COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER | ISSUE NO.01 SUMMER 2025

MUSCOWPETUNG

80

SITTING STRONG

MUSCOWPETUNG SAULTEAUX NATION COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

INSIDE: CHIEF AND COUNCIL MESSAGES - AWARD WINNING POW WOW ARBOUR URBAN UPDATES - TAYSIN LA ROSE - THE STORY OF CORKY ROSEBLUFF & MORE!

> Over the last three years, your leadership has walked a path grounded in love for our people, and in the spirit of community inclusion. Today, I'm honoured to share a message that reflects both our journey and our future.

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF MELISSA TAVITA

Dear Members of Muscowpetung

I greet you all with warmth, pride, and a heart full of gratitude.

Over the last three years, your leadership has walked a path grounded in love for our people, and in the spirit of community inclusion. Today, I'm honoured to share a message that reflects both our journey and our future.

As we prepare to mark 150 years since Chief Cheekuk, "the Worthy One" signed Treaty #4 in 1875, we do so with two powerful themes in mind: "Honouring Our Past" and "Building Our Future." These words guide our work and our vision.

This summer, during our Cheekuk Days Celebration we are proud to welcome Joan Holmes and Associates to our Nation as they present new historical findings and support our efforts in creating a comprehensive report that will help all generations understand our deep roots and powerful story. As we pay tribute to Chief Cheekuk and Chief Muscowpetung; leaders whose strength still echoes in our hearts and guides us forward.

Looking ahead, the second theme, "Building Our Future," is where we, as your leadership continue to lay the foundation for generations to come. We undertook the largest and most inclusive Strategic Planning initiative in our Nation's history, reaching out to members in Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, and right here on-reserve. These sessions were guided by your voices, your ideas, and your aspirations, and together, we are shaping a vision rooted in unity and ambition.

Hand in hand with this, we have launched a bold and transformative Infrastructure Strategy, which maps out a brighter, more stable future for Muscowpetung. From housing developments to recreation spaces, from a new community swimming pool to revitalized rodeo grounds, we are designing the spaces our families deserve.

When we plan with intention, we improve not just buildings, but the quality of life for all our members. These plans are more than blueprints to us, they're a commitment to creating safe, vibrant, and thriving communities both on-reserve and in our urban centres. When aligned with our urban strategic planning efforts, we can build the wraparound programming, services, and cultural supports our people need to flourish, no matter where they live.

We are thrilled to invite you to gather with us at our Inaugural Traditional Pow Wow, August 19–21, 2025. This will be a powerful celebration of identity, spirit, and togetherness, one you won't want to miss.

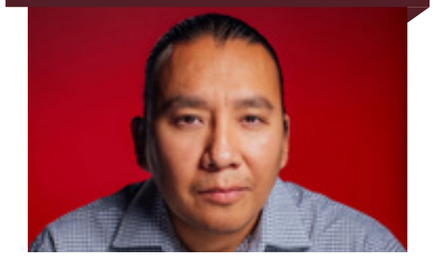
To our incredible staff: thank you for your tireless service and your unwavering dedication. To our children and youth: thank you for reminding us every day of what really matters, you are our greatest teachers. And to my Council: thank you for walking this journey with me, for your strength, and for your shared commitment to building a better tomorrow for our Nation.

Our next newsletter will be our special Christmas edition, where we will share stories of progress, community love, and holiday cheer. Until then, let us honour our past and continue building our future—together.

With love and respect,

Chief Melissa Tavita
Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation

EDITOR'S NOTE



Bio: Chris Tyrone Ross

My name is Chris Tyrone Ross and I am the Print and Publications Coordinator and will be producing your quarterly newsletter. I have 29 years of experience in media; publishing my own magazines like Gen-X and RezX while running my own media companies like IndigenX. Through this journey, I have also become a filmmaker and TV Producer, currently producing RezX TV. I am originally from the Red Earth Cree Nation but reside in Regina, SK, with my wife and 2 boys.

With this new journey, I am excited to share your stories and help create a newsletter for the community to enjoy! Through the first three months working for the nation, I have met many members and colleagues as it has been a great experience. I'm looking forward for what the rest of the year has to offer in terms of programs and events I plan to cover for the newsletter.

I want to thank Chief and Council for giving me this opportunity and all those members who have reached out to tell their story. Speaking of which, I hope you enjoy this first edition of "Sitting Strong" (which is the saulteaux translation of Muscowpetung).

Chris Tyrone Ross
Print and Publications Coordinator

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"SITTING STRONG"
Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation's Community Newsletter

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HEADMAN MESSAGES

Chief and Council met with Regina Mayor Chad Bachynski to discuss economic development opportunities.

Terance Cappo
Headman

Hello to all my relatives

I want to begin by sharing something personal with you. When I first stepped into leadership, I wasn't sure I was ready for the public side of this role, the speeches, the meetings, the spotlight. I've always been a quiet but firm voice in our community, and stepping into this position brought me out of my comfort zone.

But today, I can say with pride that because of the amazing work being done by our Chief and Council, and because of all the incredible projects and firsts happening in our community, I feel ready to speak and speak proudly. These opportunities have pushed me to grow, and I'm grateful for it.

One area that's very close to my heart is Food Sovereignty. I've always believed in our inherent right to hunt, to provide from the land, and to take care of one another. As long as I'm able, I will continue to offer wild game to any member who requests it. It's part of who we are, and it's one of the many ways we can reconnect with our traditions and each other.

I'm also happy to invite everyone to our 2nd Annual Quad Rally during this year's Cheekuk Days. This event is growing every year and is a great way to welcome quad enthusiasts and their families to experience our hillside trails and stunning valley landscapes. There will be food, entertainment, and great company, bring your family, bring your quads, and come make memories with us!

Before I close, I want to give a heartfelt thank you to our Public Works Department. These are the folks behind the scenes—plowing roads, repairing infrastructure, maintaining our buildings, and keeping everything moving. Their work is often overlooked, but they are vital to our Nation's success. I'm proud of the capital investments we've made into new heavy equipment, and proud of the team that puts it to use every day.

And finally, to all of you, thank you. Thank you for standing with us, for supporting our work, and for believing in our shared goal: a better, safer, and stronger community for all.

With respect and appreciation,

Headman Terance Cappo
Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation

HEADMEN MESSAGES

Rhonda Rosebluff
Headwoman

Dear Members of Muscowpetung

My name is Rhonda Rosebluff, and I proudly serve as Headwoman for Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation. As we enter the final year of our term, I want to reflect on the progress we've made and the important work still ahead.

I am a proud grandmother of ten and mother of four, carrying forward a strong legacy of leadership. My great-grandfather, John Gambler, was our last hereditary chief, and both my parents and brother have served our Nation in leadership roles. I do my best to honour that legacy in my own service.

Currently, I oversee portfolios in Child and Family Services (CFS) and Education, support our Elders group, and participate in administrative and Nation-level work. A major focus is the implementation of Bill C-92, affirming our jurisdiction over child welfare. In the coming weeks, we'll be holding community sessions with Elders to guide us as we shape our own laws under this framework.

Another proud achievement is the completion of our agricultural claim—an important victory made possible by the perseverance of our team and community.

I care deeply for our Elders, our youth, and our children. It's been an honour to serve, and I'm thankful to be part of a strong, committed leadership team.

In respect and unity,
Headwoman Rhonda Rosebluff
Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation

Thomas Pratt
Headman

Dear Members of Muscowpetung

My name is Thomas Charles Pratt, and I'm honoured to continue serving you on Council. Born and raised here, I've spent 21 years in leadership—a journey I proudly resumed after members asked me to return. I'm grateful for your continued trust.

Leadership runs in my family. Both of my late parents served on Council, my sister was a former Chief, and my brother also sat at the table. I'm the second youngest of 14 siblings, a father of five, and grandfather to eight. Like many of you, I'm committed to building a better future for our children and grandchildren.

I've seen both struggles and successes in our Nation, and today I believe we're moving forward—together—toward greater opportunity. With recent land claim settlements and new economic initiatives underway, including housing, urban land, and business development, we're laying the foundation for a stronger, more independent future. Our Elders, former leaders, and youth each play a vital role. Their wisdom and energy guide us. Even when we disagree, we must listen, respect one another, and stay united. Every member deserves to feel heard and valued.

We are one people—Treaty people—with one goal: a thriving Nation. May you all find peace, strength, and wellness in your homes.

In respect and unity,

Headman Thomas Charles Pratt
Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation

Barry Cappo
Headman

Anin Relatives

I'm humbled and excited to share with you some news about my newest responsibility: I've recently been appointed to the new Board of Directors for MSBD Ltd. This opportunity comes at a pivotal time, as MSBD takes bold steps forward by implementing its own governance recommendations, including the creation of this new board and search for a new CEO. I want you to know that I'm here to support the new direction of MSBD however I can, with integrity, honesty, and the heart of a servant to the people.

One area of real pride for all of us is the outstanding performance of our Sovereign Wealth Fund, which is expertly managed by Morgan Stanley. The quarterly and annual returns have far exceeded expectations, and the impact is real. These gains have strengthened our Nation's financial position and contributed directly to a historic achievement: a $23 million surplus at the end of the 2023–2024 fiscal year. For the first time ever, Muscowpetung stands on a financial foundation that allows us to dream bigger and do better for our people. But I always come back to this, our people are our true wealth. Over the past several years, I've had the honour of sitting in on nearly every Elders meeting, listening to the deep stories, absorbing the teachings and

learning the sacred protocols that guide us. I am deeply thankful for our Elders, our Knowledge Keepers for their voices, their memories, and their medicine. You are the keepers of our laws, our laughter, and our legacy.

I also want to say this to our youth: we see you, we believe in you, and we will always stand with you. My commitment to youth development and sport programming is unwavering. Whether it's on the land, on the court, in the classroom, or in ceremony, our young people deserve the chance to grow strong in body, mind, and spirit. Let's continue to walk forward together, rooted in our past and focused on a future that is worthy of our ancestors and inspiring to our children.

In unity and service,

Headman Barry Cappo
Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation

Byron Toto
Headman

Dear Members of Muscowpetung

My name is Byron Toto, and I proudly serve as a Councillor for our Nation. It's been an honour to hold this role for six years now, following an earlier six-year term and a short break.

I'm a husband, father of four, and grandfather to eleven. About eight years ago, I moved back to the reserve after years away—and I've never looked back. There's something powerful about waking up surrounded by our people. I do my best to stay connected with members, whether by phone, text, or in person.

What I value most is being with the people — especially getting to know our urban members. Meeting face-to-face, hearing your concerns, and building trust has been one of the most rewarding parts of my role I also want to highlight the real progress we're making. From new buildings to the pow wow arbour and other

projects, these developments are for everyone —urban and on-reserve. These are things we've never had before, and they signal a new, exciting chapter for Muscowpetung. Election seasons can test unity, but at our core, we are one Nation. We are all Treaty people, and we all deserve to benefit from the growth ahead. Thank you for the continued opportunity to serve.

In unity,

Headman Byron Toto
Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation

GALLERY: MUSCOWPETUNG GRADUATES

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Graduation ceremonies ended off the school year with MEC holding ceremonies for its Kindergarten, Grade 8 and Grade 12 Graduates. (#1-2 Grade 8 Graduates hold their diplomas proudly #3 Grade 12 Grad Shakira Bellegarde at a Grad ceremony in Treaty 4 Governance Centre #4-7 Kindergarten Graduation ceremony 8. Urban member and Grade 12 Grad Kian Poitras poses with his diploma.

NEWS: Minister Rebecca Alty visits Muscowpetung for official announcement of Agricultural Benefits settlement

Earlier this month, Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation welcomed the Honourable Rebecca Alty, Minister of Crown–Indigenous Relations, to our Nation for the official announcement of our Agricultural Benefits Specific Claim settlement with the Government of Canada.

This historic settlement marks an important step forward, as Canada formally acknowledges its failure to uphold agricultural promises under Treaty.

"This settlement comes not just as a financial resolution, but as a meaningful acknowledgment of broken promises. While farming tools may no longer carry the same value they once would have for our people, this compensation allows us to invest in the tools of today—housing, infrastructure, water, youth, and our Nation's long-term financial sovereignty.

We thank the Government of Canada for finally acknowledging this longstanding injustice. We also give thanks to our ancestors and to the people of Muscowpetung who stood strong over the generations. On this 150th year of Treaty 4, we honour Chief Cheekuk's vision by investing in a future that uplifts every member of our Nation", stated Chief Melissa Tavita

Chief Tavita also had the honour of showing Minister Alty a few of our Nation's new infrastructure developments, including our new maintenance building and our powwow arbour - projects rooted in pride, purpose, and the healing and wellbeing of our community.

The Chief and Minister also shared discussion on the importance of infrastructure and its positive impact on the social, cultural, and economic well-being of the community. The resolution of this claim—and the distributions that come with it—puts Muscowpetung in a stronger position to support critical infrastructure development and build long-term financial sustainability that will benefit our Nation for generations to come.

Chief and Council would like to sincerely thank Minister Alty and her team for visiting our Nation—not only to mark this important settlement, but to engage in open, honest dialogue on the issues that continue to affect our people.

It is through these Nation-to-Nation discussions that we move forward together and honour the true intent of reconciliation, and the spirit of Treaty.

MEMBER PROFILES

RAY GOSLIN BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH INDIGENOUS-LED ARCHITECTURE

Interview by Chris Tyrone Ross

Ray Goslin Architect Limited stands as a testament to Indigenous innovation in the built environment. "I am a professional architect, owner of my firm, Ray Goslin Architect Limited," Ray explains. His practice of six people is rooted on the Chief Red Dog Urban Reserve at First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv), with a second office in Regina's warehouse district.

For over thirty years, Ray has practiced across Saskatchewan and beyond. "I started my practice out of my basement," he recalls. A 2015 Saskatchewan Indigenous Enterprise Foundation grant allowed him to fill and lease at FNUniv until they needed to expand to a second office, which is where you can find Ray and his team today constantly working on new projects.

Ray emphasizes that his firm is "First Nation–owned" and registered to practice in five provinces, serving both urban and remote communities. "We have work, of course, in Regina—and we're quite busy," he notes, citing recent staff additions and plans to mentor a First Nations architectural technologist student from Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

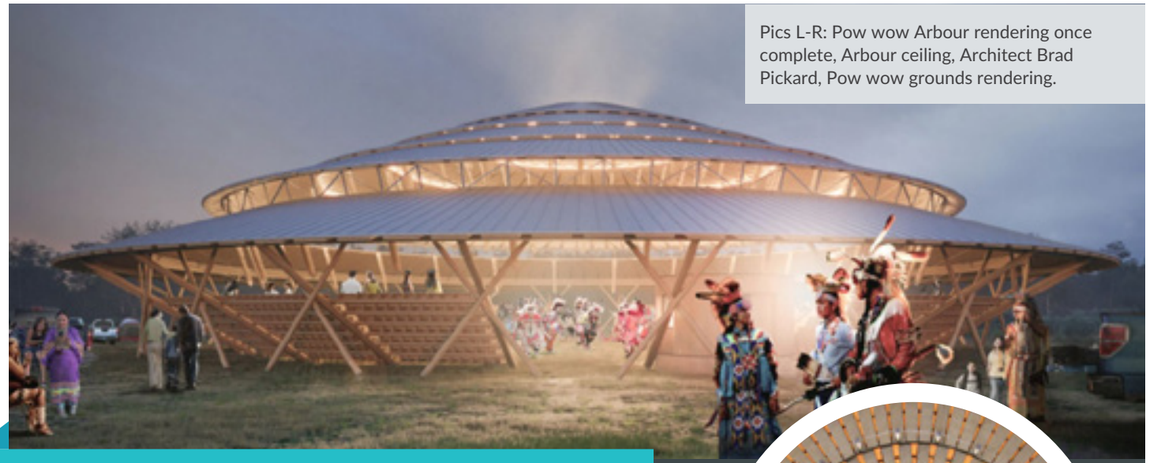
At the heart of Ray's practice is a clear vision of the architect's role. "The architect is just one professional of several professionals involved in the design and supervision of building construction," he explains. Beyond drafting plans, architects coordinate engineers, planners, and specialty consultants—geotechnical engineers, kitchen designers, even technical writers—to bring projects from concept to completion. "Often, the architect is the lead project architect, and all of the other team members are subconsultants who work under the architect."

Ray's practice pursues projects that strengthen community. His firm recently teamed up on a proposal to master-plan Regina's North Central neighborhood. "We attempted to go after some work with the City of Regina," he says. "We teamed up with One Hoop… we're still waiting for results," and he looks forward to involving his Indigenous technologist student in extensive community engagement if the bid succeeds.

Beyond local practice, Ray works nationally to elevate Indigenous voices in architecture. Since 2016, he has served on the Indigenous Task Force of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC), advocating for culturally appropriate design education and practice. Recognizing Saskatchewan's lack of an architecture school, "we're looking at the possibility of having the first Indigenous school of architecture started in Saskatchewan," he says, highlighting the task force's efforts to create new pathways for Indigenous youth.

Ray and his colleagues also showcased Indigenous design on the world stage. "When we were successful back in 2018, we represented Canada, and a group of us Canadian Indigenous architects and American Indian architects put on an exhibit in Venice," he recalls of the Venice Architecture Biennale pavilion. That international recognition affirmed the power of reconciliation-driven design to tell compelling cultural stories.

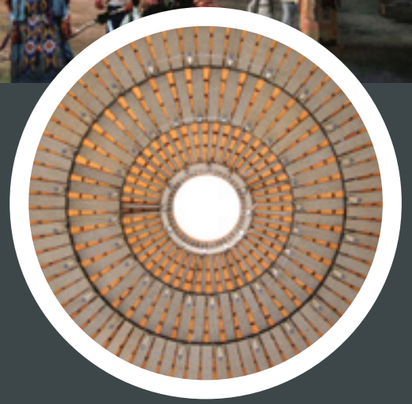
Through firms like Ray Goslin Architect Limited, Indigenous-led architecture moves from margins to mainstream, proving that technical excellence and cultural stewardship can flourish together. As Ray puts it, "There's a wide variety of skills that an architect can have, but most importantly, the architect is part of a group of professionals that bring buildings to fruition"—always rooted in community, collaboration, and culture.



Pics L-R: Pow wow Arbour rendering once complete, Arbour ceiling, Architect Brad Pickard, Pow wow grounds rendering.

A Beacon of Culture and Community: The Pow Wow Arbour at Muscowpetung First Nation

Story by Chris Tyrone Ross



At the heart of the Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation's vision for community growth and cultural celebration stands a unique architectural marvel—the Pow Wow Arbour. This stunning open-air structure, soon to grace the land off Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation, will not only be a place for pow wow, but also where the community will gather for other events, like land based teachings, feasts and other ceremonies.

The journey of the Pow Wow Arbour originally began through a collaboration between Brad Pickard of Oxbow Architecture and Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation, with the first project being the Indigenous Business Hub, which is something they hope to build with the City of Regina.

But before they could begin that project, they wanted to start with the pow wow arbour, as architect Brad Pickard and his team joined forces with Chief Operating Officer, Myke Agecoutay and Cultural Knowledge Keepers like Jeff Cappo to begin plans for the arbour.

Their shared goal was clear from the start: to create a space that honors tradition while supporting the community's evolving needs.

Pickard describes the design process as "a beautiful blending of innovation and respect for culture." He explains, "The circle shape is more than just geometry, it represents unity, balance, and the cyclical nature of life. We wanted the arbour to feel open to the sky, connected to the earth, and welcoming to all."

Inspired by the traditional tipi, the arbour's circular form rests on a tripod foundation, supported by timber "bow" struts that give the roof a light, soaring quality.

"Engineering this structure to be both strong and elegant was a rewarding challenge," Pickard says. "Seeing the tripods arrive and the frame go up is like watching a dream take shape."

Inside, the natural grass dance surface keeps the connection to tradition alive.

"We intentionally kept the floor natural," Pickard notes, "because it brings people closer to the land and the spirit of the pow wow. It's about feeling rooted and grounded."

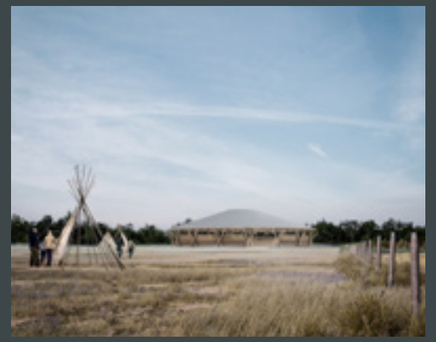
The project has faced challenges, from material costs to complex engineering, but the community's enthusiasm and input have been the driving force. Brad highlights, "This isn't just an architectural project; it's a community story. The feedback, the stories shared by elders and youth alike, have shaped every decision."

With a footprint roughly the size of a hockey rink, the Pow Wow Arbour will host large gatherings, fostering a space of celebration and learning. Pickard envisions it as "an outdoor classroom where culture lives and breathes, where knowledge is passed down, and new memories are made."

The project's impact extends beyond Muscowpetung. It recently won an award at the World Architecture Festival in Lisbon, Portugal, a recognition Pickard humbly attributes to "the strength of community collaboration and the powerful stories behind the design."

As the arbour nears completion, the excitement is palpable. Pickard sums it up: "This structure is more than timber and steel—it's a symbol of hope, resilience, and connection. I can't wait to see families gather here, dancers circle in celebration, and the spirit of Muscowpetung shine brightly through this space for generations."

The Pow Wow Arbour is set to be a lasting beacon of culture, community, and unity - a testament to what can be achieved when tradition and innovation walk hand in hand.



PREVENTION REPORT

Report by Corey Gambler
Prevention Manager

We are excited to share a preview of our upcoming prevention programming, that are focused on cultural knowledge, community healing, and creative expression. These programs are designed to support our youth and families through meaningful connection to the land, to one another, and to our oral history.

This year, our Culture Camps will bring families together for land-based teachings and ceremonies, led by knowledge keepers, and our Elders. Participants will learn traditional skills, medicines, and teachings that have guided our people for generations. These camps are not just events, they are spaces for reconnection and healing our spirits.

Horse Therapy Program offers a powerful path toward emotional wellness, helping participants build trust, confidence, and a sense of belonging through their relationship with horses. This trauma-informed practice supports those navigating challenges like grief, anxiety, or disconnection.

We're also offering several skill-building programs aimed at nurturing creativity and self-expression.

Through Photography and Videography, youth will not only learn technical skills, they will become storytellers, capturing their perspectives, their community, and the voices of Elders. These stories will become part of our oral history archives, ensuring that traditional knowledge, teachings, and lived experiences are preserved for future generations to hear, reflect on, and learn from. Other creative programs include Drone Pilot Training, Regalia Making, and Sewing and Textiles, all designed to provide youth with skills, confidence, and cultural pride. In regalia making, youth will be guided through a process of rich meaning, understanding the meaning behind their regalia.

There will be more programming announced as these will pave the way with our footwork and the fundamentals for our community. Equipping our youth with tools, teachings, and purpose rooted in who we are.

THE STORY OF CORKY ROSEBLUFF

Honoring Corky Rosebluff: The Announcer Who Brought the Grand Entry to Life

Interview by Chris Tyrone Ross

A young Corky Rosebluff announcing at a Pow wow

"I am Rhonda Rosebluff from the Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation, and I come from the Rosebluff Takowish Clan," Rhonda proudly states, setting the scene for a story of tradition, family, and legacy.

As a council member holding the esteemed title of Head Woman and former Pandemic Coordinator, she's deeply embedded in her community and thrilled to share the story of her late cousin, Corky Rosebluff.

"Corky Rosebluff was actually my first cousin… He was about two years younger than my dad… He was more of an uncle to me than an actual cousin," Rhonda recalls warmly.

Born around 1942 to her aunt Nancy, Corky was raised by his grandparents alongside her father, forging bonds of brotherhood and kinship.

In the mid-1960s, Corky moved to Wolf Point, near Poplar, Montana, where he embraced his role as a rodeo announcer.

"He started announcing for the rodeos…he noticed that everybody would just come in and dance…when he done the rodeos, he would announce those…so he thought, what a great idea to bring that to the powwow circle."

Upon returning to Canada in 1967–1968, Corky introduced the concept of formal "grand entry" announcements to pow wows—starting at Piapot Pow wow. "He broke it up into categories, the tiny tots, and he brought in the flags, he introduced a lot of that to the announcers that are announcing to this date.He traveled all over and introduced the Grand Entry to a lot of the powwows in Canada and in the United States as well."

While recalling her memories of him in action, Rhonda shares, "I remember sitting in a crowd… at Thunder Child Powwow, and watching him announce, I was only 14 at the time, so it made me very, very proud."

For Rhonda, Corky's work is more than tradition — it's family. "I'm honoured, to have somebody from our family to introduce what's known as such a big thing now." Beyond his pioneering role as an announcer, she connects powwow tradition to deep cultural history.

Although Corky tragically passed away on December 15, 1978, in a house fire that also claimed his wife and eldest son, Rhonda proudly remembers his legacy: "He has two sons left, Jerry Rosebluff and Greg Rosebluff, Greg is living in Canada and Jerry is still living in the United States. Corky, unfortunately, lost his life, but those are his last two living sons."

Rhonda enriches the narrative by recalling their shared heritage. Raised in a home where Christianity and traditional culture coexisted, she shares stories passed down from her great-grandfather, the last hereditary Chief, John Gambler.

"He talked about, the rain dance, the twelve poles around as his disciples, you embrace both cultures."

She also recalls the willow-tapping ceremony used to choose a Chief, "they would walk around, they took a willow and tapped him on the shoulder" a moment signifying John Gambler's selection as hereditary chief at around age seven.

Rhonda concludes by sharing a family heirloom: a ceremonial whistle passed down from her ancestor, Annie Oaks, one of the first female whistle-holders.

"It was passed down, to my uncle Brian, he wants to bring it back to our community along with my grandfather's original treaty book."

Through Rhonda's heartfelt recollections, we glimpse Corky Rosebluff not only as a pioneer who revolutionized powwow ceremony with style and structure but as a devoted family member rooted in cultural wisdom. His legacy lives on in every grand entry, every drumroll, and in the traditions cherished by Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation.

URBAN UPDATE:

Muscowpetung members at the Urban Strategic Gathering held in Calgary, AB. Other similar meetings were held in Regina, Edmonton and Vancouver over the past couple months with great turnout providing great discussion and feedback.

SASKATCHEWAN, BC, ALBERTA: URBAN CONNECTIONS STRONGER TOGETHER

Over the past eight months, our three Urban Services Coordinators, serving in British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan—have been laying the foundation for what is becoming a meaningful and impactful support system for our urban membership.

Together, they have begun compiling directories of existing social support services in each major urban centre, including housing referrals, employment and job search resources, and wild meat distributions. These vital services not only connect our members to essential supports but also help offset some of the financial pressures on the Nation by linking members to local agencies and partners.

What began as individual efforts in each province has grown into a coordinated strategy, and the Coordinators are now moving into the next phase: building community gatherings and hosting urban functions that focus on reconnecting families, strengthening cultural identity, and fostering relationships between urban members and Muscowpetung leadership.

One of the major highlights has been the completion of a 5-City Urban Strategic Planning Tour, where community voices guided our direction. These planning sessions offered leadership a clear view of the immediate needs facing our members, especially in housing, mental health, and employment, and gave inspiration for long-term planning. Perhaps most importantly, the sessions rekindled community connections. We want to offer heartfelt thanks to all who attended, our moms, dads, young people, and community champions, for your voices and your strength.

Looking ahead, there's a lot to be excited about. We recently organized an Elders' Trip to the Calgary Stampede, which was a wonderful success and now we are especially looking forward to Cheekuk Days in August, which will bring families and friends together to celebrate, laugh, and reconnect right on the Nation.

To Chief and Council, thank you for the vision and support behind the Urban Services Pilot Program. It is already proving to be a strong bridge between our people living away from home and the heart of our Nation. We look forward to what's next, with purpose, pride, and community spirit.

— Urban Services Team, British Columbia, Alberta & Saskatchewan

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: MSBD ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD AND NEW BOLD DIRECTION

Report by Myke Agecoutay
Chief Operating Officer
Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation

Muscowpetung Saulteaux Business Developments Ltd. (MSBD) is proud to announce the appointment of our new Board of Directors. Following a 2024 strategic planning session conducted with community members both on and off reserve, it became clear that revitalizing MSBD's governance was a top priority.

To support long-term stability and remove politics from economic decision-making, we are pleased to welcome the following individuals as board members for a two-year term:

- Angela Pratt
- Eric Anaquod
- Headman Barry Cappo
- Headman Thomas Pratt
- Jamie Eng
- Jack Huber
- Jessica Nixon

These appointments mark a critical step in strengthening our foundation for sustainable economic growth.

MSBD Senior Executive
- Brian Roth, Chief Executive Officer
- Myke Agecoutay, Chief Operating Officer
- Dr Shane Keepness, Food Sovereignty

& Indigenous Governance

New Strategic Priorities

Guided by community feedback and forward-looking analysis, MSBD will focus on three key areas:

1. **Renewable Energy Participation**
2. **Indigenous Procurement Opportunities**
3. **Infrastructure Development,** including projects like our award-winning Pow Wow Arbour.

Upcoming Initiatives & Community Engagement

We're also thrilled that MSBD will lead **Urban Strategic Planning Sessions** in Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Saskatoon, and Vancouver, and due to overwhelming demand, we've added an on-reserve session as well. These sessions are designed to gather input, share direction, and deepen community involvement in shaping our Nations future, and thus MSBD's future.

"Indigenous economic development is more than a strategy, it's a lever for sovereignty, self-determination, and generational wealth."

Another major focus this summer is our **Infrastructure Strategy,** which opens the door for direct community involvement in planning major capital projects, such as housing, sports grounds, gas line development, and culturally significant spaces like churches and sweat lodges.

During **Cheekuk Days,** MSBD will highlight the Chief Cheekuk and Chief Muscowpetung Joan Holmes Research Report—a landmark look into our leadership legacy and historical vision for prosperity.
And on June 26, 2025, tune in for our LIVE Podcast, where we'll dive into MSBD's latest developments, vision, and opportunities for member involvement. Stay tuned for details on how to join and watch.

A Message to the Community

Indigenous economic development is more than a strategy, it's a lever for sovereignty, self-determination, and generational wealth. Across Canada, Indigenous-owned businesses are driving growth faster than any other sector. According to the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, if Indigenous businesses were scaled at the same rate as the rest of the country, they could contribute an additional $27.7 billion annually to Canada's GDP.

MSBD is committed to building that future — with you, for all of us.

Together, we are building not just an economy — but a legacy.

MSBD would like to acknowledge Chief Melissa Tavita and the entire council for their support over these past 5 years.

Please visit **www.muscowpetung.biz** for more information.

EDUCATION UPDATE:

Muscowpetung Education Centre Summer Update

The staff and students at MEC are busy winding down the 2024-2025 School Year. For the first time, we had our very own grade 3 student, David Tavita, who represented not only Muscowpetung Education Centre but also the Nation in Toronto, Ontario, in the National Spelling Bee. David did an excellent job but didn't qualify for the second round.

Our high school student, Taysia Keepness, qualified for the SHSAA Districts Track & Field at Douglas Park in Regina on Tuesday, May 27th, 2025. Taysia placed 4th in the 400m running event. Our students have been excitedly learning the Anishinaabe Language with Ms. Denise Kennedy. Ms. Kennedy comes in twice a week to visit each classroom. (PreK to Grade 12).

Our high school students have been busy with our School Community Garden and tending to our chickens. Wellness Land-Based Sessions have begun with our girls in grades 5/6; the sessions will transition to the Horse Spirit Healing and Wellness Equine Therapy.

Graduations were recently held at MEC. Our Kindergarten Graduation had four Kindergarteners moving onto Grade 1. Our Grade 8 Graduaiton saw Eight students moving into the high school next fall. This year, we had one grade 12 graduate, Shakira Bellegarde, granddaughter of Denise Keepness and great-granddaughter of the Late Isabelle Keepness. Shakira has attended Muscowpetung Education Centre for most of her school years and is currently applying to Saskatchewan Polytechnic for the Automotive Service Technician Program. We wish Shakira all the best in her future endeavors.

In closing, we thank our MEC Families for entrusting your child/children to us.

- Education

Taysin La Rose, Age, is a member of Muscowpetung First Nation and has been training for months for his first boxing matfch, which took place last month.

SPORTS: YOUTH BOXER TAYSIN LA ROSE SHINES IN FIRST BOXING MATCH

The crowd was loud, but Taysin La Rose heard just one voice—his grandmother's. “Cut the ring, Tyson! Use your right!” she shouted, her words slicing through the noise as clearly as his punches in the ring.

Thirteen-year-old Taysin, a proud member of Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation, had just completed his debut boxing match at the Lonsdale Boxing Club. The outcome wasn’t a win, but the real victory came from the journey—and the family legacy he’s carrying forward.

It started when Taysin's mom, Tahnee, mentioned boxing runs in the family.

“She said my uncles were boxers. I didn't realize how serious it was until I saw an article about my Uncle Dana (Laframboise). He had his own nickname and everything,” Taysin recalls. That spark turned into determination one car ride home. “I just told her—

‘Find me a boxing gym.’”

That gym ended up being Jaguar Boxing Club, where Coach Fitzroy Solomon—“Coach Fitz”—welcomed Taysin and helped him channel his natural athleticism into discipline and form. The transition wasn’t easy.

“I thought I was in shape. Turns out—not so much,” Taysin laughs. “I couldn’t even skip rope at first.” But with consistent training every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the gym became a second home. “I got faster, stronger, better. I just kept going.”

Under Coach Fitz’s guidance, Taysin built not just physical skills but mental toughness. The first time he sparred, he left with a bloody nose—but also a better idea of what it takes to win.

“At first, I was too emotional. I’d charge in. But then I learned to calm down, listen to my coach, and get technical,” he explains. “I learned to cut off the ring, to time my punches. That’s when it started to click.”

Watching from the sidelines, Tahnee saw her son shift—not just as a boxer, but as a young man.

“Boxing gave him focus. It made him more confident. It taught him to push himself.”

Taysin's debut match came with just a week’s notice. As he weighed in, got his blood pressure checked, and laced up, nerves were building. But no one was more anxious than his mom.

“I was shaking,” Tahnee admits. “My throat felt like it was closing. tried not to show it—I didn’t want to make him nervous.” (Continued next page)

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Report by Cody Keepness,
Public Works Manager

Our Public Works Department has been busy with a variety of projects aimed at improving infrastructure and enhancing community services. Here's a look at what’s happening:

• Culvert Additions & Road Repairs - Our team has been hard at work improving local infrastructure with plans to install culvert additions and ongoing road repairs. These upgrades will improve drainage and enhance safety for all road users.

• New Public Works Facility - Construction is almost complete with our new Public Works building, which will include five bays to support our growing needs. This expanded space will allow us to better serve the community and support our staff with more efficient operations.

• Future In-House Maintenance - With the new building, our team will be able to perform maintenance on band vehicles and equipment in-house, helping us cut costs and reduce downtime.

• Road Repairs & Yard Improvements - Road repairs continue throughout the community, along with gravelling and ditch cutting in yards to improve access and drainage.

• New Signage & Solar Speed Signs – Installing new road signage and solar-powered speed signs to promote safer driving and better visibility in high-traffic areas.

• Relocation of Garbage Super Save - Plans are in motion to relocate the Garbage Super Save bins to a more convenient and efficient location for community use.

• Training Opportunities Ahead - As we get settled, we’re considering offering mechanic training for staff, enhancing our ability to maintain equipment internall and build long-term expertise.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our Public Works staff for their dedication and hard work – often putting in long hours, responding to emergency calls, and stepping up on the weekends. Your commitment does not go unnoticed, and your efforts are deeply appreciated by the entire community.

Taysin La Rose, Age, is a member of Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation and has been training for months for his first boxing matfch, which took place last month.

Taysin remembers walking into the ring with a strange mix of confidence and adrenaline, “I was nervous, but ready. Then I heard my grandma yelling louder than anyone—and it made me feel calm. Like I belonged there.”

The fight was tough. His opponent had more experience and solid skills. Tyson came out strong in the first round, but his coach pushed him for more strategy in rounds two and three.

“I lost confidence for a second. Then I remembered what my uncle told me: 'Do something big.' I let my hands go.”

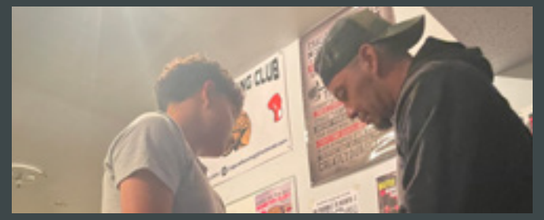
Though he didn’t win on the judges’ cards, he gained something more valuable: experience.

“Losing is learning,” he says. “Now I know what I have to do next time.”

Taysin’s uncles, Jesse and Dana Laframboise, were both accomplished fighters. Though no longer in the ring, they offer support and wisdom.

“I didn’t have a father figure growing up,” Taysin says. “But my uncles stepped in. They showed me how to train, how to stay disciplined. I look up to them.”

His grandfather plays a role too. “He tells me it’s



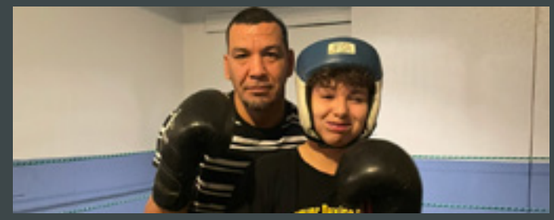
OK to lose, as long as you learn. That really stuck.”

Tahnee holds that legacy close.

“We come from a family of fighters,” she says. “Not just in the ring. Life hasn’t always been easy, but we keep going.”

Boxing is one part of Tyson’s full life. He also plays basketball and baseball, sometimes juggling all three sports in a day, “I just want to be the best I can at each one,” he says. “Boxing helps with everything—focus, fitness, even how I carry myself at school.”

His next bout is in Winnipeg. After that, he’s aiming for the “Every Child Matters” fight night on September 28 at Dakota Dunes, hosted by Copas Boxing. “If I work hard enough, I know I can get there.”



Taysin’s story is one of inspiration, rooted in family, community, and grit. It’s a reminder that growth comes when we step outside our comfort zones—and sometimes, into the ring. To other young people in Muscowpetung, Tyson has a simple message:

“You can do it too. Don’t give up. Even if it’s hard, keep showing up. That’s how you get better.” Whether it’s the echo of a grandmother’s voice, a coach pushing for one more round, or a mom holding back tears, Taysin knows he’s never alone in the ring—and that might be his greatest strength of all.

I.A. / EMPLOYMENT TRAINING UPDATE: SUPPORTING SUCCESS - MUSCOWPETUNG’S EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM HELPS MEMBERS THRIVE

Report by Braedon Bellegarde
Employment and Training Coordinator

Over the past year, the Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation’s IA Employment and Training Department has made major strides in helping community members prepare for and secure meaningful employment.

Led by Employment and Training Coordinator Dion Keepness, the program offers a well-rounded approach, combining technical training, workplace placements, and personalized life-skills coaching.

From the early stages of career goal-setting to full-time employment, the department supports clients every step of the way.

A key strength has been its partnerships with institutions like Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) in Regina, The Traditional Learning Centre in Tisdale, Suncrest College, and Sask PolyTech, as well as local businesses and the Muscowpetung Saulteaux Business Development (MSBD) team. These collaborations have helped create tailored training opportunities in fields ranging from auto mechanics to carpentry.

In addition to job skills, the department places strong emphasis on life-skills coaching and employment aftercare - covering topics such as budgeting, conflict resolution, and stress management. A standout success has been the "Drive to Success" initiative, which helps clients obtain their driver’s licenses, often a key barrier to employment.

This year’s highlights include:

Clients completing SIIT’s Indigenous Automotive Skills training and securing full-time maintenance jobs in Regina.

A client who earned carpentry certifications and is now on track to lead a construction team for the same company he obtained his certifications from.

Several clients who moved into full-time work or further education in health and other sectors.

Despite ongoing challenges like transportation, childcare, and education gaps, the program has implemented creative solutions to help participants stay on track.

Looking ahead, the department plans to expand licensing support, build more employer partnerships, and enhance digital and financial literacy training.

With a strong foundation and growing momentum, the IA Employment and Training Department continues to help Muscowpetung members build not just careers—but confidence, resilience, and pride.

In addition to job skills, the department places strong emphasis on life-skills coaching and employment aftercare.

HOUSING UPDATE:

Anin,

The Housing Department of Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation currently consists of six staff members: a Housing Manager, Housing Assistant, Maintenance Supervisor, one full-time maintenance worker, one part-time maintenance worker, and a Journeyman Plumber. We are also planning to hire an apprentice plumber to join the team.

Our department is responsible for maintaining 106 homes on the Nation. Much of our current work focuses on completing deficiencies from previous years and bringing homes up to health and safety standards. This is necessary to qualify for funding through programs offered by CMHC and ISC. We are in the process of updating our housing applications, which are reviewed annually. Our top priority is bringing more families home. Currently, the housing application list has over 100 entries.

We also recommend that band members consider installing water softener systems. These systems help prevent mineral build-up in pipes, fixtures, and appliances, improving water quality and extending the lifespan of household equipment. We've contacted Culligan Water for pricing:

Option 1: Family of up to 5
Aquasential Select Plus 60K
Purchase: $2,181 | Rental: $49/month

Option 2: Family of up to 10
Aquasential HE Twin 45K (90K)
Purchase: $3,493 | Rental: $79/month

Planning is key to success. We encourage all members to begin planning at least a year in advance when considering new housing. This includes site prep, environmental assessments, land use, servicing, and budgeting.

We believe in building local capacity. Training and certification will allow us to take more control of housing projects and create long-term benefits for our Nation.

Miigwetch,

Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation
Housing Department

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Muscowpetung Tree81 Valley Riders Present:
Rally in the Valley 2025
Sunday, August 17, 2025

Registration 9am -11am
Bottom of Muscowpetung Health Center

For more info:
Terance cappo 306-331-9710
Tommy lavallee 306-531-4991
Jared Cappo 639-590-4697
Justin cappo 306-331-8815
Ty cappo 306-737-9491

Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation
1st Annual Traditional Powwow
August 19, 20, and 21, 2025!

Camp Day & Community Feast: August 18, 2025
Grand Entries: August 19 @ 7PM
August 20 @ 1PM & 7PM / August 21 @ 1PM

For more info:
Courtney-Dawn Anaquod:
1-306-221-4946

Cheekuk Days
Aug 18-23, 2025
Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation
Treaty 4 Territory

Pow wow, Bingos, Traditional Workshops
Motivational Speakers, Drone Shows
Golf, Dances, Self Care Activities
Children's and Youth Activities
Entertainment & More!

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