

Whitefish Lake First
Nation #459

February 2026 Newsletter

#5





Happy Valentines Day! At the time of this writing, winter has decided to come back for one last blast, just to remind us all that spring hasn't arrived just yet, despite the warm weather we have had recently. As we move into spring over the next month, one thing that is on many people's minds is the election for Chief and Council. Many candidates are already known, but official word of nominees will be available by the end of March. Keep an eye out for news regarding the election on our Facebook page or in future newsletters.

One other thing to mention, but is probably on many people's minds, is fire season. It wasn't a secret that last fall and late summer were particularly dry. With the massive snowfall this winter, there is some hope that the extra snow will help with the dryness. However, community members are still encouraged to be vigilant in regards to fire safety. Keep an eye out for news from the Government of Alberta and your band for info on this fire season.

P.S: Tax season starts Feb24, 2026. Make sure you have all of your relevant financial information.

12 TODAY < > February 2026 Month Cards Agenda Week

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 • Youth Bean B	3	4 • Women's Sup	5	6	7
8	9	10 • Kids Fun Fest	11 • Women's Sup	12	13	14
15	16	17 • Pond Hockey	18 • Women's Sup	19 • Pond Hockey	20	21
22	23 • Special Meeti	24	25 • Women's Sup	26	27	28
29	30	1	2 • Women's Sup	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 • Women's Sup	10	11	12

Feb 23: Special Meeting of WFLFN #459 Electors

Feb 23: ACFSS Quarterly Update (Community Hall)

Feb 25: Pink Shirt Day



Photo Courtesy of The Narwal; Kyle Brittain

2026 Fire Season and ICS

2025 was pretty close to an all-time season for dryness and fires. There is some hope that, with the mass snowfall the past winter, there will be relief for this upcoming spring. However, predicting what the weather will be like, even a few months in advance, is a tall task; the truth is that fires are quite unpredictable and preparedness is key in keeping you and your family safe and ready for any outbreaks should they occur.

During a recent meeting with emergency safety officers, there were discussions on how we can further improve readiness for any emergency, not just fires. A solution often brought up was to have some of our members do Incident Command System Training, or ICS, a system put in place to help organize and streamline emergency response. Within ICS, there are many roles from basic labour to admin organization. Whitefish Lake First Nation #459 is interested in providing this training and any community members interested are encouraged to take part. An announcement to when this training will be provided will be posted in the near future, when dates are set.

For more information into what ICS is, please visit <https://icscanada.ca/>. Do not be discouraged from signing up for training if you feel that you are not qualified; there are roles for everybody involved with ICS and there is always a need for those who wish to take safety seriously, especially as fires have been quite close to home in recent years.



ACFSS 2026 QUARTERLY COMMUNITY UPDATE

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Program Updates
- Nation Feedback on Programming
- Discussion on Upcoming ACFSS Programming
- Door Prizes

MAR 9
6PM - 9PM

DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON
16615 109 AVE NW
EDMONTON, AB

MAR 10
5PM - 9PM

WHITEFISH LAKE
COMMUNITY HALL
ATIKAMEG, AB

MAR 11
5PM - 9PM

FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON
6702 106 STREET
GRANDE PRAIRIE, AB

ALL WFLFN 459 MEMBERS
ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

EDMONTON

-

ATIKAMEG

-

GRANDE PRAIRIE



AGENDA EACH NIGHT:
COMMUNITY DINNER
PRESENTATIONS
MERCHANDISE BINGO

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
780-767-2814



NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF WLFN #459 ELECTORS

**FEBRUARY 23, 2026
9:00 AM to 9:00 PM
WLFN Community Hall**

The purpose of the Special Meeting is for the Electors of the WLFN #459 to consider and vote on proposed amendments to the Customary Election Regulations of the WLFN #459

Copies of the proposed amendments to the Regulations can be obtained by emailing executive.assistant@whitefishadmin.ca



Atikameg Child & Family Services Society

Iyinisowin Wisdom Program

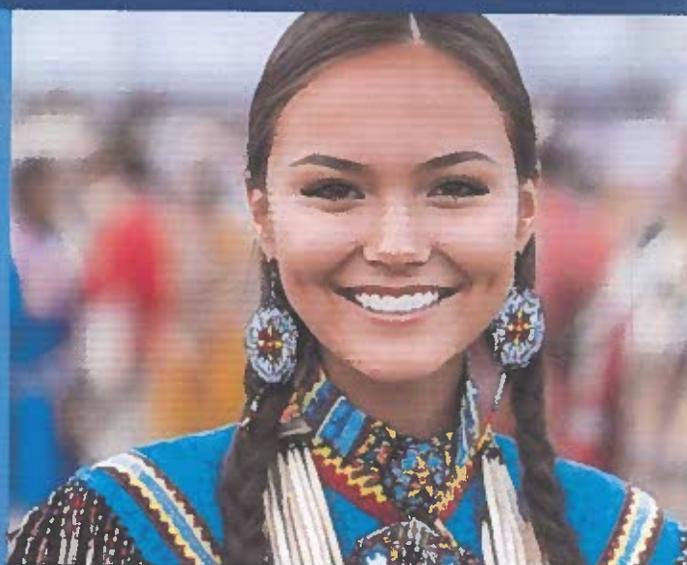
Are you a Whitefish Lake First Nation 459 youth or young adult who was formerly in care? You may be eligible for our Post Majority Support Services - Iyinisowin Wisdom Program. At Iyinisowin we help youth who are or have aged out of care transition into adulthood.

Support Services we provide:

- Rent or Room and Board
- Financial Support for Training/Certification
- Basic Household Necessities
- Needs-based Financial Support
- Education-Related Costs
- Technology Needed for Learning
- Recreation & Sport Activities
- Counselling Services
- Financial Planning Assistance
- Access to Treatment
- Cultural Programs and Ceremonies
- Life Skills Development
- Self-Care & Well-Being Support
- And More!

Contact us to learn if you're eligible:

Phone: 780-767-2814



Who is Eligible?

- Must be a WFLFN 459 Member who was formerly in care and not yet 26 years old.
- Must have left care at the age of Majority - 18 years old.
- Must have ordinarily lived on reserve at the time of placement or are now ordinarily on reserve.
- Must be willing to sign and comply to a 12-month Iyinisowin Service Agreement.

PRE-SOCIAL WORK DIPLOMA PATHWAY

Whitefish Lake First Nation

NWP's Pre-Social Work Diploma Pathway

- Northwestern Polytechnic (NWP) in collaboration with Whitefish Lake First Nation will be offering a Pre-Social Work Diploma Pathway to interested applicants and members of Whitefish Lake First Nation.
- In just three or four months, depending on applicants' placements, they will have the opportunity to earn the necessary pre-requisites for entry into NWP's Social Work Diploma program starting as early as Fall or September of 2026!
- Classes will be offered in a synchronous online format, so students will be guided and supported by an instructor each step of the way. Students can sign into classes from the comfort of home or a Whitefish Lake First Nation training location.

The Application Process

- **Step 1:** Applications for NWP's Pre-Social Work Diploma Pathway will be open from February 2nd- February 18th, 2026.
- **Step 2:** Applicants will complete the application forms provided and email them to Darcy Jagodzinsky by February 18th, 2026.
- **Step 3:** Placement testing for applicants will occur the following days and locations:
 - February 24th, 2026: Grande Prairie (1-4 pm)
 - February 25th, 2026: Atikameg (1-4 pm)
 - February 26th, 2026: Edmonton (1-4 pm)
- **Step 4:** Classes begin! Applicants who place at an English 10-1 high school equivalency level, will begin the pathway on March 2nd, 2026. Remaining applicants, who place above the English 10-1 high school equivalency level, will begin the pathway on April 1st, 2026.



What The Pre-Social Work Diploma Pathway Includes

- Standard Admission Requirements for NWP's Social Work Diploma program include English language proficiency and a minimum grade of 60% in the following Alberta Education courses or their equivalents:
 - English 30-1
 - Another select 30-level subject.
- To meet these requirements, NWP's Pre-Social Work Diploma Pathway includes:
 - English 10-1 high school equivalency course, EN0110, will be offered March 2nd-31st 2026.
 - English and Social Studies 20-1 high school equivalency courses will be offered from April 1st-May 9th.
 - English and Social Studies 30-1 high school equivalency courses will be offered from May 11th-June 27th, 2026.
 - With successful completion of English and Social Studies 30-1, students have the potential to earn the entry requirements for NWP's Social Work Diploma Program starting in Fall or September of 2026!

Registration

To register, email completed application forms to Darcy at Darcy.Jagodzinsky@atikamegcfs.ca

Register by February 18th, 2026!

You won't want to miss this opportunity to start your educational and career journey in the field of social work.