



SDNA

Southern Dakeh Nation Alliance

Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation
Lhtako Dené Nation

Newsletter

May 2023



LAND BASED HEALING ACTIVITIES

This year, the elders have requested that we hold several land based activities. We will be getting recommendations from the elders who would teach these activities.

Here are some examples:

- ◆ Net making for lake and river fishing
- ◆ Spring gathering
- ◆ Processing hide (deer, moose or elk)
- ◆ Moccasin and glove making
- ◆ Star blanket making
- ◆ Basket weaving
- ◆ Hunting / fishing
- ◆ Processing wild meat
- ◆ Grease Trail activities – camping, hiking, survival camp for youth
- ◆ Harvesting Medicines – Indian tea, make pitch salve, roots, plants, etc
- ◆ Wood and bone carving
- ◆ Baby basket making
- ◆ Rope braiding
- ◆ Baby naming ceremony
- ◆ Build a hunting cabin
- ◆ Gardening
- ◆ Berry picking



Photo: Ellie Peters



We will schedule one event per month and post the activities that we will be doing. We are looking forward to having people join us.

By SDNA Community Engagement Coordinator Loretta Williams and

SDNA Community Liaison Valerie Setah

Photo credit: Loretta Williams

May 20—22, 2023

MAY 5, 2023 is RED DRESS DAY

To remember the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman and Girls in Canada



Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada (MMIWG), also known as Red Dress Day, refers to a human rights crisis that has only recently become a topic of discussion within national media. Indigenous women and communities, women's groups and International organizations have long called for action into the high and disproportionate rates of violence and the appalling numbers of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada. Prior to the launch of the national public inquiry on 8 December 2015, these calls were continually ignored by the federal government. Described by some as a hidden crisis, Dawn Lavell-Harvard, former president of the Native Women's Association of Canada, refers to MMIWG as a national tragedy and a national shame. In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada supported the call for a national public inquiry into the

disproportionate victimization of Indigenous women and girls. The National Inquiry's Final Report was completed and presented to the public on 3 June 2019.

There is a lot of disagreement about the number of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) acknowledged in a 2014 report that there have been more than 1,200 missing and murdered Indigenous women between 1980 and 2012. Indigenous women's groups, however, document the number of missing and murdered to be over 4,000. The confusion about the numbers has to do with the under-reporting of violence against Indigenous women and girls and the lack of an effective database, as well as the failure to identify such cases by ethnicity (See Indigenous Women's Issues).

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) has drawn attention to figures from Statistics Canada documenting high rates of violence against Indigenous women. For example, Indigenous women 15 years and older were 3.5 times more likely to experience violence than non-Indigenous women, according to the 2004 General Social Survey. Violence against Indigenous women and girls is not only more frequent but also more severe. Between 1997 and 2000, the homicide rate for Indigenous women was nearly seven times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous women.

The demographics give a sense of the extent of the violence that Indigenous women and girls face across this country, but they fail to tell the stories of the deep trauma that this violence has on entire communities or the stories of children who have lost their mothers to senseless violence. The statistics cannot reflect the experiences of the families and communities who have lost a loved one. The missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls were mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, cousins and grandmothers. Many were students completing post-secondary education, such as Loretta Saunders, an Inuk woman murdered at age 26 in 2014, who was completing her honours thesis on this very issue at the time she went missing. Some were only children, such as 14-year-old Azraya Acakabee Kokopenace and 15-year-old Tina Fontaine — who were both in the child welfare system at the time — or 16-year-old Delaine Copenace. This ongoing tragedy affects all Indigenous women and girls from all walks of life and throughout many communities and cities across Canada. Although some perpetrators are known to the victim, many are strangers.

Reference : The Canadian Encyclopedia, July 8, 2020



SDNA invites you to:

Elders TEA

MAY

9

2023

10 AM - 2 PM

Quesnel Legion
262 Kinchent Street, Quesnel, BC

For more information contact:
Loretta Williams 250-267-4373
Valerie Setah 250-267-9086

Lunch & Door Prizes provided

Bring a youth along with you

ELDER'S CORNER



Maureen Boyd

We were raised on a ranch. My mom and dad had a new log cabin, which my dad built, by Trout Lake. My aunt and uncle were very abusive towards my parents. My dad did not like this and we left and left everything behind including the brand new log cabin. My dad wanted us safe. After we left my dad got a job at a ranch 40 minutes outside of Nazko. Every time my mom and dad had to leave, we would pick on our brother. I would pick on my sister Loraine too. I threw her into a creek one day. One day we put all the calves in a corral and had my brother ride the calves. When mom and dad came home my brother said to them that he hated his sisters for what they do to me. My parents helped me raise my oldest daughter that got murdered. They taught her so much. My mom tanned hides, made moccasins and picked berries. She also used to make coats and jackets. My mom sewed all of our clothes. One day mom made a skirt that I really liked and I took it and was hiding it from my sister. My moms name is Matilda Lloyd and my dad is from Ulkatcho.

Louis Squinas was my real dad's dad, but my dad was raised by Jerry Boyd, that is why my dad goes by Boyd. My dad taught us everything what you need to know on a ranch. One day I snuck out at night and started the tractor to feed the cows. I thought they needed more feed, but my dad caught me. My dad used to train wild horses and he put me on one after it was trained. My dad told us that you never talk bad about a grizzly bear, because if you do he will come after you. The young people are not really interested anymore to listen to the elders, they are so busy with their phones and TV. There was a time when you were taught to help and listen to your grandparents, which was good. Story by Maureen Boyd

STAFF CORNER

This month we would like to introduce to you Dina Stephenson:

Dhooja. My name is Dina Stephenson and I am the Senior Administrative Assistant with SDNA. In my role as the Senior Administrative Assistant, I am responsible for administrative support for SDNA.

I studied Agriculture Engineering in Germany at the University Kassel. I moved to Canada in 1997 and lived my first 2 years in Alberta before I moved to BC. I am part of the Horsefly River Roundtable, which is a non profit stewardship group that is working in favor of the local watershed and protecting the salmon. I am the main organizer for the Horsefly River Salmon Festival and I do a lot of volunteering in my own community. I am a people person, and in my free time I enjoy my little side business of equine therapy and energy work. I have a love for traveling and meeting new people.



Dina Stephenson

You can reach Dina at assist@dakelh.ca or (250)-398-3375 ext. 205.