



Peerless Trout First Nation

Winter 2016 | Newsletter



Treaty Day Celebrations –PTFN 2016

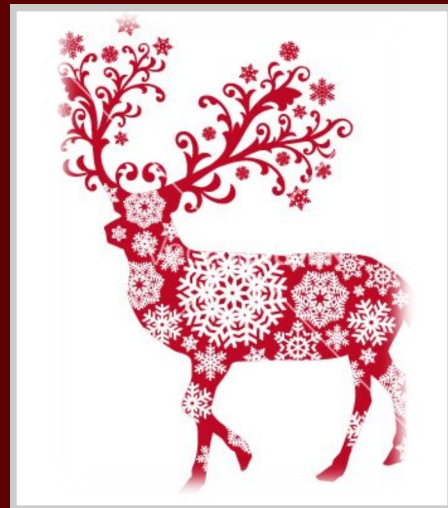
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PTFN | Election Results

In October of 2016 the Peerless Trout First Nation held an election, according to the PTFN Custom Election Regulation, for two councillor positions. Gilbert Okemow ran for his second term as councillor and was successful in being re-elected. Congratulations Gilbert! The second council member to be elected in the October 2016 election was Judy Sinclair. Judy was born and raised in the community of Trout Lake and is a proud mother of four grown children. Judy has been interested in being a member of council for several years. She was approached by Elders and community members to run in the October election. Her term will be a four-year period. Her main priority as a council member will be focused on gaining more knowledge on education and training programs for the youth in the community. She feels the development of the youth is the future of the community. Judy says she is anxious to learn more about her role as a councillor and the governance structures that are currently in place. She is a strong supporter of the Elders in her community and would like to see more involvement from the community Elders in decision making processes. Congratulations to Judy in her new role.

We would also like to thank Norman Gladue for his four years of service as a valued member of council for PTFN. We wish Norman the best of luck in his next endeavours.



Housing Updates

PTFN Housing is becoming a best practice and example for all First Nations in Canada of how their housing programs can be successful

On behalf of the housing department we would like to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, this time of year for most is a time to reflect upon many things such as family, good health and a warm and comfortable home. Whereas dozens of renovation loans and new affordable rental homes have been provided since the creation of our housing program, we realize there is still a significant amount of work to be done to address our community's housing needs.

Under the guidance and direction of Chief, Council and the Housing Authority we are pleased to announce the following initiatives since our last update.

obtained approximately \$ 1.5 million dollars from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to build 3 duplexes which will create 6 warm, comfortable and affordable energy efficient rental homes.

obtained \$250,000 dollars from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to renovate 10 community owned rental homes.

obtained approximately \$ 45,000 dollars from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for Housing Authority capacity building.

obtained \$400,000 from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to build 2 barrier free design Elder's rental homes.

implemented Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Section #95 rental program which will result in a subsidized loan to build 2 duplexes which will result in an additional 4 warm, comfortable and affordable energy efficient rental homes.

received Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program allocation to assist some homeowners with urgently needed repairs to address health and safety issues.

One of the Chief, Council and Housing Authority's long term goals was having our members build our homes vs Premanufactured homes being delivered, to achieve that goal we have devel-

oped a housing team to build the above noted homes.

Under the supervision and guidance of Karl Mundt whom is a highly respected and successful home builder from Peace River and Oliver Okemow our housing team is in the process of building the 12 homes noted above.

We are currently in discussions with Alberta Labour to have the crew's hours applied to Carpenter Apprenticeship qualification.

The crew will be taught how to build the most innovative and energy efficient homes in Canada which will result in highly sought after skills being developed right here in our own community, these skills will mean our carpentry crew can continue to build homes here, eventually develop their own home building business or obtain other employment based upon their ability to build homes.

Equally paramount to the skills and training component is keeping the labour dollars



From left to right: Oliver Okemow, Karl Mundt, Wilfred Starr-Chalifoux, Jamie Trindle, Paul Yellowknee, Herman Auger, Albert Laboucan, Randy Okemow, Jonathon Netowastanum

here in the community as housing activity can be a significant economic driver.

Some of the planned features of the new duplex homes are I.C.F. basements (Insulated Concrete Formwork), In-floor Hydronic heating in basement slabs, wood stoves in basement, super insulated exterior walls, R-60 attic insulation, triple pane low emission argon gas filled windows, covered front decks, etc.

The Seniors barrier free homes will be built completely with an enhanced ICF wall assembly that's never been built in any First Nation community and only a handful of other places within Canada! To put it in perspective the home's R40 exterior walls and R60 insulation attic will be more than triple the

insulation of a typical trailer in the community. The high levels of insulation will result in significantly lower heating costs and greatly reduce carbon emissions which are a major contributor to climate change impacts.

We are in discussions with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Province and suppliers to potentially have **solar panels on the Senior homes to achieve "Net Zero" certification which means the house produces as much energy as it consumes**, this also has never been achieved by a First Nation.

Regardless of "Net Zero" certification our funding partners have requested we prepare a booklet highlighting PTFN's housing approach

Seniors Barrier-Free Homes Become Reality

that will be shared with other FN's as a educational and promotional document as to what a First Nation can achieve when hard work, innovation and community support come together.

Whereas there is a lot of positive housing activity, unfortunately we still have a few households who still have not honoured their renovation loan agreements and made even a single loan repayment , our message to them is it's never too late to do the right thing and make even a minimal regular payments before the legal process of foreclosure is commenced.

In closing we're committed to addressing the community's housing needs and developing one of the country's best First Nation housing programs, we look forward to your comments and suggestions to achieve those goals.

Respectfully
-Housing Authority

Your Trust Fund Programs –Updates

PTFN membership propose programs that benefit the community and vote to approve which initiatives are funded through the PTFN trust fund.

Wolf Control Program

Peerless Trout Wolf Bounty Control has been active since 2014. All of the \$8,400.00 that was approved from the Trust has been utilized by our First Nation members. Since 2014, the total number of wolves killed were 42, at \$200/wolf.

This proposal was successful because of our awesome and skilled hunters within our community. Since all approved funding for this proposal has been used the wolf bounty program is now complete as of October 2016. Thank you to all the hard working hunters and all the help the Trust Department -doing our necessary paperwork.



Cemetery Renovation Program

The renovations for the two main cemeteries in the Peerless and Trout communities are almost complete. We have renovated a total of 85 cemetery houses: 36 in the Trout cemetery and 49 in the Peerless cemetery.

We did the best we could to identify the gravesites in each cemetery, but some we could not identify and those are painted white. The ones that are painted blue are for men and the other colors like pink and burgundy are for ladies. There are two in the Trout Cemetery that have been painted white at the family's request.

The renovation of the cemeteries will be worked on again next summer as there are many different places that our people have been buried throughout our nation. Please be patient with us, and if anyone can help us identify sites please let us know. You can reach the program coordinator -Norma Noskiye at 780-869-3784.

There have been two monuments built in the Peerless and Trout Cemeteries. These monuments will hold the nameplates that we had ordered. The nameplates consist of the name, the birth year and the year of passing for each individual. Some have the name and not any dates, as we do not have this information.

Thank you to the people that made this possible for our loved ones and a big thank you to our Peerless Trout First Nation for this program.

- Norma Noskiye, program coordinator

This program has been a success since it started, employing 18 students from our communities since the summer of 2014. It has helped our youth/students financially, as well as given them valuable work experience. It has also

nity look beautiful.

These students work really hard every summer to clean and prepare our celebration site for Treaty Days. They mow the grass, undertake brushing and clearing, clean

Summer Student/PSE Brushing Program

helped show pride in our communities as the brushing staff work hard to clean the Nation during the summer months.

This program is ongoing from support of the PTFN Trust Fund. We take applications in June of every year with employment starting in July and finishing at the end of August, a couple weeks before the staff start school.

The students have done brushing/clearing by the Trout Church doing a good job. They have also worked with PTEI and did clearing and brushing along Hwy 686 around power poles to the tree line which has made our commu-

the river, pick up and haul out garbage, set up all the events and some even help with taking the registrations for these events. Then when all is said and done with Treaty Days, they are the ones that clean up and make sure the site is ready for the campers and fishermen.

This year we had a year-end barbeque for the Summer Students to thank them for all their hard work and to show them just how much we appreciate the job they did for the First Nation.

Because of this program, new friendships are made each summer. Again, thank you to all the students and thank you to all Peerless Trout First Nation members for approving this program.



Post Secondary Education

Post-Secondary sponsorships guidelines:

- Program must be 8 months or more in duration
- must include Acceptance letter with application
- must be a Career Program

PTFN PSE program is currently sponsoring 18 students for the 2016-17 year. We have 15 full-time students and three part-time students in a variety of Career Programs. AANDC recently gave an increase of \$18,000 in the hopes that we can sponsor more students in the upcoming years. Even with the additional funds, our budget has been expended for the 2016-17 year.

PTFN will not be accepting any new application until September 2017. Information on post-secondary sponsorship as well as application is on the PTFN website.

Deadlines for application are as follows:

September Intake

—June 15

February Intake

—November 15

Trust Fund Programs

–Updates

Coaching Clinic

Minor Hockey has been a very important part of our Nation in the past 4/5 years. Every year we have so many of our Nation's children take part in this sport that we desperately need individuals from the communities to step up and coach these children and teach them the aspects of the game.

This year, the Recreation Program sponsored five individuals to take part in a two-day coach certified training course held in Grande Prairie November 5-6. These courses taught them how to be great role models for the

children as well as how to coach the children and prepare them for tournaments and games.

These individuals took part in courses that consist both in classroom and on-ice training. After the weekend was done, they all passed their Coach Level 1 and 2. These are the requirements needed to coach children in Initiation, Novice, Atoms and Pee wee. One individual took it a step further and went for another day to get the Checking Skills certificate which is needed to coach Atoms and peewees. We are proud to say that PT Minor Hockey has



certified coaches for our children and youth. We would like to thank Corrine Alook, Duane Cardinal, John Jim Auger, Clifford Auge and Brad Laboucan in taking the time to go and get trained for our young people. We greatly appreciate it. We hope that we can do this again next year and get more people trained and certified because our numbers keep growing

High School Program

High School Trust Program is currently sponsoring eleven full-time students for upgrading studies. With this program you can either work towards a High School Diploma or to obtain pre requisites for a career program.

Same policy and procedures apply as Post-Secondary Sponsorship.

The Trustees will be conducting a Community Trust Vote to seek the memberships approval to increase the High School Program budget in 2017 to help more individuals become students and meet the demand. PTFN will not be accepting any new applications until September 2017 as the budget capacity for this program is at its max.

This is an ongoing program. Deadline for applications is as follows:

September Intake - June 15

February Intake - November 15



Recreation Program

This year the Recreation Program has sponsored various teams to enter a number of tournaments. We have had local volleyball, ball hockey, baseball and ice hockey teams participate in tournaments all over Alberta. It is great to see the local members showcasing their talents and abilities while positively representing PTFN at sporting events.

During the summer the Recreation Program, along with MD of Opportunity #17 Outreach, hosted a baseball league. Five teams took part in this league and the season lasted over two months ending with a final tournament. It was a great turnout.

The Recreation Program also helped the local youth take part in a baseball and ball hockey league in the Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council area. The youth played in Loon River First Nation and in Whitefish First Nation. Our community also hosted a couple of the games in both Peerless and Trout areas. The league finished with a year-end tournament in Red Earth Creek and our teams placed very well. It is great to see the young people participate in various sports in our communities.

Some guidelines to follow when requesting sponsorship from the Recreation Program:

Please submit a letter requesting sponsorship to the Recreation Program Director: Elizabeth Cardinal;

Include a roster for the activity or tournament- must be PTFN members and founding members;

Include poster or registration details with all information for the tournament or activity, dates, place and entry fee amount; and

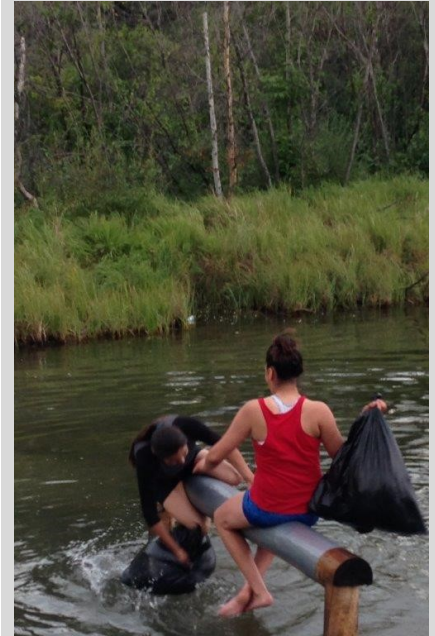
Have all of the following submitted to the Trust Department office no later than one week before tournament to ensure sponsorship.

Thank you!

-Elizabeth Cardinal, program coordinator

Treaty days 2016 took place on August 8-11 and it was a great success. Most of the events took place at the Narrows Camp Ground, along with the parade and closing events at Peerless Lake hall. This year, we had one of the largest turnouts ever for our Treaty Day activities. People came out to participate in the various events that were planned and we also had numerous people camping.

Events included the parade, community meal, PT Idol, Bingo, Native Pageant, and many other great activities. A special thanks to the MD of Opportunity Outreach program for helping out and bringing in the bouncy castle for the children to enjoy. We would also like to thank the PTFN staff and the Summer Students for all their work to make this event possible. We sincerely hope everyone enjoyed these events and we would like to thank everyone who came out and made our Peerless Trout First Nation Treaty days successful. Finally, we'd like to note that to continue to improve the Treaty Day event PTFN will be establishing a committee to help plan and organize the event in 2017, so if you have ideas or an interest in being involved please let the PTFN Trust staff know.



Treaty Days 2016





Treaty Days 2016



Peerless Trout

Minor Hockey Association 2016-17

The PTMHA has officially started their 2016/2017 season in October of 2016. The season will run until the end of February 2017. The program remains a success with a total of total of 7 teams made up of 92 players registered from Shavers division to Bantam.

This year the community has added an extra PeeWee team for the boys due to a high enrollment. The teams have been allocated 1.5 hours of ice time per weeks for practice.

The players have added conditioning time this season as dry-land training has also been added to their schedule. Good Luck to all the players and the Coaches this season.

Have fun and play safe!

Teams	Ages	# of players
Shavers	5—6	10
Novice	7—8	12
Atom	9—10	17
PeeWee (1)	11—12	12
PeeWee (2)	11—12	10
PeeWee Girls	11—12	10
Girls/Women	13+	17
Bantam	13—14	4 (no tteam)

PTFN Administration Building

Construction has started on the new Administration Building, which is located in Peerless Lake just south of the Health Center. Construction is scheduled to be completed in May 2017 and the building is expected to be fully functional by June. The new Administration Building will accommodate all of the First Nation's employees who are currently located in a number of buildings spread over both communities. Having all staff in the same office will increase the First Nation's administrative efficiency and will improve communications among the employees.



PeeWee Division



Atom Division



PTFN | Staff Service Awards

The PTFN Council made the decision this year to honor and celebrate their staff by recognizing outstanding achievements, especially given the national recognition that PTFN has received for having an excellent Housing and Emergency Response programs. Council also wanted to acknowledge employees who have shown their dedication by serving the community for extended periods by introducing long term service awards.

Here is a list of the award recipients in 2016:

Recognition of Service - Health Department

This award was received by all the PTFN Health Department staff for their dedication and excellent service to the community.

5 Year Service Award

This award celebrates the long term employees who have dedicated the last 5 years of their professional life to PTFN. The award recipients this year are:

- ◇ Linda Noskiye, Lila Oar, Wilma Sinclair, Chief James Alook,
& Peerless Lake Councillor William Houle

Outstanding Achievement Award - Housing Program & Authority

The achievements of the PTFN Housing Program has been recognized as National Success Story by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The PTFN Housing Program is one of the only self-sustaining housing programs on-reserve in Canada that provides a variety of programs for the members that blend of investment from PTFN and contributions from members to provide good Housing.

The award recipients were Trevor Laboucan, Chris Maracle, Shannon Houle, Oliver Okemow, Jason Wigton and the Housing Authority Members - Leanna Cardinal, Sherry Cardinal, Terry Okemow (Chair), Lillian Noskiye, Rodney Sinclair, & Nora Yellowknee

Outstanding Achievement Award - Emergency Response Program

The accomplishments of the PTFN Emergency Response Program over the last few years are nothing short of amazing. PTFN invested in two new state of art Fire Halls and five Emergency Response Vehicles for on and off road have been purchased to protect and serve our community.

The community voted in favour of the Emergency Response trust program to support the operations. We are very pleased to say that eleven community volunteers have stepped forward for the training and undertaken the various roles within the program whether its management, administration, or fire rescue. PTFN's program is being described as the best First Nation program in Alberta and possibly Canada.

The volunteers have taken the following training: Wild Land Fire Training, Vehicle Extraction, Advanced First Aid, 1001 Fire fighter Certification with ten volunteers expected to complete the certification process early in 2017, and our Fire Chief, Jason Wigton who is already 1001 certified is working toward a 1041 Certified Fire Fighter Trainor qualification so that we can do our training in house.

The recipients in 2016 are Beverly Noskiye as the Administrative Lead, Marcel Noskiye as the Deputy Fire Chief, & Jason Wigton our PTFN Fire Chief.



5 Year Service



Outstanding Achievement

Christmas Message from Jason

Have a wonderful Christmas and all the best in the New Year!

Wow what an incredible this year has been, Peerless Trout First Nation continues to improve and impress!!

As you have seen throughout this newsletter all the hard work that has been done by the Nation's staff, it's leadership and all the membership that put it all together. With the pleasure of being the Peerless Trout First Nation Band Manager I am able to watch the Nation grow and see what is being done from each program and all the hard work and dedication that is needed to have a properly operated First Nation.

I would like to take this opportunity to give you an update on some of the exciting things that have been happening this year:

Administration

We have been super busy this year in our programs showing continuous growth that has no signs of stopping. PTFN this year alone has hired an additional four staff and are currently looking to expand and hire more staff under the new Social Assistance program that will begin this spring. We will also be looking for more O&M support workers.



With the Nation being so new we have had our ups and downs this year, as expected with growing pains, but I believe the ups have definitely outweighed the downs, and all the time the staff just keep getting better and better with the knowledge they are gaining and putting towards their roles within the Nation.

It was also an Election year and I would like to welcome Judy Sinclair as the new Trout Lake Councilor and welcome back Gilbert Okemow for Peerless Lake Councilor.

I would also like to congratulate Chief James Alook for becoming Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council's Grand Chief.

Capital Infrastructure

As you have noticed there is a big brand new building under construction in Peerless Lake beside the Health Centre, that is the Peerless Trout First Nation's new Administration Building and for me, I can't wait to be able to have all the staff together under one roof. We are expecting to be moving in mid-April 2017.

Scott Builders is the company building the office and I would also like to take this time to thank them for being one great company to work with and their staff have even volunteered their time to help with setting up the new playground at the head start building. We are in the final design stages of the new schools and will post all the updates on the PTFN website. Construction for the new schools will begin late spring 2017 and hopefully open the doors January 2019.

Emergency Services

As a Nation you should be very proud of your First Responders. The time, dedication, commitment

and responsibility they give is enormous. We have formally signed a Fire Services Agreement with the MD#17, which means Peerless Trout First Nation will be called out for emergencies that happen within the communities as well as in outlying areas. This year the firefighters have completed Live Fire training, Vehicle Extrication training, Search and Rescue Training and continue to complete their NFPA 1002 training. Our team along with the Loon River Fire Department are working on a joint effort to become a member of Search & Rescue Alberta, which no First Nations in Alberta belong to, another great accomplishment by your Fire Fighters.

Again thank you to the communities for making this such a great Nation to work with, and thank you to all my staff, without all the support and dedication they put in -none of this would be possible. Also, thank you to Chief & Council for giving me the opportunity to help make Peerless Trout First Nation grow.

-Jason Wigton, Band Manager

Peerless Trout Health Centre

The Peerless Trout Health Centre continues to deliver programs and services in partnership with Alberta Health Services and Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council. The Nurse Practitioner services continue - Michael joined us two months ago and we hope to continue with both Michael and Anthony providing services as we are seeing need for accessing their services. Nurse Val has retired but we welcome Colleen Ogston to the community who has a background in primary care. Colleen will continue to do immunizations for the community and we are hoping to expand the scope of services to do Well Baby services.

The Health Centre continues to send out our monthly calendar. The information includes health programs and the calendar of service providers coming into the community. The calendar will also be posted on the Peerless Trout website and our new Facebook page. The monthly newsletters will begin again starting early December.

Peerless Trout was approached to begin a Cancer Screening and Prevention program. Our new Health Promoter, Amy Yellowknee, will be the lady that will lead this project. The project coordinator will work as a liaison within the community to develop, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive community plan with health care staff to assess the need for improved cancer prevention and screening.

The Community Garden gave us some potatoes, carrots, lettuce, turnips and a few small beets. It was not as successful as we had hoped, however next spring we will get more black dirt and provide a larger area. First year gardens are not usually very good as we experienced, but after each year the garden is planted, we will see more abundance from the vegetables we plant. We would like to thank all those that participated and we hope to see more next year as we do more work and plant again in the spring.

Our Good Food Box program is quite successful and we continue to see more community members participating in the program. Each month, the health centre does a call out for the boxes. You provide \$25.00 and the health centre matches your \$25.00, so you receive \$50.00 of healthy foods. Some items we include are: fruits, vegetables, whole grain breads, milk and flour but each month we try to change the variety of foods. If you are interested in the Good Food Box program, please call the health centre to find out the registration deadline each month.

The Community Wellness classes will continue and we will cover topics such as: depression, trauma, stress, grief and loss. We look forward to delivering a wide scope of topics but also want to let the community know that we are here to offer counselling services. You might have seen our psychologist, Rose Ann at some of the Treaty day events. She was very helpful and loved volunteering for the community. Thank you Rose Ann.

We want the community to know that they can come and see us anytime to provide feedback, get assistance in accessing services or complaints. We also are here to assist Elders in completing forms whether it is for AISH, Alberta Senior's Benefit or grants. We are here to provide quality health services and we want to know if we are doing a good job but we also need to know what can be improved and need you to share your thoughts with us.

Respectfully,
The Health Team



Christmas Message from Your Chief & Council

Wishing you the best this holiday season; may it be full of love, laughter and joy.

It has been another busy year for our First Nation and the Council with on-going progress within our Band's Administration and also with the economic development side of our Nation, the PTFN Development Corporation. The Council and all the staff have worked hard to achieve results to continue building our community while working toward being one of Alberta's most progressive and healthy Aboriginal Nations. Some of the changes are very visible with the various projects: water & sewer lines, the Administration Building, PTFN Camp, logging, and the 12 new housing projects among other things. While other initiatives have occurred that are not visible like the extensive work on the new schools that will begin construction next year, the transfer of the Aboriginal Skills & Employment Training Strategy (ASESTS) program, PTFN negotiating taking on the delivery of the Social Development Programs, and the negotiation to extend Alberta Health's agreement to continue to offer an enhanced suite of programs at our Health Centre.

As 2016 comes to a close we would like to thank all of our staff and partners for their hard work and dedication to making PTFN better. There will always be changes and challenges but we have a strong team who continue to be successful in addressing issues as they arise. Council would also like to welcome Mrs. Judy Sinclair as the new Council representative from Trout Lake and thank Mr. Norman Gladue for his service in that role over the last 4 years.

Finally the Chief and Council would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and all the very best in 2017. Enjoy the holiday season, please take good care of yourselves and one another. We give thanks to God and ask for his continued blessing.

-Peerless Trout First Nation Chief & Council