



SPRING 2024

COMMUNITY UPDATE



We are proud to share with you all that is happening in our Nation!

See inside for program updates, upcoming activities and a special feature on the PTFN Trust (pages 6-15).



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MESSAGE FROM CHIEF GILBERT OKEMOW

As a team we have been working very long hours and travelling to meet with our partners and with government officials. The elected members of Council sacrifice their family time for the greater good of our community and its future. Some of the highlights in the last year include:

- The Elders working with Chief and Council and our youth. The Elders are our knowledge keepers, the stewards of our land, and the pillars of our First Nation.
- Our First Nation has also been working on feasibility studies for daycare in the Peerless and Trout communities.
- A **tiny home project** that will create not only homes but employment and training opportunities for members who want to become tradespersons.
- We have also been successful in negotiating **industry partnerships** and are in the process of working on additional joint ventures that will benefit our community.

Greetings,

Our First Nation has had another busy year and successful delivery of programs and services for our membership.

I would like to congratulate the staff at our First Nation who have worked hard on their programs and continue to grow and succeed in their positions. These staff are the backbone of our community. I would also like to acknowledge the younger generation. When we recruit for new staff, we are starting to have more young community members coming forward for employment opportunities. I hope to see this trend continue so that our younger generations can continue to be part of the successes and growth of our First Nation.

I would also like to acknowledge the elected Council members from Peerless and Trout.

Personally, I am excited to see the 28km project between Peerless and Trout be completed as well as the **future paving** of our road from Red Earth Creek.

Tourism is something that Chief and Council discuss on a regular basis, and we know the paving of the road may bring more traffic. We will continue to work with our Elders and ensure that our water is protected when others come and enjoy our beautiful community. This is very important to us.

Thank you to the **membership** who participate in our community initiatives and believe that we are making a difference for our future generations. I look forward to what the future holds for our First Nation.

Masi Cho

Chief Gilbert Okemow

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Update

Hello everyone,

It has been almost two years since I became the Executive Director (Band Manager) and it has been an amazing time. This position has been the challenge of a lifetime because everyday I am tackling new issues. But, this is what makes this position great as I am constantly finding new ways to improve our Nation's services and programs.

As the Executive Director, I oversee the day-to-day operations of the Nation's programs and services. I attend all Chief and Council meetings to ensure that we are meeting all our expected goals. I also have the honour to work with the Chief and Council on their list of priorities. These include the highway 686 contracts, industry and government relations, daycares, treaty annuities, policy reviews and advancing the long term plans for the Nations.

COMMUNITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

We are working on getting a community comprehensive plan for the Nation. As you recall, our Nation made one in 2012 which is now stale dated. I am very excited to see where we can take our community development in the next ten years. Keep a look out for this CCP in the summer months as we ramp up community engagements.

I have coordinated the 5 year **Economic Development Strategic Plan** and the Business Plans for our Nation-owned businesses, which are almost complete. These plans outline how Chief and Council want to develop the Nation's economy and businesses in the next five years.

Our Nation now has a **Rogers Communication tower** in both communities. Peerless Lake tower is up and operational, while the Trout Lake tower is going through some supplies chain issues. Trout Lake tower is missing equipment that is essential to the operation, but the tower is expected to be operational in April 2024, if all the expected equipment arrive as scheduled.

Reserve Land Update

Reserve Lands also fall under my scope. Our Nation has made significant headway in recent months regarding the reserve land status. We have transferred all municipal assets and dispositions to a PTFN entity in October 2023.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE CON'T

Most recently, in February 2024, we have completed another crucial step: to give the dispositions to the province of Alberta, which will allow for reserve creation once Canada has addressed all other environmental and regulatory concerns. To put it in simple terms, the **reserve creation has never been this close!**

Land Code Approved

I am very pleased that PTFN Members have approved the PTFN Land Code on March 22, 2024. The approval rate was 87%. **This makes PTFN the third First Nation in Alberta** and the 118th Nation in Canada to withdraw restrictive and outdated land sections of the Indian Act and opt into their own land code. Our Nation is now better positioned to advance its environmental and economic goals.

The next steps are to wait for the PTFN Land Code and Individual Agreements to be signed by the Chief and Council and Minister of Indigenous Services Canada. Once these are completed, we will work to establish a fully functional Lands Office and draft specific Land Laws that will be enacted under our Land Code. I am very grateful for the support that the Nation has shown on this amazing step forward.

The Land Code strengthens our Treaty Rights by giving us greater autonomy to develop our community.

For example, the Land Code will speed up economic development by giving our Nation the ability to create leasing laws and environmental regulations. Having the ability to issue leases for businesses would allow our Nation and member owned businesses to grow in a stable regulatory environment on reserve.

I want to be clear, the PTFN Land Code would only apply to on-Reserve and will strengthen our Treaty Rights. The Land Code is a natural next step for PTFN as we continue to grow.

Our Lands office also has a wonderful environmental team. They have been working hard to get valuable data on the movement of mammal species in the territory. Chad and Kyle go out every week to check the wildlife cameras and check for other signs of mammal movements such as tracks, kills sites, etc. They have been participating in training on how to survey reserve lands, treaty and Aboriginal rights, and wildlife biology and field techniques. Having this program is crucial as it will give us insight into the current state of the environment that we can use as a benchmark in the future if the expected projects proceed and will allow us to better protect our ways of life and treaty rights.

Vernon Alook,
Executive Director

SPECIAL FEATURE

INTRODUCING THE PTFN TRUST ADVISORY COMMITTEE: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY VOICE AND OVERSIGHT FOR OUR TRUST

Dear PTFN Members,

We are excited to announce the establishment of the Peerless Trout First Nation Trust Advisory Committee, a pivotal addition to our community's Trust governance structure aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability, and effectiveness in the delivery of trust programs and services. This committee consists of PTFN Members living off and on reserve who will provide recommendations and advice to the Trustees on new trust programs, as well as recommendations for enhancing or decommissioning current programs using their wisdom and community feedback.

The committee is creating a structured process for requesting, selecting and improving trust programs ensuring every item put forward for member voting has been considered to the greatest benefit of all members. Stay tuned for more information and a call out for new Trust Programs soon! An expression of interest was completed and five members have been selected to sit on this committee: Selina Noskiye, Rachel Orr, Mary Cardinal, Dorothy Alook, and Helen Starr.

Accountability and Purpose

The PTFN Trust Advisory Committee operates under the direct accountability of the Trustees. Its primary objective is to establish a structured process for requesting, selecting, and enhancing trust programs and services. The committee uses their wisdom and leadership as well as harnessing community insights to develop and deliver PTFN Trust Programs and Services to the highest benefit of all members.

TRUST PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The establishment of the Trust Advisory Committee isn't the only Trust development news this year as there are a few projects underway.

The Trustees and the Nation's Trust support team continue to pursue the objectives from the 2022 Trust Strategic Planning session that was developed with the participation of over 20 PTFN members and included a 4-year Workplan. The Strategic Plan led to the Trust Advisory Committee among many other goals that the Trustees are diligently pursuing.

One other major goal is to pursue improvements to our Nation's Trust that will require amending the Trust through a vote of our members. The **proposed improvements** include:

- **Revising the Net Income Calculation Model** that would be an average of the last 5-years of all sources of annual Trust Income instead of the current single year income calculation that does not include all income sources, plus it is subject to the annual ups or downs in the unpredictable financial markets.
- **Removing confusing and inconsistent language** from the Trust concerning potential 'surplus funds' that could lead to legal problems.
- **Clarifying the responsibilities** of the Council and the Trustees to ensure our Trust is correct from a legal perspective and that it matches the new Alberta Trustee Act that received royal assent in April, 2022.

As mentioned, any changes to the Trust will require a community vote and you - as the Trust Beneficiaries - decide if you support these 3 proposed amendments to our Trust. Stay tuned for more news on these 3 proposed amendments and the required Trust Vote in the near future.

If you have any questions, please reach out.

Beverly Cardinal

TRUST ADVISORY COMMITTEE: KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

In fulfilling its mandate, the committee will undertake several critical responsibilities, including:

Ensuring Efficiency and Effectiveness

The committee will rigorously evaluate trust programs and services to ensure they remain efficient and effective. It will identify opportunities for improvement and address them proactively, thereby enhancing the overall quality of our offerings.

Facilitating Open Communication

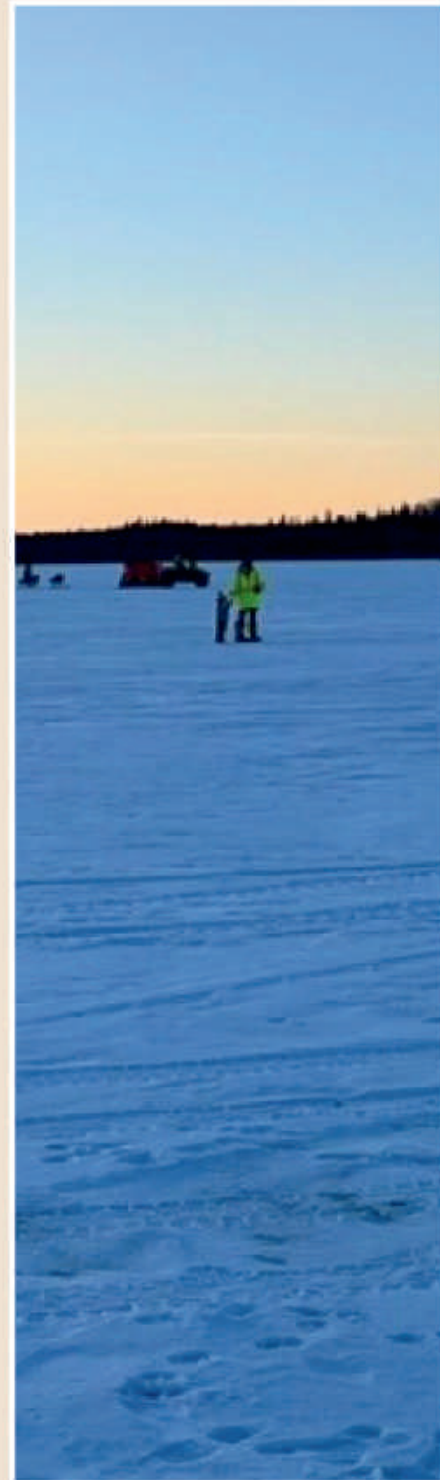
Transparency is paramount. The committee will maintain open and transparent channels of communication regarding the Trust, fostering relationships and collaboration among all PTFN members.

Championing New Program Ideas

Serving as a conduit for new ideas, the committee will encourage innovation and creativity in the development of trust programs. It will review and elevate proposed ideas to Trustees, advocating for those that best serve the community's interests.

Ensuring Balanced Access

The committee is committed to ensuring that all PTFN members, both on and off-reserve, have access to trust programs whenever possible. It will strive to maintain balance and inclusivity in program access, fostering a sense of belonging and unity within our community.



KEY RESPONSIBILITIES CON'D

The committee will play a pivotal role in advising Trustees on various matters, including:

- Recommendations for new, ongoing, and decommissioning programs and services.
- Allocation of resources (funding) for programs, prioritizing among them if necessary to maximize impact.
- Options for enhancing the delivery of programs and services, ensuring they remain responsive to evolving community needs.
- Trustees will still make final decisions on all matters before moving them to community vote.

Get Involved

We encourage all PTFN members to engage with the Trust Advisory Committee actively. Your input, ideas, and feedback are invaluable in shaping the future of our community's trust programs and services. Together, we can create a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

The establishment of the PTFN Trust Advisory Committee marks a significant milestone in our journey toward community empowerment and self-determination.

We look forward to working collaboratively with all members to fulfill our shared vision of prosperity and well-being for all PTFN members.

Stay Tuned for more announcements coming soon regarding committee members,
new idea call out for trust programs and 2024 Trust vote!

TRUST ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Dorothy Alook is a member of PTFN, currently working for the Nation and living in the community. She is a mother, grandmother and a foster parent. She has been interested in the Trust since we became a First Nation, so when the opportunity arose for her to submit her name to join the committee, she did. She is eager to contribute her skills, experience and passion to the committee's important work and believes that her background lines up well with the committee's important objectives.

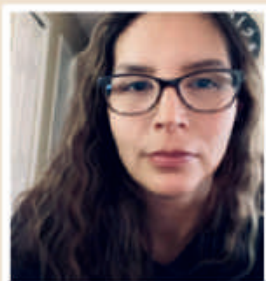


Mary Cardinal is a member of PTFN, and now lives in Slave Lake with her husband and children. Mary works in finance and has joined our committee to contribute positively to our community's trust programs so that all beneficiaries can benefit from the Trust Programs. Her passion for making a difference and her commitment to service make her a valuable addition to our team.



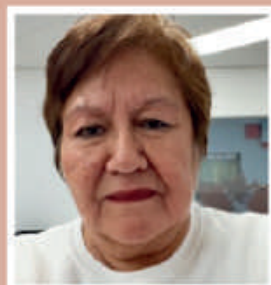
Selina Noskiye grew up in PTFN, and has been a resident of Slave Lake for the last seven years. Driven by her deep love for her home community, she decided to put her name forward for the Trust Advisory Committee as she saw this as a perfect opportunity to give back to her community by utilizing her unique perspective and life experiences. Selina is incredibly honoured to be given this position to serve and be a voice for others. Selina is a business owner and a valued employee of the Town of Slave Lake. In her spare time, Selina enjoys spending time with her family, exercising, reading and learning.

TRUST ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS CONT'D



Rachel Orr is originally from Trout Lake, and she now resides and works in Peace River as an LPN for over 10 years focusing on Acute Care and has just transitioned to Home Care for Alberta Health Services. She is a wife, mother of two, nurse and most importantly, a band member of PTFN.

She is eager to join the Trust Advisory Committee for a number of reasons: to better understand the Trust and programs it provides, to be a voice for off-reserve band members that felt the trust programs weren't being utilized to their maximum potential to benefit all members no matter where they lived, to express concerns that she's noticed over the years from an off-reserve angle, and to help bring more balance within the off- and on-reserve band members. She is also excited to feel more a part of our Nation in some way and serving on the committee will help bring a feeling of belonging.



Helen Starr is a dedicated member of the community, serving as the Director of the Healing Centre. Originally from Peerless, she returned home in 2018 after pursuing education and work opportunities elsewhere. As a mother of four adults and grandmother of seven, family holds a special place in her heart. Helen finds fulfillment in her role, expressing, "I love my job because it gives me the opportunity to show my community my care and devotion to their well-being." Her passion lies in working individually with people and reconnecting with the community she holds dear. Helen is committed to serving the people of PTFN and extending a helping hand to anyone in need. Helen adds, "I will do my utmost to work for the benefit of the people of PTFN and also to any person who needs my help. God bless PTFN."

TRUST FUND PROGRAM

Summary of Trust Program Policy

- When funds allocated to the program are not fully used in each calendar year, they may be rolled over to next calendar year for that program.
- 13 Programs are currently approved from four Membership Votes since 2012 (see the next page for program overviews).
- All of the current Trust Programs were approved as an 'on-going' program. In other words, the Trust Program expenditure authority is in place for each year provided there is sufficient income to the Trust to fund all the Programs.
- A simple majority is required during a Trust Program Vote for approval. The Approval Vote provides the expenditure authority to the Trustees.
- The Trust must generate sufficient income to implement the Programs. The income for the Trust Programs determined from the audit of the previous year. For example, the Net Income for the Trust in 2022 is based on the 2021 Trust Audit. 50% of the Audited Net Income figure is the income amount for Trust Programs.



TRUST FUND PROGRAM CON'T

What is a Trust Coordinator? What can I help you with?

The purpose of the Trust Program Coordinator is to provide support to the management of the Trust programs. This work involves helping PTFN members to access the various programs, providing feedback to the Trustees and support trust funding activities and financial process. As part of the Trust team, my position impacts how PTFN is viewed in its processing of proposals, and its follow-through on approved funding proposals.

Introducing Staff

Esther Netowastenum - Home maker for Elders.

Welcome Victoria Noskiye and Andrea Noskiye, who joined us as program assistants. We plan to hire a part-time Handy person to help with maintenance duties in Elders' homes.



TRUST FUND PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

Please contact us for more information on any of the 13 trust fund programs, including how to access the programs.

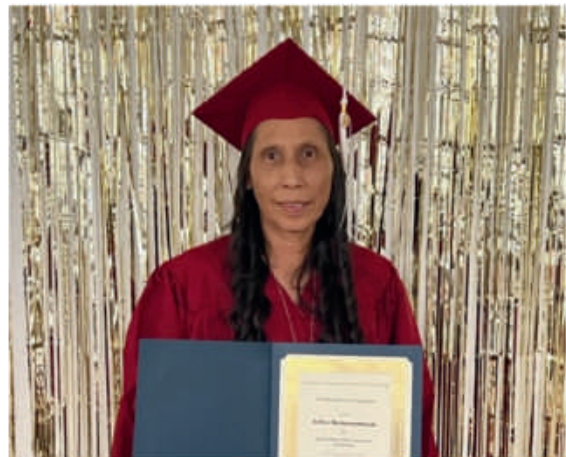
Recreation Program: We provided a new event during the Family Day Ice Fishing Derby in February. It was very successful with a lot of families attending. We plan to make this an annual event and host an additional one in the summer. We will bring back ball hockey and introduce new sports throughout the year for youth and adults.

Minor Hockey Program was restarted in 2022-2023, with returning and new skaters. Thanks to our dedicated parents who bring their children to skate. We hired Lori Dochuk, who has helped us improve the program, including registering us with Hockey Alberta so we can officially join a Hockey League and can attend tournaments.

Native Provincials provides support to PTFN players by helping to offset cost of attending the annual Alberta Native Provincials Hockey tournament. We have 4 teams this year that are representing PTFN, ages 5 to 14.

High School Diploma program helps members obtain their High school diploma or college preparation programs.

Funeral Support Program provides a subsidy to PTFN families who have suffered a loss to cover a portion of the funeral expenses.

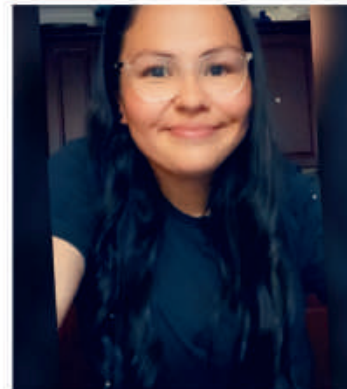


TRUST FUND PROGRAMS OVERVIEW CON'D

Medical Emergency Program helps families experiencing a medical emergency involving a member of their family who is either in the Intensive Care Unit or in Palliative Care. The program provides \$1000 to offset costs.



Elders Budget Program helps Elders to attend special events and meetings where their input and attendance is valued.



Youth and PSE Summer Employment Program provides work experience for youth, aged 16 years and older, who are in high school or post-secondary. Our priority is help maintain our annual Treaty Days grounds and Elders yards.

Treaty Days Program organizes and implements the events for the Nation's annual Treaty Days commemorations. This program is one of our big highlights in PTFN.



Emergency Services Program covers the costs of operating the Nation's two fire halls, emergency services, as well as a Wildfire Preparedness and Policing program.

Cemetery Restoration Program ensures the restoration of community grave sites. Sites in the community cemeteries will be the first priority, then other burial sites (between the communities and in the outlying areas) will be addressed. As the program maps the grave sites within the community cemeteries and the Nation's Traditional Land.



Chaperoned Medical Trips Program provides PTFN members who are aged 65+ with chaperoned trips to nearby cities for medical appointments and/or non-funded medications or supplies.

PROGRAMS UPDATES



INDUSTRY

Chief Gilbert and Council, along side 11 other Nations, signed an important partnership called the **Clearwater Infrastructure Limited Partnership (CIP)**.

With this partnership, PTFN and the other Nations - known collectively as Wapiscanip Waseskwan Nipiy Holding Limited Partnership - will acquire an 85% non-operated working interest in the CIP. Tamarack will transfer \$172 million of certain Clearwater midstream assets to the CIP for a total consideration of \$146.2 million in cash and a 15% operated working interest.

This is monumental achievement that will have a positive economic impact to our Nation for years to come.

Good job everyone!



POST SECONDARY TOUR

PEERLESS TROUT FIRST NATION

Post-Secondary Tour

The Peerless Trout First Nation participated in a post-secondary tour in Edmonton in March of 2024. The tour allowed for 18 students from grade 11 and 12 to visit the Edmonton area and tour various post-secondary institutions.

The 5-day tour consisted of a True Colours workshop which also included career assessments to assist with developing their future careers. The students also toured the University of Alberta and got to visit the Saville Centre where they practiced their basketball drills with representatives from the Pandas and Golden Bears basketball teams.



The students also visited the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) where they gathered information on the programs offered and the pre-requisite requirements. The tour ended with a visit to Grant McEwan where they toured the campus and residence facilities.

Peerless Trout First Nation would like to thank the post-secondary institutions who made this tour possible as well as Careers on Blue Ice who completed the career assessments with the students. A special thank you to the Alberta Government's Honouring Life program who provided a grant to the Youth and Cultural program.



FINANCE DEPARTMENT

STAFF

The Finance department has a total of five staff that include: Jaclyn Cardinal, Finance Clerk; Angeline Alook, Finance Clerk; Thelma Okemow, Finance Clerk, Saralee Letendre, Finance Manager, and Lee Day, CPA, CMA, Comptroller. The team has extensive experience and expertise that assists with ensuring the day-to-day finances of PTFN are taken care of.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The First Nation has an excellent track record with funding agencies and accountability. The annual audit is due to Indigenous Services Canada in July 2024. The audit is underway. Doyle and Company, PTFN's auditors visited the First Nation to complete an interim audit. The auditing firm praised the finance team for their well-organized filing system. They noted that every transaction was well documented, and the documentation could easily be found. Our next task is preparing for the fiscal year end on March 31, 2024. The auditor's final visit is scheduled for April 2024.

A GROWING COMMUNITY

As the First Nation continues to grow each year with additional staff and programs, it creates additional work for the finance team. One big task is meeting the requirements of Canada Revenue Agency and filing T4's for employees. The finance staff completed and filed over 320 T4's for the 2023 tax year.

MEMBERSHIP

Another big project this year was support to the membership. The finance team worked long hours ensuring that 1,023 inflation relief benefit payments were distributed to members before the 2023 Christmas Holidays. We know this was greatly appreciated by our members and we thank members for their cooperation and patience during this time.

A big congratulations to the finance team at PTFN for your accomplishments and dedication to learning and taking on new tasks. Your hard work is appreciated.

Lee Day, CPA, CMA,
Comptroller

CONSULTATION OFFICE

The PTFN Consultation has five staff members: Coordinator, William Houle, and Assistant Coordinators, Aaron Laboucan and Gary Noskiye.

New Staff: We are pleased to welcome two new environmental monitors to the team: Chad Noskiye and Kyle Noskiye.

Projects: The program is currently working on Wildlife Monitoring and a Traditional Land Use Study.

The program aims to build capacity among staff through various training programs such as drone training, understanding treaty rights, GIS, location of survey markers and monuments. The coordinators were also trained in management training.

There are several on-going activities in the community that include: oil and gas assessments, forestry engagement, monitoring the traditional territory, and consulting with trappers.

William Houle
Consultation Coordinator



ISETP & PSE

INDIGENOUS SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAM & POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

The ISETP program has been very busy this past year. We have offered the following programs in the community:

- Safety Training - This has been offered 6 times
- A two-week safety blitz
- Eye lash program - Level 1
- Security Training
- Quick Office Administration training
- Airbrakes
- Service rig Class 1
- Class 7 Learners
- Funded early learning childcare students
- Youth summer program

Please stay tuned for more information on some of the upcoming training programs such as the Hippo Hub Program, Social work training from Blue Quills, an entrepreneur workshop to help our those in the community who want to start a business or expand on a business idea.

If you are interested in learning more about our program, please contact:

Shanna Laboucan
780-869-3985 # 780-649-5538

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Use our new Hippo hub program for clients
- Entrepreneur workshop to help our future entrepreneurs to build a little business.
- Social work program with Blue Quills University



PTFN DEVELOPMENT CORP

The PTFN Development Corporation has been dedicated to the success and partnership opportunities for the Peerless Trout First Nation.

The Development Corporation has three staff that include the Director of Operations Tyler Letendre who was previously the Operations Coordinator. Tyler was promoted to the Director level and has been an integral part of the partnerships and joint ventures that exist at the First Nation. Tyler is also a key player as a director and negotiating member on several business transactions that have taken place, one being the Tamarack/Wapiscanis limited partnership, and several others on going for the First Nation. Shane Metsikassus has joined the growing team as the Operations Coordinator, and Gloria Okemow continues her role as the Office Administrator and Manager.

We have made purchases to help grow the Nation's companies, such as a 2024 John Deere 850L dozer. We are looking to purchase more equipment for the growth of the Nation's company.

Our team will continue to move forward with other potential joint ventures and partnerships. We look forward to sharing our future accomplishments with our membership at business partners.

For more information on the Development Corporation please visit PTFN.net



HOUSING

Good day from Housing,

New Staff

I want to introduce a new member of our team. You might have already met her, Clerk and Administration Assistant Anne Starr. We are happy to have Anne on board for this very busy and task-oriented ship.

New name and structure

We have been very busy working on new things at the department. Formerly known as the PTFN#478 Housing Department, we are now known as PTFN Housing Authority. This is an incorporated entity with PTFN as of September 11, 2023.

Activities

We have been very busy with renovations and new construction, plus updating all forms, documentation, policy and procedures in this new housing program. As I stated in the previous newsletter, I am truly grateful for staff who have no issues transitioning with all the necessary changes required to move forward in the right direction with the right tools in place.

Again, I just want to thank you for your continual patience and working with the department while we are going through the necessary changes.

On behalf of the PTFN Housing Authority staff and myself,

Thank you,

Kevin Bigstone
Housing Director



Member Programs that you may want to know about are:

- **Renovation Loan Program:** \$10,000 Limit for Reno-Loans/Material & Contractor.
- **Elders Renovation Program:** 65+ PTFN members are eligible for Renovations.
- **New Housing Program:** Applications are available at the Housing Office.

PT CAMP

The PTFN Camp is a business owned and operated by the First Nation. It is located on the beautiful back lakes of Peerless and Trout Lake(s). PT Camp was first incorporated Feb 27, 2018. We have 42 executive suites, 6 regular double bedrooms and 8 double occupancy single beds. In total we have the capacity for a 56-person camp.

We recently purchased a kitchen for the camp so that we can offer food services to our guests. The camp also has security staff who check in thirty-minute intervals. The camp also has a maintenance person on-site, as well as camp attendants who assist with cleaning, laundry and meeting the needs of our guests.

Thanks to our amazing staff:

Office assistant: Crystal Stewart

Maintenance: Wilfred Starr

Security: Riley Cardinal

Laundry Person: Elizabeth Letendre

Camp Attendants: Cheryl Cardinal, Arnold Noskiye, Loretta Muskwa

Casual Camp Attendants: Cole Metsikassus, Noreen Okemow, Jennifer Letendre

We envision that our camp will assist with providing lodging for the following groups, including: oil and gas, logging companies, KTC-Child and Family, Treaty 8 Urban Office, KTC-Education Authority, Road Construction Companies, Rising Above, surrounding communities, auditors and consulting firms and government officials.

We would like to thank the programs in the community who work with us: the Fire Department, Housing Department and ISETS.

Currently we are working on a business plan for the camp. One of the goals is for a parking lot expansion and electrical outlets in the parking lot to help in cold weather. The business plan will also focus on expansion as we foresee several contractors working in the community when the road payment contract is underway.

Terry Okemow, PT Camp Manager

HEALTH DEPARTMENT



As Programs Manager I administer, monitor, evaluate, and implement the successful delivery and operations of PTFN's Health Department Community Wellness programs and services. These Programs include: Headstart, NNADAP, Aboriginal Diabetes, Mental Wellness, and the Canadian Pre-Natal Nutrition Program. I would like to introduce you to our wonderful staff!

Jennifer Auger,
Programs Manager

Headstart Program staff:

- Sandra Netowastenum - Headstart Coordinator
- Dorothy Noskiye - Support Staff
- Alisha Noskiye - Support Staff
- Sally Okemow - Custodian
- Learning Aide - Hiring soon
- Serenity Cardinal - Special Needs Assistant (Mat Leave)

Community Wellness staff:

- Jennifer Auger - Programs Manager
- Marie Alook - NNADAP Worker
- Amy Yellowknee - Maternal Child Health Worker
- Shannon Noskiye - Community Wellness Coordinator
- Franlynn Nanamehoo - Health Promotion Coordinator
- Norma Noskiye - IRS Supports Worker
- Community Connections Coordinator - hiring soon
- Community Supports Worker - hiring soon

Highlights:

- Couples Nights - Building on Healthy Relationships
- Pink Shirt Day - Stop Bullying
- Elders Dinner - Christmas Dinner

Future plans:

- Elders Cultural Camp Out (mental wellness programs/activities)
- Young Adult (18-26 yrs) Camp Out (mental wellness programs/activities)
- Youth Cultural Camp Out (mental wellness programs/activities) co-hosted by Elizabeth Cardinal

SECURITY

Tansi,

My name is Rene Okemow, Security Coordinator for PTFN. My role is to coordinate and supervise the security staff. There are 4 staff in each community, Peerless and Trout. Staff work in rotating shifts, one week on and one week off. I am happy to tell you these staff members are reliable and dependable. We monitor PTFN buildings and patrol the roads to enhance the safety of our people in both communities.

Thank you to both Chief and Council and Vernon Alook for providing us with the Security Training program and Tactical Communications, which have given us more knowledge and information to do our job.



ELDERS' COORDINATOR

Sheena Auger has been the Elders' Coordinator for the PTFN since November 2023. Sheena lives in Peerless Lake and grew up surrounded by Elders.

Sheena enjoys working with Elders, listening to their stories and gaining wisdom from them. Sheena is responsible for coordinating activities for approximately 97 Elders. She can speak Cree and is often assisting with translation when Elders are invited to meetings or are shopping.

Sheena is looking forward to the Elders retreat taking place from May 27-31, 2024, in Jasper. The Elders will also tour Drumheller on the tour.

PTFN is grateful for the Elders' Coordinator as we want to support our Elders as much as possible and have them involved in our community. For further information on the Elders' program please contact Sheena at elders.coordinator@ptfn.net

YOUTH AND CULTURE

The PTFN Youth and Cultural program continues to provide programming to the youth at our First Nation. Our team consists of the following staff members:

- Elizabeth Cardinal - Manager
- Danielle Cardinal - Youth and Cultural assistant
- Zoey Noskiye - Youth Worker
- Frank Metsikassus - Youth Worker



We would like to thank our funding providers KTC Child and Family Services and the Honouring Life program funded by the Alberta Government.

Our team has been very busy planning various weekly activities such as sports drop-in events, arts and crafts, games nights and the winter outdoor camp. The summer outdoor camp was such a success and after a quick survey from our youth we knew it was a great idea to bring the camp back for the youth. Having the ability to utilise the beautiful Loonskin Bay Camp is a bonus to our programs. The youth have also been able to work closely with the Elders who also like to visit the camp. Loonskin Bay allows the youth to use some of the outdoor equipment we have purchased an to connect with nature. We have been working closely with the school and we were able to take some youth to the Oilers' Game in Edmonton. We will be having a post-secondary tour in Edmonton for your Grade 11 and 12 students that will also allow them to have a career assessment completed with a career assessor.

We will continue to seek out proposal driven funds to keep our programming running within the community. We hope you will encourage your youth to take part in as many activities as possible.

Elizabeth Cardinal
Manager, Youth and Culture



HEALING CENTRE

It has been a busy 2023 for the PTFN Healing Centre, which has seen changes in staff and services provided.

At present, Tia Alook is the Outreach Worker for youth, and Tamara Auger is the Outreach Worker for adults. Tamara is away for a while, but we continue to reach out to all who need our help.

The Healing Centre has an office at the Trout Lake Hall and provides weekly soup and bannock as well as a place to visit one-on-one. Our biggest area of need is around addictions. We strive to assist people who wish to pursue detoxification as well as residential rehabilitation. We work closely with Rising Above Ministries in Grande Prairie as they provide a 6 month program for treatment as well as Northern Addictions Centre for the 28 day program.

The Healing Centre is funded through grants and therefore we may not be able to do more as we will need more staff, but we continue to provide services as needed.

The Chief and Council have always been a source of support and encouragement to the Healing Centre staff, and for that we are extremely grateful.

In this coming year, we hope to see the Healing Centre grow by getting another person who would be here to work one-on-one with people in counseling and providing information and presentations as needed.

Thank you all for your encouragement and your continued visits to the Healing Centre. May God be with Peerless Trout First Nation

Helen Starr
Director



FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE

Facilities & Maintenance Duties and Responsibilities

Facilities maintenance has many tasks that are necessary to maintaining a safe and functional work environment for employees, such as:

- Maintaining and upkeeping all PTFN owned buildings.
- Coordinating system repairs and monitoring system performance.
- Tracking parts inventory and placing orders
- Handling or contracting landscaping tasks and snow removal.
- Training employees on proper procedures
- Ensuring compliance with safety and security protocols.

Some key activities we have completed are:

- **Administration Building:** Installed 4 new offices including electrical, updated security system, all inspections , maintained rooftop units & boilers, and upkeep the grounds.
- **Peerless Trout Health Center/Nurse Residents & Head Start:** Ongoing maintenance, inspections, replaced all light fixtures to LED in the front lobby, maintain grass and sidewalks, updated access control system and surveillance, and tilling gardens for PTFN residents.
- **Youth & Cultural Building / Fire halls / Healing Center:** Ongoing maintenance, installed access control system in Fire Halls, installed and monitored cameras.
- **Peerless Trout Community Halls & Recreation:** Peerless Hall caretaker is Yvonne Letendre, Trout Hall caretaker is Glenna Auger. We added a new electrical panel to power up the new AC units, and updated all safety supplies. We have plans to renovate Peerless Hall. We started renovating Trout Hall with new toilets, urinals, new flooring, painting, rubber baseboards and hope to finish early this year.

As the Facilities manager, I want to ensure our Nation's facilities are safe and healthy for all our members and employees. We work hard for our Nation to succeed.

Herman Auger, Facilities Manager



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT INCOME SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

Greetings! Our Primary Goal is to help identify all barriers to employment, and to work towards a career plan to help all Expected to work (ETW-A) clients obtain skills to employment. I am pleased to introduce two new staff members:

- **Cayla Alook** was hired as the Pre-Employments Program Coordinator (PESP) in February 2023.. She has done an amazing job setting up training for all our ETW-A and building partnerships with other departments.
- **Valentina Houle** was hired for a term as the Income Support Special Needs Coordinator. Valentina Conducts home visits, places orders for household needs, drives clients to appointments that help lead to employment, and helps clients with setting up bank accounts.

Both ladies have been such an amazing part and asset of the team and are wonderful to work with. They both bring something unique to the table in making sure that everything runs efficiently and as successfully as possible.

It has been a wonderful year being a part of the Peerless Trout First Nation Administration Team. I am always looking for new ways and ideas to help better serve the beautiful communities of Peerless Trout.

With that being said, I hope everyone has a safe, blessed and wonderful 2024.

Thank you
Beverly J. Noskiye, PTFN Income Support
Manager

PROGRAM UPDATES

2022-2023 Update

- Safety ticket Training
- Life Skills- Jan 2023-June 2024.
Total of 9/12 Successful Graduates
- Class 7 Learners-PESP
- AccData Office Admin Computer Training- 3 funded through PESP and Income Support

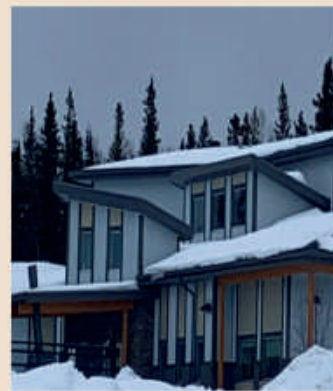
Partnerships:

- PT Camp- Job placements
- ISET-P's - Cost Sharing Training Programs: ie: Lash Course, Safety Tickets, Security Training
- PTFN Maintenance- Temporary Job placements-Building Maintenance, General Labour Work
- PTFN Public Works-Temporary Job Placements- Reception
- PTFN Housing- Home Maintenance ie: furnace repair etc.
- PTFN Administration- Casual Receptionists, filing clerk
- PTFN Programs Coordinator- Jennifer Auger
- PTFN Phycologist-Simba - referrals for Mental Health

Other services provided in 2022-2023:

- Emergency food for clients
- Beds/ Bedding/ Appliances
- Woodstoves
- Fixing water pumps/ installation/ or replacements
- Furnaces

THANK YOU TO STAFF AND MEMBERS FOR BUILDING OUR NATION



CONTACT US



(780) 869-3985



ptfn.net



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