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AWAS'AK WIYASIWEWIN

Gear Up for the Native Provincials!

Get your jerseys washed and your cheering voices ready, because the 2026 Native Provincials Hockey Tournament is finally here! Starting April 2nd, our very own Awasak Warriors will be taking to the ice in Edmonton to show the big city how we play hockey up north. Supporting our youth is what it's all about, and there's nothing like the energy of a packed arena to keep those kids skating hard. Whether you're there for the high-speed action or just for the arena popcorn and a good visit with the cousins, we'd love to see you in the stands. Come out and catch a game or two—let's make sure the Warriors hear us loud and clear!

Hiy hiy, and see you at the rink!



NEWS, IDEAS, AND INSIGHTS

- Awasak Warriors
- Tribute
- YLL Calendar
- Prevention Calendar
- Urban Highlights
- PTFN Activities
- Loon Activities
- Lubicon Activities

Want to make a difference in someone's life? Become a care home today!



scan for more information



A Heartfelt Tribute to our Onikanew Gladys Okemow



As we move forward, we want to take a moment to honor and give a big thank you to our Onikanew, Gladys Okemow. Gladys hasn't just been a part of the Awasak Wiyasiwewin Initiative—she has been one of its strongest pillars since the very first seeds of this vision were planted. From her time serving as Chief of Peerless Trout First Nation to her three-year appointment as Onikanew, Gladys has been a fierce advocate for our people, always keeping our youth and families at the heart of everything she does.

Stepping into a brand-new role is never easy, but Gladys took a position that had never been occupied before and brought the vision to life. She listened to the community's suggestions, learned lessons along the way, and ran with them—turning the Office of the Onikanew into a reality for the past three years. She led with a dedicated team by her side who will miss her guidance and her spirit around the office. Her work ensures that our child and family well-being remain in our own hands, protecting our people both on and off the reserve.

Gladys, your passion and your unwavering belief that our children are our future have left a mark that won't soon be forgotten. We are so grateful for your leadership and the foundation you've built for the Lubicon, Loon River, and Peerless Trout members. We wish you nothing but the very best in your new endeavors—we know you'll continue to do great things!



Become an Awasak Wiyasiwewin Care Provider

We are looking for loving and caring homes who can provide permanency for children.

- Who can apply to be a Caregiver/Provider?
- Persons at least 18 years old, of any gender, preferably from the Founding First Nations (Loon River, Lubicon Lake Band and Peerless-Trout First Nation), and can be married, common law, single, divorced or widowed.
- Persons physically, emotionally and financially stable and able to provide for the safety and well-being of a child/children.
- Persons prepared to take training and attend support groups, as well as work with a team of professionals, including KTC Child & Family staff.
- Persons whose family and friends support their interest in welcoming a foster child into their home.

For more information please talk to the In Care Support Worker.



scan for more
information on
becoming a Care home



2026 YOUTH LEADERSHIP & LIFE SKILLS

- LUBICON LAKE BAND #453
- LOON RIVER FIRST NATION

- TROUT - PEERLESS TROUT FIRST NATION
- PEERLESS - PEERLESS TROUT FIRST NATION



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
2026 Happy Easter		Session 1-2 Stress Management & Coping Skills 3 - 5pm Session 1-2 Stress Management & Coping Skills 3 - 5pm	Community Easter Egg Hunt	Session 1-3 Strengths & Positive Thinking 3 - 5pm	Session 1-3 Strengths & Positive Thinking 3 - 5pm	Session 1-4 Self-Esteem & Identity 3 - 5pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Just Dance Competition Ages 8-12 5 - 8pm Just Dance Competition Ages 8-12		Session 1-4 Self Esteem & Identity 5 - 7pm	Beading 12pm - 4:30pm	Session 1-5 Reflection & Integration 5 - 7pm	Session 1-5 Reflection & Integration 5 - 7pm	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	YMCA GROUPEXCHANGE					
26	27	28	29	30		

- YLL Team Members Contact**
 Krista Auger
 Coordinator
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 Peerless Navigator
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 Trout Navigator
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- Holly Laboucan
 Lubicon Navigator
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if no location is stated then programming is at awasak prevention building

APRIL - PREVENTION CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Soup & Bannock 12pm Soup & Bannock 12pm Soup & Bannock 12pm Soup & Bannock 12pm Easter Egg Hunt 5 - 7pm	8 Soup & Bannock 12pm Soup & Bannock 12pm Stay n Play 1 - 3pm MHR Information session 2 - 4pm Family Easter Craft Night 5pm Scrapbooking 5 - 7:30pm	9 Family Easter Egg Hunt 2pm MHR Information session 2 - 4pm MHR Information session 2 - 4pm Family Easter Craft Night 5pm	10 MHR Information session 2 - 4pm	11
12	13 MHR Information Session 2 - 4 pm Family Easter Craft Night 4pm Autism Awareness/ painting pots/planting 5 - 7pm Spring Décor 5 - 8pm	14 Family Easter Craft Night 4pm Autism Awareness/ painting pots/planting 5 - 7pm Earth Day 5 - 7pm	15 MHR information Session 2 - 4pm Family Easter Craft Night 5pm Autism Awareness/ painting pots/planting 5 - 7pm Self Care 5 - 7pm	16 Stay n Play 1 - 3pm MHR Information session 2 - 4pm Autism Awareness/ painting pots/planting 5 - 7pm	17 Autism Awareness/ painting pots/planting 5 - 7pm	18
19	20 Family Mental Awareness 4pm World Health Day Maslow's Hierarchy Mini tipi making 5 - 7pm Self Care 5 - 7pm	21 Stay n Play 1 - 3pm World Health Day Maslow's Hierarchy Mini tipi making 5 - 7pm Cup Cake Decorating 5 - 8pm	22 Family Mental Awareness 5pm Family Mental Awareness 5pm World Health Day Maslow's Hierarchy Mini tipi making 5 - 7pm	23 Stay n Play 1 - 3pm Family Mental Awareness 5pm Family Mental Awareness 5pm Family Mental Awareness 5pm Family Mental Awareness 5pm World Health Day Maslow's Hierarchy Mini tipi making 5 - 7pm Baby Moccasin Making 5 - 9pm	24 World Health Day Maslow's Hierarchy Mini tipi making 5 - 7pm Baby Moccasin Making 5 - 9pm	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- > All participants will be entered into the \$300 monthly draw and also the main \$500 draw done every 6 months.
- > Locations and times may change for unforeseen circumstances, but everyone will be notified through posters, social media, and other resources available if necessary. Thank you.
- > Everyone is welcome to sign up. We are excited and look forward to seeing you.

When not color-coded, all event(s) or workshop(s) are for Lubicon, Peerless, Trout and Loon River.

color-coded Locations for workshops:

- Red - mihkwāw - Lubicon
- Blue - sîpinkwāw - Loon River
- Yellow - osâwâw - Trout Lake
- Green - askihtakwāw - Peerless Lake
- Purple - ka âpihtimihkwak - Edmonton
- Brown - kaskitêw-osâwâw - Peace River
- Pink - kokenewapikoneyak - Slave Lake

- Note 1: AWAS'AK WIYASIWEWIN logo
- Note 2: Check with your community prevention coordinator for additional details
- Note 3: call 1-844-6AWASAK
- Note 4: Come and Join in our activities!

Urban Locations March Highlights

Tansi! Our urban cousins in Peace River, Slave Lake, and Edmonton definitely weren't sitting still this March! Even though we're spread out in the bigger centers, the Awasak staff made sure that home didn't feel so far away with a calendar full of good times and even better visiting.

It was a busy month for everyone, and the energy was contagious! We had some high-stakes competition at Family Game Night in Edmonton. Things were even louder over at Family Bowling in Peace River—let's just say some of our members have a strike that's faster than a summer storm! We also slowed things down to capture some memories during our Scrapbooking Session, and the creativity at the Stay and Play Crafts showed us that our little ones are already following in those artistic footsteps. To top it all off, we had a St. Patty's Day Celebration in Slave Lake that had everyone wearing green and sharing a laugh.

Kinanāskomitin to every one of you who took the time to come out and participate. We know life can get hectic, so seeing so many of you pull up to join the circle and share a story means the world to us. The Awasak crew is already cooking up a storm for April, and we can't wait to see you all again soon!

Peace River



Slave Lake



Edmonton





PTFN March Highlights

Tansi! March in Peerless and Trout was absolutely legendary, and it's a good thing we're a tough northern crowd because the schedule was packed! The PTFN Awasak team really had us running. We saw some serious hustle during the Youth Volleyball Tournament—those kids were diving for every ball like there was a fresh plate of bannock waiting on the sidelines. The competition stayed hot for the Co-ed Cornhole Tournament, too. We saw some pretty "creative" tossing techniques, Let's just say some of the "friendly" competition between couples had us wondering who was walking home!

When we weren't diving for balls or tossing bags, we were showing off that famous Cree creativity. Between Arts and Crafts Day and the Coloring Contest, the talent in this community is unreal. We even had a Cake Decorating session where some of those cakes looked almost too good to eat—though most of us didn't let that stop us for long!

Kinanāskomitin to every one of you who showed up and made these events so lively; it's the people that make Peerless and Trout the best place to be. Don't go into hibernation just yet though—the Awasak crew is already cooking up a storm for April, and you won't want to miss what's coming next!

Co-ed Cornhole Tourney



Youth V-Ball Tourney



Cake Decorating & coloring contest



Woman's Day Charcuterie boards



Photo booth Fun!



Arts & Crafts Day





Loon River March Highlights

March was electrifying, the Loon River Awasak team really outdid themselves keeping the community busy! We kicked the month off with a Cornhole Tournament that had everyone's competitive side coming out—there was some serious skill on display, and maybe a little bit of "gentle" teasing for those whose bags ended up nowhere near the board.

Before the dust could settle from the tournament, we moved right into Family Bingo. Let's just say, you haven't seen true focus until you've seen a room full of Cree families one number away from a win! We kept the creative juices flowing with a Coloring Contest for the artistic souls, and Baking Session that had the whole place smelling better than a fresh batch of bannock.

Every single event was packed with good people and plenty of laughs. Kinanāskomitin to everyone who showed up and made March so memorable! If you're still resting up, don't get too comfortable—the Awasak crew is already working their magic on the April calendar. Get ready, because more fun is headed your way soon!

Coloring Contest & Baking



Family BINGO



Cornhole Tournament





Lubicon March Highlights

The Lubicon Awasak team was running on high gear this month, and it's a good thing too, because the office was bumpin! It was so lit, we forgot to stop and take more pics for the gram. We've noticed more of you coming out to visit and join in—it's starting to feel like the old days with all that good energy in the room.

We had a bit of everything to keep us busy. The Family Bingo night was legendary; you could hear a pin drop when someone was waiting on that last number for the blackout! Things got even louder during Cree Language Charades, where some of the acting was so good (or so "unique") we almost forgot what word we were guessing. For the competitive spirits, the Cornhole Tourney brought out some serious talent—and maybe a little bit of "helpful" advice from the sidelines.

Our future leaders had a blast with Playdough Making and the Stay and Play sessions for the littles. We also saw some incredible creativity with the Coloring Contest, and the Cake Decorating proved we have some master artists in the community—though we all know the best part was the "cleanup crew" getting to eat the mistakes! Kinanāskomitin to everyone for the participation; seeing your faces makes all the planning worth it. Don't go getting too comfortable just yet though—the Awasak crew is already putting the finishing touches on the April calendar!

Play dough making





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Please note that staff are still available while we navigate the changes.
Please feel free to contact the Office of the Onikanew by Phone or Email.



Phone: 780-649-5819

Email: onikanew@onikanew.ca

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR A LIST OF PROGRAM STAFF AND
THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION



OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.KTCCFS.COM

1-844-6AWASAK / 1-844-629-2725

Our Founding Nations



Lubicon Lake
Band



Loon River First
Nation



Peerless Trout
First Nation