

Running for a healthier Municipal District 17 and Bigstone Cree Nation

Before most of the residents of the communities in MD #17 and Bigstone Cree Nation had started their day, runners were already on the road for the 2026 Dash for

Dialysis Relay Race.

The 103 kilometre relay began at 6:03 a.m. at Ben Auger Memorial Park in Calling Lake, for six teams.

From the early-morning

start through the afternoon, the determination and energy of participants showed what can happen when a community comes together behind an important cause.

The event also brought plenty of team spirit and friendly competition.

Teams were recognized for their speed, their enthusiasm and their fundraising efforts, with The Sirens getting recognition as the fastest team, while the Team Shirley/Gladys was celebrated for having the most spirit.

Team Eileen raised the most money.

But beyond the awards and the kilometres covered, the relay was about something much bigger — helping bring better access to kidney care closer to home.

For families affected by dialysis, travelling long distances for treatment can be difficult and exhausting.

The goal of a dialysis unit in Wabasca represents hope for improved access to care and a healthier future for the community.

While the relay teams made their way towards the finish line in Wabasca, in the mid-afternoon, people began gathering at Lakeview Sports Centre for mini events for run and also if participants wanted, they could contribute to the fundraising.

Children enjoyed their own races across the finish line until the relay teams started arriving and families and adults were encouraged to do their own walking.

All eventually enjoyed a dinner, awards were given out and speeches made.

Northern Alberta News | Features | Commentary \$1.90

The FEVER

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Thursday, September 3, 2026



Singer songwriter Bobbi-Jo Starr, originally from Peerless Lake, has been living in Edmonton for decades where her musical career has in recent years exploded to records and her first album being released this summer. She has recently through her lyrics become an Indigenous voice speaking out about the welfare of children, and issues of her people — the threats to the environment, clean water, Indigenous land issues and social ills. In this issue, Fever Indigenous reporter Cherry Nyg presents Part One of Bobbi-Jo's story on Page 7.

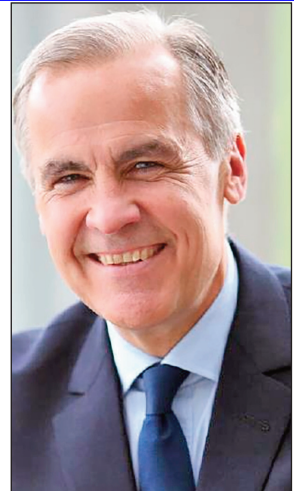


Prime Minister Marc Carney has good reasons to smile.

Last week his Liberals won three byelections to increase their hold on a majority in the House of Commons.

He is getting praise at home and globally for standing up to President's nasty threats and insults against Canada and its people.

There have been some various signs that the Canadian economy doing well despite tariffs and trade wars.



Best wishes to all
who are involved
this week in
Back to School Activities!

Publisher's Ponderings

By Publisher Bruce Thomas

• According to The Walrus which has a reputation for fact-checking when digging into controversial topics, had a Monday headline saying, "Lake Ontario has bigger problems than Donald Trump". The sub head: "The Great Lake is being threatened by pollution, development, and decades of neglect."

I can vouch for the pollution and decades of neglect as I worked on the Seneca Nation's Cattaraugus Reservation south of Buffalo in 1968/69. The Nation had its own park on the lake, but it didn't get used much except for drinking parties at night and not many families ever visited it because of the stench of dead fish washed up on shore edges and in the shallows. There were various health warnings and even the nighttime drinkers usually knew better to stay out of the water.

Walrus Journalist Daniel MacFarlane spoke of his liking of Lake Ontario when viewing it from the Toronto waterfront. Many visitors see the vastness of the water extending to the horizon and actually wondering whether it had salt water. It doesn't, and MacFarlane points out the lakeside tourist shops sell bumper stickers proclaiming, "no salt and no sharks."

MacFarlane writes: "From on high, Lake Ontario appears pristine. Get closer, and things look different: polluted water, fluctuating levels, impoverished biodiversity, imperilled habitat. Around a quarter of Canada's population, as well as its major financial and industrial sectors, now resides in the Lake Ontario watershed. Consequently, over time, Lake Ontario has become seen as a working lake, a quotidian place to be used for utilitarian purposes, like cooling power plants, dumping garbage, and flushing sewage." He suggests the lake's problems are probably only to grow worse regardless of its name.

Of course, Donald Trump's childish acts of trying to bully America's biggest trading partners bordering its south and north borders by renaming the Gulf of Mexico and Lake Ontario just makes normal and sane people around the world think he's stupid, but as usual it makes his MAGA fan club think he so clever and, of course, all the enablers who work beneath him have to join in his taunts - fools who follow their chief fool who violated a 225-year-old treaty.

The President of the Seneca Nation, J. Conrad Seneca has called on Trump to rescind the naming as it violates the Canandaigua Treaty of 1794.

• **So The Elks have been doing pretty good this year, and may be Grey Cup contenders! The team is still 1st in the West Division with a record of nine wins and only two losses for an .727 percentage, second in the entire league. In the west, the Roughriders are not far behind with a 7-4 tally (.636, second best in the league). The Alouettes are dominating the East Division with a 9-2 record and .818 pct.**

In their last two games, the Green and Gold smashed the Argonauts, 42-12 on August 15 and edged the Blue Bombers, 22-19. And on Labour Monday, 4:00 p.m, the classical two-game Football Battle of Alberta begins with the Elks going to the Stampeders' home turf and the Stampeders visiting Edmonton on Saturday the 12th, 5:00 p.m. This is the first meeting of the season.

Now with the Gold Cup of Football so recently held and attracting the attention of almost all Canadians, we are writing about the Canadian Football League which plays with elongated prolate spheroid.



• **Trump's reputation for being a cry baby is going viral and his use of "nasty" in name calling is not gaining him any friends when he needs them since his approval polling continues to stay below 40% in most polling.**

For him to be so nasty in calling everyone who displeases him nasty or other names is insane, considering how he does lots of nasty actions. Is not threatening to wipe out entire civilizations of people when he cannot beat them in a war he started but can't win, nasty?



Bigstone Cree Nation Education Authority Employment Opportunity

1 FULL TIME SECURITY

The Security position will work in tandem with existing Administrative practices and building procedures to maintain order, prevent crime, and assist with the operations of school-sponsored events when necessary and appropriate. Security will ensure the safety of the facilities so they are kept running efficiently and effectively.

Responsibilities:

- Regularly patrol assigned areas on foot or by vehicle to ensure safety and security.
- Operate and monitor video surveillance systems and intrusion alarm systems.
- Respond to security incidents, alarms, and emergencies in a timely and effective manner.
- Document incidents, complete reports, and follow up as needed.
- Greet visitors and employees, providing information and assistance as needed.
- Other duties and responsibilities as required.

Working Conditions

- Frequent walking and climbing stairs; and performing duties in varying weather conditions.
- The ability to work under stressful conditions and interact with confrontational persons is required.
- Work can be performed outdoors in varying temperature, weather, and humidity conditions

Qualifications

- Security Guard License is an asset
- Current (within 6 months) CYIM check from Child & Family Services
- Ability to obtain a clear criminal record check upon hire
- Ability to work evenings and weekends
- Current Standard First Aid
- Valid Class 5 Driver's License
- Ability to stand, walk and patrol for extended periods of time
- Ability to pay attention to detail and notice potential security breaches.
- Familiarity with security systems, equipment and procedures
- Ability to work in a team and follow instructions from supervisor
- Able to work well under pressure

Closing Date: September 17th 2026

Please submit cover letter, resume, CYIM check from Child & Family Services along with supporting documents and references in confidence to:

Human Resources

[CLICK TO APPLY ONLINE on our website \(PREFERRED\) OR](#)

Email: human.resources@bigstoneeducation.ca

Mail: P.O. Box 870, Wabasca, Alberta, T0G 2K0

Fax: 780-891-2178

Or drop off in person at: Suite #8 - 911 Mistassinii Road S

Thank you in advance to all who submitted an application, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Cree Language is still here!

Bigstone Cree Nation putting culture, language and the land back at the centre of education

By Cherry Nyx

There are plenty of stories about what Indigenous communities have lost. This is a story about what one community is building.

In Wabasca, Bigstone Cree Nation is working to ensure that another generation grows up knowing not only how to succeed in a classroom, but who they are, where they come from and the language and knowledge that connect them to their community.

The work stretches from children as young as three to teenagers preparing for adulthood. It includes Cree language immersion, Elders, land-based education, cultural programming and opportunities for youth to learn outside the conventional classroom.

Reading through online resources of Bigstone Cree Nation Education Authority's Sakaw Cree Language Institute reveals the goals expected to be reached.

The institute describes its purpose as keeping Sakaw Cree ways of knowing alive in the community. Rather than treating Cree as simply another school subject, its approach connects language with identity, kinship, culture and the land.

One of its initiatives is a Language Nest for early learners, designed to expose young children to immersion-style learning with fluent Cree speakers and Elders in everyday settings.

Another is the Master Apprentice Program, which aims to pair fluent speakers with staff members across three schools for three months of language learning.

There is also a land-based learning component that takes education outside the classroom. Students learn seasonal survival and navigation skills while developing their relationship with the land.

The Oski Pasikoniwew Kamik Early Learning Center serves children ages three, four and five through Head Start, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs. Cree language and culture are deliberately incorporated throughout the school day.

According to the Education Authority, adults intentionally use Cree in the school, Cree language and culture classes are built into the timetable, Elders are involved, and children are encouraged to take what they learn home to their families.

Parents and families are part of that process as well.

The Early Learning Center holds family nights focused on Cree cultural knowledge and practices, with activities that can include horse and wagon rides, learning about pelts and fur, and moose calling.

The goal stated by the program is remarkably straightforward: Bigstone children should know who they are and where they come from.

That philosophy continues as students grow older.

Bigstone Cree Nation Education Authority currently provides educational services in Wabasca, Calling Lake and Chipewyan Lake. Its infrastructure includes Kapaskwatinak Cultural Education Center, about 10 kilometres southeast of Wabasca.

The addition of a high school program is especially significant.

Bigstone's first community school, Oski Pasikoniwew Kamik, opened in 1989 serving kindergarten through Grade 6 and later expanded to Grade 9. For years, however, the Nation continued pursuing the goal of providing a complete K-12 education within the community.

Approval for a new high school facility came in 2018, ground was broken in 2022, and today, Osaw Kihew Kiskinwahamatowikamik, Golden Eagle High School, allows students to continue their secondary education within the community.

Its facilities include science labs, technology and media resources, dramatic arts spaces, a gym and running track, wood and welding shops, food studies facilities, an Elders Room and spaces specifically designed for land-based learning.

The school's educational philosophy combines Alberta curriculum requirements with Sakaw Cree language, traditions and ways of knowing.

Students can learn through oral storytelling, hands-on experience, time on the land, traditional skills and guidance from Elders alongside conventional academic instruction.

That distinction matters.

For generations, Indigenous education in Canada was frequently designed to remove culture and language from Indigenous children. Bigstone's current model moves deliberately in the opposite direction: education does not require students to leave their identity at the classroom door.

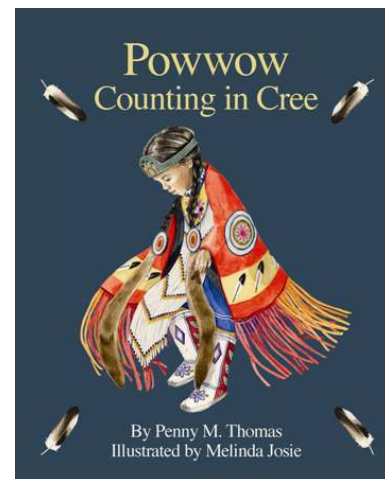
And learning on the land is continuing beyond the school year.

Bigstone Cree Nation Trust held the Kahkiyaw Otenawiyak Culture Camp from August 16 to 19 this summer.

From September 18 to 22, Wild Faith Hunting Adventures is scheduled for Bigstone Cree Nation youth between ages of 14 and 17. Registration was advertised through the Bigstone Cree Nation Trust, with limited spaces available.

The Cree language and culture are still here.

More importantly, Bigstone Cree Nation is working to make sure it will still be here for future generations.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Land Selection Within Bigstone Cree Nation Territory Calling Lake South – IR 183 C

This is a public notification to **All Bigstone Cree Nation (BCN) Members** that **Mathew Rathbone** has selected land for residential use within the Bigstone Cree Nation Reserve Lands.

If anyone has any appeals or prior claims to this location, please contact:

**The Lands Department:
(780) 891-3836
Ext. 254**

If no prior claims or concerns arise, the above named BCN Member will be granted authorization to utilize the said land for residential purposes, 2 weeks from the date of this selection:

**Deadline to Appeal This Land
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026**

Dated AUGUST 27, 2026
Jessica Johnson, Lands Officer



NE 32-71-22 W4M

FIGURE 1.0
Residential Land Selection
DESCRIPTION
Calling Lake South - IR 183 C
Mathew Rathbone
August 5, 2026



Cyclist Ernie raises more money to battle cancer, thanks Wabasca supporters for both donations, making him safe during his almost daily rides

While battling his own cancer, Ernie Grach of Wabasca has become a reliable fundraiser for cancer research through Alberta's biggest cycling fundraiser, the Enbridge Tour Alberta for Cancer, supporting the Alberta Cancer Foundation, and in more recent years through cycling events that aim funding to research against cancers striking kids.

Starting in 2016, the Wabasca cyclist did a total of seven of the annual tours which start in Calgary and then follow a route in the foothills before returning to Calgary.

Calgary hosts the largest of the tours each summer, drawing 1,800 to 2,300 cyclists of all ages.

Lethbridge, Fort McMurray and some smaller Alberta locations also hold similar events.

But Ernie for the last four years has turned his attention to the Great Cycle Challenge which dedicates its donated funds to cancer research and programs for children.

The Challenge has its participants cycle in their home town or wherever they want during the entire month of August. Ernie finished his cycling in Wabasca on August 31.

"I must say everyone has been extremely kind and careful not to run me over," he says.

"Youngsters on quads, bikes and scooters always give me lots of room to get by. Truckers pull way over and local drivers allow me to cross roads and driveways, always waiting before turning or accelerating to posted speeds.

"The MD riding mowers make plenty of room for me to pass and shut off the mower

blades if they are blowing grass towards the walkway. Everyone deserves my sincerest thank you.

"And finally, thanks to those who supported my wife Michelle's bake sale, as well as those who donated to my ride through the site!

"Next year I'll be 75 - it will be the last year I ride to raise money for kids cancer research, but not the last year I ride.

"I love bicycles and will continue to ride as long as I'm able. Again - thanks to all for their support."

In this year's Cycle Challenge, Ernie reached Super Hero status with his fundraising which totalled \$2,791.00. He pedaled 703 kilometres during August.



Bigstone Community Wellness is offering Community Debriefs

Here to Listen and Share Resources



we are offering debriefs for :

- Individuals
- Families
- Groups/Agencies



Available upon request

Mental Health Supports Available

- • • For more information, please
- • • contact our Mental Wellness
- • • Response Team @ 780-891-3777 or
- • • Toll Free number 1-877-767-7060
- • • Wabasca
- • • Calling Lake
- • • Chipewyan



The Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17 Red Earth Creek Hydrant Replacement- Request for Proposal 16-2026

Sealed quotations marked "MD of Opportunity - Request for Proposal 16-2026 - Red Earth Creek Hydrant Replacement" will be received via email to tenders@mdopportunity.ab.ca or received in a sealed envelope at the MD of Opportunity's Wabasca Office, #2077 Mistassini Road North Wabasca, Alberta up to 11:00 AM LOCAL TIME, Tuesday September 22, 2026.

The Municipal District of Opportunity (MD) requests written proposals from qualified vendors to provide service for hydrant replacement in the Hamlet of Red Earth Creek. The MD will supply the hydrant assembly, valve assembly, valve box, and 150 mm watermain pipe. The contractor will be responsible for all equipment, tools, and personnel required to excavate, install and properly backfill the hydrants and valve assembly.

Tender documents are available on Alberta Purchasing Connection's website or by emailing a request to jkitz@mesl.ca.

Inquiries can be directed to;

Earl Gullion
Director of Utilities
earl.gullion@mdopportunity.ab.ca

Wabasca Main Office
2077 Mistassini Road North Box 60 Wabasca, AB
T0G 2K0 1-888-891-3778 | mdopportunity.ab.ca

BIGSTONE HEALTH COMMISSION

Employment Opportunity



HOME CARE SUPPORT WORKER

Full Time (Permanent)

Monday to Friday – 7 hours/day

Wabasca, Alberta

Bigstone Health Commission is seeking a compassionate, dependable, and motivated Home Care Support Worker to provide quality support that helps community members remain healthy, safe, and independent in their own homes. This rewarding position focuses on enhancing the well-being, dignity, and quality of life of the elders and other eligible home care clients. Work collaboratively with the Home Care team to provide safe, culturally respectful, and client-centered care.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assist clients with activities of daily living, including bathing, grooming, dressing, & personal hygiene
- Assist clients with light household tasks, including meal preparation, light housekeeping, laundry, and organizing living space
- Support clients with light physical activities and exercises as directed by healthcare professionals or individualized care plans
- Following individualized care plan and report when care needs change.
- Falls prevention and maintaining a safe home environment
- Skin integrity observation and reporting of concerns.
- Provide companionship and emotional support while promoting independence and client dignity
- Provide or assist with client transportation to scheduled medical appointments and essential community services, as assigned
- Assist clients with errands and accessing community resources
- Observe and report changes in clients' condition: physical, emotional, or social well-being to the Home Care Manager
- Maintain accurate documentation of services provided
- Follow infection prevention and control practices, client confidentiality requirements, and organizational policies
- Provide culturally safe and respectful care to the clients
- Other duties as assigned

Qualifications:

- Current registration with Alberta Health Care Aide professional requirements
- Experience working with Elders, individuals with disabilities, or in community home care is preferred.
- Class 4 Driver's License with a clean driver's abstract, or willing to obtain
- Ability to safely operate a vehicle in various weather and road conditions.
- Ability to perform the physical requirements of home care
- Current First Aid and CPR certification, or willingness to obtain.
- Strong communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills.
- Ability to work independently while maintaining regular communication with supervisor.
- Knowledge of Indigenous cultures and a respectful, client-centered approach to care is an asset.

Benefits:

- ✓ Accommodation available if not local
- ✓ Competitive Salary
- ✓ Paid Vacation and Health & Wellness Leave
- ✓ Employer Matching Registered Pension Plan
- ✓ Extended Health, Dental & Vision Plan

Salary is dependent on qualifications

Please forward your Cover Letter, Resume (including 3 work related references), Criminal Record Check, Vulnerable Sector Check & Child & Youth Intervention Check (should be current within the last 6 months) to the:

Human Resources Department

PO Box 1020 Wabasca, Alberta T0G 2K0

Fax: 780-891-2623 | Email: bhcresumes@bigstonehealth.ca

CLOSING DATE: Until Suitable Candidate is Found

POSTED: September 2, 2026

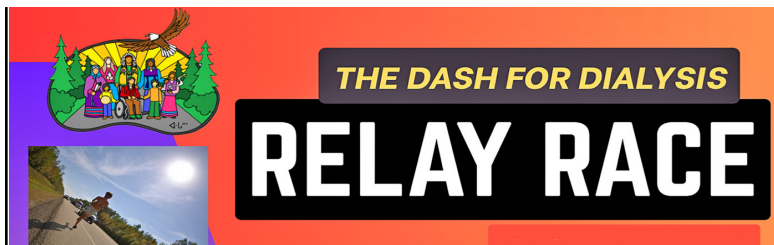
Applicants are thanked in advance for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Vision: To revive, strengthen and protect members' treaty rights to health and to enhance the quality of life of members and others living on Bigstone Traditional lands.

OPEN A BOOK. OPEN YOUR MIND.

A few minutes of reading can change your day.





Wabasca runs for a dia

Saturday, August 29, 2026 · relay teams, families and EL



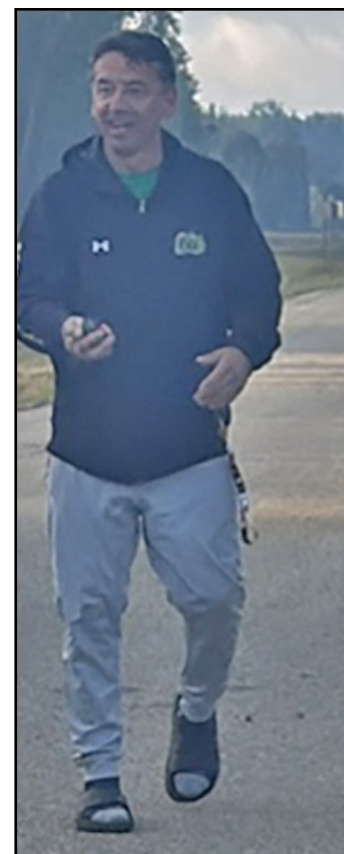
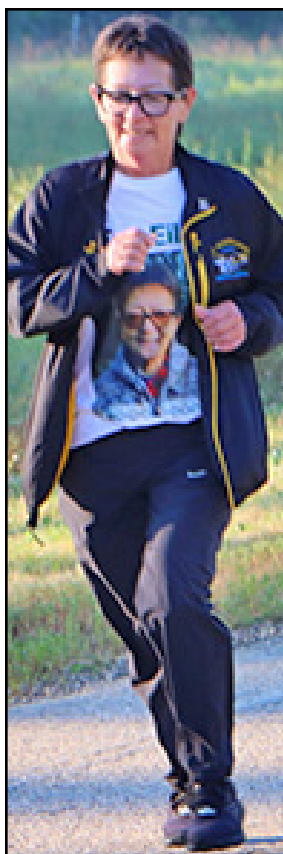
The Team with the Most Spirit: Team Shirley/Gladys
Names in order from Left to Right: Todd Gladeau, Cheryl Uchytill, Char-
maine Cardinal, Betty Cardinal, Donna Lord, Mona Gladue, Jessica
Kaga, Chesney Kaga



The Team with the Most Money Raised: Team Eileen
Names in order from Left to Right: Kim Cardinal, Zyeasha Auger, Cas-
sie Auger, Gloria Yellowknee, Chad Auger, Fredelle Auger, Declan
Auger, Megan Auger, Kourtney Gladue, Gwen Madore, Tyrone Gullion,
Aline Auger, Shelley Stevenson, Regan Auger



The Fastest Team: The Sirens from Le
Fitzpatrick, their two children, Kanon M
Szczesny, Halle Alook, Damien Biel, J
photo: John Abbas, Connor West, Etha



Well run,

The FEVER

The FEVER congratulates every runner, walker, vol
and wishes the community every succe

lysis unit of its own

nders took to the road to bring treatment closer to home



ft to Right: James Fitzpatrick, Agnus
Murdoch, Rolanna Auger, Karol
ane Barlintangco. (Missing from this
an Ragbir)



Teams and families celebrate together at the finish line after completing the fundraising race, united in support of efforts to bring dialysis care to Wabasca.



DASH FOR DIALYSIS RELAY RUN

SATURDAY AUGUST 29, 2026

COMMUNITY SPONSORS NEEDED

We are seeking community sponsors to support the Dash for Dialysis Relay Run, taking place August 29, 2026. This event is raising funds to support the development of a dialysis program in Wabasca, Alberta, helping bring much-needed treatment closer to home for community members living with kidney disease.

Currently, many community members must travel weekly outside of the community to attend their dialysis appointments. For some, the travel has become so difficult that they have had to move away from their families, homes, and community to access the treatment they need.

Why Your Support Matters

- Bring dialysis closer to home for community members and families.
- Reduce the burden of weekly travel for those receiving dialysis.
- Help keep families together by making treatment accessible within the community.
- Support improved health and quality of life for individuals living with kidney disease.
- Invest directly in our community and help create a future where members can receive essential care closer to home.

Every contribution, big or small, brings us one step closer to making local dialysis services a reality. Your sponsorship can help make a lasting difference in the lives of our community members and their families.

To become a community sponsor, please contact us using the information below.

For more information or to submit a nomination, please contact:

Taylor Courtorielle

Phone: 780-891-2000

Email: taylor.courtorielle@bigstonehealth.ca



M.D. OF
OPPORTUNITY
ba'Δ'Δ'



Wabasca.

unteer and donor of the Dash for Dialysis Relay Run
ess in bringing dialysis treatment home.

BIGSTONE HEALTH COMMISSION

Employment Opportunity



HOMEMAKER

One Permanent Full-Time Position

Monday to Friday – 7 hours/day

Wabasca, AB

Bigstone Health Commission is seeking an experienced and competent Homemaker to provide culturally safe, client-centred homemaking through Bigstone Health Commission. This position will be shared between the Wabasca Home Care Program and the Calling Lake Home Care Program, based on program needs, client caseloads, and service priorities. The employee will be required to travel between Wabasca and Calling Lake as scheduled and will work collaboratively with the respective program teams to ensure continuity and equitable access to home and community-based services.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide culturally safe, client-centred homemaking services (housekeeping, meal prep, activities outside the home, laundry & clothing store) that promote independence, dignity, safety and the client's ability to remain in their home and community
- Provides services according to the client's individualized care plan and within the employee's assigned scope of responsibilities
- Observes & reports changes in the client's physical, emotional, social or environmental condition to the Home Care Manager.
- Maintains accurate and timely documentation of services provided
- Identifies and reports potential safety concerns, including falls risks, environmental hazards, suspected abuse or neglect and other concerns affecting client well-being
- Follows infection prevention and control practices and BHC Occupational Health and Safety requirements
- Works collaboratively with Home Care nurses & Health Care Aides, family caregivers and other community service providers
- Supports clients in maintaining independence and participating in activities that are meaningful to them
- Delivers services in a manner that respects First Nations culture, traditions, values, family relationships and individual client preferences
- Maintains Client Confidentiality
- Perform other duties as assigned

Education and Experience:

- Health Care Aide Certification
- Home Maker experience preferred
- Current First Aid and CPR-Certificate
- Class 4 Driver's License or willing to obtain

Benefits:

- ✓ Competitive Salary
- ✓ Paid Vacation and Health & Wellness Leave
- ✓ Employer matching Registered Pension Plan
- ✓ Extended Health, Dental and Vision Plan

Salary is dependent on qualifications.

Please forward your Cover Letter, Resume (including 3 work related references), Criminal Record Check, Vulnerable Sector Check & Child & Youth Intervention Check (should be current within the last 6 months) to the:

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READ. DISCOVER. GROW.

Every page opens a new possibility.

From Peerless Lake to many stages, Bobbi-Jo Starr wants her songs to inspire

By Cherry Nyx

For Cree singer-songwriter Bobbi-Jo Starr, music did not begin with a recording studio or a stage.

Its roots reach back to Peerless Lake, to a childhood spent close to the land and water, and to the lessons of a grandfather who showed her that taking care of the land was something you did, not simply something you talked about.

Starr, whose Cree name Kisikaw Iskew means Daylight Woman, is from Peerless Trout First Nation.

Her mother is Helen Starr, her father is Robert Chalifoux of Valleyview, and her grandfather was David Starr, a name familiar to many people in north central Alberta.

"I grew up in Peerless Lake, and when I lived we didn't have running water," Starr. "We lived very directly on the land. We hunted, we fished, and we lived off the land."

Some of her strongest childhood memories? She remembers walking with her grandfather and watching him pick up garbage wherever he went. He cleaned the yard and cared for the land around him, quietly demonstrating the responsibility to his grandchildren.

"Those were simple things, but they made a big impression on me. They taught me that caring for the land isn't just something you talk about."

Those early teachings run through Starr's music. Her songs explore the topic of land, water, identity, healing and responsibility people carry to future generations. But the road that brought her to songwriting also came through recovery.

Starr began writing songs when she was very new to recovery and trying to understand herself.

Rather than allowing music to keep her focused on what had happened in her past, she deliberately began writing about the person she wanted to become.

"Songwriting became a process that helped me remember who I was, identify my values and beliefs, and figure out what I needed to focus on in my healing," she said.

Something powerful began happening as she repeatedly sang the words she had written. The songs started functioning almost like affirmations. She was reminding herself again and again about her values, the future she envisioned and the life she wanted to build.

Eventually, Starr said, she stopped simply writing about a vision and began living it.

"I wasn't just writing about the vision; I started practicing it and living it."

That transformation is closely connected to her birth name, Kisikaw Iskew.

"Through music I feel like I was able to step into that name and into myself more fully," Starr said. "I was able to take the pain and hurt I had experienced and transform it into something positive that could help other people."

Water has become one of the strongest themes in that work.

Her song "She Stands for Truth and Justice" calls on women to recognize their voices and responsibilities as advocates. Starr said the song grew

from a desire to encourage women to speak for water, children and generations still to come.

"Water is life. It creates life, it sustains life, and we need it. We're not only protecting it for our children. We're protecting it for the next seven generations."

For Starr, that message is not abstract environmentalism. It comes from growing up in Peerless Trout and understanding water as inseparable from Cree people, families and communities.

"Water is connected to our families, our communities, our land and our way of life."

She places women at the centre of responsibility. When the well-being of children and future generations is threatened, Starr believes women, particularly mothers, have an essential role to speak out.

"Every child has a right to clean, healthy lakes and rivers," she said. "Clean water is fundamental to their ability to live and thrive, and that's something we need to defend."

Now those messages are travelling far beyond the community where they began.

Starr said it remains surreal to discover that people across Canada and internationally are hearing her music. But numbers, broadcasts and geographic reach are not what matter most to her. The moments

that stay with her happen when strangers approach her and explain what her song meant in their own lives.

Some tell her the lyrics changed how they thought about water or the land. Others tell her a song connected with their own recovery or helped them rediscover something within themselves they thought they had lost.

"Those moments remind me music is doing what I intended it to do," Starr said. "It's reaching people, creating connection and creating impact. That's why I wrote this album. I wanted to make a difference."

Perhaps the clearest expression of what Starr has learned through her journey is what she would now tell a young Indigenous girl who has a song, a story or a voice inside her but is afraid she is not ready.

Starr's message is simple: start anyway.

"Don't wait until you think you're the perfect singer to start writing your songs. Start now."

She encourages young Indigenous women to embrace precisely what makes them different rather than trying to hide it, and to understand that confidence does not necessarily arrive before taking the first step. Sometimes confidence is built by repeatedly doing the thing that frightens you.

"You don't become that person by waiting until you're ready," Starr said. "You become that person by having the courage to step forward and practice being her."

It is a lesson remarkably similar to the one her grandfather taught her years ago.

Values become meaningful through action.

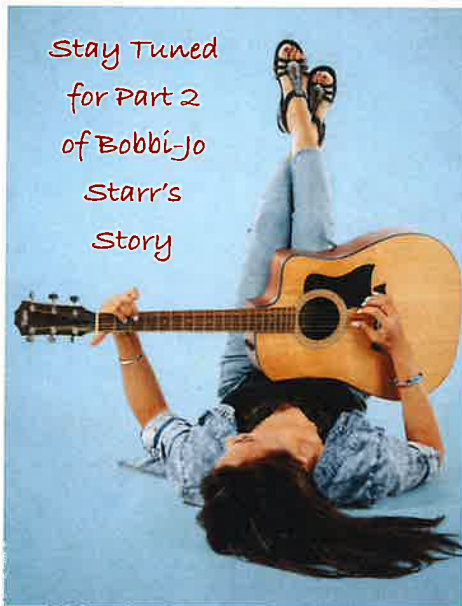
For Bobbi-Jo Starr, healing meant writing the words, singing them repeatedly and eventually living them.

"Don't be afraid of your voice. Use it," Starr recommends. "Your story matters, your difference is your strength, and the world needs to hear what you have to say."

Part 2 will focus on the success

of her musical career & her expectations

If you are not a regular Fever reader, send email to: bruce.thomas@thefever.online to receive free digital copy





Save the date
World Suicide Prevention Day
September 10, 2026



Chipewyan Lake

Community Hall

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Calling Lake

Community Complex

1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Wabasca

George D Auger Hall

1:00 pm – 6:00 pm



For more information call
Judy Auger (780) 891-3777

BIGSTONE COMMUNITY WELLNESS PRESENTS WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

LOCATION: Bigstone Community Wellness

TIME: 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Monday September 21, 2026 - Dragonfly presentation.

Monday October 5, 2026 - Women's drum circle.

Monday October 19, 2026 - Dragonfly presentation.

Monday November 9, 2026 - Beaded fringe earrings.

Monday November 30, 2026 - Beaded fringe earrings.

Monday December 14, 2026 - Game night.



- **Food and coffee provided.**
- **Open to all community members.**
- **Transportation available.**

Contact Recovery Care Staff

Crystal Gambler Gladu

780 - 891 - 3777

crystal.gladu@bigstonehealth.ca

WABASCA CULTURAL DAYS

SEPTEMBER 16-22, 2026

BCN FESTIVAL GROUNDS



MD OF
OPPORTUNITY
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Moose Hide Tanning
Dry Meat Making
Traditional Tea Station
Fry Bread Making
Plant Identification
Slingshot Making
Kinship Ties
Fire Making
Trappers Tent
Cree Language Games
Fish Filleting
Elders Tipi

**SPECIAL CREE SKIT
PERFORMANCE BY
KEEKENOW SENIOR FACILITY**

DATE: TBA

Birch Bark Canoeing
Bannock on a stick
Treaty Teachings
Rites of Passage
Fish Scale Art
Mini Tipi Making
Laynard Making
Orange Shirt Keychain Making
Birch Bark Moose Caller Making
Metis District Tent
Art Therapy Station:
Paint, Sketch & Create

**YOUTH ROUND DANCE
WITH SADDLE LAKE SINGERS
SEPTEMBER 22ND**

MORE INFO ON SEPERATE POSTER



WABASCA
LODGING
INFO

Lodging Information



EVENT FACEBOOK
PAGE

Cultural Days Event FB Page

VIDEOS FROM
LAST YEARS
CULTURAL DAYS



MD FCSS Website

FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE INFO CONTACT FCSS STAFF
JANICE AUGER OR JODI DECOINE AT 780-891 3778 EXT. 405 OR EXT. 403