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Lower Nicola Indian Band

**MARCH 2026**

NEWSLETTER

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## **LNIB Band General for March**

*March 30, 2026 – Shulus Hall at 5:00 pm*

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If you have a birthday wish or would like to do a submission please contact [communications@lnib.net](mailto:communications@lnib.net)





**Chief's Update: Nicholas Peterson**

One of the most important priorities right now is our search for a new Executive Director. Council recognizes that this is a significant transition period administratively, and we understand it can feel uncertain at times. We want membership to know this process is being handled carefully and thoughtfully. We have engaged an Indigenous-owned executive recruitment firm to support the search so that we can attract strong, qualified leadership while ensuring the process is fair, transparent, and aligned with our values. We sincerely appreciate the patience and understanding of our members as we work through these administrative changes. Our goal is not just to fill a position, but to find the right leader who can help guide our administration in a stable, accountable, and forward-looking way.

Another area of particular importance has been salmon advocacy and representation. I recently attended salmon-related meetings alongside Councilor Leona Antoine, whose passion and dedication for protecting salmon are deeply appreciated.

These discussions are critical because we continue to hear strong voices represented from the Lower Fraser, Vancouver Island, and Upper Fraser regions, yet there has recently been little to no representation from the mid-Fraser region where we live. Ensuring our Nation is present at these tables is essential so that decisions affecting salmon, fisheries, and watershed health include our perspective, our knowledge, and our rights. Salmon are not only an environmental priority, they are a cultural, food, and intergenerational responsibility, and we will continue strengthening our presence in these forums.

Water and environmental stewardship continue to be major priorities. Through the Nicola Watershed Governance Partnership, I have been participating in collaborative watershed planning that brings the Nicola 5 together to protect water, fish habitat, and ecosystem health using both Indigenous knowledge and science. I also attended a site visit at Helmer Dam, where LNIB is partnering with Nicola Ranch on a project that will store licensed water for release during critical periods to support fish and ecological flows. Projects like this show how proactive, cooperative solutions can support both environmental protection and long-term sustainability.

On the land stewardship front, I conducted a forestry field visit with Waren Smith, Don Gosso, Councilor Bill Bose, and leadership from Gorman Bros., a major regional mill operator connected to forestry activities affecting our territory. Seeing operations firsthand is important for ensuring accountability, strengthening working relationships, and confirming that activities align with responsible stewardship practices and LNIB expectations.

Economic development remains a key focus as we work to build a strong future for our community. I have attended multiple meetings regarding recruitment of new directors for the Lower Nicola Indian Band Development Corporation to ensure the board is composed of individuals with the right expertise, integrity, and strategic vision. Strong governance of our economic arm is essential for protecting our assets, creating opportunities, and generating sustainable revenue that benefits our membership.

I have also been involved in discussions on several major project files that could affect our lands and rights. These include provincial discussions regarding a proposed quarry development near reserve lands, engagement related to impacts from Highland Valley Copper mine operations, and meetings to better understand potential Indigenous equity opportunities tied to large infrastructure projects. These conversations are about making sure LNIB is informed, prepared, and positioned to protect our interests while carefully evaluating any opportunities that may benefit our Nation.

Health and community wellbeing remain central to our work. I am the new board member of Nlaka'pamux Health Services Society to support regional health initiatives and collaboration, and I participated in discussions connected to the Nicola Native Lodge Society, a regional initiative working toward the creation of a culturally grounded Elder care facility for the five Nicola Bands. Planning for our Elders is planning for our future, and this work is deeply meaningful. Alongside these formal responsibilities, one of the most important parts of my role continues to be meeting directly with members. I have spent time listening to concerns, ideas, and priorities shared by community members. These conversations matter greatly to me because they help ensure leadership decisions reflect the real experiences and hopes of our people.

I also want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to our community for the incredible support shown during the recent passing of my Uncle Moose. His services were beautiful, powerful, and so well attended. Seeing our people come together in such a strong way reminded me of who we are as a community. The kindness, prayers, songs, and presence of so many lifted our family in ways that are difficult to put into words. I am deeply thankful. Serving as Chief means carrying the responsibility of representation, listening, decision-making, and advocacy. I remain committed to showing up for our Band, strengthening our partnerships, and protecting what matters most to our people today and for the generations still to come.

Before closing, I want to share a reflection that has been on my mind. I often hear people say "the Band should be doing this" or "the Band should be doing that," and I find myself thinking about what that really means. To me, the Band is not just Chief and Council or administration. The Band is all of us. It is our members, our families, our Elders, our youth. And in that sense, I agree that the Band should be doing more, because that means all of us looking for ways to serve, to help, and to lift one another up. Strong communities are built through encouragement, participation, and shared responsibility. Tearing each other down or criticizing one another does not build trust or unity. When we support each other and stand together, we become stronger as a Nation. That strength matters, because it is difficult for us to show up powerfully at provincial tables, federal discussions, or regional negotiations if we are not first showing up for each other at home. Our collective strength begins with how we treat and support one another.

**Chief Nicholas Peterson**

**Lower Nicola Indian Band - Council Activity Summary  
Councilor Robin Humphrey  
Reporting Period: October 2025 – February 2026**



During this reporting period, I worked full-time as a Councilor for the Lower Nicola Indian Band (LNIB). My work focused on leadership, community support, economic development, land and water protection, and building strong relationships with other governments and organizations.

**Leadership & Governance**

I serve as Chair of the Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) Steering Committee and Chair of the Lands Management Advisory Committee. I was also a member of the Chief & Council Policy Review Committee, the Nicola Water Governance Partnership (NWGP) Core Council, the LNIB Development Corporation (LNIBDC) Selection Committee, and the Executive Director Hiring Committee.

My work included:

- Reviewing and updating Chief & Council policies
- Attending regular Council meetings
- Helping renew and strengthen the LNIB Development Corporation Board
- Reviewing committee terms and governance processes

This work helps improve how LNIB makes decisions and serves the community.

**Government Relations & Advocacy**

I attended the First Nation Leadership Gathering to meet with BC Ministers and speak about LNIB’s needs and challenges. I worked with neighboring Nations through the Nicola 5 partnership and took part in ongoing meetings through the Nicola Water Governance Partnership to support water protection and shared decision-making.

I also met with provincial ministries and Tribal Councils to discuss funding, infrastructure, and community priorities. In January, I attended the AME Roundup Conference in Vancouver to support economic opportunities for LNIB. In February, I attended “Our Gathering” with First Nations leaders to strengthen relationships and share perspectives.

**Economic Development & Projects**

I took part in negotiations with Enbridge/Westcoast Energy, working with legal counsel to review agreements and protect LNIB’s rights and interests.

I assisted with:

- Renewing the LNIB Development Corporation Board
- Reviewing director applications
- Supporting work on the Economic Development Plan

I also worked on major projects including:

- The Helmer Dam Raising Project (funding and next steps)
- The Addition to Reserve (Aberdeen property), including land planning and discussions with other governments

**Land & Water Protection**

As Chair of the IPCA Steering Committee, I supported planning for Elder and youth engagement to protect LNIB lands for future generations.

Through the Nicola Water Governance Partnership, I continued to support protection of the Nicola watershed and responsible data sharing related to Indigenous knowledge.

**Community Engagement & Member Support**

Community connection is an important part of my role. I attended:

- Community and school events
- Urban and local membership gatherings
- Cultural activities and engagement sessions
- RCMP community meetings

I responded to member concerns related to land, forestry, resource agreements, and business opportunities. I supported members by listening, connecting them with the right departments, and helping move issues forward.

From October 2025 to February 2026, I worked full-time to support strong governance, protect LNIB rights and lands, advance economic opportunities, and stay connected with our membership. My focus remains on serving the community with accountability, transparency, and commitment.

Respectfully,

**Councilor Robin Humphrey**



**Councilor Leona Antoine Update December 2025 – February 2026**

Hentl’  
Our winter months are not quite the same without the normal snowpack and frozen lakes that keep us active during the season. I typically participate in snowshoeing, ice fishing, and sledding with the kids; however, the short window of snow only enabled me to get out into the great outdoors a few times.

January marks the Year of the Horse — a time of new beginnings. This theme reflects the number of changes and challenges that LNIB is experiencing this term. We are actively listening and taking action, knowing that change does not come easily. As we transition, we take to heart the impacts that some may feel. As we move forward, we are cautious not to rush change, but rather to act in the best interests of LNIB. Communication is our top priority, and having a full-time Councillor and Chief in-house as much as possible is helping to improve communication with staff.

In recent weeks, I have been appointed as Chair of the Lands Management Committee (LMC); Member Delegate of the Highland Valley Mine Agreement Implementation Committee; Member-at-Large Delegate of the IPCA Committee; Alternate Director for the Stuwix Board of Directors; Member of the Negotiations Committee for Enbridge; Member of the Hiring Committee for the Executive Director and Salmon positions; and participant in the newly developed Chief and Council Policy Review.

In my new appointments, I have attended regularly scheduled meetings and met with directors to gain a better understanding of the files and to inquire how Chief and Council can support them. Our LNIBDC directors also met with Chief and Council and attended Directors’ meetings to help us better understand the function of our businesses.

I appreciate the engagement I experience throughout the community at Wednesday lunches, community events, phone calls, emails, text messages, and one-on-one coffee meetings when requested. I will continue to be throughout the community and feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank You,

**Leona Antoine  
Councilor**



**Chief & Council Meetings  
February 2026  
—Resolutions—**

**Resolution #02-03-2026-01 Reads:**

*The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to adopt the February 3, 2026, Chief and Council meeting agenda.*

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution #02-03-2026-02 Reads:**

*The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to adopt the January 20, 2026, Chief and Council meeting minutes with noted changes or as presented.*

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution #02-03-2026-03 Reads:**

The Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band hereby:  
Appoints Councilor Leona Antoine and Monica Charters to the HVC Implementation Committee commencing at midnight on the 3rd day of February 2026 and ending at midnight on the 2nd day of February 2027.

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution #02-03-2026-04 Reads:**

That the Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council authorize the interim Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Scw’emx Child and Family Services Society (SCFSS) to provide information on behalf of the Lower Nicola Indian Band.

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution #02-03-2026-05 Reads:**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** THAT the Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band hereby authorize the following signors on Peace Hills Trust Accounts, effective immediately: Councillor Yental Coutlee, Councillor Lucina Seward, Councillor Lesley Manuel, and Chief Nicholas Peterson.

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution #02-03-2026-06 Reads:**

The Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band hereby:  
1. Approves Chief Nicholas Peterson’s travel to Toronto, Ontario to attend the First Nations Major Projects Coalition Conference from April 29 to May 1, 2026, as LNIB’s Political Representative, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution #02-03-2026-07 Reads:**

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to go IN Camera at 6:16pm, with the meeting being closed to the public to consider sensitive matters that may be in a preliminary stage, or deal with subject matter that is privileged in nature and that, in the view of the council, its disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the public.  
a. Privileged Materials

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution #02-03-2026-08 Reads:**

*The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to end the in-camera session and return to the regular Council meeting at 8:31pm.*

**Motion Carried**



**Chief & Council Meetings  
February 2026  
—Resolutions—**

**Resolution #02-03-2026-09 Reads:**

The undersigned, being the sole shareholder of Lower Nicola Indian Band Development Corporation (the "Company"), who would have been entitled to vote at the annual general meeting of the Company, consents to the following resolutions and to the following business required to be transacted at an annual general meeting, and such resolutions are passed in lieu of the 2025 annual general meeting and effective on February 3, 2026.

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Company's financial statements for the Company's most recently completed financial year ended March 31, 2025, have been produced and sent to the sole shareholder, Lower Nicola Indian Band.
2. Boughton Law Corporation is authorized to provide information relating to the Company as requested by auditors or accountants on behalf of the Company.
3. The following persons, each of whom has consented to act as a director of the Company, are elected as directors of the Company for the ensuing year:
  - Mark Ferrari;
  - Colin Doylend;
  - Ramona MacLeod;
  - Dan George;
  - Marshal Polykovskiy; and
  - Nate Kube
4. The shareholder of the Company hereby selects September 26, 2025, as the annual reference date for the Company.
5. RHN Chartered Professional Accountants are appointed auditors of the Company to hold office until the close of the next annual general meeting or until a waiver thereof, at a remuneration to be fixed by the directors.
6. These resolutions may be executed and delivered either originally or electronically, by at least 2/3 of the councillors for and on behalf of the sole shareholder, and in as many counterparts as may be necessary, and such counterparts shall together constitute one and the same instrument.

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution #02-03-2026-10 Reads:**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chief and Council approve the request from the Skeetchestn Indian Band to be added as a beneficiary to Hihium Lake Indian Reserve No. 6.

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution #02-03-2026-11 Reads:**

The Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band ("LNIB Chief and Council") hereby:

1. Approves sending the support letter to the Minister of Indigenous Services regarding passing Bill S-2 with the amendments to eliminate the second-generation cut-off of Indian Status (Registration) under the Indian Act;
2. Authorizes Chief Nicholas Peterson to sign the support letter; and
3. Further authorizes the interim Executive Director or their delegate, for and on behalf of Council, to do all such acts and things as may be necessary or desirable to give effect to this motion.

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution #02-03-2026-12 Reads:**

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to adjourn the February 3, 2026,



**Chief & Council Meetings  
February 2026  
—Resolutions—**

meeting at 8:36pm.

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution #02-17-2026-01 Reads:**

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to adopt the February 17, 2026, Chief and Council meeting agenda.

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution #02-17-2026-02 Reads:**

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to adopt the February 3, 2026, Chief and Council meeting minutes with noted changes.

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution #02-17-2026-03 Reads:**

**WHEREAS** Merritt has seen an increase in the number of homeless people in the past 10 years;  
**WHEREAS** research completed by the City of Merritt in 2025 identified 92 homeless in the city and of those 63 were identified as Indigenous and many are from the Nicola 5 First Nations;  
**WHEREAS** First Nation Housing & Infrastructure Council has a program targeted for urban Indigenous people;  
**WHEREAS** Scw'exmx Tribal Council has written a proposal which would bring multiple First Nation organizations together to develop a strategic plan and a path forward to reduce the incidence of First Nation homelessness in the Merritt area;  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Lower Nicola Indian Band supports Scw'exmx Tribal Council and the application for funding submitted to First Nation Housing & Infrastructure Council.

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution #02-17-2026-04 Reads:**

The Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band hereby support and authorizes the Interim Executive Director to sign the Cultural Monitoring Agreement with the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority, with a Commencement Date of February 17, 2026, and Completion Date of February 16, 2031.

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution #02-17-2026-05 Reads:**

The Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band hereby:

1. Supports the establishment of an Assessment Working Group (AWG) as a special committee of the Lower Nicola Indian Band, with the mandate to oversee the development of an LNIB specific Major Projects Assessment Framework;
2. Adopts the AWG Terms of Reference;
3. Directs the Acting Director of Economic Development to advertise the AWG positions for LNIB Knowledge Holders and LNIB Members at Large; and
4. Further authorizes the Interim Executive Director, for and on behalf of Council, to do all such acts and things as may be necessary or desirable to give effect to this motion, or in connection with the performance by the Lower Nicola Indian Band of its obligations to this motion.

**Motion Carried**



Chief & Council Meetings  
February 2026  
—Resolutions—

**Resolution #02-17-2026-06 Reads:**

**WHEREAS** the Lower Nicola Indian Band (LNIB) has completed its Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP), which identifies actions and strategies to reduce wildfire risk and enhance community safety;

**AND WHEREAS** the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) has formally approved LNIB's CWRP, thereby making LNIB eligible to apply for implementation funding under the Community Resiliency Investment Program;

**AND WHEREAS** LNIB may apply for up to \$200,000 annually, for two years, to support the implementation of wildfire resiliency projects identified in the CWRP;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the LNIB Chief and Council authorizes the interim Executive Director to apply to the UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program for implementation funding in the maximum amount of \$200,000 annually, for up to two years, to support the implementation of LNIB's Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution #02-17-2026-00 Reads:**

The Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band hereby:

- 2. Approves Councilor Robin Humphrey's travel to Toronto, Ontario to attend the First Nations Major Projects Coalition Conference from April 29 to May 1, 2026, as LNIB's Political Representative, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.

**Motion Defeated**

**Resolution #02-17-2026-00 Reads:**

The Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band hereby move to adopt the Lower Nicola Indian Band Honorarium Policy with noted changes or as presented.

**Motion Withdrawn**

**Resolution #02-17-2026-07 Reads:**

The Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band hereby:

- 1. Approves Councilor Leona Antoine's travel to Kamloops, British Columbia to attend the Fraser and Approach Salmon Fisheries Forum 2 from February 23-26, 2026, as LNIB's Political Representative, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution #02-17-2026-08 Reads:**

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to go IN Camera at 8:00pm, with the meeting being closed to the public to consider sensitive matters that may be in a preliminary stage, or deal with subject matter that is privileged in nature and that, in the view of the council, its disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the public.

- b. Privileged Materials

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution #02-17-2026-09 Reads:**

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to end the in-camera session and return to the regular Council meeting at 9:11pm.

**Motion Carried**



Chief & Council Meetings  
February 2026  
—Resolutions—

**Resolution #02-17-2026-10 Reads:**

**WHEREAS** the Lower Nicola Indian Band is the sole shareholder of Lower Nicola Indian Band Development Corporation ("LNIBDC");

**AND WHEREAS** Lower Nicola Indian Band implemented a Letter of Owner's Expectations on July 25, 2017 ("LOE"), which provided guiding principles and governance expectations to LNIBDC, as declared by Lower Nicola Indian Band as sole shareholder;

**AND WHEREAS** the LOE has not been updated since its implementation, for changes in governance requirements of LNIBDC arising from amendments to the Articles of LNIBDC in 2025, changes in the organizational chart involving entities overseen by LNIBDC and other matters;

**AND WHEREAS** Lower Nicola Indian Band, in its capacity as the sole shareholder of the Company, wishes to revise the LOE, to incorporate warranted updates ("revised LOE");

**AND WHEREAS** Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band wish to approve the revised LOE;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council approve the revised LOE (subject to any minor edits of a typographical or similarly non-substantive nature), and thereafter sign such document.

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution #02-17-2026-11 Reads:**

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to adjourn the February 17, 2026, meeting at 9:45pm.

**Motion Carried**

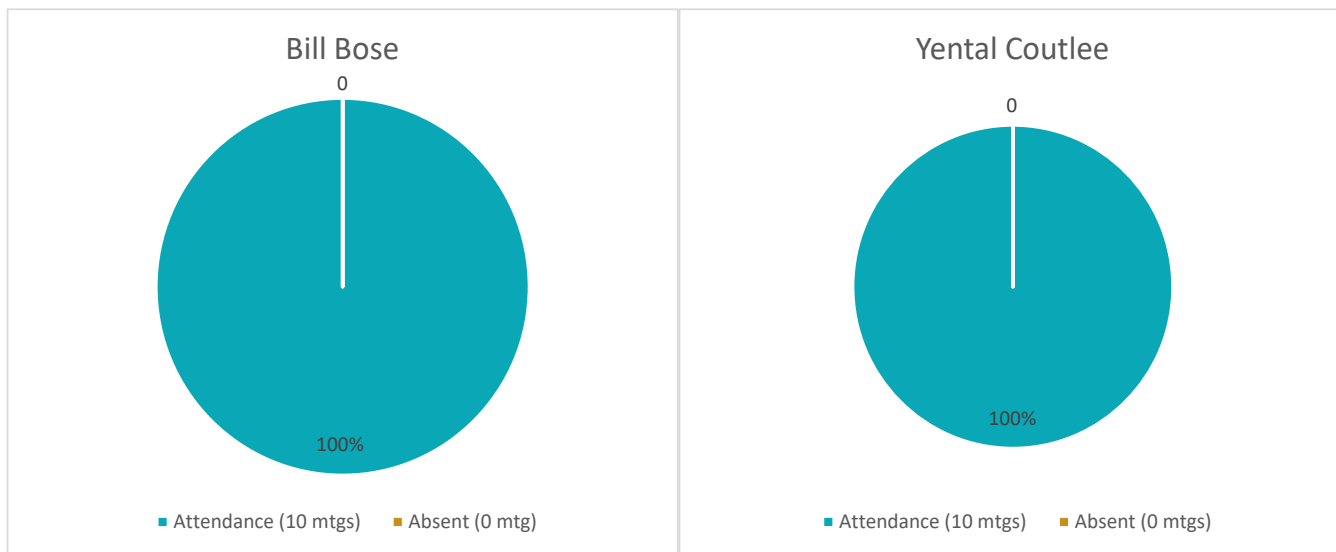
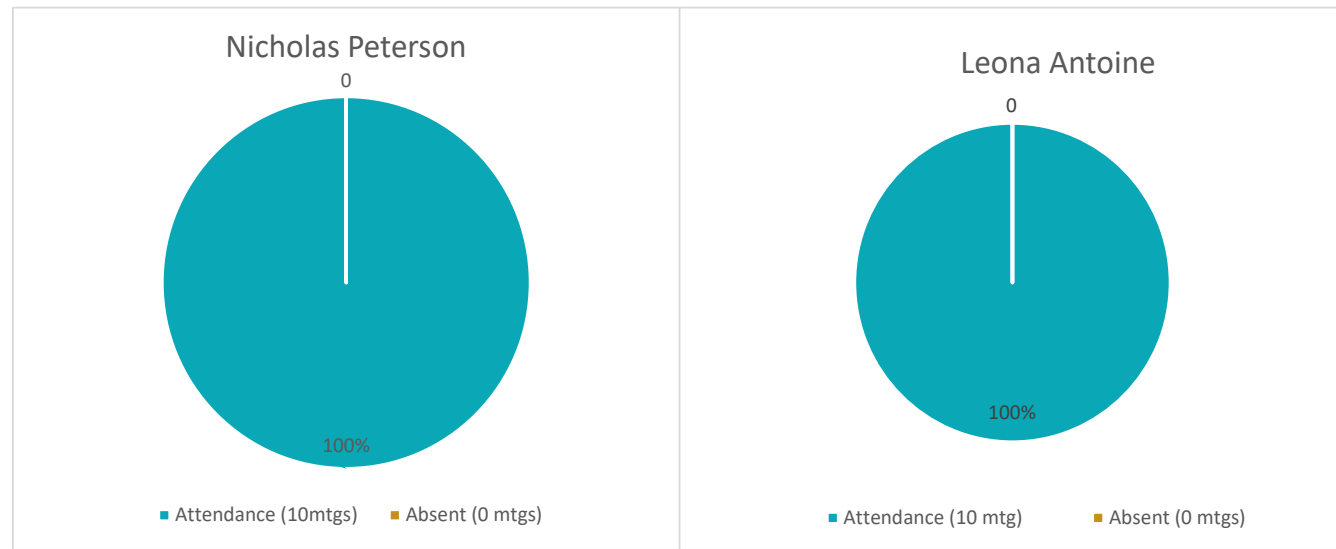
**LNIB Band General**

**March 30, 2026**

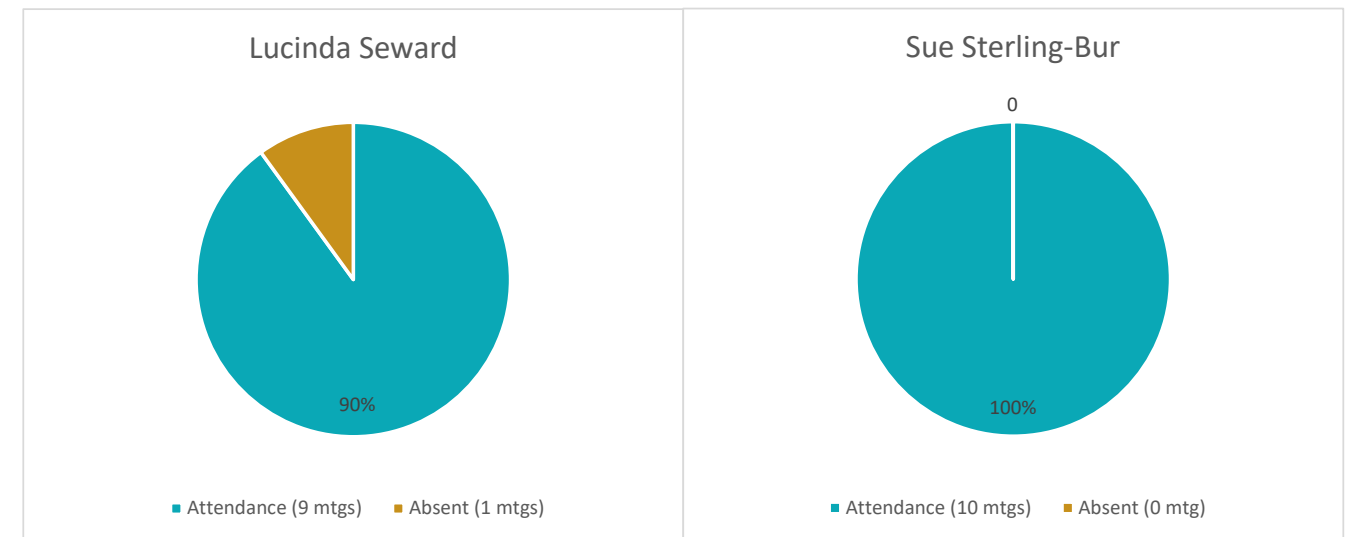
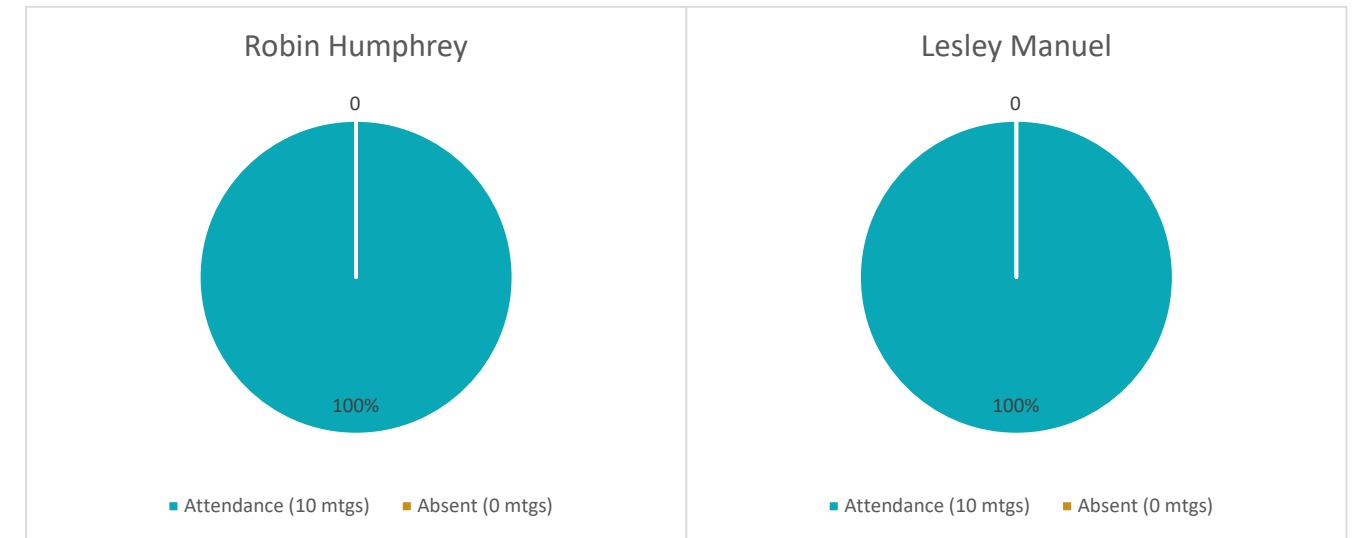
**5:00 pm**

**Shulus Hall**

Chief and Council Attendance  
Term October 2025-September 2029



Chief and Council Attendance  
Term October 2025-September 2029



# HR Corner



## Here's what's been happening — and what's ahead.

At Lower Nicola Indian Band, we know that our strength comes from our people.

Over the past several months, the Human Resources & Administration Department has been focused on building something stronger behind the scenes — not just processes and policies, but a workplace culture rooted in respect, fairness, and community.

We understand that trust is built through consistency. That's why our work is centered on being:

- Strategic in how we support departments
- Community-rooted in how we approach people
- Trauma-informed in how we navigate challenges
- Accountable and consistent in how we apply policy
- Development-focused in how we support growth

HR is not just here for paperwork — we are here for people.

### In this newsletter you can expect:

Welcoming New Team Members

Strengthening Our Workplace

Staff Highlights

Join Our Team

We're Here to Support

## Welcoming New Team Members

At Lower Nicola Indian Band, every role contributes to the strength and well-being of our community. As our programs continue to grow and evolve, we remain committed to ensuring our departments are supported by individuals who are dedicated to service, accountability, and community care.

We are proud to welcome the following new team members to LNIB:

### Estrella Jackson

*Full-Time Receptionist — Administration Office*

Estrella joins LNIB as the welcoming face of the Administration Office. In her role, she supports front-line operations by assisting community members, coordinating communications, and helping ensure daily administrative services run smoothly. Her position plays an important part in creating a positive and supportive experience for everyone who visits or connects with our offices.

### Angie Joe

*Elder's Program Coordinator*

Angie leads programming that supports LNIB Elders through culturally grounded activities, services, and engagement opportunities. Her role focuses on creating safe, respectful spaces where Elders can connect, access resources, and continue sharing knowledge and traditions with the community.

### Brenda Ned

*Public Works Administrative Assistant*

Brenda supports the Public Works Department through administrative coordination, record-keeping, and operational support. Her work helps ensure infrastructure and service projects are organized efficiently, contributing to the delivery of essential services that support community well-being.

### Sara Frazier

*Emergency Operations Coordinator — LNIB Fire Department*

Sara's role focuses on strengthening LNIB's emergency preparedness and response planning. She works alongside the Fire Department and leadership to coordinate emergency management initiatives, support training and readiness efforts, and help ensure the community is prepared for unexpected situations.



### Strengthening Our Workplace

Beyond hiring, HR has been working on:

- Leadership development opportunities for staff
- Strengthening performance management processes
- Improving response times and communication
- Supporting respectful conflict resolution
- Continuing to advance our Putting People First initiatives

This work may not always be visible — but it is intentional. Our goal is a workplace that is fair, clear, and supportive for everyone.

Community and connection matter.

The Education Department recently enjoyed their well-earned pizza party after winning the 12 Days of Christmas Challenge — congratulations on bringing the energy and teamwork!

And congratulations to Michelle Muir-Thompson, winner of our Valentine's Day Raffle.

We look forward to more opportunities to celebrate staff and bring departments together in positive ways.

### Join our Team!

Every role at LNIB contributes to the strength and wellbeing of our community.

Below is a snapshot of current opportunities — please visit the LNIB Careers page for full details, duties, and how to apply:

#### Cumulative Effects & Guardian Manager

This role leads the Land Guardian Program and cumulative effects monitoring, supporting environmental stewardship and cultural resource protection. The Manager guides Guardian staff, helps steward lands and waters, and builds relationships with community, partners, and government.



#### Director of Economic Development

The Director provides leadership in growing the community's economic opportunities and long-term sustainability. They guide land stewardship, business planning, partnerships, and employment initiatives to promote prosperity aligned with LNIB values.



#### Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst

The GIS Analyst develops and maintains LNIB's mapping and spatial data systems that support planning, land use, natural resource management, and community services



#### Managing Aquatics Biologist

This technical position leads aquatic science and habitat programs, oversees aquatic field crews, restores fish habitat, and builds the LNIB fisheries program into the future.



#### School Counsellor

The School Counsellor provides confidential mental health support, assessment, referral, and counselling services to students and families, helping enhance wellbeing and resilience.



#### Housing Administration Assistant

This role provides daily administrative support to the Housing Department, coordinating communication, documentation, logistics, and member inquiries to help housing services run smoothly.



### Community Outreach Worker

The Outreach Worker offers relationship-based support to community members by helping people navigate services, develop life skills, and access supports in ways that promote stability and wellbeing.



### Counsellor — Serving Male Clientele

This counselling role provides mental health and addiction support for individuals and families, with a focus on serving male community members through clinical counselling, outreach, and group support.



### Director of Human Services

The Director oversees health and social programs, ensuring they are culturally safe, coordinated, and responsive to community needs while supporting staff and service quality.



### Youth Outreach Worker

This role focuses on supporting youth and young adults through mentorship, outreach, life skills development, and coordinating programs that strengthen identity, belonging, and purpose.



### Director of Infrastructure

This leadership role provides oversight and planning for community infrastructure, including roads, facilities, utilities, and capital projects to support community services and growth.



### Garbage/Recycle Truck Helper & General Labourer

This position supports waste collection and public works operations that help maintain community cleanliness and functionality.



### Early Childhood Educator

The Early Childhood Educator promotes healthy development in young children through nurturing, educational activities and support in child care and early learning environments



### Building/Facility Maintenance

This role helps ensure LNIB buildings and facilities remain safe, functional, and well maintained. The position is responsible for operating and monitoring essential building systems such as heating, ventilation, and utilities, while supporting maintenance and repairs across community sites.



LNIB EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

SHARON PARSONS  
EDUCATION PROGRAMS MANAGER



[sharon.parsons@lnib.net](mailto:sharon.parsons@lnib.net)



(250) 378 - 5157

OR

(236) 575 - 2105

183 NAWISHASKIN LANE  
HWY 8



Hello LNIB,

Your kids will be out of school from March 14<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> for Spring Break. Education will reimburse up to \$400 for one camp registration. Contact this office if you need more information on how to access that support.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, I met with MSS staff to get updates on the graduation status for LNIB grade 12 students. There are 10 students on track to graduate and 3 who will work hard to walk the stage in June. Don't wait until grade 12, grade 10 is the time students should be discussing graduation credits with school counselors and parents. Contact this office to discuss how we can support your child.

LNIB post-secondary students are moving toward the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. New and continuing students are calling and texting about funding applications for this upcoming fall. Contact this office for more information about band funding for post-secondary programs, trades and training.

Post-secondary applications are available online at [lnib.net](http://lnib.net), you can request to have it sent by email or pick up a hard copy at 183 Nawishaskin Lane.

If you are looking for an interesting job or a lifelong career in education, Nicola Similkameen School District continues to recruit staff to fill various positions at the Merritt and Princeton schools as well as in the administration sector.

If you are interested in applying to the school district, use the following link to explore: <https://www.makeafuture.ca/careers-in-bc-education/>

Just a friendly reminder to LNIB membership that you are free to contact Education staff if you or your child could use help navigating a challenge. Education department staff may be able to find resources to suit your needs.

Wishing you good health, and good fortune!

Until next time, Humelth



LNIB Education Department – Gail La Rochelle – PSE/Trades/Training Coordinator



Wow, I can't believe it is March already.

March 8<sup>th</sup> is International Women's Day and Daylight-Saving Time begins.

March 17<sup>th</sup> is St. Patrick's Day. If you believe in the Irish folklore, wear green and maybe the Leprechaun won't play any tricks on you.

March 20 is Spring Equinox, which marks the start of spring.

March 31<sup>st</sup> is National Indigenous Languages Day, to honour and recognize the linguistic heritage of all First Nations.

PSE students are halfway through the winter/spring semester. It is time to start filling out the PSE Funding application for a September start to the 2026/27 academic year. The applications are due on the last day of May. Applications are on the LNIB website, stop by our office to pick up a copy or we can send you one by email.

To all High School students who will be graduating, it's time to start looking into different Universities and programs. Decide what interest you the most and talk with the advisor at your high school on how to get started. Give the Education Department a call or email and we can answer your questions and help you with the process

Students check out the following Scholarships:

[Indigenous Student Awards | BC Scholarship Society](#) Deadline to apply is April 1, 2026

[Post-Secondary Student Support - BCAAFC](#) Check the deadline for each semester

To all Membership in the Nicola Valley and away from the valley, you can sign up for courses or programs throughout the year. If you find a program or course you are interested in taking, such as first aid, a post-secondary course, skills training for employment, or an online course, we are here to assist you with the process. We can also help create or update your resume. Contact our office to find out how we can best support you.

Please call or email our office to ensure we have your current up-to-date contact information.

Until next month, stay safe, and be good to one another.

*Gail La Rochelle*

Phone: 250-378-5157

Email: [gail.larochelle@lnib.net](mailto:gail.larochelle@lnib.net)



# Lenessa Seward

**LOWER NICOLA INDIAN BAND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

## MARCH 2026

### HELLO EVERYONE

Hope everyone enjoyed Valentine’s Day with their loved ones this year!

A reminder that we still have movie tickets for LNIB youth 13 and under, as well as Blazers Regular Season Hockey Tickets

Please reach out to the education department for availability

### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SCHOOL SUPPORTS

LNIB members can now apply for the following supports

- School Start Up
- Extra-Curricular
- Tutoring

If you haven’t yet applied for school supports above reach out to the education department

We can email fillable forms, or we have printed copies in the office

### LAPTOP LENDER

We have laptops available to lend to LNIB members that need one for school/training purposes

\*Contact the education department for availability\*

Reminder that we have moved office buildings

New Address: 183 Nawishaskin Lane

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

### ADDRESS

183 Nawishaskin Lane

### PHONE

LNIB:

250-378-5157

Direct:

236-575-2100

### EMAIL

Reception.education@lnib.net

### WEBSITE

www.lnib.net

# Haidyn Clark

Student Education Assistant

Education Department

Email: @ [haidyn.clark@lnib.net](mailto:haidyn.clark@lnib.net)

Hello Everyone! Happy March!

Over the past several months, I have had the privilege of working within the Lower Nicola Band School as well as Nicola Canford Elementary, and both experiences have allowed me to grow personally and professionally.

At Lower Nicola Band School, I have been grateful for the opportunity to be part of two Elders luncheons in the last couple of months, attend assemblies, and immerse myself in the community as a whole, which has deepened my appreciation for the culture, relationships, and sense of connection that make the school so special.

At Nicola Canford Elementary, I have been fortunate to continue learning new skills, strengthen my relationships with students, and take part in the many engaging school projects and activities happening throughout the year.

More recently, I have also been spending additional time at the Health Centre, where I have supported various staff members and community individuals wherever needed. Through this role, I have had the privilege of helping with the Welcoming Babies Ceremony, assisting with community event programs, and gaining insight into different roles and responsibilities within the organization. These experiences have opened new opportunities for me, allowed me to see a glimpse into several positions, and, most importantly, continue learning and growing while contributing in meaningful ways to the community.





# Spring Break Camps 2026

The LNIB Education Department is providing a onetime Spring Camp reimbursement for LNIB Band Members attending school from K-12!

Your child can attend one of many camps in BC such as art classes in Merritt at the Nicola Valley arts council, riding lessons at the Erin Valley Riding Stables, and More!

Please Note that only the **first 100 members** that provide proof of registration will be reimbursed.

**(Proof of payment must be provided before receiving reimbursement)**

Each member is eligible to receive up to a maximum reimbursement of **\$400 for one camp** that is scheduled between **March 14th-29th only!**

For More Information, Please Contact the LNIB Education Department

Phone: 236-575-2100  
Email: [reception.education@lnib.net](mailto:reception.education@lnib.net)



## REGULAR SEASON TICKETS

For  
**Lower Nicola Indian Band Elders!**

The LNIB Education Department has Kamloops Blazers Tickets for the 2025/2026 Regular Season!

We would like to give out tickets to any LNIB Elders for the regular season hockey games at the Sandman Centre in Kamloops on the following dates:



**February- 20<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**March- 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>**

**\*Please reach out to the LNIB Education Department if interested\***

# HEAD START NEWSLETTER



## MARCH 2026

### TEACHER NOTES

Spring is on the way !!!  
Its such a great time of year to get outside and share the wonders of nature with your child.

This month we will be focusing on Under the Sea and St. Patricks Day. We will be moving onto the letters T,U,V,W and numbers 8 & 9

We will be running a spring break program from March 16<sup>th</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup>

Our hours will be shorten for this time period, class hours will be 10am -1pm

**WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL.**



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 8<sup>th</sup> - Day light savings
- March 9<sup>th</sup>- PJ day
- March 12<sup>th</sup>- Fire drill
- March 13<sup>th</sup> - Library day
- March 16<sup>th</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup> - SPRING BREAK PROGRAM
- March 17<sup>th</sup>- St Patricks Day/ Wear Green
- March 20<sup>th</sup> - First Day of Spring
- March 27<sup>th</sup> - Library Day

### REMINDERS

Thank you all that have made sure to send their children dressed for the weather. The month of march usually brings changes to the weather again. Rubber boots can be great for the rainy days. Children should still bring an appropriate jacket and sweater for the colder days as we try and get outside everyday.  
Thank you !

### Contact Info

Hinal Thaker  
Head Start Coordinator  
#587-888-2454  
hinal.thaker@lnib.net  
Justice Forman  
604-860-3028  
justice.forman@lnib.net



# Lunch Menu

## MARCH 2026



2 GRILLED CHEESE AND VEG	3 YOGURT/ FRUIT + MUFFINS	4 CHICKEN NUGGETS + FRIES	5 SMOOTHIE BOWLS + GRANOLA BARS	6 MEAT/ CHEESE AND CRACKERS
9 PANCAKES + FRUIT	10 QUESADILLA + VEG	11 KRAFT DINNER + HOTDOGS	12 OATMEAL & TOAST	13 SNACK PLATTER
16 CHICKEN BURGER & FRIES	17 SCRAMBLED EGGS BACON & TOAST	18 NACHOS + VEG	19 CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP & CRACKERS	20 MINI PIZZA & VEGGIES
23 WAFFLES & FRUIT	24 MUFFIN/ YOGURT & FRUIT	25 HAM + CHEESE WRAPS & VEG	26 ENGLISH MUFFINS AND YOGURT	27 GRILLED CHEESE & VEGGIES
30 SPAGHETTI & GARLIC TOAST	31 FRENCH TOAST & FRUIT			

**MARCH 2026**

**HEAD START 0-2YEARS PROGRAM**  
 CONTACT INFO:  
 HIMAL THAKER  
 HIMAL.THAKER@LNIB.NET  
 #587-888-2454  
 SYDNEY JOE  
 SYDNEY\_JOE@LNIB.NET  
 #250-378-7120

**NOTE :**  
 THIS PROGRAM FOR  
 HEAD START  
 REGISTERED MEMBERS  
 ONLY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2	3	4 SWIMMING 9:00 TO 11:00	5 OPEN DAY FOR OUTREACH	6
9 DAY LIGHT SAVING	10 COFFEE AT TONG 9:00 TO 10:30	11	12	13 HERBETT LIBRARY 10:00 TO 11:30
16 LUNCH AT ASW 11:30 TO 12:30	17 HAPPY EASTER	18 SWIMMING 9:00 TO 11:00	19	20 OPEN FOR OUTREACH
23	24 LUNCH AT SUBWAY 11:30 TO 12:30	25	26	26 HERBETT LIBRARY 10:00 TO 11:30
30	31 OPEN FOR OUTREACH			

## LOWER NICOLA BAND SCHOOL FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



It has been a busy and beautiful month at Lower Nicola Indian Band School.

Every Wednesday our gym has been alive with the sound of basketballs bouncing, shoes squeaking, and families cheering. Hosting weekly games has brought such a strong sense of community into our building. It has been especially meaningful to see so many parents and family members coming out to support their children, win or lose.

What I am most proud of is not just the scoreboards, but the character our students displayed. They handled both victory and defeat with maturity, respect, and teamwork. They showed resilience. They showed humility. They represented our school and community well.

Our students also enjoyed a wonderful Winter Celebration hosted by the school district, where they had the opportunity to watch a showcase of powwow dancing. Watching our students stand proudly in culture, was powerful. These are moments that strengthen identity and belonging.

We were also honoured to host our Elders Luncheon this month. There is something special that happens when Elders are in the building. The energy shifts. Stories are shared. Laughter fills the room. The connection between generations is something we deeply value at LNIB School. A heartfelt thank you to Penny and Brandy for always coming through with an incredible meal. Your care and generosity never go unnoticed. We are grateful.

On February 20th, we look forward to welcoming Elders back into our classrooms to share stories with our students. These storytelling days are always meaningful and grounding experiences for our children.

We are also excited for our upcoming Parent Gathering on March 3rd. We look forward to seeing families in the building, sharing a meal together, connecting with teachers, and spending time in classrooms seeing the learning that is happening every day. When families and schools walk together, our children thrive.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our students and our school. It truly takes a community and we are grateful for ours.

k<sup>w</sup>uk<sup>w</sup>scémx<sup>w</sup>

Leroy Slanzi

**Principal**

Leroy Slanzi  
Leroy.slanzi@lnib.net

**Executive Assistant**  
Sioux.Swakum@lnib.net

**Teachers:**

Derek Hanna-Gr.K  
Iulia Gulakova-Gr.1/2  
Rhonda Sheena-Gr.3  
Donelda Haller-Gr.4/5  
Lane Robinson Gr. 5/6  
Randi Gardypie-Gr.7  
Alexandria Girardi- P.E

**Language & Culture :**

William Sandy  
Annie-Rose Major  
James Shuter

**Office & Support:**

Barb Basil  
Joe Collins  
Nikki Flottorp  
Bill Heard  
Cody Jones  
Shelley LeBlanc  
Ryan McDougall  
April Morel  
Kriss Morel  
Deven Nagata  
Reese Paterson  
Brandy Pinyan  
Annie Rabbitt  
Marnee Shipclark  
Garry Stefiuk  
Penny Toodlican  
Clint Woollacott

Phone:250.378.5527  
School cell:250-315-8546

Grade 1/2 Newsletter – February Highlights 😊

What a busy February in Grade 1/2! We spent lots of time (as always!) learning about friendship, how to make friends, use kind words, and practice conflict-solving skills. You can see some of this learning in our “Dino-mite Friends” project, along with a writing assignment about being a good friend. 🦖❤️

We also had a wonderful visit to the Merritt Library! Students enjoyed a fun craft and picked out books for our reading time back in the classroom. 📖

A huge thank you to Officer Grant for joining us for story time in our classroom. The students loved having a special guest reader!

Thank you for your continued support,  
Ms. G



LNIBS Ms. Sheena's Grade 3

Our Busy Hands-On Month!

February has been a wonderful month full of hands-on learning, creativity, and teamwork in our classroom. We have been very busy learning through doing! Through sewing, building, mixing, baking, and experimenting, students are learning by:

- ✓ Working together
- ✓ Trying new things
- ✓ Solving problems
- ✓ Using their creativity

**Sewing Hearts Project-** My class created hand-sewn felt hearts and carefully stitched them together. Inside each heart, they placed a kind note for a loved one. The students were so proud to take these home and share them with someone special.



**LNIBS Ms. Sheena's Grade 3**

**Our Busy Hands-On Month!**

**STEM Learning -Slime Science-** We explored states of matter and chemical reactions by making slime! Students learned how: We even fixed slime that was too sticky by adding the right ingredients – real problem solving!

**Centennial Hockey Player-** We were lucky to welcome a Centennial hockey player! My class were excited to receive hockey tickets, and we are very grateful for this generous visit.

**Bread in a Bag-** We became classroom bakers and made bread using only a bag and our hands! The best part was taking them home to share with their families! I am so proud of their effort, kindness, and excitement for learning. Thank you for your continued support at home.



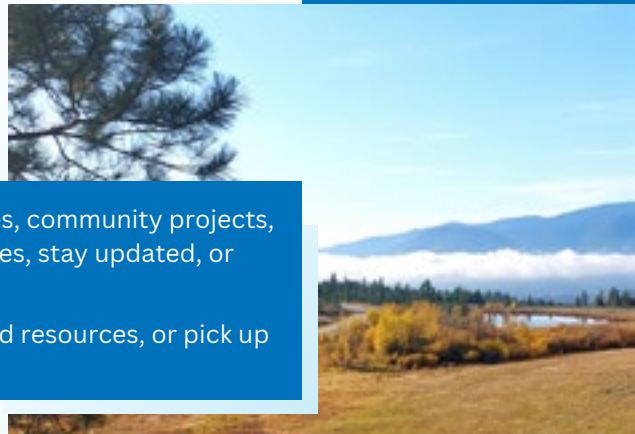
ABSOLUTELY NO NUTS  
AND NO  
PEANUT BUTTER

MARCH 2026



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2 Tomato & mac soup	3 Spaghetti casserole <i>Parent gathering 5-6:30</i>	4 Teriyaki meatballs & rice <b>CRAZY HAIR DAY</b>	5 Veggie sushi & miso soup	6 Monkey bread pizza
9 Grilled cheese & veggie sticks	10 Beef stroganoff	11 Meatloaf & mashed potatoes	12 Chicken stew & dumplings	13 Hot dogs & fries <b>WEAR GREEN</b> <i>REPORT CARDS GO HOME LAST DAY BEFORE SPRING BREAK</i>
16 <b>SPRING BREAK</b>	17 <b>SPRING BREAK</b>	18 <b>SPRING BREAK</b>	19 <b>SPRING BREAK</b>	20 <b>SPRING BREAK</b>
23 <b>SPRING BREAK</b>	24 <b>SPRING BREAK</b>	25 <b>SPRING BREAK</b>	26 <b>SPRING BREAK</b>	27 <b>SPRING BREAK</b>
30 Sweet & sour chicken + rice	31 Lasagna soup & garlic toast <b>ANYTHING BUT A CUP DAY</b>			

### LANDS DEPARTMENT



We're here to help with land activities, community projects, and LMAC inquiries. Share your stories, stay updated, or learn about current initiatives.

Visit [LNIPLANDS.NET](http://LNIPLANDS.NET) for updates and resources, or pick up printed copies at the Lands Office.

**STEPHEN JIMMIE**  
DIRECTOR OF LANDS & HOUSING  
[stephen.jimmie@lnib.net](mailto:stephen.jimmie@lnib.net)

Reach out to Stephen for questions regarding Land Code, Individual Agreement, Law and Policy Development, Special Land Projects, and Land Use Planning.

**KRIS POR**  
LANDS RESEARCHER  
[kristopher.por@lnib.net](mailto:kristopher.por@lnib.net)

Please contact Kris for help with Family and Traditional Land Research, Allotment Applications and Estate Administration support.

**ALEX BUKKOS**  
SURVEY COORDINATOR  
[alex.bukkos@lnib.net](mailto:alex.bukkos@lnib.net)

For inquiries regarding ongoing and historical land projects, including surveys and mapping efforts, please contact Alex.

**VACANT**  
SURVEY ASSISTANT

**DELTA LONG**  
LANDS MANAGER  
[delta.long@lnib.net](mailto:delta.long@lnib.net)

Connect with Delta for discussions on general inquiries, land allotments, transfers, and CPs, as well as matters of law and policy enforcement.

**SAYGE FISHER**  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COORDINATOR  
[sayge.fisher@lnib.net](mailto:sayge.fisher@lnib.net)

Reach out to Sayge for information on Environmental Management and Protection, Invasive Weed Management, Illegal Dumping, and Special Environmental Projects.

**JUSTICE CISCO**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
[justice.cisco@lnib.net](mailto:justice.cisco@lnib.net)

Reach out to Justice for general inquiries, LMAC meeting questions, community event information, land access requests, and Will development coordination.

**VACANT**  
LANDS ADMINISTRATOR

### SAFETY & SECURITY ON LNIB LANDS



The Lands Department supports efforts to protect and care for LNIB reserve lands. To address issues like land misuse and illegal dumping, measures have been implemented to help keep these areas safe and sustainable for the community.

## SNUKWE? SECURITY

250-936-8722

Snukwe? Security is on duty 40 hours each week and responds to calls and messages while on shift.

Snukwe? Security is here to assist as needed and monitor any issues reported by residents, such as noise, nuisances, illegal dumping and general safety concerns.

If you or anyone else is in Immediate danger or emergency situation, please CALL 911 FIRST.

### CAMERAS & GATES

Gates have been installed on Nicola Mameet IR1 to help prevent unauthorized activity while maintaining controlled access for permitted users. Two gates are located on Mamit Lake Branch Road near the speedway, one at the top of Mamit Lake Branch Road, and one at the 4 Mile Corrals. Additional gates have also been installed on the Quilchena and Lundbom access routes onto Hamilton.

Some areas may require a gate code. Trail and security cameras are in place to monitor gate use and deter illegal dumping. These cameras are positioned to avoid impacting the privacy of nearby homes or businesses.

Members' access to reserve lands is not restricted by the gates, though some areas may require a code. For access outside regular office hours, call 250-280-7270

LANDS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

UPCOMING MEETING

March 12, 2026

Meeting ID: 104877542

Lands Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) meetings are open to all LNIB Members to attend virtually starting at 4:30 PM. Listen in to learn about Lands activities and developments. Check the Members Only portal for LMAC meeting links or contact Stephen, Lands Director, for more details.

NOTICE ABOUT RECREATIONAL VEICHLES

The Lower Nicola Indian Band prohibits RV's to be utilized as long-term primary dwellings, residences, or cabins on LNIB Lands including CP Lands and Custom Family Lands (also known as Family Lands) unless they receive prior written authorization from the Lands Manager.

SELLER'S NOTICE BOARD

Are you a landowner looking to sell?

Contact the Lands Department to have your property featured in the monthly LNIB newsletter.

Available Opportunities for Purchase:

- Potential Business Highway Frontage
• CP Residential Lots for Sale

For more information, please contact Donelda Haller at 250-315-5315.

NOTICE TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON WILDLIFE SAFETY

Please refrain from leaving hunting remains, animals' entrails or trimmings up Mamit Lake Branch Road or anywhere near the community / residential areas.

Leaving animal remains from hunting trips too close to the community attracts predators such as coyotes, bears, and wolves. When predators find easy food sources, they become habituated and will continue returning, increasing the risk to children, pets, and all community members. To help keep the community safe, please dispose of hunting remains or animal innards far from homes and industrial areas. A recommended alternative location is up Highway 97C, past the industrial park, rather than along Mamit Lake Branch Road.

BUYER'S NOTICE BOARD

If you're interested in buying land from a landowner, the Lands Department can help! Submit your contact information to be included in the monthly LNIB Newsletter.

Interested Buyer's:

Jennie Blankenship
CONTACT | 604-928-2985 | scwexmx@gmail.com

Mindy Garcia
CONTACT | 250-280-5684

Lorne Dunn
CONTACT | 250-315-7501 | lorne.dunn@yahoo.com

MONTHLY INVASIVE WEED SPOTLIGHT

Field Bindweed

Origin:

This invasive weed originates from Asia and Europe.



Description:

Field bindweed is a perennial vine with white or pink trumpet-shaped flowers, resembling a smaller morning glory. It spreads aggressively through seeds, deep creeping roots, rhizomes, and even stem fragments. Seeds can stay dormant for up to 30 years and spread easily by birds, water, equipment, and clothing.

Prevention Control:

- Reseed all areas where ground disturbance has occurred and minimize ground disturbance near invasive weeds.
• Remove seeds from gear, equipment, or vehicles before leaving a site. Clear Livestock of seed or plant fragments before changing pastures.
• Do not compost this plant, as root and stem fragments can continue to grow and resprout after being removed.
• Avoid tilling or digging near this weed as fragmented pieces can sprout into a new plant.





**Mechanical Control:**

- Hand-pull small infestations, ensure the entire root system is removed.
- Goats are able to eat this invasive and repeated grazing can help hinder seed production and deplete root reserves.
- Mowing is not recommended, it is likely to fragment the vines, further spreading the weed and also may damage equipment.

**Chemical Control:**

- Herbicide can be painted or brushed on bindweed leaves.
  - It is recommended to use glyphosate on bindweed.
  - Please carefully read and follow herbicide labels prior to application.”
- [Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society](https://fviss.ca/invasive-plant/bindweed)



**\*Disclaimer\*** - ANY & ALL herbicide applications must be applied as spot spraying; broadcast spraying may negatively impact other vegetation in the area & harm sensitive ecosystems.

**Herbicide application within 5m of any body of water (seasonal or not) is prohibited.**

LNIB is requesting that the application of herbicide to treat half an acre or more, is carried out by a person holding a valid BC Pesticide Applicator Certificate. Before selecting and applying herbicides, you must review and follow herbicide labels and application rates; municipal, regional, provincial, and federal laws and regulations; species-specific treatment recommendations, and site-specific goals and objectives.

**Sources:**

Bindweed, Morning Glory (2023) Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society. Retrieved from URL: <https://fviss.ca/invasive-plant/bindweed>

Field Bindweed (2023) Invasive Species Online Okanagan. Retrieved from URL: <https://www.oiso.ca/species/field-bindweed/>

E-FLORA BC: ELECTRONIC ATLAS OF THE FLORA OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (2023) Convolvulus arvensis L. field bindweed (creeping jenny; European bindweed; field morning glory; small-flowered morning glory) Convolvulaceae (Dodder family), E-Flora BC: An initiative of the [Spatial Data Lab](#), Department of Geography UBC, and the [UBC Herbarium](#). Retrieved from URL: <https://linnet.geog.ubc.ca/Atlas/Atlas.aspx?sciname=Convolvulus%20arvensis&noTransfer=0>

**You're Invited!**  
**All Nations Knowledge Holders**  
**Workshop**

Join LNIB to share stories, develop tmix<sup>w</sup> protection values, and support the establishment of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area within the Nlaka'pamux Traditional Territory.



**When: March 17th & 18th**  
**10am-3pm**

**Where: Shulus Hall**  
**(85 Highway 8 W, Merritt BC)**

**Lunch and snacks will be provided.**

Any questions, contact Jayda Clark - [jayda.clark@lnib.net](mailto:jayda.clark@lnib.net) or 250-378-5157



# LNIB HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The housing department is responsible for managing the housing program, including property management functions, planning and construction of New Houses, Maintenance and upkeep of the housing stock, the relationship with Canada Mortgage Housing Fund, and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

### Team Members

#### Jordana McIvor - Grismer

Housing Administrator

[jordana.mcg@lnib.net](mailto:jordana.mcg@lnib.net)

Regarding renovations, or external funding options, or building your own home

#### Ashley DeGray

Tenant Relations Coordinator

[ashley.degray@lnib.net](mailto:ashley.degray@lnib.net)

Regarding rentals, maintenance, rental applications, or general housing questions

### Upcoming Positions

Housing  
Red Seal Plumber

Housing  
Reno Coordinator

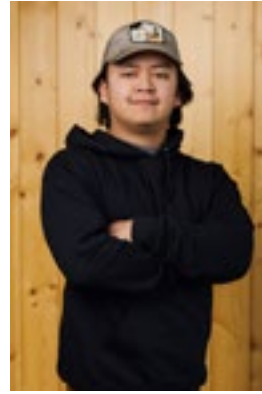
Housing  
Admin Assistant

Mel Blankinship



Alex Forsythe

Luke Flower



Lincoln Sterling

### Maintenance Crew

#### Mel Blankinship

Housing Maintenance

#### Luke Flower

Housing Carpenter

#### Lincoln Sterling

Maintenance Assistant

#### Alex Forsythe

Maintenance Assistant

# Housing Announcements

### Vacant Units

We currently have **8 vacant units** we are just wrapping up with some much-needed renovations. We have been working on updates and structural changes to most of the units. Decisions are being made about next steps for when units are completed. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we get these units ready for the next family that will call it home.

### Attention Emergency Repair Fund

**Emergency Repair Fund is primarily for addressing critical housing repair needs for Conditional Homeowners (eligible homeowners) and Homeowners (who own their own home)**

**Members can apply for the funding at any time, but an application does need to be submitted.**

**Forms are located at the main administration building.**

**If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the housing department.**

**Contact the housing department, by phone, email, or visit us at the Main LNIB Administration Building.**

**Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.**

### Rental Agreement Update

Please be advised that all rental agreement need to be updated.

These are to be updated by March 31<sup>st</sup> every year.

So, if you have not made arrangements to update and sign a new rental agreement, please contact Ashley DeGray, Tenant Relations Coordinator at 250-378-5157 or [ashley.degray@lnib.net](mailto:ashley.degray@lnib.net)



## Housing Work Order Process

The Housing Department would like to clarify the levels of urgency on home maintenance and repairs and what type of time frame you will be looking at for our Maintenance Team to attend your residence. The Housing Department being notified will only be considered when you have called, texted or e-mailed the **Housing Department Administrative Staff**.

**Emergency Repairs** will be assessed and rectified within 24 - 48 hours of the Housing Department being notified. Examples of Emergency Repairs are listed below:

- major leaks in pipes or the roof
- damaged or blocked water or sewer pipes or plumbing fixtures
- the primary heating system
- the electrical system
- deficiencies to the integrity or the structure; and
- any other damage that poses and immediate and urgency jeopardy to the unit or to the health and safety of tenants

**Mid-Level Repairs** will be assessed within 1-2 weeks of the Housing Department being notified. Examples of mid-level repairs are listed below:

- running water (faucet dripping, leaking hose bib etc.)
- appliance repairs or replacement
- plug-ins not working
- bathroom fan not working

**Low-Level Repairs** will be assessed 30 days or more of the Housing Department being notified. Examples of low-level repairs are listed below:

- non-essential light fixtures not working
- furnace filter replacement
- replacement of interior doors/ doorknobs
- functional toilet repairs (toilet is functional to use but requires repairs)
- flooring repair
- non-essential major renovations
- drywall repairs

Please understand that these time frames are “**best case scenario**” and we may have issues with supply chain and/ or contractor availability that may cause delays. The housing department works hard to ensure all of our homes are healthy and safe but as more work orders are called into the office sometimes our priorities have to be modified.

As always, we appreciate your patience when these situations do arise and if you see our maintenance team out in the community be sure to give them your best smile and a wave. 😊

## Insurance Reminder

Just a friendly reminder to our current tenants, we strongly recommend you get your own contents insurance for your home. While your unit is covered under LNIB’s Insurance Policy, it does not cover your contents inside the unit.

If you are a homeowner/CP holder, you are required to hold your own house insurance. We kindly request that you provide the Housing Department with a copy for our records.

There are a variety of Insurance companies out there that you can get quotes from, however, we currently use the following insurer:

**Acera Insurance-Kamloops**  
**250-828-2135**

If you have any questions or concerns or are inquiring if your current home is covered under LNIB’s insurance policy, please reach out to the Housing Department.

# Thank You

*The Housing Department would like to extend our heart felt gratitude for all the work that Sara Frazier-Shuter has contributed in her time as our Administrative Assistant and wish all the best in her new role as the Emergency Operations Coordinator.*

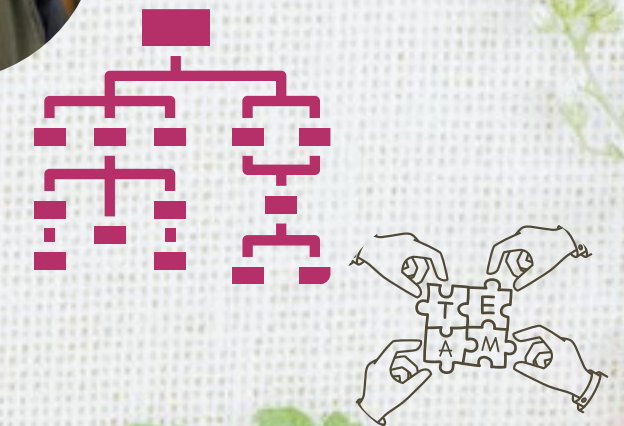


## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS COORDINATOR (EOC)



*PLEASE WELCOME SARA FRAZIER INTO HER NEW POSITION WITHIN LNIB. SARA IS OUR NEW EMERGENCY OPERATIONS COORDINATOR.*

I am excited to start this new chapter of my career; I come with a lot of experiences within the EOC field. I have sat aside an amazing EOC team in previous years. My hope is to bring my experiences working with in an EOC and my addition training that I will be taking to provide our community with a great organized plan. I also am excited to work and build relationships with great people, department, first responders, and even more a great community.





LNIB Guardians



LOWER NICOLA INDIAN BAND

# American Badger

## LNIB Membership & Community Members

The Land Guardian team is asking for your assistance. As part of a conservation efforts to protect the endangered American Badger.

We are seeking reports of any sightings or dens. If you come across an American Badger can you please contact the LNIB Land Guardians.

Colton Sterling-Moses at (250) 378-5157 or email [colton.sterling-moses@lnib.net](mailto:colton.sterling-moses@lnib.net)

Thank you for your support

## Land Guardian Update

### Mount Mable Wind Project – Environmental Survey Summary

The Mount Mable Wind Project, a partnership between Capstone and the Lower Nicola Indian Band (LNIB), aims to develop approximately 35 wind turbines within Nlaka’pamux territory. Over the past year, the LNIB Land Guardian Program collaborated closely with ERM to conduct a series of environmental baseline surveys to support informed decision-making and ensure that project development aligns with ecological and cultural values.

In February 2025, the Land Guardians began participating in Stand Watch Surveys on Mount Mable. These surveys were designed to systematically observe and document the presence and movement of migratory birds, including species listed under the Species at Risk Act (SARA). Complementary Breeding Bird Surveys occurred during the spring and early summer months, with the objective of identifying breeding species across multiple habitat types. Particular attention was given to SARA-listed species such as the Evening Grosbeak, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Lewis’s Woodpecker, and Williamson’s Sapsucker.

The team also engaged in Rare Plant Surveys across wetlands, marshes, and upland mountain environments. These surveys focused on detecting and recording plant species and ecological communities of management concern, contributing to a broader understanding of the region’s botanical diversity. Soil sampling and analysis were completed to provide baseline information on site conditions and historical vegetation patterns within the proposed development footprint.

Additionally, the Land Guardians supported the deployment and retrieval of Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs). These devices passively record acoustic data used to identify bird and bat activity in the area, providing an important dataset for assessing species presence and habitat use.

Throughout the year, numerous field studies were completed in partnership between ERM and the LNIB Land Guardian team. This collaboration has strengthened the Guardians’ technical skills and environmental monitoring capacity, while ERM has consistently demonstrated sensitivity to cultural values and a commitment to working respectfully with the Lower Nicola Indian Band.

Looking ahead, the information gathered through these baseline studies will play a critical role in shaping future project planning, mitigation strategies, and long-term environmental monitoring. The LNIB Land Guardians will continue to work alongside Capstone and ERM throughout 2026 and participate in additional environmental surveys as the project advances. This ongoing involvement ensures that Nlaka’pamux knowledge, stewardship principles, and on-the-ground observations remain central to decision-making.

The Land Guardian Program appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this work and remains committed to protecting the land, waters, and wildlife within our territory for future generations.

## LNIB Land Guardians



# Logo & Project Naming Contest

Mount Mabel Wind Project



LNIB Values Identity & Vision for the future

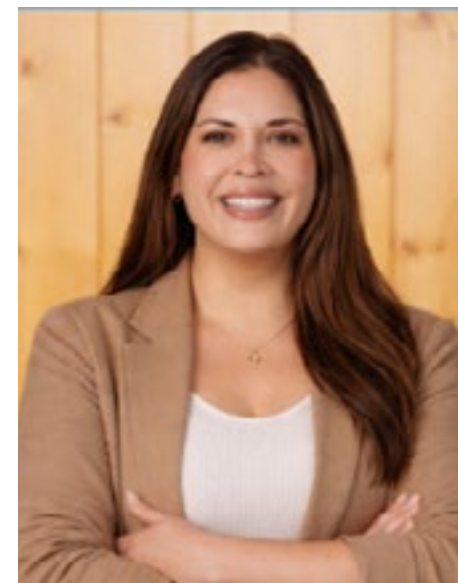
Deadline: March 6, 2026

Prize: \$2500 for the winner or split between two winners

Submit your ideas to [MountMabel@capstoneinfra.com](mailto:MountMabel@capstoneinfra.com)



# MEET *the* TEAM



*Hayley Parsons*

My name is Hayley Parsons, and I am proud to serve as Fire Captain for the Lower Nicola Indian Band Fire Department. Born and raised in Merritt, I am the daughter of Sharon and Rocky Parsons, and the granddaughter of Pearl Clayton. My roots run deep in this valley, and my connection to this land and community is both personal and lifelong.

Over the past five years in this role, I have pursued extensive training and professional development to strengthen my leadership and operational capacity. I am committed to continuous learning so that I can serve our people with confidence, skill, and integrity.

Beyond the uniform, I am a proud mother to my two sons, Knox and Jax. Protecting this community is not just my profession; it is personal. I carry a deep sense of responsibility to care for this land and the families who call it home. It is an honor to give back to the place that raised me, and to stand alongside our community in service, protection, and resilience.

*LNIB Fire Captain*

**Credentials:**

- NFPA 1001 Firefighter I&II
- NFPA 1021 Fire Officer I&II
- EMA FR with Scope of Practice Update
- Occupational First Aid Level 3
- Emergency Vehicle Operations (Pump and Pumping)
- Emergency Vehicle Operations Custom Course
- WSPP-115 Wildfire Structure protection
- Community First Aid
- Fire Department Driver Pump Operator program
- Fire Fighters Competition and training (2024/2025)
- Firefighter Training
- Fire Officer Training
- Smoke Alarm and Fire Extinguisher Course
- Leadership Training
- Auto Extrication
- Forcible Entry
- Emergency Scene Traffic Control
- Rope Rescue (Low to Steep) Certified
- Resilient Minds Certified
- Air Brakes
- ATV & UTV Operator
- Enbridge Evacuation Training
- S-100 - Basic Fire Suppression and Safety
- S-185 - Fire Entrapment Avoidance
- ICS 100 - Incident Command System Orientation
- S-211 - Fire Environment/Fire Weather
- S-212 - Fireline Communications
- S-213 - Heavy Equipment
- S-230 - Single Resource Leader
- S-232 - Water Delivery System (Pumps)
- S-235 - Ignition Operations
- Chainsaw Safety Training
- EMRG-1121-CM001
- EMRG-1143-CM001
- EMRG-1320-CM009
- EMRG-1334-CM002
- EMRG-1350-CM004

# MEET *the* TEAM



*Sarah Wilson*

Hi, my name is Sarah Wilson, I am the Lieutenant with the Lower Nicola Indian Band Fire Department. I have been with the department for 3 years.

My roots run deep in the Fire industry, as my dad is the Fire Chief of Logan Lake and my brother is a Firefighter in Logan Lake. My background is in the medical field as I was a care-aid prior to my employment with LNIB.

**Credentials:**

- EMA FR with Scope of Practice Update
- NFPA 1001 Firefighter I&II
- Ice Rescue Technician
- Rope Rescue Awareness & Low-to-Steep Operations
- Emergency traffic control
- Exterior Fire Fighter Operations
- Team leadership Training Fire Grounds
- Emergency Vehicle Operations (Pump and Pumping)
- WSPP-115
- Conflict resolution 101
- WHMIS
- Enbridge Evacuation Training
- ATV and UTV Operator
- Chainsaw Safety Training
- S-100 Basic Fire Suppression and Safety
- S-185 Fire Entrapment Avoidance
- ICS-100-Incident Command System \_\_\_\_
- S-211 Fire Environment/Fire Weather
- S-212 Fireline Communications
- S-213 Heavy Equipment
- S-230 Single Resource Leader
- S-232 Water Delivery Systems (Pumps)
- S-235 Ignition Operations
- EMRG-1121-CM001
- EMRG-1143-CM001
- EMRG-1320-CM009
- EMRG-1334-CM002
- EMRG-1350-CM004

I am also a proud mother to three amazing girls (Remington, Kinley, and Alexis (Ali.)) I am proud to serve the community and live in the Nicola Valley.

Making the move from Langley to the interior has created so many incredible opportunities for myself and my family, and I could not be more grateful. Giving back and protecting my community has been an honor and given me a great deal of pride.

*Lieutenant*

# MEET *the* TEAM



*Shawn Gambler*

My name is Shawn Gambler, and I'm from Muscowpetung First Nation in Saskatchewan 45 minutes Northeast of Regina, Treaty 4. I'm Cree and Saulteaux. I'm the great, great grandson of the last hereditary chief of my community, named Ometoway The Gambler.

I have lived on and off in the Nicola Valley since the 1990's. I am always helping people. In my 20's I went to different countries in the South Pacific and Indigenous reserves in Canada and US helping people through my missionary work. In my 30's I focused on working, eventually moving back to the Nicola Valley.

I was working at a hockey tournament with Bill Bose when the late Randy (Moose) Coutlee recruited me to join the LNIB Volunteer Firefighters. I've been working at LNIB Fire Department for 3 years now. To me, being a firefighter is the best job in the world.



**Credentials:**

- NFPA 1001 Firefighter I&II
- S-100 Basic Fire Suppression and Safety
- S-185 Fire Entrapment Avoidance
- EMA FR with Scope of Practice Update
- Emergency Vehicle Operations (Pump and Pumping)
- Exterior Fire Fighter Ops
- WSP-115 Wildfire Structure Protection Program
- Highway Safety Traffic Control Program
- S-100 Basic Fire Suppression and Safety
- S-185 Fire Entrapment Avoidance
- ICS-100-Incident Command System \_\_\_\_
- S-211 Fire Environment/Fire Weather
- S-212 Fireline Communications
- S-213 Heavy Equipment
- S-230 Single Resource Leader
- S-232 Water Delivery Systems (Pumps)
- S-235 Ignition Operations
- Chainsaw Safety Training
- Air Brake Endorsement
- Class 5 Driver's license
- Enbridge Evacuation Training
- EMRG-1121-CM001
- EMRG-1143-CM001
- EMRG-1320-CM009
- EMRG-1334-CM002
- EMRG-1350-CM004

# MEET *the* TEAM



*Billie Pierre*

My name is Billie Pierre and I'm from the Nlaka'pamux nation and am a Lower Nicola Indian Band member, and I'm a proud mother. My mother is Mechelle Pierre from Shulus, and my father Glen O'Soup is from Key Reserve Saskatchewan.

My background is in independent media, writing, and radio. I supported many Indigenous campaigns over the years, on an international level and eventually campaigns closer to home, focusing on Indigenous Law, traditional territories and traditional sustenance. In my 30's I periodically worked as a support worker in women's shelters in the Downtown Eastside and studied at NVIT in Merritt, eventually focusing on Environmental Natural Resources Technology. I am currently taking the occasional Nlaka'pamux language course while working full-time.

I've been at LNIBFD for one year. I've gained valuable skills as a fire fighter, and my official title is Community Engagement and Administration Assistant.

**Credentials:**

Nlaka'pamux Language Program  
part-time/current

Environmental Natural Resources  
Background  
Women's Housing Support Worker  
Community media/radio programmer

Emergency Vehicle Operations (Pump  
and Pumping)

Exterior Fire Fighter Ops

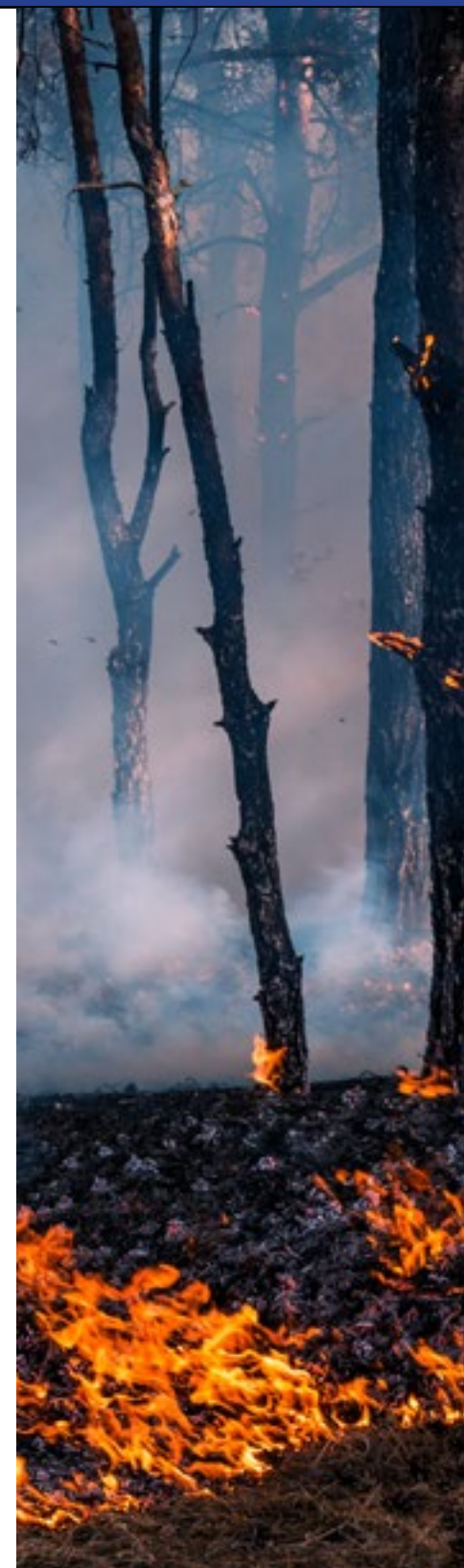
EMA FR with Scope of Practice  
Update

S-100 Basic Fire Suppression and  
Safety

S-185 Fire Entrapment Avoidance

Enbridge Evacuation Training

EMRG-1121-CM001  
EMRG-1143-CM001  
EMRG-1320-CM009  
EMRG-1334-CM002  
EMRG-1350-CM004



**UPCOMING TRAINING**

**S100 - Fire Suppression**

**S185 - Fire Entrapment  
& Avoidance Safety**

**Limited Seating**

**Get your training to fight wildfires**

To register please contact  
Darcie DeBruyne at (250) 378-5157

or email

[darcie.debruyne@lnib.net](mailto:darcie.debruyne@lnib.net)

**Monday, April 20, 2026  
Tuesday, April 21, 2026  
Shulus Hall  
8:30 am - 4:30 pm**



Join our team

# LNSS JOB Connection Event

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

March 19, 2026

Shulus Hall  
85 Hyw 8

If you are looking for local and long term. Bring your resume and come on down.

Any questions contact Darcie DeBruyne at (250) 378-5157 or email [darcie.debruyne@lnib.net](mailto:darcie.debruyne@lnib.net)



## LNIB Youth 11 - 16 years old Are you interested in doing a Babysitting Course?

Please contact Darcie DeBruyne  
[darcie.debruyne@lnib.net](mailto:darcie.debruyne@lnib.net)

**250-378-5157**



**ATV/UTV**  
*Course*

**LOWER NICOLA INDIAN BAND**

Limited Seating      May 12, 2026

To register contact **DarcieDeBruyne**  
Email: [darcie.debruyne@lnib.net](mailto:darcie.debruyne@lnib.net)

To register call 250-378-5157



# CHAIN SAW SAFETY

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Shulus Hall

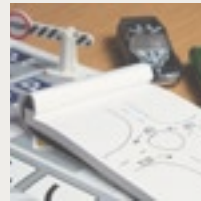
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

To register contact  
Darcie DeBruyne at (250) 378-5157 or  
[darcie.debruyne@lnib.net](mailto:darcie.debruyne@lnib.net)

### LNIB Sponsored Driving Lessons

#### Requirements:

- Have a valid Learners License
- Have Parent or Guardian consent unless of legal age.
- Fill out an application to be approved.
- Be on time for all lessons.
- Lateness will not be tolerated



#### SMART ROADS, SAFE COMMUNITIES

#### The Lessons

An application must be submitted to [Darcie.debruyne@lnib.net](mailto:Darcie.debruyne@lnib.net) and approved before any bookings can be made.

-----  
 The Lower Nicola Indian Band will sponsor LNIB Members for 8 Driving Lessons, a rental car, if needed, and road test fees.

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 Members will be responsible for booking their lesson times through Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly

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 After being approved, contact CNA Employment & Training to book your lessons. (250) 378-1864 [administration@cna-trust.ca](mailto:administration@cna-trust.ca)

*For more information contact Darcie Debruyne*

Email: [darcie.debruyne@lnib.net](mailto:darcie.debruyne@lnib.net) or  
 Phone: 250-378-5157



If travelling to Metro Vancouver for Patient Travel please arrange travel before the start of the FIFA World Cup and schedule appointments for non-urgent and or non-emergency appointments until after July 31, 2026, to Metro Vancouver.

If travel for emergency appointments during the FIFA World Cup, you may be eligible for reimbursement. Keep receipts and document's such as, confirmation of attendance, and or referrals to appointments.

For any further questions please contact Taylor Tolman at the Health Centre  
 250-378-5157  
[Taylor.tolman@lnib.net](mailto:Taylor.tolman@lnib.net)

# MARCH 2026

LNIB Culture Programs with Joe Shuter  
(250) 315-4787

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 Nłe7kepmx Language Group 5:00 - 7:00 pm	5	6 Afternoon Ice Fishing Peter Hope	7 Men's Group Sweat, Surrey Lake 10 am - 3 pm
8	9 Beading Dream Catchers 5:00 - 8:30 pm	10 Coffee with a Cop 10:00 am	11 Nłe7kepmx Language Group 5:00 - 7:00 pm	12	13	14 Birch Bark Basket Workshop
15 Birch Bark Basket Workshop & Men's Sweat Glimpse	16	17	18 Nłe7kepmx Language Group 5:00 - 7:00 pm	19	20 Spring Equinox	21
22	23	24 Harvest Toolie for Matt Making	25 Nłe7kepmx Language Group 5:00 - 7:00 pm	26	27 Men's Group Surrey Lake	28 New Babies Blanketing & Men's Group
29 Men's Group Surrey Lake	30	31 Weave Toolie Matts				

**LOWER NICOLA INDIAN BAND**

# Spring Swap Clothing Exchange

COME READY TO SWAP GENTLY USED CLOTHING

March 25th  
5:00 - 7:00 pm

Rocky Pines  
Community Centre

Any questions call Marilynne Munro 250-378-5157

**LOWER NICOLA INDIAN BAND**

**SHULUS HALL**

# Easter Egg Hunt

EASTER EGG DECORATION - HOT DOGS- COLORING

## March 21, 2026

**SATURDAY 11 AM - 1:30 PM**

Easter Egg Hunt  
 12:00 pm for ages: 0 - 5 years old  
 12: 20 pm for ages: 6 - 9 years old  
 12: 40 pm for ages: 10+

**BRING A BASKET**

**LOWER NICOLA INDIAN BAND**

# Paint Night

*LIMITED SEATING*

Explore your creativity and express your emotions through painting

**March 19th**  
**5:30 - 7:00 pm**

Rocky Pines Community Centre

Children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult

To register call Marilynne Munro  
 (250) 378-5157

# Community



# Potluck

Monday, March 30



5:00 - 7:00 pm  
Rocky Pines Community Centre

Questions please call

Marilynne Munro  
(250) 378-5157



Ice Fishing Derby at Tunkwa Lake sponsored by the LNIB Land Guardians & Culture Dept





Ice Fishing Derby at Tunkwa Lake sponsored by the LNIB Land Guardians & Culture Dept

# LOWER NICOLA INDIAN BAND



## HONOURING LNIB KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS (60+): A VISUAL LEGACY PROJECT

We invite LNIB Knowledge Keepers (60+) to join us for a professional portrait session dedicated to celebrating your presence and your contributions to our community. This project is grounded in respect and care, ensuring a safe and welcoming space for all our Elders.

Date: **Friday, March 20, 2026**

Time: **9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

Location: **LNIB School - Portable (Located behind the School)**

Format: **15-minute photo sessions.**



Contact Angie Joe to register:

Phone: **250-378-5157**

Email: [angie.joe@lnib.net](mailto:angie.joe@lnib.net)





# 50TH ANNUAL ELDERS GATHERING

“Standing Side By Side”

August 25, 2026 - August 26, 2026

Vancouver Convention Centre

LNIB is Honored to invite our LNIB Elders to attend the Gathering in Vancouver.

Please register ASAP so we can plan accordingly.

Elders Coordinator Angie Joe

Phone: (250)378-5157

Email: [angie.joe@lnib.net](mailto:angie.joe@lnib.net)



Meet and Greet  
with  
**Angie Joe**  
Elders Coordinator

Contact Information:

(250)378-5157

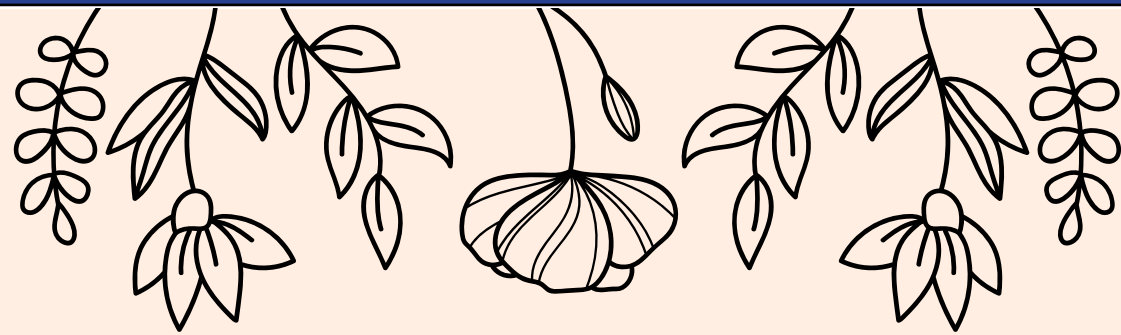
[Angie.Joe@lnib.net](mailto:Angie.Joe@lnib.net)

A light meal will be provided. We welcome your thoughts and look forward to meeting you in person.

Monday, March 2, 2026 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Location: Rocky Pines Community Centre



# VISION BOX MAKING

## WOMEN'S GROUP

WITH MARY JUNE COUTLEE

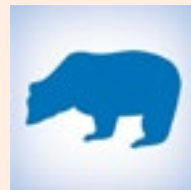


Wednesday, March 18, 2026

5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Dinner will be provided

Limited Seating



Registration is required contact

Irene Howe (250)378-7340

or

Kirsten Dick (250)378-5157



# Introduction to Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) Engagement



The tmix<sup>w</sup> naqscn FLP First Nations' Steering Committee invites First Nations community members to join us at Shulus Hall to learn about FLP and what your representatives have accomplished

March 10 4:30 - 8:00  
Shulus Hall, 85 Hwy 8 W, Merritt, BC

Introduction to FLP Presentation at 5:30

The name tmix<sup>w</sup> (The Land and All Living Things) naqscn (One Voice) reflects the values and relationships that guide how FLP work is undertaken

- Question and Answer
- Open House topic tables
- Additional opportunities for engagement throughout the region will occur in Spring 2026
- Dinner will be served.
- Door prizes!

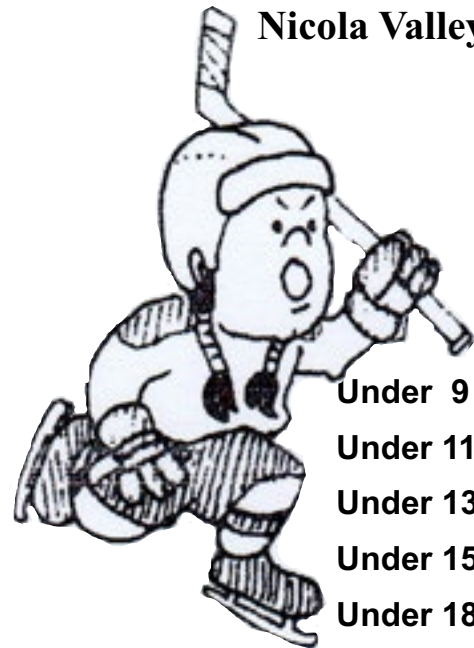
Contact Nick Dormaar [ndormaar@merakiresources.com](mailto:ndormaar@merakiresources.com) or Dennis MacDonald [dmacdonald@uppernicola.com](mailto:dmacdonald@uppernicola.com) for more information

Made with PosterMyWall.com

# The Greatest Show on Earth

Nicola Valley Junior Native Hockey Association

PO Box 1294, Merritt, BC V1K 1B8  
Fax: (250) 378-2025 - Phone: (250) 378-4905  
Email: billbose2012@yahoo.com



## 36th Annual

- Under 9 (2020, 2019, 2018, 2017)
- Under 11 (2016, 2015)
- Under 13 (2014, 2013)
- Under 15 (2012, 2011)
- Under 18 (2010, 2009, 2008, 2007) - 1st yr Juvenile



**OPENING CEREMONIES & HONORING MOOSE  
MARCH 26TH AT MERRITT ARENA**

**In the Beautiful Nicola Valley At Merritt &  
Shulus Arena**

**PLAN TO ATTEND - SUPPORT THE YOUTH**

*March 26, 27, 28, & 29, 2026*

Daily Admission \$5.00 per person

Children Under 12 and Seniors Free Admission



*Be there or be*



## Latest information when crossing the Canada-United States border as a person registered under the *Indian Act*



### Here's what your community members need to know

Every country or territory decides who can enter or exit through its borders and the Government of Canada cannot intervene on behalf of Canadians who do not meet entry or exit requirements for the United States (U.S.).

Consular officials provide assistance to Canadians detained abroad (including by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (commonly referred to as ICE)) in accordance with the [Canadian Consular Services Charter](#).

### TIPS before you travel to the United States

Check [Travel advice and advisories for United States](#) for the latest information on safety and security, entry and exit requirements, consulate contact information, and more.

Sign up with the [Registration of Canadians Abroad](#) system to receive important updates.

### If you're crossing the Canada-U.S. border for travel purposes with a status card

Registered persons, regardless of where they are born, have the right to enter and remain in Canada. Although any valid version of the status card can be presented to enter Canada, there may be a difference between the requirements to enter Canada and the requirements to enter the U.S.

While in the past you may have been able to enter the U.S. with any valid version of the status card, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) now strongly recommends carrying a valid passport when you are travelling outside of Canada in addition to your Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS), also known as the secure status card.

If you're already registered under the Indian Act and need your secure status card on an urgent basis, for example, to return to Canada, you can apply at any time, free of charge, and request priority processing. **Acceptance of all status cards is entirely at the discretion of U.S. officials.**

Status cards can't be used to cross the Canada-U.S. border by air.

### If you're entering the U.S. to live and work as a registered person

You may be asked to provide documentation to prove the percentage of Indian blood required under U.S. law. For example, they may request a letter from Indigenous Services Canada or your First Nation. Indigenous Services Canada can issue a letter of ancestry confirming registered ancestors, but it does not list a person's blood quantum. You may be asked for more documentation.

[Get, renew or replace a status card](#)

[Crossing the Canada-U.S. border with a status card](#)

[Indigenous travellers](#)



Indigenous Services Canada / Services aux Autochtones Canada

Canada

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

- 1 CONTACT US WITH YOUR COMPLAINT
- 2 WE'LL LISTEN RESPECTFULLY
- 3 WE'LL ASK SOME QUESTIONS

Is your complaint about an organization under our jurisdiction? If not, we can direct you to the right place.

Have you tried to resolve your complaint directly with the organization?

WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN HELP

We will try to resolve your issue quickly OR We will do a more in depth investigation

#### THERE MAY BE MANY OUTCOMES FOR YOU INCLUDING:

- Getting money that is owed to you
- Getting a better explanation of a decision that impacts you
- Getting a policy that was unfair changed

### WE WORK TO ADDRESS BARRIERS TO BEING TREATED FAIRLY

The BC Ombudsperson is committed to supporting and actively advancing reconciliation through our work with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples. Outreach and engagement are an important part of this work.

### BEING TREATED FAIRLY IS YOUR RIGHT



### DO YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT ABOUT PROVINCIAL OR LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICES?

#### WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Visit our **Complaint Checker** to see if we can help with your complaint.



[indigenousinfo@bcombudsperson.ca](mailto:indigenousinfo@bcombudsperson.ca)

1-800-567-FAIR (3247) or 250-387-5855

PO Box 9039 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9A5



### YOU CAN TALK TO US

1-800-567-3247 | [BCOMBUDSPERSON.CA](http://BCOMBUDSPERSON.CA)

### WHAT IS AN OMBUDSPERSON?

We are here to make sure everyone in BC is treated with fairness and respect by provincial and municipal services in BC.

Our staff can either help resolve your specific problem or can point you in the direction of someone who can help.

The Indigenous Initiatives team is working with Indigenous communities to help raise awareness of the office's service, to help guide people with concerns to the right pathway to help resolve their issues, including bringing concerns forward to the Ombudsperson.



*"I was denied service."*

*"I wasn't given a chance to speak up."*

*"I want to know the decision process."*

*"I wanted them to follow the policy."*

### CONCERNS WE CAN HELP YOU WITH

We can investigate most provincial or local public services in BC including:

- Provincial Government Ministries
- School Districts
- ICBC
- Adult Corrections and Youth Custody
- BC Hydro
- Health Authorities
- WorkSafeBC
- BC Housing
- Local government

We can't investigate complaints about the police, the federal government, banks, Indigenous (First Nations, Métis or Inuit) governments, or private companies.

To find out more about who you can complain to us about see our **online Complaint Checker** at [www.bcombudsperson.ca](http://www.bcombudsperson.ca).

### WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US

- We will respect you and your experience
- Our investigations are done privately
- We witness and hold space for what you share with us
- We approach our work in a way that seeks to avoid further harm to you
- We investigate to determine whether the government organization was fair to you, and if not, we work to make it right.

### YOU CAN HAVE A SUPPORT PERSON OR AN ADVOCATE PRESENT.





**LNIB ELDERS  
COORDINATOR**

*Angie Joe*

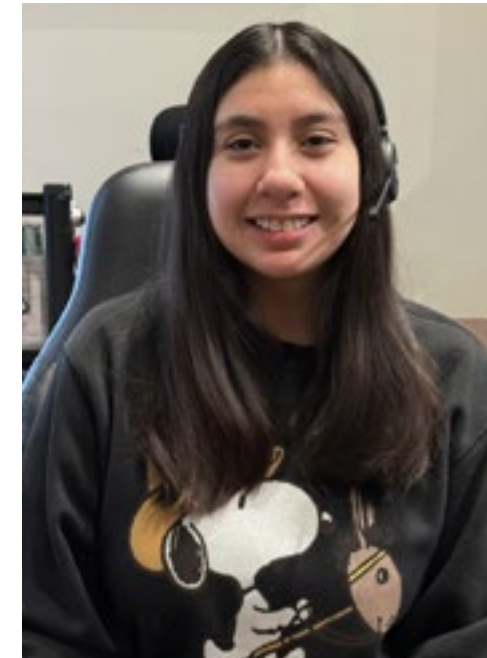
My name is Angie Joe. I am an LNIB Member, born and raised. My parents are Stanley Swakum and Mabel Joe. I have two children: my son, Jonas, and daughter-in-law, Naomi; and my daughter, Jessica, and son-in-law, Alex. I am also blessed with four grandchildren. I lived in Westbank for several years in the same community as my grandchildren.

I decided to pursue and complete my education in filmmaking and later had the opportunity to work at the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games. That experience encouraged me to return to school at Okanagan College to study Culinary Arts.

I was interested in working in the film industry, either on set or in the kitchen. I had the opportunity to work on set as background in three films — twice with Nicolas Cage and once with Scott Eastwood. I also worked at Quails' Gate at the Old Vines Restaurant, and most recently spent the last 8.5 years working at the Westbank Value Village. I took the opportunity to apply for the LNIB Elders Coordinator position, which opened new doors for me.

It has been a life-changing decision to become part of the LNIB community once again. I look forward to working with the Elders and will be setting dates and times soon for a Meet and Greet. I am also working on the 50th Annual Elders Gathering, "Standing Side By Side," taking place August 25–26, 2026.

**K<sup>w</sup>uk<sup>w</sup>scémx<sup>w</sup>, Angie Joe**



**Receptionist  
LNIB Administration**

*Estrella Jackson-Alvear*

My name is Estrella Jackson-Alvear, and I was recently hired as the Receptionist at the Lower Nicola Indian Band Administration Building. I am incredibly proud to be part of the LNIB staff, both as an employee and as a community member. I am excited about the opportunities this role will bring and the skills it will help me develop, especially as I plan to pursue some form of business studies in the upcoming school year as part of my long-term goals.

I am especially proud to be contributing to my own community in this position and to be learning more about our people and the important work that happens behind the scenes. I am the daughter of the late Nina Jackson and Esteban Alvear. On my mother's side, my grandparents are Richard Jackson Jr. and Janice Seelatsee. On my father's side, my grandparents are the late Saturnino Alvear and the late Juanita Alvear. I am LNIB through my mother and her family, and I also carry my father's Hispanic heritage. A running joke in our family is that my brother and I are their "Indian Tacos," representing both sides of our heritage.

I recently completed the courses necessary for graduation a semester early, which allowed me to begin working full-time at the Band Office. That accomplishment means a great deal to me, as it reflects the hard work and dedication, I invested in myself during my first semester. In many ways, it reminds me that I truly am my mother's daughter — with her determination, strong mindset, and work ethic.

I have spent most of my life in Lower Nicola and Merritt. Both places are very special to me and my family, as we have deep roots here. This community holds a special place in my heart, and I hope to be someone the LNIB community can rely on.



**LNIB**  
**PUBLIC WORKS ASSISTANT**  
**Brenda Ned**

Spaxomin Member: My parents are William and Lily Ned, and my brother William Robert Ned (Riv). I spent the last six years in Newark, New Jersey, USA, exploring the East coast. Although I enjoyed my time in Newark, Nj at the Newark International Airport as a Security Officer, I am happy to be back in Canada. Working in the tourism industry inspecting airport employees / airport food trucks for any prohibited items before entering the restricted airspace. I experienced a whole lot of everything and everybody and have learned to appreciate what we have in Canada. I look forward to work with Naomi Jackson, Publics Works Manager as the new Public Works Assistant and learning about the Lower Nicola Indian Band.



# HOME HARDWARE

## PRO CONTRACTOR CHALLENGE WINNER

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February 2026