October 2026

Serpent River First Nation
NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

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Serpent River First Nation

Anishinaabe Aadziwin

Our Team ...

Marlene Essex	705-227-0891
Robbie Sago	705-227-0845
Dayland Patrie	dayland.patrie@serpentriverfn.com
Tammy Lantain	tammy.lantain@serpentriverfn.com

Our Location

We are located at the Senior's Rec Building!
30 Ball Park Road

Boozhoo!

Aanii kina wiya!
Our Anishinaabe Aadziwin Team is growing, and we are proud to serve our community.
We look forward to creating more opportunities to strengthen who we are as Genaabaajing Anishinaabek.

Have an idea or feedback?
Reach out! We want to listen, learn, and build together for you and with you!!

Autumn Prayer

Gizhminido, I ask that you help me feel and recognize your love during this beautiful season of change.
Allow me to see the beauty that surrounds me and to give thanks for the land that continues to provide for me during this time of harvest.
As the trees release their leaves, help me remember that I, too, can release what I no longer need to carry. Help me let go with trust, so that I may continue to grow, heal, and make room for what is meant to come.
Miigwech for the teachings of the land, for the harvest, and for the reminder that change is a natural part of life.

Binaakwe Giizis: Falling Leaves Moon

Mooz – Moose
Waawaashkesh – Deer
Giigoonh – Fish
Bine – Partridge
Amik – Beaver
Waabooz – Rabbit
Mizise – Turkey
Mtig (ook) – Tree(s)
Mtigomin – Acorn
Niibiish – Leaf
Miigwaan – Feather
Mino gizhigat – Good day
Mizhakwat – Clear skies
Gimiwan – Rainy
Noodin – Windy

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

OCT 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		PLEASE NOTE THAT FOR ALL CALENDAR EVENTS THAT THEY ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON WEATHER, STAFFING, EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES. WE DO OUR BEST TO GET NOTICE OUT AS EARLY AS WE CAN FOR CANCELLATIONS. MIIGWECH		1	2 FALL HARVEST MOUNT LAKE	3 FALL HARVEST MOUNT LAKE
4 FALL HARVEST MOUNT LAKE	5 FALL HARVEST MOUNT LAKE	6 LUNCH AND LEARN PATRICIA TOULOUSE 12 AT THE HEALTH CENTRE	7 LUNCH AND ODDS & ENDS 12-2PM GEKA DAILY DISH 11-1 LIFESTYLE CENTRE TDWG ENGAGEMENT SESSION 5 5PM BAND HALL	8 ELDERS & CHILDREN CRAFTERNON SPANISH MARINA 1-3PM LUNCH & LEARN BREAST CANCER AWARENESS 12-1PM BAND HALL	9	10
11	12 OFFICES CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY	13	14 LUNCH AND ODDS & ENDS 12-2PM GEKA DAILY DISH 11-1 LIFESTYLE CENTRE	15	16	17 RECYCLING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & LUNCH BAND HALL 12-3PM
18	19 FRESH AIR WALK 9AM POWWOW GROUNDS	20 SPECIAL EDUCATION INFO SESSION 5-8PM BAND HALL	21 LUNCH AND ODDS & ENDS 12-2PM GEKA DAILY DISH 11-1 LIFESTYLE CENTRE WAASMOOWIN COMMUNITY DINNER 5-8PM BAND HALL	22 WAASMOOWIN JOB FAIR 4-8PM BAND HALL	23	24
25	26 FRESH AIR WALK 9AM POWWOW GROUNDS	27	28 LUNCH AND ODDS & ENDS 12-2PM GEKA DAILY DISH 11-1 LIFESTYLE CENTRE	29 WOMENS WELLNESS PAPS & APPS 1PM-7PM HEALTH CENTRE	30 HAUNTED TRAIL FAMILY FRIENDLY 5-6PM SCARES FROM 6-8PM	31 HALLOWEEN

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1	2 OFFICES CLOSED FOR ALL SOULS DAY	3 LUNCH AND LEARN PATRICIA TOULOUSE	4 LUNCH AND ODDS & ENDS 12-2PM GEKA DAILY DISH 11-1 LIFESTYLE CENTRE	5	6	7
8	9 FRESH AIR WALK 9AM POWWOW GROUNDS	10	11	12	13	14
15 ADDICTIONS AWARENESS WEEK	16 FRESH AIR WALK 9AM POWWOW GROUNDS ADDICTIONS AWARENESS WEEK	17 ADDICTIONS AWARENESS WEEK	18 LUNCH AND ODDS & ENDS 12-2PM GEKA DAILY DISH 11-1 LIFESTYLE CENTRE ADDICTIONS AWARENESS WEEK	19 ADDICTIONS AWARENESS WEEK	20 ADDICTIONS AWARENESS WEEK	21 ADDICTIONS AWARENESS WEEK
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A MESSAGE FROM HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Garbage Day is every Friday.

- Please have your garbage out by 8am at the end of the driveway to be picked up.
- All garbage must be in garbage bags; any loose garbage will not be collected.
- Please be mindful and do not place broken glass in your garbage as it poses a safety risk for our staff.

Waste Transfer Station Hours: Monday–Friday 8:00AM – 4:30PM
Excluding holidays

- Please be advised that the Serpent River First Nation Transfer Station is not a dump.
- Please place waste in the proper bins
- Please do not throw ANY garbage in the metal bin.

Just a friendly reminder that Fall is here and don't forget to:

- Check your Septic Tanks and schedule a pump out
- Keep lawns and field beds mowed
- Replace Furnace Filters and HRV Filters
- Test Fire Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- Clean dryer ducts
- Shut off water supply to your outside water faucets to prevent freezing over the winter

DEAR VALUED TENANTS

Please note the rental statements release, both email and snail mail will be moved this month from Oct15th of the month to Oct19th for this month. Any payments will be adjusted after that date.
Miigwetch

The Finance and Housing Team

THREE RIVERS SCHOOL GRAND OPENING

The Three Rivers School opened on Sept 9th. Located at 158 Youngfox Road in Blind River, the building's is shared between Three Rivers School, École publique des Pins Blancs, and the EarlyOn Child and Family Centre. Three languages all under one roof.

A ribbon cutting ceremony took place with students and members for the three communities. Approximately 18 students from Serpent River First Nation attend the new school.









STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Barry Jacobs

Barry is a smiling face who works behind the scenes of SRFN helping keep the band office clean and running smoothly. He sets up tables and chairs for events, and he is always the first to lend a hand or a tool when you need it.

Serpent River is where Barry proudly calls home. He's retired his fast ball arm and hockey legs so now he spends his free time watching baseball or playing Euchre on Monday's. His smile and laugh are contagious and he has been part of the Serpent River team for 12 years.

Chi-Miigwech Barry for all you do at the Band office and your smile that lights up the halls!



WHAT'S NEW?

At Serpent River our departments are always looking to try new things, bring new sessions to community and get community to come together.

This October the first Driving School is coming to SRFN! The registration was full only hours after announcing it. The interest was so good that planning a second date is already top of mind for Alicia.

The spooky season is here and calls for dressing up. This year the staff are the ones putting the costumes on at the Haunted Trail. Bring your goody bags... if you dare!





Staff and residents at the Geka are selling wreaths for **All Souls Day**

Small Wreath $15.00
Medium Wreath $25.00
Large Wreath $35.00

The funds from the wreaths goes towards our Elders Christmas Party.

Please contact Glenda at the Geka for purchase. (705) 844-2818 EXT 1
glenda.massicotte@serpentriverfn.com

COLOUR RUN FOR FASD AWARENESS

On September 5th 30 people attended the Colour Run for FASD awareness which included runner, walkers, supporters, and helpers.

14 individuals registered and 11 did the run including a 5 year old who came 2nd place!

The prizes were given based on age groups:
0-6, 7-10, 11-15, 16 +

Miigwech to the organizers and participants!







OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in Canada.
1 in 8 women in Canada are expected to be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime.

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Seven school buses brought youth from Elliot Lake Secondary School, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Lourdes, Central & Estin Public schools to the former Spanish Indian Residential School site. Students gathered in the rain, under orange flags and umbrellas, to listen to speakers and take time to reflect and remember.

The Spanish Indian Residential School (IRS) Project – Bringing Home Our Children is led by Alyssa Traves and her team of helpers from the Education Department.

Alyssa opened the morning by speaking about how thankful she was to see so many people gathered, braving the rain to be there. She spoke about the importance of remembering the students who attended the schools, their parents and families, and the impact residential schools had across Canada. Jeanette Commanda offered an opening prayer.

Chief James Owl spoke about the 44 communities that were affected by the Spanish Residential Schools and the lasting impact on our communities.

The microphone was then passed to Serpent River Elder Elaine Johnston. Elaine spoke directly to the students in attendance, asking them to imagine what it would feel like to be taken from their homes and away from their parents, and what it would feel like as a parent to have your child taken away.

Alyssa closed the speeches with a hopeful and optimistic message. With strength in our communities and by continuing to come together, just as we did that morning in the rain, there is hope that in the near future we can bring classes back to this site, continue gathering here, and create a new memorial to ensure the children are always remembered.

CBC News was also on site to capture the morning. The walk was led by Alyssa around the grounds, with a line of students, community members and attendees carrying orange flags and wearing orange T-shirts and sweaters. The group followed the path past the sacred fire and toward the school.

Hundreds of people then gathered along the road in front of the remains of the girls' school to listen to Angel Crease sing The Wildflower Song. A song about a mother who sends her children into a wildflower field when she sees the agents coming.
Angel sang beautifully, and the crowd remained silent and still as they listened.

Following the song, Alyssa walked around the school and smudged the grounds while everyone took time to reflect and remember.

After the walk and ceremony, lunch of walking tacos was waiting for everyone at the marina. The marina was once again filled with children from the visiting classes, community members, Elders, volunteers and SRFN staff.

Chi-Miigwech to Alyssa, Angel, the SRFN staff volunteers & Chief and council volunteers who helped make this day such a meaningful and successful gathering.





Elaine Johnston



Jeanette Commanda - opening prayer







Angel Crease - The Wildflower Song





CUTLER ACID INFORMATION SESSION

On Wednesday September 16th Isabelle Meawasige opened the information session with a prayer. Groups at various tables had informal conversations and discussions.

Five members of the Cutler Acid crew were in attendance to answer questions and share information;

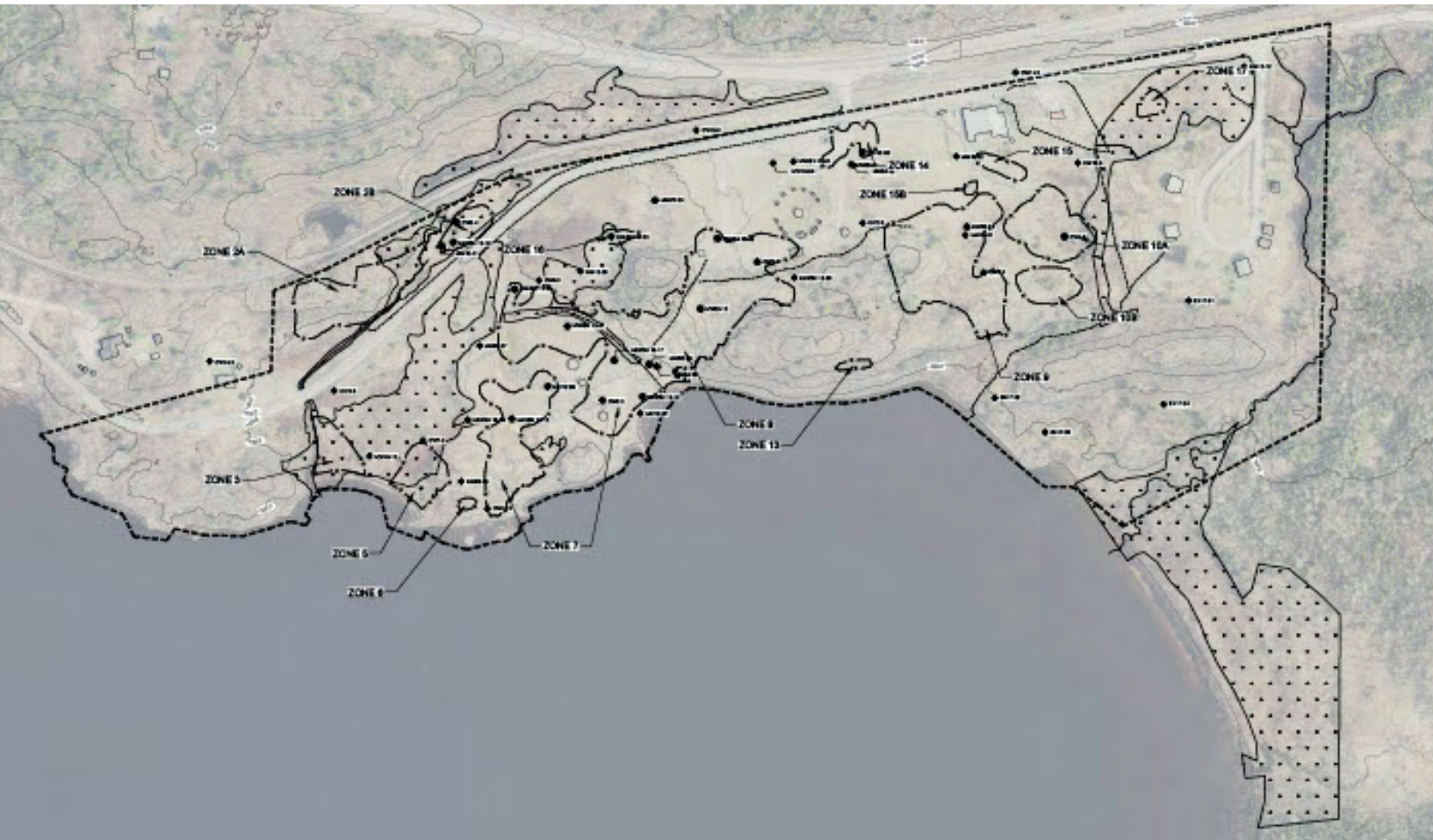
- Kerri Hurley (ISC)
- Amenda Hong (ISC)
- Scott Taylor (WSP-contract admin)
- Kristina Small (WSP-project manager)
- Matthew Cochrane (Milestone - Site super)

Plus bonus guests from Environment Canada and Health Canada;

- Nicole and Maria (Health/Environment Canada)

Roughly 38 community members attended the dinner.

The project is proceeding well and the work will likely extend into May of 2028 due to the extra material being found in the soil.



Post Secondary - September 2026

Please read the following information regarding post-Secondary Funding - How to apply, How a student is accepted or wait listed.

Program Information

- Program Funded Through our department should be two years or more
- be sure to pay attention to the deadlines
- There is a wait list every year as this funding is limited

Contact Info:

diane.meawasige@serpentriverfn.com
705-844-2418 Ext 324

Application Deadline and Reviewing

- Application deadline is April 30th Every Year for the following September.
- Intake for students who applied for January are reviewed the first week of December students required to attend classes Spring/Summer are reviewed in April.

Priority List for Post-Secondary Funding

- Continuing students from the previous year. Grade 12 graduates within the last 20 months.
- Deferred applicants who have never received funding and have reapplied to remain on the list.
- Deferred applicants who received alternate funding in the previous year and are continuing their studies.
- Applicants who have never received post-secondary funding and have not previously applied.
- Applicants who previously received funding, completed a diploma or degree, and are advancing to a higher level in a related field.
- Applicants who previously received funding completed a diploma or degree, and are pursuing a different field of study.
- Other applicants.

Dadavan Link:
https://srfnoutcomes.ca/student/pseapplication.jsp

Sponsorship Letters

- Sponsorship letters are provided for students approved for Serpent River First Nation funding.

Required information:

- Student number
- Program name
- Date of birth
- Fiscal year being sponsored
- Full-time or part-time status
- Depending on living arrangements, separate letters may be needed for tuition, residence, and meal plans. Institutions are asked to invoice each semester.
- Some schools accept sponsorship letters as a deposit, while others require students to pay upfront and be reimbursed with a receipt.
- Some institutions require their own sponsorship forms, which must be completed instead of our standard letter.

Student Applications

All students are notified of their application status. Approved students must submit required documents, and sponsorship letters are sent to their chosen institution with a copy provided to the student.

Community Announcements

Life does not end with physical death but transitions into another state of existence within the spirit world where ancestors reside and where the living can seek guidance and support.

Life long Community Member Leslie Day has embarked on his journey to the Creator. There will be no services at Leslies requests. He leaves behind his daughter Dawn, grandchildren and had a special place in his life for his great grand son Igor. He will be missed by all whose lives he touched. Condolences to the family



FALL & WINTER HOURS
MONDAY-SUNDAY
9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

SERPENT RIVER TRADING POST

SHOP FROM HOME!

Can't make it to the Trading Post? Shop our selection online anytime!
Canada-wide shipping available!

www.serpentrivertradingpost.ca

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

Live in Cutler? Enjoy free local delivery on your online order!

Please call or email so we can set up your online account with discount and tax exemption!

OCTOBER SALE

SRFN Members can get 30% off of Hunting, Fishing, and preserve items!

Sale period is October 1st-31st



SURVEY

Your feedback is important to us so you may see more surveys in the coming months as we collect data on how we do things, what we do well, where we miss the mark and how we can improve. We encourage any and all responses to the survey questions if you would like to add your name and contact information please do so, otherwise all responses can remain anonymous.

We value the input from community about our events, our communications, or programming and everything in between. With feedback from community we can uncover our strengths and weaknesses to know what's working and where we can target improvement.

Please feel free to answer this survey and drop it off at the band hall or you can find the link to the digital survey by scanning the code here

How do you hear about SRFN events?

Facebook SRFN App Newsletter Bulletin

Other: _____

How satisfied are you with the Newsletter overall?

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Do you hear about the events enough in advance?

Yes No Sometimes

What do you enjoy most about the Newsletter?

_____

_____

What do you feel is missing from the Newsletter?

_____

_____

Any other comments or feedback?

_____

_____

Miigwech!





ELDERS BIRTHDAYS



Harold Day & Randy Fraser – Oct. 2

Claudette Desleschouwer – Oct. 4

Murphy Ricard – Oct. 4

Mike Pine – Oct.7

Valerie Commanda – Oct.13

James M Fraser & Junior Brousseau – Oct. 19

Greg Johnston – Oct. 24

Patricia Squires & Donna Meawasige – Oct. 30

STAFF UPDATES

We have been focussing on building our capacity by filling new roles, moving staff internally to where knowledge and talents can be utilized and recruiting new hires to fill any gaps in servicing and programming.

Since February 2026 we have hired approximatley 24 new staff, and had roughly 6 staff members change roles.

We will continue to ruicruit knowledgeable hard working individuals to continue expanding our workforce.

Welcome:

Cynthia Pelletier - Administrative Assistant to TDWG

Kyle Abitong - Asset Management Lead Hand

Allen Meawasige – Mental Wellness Worker

Michael Allen - Economic Development Officer

Congratulations to Tracey SImon on her New role - Child & Youth Mental Health worker

A MESSAGE FROM KENABUTCH HEALTH CENTRE

If you require transportation to a medical appointment, please try to call 2–3 days before your scheduled appointment, or even earlier whenever possible. This allows us to do our best to arrange transportation to and from your appointment. Medical transportation fills up quickly, and we cannot always guarantee a ride. We always try our best to accommodate everyone, but there are times when this is not possible.

Medical Transportation Guidelines

- Drivers are assigned medical runs at the beginning of each day. We cannot accommodate requests for a specific driver. If you are unhappy with a driver or have a concern regarding your transportation experience, please contact the Clinic to file a complaint.
- Medical vans are strictly for medical appointments. This includes doctors, optometrists, dental appointments, foot care, etc. We cannot provide transportation for shopping, “hitching” a ride, or transporting pets to the veterinarian.
- Shopping transportation is available every Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. A van travels to Elliot Lake to bring community members shopping. Please call the Clinic if you would like to be added to the list.
- Our medical vans travel as far as Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie. Any destination beyond these locations is considered long-distance medical transportation and requires an application to be completed in order to receive funding.

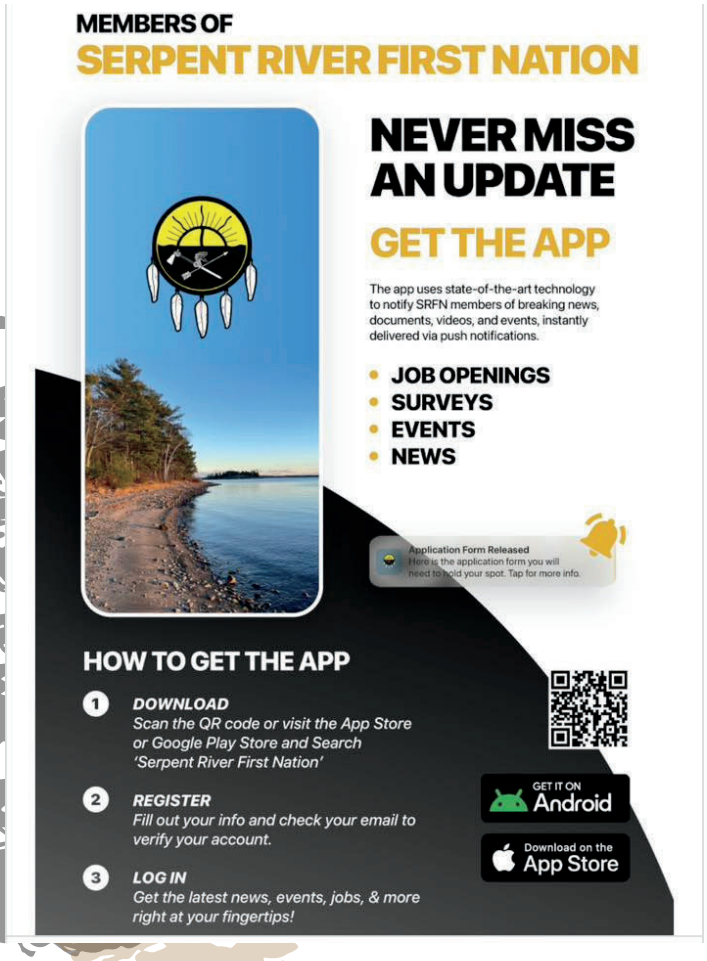
Long-Distance Medical Transportation Applications

- If you have a long-distance medical appointment and require funding before your appointment, it is best to bring your Notice of Appointment to the Clinic 3–4 weeks before your appointment to ensure everything is in place.
- If you require someone to attend your appointment with you as an escort, NIHB now requires a letter from your medical provider stating that an escort is medically required. Without this letter, an escort may be denied. Please note that no money is provided for an escort’s meals.
- If your escort requires their own motel room, a letter must be provided stating that separate rooms are medically required. Without this documentation, NIHB will not approve two rooms.
- To apply for medical transportation, a Notice of Appointment is required. This can be a letter or email from your medical provider confirming that you have an appointment. The notice must include: The date of the appointment, The time of the appointment, The name of the medical provider
- While attending your appointment, you will need to have an Appointment Sheet signed by your medical provider and return it to the Kenabutch Health Centre. If the sheet is not signed and returned, it may appear that you did not attend your appointment, which can put you in arrears with the Band Office.
- If your medical trip requires a motel room, you must provide a receipt for the room, unless the Program Assistant booked the room for you. Failure to provide a receipt may put you in arrears with the Band.
- Failure to provide required receipts and signed Appointment Sheets will result in future applications being denied until all missing information has been submitted to the Program Assistant at the Kenabutch Health Centre.
- It generally takes 6–8 weeks to receive an application back after it has been submitted following your appointment (post-application).

Important Notice

Please be advised that **NIHB continues to experience staffing issues**, which are causing delays in patients receiving their applications back in a timely manner. We appreciate your patience and understanding while these delays are being addressed.

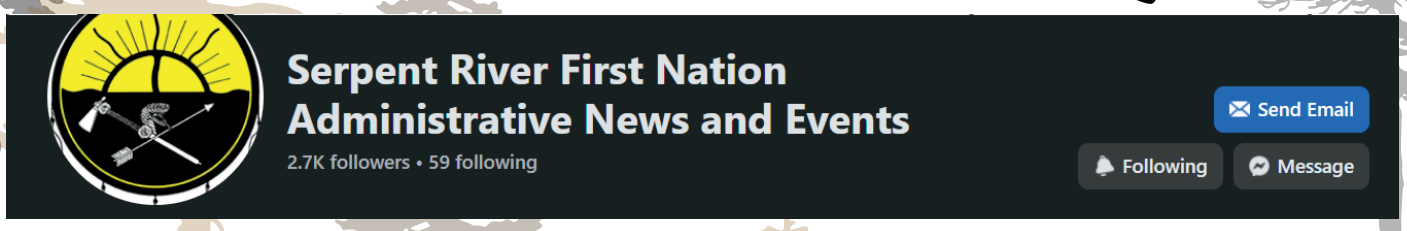
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Never miss an update!!

Hit the FOLLOW button



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communications@serpentriverfn.com