SITANSISK KOLUSUWAKON

NEWS UPDATE

APRIL 2026

NEWS RELEASE

Polamuwok Back

Save Wolastoq Salmon

WOLASTOQEY HOMELAND - The Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick is demanding that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans keep the Mactaquac Biodiversity Facility operational. A recently announced federal budget decision will close the facility without alternative conservation measures to restore salmon (Polamuwok).

“If DFO proceeds with this planned closure, thousands of Wolastoq salmon will die in the river this year and the species above the dam will likely go extinct,” said Chief Justice Gruben of Bilijk (Kingsclear).

The federal government’s decision to close the Mactaquac Biodiversity Facility threatens the Wolastoq’s entire ecosystem. The Minister made this decision without vital consultation with the First Nations who are critical in stewarding the recovery of salmon in the Wolastoq and without consideration for future mitigation efforts. The Wolastoqey Nation has requested to discuss this decision with the Minister and has received no response.

“DFO’s unilateral decision sends the message that they have given up on restoring salmon in the Wolastoq. We cannot let this happen,” Gruben continued. “While the Mactaquac dam’s life is being extended, the mitigation efforts to protect this vital species are being eliminated. This is shortsighted and in direct breach of the government's obligations.”

Fisheries scientists and conservation groups have spoken out about the impacts of this closure. It will be immediate and lasting: irreplaceable salmon genetics will be lost, upstream populations risk extinction, fish passage outcomes will weaken, and New Brunswick will lose Wolastoq salmon recovery efforts.

“Officials in Ottawa are pitting river systems against each other by investing in salmon conservation in other watersheds while eliminating mitigation efforts in the Wolastoq.” Gruben said.

The Wolastoqey Nation is launching a public campaign and petition to demand that DFO reaffirm its commitment to Wolastoq salmon by keeping the Mactaquac Biodiversity facility operational, at minimum until adequate mitigation measures are in place.

Read more at www.wolastoqsalmon.ca.

Application Period Now Open for UCEPP and Wəlastəkwey Latowewakən

Wəlastəkwey Latowewakən

Wəlastəkwey Latowewakən is a St. Thomas University two-year diploma program that is hosted in St. Mary's First Nation. It is comprised of sixteen intense language courses and two experiential learning courses for a total of 54 credit hours. Language courses start at the beginner level and are progressively taught to an advanced level. The experiential courses comprise of select traditional practices, held both in and out the classroom, as well as various field trips that are historical and culturally significant.

The St. Thomas University's two-year diploma program Wəlastəkwey Latowewakən will be held in St. Mary's First Nation Post-Secondary Department at 35 Dedham Street. Applicants must be able to commit to the two years (September 2026 to April 2028).

The St. Thomas University's two-year diploma program - Wəlastəkwey Latowewakən – is open to registered members from all Wəlastəkwey communities. Application packages can be picked up at St. Mary's First Nation Post-Secondary Department. The application deadline is **June 4, 2026.** Applicants who are accepted to the program by the instructors will then need to apply online at St. Thomas University and meet STU's entrance requirements. Confirmation of post-secondary funding from your community is required.

If you have any questions, please contact Donna Brooks at donnabrooks1919@gmail.com.

UCEPP

UCEPP is a one-year liberal arts post-secondary program offered through SMFN Post-Secondary Education Department in partnership with St. Thomas University. It consists of eight university courses at the introductory level from various academic disciplines and a series of academic support workshops. The format is designed to provide students with a solid foundation of academic knowledge and skill sets to transition to an accredited post-secondary institution of their choice.

If you are interested in applying for UCEPP, you must be a registered band member from any First Nation Community who has recently graduated from High School or an adult learner over the age of 21 with or without a high school diploma. The application for UCEPP involves two steps. All applicants must fill out an application with SMFN Post-Secondary Department (funding) as well as an online application to St. Thomas University. All applicants must meet St. Thomas University's entrance requirements. The deadline for applications is **June 25, 2026.**

If you require more information or require assistance with the application process, please reach out. We are here to help!

Annette Paul 506-458-5202 or via email annettepaul@smfn.ca
Donna Brooks 506-458-5398 or via email donnabrooks1919@gmail.com
Sally Brooks 506-452-9559 or via email sallybrooks@smfn.ca

Community Events

Community Clean Up

April 22, 2026
4 - 7 pm
Maqiyatimok Center

Let's work together to keep our streets, parks, and community free from litter and full of life! No registration required.

There will be craft stations, barbecue, and pizza on site!

Earthly Crafting with Candy

Tuesday April 21, 2026
6 - 9pm
Maqiyahtimok Center

Join us for an evening of earthly crafting with willows and moss. This class allows for 10 community members to participate.
Ages 16+

Contact Nicole Carty for registration at nicolecarty@smfn.ca.

Community Events

Elders Tea Time

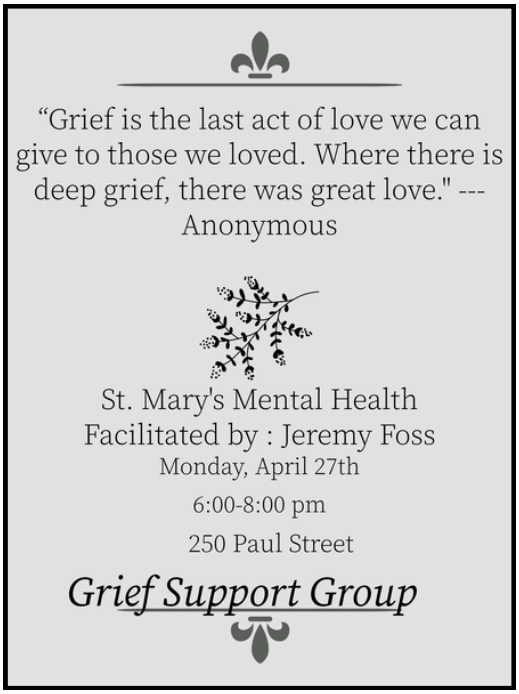
Thursday April 9
Thursday April 16
Thursday April 23
Thrusday April 30
9:30 to 11 am
Maqiyahtimok Centre

Hosted by the St. Mary's Veterans Memorial Health Centre

Grief Support Group

Monday, April 27, 2026
6 - 8 pm
250 Paul Street

St. Mary's Mental Health
Facilitated by Jeremy Foss



Community Events

Full Spectrum Doula Training
WICI WOLESSUWICK

Session - Birth and Postpartum Doula

Sunday, May 3 - Friday, May 8, 8:30am - 4:30pm

Fredericton, NB

What is a Full-Spectrum Doula?

Full-spectrum doulas are trained in:

- Pregnancy-related changes
- Signs and stages of labour
- Birth
- Comfort measures
- Medical pain and relief options
- Infant care and infant feeding
- Postpartum mental health and adjustment
- Cultural supports and ceremony

Who Can Become a Doula?

Anyone! Especially those who:

- Enjoy helping others
- Are interested in pregnancy, birth and babies
- Want to help the community reclaim traditional birth and parenting practices

To apply, please contact:

Mandy Meuse

- ***(506) 452-2750 / mandymeuse@smfn.ca***

Christina Taylor

- ***(506) 206-9119 / christinataylor@smfn.ca***

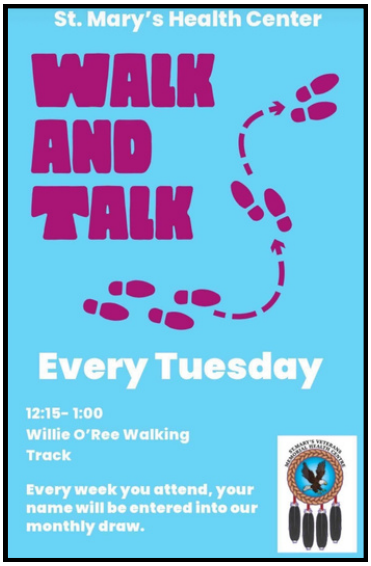
Walk and Talk

Every Tuesday

12:15 - 1:00pm

Willie O'Ree Walking Track

Every week you attend, your name will be entered into our monthly draw!



Community Events & Announcements

Fresh is Best

Monthly Fresh Produce Program

Every month, your household can purchase Fresh is Best from the Health Centre at an amazing deal - $25 gets you TWO full bags of fresh produce, plus an extra item (or two)!

With a value over $60, it's a great way to stretch your grocery budget while keeping your fridge and pantry stocked. Eat healthy and save money!

Produce varies monthly. Past bags have included: potatoes, apples, mushrooms, onions, garlic, carrots, bell peppers, lettuce, cucumber, bananas, tomatoes, pineapple, berries, celery, cauliflower, stew bags, and more!

Pay at the Health Centre front desk or e-transfer $25 to freshisbest@smfn.ca (include your name and phone number).

For more information, contact Amber at (506) 452 - 2750.

Women's Sweat with Ramona Moon

Saturdays: March 7, April 11, & May 16

St. Mary's Health Centre

Community Announcements

Online Survey on Youth out of the Workforce

For Youth 16 to 29

WorkingNB is interested in speaking with youth who are not in education, employment, or training. A 15-minute online survey is available for you to give feedback to the government of New Brunswick on how they can better support youth aged 16 to 29 achieve their goals.

Participation in the survey is voluntary. Should you choose not to participate, your ability to access services from the New Brunswick government will not be impacted. All information you provide is confidential. Data will be reported in aggregate only.

https://workingnbsurvey.malatest.net

Complete the survey in French or English at the link or by scanning the QR Code above.

Call for Artists: Jeux de la Francophonie

Young New Brunswick artists are invited to apply for a place on Team Canada-New Brunswick for the 10th international Jeux de la Francophonie.
The Games will take place in Yerevan, Armenia, from July 23 to Aug. 1, 2027.
Held every four years, the Games bring together thousands of young people who excel in athletic and cultural activities from participating countries and governments of the Francophonie.
Artists can apply to participate in one of four disciplines:

- painting,
- photography,
- song or
- literature (short story).

The deadline for submissions is April 30.

The competition is open to artists aged 18 to 35, from all cultural backgrounds, regardless of their language preference.
For more information, visit the Government of New Brunswick's arts and culture page.
https://www.gnb.ca/en/topic/culture-heritage/arts-culture.html

External Events

Leadership in Times of Chaos and Care

A Free Workshop for Indigenous Women in Business with Sonya Byrne

Sonia Byrne

Mindful Leadership for Success consultant

April 29

9 - 11 am, Online

This session will explore how mindfulness can support leadership by strengthening focus, supporting thoughtful decision making, and building confidence when navigating change. Participants will have an opportunity to reflect on their leadership approach and consider practical ways to apply these concepts in their work.

Ulnooweg Development Group is offering a free online workshop for Indigenous women in business on April 29th focused on leadership, presence, and navigating change with confidence.

Learn more and register at https://ulnoowegdevelopmentgroup.ca/iwe-leadership-workshop/

Economic Development Youth Summit

Inspiring the Next Generation of Leaders in Indigenous Economic Development

August 17 - 20, 2026

Grey Eagle Resort, Tsuut'ina Alberta

Event Features:

- Networking with youth across Canada
- Collaborative economic development group project
- Participate in local cultural events
- Presentation and discussions: economic development, lands management, entrepreneurship, etc.

Who Can Apply:

- Indigenous (First Nations, Metis, Inuit) & non-Indigenous youth age 18-30 from across Canada.
- Selected delegates receive complimentary registration, travel, accommodation, and meals.

For more information, email tara.brown@edo.ca or call 1.780.990.0303 EXT. 229

Application Deadline: May 1, 2026

Job Listings

Addiction Mental Wellness Worker
St. Mary's Veterans Memorial Health Centre

Full time - 36 hours per week

Position Summary

Under the general supervision of the Health Director and Mental Health Manager, the Addiction Mental Wellness Worker will provide support services and education that are culturally sensitive, help improve the mental health and well-being of SMFN Members. This position will be responsible for providing client services (individual, group, advocacy and case management) as well as prevention programming at the community level related to addictions and mental wellness. This will involve direct contact with clients, involving assessment, peer counselling, referrals, case management, and aftercare. Other programming may include facilitation of support groups and working with all ages in prevention activities

Qualifications

- Grade 12 or equivalent
- NNADAP Certification would be an asset, if not, you must have addictions training and/or an addictions counselling certificate
- Degree in Social Work, Human Services, Mental Health and Addictions fields (may also be considered)
- Cultural sensitivity training or relevant experience working in a First Nations community
- Must have a valid NB driver's license and use of own vehicle for work-related purposes
- Must be alcohol, drug, and addiction-free (Minimum of 3 years)
- Priority will be given to Indigenous applicants

Other Skills Required

- Demonstrated ability – both written and oral – to communicate effectively with First Nations clients, families, communities and service providers
- Effective group facilitation skills
- Confidentiality is a priority
- Must have client centered approach
- Computer Skills (MS Office & Electronic Medical Records Systems would be an asset)
- Be a role model in sobriety and model good self-care
- Able to work with minimal supervision
- Must have an excellent understanding of current drugs and effects on clients
- Ability to work as part of a multi-disciplined team, including professional commitment, flexibility with hours and good dispute resolution skills

Applications Process

- Please submit your current resume and cover letter by April 30, 2026, at 4:30 pm to:

Cassie Carr, Human Resource Generalist
150 Cliffe Street (2nd Floor) Fredericton, N.B. E3A 0A1

- or fax to (506) 472-6220 or email cassandracarr@smfn.ca

Job Listings

Labour Market Information Surveyor / Outreach Worker
St. Mary's First Nation

32 Hours Weekly | $18.15 Hourly | Contract (Until March 31, 2027)

Position Summary

Under the direction of the Director of Employment & Training, the Labour Market Information Surveyor will be responsible for the development of a database which will include skills inventory of the working-age population (15 years old plus) and labour market information of our member First Nations. The LMI Surveyor will also be responsible for data input and review of data with corrections and filing and organizing project material.

Qualifications

- Experience in computer and database technology.
- Ability to effectively communicate, both orally and in writing.
- Ability to create and edit project documents, materials, and presentations.
- Ability to effectively prioritize work activities and meet deadlines.
- Must be able to work a flexible schedule (some nights and weekends required)
- Always maintain professional integrity.
- Able to maintain filing systems, databases
- Possession of a valid driver's license.
- Provide a Criminal Record Check

Essential Duties

- Data Entry
- Collect data by way of survey and ensuring accuracy
- Coordinates community engagements and advertising of survey
- Organizing and filing data
- Recording of financial information and filing with the ETO
- Assist Director with any/all functions as required
- Promote ISET in the community (School, Career fairs, Social Media)
- Recruit participants for training programs
- Client intake assessment
- Assess eligibility for ISET funding and services
- Identify barriers (transportation, child care, education gaps)
- Develop an action plan with the client

Applications Process

- Interested candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume outlining their qualifications and experience and 2 work-related references to: humanresources@smfn.ca or drop off in person to 150 Cliffe Street (3rd Floor) Fredericton, N.B. E3A 0A1.
- Preference will be given to qualified Indigenous applicants in accordance with applicable legislation and funding requirements.

Sitansisk (St. Mary’s First Nation)

150 Cliffe St., Fredericton, NB, E3A 2T2

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