



Departmental Updates

FALL 2026

COMMUNITY REPORT

Fall 2026 at a glance

491 Social Development clients currently served	54 Members supported by Employment & Training	20 Full housing renovations completed
75 Post-secondary students funded for 2026–27	181 CBMES enrollment as of Sept. 14	274 CRCEC enrollment as of Aug. 31
15.0 BOCN Tony Cote team points — unofficial	4 Sítoskâtowin referrals supported to date	4 Major archives visited by St. Michael's Project

In this report

Social Development	Sport, Culture, Youth & Recreation
SITAG & SAET Employment & Training	Urban Services
Housing	Sítoskâtowin
Public Works	Four Pillars
Education	St. Michael's Project

Key dates ahead

October • Oct. 2 — CRCEC Fall Feast, school cleanse/smudge. • Oct. 5 — CBMES Pre-K portable expected to begin use. • Oct. 13–16 — Four Pillars strategic planning noted in Urban Services calendar. • Late October — St. Michael's Project anticipates Canine Unit fieldwork. • Oct. 28 — Public Works & Housing informational session.	November & December • Nov. 5 — One-year anniversary of the BOCN Urban Office opening. • Dec. 16 — Urban Services Elder Christmas Dinner. • December — PSSSP Saskatchewan campus visits; virtual visits for out-of-province students. • Dec. 18 — Urban Services office closes at noon. • Dec. 21–31 — Urban Services office listed as closed.
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DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Social Development

Report: September 2026 • Director: Carmel Cameron

491 Income Assistance clients currently served	\$375 Basic allowance per month as of May 1, 2026	\$45/day Family/medical emergency meal rate	\$30 Telephone allowance — one per household
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Key service updates

- The department reports that the Income Assistance program is operating with minimal problems and emphasizes confidential, respectful client service.
- Employment assistance may include work-start items such as boots, hard hats, gloves, safety glasses, high-visibility shirts and some winter gear, along with support for immediate job-site expenses.
- The Comfort Allowance for clients referred to a rehabilitation centre is reported at \$90 per month; referrals and paperwork are coordinated through Willow Cree Health.
- Power, energy and heating bills may be cost-shared for eligible Social Assistance clients living in mixed-income households, based on the number of people in the household.
- Advances and grocery purchase orders are no longer issued under the process described in the September report.

Propane process change

The report states that customers now place propane orders directly with Superior Propane. Social Development no longer accepts propane payments, and delivery drivers no longer take payments or place orders. Members should ensure they have their Superior Propane account number and confirm current ordering/payment instructions before placing an order.

Note: Rates and procedures above are reproduced from the department's September 2026 report; members should confirm current eligibility and requirements directly with Social Development.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

SITAG & SAET Employment & Training

Update dated September 25, 2026 • Coordinator: Brittani Gardypie

54 Community members supported	42 Employment supports	12 Training supports
9 TRI-TRADES completers	6 Class 1A students in training	8 Heavy Equipment students in training

Spring and summer progress

- TRI-TRADES ran April 7 to June 26, with nine students successfully completing the program.
- Safety Ticket Week and Skid Steer training continued as local opportunities to help members gain employment certifications without leaving the community.
- Six Class 1A students completed mandatory entry-level training and seven exams and moved into the in-truck training portion.
- Eight Heavy Equipment students completed the classroom portion and moved to the work site to build certification hours; the report notes an employer may hire three participants who demonstrate the required skill and confidence.
- Jessica Gardypie filled the full-time LFD Assistant Coordinator position.

Fall / winter training planned

- Annual Fall PALS – Gun Safe
- Learners & Drivers 6x6 Training
- Security Guard Training
- Fall Safety Ticket Week
- Employment Readiness and Job Focus

Challenges & important changes

- Limited training space restricts some programming.
- Participation and enrollment can vary between programs.
- Post-secondary trades support was eliminated this fiscal year following a funding reduction through the Network of Saskatchewan Indigenous Training Assessment Group.
- The department is looking for alternative funding sources, partnerships and other options.

Ongoing support

The office continues to offer resume building, job search support, employment assistance and ticket-training support during regular office hours.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Housing

Community report: September 25, 2026 • Director: Deidre Gamble

6 Homes under full renovation	20 Full renovations completed	25 Full renovations planned in 2026–27
25 Tin roof replacements reported	14 Roofs under repair / replacement	21 Units receiving windows / doors

Current priorities

- Responding to maintenance concerns and work orders, with repairs prioritized by urgency, health and safety, and the condition of the home.
- Continuing renovations through programs including CMHC Section 95 replacement reserve, RRAP, Band Base Capital Immediate Needs and the First Nations Children's Housing Fund.
- Improving how maintenance requests are received, tracked, scheduled and completed, while keeping tenants better informed about timelines.
- Conducting inspections and developing work plans for the 2027–28 fiscal year.
- Reviewing housing policies, planning future housing development and seeking additional funding opportunities.

Challenges reported

- Shortage of available housing
- Aging homes requiring major repairs
- Rising construction and material costs
- Limited funding and contractor availability
- Material delays and weather
- Damage to housing units
- Growing number of families needing homes

Shared responsibility message

- Report maintenance problems early.
- Prevent unnecessary damage and care for homes and yards.
- Communicate with Housing when concerns arise.
- Allow access when repairs are scheduled.
- Follow housing policies and agreements.

Community information session — October 28, 2026

Public Works & Housing plan to host an informational session to provide additional housing information, answer questions and clarify matters not covered during the audit update. Details are to be posted.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Public Works

Fall 2026 infrastructure update • Director: Jason Cameron

6 + 2 Full-time + casual staff	\$300K Gravel purchased in the latest month	Late 2027 Expected operation of new water treatment plant
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Infrastructure work underway

- The sewage lagoon upgrade reached substantial completion in August 2025; the warranty period ended in August 2026.
- The new water treatment plant is under construction west of the existing plant and is expected to be operational in late fall 2027.
- Waste-site decommissioning is in its second phase, addressing old garbage sites across the reserve and the former main site on the south side. A third phase is planned if funding is available.
- A two-phase subdivision expansion northeast of the 8 Mile subdivision is being developed for future housing, including power, water, sewer and natural gas infrastructure.
- Public Works is awaiting word from ISC regarding a subdivision drainage project intended to improve roads and drainage in the new village north and east of the water treatment plant.
- The department reports approximately \$300,000 in gravel purchased at \$40 per yard delivered; work was about halfway complete at the time of the update.

Road work

The update notes gravel work on the main south-side roads, Lake Road and Transfer Station Road, with a single pass planned in the new subdivisions.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Education

Fall 2026 community education update • Director: Terri Anderson

75 PSSSP students funded for 2026–27	181 CBMES enrollment — Sept. 14	274 CRCEC enrollment — Aug. 31
25 Daycare children enrolled / spaces filled	13 Head Start children enrolled	70 Spaces planned in new daycare

Department-wide priorities

- Education continues to strengthen culture, language, Treaty teachings, land-based learning and relationships with Elders and Knowledge Keepers across programs.
- Enrollment continues to grow, with focus on academic, cultural, social and individual supports for students.
- The department oversees CBMES, CRCEC, Kanaweyimawasokamik Daycare & Head Start, student transportation, PSSSP, Adult Education and the ITEP community-based program.

Post-Secondary Student Support Program • 75 students funded beginning August 2026. • 72 full-time and 3 part-time (tuition only). • Students attend universities and technical institutions in Saskatchewan, Alberta and B.C. • Saskatchewan campus visits planned in October and December 2026, February and April 2027; virtual visits planned for out-of-province students.	Daycare & Head Start • Daycare: 25 children enrolled; all 25 spaces filled; 15–20 children on waitlist. • Head Start: 13 enrolled; capacity 20; 7 spaces available. • New 70-space daycare anticipated to open in Spring 2027. • Additional staff supports are identified as a priority for children with exceptional needs. • A Cultural Advisor / Local Knowledge Keeper role is being sought to support culture programming and a language-nesting initiative.
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EDUCATION

School updates

Chief Beardy Memorial Elementary School (CBMES)

- Enrollment was 181 students as of September 14.
- Fall land-based camps were completed; Camp Tawow and Nesbit Forest trips were next on the schedule.
- A new Student Services program, Pitoteyhitam, is being developed as a Junior Life Transitions class to support autistic students through individualized goals, regulation strategies and life-skills development.
- A new portable was delivered for the Pre-K program, with an expected start date of October 5, 2026.
- A new soccer pitch is under construction for school and community use.
- Water testing in May continued to show concerns about lead levels; the school reported continued use of bottled water.
- Challenges include resources/training and educational assistants for autistic and one-to-one students, Elder and parent involvement, and space.

CBMES upcoming
Sept. 22 — School Feast • Sept. 29 — Orange Shirt Day

Constable Robin Cameron Education Complex (CRCEC)

+39 Enrollment growth from April to Aug. 31	18 of 19 Students on Grad List who graduated	64.3–81% Reported attendance range	21 Potential graduates this year
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- Enrollment increased from 235 students in April to 274 as of August 31.
- The school is strengthening literacy and numeracy supports, including a Numeracy Catalyst for targeted Math interventions.
- More one-to-one support is being offered for neurodivergent students; land-based programming is expanding and young men's and young women's teaching/mentoring groups are starting.
- A Landbased Trailer was delivered.
- Three recent graduates are attending post-secondary education, with three more considering attendance next fall.
- Challenges include kitchen staffing, substitute teachers and educational assistants, students facing addiction and grief, and aging infrastructure requiring repairs.

CRCEC upcoming
Sept. 22 — Cree Literacy Night • Sept. 30 — No School • Oct. 2 — Fall Feast with school cleanse/smudge • March 2027 — Be Indigenous Youth and Caregiver Conference in development

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Sport, Culture, Youth & Recreation

Reporting period: April 1–August 31, 2026 • Director of Sports: Fenton Favel

15.0 BOCN Tony Cote team points — unofficial	8th BOCN team position in July 30 unofficial results	7 Gold medals listed	2 Silver medals listed
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Highlights

- Supported participation in FSIN Adult Hockey & Soccer Championships.
- Supported FSIN Youth Hockey Championships and FSIN Youth Golf Championships.
- Participated in the Tony Cote Summer Games hosted by Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs.
- The Willow Cree Memorial Arena was expected to open during the first week of October.
- BOCN Minor Hockey Registration was identified as an upcoming activity.

Tony Cote Summer Games

The July 30, 2026 results sheet is marked unofficial. It lists Beardy's & Okemasis Cree Nation with 15.0 total points, 7 gold medals and 2 silver medals. A bronze total is not shown for BOCN in the source sheet, and the Tony Cote Award was still listed as TBD.

Challenge noted

- Community accountability remains an area requiring continued communication, follow-up and participation support. Final member-athlete participation statistics were not yet confirmed in the department update.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Urban Services

Quarter 3 calendar: October–December 2026

The Urban Services update was provided as a three-month program calendar. The recurring schedule below summarizes the activities shown across October, November and December.

Recurring programs • Regalia Plus — generally Mondays, 5:00–8:00 p.m. • Crafting Corner — generally Tuesdays and Fridays, 5:00–9:00 p.m. • Elder Meetings — Wednesdays, 9:00–11:30 a.m. • Beyond Addictions — Thursdays (times vary in the calendar). • Building Blocks to Inclusion — program activity through the quarter, including work placements in November and December.	Workshops & community dates • Oct. 4 — Drum Making Workshop (Crafting Corner, TBA). • Oct. 17 — Dream Catcher Workshop (Crafting Corner, TBA). • Nov. 5 — One-year anniversary of the BOCN Urban Office opening. • Nov. 7 — Poppy Workshop (Crafting Corner, TBA). • Dec. 13 — Beaded Ornaments Workshop (TBA). • Dec. 16 — Elder Christmas Dinner. • Christmas Urban Dinner at White Buffalo — date listed as TBA.
Office closures / schedule changes The calendar lists Thanksgiving closure, Remembrance Day closure, First Nations Unity Day closure, an office closure beginning at noon on Dec. 18, and closures from Dec. 21 through Dec. 31. Members should confirm program times before attending, as the calendar includes TBA items and schedule changes.	

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Sîtoskâtowin

Reporting period: April 1–August 31, 2026 • Navigator: Serena Gamble

4 Referrals supported to date	7 Goals guiding the model of care
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Purpose

Sîtoskâtowin is described as a Community Crisis Management & Wellness initiative designed to connect departments, programs and services around a coordinated, culturally responsive system of care. The model aims to reduce barriers, close service gaps and support whole-person wellness.

Key work underway

- Planning and development of BOCN Detox & Treatment Facilities, including Recovery Homes.
- Participation in the Treaty 6 150 Commemoration organizing team.
- Relationship-building with BOCN Elders and networking with other Nations around community crisis management and wellness.
- Participation in the Four Pillars Wellness Strategy.
- Sîtoskâtowin Working Group collaboration involving Health, Prevention, QBOW, Education, Social Development, Emergency Management, Housing & Public Works and Four Pillars.

Challenge identified

The report describes the central challenge as helping the community move from crisis response toward wellness through shared responsibility among departments, leadership and community members.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Four Pillars

Membership progress update: April 1–August 31, 2026 • Coordinator: Amy Seesequasis

Language Pillar 1	Culture Pillar 2	Heritage Pillar 3	Wellness Pillar 4
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Foundation built this spring and summer

- Developed the Four Pillars Community Action Framework, planning structures, short- and long-term priorities, and event/reporting tools.
- Established and engaged the Four Pillars Committee and continued connecting with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, facilitators and community contributors.
- Completed a community logo-design process; the winning artist was Nathan E. Scott, BOCN.
- Supported programming and community activities including Kohkums Pantry, a community hypnotherapy session and supper, Sports Day sponsorship, Powwow sponsorship, Treaty Six 150 Village of Nations and entertainment, and Treaty Day support.

What comes next

- Move from program development into regular community programming.
- Compile Community Survey data and outcomes from the Four Pillars Society Strategic Engagement Session.
- Use community input to guide five-year and ten-year goals across Language, Culture, Heritage and Wellness.
- Future goals identified in the report include language revitalization, cultural and ceremonial access, knowledge preservation, community connection, family support and land-based/culturally grounded wellness.

Vision

A community where our language is spoken, our culture is practiced, our stories and knowledge are preserved, and our people are connected, happy and healed.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

St. Michael's Special Project

Project update: April 1–September 25, 2026 • Acting Project Coordinator: Jenny Gardipy

The St. Michael's Project is a CIRNAC-funded, community-based research initiative related to the St. Michael's Indian Residential School Missing Children's Search. Its stated objective is to identify and find children who did not return home, guided by respect, cultural protocol and community healing.

4 Major archives visited since May	1 Survivor interview completed; transcription underway	4 Monthly Survivor & Elder meetings reported	6 Major community events attended / hosted
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Research and fieldwork

- Ground Penetrating Radar investigations were scheduled from July through October 2026, with Canine Unit fieldwork anticipated in late October.
- The team continued collecting, reviewing and cataloguing a substantial volume of archival documents and photographs on BOCN's OneDrive platform.
- Research visits since May included the Provincial Archives of Alberta, Library and Archives Canada, the Provincial Archives of Manitoba and St. Boniface Archives.
- Progress was reported toward a formal agreement with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert for archive access.

Community engagement & partnerships

- Monthly meetings with St. Michael's IRS Survivors and Elders continue to support oral storytelling, awareness and sharing of research findings.
- The inaugural Pê-Kiyokê Gathering was hosted July 29, 2026.
- The project participated in BOCN's Annual Powwow and partnered with Thunderchild's IRS Project during the Treaty 6 150 Celebration at Fort Carlton.
- Partnership discussions have involved the University of Saskatchewan, the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and the Office of the Treaty Commissioner.

Capacity needs identified

- Data entry / community researcher support for archival processing.
- French translation support for archival materials.
- Administrative support for travel, interviews, meetings and field preparations.
- Continued assistance with time-sensitive IAP Retrieval Requests; the project report identifies September 2027 as an important deadline.

Future memorial options being explored

- QR-code based digital history.
- A physical monument or statue.
- An interpretive centre to preserve history and testimonies for future generations.