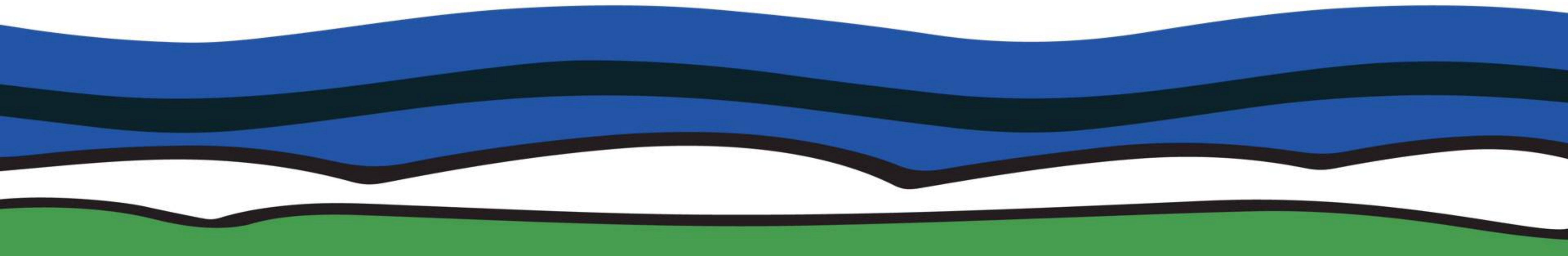




# **Mikisew Cree First Nation**

## **Cultural Revitalization Projects**

### **2019-2022**





## 68 MCFN Elders & their biographies

The coming generations will be put in touch with their ancestors' lives, stories, and legacies, honoured and commemorated through written biographies based off of personal interviews. The bios will provide the community with an overview of living Elders and create an archival memory stored in the new Library that will endure for many generations to come.

## Kahkiyow Keykanow Elders Cree Home

KKECH Wall of Fame Plaques featuring 40+ former and current residents.

## Questionnaire & Interviews

Capture the stories of the way these Elders lived and when they moved to Fort Chipewyan and sharing their stories.

## MCFN Elders' Legacy Book

Interview material will be presented in a beautiful book with pictures of Elders along with their bios, photographs, areas of traditional knowledge. These can be given out to participating Elders by Chief and Council to honour them.

## MCFN Nehiyawewin Cree Library

Materials created through the language revitalization project will be available at the future Cultural Centre or library, helping preserve cultural information, history, values and traditional knowledge of MCFN Elders.

## IRS Holy Angels School 2022 Calendar

### Partnership with Nunee IRS and MCFN IRS

Affirming the stories of the students and honouring the survivors in their healing journey and the truth and reconciliation work still needed.



## MCFN Elder interviews by youth

Extension to Legacy Book material to further engage MCFN Elders by youth, through activities and life-skills sharing, giving opportunities for intergenerational dialogue and relationship building.

## MCFN Grads Community year book 2020

ECS and Community High School

## 2020 - 2022 Elders' Calendars

38 page, 2021-2022, 14 months. Full colour photographs and design featuring Chief and Council, history, Elders, graduates and way of life.

## Virtues and Values Posters

- 12 Teachings in English & Cree
- Teacher's guide and lesson plan

## MCFN Teaching Posters

Pictures and stories from Elders' Legacy Project and Calendars. Elder interviews are made into posters for use in schools and elsewhere.

## MCFN Educational Videos

MCFN Elders Videos sharing stories and teachings in Cree and English. Video of MCFN kids sharing Cree for National Indigenous Language Day.

## Teachers' Guides, Lesson Plans

An Elder-based Edu-kit resource guide of MCFN cultural items that support teachers in bringing materials into student classrooms.

## MCFN Project Power Point Presentation

An animated and engaging overview of key MCFN projects professionally presented and widely compatible, also available in PDF.



# PROJECT CATEGORIES



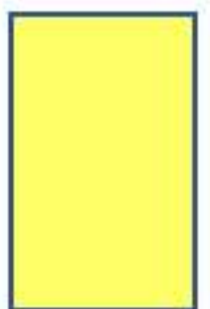
## Education Curriculum Multimedia Materials

- Historical Pop-up displays
- Teaching Posters
- Educational Cree/English Videos
- Edu-kits and Study Lessons
- Teachers' Guides
- MCFN Language Revitalization Zoom backdrop



## MCFN 2020, 2021, and 2022 Community Calendars

- Featuring MCFN Elders
- MCFN Way of Life examples
- Seasonal moons with virtues
- Celebrating annual graduating Community Highschool class
- Fort Chipewyan history and photos



## Kisayak - Elders' Legacy

- Beautiful Elders' Legacy Book
- Elders' Biographies
- Elders' Videos
- Kahkiyow Keykanow Elders Cree Home Hall of Fame Portraits



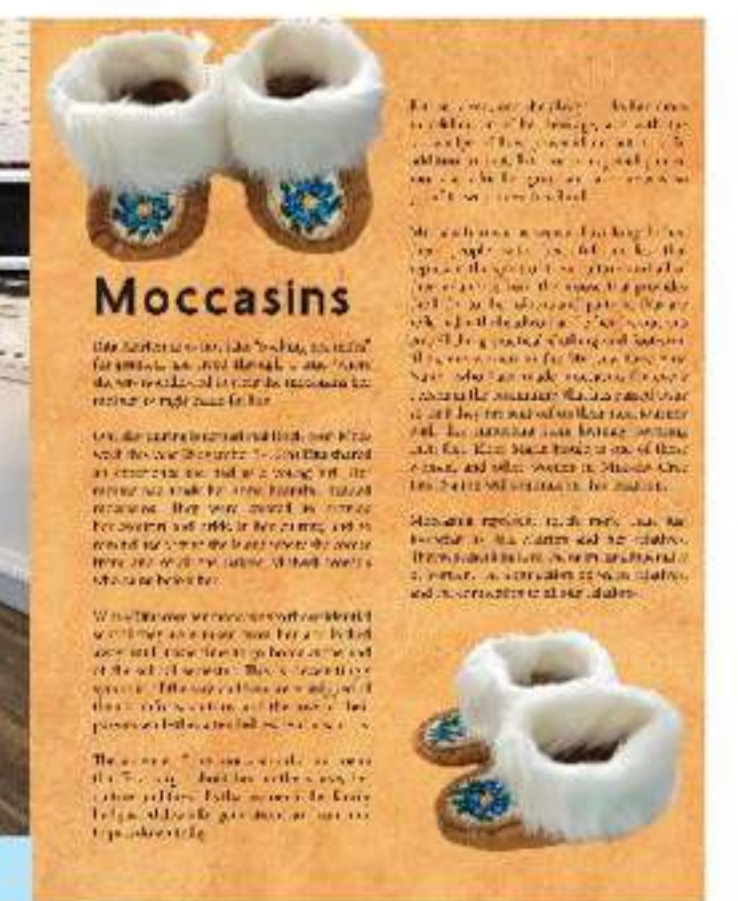
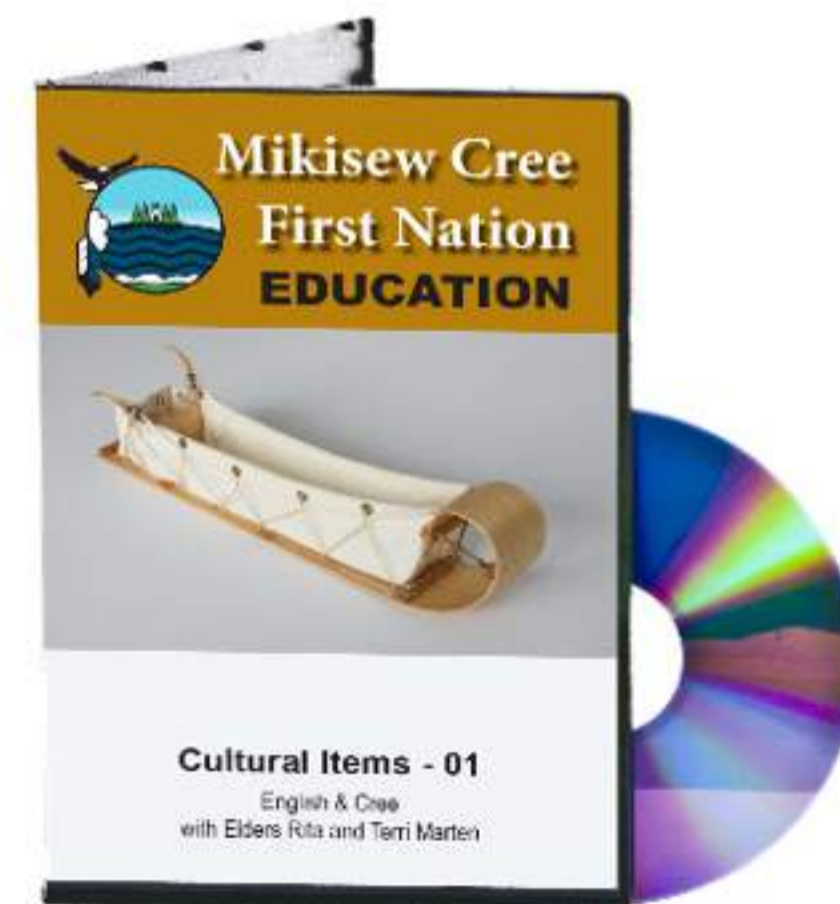
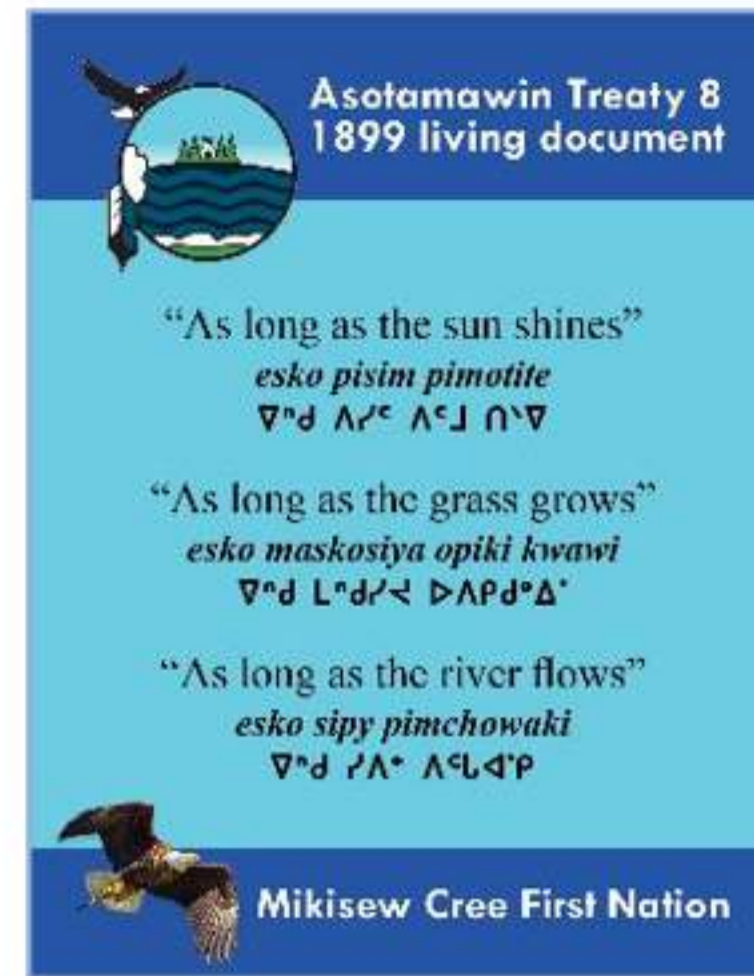
# EDUCATION CURRICULUM MULTIMEDIA MATERIALS

- Historical Pop-Up Displays
- Teaching Posters
- Edu-kits and Study Lessons
- Educational Videos
- Teachers' Guides
- Zoom backdrop ↘



# EDUCATION CURRICULUM MULTIMEDIA MATERIALS

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# MCFN Cultural Revitalization Projects 2019-2022

# EDUCATION CURRICULUM MULTIMEDIA MATERIALS

- Historical Pop-Up Displays
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- Educational Videos
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New Herbal Medicines Added!



Traditional and Cultural Items and Objects

Questionnaire



Traditional and Cultural Item and Object Questionnaire

What is it? \_\_\_\_\_  
English name \_\_\_\_\_ Indigenous name and other names \_\_\_\_\_  
Where is it from? \_\_\_\_\_  
When is it from? \_\_\_\_\_  
Who used it? \_\_\_\_\_  
What was it used for? \_\_\_\_\_  
Who made it? \_\_\_\_\_  
Where was it made? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why was it made? \_\_\_\_\_  
How was it made? (tools and techniques) \_\_\_\_\_



Traditional and Cultural Item and Object Questionnaire

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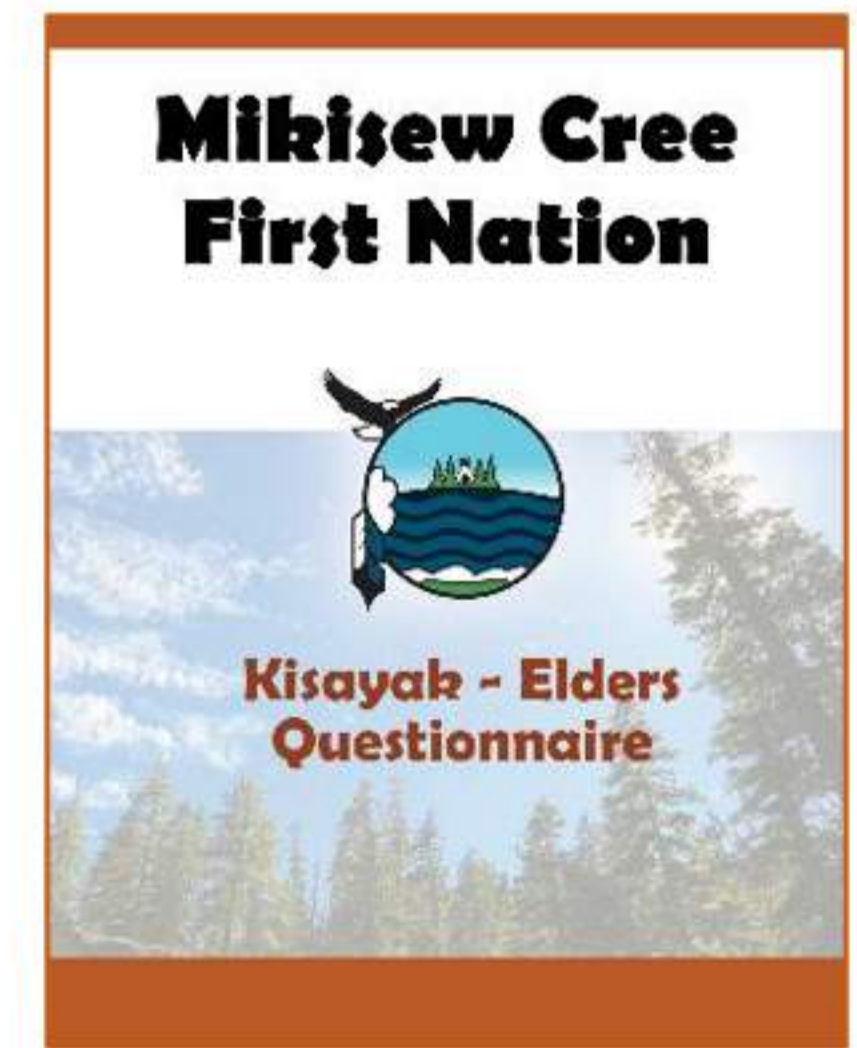
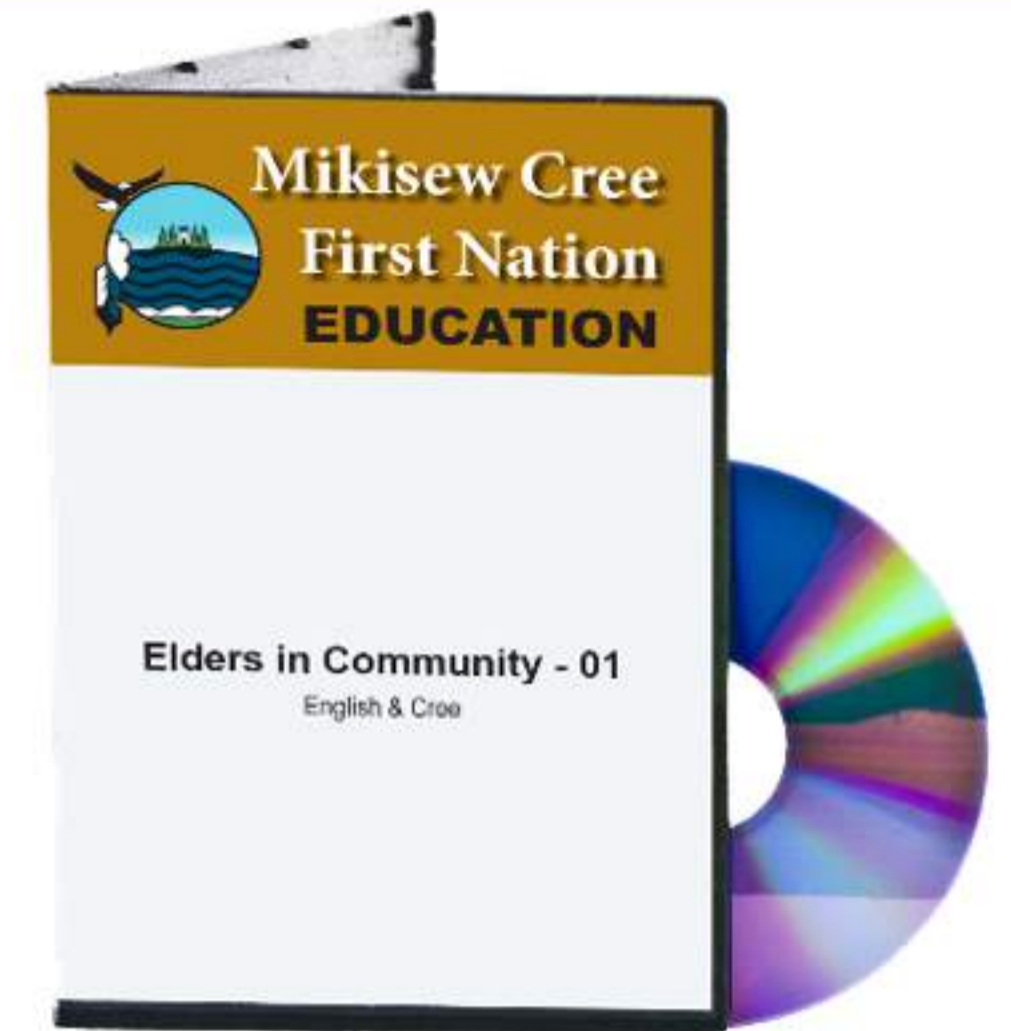
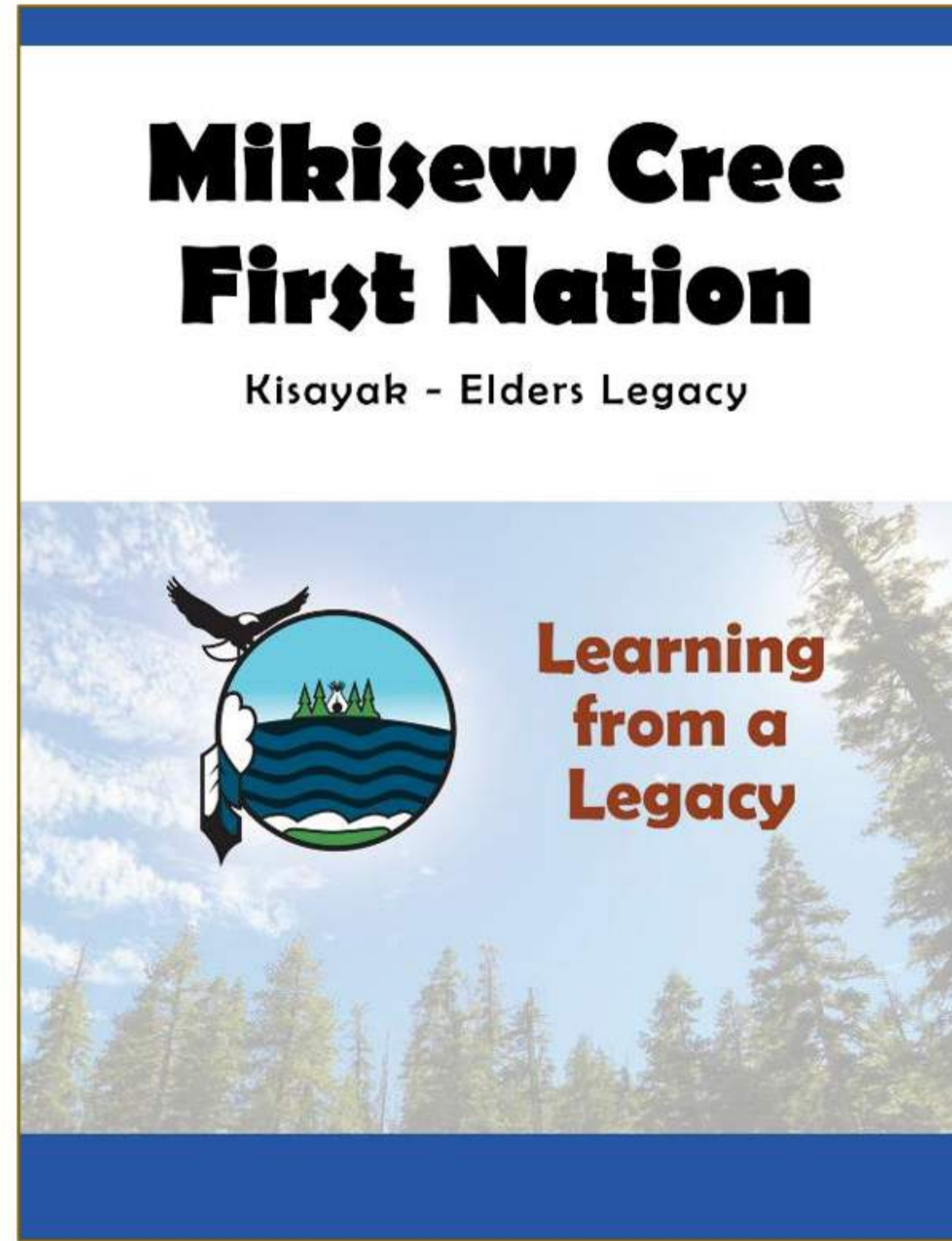
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# KISAYAK - ELDERS' LEGACY

- Elders Questionnaire and Research Project
- MCFN Elders' Biographies
- MCFN Elders' Videos
- MCFN Kisayak Elders' Legacy Book
- Kahkiyow Keykanow Elders Cree Home Hall of Honour with 45 plaques of former and current residents



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**Rita Mary Marten**

*My message to share:*  
 Enjoy life to the fullest.  
 Be proud of who you are.  
 Be happy and love your family, siblings, grandchildren, relatives and friends.



I was born on December 9, 1947, in Gull River, Wood Buffalo National Park. Gull River has been a predominantly Cree traditional area for over 7 generations. It is southeast of Fort Chipewyan, located in north-eastern Alberta. My mother tells me that my family had just moved into a new cabin. The window frames were covered with canvas, and my father went to the trading post to pick up the windows. My paternal grandmother, Maglet, was the midwife who delivered me, with my paternal Aunt, Rosalie Enangagan, assisting. My mother, Philomena Courtville Whitehead, was married to Alex Whitehead. He passed away with tuberculosis during the pandemic, and later my mother married my father, Sal Marten. I have 9 sisters and 2 brothers: Elise Whitehead-Wandror (late), Katy Whitehead-Marten (late), Louise Whitehead-Campbell (late), George GM, Christian (late), Sonny, Terry, Alice, Stella, Georgia (late), and Linda. My Godmother was my paternal Aunt Rosalie Enangagan, and my Godfather was Uncle Fred Courtville, who brought Father Picard in his dog sled to Gull River.

I was baptized at the cabin. The baptismal ceremony and godparents are very important in our culture. My godparents named me Rita Mary; my brother Sonny named me Chloé. My paternal grandmother, Maglet, organized a feast, and my mother cooked a nice traditional meal for the guests and family. My mother taught us to be respectful to all our Godmothers and Godfathers who had a role to play in our life.

Cree is my first language and culture. I was taught to me by my mother and my father based on their parents' knowledge and ancestral teachings since time immemorial. Virtues and Values were the fundamental teachings of my ancestors. I am very grateful to my parents for the wealth of knowledge they shared with me, and that they taught me my traditional way of life. My father's message is "Nisewin, Kari wicahik Sakim Pimatisiwin wikkikik," which means "My daughter, do not ever forget your traditional way of life." My mother's message is "Nisewin, Mitose nipitah Sakimwikkik mikikwikkik," which means "my parents

are authentic, genuine Bush Cree people, say this to elders you meet in your travels they will understand what that means." These two messages I cherish, and they are very dear to my heart; they sustain my Lifelong Healing Journey.

I remember growing up in Gull River in the winter cabin, walking in the bush track, listening to squirrels, chickadees, chewing spruce gum, and picking frozen mouse berries to make jam and share a spoonful with my mom and siblings.

My father's message is "My daughter, do not ever forget your traditional way of life."

My little sister, Terry, and I would sometimes go see an abandoned cabin. It belonged to Sakahai and Sara Rafit, Elder Mary Rose McKay's grandparents. Both of her grandparents were sent to the hospital with tuberculosis, and Mary Rose went to live with my Uncle Snowbird and Aunty Maria in Embarras.

During the winter nights, we watched the beautiful northern lights. In Cree, they are referred to as ghosts dancing in the star-covered sky. I always pictured my late grandpa dancing with his brand new accessories in the sky. One clear night was to take my grandma Nockiwah (who was blind) to the outposts. She would sit to check the moon and north star to predict the weather, and my sister Terry was a good listener. Today, she is still familiar with that teaching, and she now teaches her grandson Nicholas about it.

One morning, I noticed that the cabin was cold, and I saw men changing the stovepipes. They put in an enterprise cook stove which had a water reservoir attached and a pot-belly heater, and, in no time, we could feel that the house was toasty warm. They also delivered a maple dresser and mirror, along with four maple table chairs. These household items were delivered in a horse-drawn sled from Fort Chipewyan, and my mother was


extremely happy to have such unexpected gifts from my dad. That dresser became a part of the altar when priests came to say Mass. Thinking back, we had a very nice cozy, homey living house. There were Christmas ornaments hanging in the ceiling, and there was a trophy set of antler horns displayed on the wall from my brother GM's first hunt when he was nine years old. My brother GM became our family's provider, a skilled woodworker, a tracker, and a hunter. Those techniques he learnt from my dad, and we were always happy to have good food. My mother was very proud of her sons. The priest that visited families grew out religious prints by Michelangelo (little did I know then that I would see his artwork at Sainte-Chapelle in Rome) and a roman numeral Calendar. I am sure that every Cree family had those hanging on their wall.

One of the fondest memories I have is visiting my paternal Nisewin Maglet and Uncle Louis in Frog Creek. My grandma loved her cabin. It had a loft, and I once saw a squirrel running down the ledge of the staircase, which stopped and looked at me. I thought my Nisewin's house was the best place to be. Sadly, to say, the cabin was lost during a wild forest fire, and after that she moved to her Gull River cabin. My grandmother always gave me a treat after bringing in wood for her. She had a four-hole stove, and that's where I roasted the fat, such a nice treat!




23 MIKISEW CREE FIRST NATION ELDER LEGACY

**Mikisew Cree First Nation**  
 Kisayak - Elders Legacy



**Learning from a Legacy**



**My educational Degree, is like a passport that led me to successful employment in the best of both worlds...**

My career of 30 years has been in education, management, and leadership. My first summer employment was as a cashier at the Hudson Bay Company. Then on October 1st, Steve Superior recruited me as the supervisor at St. Henry's Mission in Fort Vermilion, which was a great opportunity to meet my maternal grandfather Jean Courtville, my maternal aunts Clara Peters and Georgia Roberts, and my uncles George and Gabe. In Fall of 1970, I was hired by Hereditary Chief Fred Macaul as their first Cree Language Teacher, and my childhood friend Hilda Lepine was the first Cree teacher. After three years, Sister Brady and the staff encouraged me to pursue my Bachelor of Education, and after many years of hard work and determination I received my degree at the University of Alberta.

My Message to my beautiful children, my beautiful grandchildren, and all my beautiful aunts and nephews is to be proud of your rich diverse cultural identity, carry the torch and pass on teachings of your Cree, Dene, and Métis heritage. Be happy and acknowledge all the people you meet in your travels.

I am truly honoured to share my lifelong experiences. Experiences such as constantly travelling at an early age in various climates in my traditional territory, and subsequently travelling to Europe, Hawaii, Australia, New York, Yukon, and coast to coast Canada. Take every opportunity to travel and see the world. I found it to inform and enrich one's world view. Koolimowin, I love you all!

The keyboard will be based on the original Cree syllabic chart that my grandfather Joseph Nachowah and other MCFN Elders were taught by Missionaries circa late 1800s. My grandfather used to read his Roman Catholic Bible in syllabic daily until his passing. My dad, mother, and brother GM read and write in Cree syllabic.

Thank you to the Mikisew Cree First Nation Chief and Council for taking the lead in revitalizing our language and culture. I am deeply honoured to be the Language Consultant, and to share history and pass this knowledge. My upbringing has strongly influenced my work in sharing, advocating, and promoting Cree language, Cree history, cultural diversity, cross-cultural awareness, and adapting to the computer technology world. *Misewin wikkikwikkik misewin wikkikwikkik* means phenomenal computer world in Cree.

My educational Degree, is like a passport that led me to successful employment in the best of both worlds, establishing good rapport and making lasting friendships with First Nations, Educators, Industry, Governments, and educational institutions.

I was inspired to run for Chief, and I became the first female Chief of Mikisew Cree Nation for a 2-year term. After that, I spent 9 years on the leadership Council. I worked for Northernland School Division as the Cree Language Instructor for K-12, Family Liaison, and Supervisor of Native Language Programs. I worked for Mikisew Cree First Nation Education Director, was the Education Director with Athabasca Tribal Council.

I am proud to be a consultant for the Language and Culture Revitalization Program for MCFN. I am a fluent Cree speaker. I can read and write Cree syllabic. Currently we are pursuing a partnership with ATU and Dene Cree Nation to develop a Cree Language App and a Cree Font Keyboard.




23 MIKISEW CREE FIRST NATION ELDER LEGACY

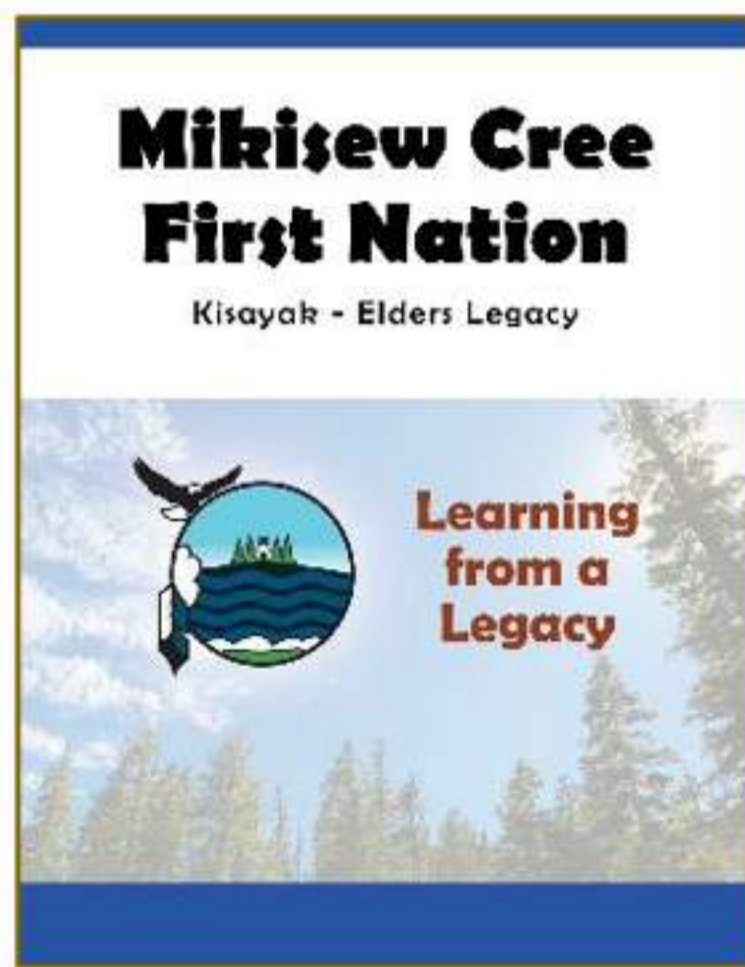


# MCFN Cultural Revitalization Projects 2019-2022



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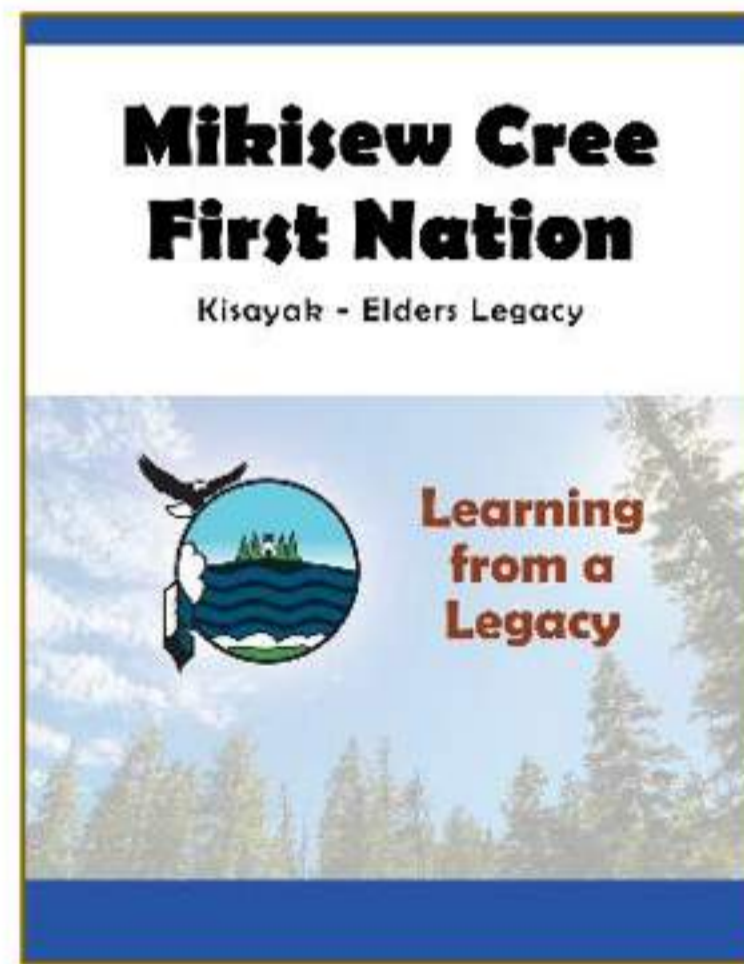
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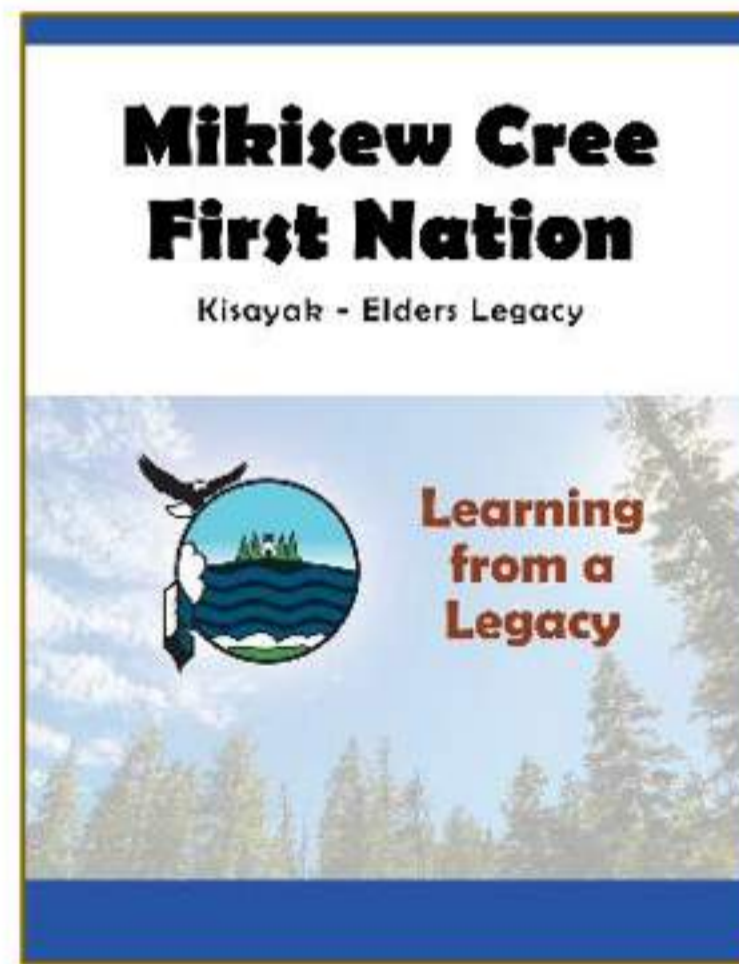
Many Historical Archives Photos for Legacy Book!



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## Hall of Honour Portraits

### Former and Current Residents of MCFN, ACFN & MÉTIS at KKECH Elders Home

Late Elder Simon Jules Waquan, MCFN  
Elder Albina Waquan, MCFN  
Late Elder Georgie Waquan, MCFN  
Late Elder Katy Marten, MCFN  
Late Elder & Former Chief Ernie Courtorielle, MCFN  
Late Elder & Former Councillor Lawrence Marten, MCFN  
Late Elder Elsie Ladoucer, MCFN  
Late Elder Pete Whitedeer, ACFN  
Gracie Paquette, Metis  
Late Elder John Buck Whiteknife, MCFN  
Elder Tom Mercredi, MCFN  
Late Elder George Kaskamin, MCFN  
Late Elder Reggie (Swan) McKay, MCFN  
Late Elder Jimmy Tuccaro, MCFN  
Late Elder Veronique Voyageur Antoine, MCFN  
Late Elder Agatha McNabb, ACFN  
Elder Mary Marcel, ACFN  
Late Elder George Vermillion, MCFN  
Late Elder Mary Adam, ACFN  
Late Elder Madeline Gladue, MCFN  
Elder Mary Grandjambe, MCFN  
Late Elder Freddy Castor, MCFN  
Elder John Mercredi, ACFN  
Elder Cowboy Joe Wanderingspirit, MCFN  
Cecilia McKay, MCFN  
Late Elder John (Cheesebox) Kaskamin, MCFN  
Elder Madeline Piche, MCFN  
Elder & Former Chief Rita Marten, MCFN  
Late Elder Mary Matheson, ACFN  
Elder Annie Whiteknife  
Late Elder Alphonse Piche, ACFN  
Late Elder Carl Granath, MCFN  
Elder & Former Metis President Lloyd (Sonny) Flett  
Beatrice Marcel, ACFN  
Late Elder Edward Whiteknife, MCFN  
Late Elder Willy Whiteknife, MCFN  
Late Elder Tommy Champaign, MCFN  
Late Elder Pat Marcel, Former ACFN Chief  
Elder Dorothy Whitehead, MCFN  
Late Mona Marten, MCFN  
Rosie Whiteknife, MCFN  
Late Elder Janet Dashcavich, ACFN  
Elder & Former Chief Lawrence Courtorielle, MCFN  
Late Jackson Whiteknife, MCFN  
Matthew Castor, MCFN



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Former and Current Residents of MCFN, ACFN & MÉTIS  
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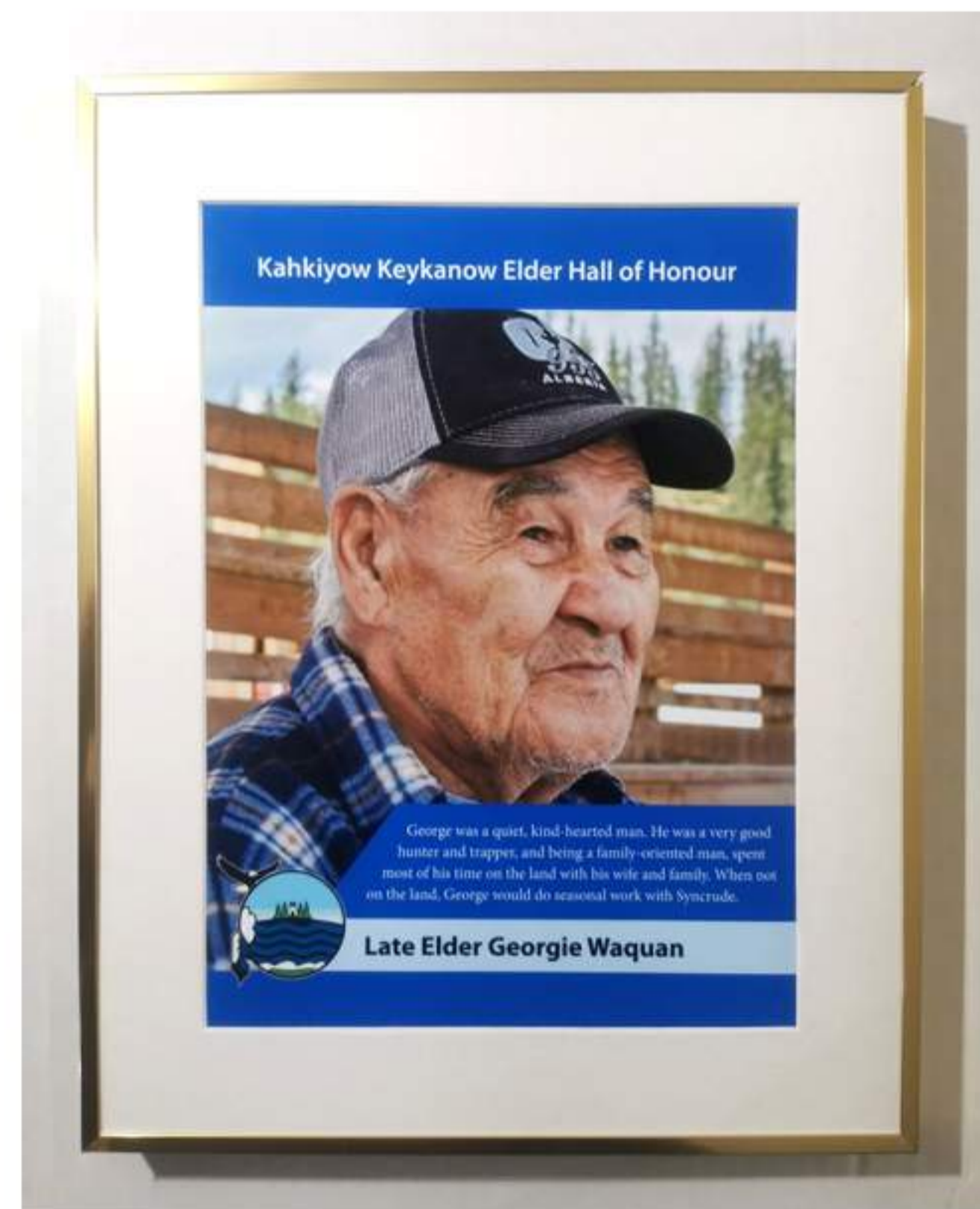
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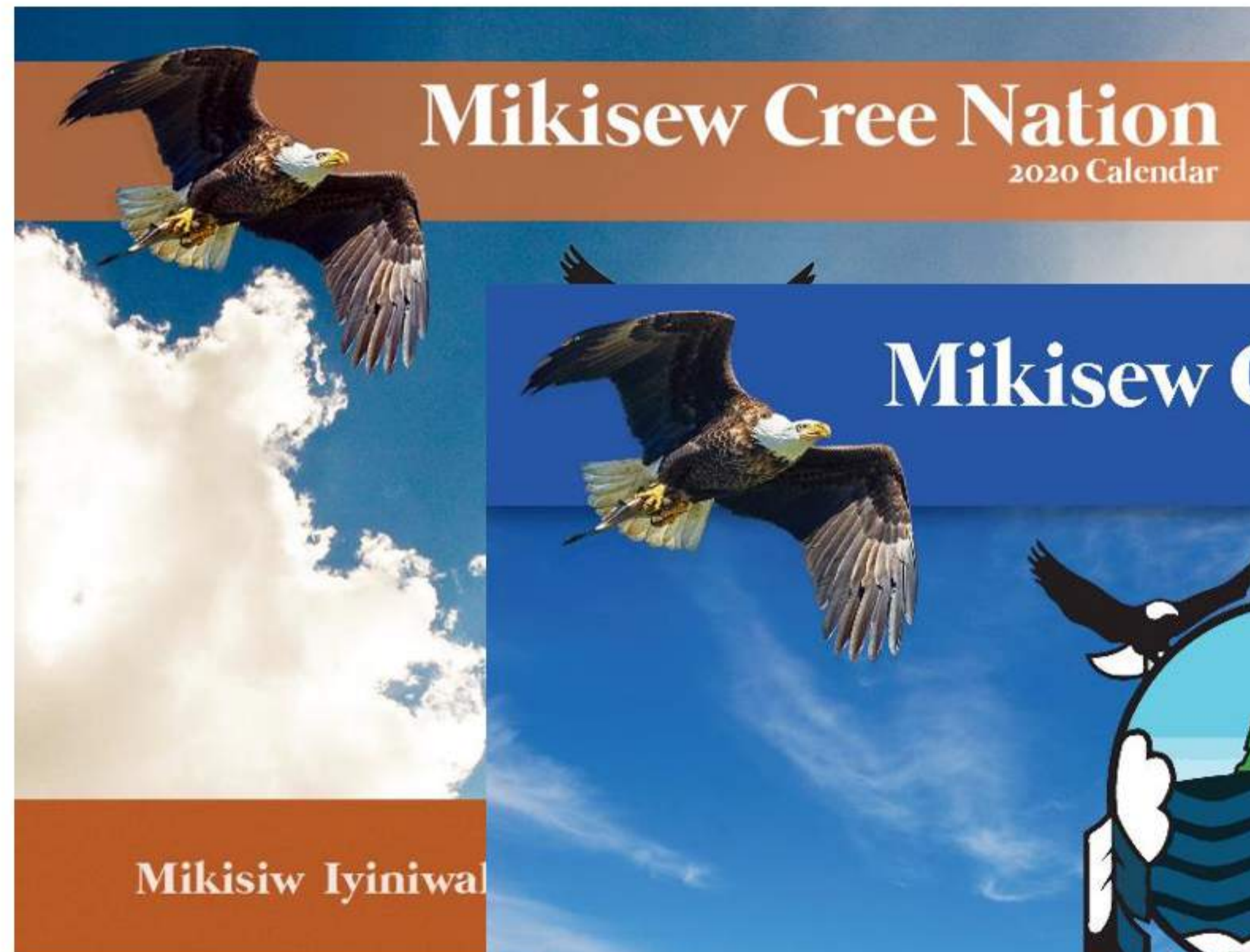
# MCFN 2020, 2021, AND 2022 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## 2020 Calendar

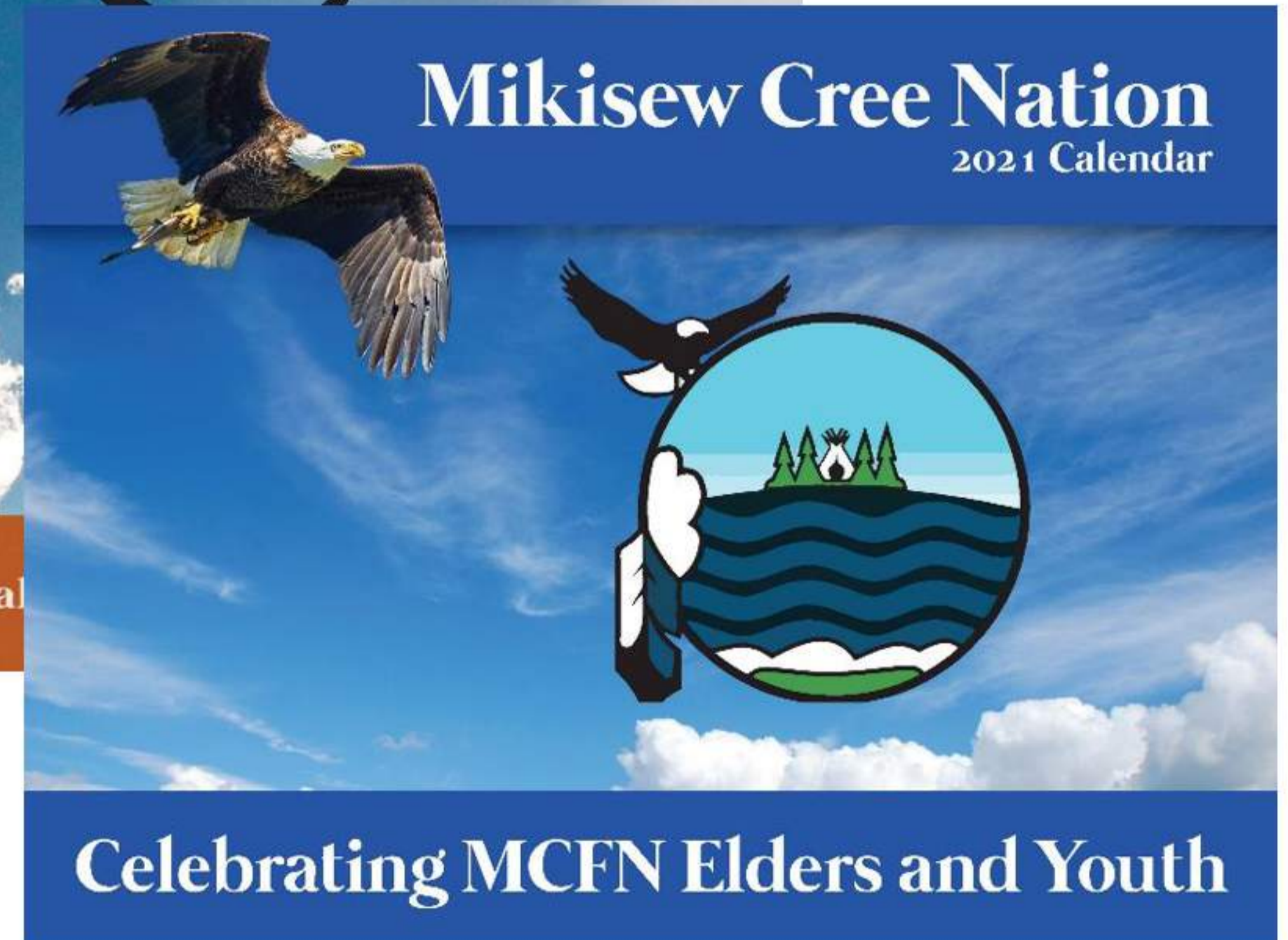
- Seasonal moons with virtues
- MCFN Way of Life

## 2021 Calendar and Yearbook

- Featuring MCFN Elders
- Celebrating first graduating class from new Highschool
- Congratulating Early Childhood Services (ECS) graduating class



**2020  
Calendar**



**2021  
Calendar**



**MCFN Cultural Revitalization Projects 2019-2022**

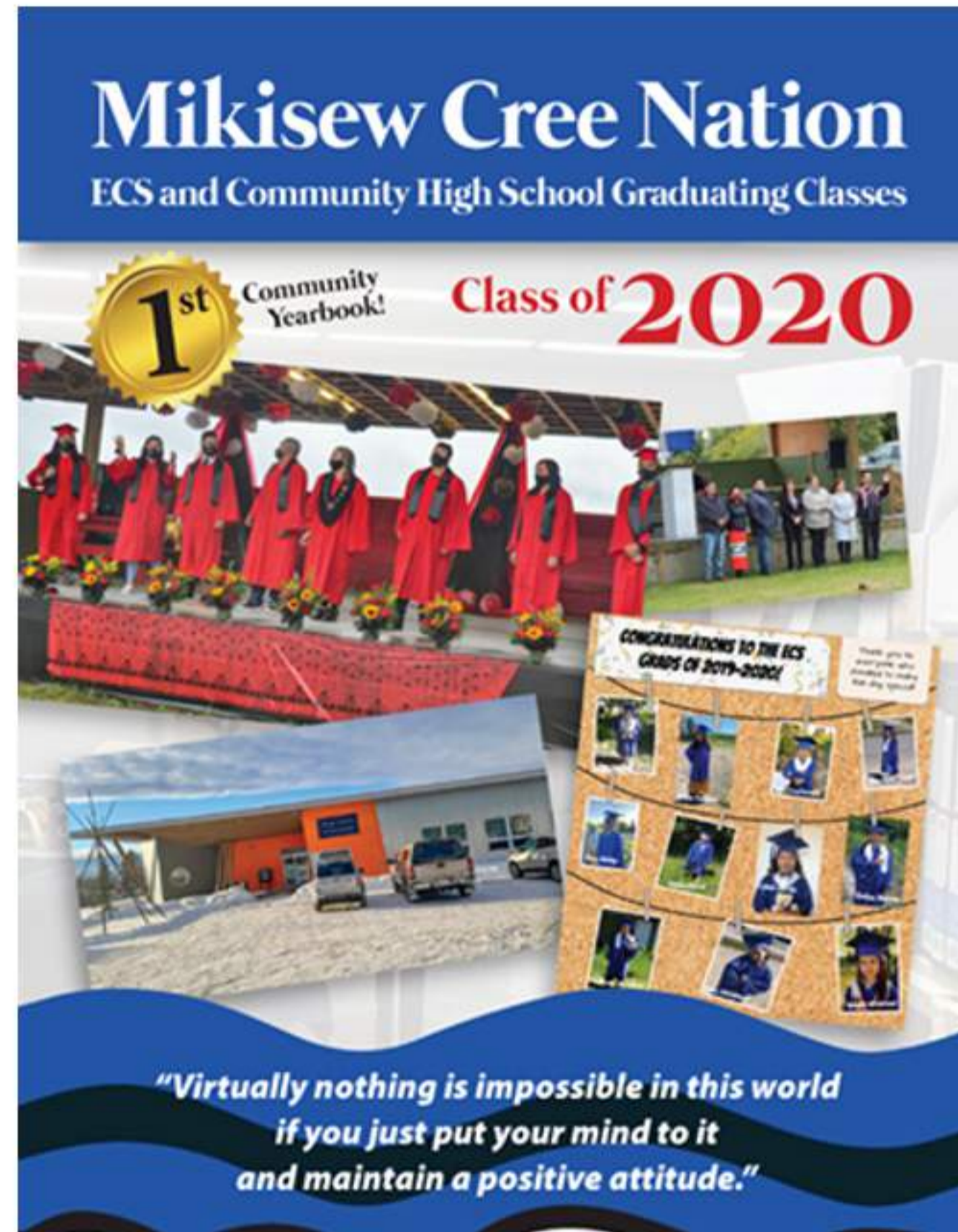
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## 2021 Calendar and Yearbook

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# MCFN 2020, 2021, AND 2022 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## 2022 Calendar

- Student trail blazers
- Youth role models
- Elder champions of community
- Fort Chipewyan history
- MCFN Way of Life

2022  
Calendar



**MCFN Cultural Revitalization Projects 2019-2022**



# **Mikisew Cree First Nation**

## **Cultural Revitalization Projects**

### **2019-2022**

