

# SERDC NOONGOM

Summer 2022 | Volume 8 Issue 1

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**Southeast Resource Development Council Corp. Newsletter**

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PRESENTING AT THE 2022  
NATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE**

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MISKOOSSEPI SCHOOL**

**MEDICAL RECEIVING HOME  
TO OPEN AT NEW SOUTHEAST  
WELLNESS LODGE THIS FALL**



# NOONGOM

**Bi-annual updates from the Southeast Resource  
Development Council Corporation (SERDC)**

*Serving the eight Southeast Tribal Council First Nations*



**SUMMER 2022**

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## Aniin!

Summer is finally upon us, and it is a pleasure to watch the land in this beautiful transition.

When it comes to transitions, SERDC staff has continued navigating the pandemic to ensure consistency of services to our communities. A key focus of our senior management team has been on the mental wellness needs of both staff and community members during this time.

I want to acknowledge those who have developed professionally at SERDC and moved on to new opportunities, and welcome new staff who have recently come aboard.

While COVID-19 remains a concern in many of our communities, SERDC staff must move forward and return to a level of normalcy. On May 6th at our 225 Masters property in West St. Paul, staff came together for a feast and general meeting which provided an opportunity for all to reconnect. It was a celebration of resiliency, and a forum to discuss the path ahead.

Over the past several months while operating as an alternative isolation accommodation (AIA) site, 225 Masters has been undergoing capital upgrades with the goal of opening in October 2022 as a medical receiving home. The decision has been made to call the facility the **Southeast Wellness Lodge**, with the traditional name Waabuno Wigumik. It will not only house clients attending medical appointments in Winnipeg; the 83,374 square foot facility has



been and will be home to several SERDC health programs including Mental Wellness, Jordan's Principle and S.T.A.R (Success Through Advocacy and Role Modeling).

Shawano Wapunong Investments Corp. (SWIC) has been working closely with Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. to purchase a north-end building that will become the primary office space for all Shawenim Abinoojii staff. Stay tuned for a formal announcement soon.

At our quarterly SERDC board meeting in April, a governance plan was presented and approved that includes developing a Board governance framework by 2023 to manage matters like Board bylaws and a human resource policy manual.

Moving into spring and summer, let's remember that this is a time to connect with family and the land – a time of rebirth.

**Wii Bii Daa Ban,  
"New Day Rising"**

**-Doug Mercer,  
Executive Director**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Mercer".





# COHI IN COMMUNITIES

**COHI** resumed dental services in March 2022 and staff have been traveling to communities to promote the program. Staff are holding draws in each community that consist of children and adult prizes. Parents who sign up their child for COHI receive a \$20 gift card of their choice (one per household, Walmart or Northern Store), and get entered into the draw. Parents who previously signed up their child since September 2020 can contact one of the COHI staff to claim their gift card. There will be another draw in each community throughout the summer before school commences in the fall.

For any parents with children under four who are not in daycare or nursery school yet, but would like their child screened, please contact us to make arrangements to see your child.

**Who is eligible to sign up for COHI and what are the benefits?**

COHI is an early childhood tooth decay prevention program aimed at children age 0 to 7, their caregivers, and pregnant women living on-reserve or accessing on-reserve resources.

The goal of the initiative is to improve oral health and well-being. COHI aims to promote a lifetime of oral health by preventing tooth decay, treating and restoring teeth that already have tooth decay, improving oral health knowledge, and reducing the number of First Nations children that require general anesthesia for dental surgeries.

**COHI services include:**

- Annual dental screening (visual inspection of the teeth and gums)
- Fluoride varnish applications to help prevent or slow cavities and strengthen the outer layer of teeth (minimum 2 per year)
- Silver Diamine Fluoride – applied directly to cavities to instantly stop decay and prevent spreading to other teeth
- Dental sealant placements to help prevent cavities
- Temporary fillings
- One-on-one or group oral health education
- Referrals – to a dentist or specialist if determined the child needs further treatment

**We serve all eight Southeast Tribal Council communities.**

For more information, contact:

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**NEW Dental Aide**



My name is **Kayleigh Foure**, I was born in Thompson, Manitoba and raised in multiple First Nations communities through my earlier years. I am so thankful for the opportunity to be able to help make a difference by offering the services that we do here at Southeast. Doing this work is incredibly fulfilling, especially when you work alongside two lovely ladies who are passionate about their dental work in First Nations communities. I started my position as a Dental Aide in April of this year with COHI. I assist in providing support with administrative and clinical duties for the hygienists when we travel to all eight of SERDC's communities.

When I am not working, I enjoy doing photography and spending time outdoors, whether it is camping in the summer or sledding in the winter.

## IRS/IDS Program

Indian Residential School/Indian Day School program lead, Marie Walker, along with the mental wellness team have been actively working with communities on and off-reserve to ensure that supports and Day School applications are sent to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

On March 29-31, 2022, SERDC's IRS/IDS program partnered with Manitoba region IRS agencies to host the Indian Residential School Resolution Health Support Program (IRS-RHSP) Conference for IRS survivors. There were 600 participants from across Manitoba who attended at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg.



A grief and loss training was attended by the Mental Wellness Team and SERDC community staff on May 1-5, 2022 at South Beach Casino and Resort. This training has been the most-requested workshop from all our SERDC communities.

**STBBI stands for "sexually transmitted blood borne infection"**

## Events Held & Delivered

### IRS/IDS

- March 9-11, 2022: Indian Residential School Resolution Health Support Program (IRS-RHSP) Training
- March 29-31, 2022: IRS Resolution Health Support Program Conference
- April 16, 2022: Respectful Repatriation Ceremony Working Circle
- May 1-5, 2022: Grief and Loss Training – 21 trainees incl. MW team

### NNADAP

- April 8, 11, 12, 2022: Clinical Supervisor Certification (NNADAP worker)
- April 25-29, 2022: Buffalo Riders Training
- May 2-6, 2022: Edu-Therapy
- May 11-12, 2022: Mental Wellness Team Retreat
- May 16-19, 2022: Anger Management (Poplar River)
- May 25-26, 2022: Quarterly Gathering - NNADAP, Brighter Futures Initiative and Building Healthy Communities

### Mental Wellness Therapy

- April 6-7, 2022: Bullying Workshop - Little Grand Rapids School (grades 4-9)
- date: Lateral Violence Workshop for Hollow Water CHCH staff; South Beach Casino

## Harm Reduction

Helene Estrada, the new Tribal Health Educator for Harm Reduction, continues the work on enhancing harm reduction strategies. She and Tahl East, Program Manager, have recently supported Black River with positive substance use messaging. They will be working with Little Grand Rapids health staff and leadership on STBBI prevention and education.

Tahl has connected with leadership and community health staff from all SERDC communities on



culturally competent harm reduction strategies. She provided various harm reduction workshops including naloxone training and distribution at the nurses' quarterly, and stigma and STBBI awareness workshops at the mental wellness quarterly.

## NNADAP

Our National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP) Coordinator, Joyce Clarke, has successfully completed the Clinical Supervision Course and Buffalo Riders Train-the-Trainer course. She has coordinated the Buffalo Riders Training, Power on Parenting, Anger Management, Domestic Violence, and Grief and Loss with communities.

## Mental Wellness Therapy

Our Wellness Therapist is working with 27 adults and one family with six children. He recently facilitated a bullying prevention workshop with Little Grand Rapids School students, and led a Lateral Violence workshop at Hollow Water CHCH's South Beach Casino and Resort retreat.

The hope is this type of service delivery model will continue to be used in each community. Once an issue has been identified among members/clients, it will be addressed at the general public level, effectively saving SERDC resources and promoting effective time and resource management. As COVID restrictions ease, more referrals for therapy services are expected.



From left to right: Rachelle Wiebe (trainer), Tahl East (mental wellness program manager), Geeta Soulimani (tribal nursing officer), Dr. Paul Sanstrom (director, National HIV and Retrovirology Laboratory)

## We will be the 'COMMUNITY VOICE'

 **AIDS 2022**  
29 July – 2 August

Tahl East and Geeta Soulimani have been invited to represent the "community voice" and present at the **24th annual International AIDS Conference** on August 1, 2022, in **Montreal, Quebec**. This will be in partnership with Paul Sandstrom, PhD, Director, and Adrienne FA Meyers, PhD, Associate Director National HIV and Retrovirology Laboratory/JC Wilt Infectious Diseases Research Centre/Public Health Agency of Canada.

1. **"Describing the Challenges"** (including barriers) - addressing sexually transmitted blood borne infections (STBBI)
2. **"Highlighting Community Responses/Transformation"** - transformation over the past 2 years
3. **"Future Vision"** - discussing what work needs to be done and what can be accomplished through community-based testing (CBT)

Tahl and Geeta will also share their future "out of the box" innovative project ideas with conference participants from around the globe. The presentation will illustrate how they plan to overcome testing barriers for remote and isolated First Nations communities in Manitoba, beyond the member Nations that SERDC currently supports.

**Nanaandawe-Mashkikiwigamig**



**Update from the Pharmacy Manager**

Shawano Pharmacy has now been operating for more than three years. We have successfully rolled out our community-based services in Bloodvein, Berens River, Poplar River, Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi, and also service Winnipeg and the surrounding area. Thank you for all your support!

By working in conjunction with SERDC Health Services we have been able to develop a truly unique operation with full pharmacy, medical supplies and equipment, compounding, diabetes education, and professional programming. We are also pleased to offer pharmacy services for CFS, group home and Jordan's Principle programs. We have complete billing options and free delivery throughout Manitoba. If your organization needs group home or CFS based services, please reach out to the pharmacy to discuss product, service and training options. Naloxone (Narcan) kits are available for free to anyone with a Treaty Number. This is just one of the services we provide to our group homes.

**Shawano is truly a community-owned pharmacy.** When you support Shawano Pharmacy you are supporting a First Nations owned and operated business. We are proud to have been able to serve the population of Manitoba throughout the Covid 19 pandemic. We were able to provide PPE to essential front-line staff and our community members when product was unavailable to the public. Furthermore, Shawano Pharmacy participated in pop up and clinical vaccine sites to protect yourself and your families during these unprecedented times. Let's hope the worst is behind us.

In partnership with FNIHB and ISC, we have implemented the regional Out Patient Dispensing Program (OPD) in the five remote nursing stations allowing for improved patient safety and service delivery for the SERDC region.

Access to prescribed medication will increase and treatment delays will be reduced. The team is excited to begin working on future service models designed to improve patient care as well as health outcomes.

Please contact your local nursing station or Shawano Pharmacy for your health needs. We are happy to discuss vaccine services, prescribing for minor ailments, medication reviews and the transfer of your prescription profile to us.

Shawano Pharmacy will be undergoing a major expansion and relocation this year. Stay tuned for updates on this exciting initiative!

**-Alan Lawless**  
Pharmacy Manager



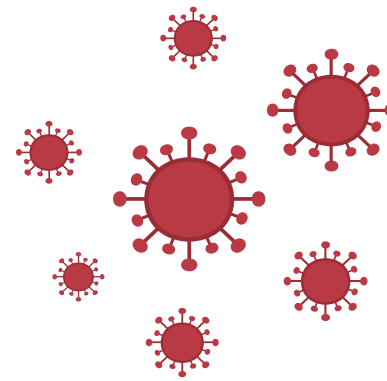
**For any inquiries please reach out to the staff at Shawano Pharmacy:**

5th floor 360 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0T6

[www.ShawanoPharmacy.ca](http://www.ShawanoPharmacy.ca)  
Toll free phone 1-833-742-9266  
Toll free fax 1-833-496-0204  
[info@shawanopharmacy.ca](mailto:info@shawanopharmacy.ca)

**Ganawendamaw**

All people in Manitoba age 5 years and older are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. This page provides information about vaccine eligibility, guidance for people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised, medical exemptions, recommendations on the type of vaccine people should receive, and other COVID-19 vaccine guidance.



	1st dose	2nd dose	3rd dose	4th dose
<5 years	Not yet	Not yet	Not yet	A second booster (4th dose) is available to those who are at higher risk of experiencing severe illness from COVID-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• anyone aged 50 or older,</li> <li>• First Nations, Inuit and Métis people aged 30 or older, regardless of where they live,</li> <li>• individuals 18 to 49 years of age who are moderately to severely immunocompromised, or</li> <li>• residents of personal care homes and elderly people living in group living situations such as assisted living, regardless of age.</li> </ul> Your booster doses should be Pfizer or Moderna and given at least four months after the last COVID-19 vaccine dose you've received.
5-11 years	Yes	Yes	Not offered to this age group unless the child is moderate to severely immunocompromised. Requires a prescription and must be given at least 28 days after their second dose.	
12-17 years (Pfizer only)	Yes	Yes	Yes, at least four months after you received your second dose.	
18-29 years	Yes	Yes	Yes, at least four months after you received your second dose.	
30-49 years	Yes	Yes	Yes, at least four months after you received your second dose.	
50+ years	Yes	Yes	Yes, at least four months after you received your second dose.	
Moderate to severely immunocompromised people	It is recommended that to receive a fourth/booster dose six months after the last dose. A fifth/booster dose can be provided 6 months after their last dose.			

**We are currently working on a campaign that includes images and stories from community members. We are hoping to shine a light on the importance of vaccinating for COVID-19 to help reduce the spread.** In addition to the campaign, we are also working to provide vaccinating community health staff who may be running COVID-19 vaccination clinics with resources and documentation to increase cultural awareness and identify the reasons why some First Nations people may be hesitant to get vaccinated.

**Remember:** When using a rapid test, it is possible to get a FALSE NEGATIVE. This means that you can have COVID-19 and test negative. If you are symptomatic, keep testing for 3-5 days. It is possible that you are sick with a cold or flu.

**You will NEVER get a FALSE POSITIVE. If the rapid test shows positive, you are positive.**



**Three schools,  
three communities,  
three designs,  
one common vision.**

Shawano Consulting is a company initiated to meet the demand for First Nations to take control of projects in their own communities.

**Bloodvein, Poplar River, and Little Grand Rapids** First Nations were identified as a group of schools project called the **Lake Winnipeg Schools Bundle**. The objective of project is to provide First Nations with access to quality learning environments comparable to those of students off-reserve.

Shawano Consulting provides project coordination support to the three communities and the overall project team. They act as a qualified agent to help the communities participate throughout the project.



From left to right: Doug Mercer with the Shawano Consulting team Sais Madansingh, Logan Moneyas and Sidney Seymour at the grand opening of Bloodvein River School June 27, 2022.

**Bloodvein River School**

Construction began Oct. 2019  
K-10 classes  
\$29 million+  
Complete and open.

**Poplar River School**

Construction began Oct. 2019  
K-12 classes  
\$36 million+  
Opening fall 2022.

**Little Grand Rapids School**

Construction began Oct. 2019  
K-12 classes  
\$34 million+  
Opening fall 2022.

On June 27, a ceremony, feast and ribbon cutting was held to celebrate the **completion of Bloodvein River "Miskoosepi" School**. Shawano Consulting presented a gift, and announced a new \$1000 annual award that will go a grade 10 student with the highest combined grade in math and science. Coming in 2023.

Community members had significant input into interior/exterior features of the school. Workshops were held during the final design process and **local artists were involved** in the selection of art to be displayed, and others were involved in incorporating dual language signage in all schools.

After two years of pandemic lockdowns, precautions, recommendations and travel restrictions, the world is slowly returning to the "new norm" of living with COVID-19.

The Manitoba First Nations Income Assistance Workers Forum that was postponed in March 2020 finally took place in February 2022. The event was hosted at Canad Inns Polo Park and Canad Inns Garden City. Income Assistance Administrators were divided between two locations to ensure everyone was safe and social distancing.

The theme was "Honouring the Resiliency of Income Assistance Workers". The Social Development Advisory Technical Group acknowledged their years of service and commitment to their communities. Emcee Ray "Coco" Stevenson sang them an honour song each day.



The Income Assistance workers who served 15+ years were gifted a beautiful star blanket, while others were gifted smaller items. It was an absolute honour to present star blankets to Elaine Prince of Berens River (pictured left) and Melvina Moneyas of Hollow Water (pictured right). We shared tears of joy! It was a happy moment for everyone that received gifts.

**Thank you to Geeta Soulmani and Elizabeth Proskurnik for presenting! Job well done. The forum took place over four days and ended early due to stormy weather as people had to travel home.**

STAR PROGRAM

**Be on the look out for the following upcoming in events in our communities:**

- Literacy Forum (collaborative efforts with Brokenhead Jordans Principle)
- June & July second annual FASD awareness fruit and veggie stand event
- June – November community FASD awareness workshops
- June – August Treaty Days program information booths
- August 22-26 STAR staff assisting with the SERDC youth camp
- September 9 International FASD Awareness Day



**All events will be posted on the following social media platforms:**

- SERDC Health Facebook Page
- SERDC Children & Youth JP/STAR Facebook group
- Southeast community Facebook Pages
- Local community stores

We continue to work collaboratively with the **Fight Fire with Fire project** (Harm Reduction), Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program, Maternal Child Health Program, and Jordans Principle in our SERDC communities.

The **Southern Manitoba First Nations Commercial Tobacco Reduction Strategy** (SMFNCTRS), is a program administered through SERDC Health Services. This strategy is inclusive of three other Tribal Councils in the Southern Manitoba region, including Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council, Interlake Reserves Tribal Council, West Region Tribal Council, and eight Independent First Nations. Resulting in a total of 36 First Nations communities.

The strategy focuses on six program pillars: Protection, Prevention, Education, Cessation, Reducing Access to Tobacco Products, and Data Collection. SMFNCTRS's aim is to reduce the number of commercial tobacco product users within southern Manitoba.

**Available Presentations:**

- Commercial Tobacco
- Traditional Tobacco
- Commercial Tobacco and Pregnancy
- Commercial Tobacco and Diabetes
- Electronic Cigarettes

These presentations can be customized for your event. Please request if you would like multiple topics combined, or would like other commercial or traditional tobacco-related topics covered that are not listed here.

**SMFNCTRS in your community (30-90 mins):**

- School Presentations (Class to Class or Large Groups)
- Community-Wide Presentations
- Nursing Station/Health Centre Presentations
- Health Fair/Tradeshow Tobacco Booths
- Treaty Days/Pow Wow Tobacco Booths
- Any other events or gatherings



**Lorraine Dean (BSW, RSW)**  
Commercial Tobacco  
Reduction Coordinator

Hello, my name is Lorraine Dean, and I am the newest member to join the Commercial Tobacco Reduction Team. I originate from Thunder Bay, Ontario but have enjoyed calling Winnipeg my home for the last 20 years. I recently graduated from the Inner-City Social Work Campus with my bachelor's degree in social work and have enjoyed a 15+ year career in social services. My most recent endeavors include working with Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, Shared Health, and Main Street Project.



**Amanda Williams-Thomas**  
Commercial Tobacco  
Reduction Worker

Hello/Aniin, my name is Amanda Williams-Thomas, I am a band member from Hollow Water First Nation. I have been with SERDC for three years in the Southern Manitoba First Nations Commercial Tobacco Reduction Strategy Program. It has been quite the two years with the pandemic. We are excited to re-introduce the Tobacco Team and coming out to visit the communities!



# SAVE THE DATE

## 6TH ANNUAL YOUTH GATHERING

### August 23-26, 2022



### CAMP BRERETON Brereton Lake, Manitoba

*Wellness, Arts, Sports and Cultural Activities  
2 Youth 1 Adult Chaperone per First Nation.  
Accommodations and Meals covered.  
Mileage Reimbursement.*

*Registration Opens June 13, 2022*



SOUTHERN MANITOBA FIRST NATIONS TOBACCO REDUCTION STRATEGY



FOR MORE  
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**LIKE**  
OUR NEW  
**FACEBOOK PAGE**  
SOUTHERN MANITOBA FIRST NATIONS  
COMMERCIAL TOBACCO REDUCTION STRATEGY



## Fire Safety

Fire Safety can be considered a community-level responsibility. Everyone must do their part to minimize the risk of fire. Testing our smoke alarms or replacing them, keeping fuel sources stored safely, ignition devices such as lighters stored securely, and educating others on what to do if there's a fire will reduce the risk of death or injury in the event of a fire. We will continue to work with our communities to identify needs and work with the Fire Chiefs in addressing them.

We offer the following services: inventory of equipment, training opportunities, fire-related inspection services, educational materials and resources, and more. You can also reach out to your Fire Chief as they are a valuable source of knowledge and can work with you to meet your fire-related goals.

## Inspection Services

We continue to offer Inspection Services to our communities for new builds and renovations. Ensuring construction is completed to applicable code standards benefits all our communities and their members. As the pandemic introduced challenges related to health and safety, our staff have worked diligently to follow guidelines set by community leadership and the current public health orders. We adhere to the guidelines as best practices, and ensuring quality work and building relationships will continue to be our focus.

## Environmental Health

Mold will grow indoors within 48 hours if moisture is present. Moisture problems in homes may result from:

- daily activities such as showering or bathing, washing clothes or cooking, if exhaust fans are not working properly or are not used;
- infiltration of water from the outside when there are cracks or leaks in the foundation, floor, walls or roof;
- plumbing leaks;
- moisture condensation on cold surfaces;
- flooding due to weather conditions (snow melt, storm surges, prolonged or heavy rainfall);
- and, inadequate ventilation.

Moisture indoors accumulates when it cannot be vented outside and becomes a problem when building materials become damp or wet.

Small areas of surface mold (i.e. less than 1 sq. meter) present on hard and sealed surfaces can be removed by utilizing a soap and water solution (along with safety glasses or goggles, a disposable N95 mask and household disposable gloves). A direct bleach and/or water solution IS NOT RECOMMENDED due to vapor exposure, potential physical contact to skin/eyes, as well as damage to materials upon contact.

If there are larger areas of water damage and/or mold are present in the home, it may become necessary to contact your Environmental Health Officer Mike Fontaine 204-956-3271, or Shaun Miles 204-956-3269 for further assistance.

## Maintenance Management

Since our last edition, we have assisted several of our SERDC communities with the following maintenance:

- sourcing, purchasing equipment and materials for Wwater treatment plants, lift stations, sewage plants;
- inspections at the Dakota Tipi Health Centre;
- check operations at water treatment plants, sewage lagoons, and NS sump pumps;
- sewage plant inspections and ongoing maintenance;
- inspecting a water break at Pauingassi;
- and, inspecting pumps and ordering replacements as needed.

## Greetings from the Director

Aniin!

We would like to announce that Arnold Mitchell, former Director of Advisory Services has departed our organization. Chris Olson will be the new Director of Advisory Services. We wish Arnold the very best and thank him for his contributions to improving Advisory Services, and his dedication to the communities he served.

Following up from the last newsletter, Ingrid Fortin is back with us. We asked her to complete an update for this issue.

*“I want to personally extend a thank you to our staff in Advisory Services. I know they have worked tirelessly in completing their programs. They have demonstrated dedication to performing their duties to a high standard, and I wish to acknowledge that.”*

**- Chris Olson**  
Director of Advisory Services

## “It’s good to be back!”

*For those who don't know me, my name is **Ingrid Fortin!** I'm a member of Hollow Water First Nation and have been an employee at SERDC since September 2006. I started out as the receptionist for the 6th floor and I've had the pleasure of working with some awesome people. This September will be 16 years that I have been with the organization.*



*SERDC has given me experience in areas that not only challenged my skills but made me a better person. There were times I doubted myself when tasks were asked of me, but my supervisor always had faith in me.*

*Now, I am back full-time after a lengthy medical leave, and I can now say that I am a survivor of cancer and COVID. It's been a challenge getting back into a routine and coming back to so many new faces and changes. My Southeast journey brought me to the 5th floor, Advisory Services, where I have been the Administrative Assistant since 2019.*

*I was sad to learn when I returned that my supervisor, Arnold Mitchell, announced his retirement from his position as Director of Advisory Services. He's been here from when I first started. I'll miss our laughter and jokes, and most of all his presence around the office. But, he left me with an awesome new supervisor, Chris Olson.*

*As the former editor of our past newsletters I am happy to say the team who took over is doing an awesome job! I was pleased to learn that while I was away, information was still getting out there! Way to go!*

*Stop by and come say hello! I can be found on the 5th floor!*

**Miigwech!**

**- Ingrid Fortin**  
Administrative Assistant, Advisory Services



Located at SERDC's  
Southeast Wellness Lodge  
225 Masters Ave  
West St. Paul, Manitoba

A brief update from the Medical Transportation Unit program. As the MTU program continues to develop and unfold, SERDC has been busy with administration work and involved in various planning activities.

## Farewell to Arnold Mitchell

Arnold Mitchell resigned from his position as Director for Advisory Services effective March 25, 2022. During his 15 years with SERDC Advisory Services, Arnold worked as the Director/Housing Coordinator. As Director, Arnold was responsible for planning, implementing, and managing the programming and services for Advisory Services. As Housing Coordinator, he was responsible for the overall administrative aspect and function of the SERDC Capital and Housing Program and the Health Facilities Operations and Maintenance Project.

To honor him for his years of service and to wish him well in his new position as Director of Operations at Poplar River First Nation, we held a small farewell luncheon on March 23 and gifted him with a few items to remember us by.

*"As for me 'boss', I wish you all the best in your new position and don't be a stranger, stop in anytime for a visit."*

**- Gail Ballantyne**

Administrative Assistant, Advisory Services



Come October 2022, the **Southeast Wellness Lodge** aims to open as a **medical receiving home** as part of our medical transportation unit (MTU) program. The Southeast Wellness Lodge will be an integrated health facility supporting Indigenous patients from across Manitoba with a focus in four key areas:

1. Short-term medical accommodations (medical transportation unit).
2. Long-term assisted living and chronic care.
3. Education, training, and capacity-building including traditional health and healing and land-based teaching.
4. SERDC program outreach.

Since the fall, SERDC's Jordan's Principle, mental wellness, and S.T.A.R programs have been working out of the space where they will be

permanently located. The facility will also support enhanced retail and clinical pharmacy services.

### Referrals & Accommodations

Medical appointments for community members will have to be referred and signed off on by a nursing station physician or nurse. MTU will not accept medical appointments made by an individual directly.

Accommodation and travel will be arranged by the SERDC MTU coordinators/referral clerks in collaboration with the in-community referral clerk.

Travel and accommodations will be pre-authorized by the SERDC MTU manager.

Clients with follow-up appointments in Winnipeg will be required to provide appointment information to

MTU coordinators/referral clerks for further accommodation and meal coverage approval.

*\* Costs for extra family members will not be covered.*

### Medical Transportation Vans

SERDC has purchased **four** MTU vans that are outfitted with the following:

- seven seats
- safety grab bars
- air conditioning
- fold out wheelchair ramp
- wheelchair restraint system

**We have been visiting other MTU facilities to observe their operations and management systems. We look forward to launching this program and welcoming Southeast community members this fall.**



**Top row from left to right:** Tynesa Wells (home and community care coordinator), Divina Del Rosario (foot care nurse) Geeta Soulamani (tribal nursing officer), Candace Linklater (director of clinical services) **Bottom row from left to right:** Kara Espeedido (foot care nurse), Ann Nzeruem (nurse practitioner), Alanna Lam (home and community care nurse), Norisa Rumbaoa (home and community care/foot care nurse)

### Tribal Nursing Program

The Tribal Nursing Program promotes health and wellbeing and improves the overall health of First Nations people in the Southeast Tribal Council. The Tribal Nursing Officer (TNO) plans and develops mechanisms to assess and monitor quality of care, usage, and cost-effectiveness related to healthcare.

Several staff have completed the *Abbott ID Now* training provided by the National Microbiology Laboratory. The *ID NOW* rapid test is a portable, rapid point-of-care molecular test for COVID-19 with results that enable our staff to make appropriate and more efficient treatment and infection-control decisions.

The TNO also supports SERDC’s PHAC Health Educator on the Ganawendamaw COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy project. SERDC received funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada to create a campaign aimed at reducing COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in our communities. We recently had a survey go into each SERDC community and as a result, it was noted that people collect most of their information from doctors, nurses, family and friends.

SERDC nurses will have remote access to eChart in the upcoming months. eChart is a secure electronic healthcare providers secure access to

health information. Access to eChart will allow our SERDC nurses secure access to key health information when and where it is needed. Access to eChart will improve the quality and timeliness of our clients healthcare.

SERDC hosted a nurse’s quarterly meeting in April 2022 with the SERDC community health nurses. It has been two years since SERDC held a nurses quarterly meeting. Nurses were gifted star blankets to honour their dedication during the pandemic. The star blanket is of the highest honour and serves as a token of gratitude for the hard work and leadership they demonstrate in their communities.

### Nurse Practitioner Program

The Nurse Practitioner Program continues to prioritize increasing access and reducing barriers to primary healthcare in SERDC communities. With the spread of COVID-19 slowly decreasing, nurse practitioners will have more opportunities to perform a broader range of work and expand our full scope of practice which is assessing, diagnosing, and treating SERDC members on and off-reserve.

We have been providing community needs assessments and supporting each of our communities based on the needs identified. We have successfully collaborated with Interlake Eastern Regional Health Authority (IERHA)

primary health providers to ensure access to shared electronic medical records. This means SERDC nurse practitioners and IERHA health care providers can view and contribute to a comprehensive patient history. This will enable better patient care and effective continuity healthcare needs.

Over the next few months, we will be providing direct patient care in Black River. This will improve accessibility to healthcare providers, ensure timely treatment, and empower members to take control of their health. Furthermore, nurse practitioners support other communities by signing the out-

patient dispensing prescriptions and on-call consultations.

We continue to ensure that all SERDC community members receive the highest level of patient care for optimal health and wellbeing, and greater patient satisfaction.

## SUCCESS IN COLLABORATION:

### CREATING HEALTHY CONNECTIONS AMONG COMMUNITIES

BY LAURALOU CICIERSKI

**While Manitobans were encouraged to keep apart in order to contain the spread of COVID-19, health-care teams across Manitoba were coming together, joining resources and communities to support the needs and protect the health of populations at greatest risk.**

In Manitoba’s Interlake-Eastern region, mobile teams from Southeast Resource Development Council Corp., Interlake Reserves Tribal Council and Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority worked together in partnership with individual First Nations communities to curb the spread of COVID-19.

The mobile teams supported COVID-19 testing and worked with First Nations community pandemic teams. Together, they were deployed 22 times over the course of a pandemic response that has spanned two years.



**Candace Linklater**  
interim director of clinical services with Southeast Resource Development Council Corp. (SERDC)

Cindy Garson is a health director with a nursing background for Interlake Reserves Tribal Council (IRTC), an organization that represents six First Nations communities including Dauphin River, Kinorjioshtegon, Lake Manitoba, Little Saskatchewan, Peguis and Pinaymootang. The organization’s purpose to unify, maintain and expand the interests, lives and identity of its members formed the core of a combined response to pandemic threats in IRTC communities and beyond.

“This experience seemed to spark a sense of solidarity amongst health-care professionals from different organizations,” Garson says. “I believe how well — and how quickly — the teams worked together has developed better working relationships across the jurisdictions and organizations.”

A focus of the mobile teams was to provide support to communities managing the threat of a COVID-19 outbreak without requiring residents to leave the community in order to seek testing.

“The mobile team was a huge support for the communities as residents were able to remain in their home communities rather than travelling

out to a testing site,” Garson says.

The mobile teams also offered some Interlake-Eastern RHA staff the chance to visit and work in communities where they may not have been in the past, an opportunity that Garson believes to be very valuable to future partnerships between the health region and the communities.

**“Partners in the mobile response teams saw how First Nations prepare, support and protect community members.”**

It’s a statement echoed by registered nurse Candace Linklater, interim director of clinical

Candace Linklater (director of clinical services), showcased in the Winnipeg Free Press for National Nurse’s Week.

## Home and Community Care

SERDC's Home and Community Care program is the bridge between healthcare and improved quality of life at home. Reducing the number of nursing station visits, the Home and Community Care program promotes the overall wellbeing of clients and their families by offering:

- Nursing Services
- Personal Care
- Professional Therapies
- In-home Respite
- Case Management

The Home and Community Care program offers services to clients that require acute, palliative, rehabilitative or long-term supportive care. The

Home and Community Care program aids clients, their families, nursing stations and allied health professionals to promote strong and healthy communities.

Currently, the Home and Community Care Program has been assisting with running weekly vaccination clinics in the fight against COVID-19 in our communities. We would like to extend our gratitude to our communities as we work towards improving the quality of life for our members.



## Tribal Foot Care



SERDC's Tribal Foot Care Program provides holistic and culturally sensitive basic foot care services to Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Black River First Nation, Hollow Water First Nation, Bloodvein First Nation, Buffalo Point First Nation, Poplar River First Nation, Little Grand Rapids First Nation and Pauingassi First Nation.

All clients living with diabetes will receive annual foot care assessments. In addition, clients identified with increased risk will be provided more frequent foot assessments and followups accordingly. Assessments will include foot care education to clients and/or family. Clients will also be provided with prevention strategies through education. We invite you to come say hi at our health booth during Treaty Days! We look forward to meeting you!

**Our goal as foot care nurses is to improve client mobility, decrease further foot complications, decrease foot-related pain and prevent injury.**

**We hope by providing these services we will help increase knowledge and promote self-care amongst foot care clients.**

Currently there are three new hires undergoing the nursing foot care training at Assiniboine Community College, along with a homecare nurse from Bloodvein and the Home Care Community Coordinator. Foot care training will be completed by end of June.

## 2022 Southeast Student Graduates

### Yellowquill University College

Pricilla Boulanger  
Madyson Swan  
Shakira Crow  
Wilford Owens  
Rachel Crow  
Tim Boulette  
Shirley Young  
Samuel Bushie  
Christine Moar  
Dwayne Owen  
Pierre Leveque

### University of Winnipeg

Jasmine Seymour  
Chanice Sinclair  
Shelly Klyne  
Lisa Young

### Assinaboine Community College

Joshua Hennan

### Winnipeg Adult Education Centre

Clayton Cook  
Austin Keeper  
Ashleigh Grisdale-Desjarlais  
Kyle Robson

### Mohawk College

Rassul Nasrollahi

### Red River College/Urban Circle

Desiree Keesic  
Taya Halverson  
Tatayanna Beam  
Jailen Smith-Concepcion  
Elizabeth Bushie

### Brandon University

Audrey Cook

### Red River College

Wayne Keeper  
Shaneil Keesic  
Lisa Korosil  
Teddy Lanyon  
Allyson Bushie  
Gabrielle Kennedy  
Lesley Carter  
Phoenix Berens  
Frederick Wood  
Shyan Johnson-Monkman  
Fabian Young  
Talor Fisher  
Macray Keeper  
Chris Keeper  
Sonnie Owens

### University of Manitoba

Allen Contois  
Teassa MacMartin  
Cheyenne Robson  
Alanna Lam

### Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology

Sandra Owen  
Joey Keeper  
Trenton Williams  
Tia Hardisty  
Jared Bushie  
Keyirra Payjack

### St. Johns High School

Grace Keeper

### Centennial College

Jasper Crow

### University of Alberta

Shauna Stace

### Seven Oaks Adult Education

Katelyn Leveque

### Seneca College

Seneca College

### Technical Vocational High School

Treyson Sinclair  
Malik Bushie  
Desmond Eischen

### Loom Beading, History 30F

Students in Canadian History 30F are making miniature wampum belts to complete their learning journey about the Treaties. They are using the traditional Indigenous loom beading art form to complete these wampum belts. The wampum is considered sacred and each holds a special meaning to the students.



Owen Anderson, Jayden Flett, and Chloe Kakekagumick, completing their wampum belt designs.



Chloe's beautiful wampum beading project, almost completed!



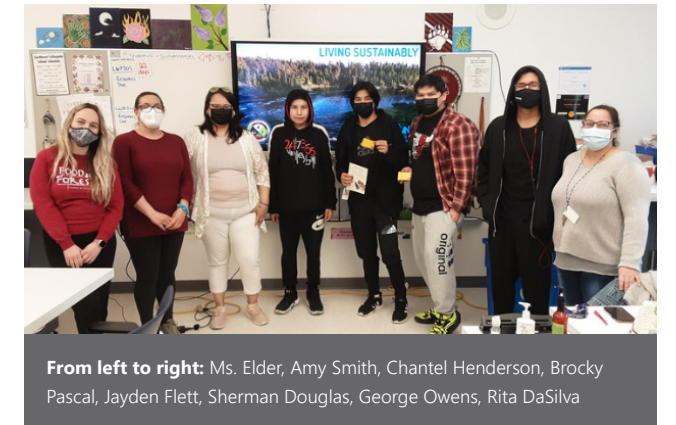
Ms. Nepinak helping Keaton Nasee find the beads he needs for his wampum beading project.

### First Nations Waste Minimization Initiative

Chantel Henderson from the Green Action Centre visited Southeast Collegiate on April 28-29 to speak with Climate Change about the importance of caring for Mother Earth, sharing all of the great things that First Nations communities are doing to protect her. Students played a game of Jeopardy and all participants won gift cards!



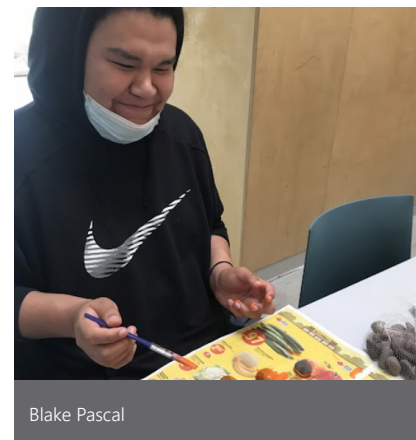
Chelsea Canada, Karassa Day and Levi Aysanabee listening to Chantel Henderson's presentation.



From left to right: Ms. Elder, Amy Smith, Chantel Henderson, Brocky Pascal, Jayden Flett, Sherman Douglas, George Owens, Rita DaSilva

### Rock Painting for Every Child Matters

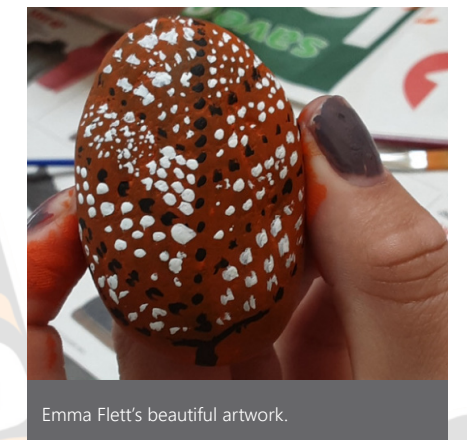
On Friday May 13th, History 30F and LWT 40S got together to engage with the topic of Every Child Matters and hand paint rocks to raise awareness.



Blake Pascal



Cristina Mason and Chloe Kakekagumick

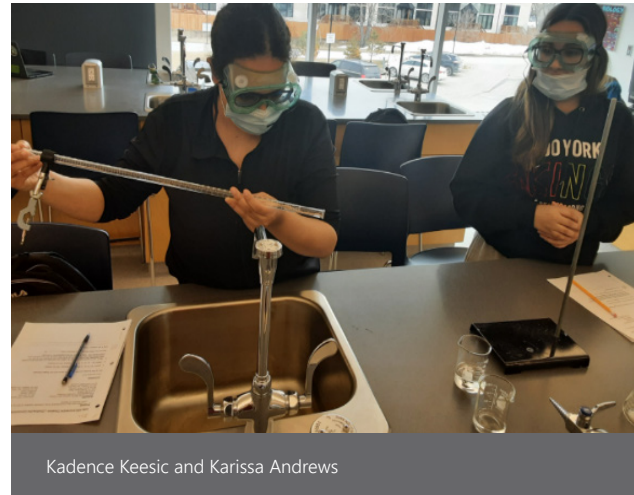


Emma Flett's beautiful artwork.



## Titration Fun!

The grade 12 chemistry class started their first titration in May. They learned about neutralization reactions and how to find unknown concentrations of acids.



Kadence Keesic and Karissa Andrews



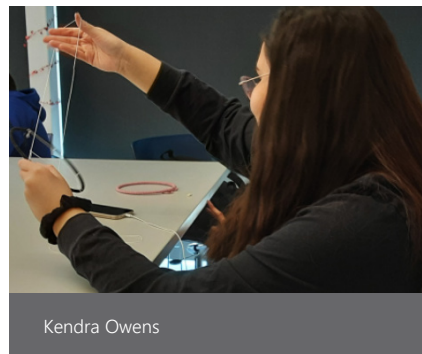
Lacey Monias and Laverne Taylor

## Dreamcatcher Workshop

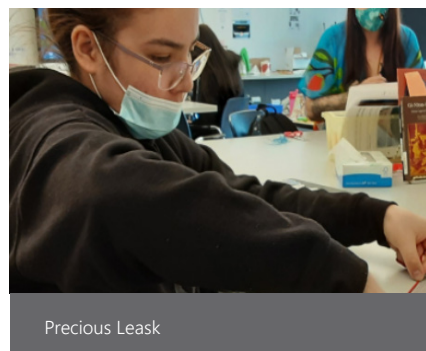
Skye McLean, a Cree artist and entrepreneur, taught students in Current Topics in First Nations, Inuit and Métis Studies 40S how to make dreamcatchers. She taught them about the dreamcatcher teachings and told them the importance of weaving good intentions into the dreamcatchers. She also had a draw where three lucky participants took home her art.



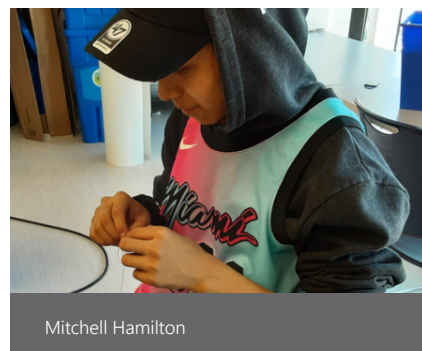
Nicholas Hudson



Kendra Owens



Precious Leask



Mitchell Hamilton



Kiya Mason

# Congratulations!

Class of 2022



### Berens River

Fidelity Berens  
Rashanti Bouchie  
Melvin Everette  
Mia Flett  
Conan McKay  
Kassie Owens  
Colten Semple

### Garden Hill

Levi Aysanabee  
Chelsea Canada  
Karassa Day  
Cameron Fontaine  
Cole Harper  
Ladimir Harper  
Kyle Keno  
Kaylene Linklater  
Graham McKay

### God's Lake

Holly Mason

### Little Grand Rapids

Tommy Dunsford  
Quincy Keeper  
Trent Keeper

### Poplar River

Autumn Bruce  
Faith McLean

### Red Sucker Lake

Tyrese Harper

### Sapotaweyak

Precious Leask

### St Theresa Point

Dale Flett  
Kingsley Harper  
Kiya Mason  
Joel Monias  
Lacey Monias  
Melissa Flett  
Justin Harper  
Keyshawn Harper  
Kaidey Little-Harper  
Laverne Taylor  
Lucas Wood

### Wasagamack

Harris Harper  
Quentin Harper  
Jaydis Kakekagumic  
Ira McDougall  
Sarah McDougall

### AWARD, SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY RECIPIENTS

#### Rod Bushie Award of Excellence, \$1000

Mia Flett

#### Jim Bear Outstanding Leadership & Citizenship Award, \$1000

Quincy Keeper

#### Terry Duguid Member of Parliament Award, \$250

Holly Mason

#### Honourable Sarah Guillemard Award, \$400

Precious Leask

#### Governor General Medal Award

Autumn Bruce  
- for achieving a 89% GPA for her entire high school education

## National Aboriginal Capital Corporation Association Indigenous Business Stabilization Program

In June of 2020, our Community Futures program entered into an agreement with the National Aboriginal Capital Corporation Association (NACCA) to deliver the Indigenous Business Stabilization Program.

This is an **Emergency Loan Program designed as an emergency measure to support small business owners negatively impacted by COVID-19.** In total \$610,000 in the form of a non-interest-bearing loan was accessed and another \$270,000 in the form of a non-repayable contribution. These funds provided support to 17 entrepreneurs of the Southeast Resource Development Council Corp. (SERDC) region (local & regional businesses).

Each business was approved for a loan ranging from \$40,000-\$60,000, of which \$10,000-\$20,000 was a non-repayable contribution. All funds for the program were to be disbursed by March 31, 2021 and we were successful in accomplishing this. Our businesses were very thankful for the support they received from this program. In March of 2021, additional dollars in the amount of \$125,000 were accessed from NACCA to provide additional support to our existing entrepreneurs experiencing difficulties as a result of COVID-19.

## Indigenous Women's Entrepreneurship Program

**Southeast Community Futures program** has also entered into an agreement with the NACCA to deliver the Indigenous Women's Entrepreneurship Program. The total approved is \$623,875 over a period of 2.5 years. The breakdown for the \$623,875 are as follows: \$200,000 for a BSO officer, \$125,000 for Workshops, \$81,375 for Administration, \$150,000 Micro Loan Program, and \$67,500 for the Non-repayable Micro Loan Fund Program. As of April 2022, this program is a new addition that is ready to serve our membership within our communities.

## Southeast Training & Employment Program

On October 1, 2019, SERDC signed an agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada and the Canada Employment Insurance Commission for delivery of the **new Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program.** The program is delivered to six of our communities within the SERDC region. They are, Black River First Nation, Hollow Water First Nation, Pauingassi First Nation, Little Grand Rapids First Nation, Poplar River First Nation and Bloodvein First Nation. **The agreement is for a 10-year period which is set to expire on March 31, of 2029** with a funding envelope of \$19,130,807. The daycare program currently falls under the agreement but is set to expire on March 31, 2023. This is a major accomplishment and an initiative that we have been working towards for many years. Thank you to our community leaders, our Executive Director, Doug Mercer, our Training Employment Committee: Councillors, Furlon Barker, Clinton Keeper, Lorraine Cook, Leah Fontaine, Darcy Bruce, and Moses Owens and the staff of the Southeast Economic Development Division.

The main priority/objective of our program is to provide unemployed individuals with employment and training opportunities where they can gain work experience and improve their long-term employment aspects. This is accomplished by assisting with career research and exploration, funding work experience programs, providing job start/support, providing financial assistance for occupational skills training whether it is essential skills, diploma programs, vocational/trades, or adult upgrading.

Some of the programs that our community members are participating in or have successfully completed include: Health Care Aide, Human Resource Management, Heavy Equipment Operator, Community Support Worker, Dietician,

Aboriginal Nursing Cohort, Aesthetics, Construction Laborer, Early Childcare and Carpentry. In addition to this there were many Job Creation Projects that were completed locally such as, the summer student program, brush cutters program, night patrol, radio station program, and plumbers' program to name a few.

We would also like to introduce and welcome a new member to our staff under the Southeast Training and Employment Program. Her name is Fayanne Sayer, and she is the Training and Employment Coordinator. She started her position on November 29th, 2021, and she is looking forward to working with our communities and its members.

**In terms of some of successes we would like to acknowledge some of our graduates that were involved with the Southeast Training and employment program.**



**Cheyne Bird** is a member of **Black River First Nation.** Cheyenne recently completed the Heavy Equipment Operator training accredited by Operating Engineers Institute of Manitoba. Congratulations on your success! On behalf of Black River First Nation, we wish you all the best on your future endeavors.



**Hunter Barker** is a member of **Hollow Water First Nation** who completed the Marine and Powersports Technician accredited by Red River College. Hunter recently won a first-place medal in the Outdoor Power & Rec Equipment contest which lead him to Vancouver, British Columbia on May 24, 2022, to compete on behalf of Team Manitoba at the Skills Canada National Competition.



From left to right: **Peter Moneas, Keith Seymour, Jervais Keeper, Delmhtfar Favel.** These members of **Hollow Water First Nation** and **Little Grand Rapids First Nation** recently graduated from Heavy Equipment Operator training accredited by SWS Training & Consulting. On behalf of both communities, congratulations, and all the best as future Heavy Equipment Operators!

### Staff

Director of Economic Development – Carol Johnston  
Financial Analyst/Training & Employment Finance – Patricia Dicks  
Loans Administrator/Communications Officer – Jason Boucher  
Training & Employment Coordinator – Chasity Levasseur  
Training & Employment Coordinator – Fayanne Sayer

**For further information visit [www.cfmanitoba.ca/southeast](http://www.cfmanitoba.ca/southeast) or call us at 204-943-1656.**

# STAFF GATHERING AT SOUTHEAST WELLNESS LODGE



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