. He is located in the KNR office in Fort Ware.



*On behalf of all the staff in the Family Development, Elders, Social Development and Justice departments, we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.*

## Justice

The Justice Department will be seeing a new Justice Coordinator in the new year. His name is Noah Marquette and his office will be based out of the Prince George Sexual Assault Centre Building and he will be in community every other week. Noah comes from a background of lived experience and working in high risk youth group homes. He has worked extensively with folks who are connected to the criminal justice system and helps to navigate the systems with the people. Noah brings a warm and empathetic attitude, but is fierce when it comes to advocacy. Noah is excited to get to know the residents of Kwadacha and is especially looking forward to the hike into Spinel during the 2024 justice camp.



## Hi Everyone,

One of the big projects I am working on is creating a new Employee Handbook that better aligns with Kwadacha Nation's goals and values. One of the things I am looking to do is weave elements of Kwadacha culture, language and history throughout this handbook. If you have any stories or values to share, I would welcome any feedback you are able to provide! I would also love to see images of the community featured throughout so if you have any pictures you are proud of, please share them so I can include them in this handbook!

We are also excited to welcome Rylan Smaaslet to the team as Coordinator of Employee Development to help support current and future team members to ensure we are setting them up for success. As always if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me any time.

**"WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!"**

Rebecca Blood

## To our members,

As we approach the end of this transformative year, we want to take a moment to reflect on the highs and lows, celebrating our achievements, acknowledging the challenges, and reinforcing our commitment to building a stronger, more united community.

This year has been marked by incredible strides forward as we collectively worked towards our community goals. Through our collaborative efforts we have achieved significant milestones that lay the foundation for a brighter future. From initiatives such as establishing a government-to-government negotiating process and promoting cultural preservation to sustainable development projects, our community has demonstrated resilience and determination in the face of adversity.

Our elders are the cornerstone of our community and continue to be the pillars of wisdom and guidance that shapes our path. Their invaluable contributions have paved the way for our successes, and their wisdom remains a source of inspiration for us all. As we move forward, let us remember the importance of preserving and learning from the rich tapestry of experiences our elders provide and that each of us takes every opportunity to express our deep gratitude for their continued contributions while ensuring that their voices are heard and respected.

While celebrating our successes, we also acknowledge the sorrow that comes with the loss of some of our cherished members. The loss of these individuals has left a void in our community, and we extend our deepest sympathies to their families. In times of grief, let's continue to come together to support one another and honour the legacies of those we've lost.

It's essential to address one of the disparities that exists between our community and our neighbours in Tsay Keh Dene, such as the Mackenzie Grant allocation in March this year. The province indicated that it wanted to support healthy communities and members, economic growth, diversification, accessibility, safe access, and job creation in a way that also benefits local businesses in forestry and construction and fosters resiliency to offset impacts from recent and anticipated curtailments in the forestry sector. The province allocated \$35,000,000 for this purpose. Tsay Keh received \$26,000,000, enabling them to provide substantial Christmas bonuses to their members. In contrast, Kwadacha Nation received \$9,000,000, which was allocated for much needed community infrastructure upgrades and equipment purchases for KNR to improve sections of the Russell.

While this discrepancy poses challenges, we remain optimistic that as we move through the comprehensive reconciliation process, we will be better positioned to address such imbalances and build a future where every Kwadacha Nation member can benefit equally. Our journey towards comprehensive reconciliation requires unity and collective effort. By working together, we can ensure that every member of our community benefits rightfully from the opportunities that arise. Let us draw strength from our shared values, recognizing that our resilience lies in our ability to overcome challenges as one united community.

As we approach the holiday season, let the spirit of togetherness guide us. While creating new memories, let us remember that Christmas can be difficult for some. Let's take care of each other and spread joy, peace, love, and hope, especially to those who are struggling and in need.

**Chief and Council and the team wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas, making way for a wonderful new year.**





Save the date!



December 4<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> – Kwadacha Ladies Christmas Express! Events hosted by Carla Wilson. Baking, crafting, spa night, prizes! Join the holiday fun!

December 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> – Naomi (Nurse Practitioner) in community.

December 11-13<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Beselt in community

December 15<sup>th</sup> –Holiday Shutdown, the Clinic will remain on-call for the holidays. Homecare will be providing reduced services from December 15<sup>th</sup>-January 3<sup>rd</sup>

It's cold and flu season! Covid Booster shots and Flu vaccines are available at the clinic. Contact us to book your appointment today!



Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season!

The Kwadacha Health & Wellness Team

Merry Christmas to all.

With the end of the year quickly approaching the school is in full swing getting ready for the Christmas concert. The Christmas concert and a visit from Santa Clause will take place Thursday December 14th at 6pm. We hope everyone can join us in the school gym. Christmas holidays for the children start on Friday December 15th and run until January 3rd 2024. We hope everyone has a restful and safe holiday.

We would like to thank Braedon, Austin, Mason, Jade and Kara for organizing and bringing the youth Hockey Team to Prince George last month. These types of activities and programs are so important for the students, and we appreciate the time volunteered to make this happen.

Thanks  
Andreas Rohrbach

Would like to thank Farrah and Demi for their help with the elders meeting, we got some good feedback from the elders regarding the revitalization of the graveyard and we look forward to getting started on the upgrades. Would also like to thank Farrah for helping with the shopping for the community Christmas dinner and all the helpers who contributed to the dinner and a big thanks to everyone that cooked.

Jenna Hourie

From the staff in community we would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and look forward to seeing everyone in the new year all refreshed and ready to work.



What did one snowman say to the other?  
"Is it just me, or do you smell carrots?"

How does the snow globe feel about this year?  
A little shaken.

What's every parent's favorite Christmas carol?  
"Silent Night."

What did one Christmas tree say to another?  
Lighten up!

What did the icy road say to the truck?

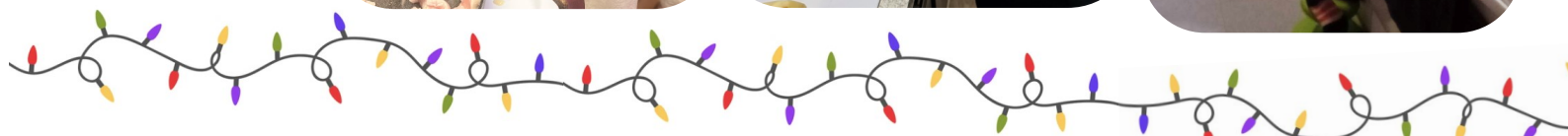
Want to go for a spin?

Family Development

Home Community Kitchen

November was the relaunch of the Home Community Kitchen. We had 8 families participate in the chicken pot pie. 8 families participated in the scalloped potatoes. Each of those families made a pan of scalloped potatoes for an Elder. We will have one Home Community Kitchen in December that will be Christmas baking. Again, each family that participates will agree to bake with/ for an Elder.

"Cooking with kids is not just about ingredients, recipes, and cooking. It's about harnessing imagination, empowerment, and creativity" Guy Fieri



December 12<sup>th</sup> - The Family Development Team will be cooking a Christmas lunch for the Elders. December 13<sup>th</sup> - FAMILY CRAFT NIGHT held at the Elder's Centre.

Healing Home

The Healing Home Staff will be on call and available for emergencies December 16<sup>th</sup> – Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Justice Loots will be away until December 27<sup>th</sup>. Amber James will be covering for Justice during this time.

Counselling

Hopefully most of you have had a chance to meet our newest member of the team, Alexa Dougherty. Alexa will be in Prince George one week and in Kwadacha one week. If you are in need of a counsellor for yourself or your family, please reach out.

Shannon Pirhonen – Community visit from December 10-13<sup>th</sup>

Alexa Dougherty – Community visit from December 10-12<sup>th</sup>

Elders

The Elders are beginning to meet on regular basis again with plans for bingo nights, craft nights, and cooking night. If you have any ideas for what you would like to see happen in the Elders programs and services, please let Amy McCook know.

December 4-7<sup>th</sup> – Shopping trip in Prince George.

December 5<sup>th</sup> – Elders' meeting in Prince George for lunch with off-reserve members and consultation with Teck.