



# ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation Community News

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ʔikuq̓

Feb. 23 to March 6



## One year later.

This photo was taken on February 22, 2008. There was quite a bit more snow on the ground at ʔakisq̓nuk this time last year!

- The 2010 Olympic torch will pass through the ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation in January, 2010. You can apply to be a torch bearer at [www.icoke.ca](http://www.icoke.ca) and [www.rbc.com](http://www.rbc.com)

- A worker is required to assist the Akisq̓nuk Rediscovery Camp Board develop programs and take registrations for 2009. Apply with a resume at the Band Office. Deadline is March 13.

## Coming events at the ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation

### Tuesday, March 3:

Defibrillator training for three interested members. For info call Kathy Clarke, (250) 489-4563

### Thursday, March 5:

Healthy Community Team Meeting, 10 a.m. at the Health Centre

### Sunday, March 8:

Daylight savings time begins. Adjust your clock!

### Saturday, March 14:

Member of the B.C. Legislative Assembly Norm Macdonald hosts his Columbia Valley campaign kickoff at the ʔakisq̓nuk Band Hall, 2 p.m. to

4 p.m. This event is open to everyone.

### March 10 and 11:

Pandemic (major outbreak of disease) training for community members available at the Health Centre

### March 16 to 27:

Spring break for school children

### April 13, 2009:

Mammogram (breast cancer) tests available at the Health Centre. Free for women 40 and over

### Wednesdays after school:

Homework session at AFN Band Hall. All students wel-

come

### Staff absences:

Patsy Nicholas is on vacation from February 16 to 27 inclusive

Steph Sam, Feb 24 and 25

### Yoga for everyone:

Yoga class noon to 1:15 p.m. at the Band Hall. Yoga will go every Tuesday and Friday thereafter. If you're interested in coming out and getting some exercise, call Donna 342-6301

### Ktunaxa Language Summit:

February 24 and 25 at Bonners Ferry, Idaho. Call Steph Sam @ 342-6301 if you'd like to attend. Call early, rooms are

limited

### Ktunaxa Language:

Ktunaxa conversation sessions start times have changed. The language lessons now go from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. every Thursday at the Health Centre

### Social Development:

Beginning Monday, February 9, Ann Kurenoff will change her days of work at the Akisq̓nuk office. From now on Ann will be in Monday through Wednesday

### Happy birthday!

Anna Hunter and Katherine Sam, Feb. 28

To Aaron Nicholas and Martin Hall, March 11 from Solo

## From Abed. worker Meaghan Shouse

WAY TO GO to the Windermere Elementary students who have been coming the homework sessions on Wednesdays. Give yourselves a big pat on the back Fiona Capilo, Brandon

Stanley, Tristan Morgan, Lance Nicholas, and Skyla Sam. The homework session is every Wednesday after school at the Band Hall. The more the merrier and keep up the good work!

## Spay and neuter

The ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation has purchased spay and neuter vouchers from the Cranbrook SPCA. The vouchers will be sold to Band members at cost (\$60 for dogs and \$40 for

cats) and are accepted at the Invermere Veterinary Hospital. This is a very low cost and no additional services are covered with the vouchers. Please call Adrian 342-6301 to get yours.



## New Band Administrator starts at ʔakisq̓nuk

There's a new face at the ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation office.

Marie Skidmore began work as the new Band Administrator at ʔakisq̓nuk on February 16. Marie, who is Aboriginal, brings many years of experience working at the Bands and Tribal Councils in the Yukon, Alberta and British Columbia with her. In addition, she spent five years working for the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC) in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan as a funding services officer. Marie holds a cer-

tificate in First Nation governance from the University of Victoria.

A mother of four adult children, Marie was born in the Yukon and is a member of the Kaska Nation. She was raised in Ross River, Yukon.

She worked for the Kaska Tribal Council for a number of years before becoming a Band Admin-

istrator in Cold Lake, Alberta in 2000. In 2003 Marie began work with INAC.



Marie Skidmore

After five years at INAC, Marie was ready for a change. "I needed to get out of government," she says of her decision to leave INAC. "All you're

doing is implementing programs, you don't have the ability to move a community forward."

Marie saw the position at ʔakisq̓nuk advertised in a newspaper. She knew the area because she had traveled through with her husband Jim on a family vacation.

"I want to be a part of something positive," says Marie of working at ʔakisq̓nuk. "In government [INAC] you can't do that. That's why I'm back working in a community. I want to be a part of something that leaves a positive impression."

Please feel free to stop in and say hi to Marie.

## Akisq̓nuknik Development Corporation update from Lillian Rose

- It is getting quite busy in the office, which is situated in the west wing of the Eva Joseph Family Centre. Visitors are reminded to please use the west gate to enter the office.

- Lakeshore Resort Campground 2009 positions are available. Positions available include: Campground Manager,

Maintenance Manager, Janitorial Engineer, Pump Truck Driver, Labourers. Deadline is March 13, 2009. Call 342-4409 for info.

- Bill Redhead from the Ktunaxa Kinbasket Development Corporation will start fire smart treatments at the campground on February 23. A number of Akisq̓nuk mem-

bers will work as tree fallers on this project.

This year the campground will undergo many upgrades, something for the community can be proud of.

- Little Badger Early Learning Centre has openings for children aged three to five years. Please call Maxine at 342-6331.

- Lucille Shovar will be working in the ADC office the week of March 9 to 13.

- The Development Corporation has one board position available. If interested, please submit your name along with a letter stating your skills and qualifications to Lillian at the ADC office. Call 342-4409 for info.

## From the desk of education coordinator Stephanie Sam

- If you haven't already, please contact Stephanie, (250) 342-6301 to add your name to the list for ski tickets for Fairmont ski hill. No tickets, no skiing.

- On Saturday, Feb 28 @ 1 p.m. a meeting will be held at the Band Hall to plan craft times

- Canadian aboriginal writing challenge for youth aged 14-18 or 19-29. Deadline is March 31. If you are interested contact Stephanie or visit [www.our-story.ca](http://www.our-story.ca)

- Seventh Annual Youth Violence and Changing Times Training Confer-

ence. March 24 to 27 for youth aged 15 to 18. KKATC is sponsoring a limited number of youth to attend this conference. If you are interested, please get an application form from Stephanie or Angelle. The Deadline for applications is Febru-

ary 27 at 4:30 p.m.

- Gathering our voices 2009 Aboriginal Youth Conference. Akisq̓nuk plans to sponsor a group of youth to attend this conference in Kelowna, March 17 to 20. If you are interested please contact Stephanie.