



# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2018

KISKINWAHAMAW  
AWASISAK  
NEHIYAW PIMATISIWIN  
TEACHING CHILDREN  
THE CREE WAYS

Nehiyaw Awâsis

Kikiskehitenânaw kâkike kehtehayak kikîpewîhtamâkonawak  
awa awâsis emâdawohci kanâtisit.

We know and understand that the Elders have always told us  
that the child is the most pure of heart.

Kiwîhtamâkonawak mîna Kise Manitô ehawihkoyahk awâsisak,  
namôya kitipeyimânawak

They also told us that the Creator has “loaned” us his children  
and we do not own them.

Ekosi kweyask tahopikihit, tasâkiihit, takitahamaht ekwa  
kweyask takisikinwahâaht.

So it is important to raise them properly, to be loved, to be  
counselled and to be properly taught.

Ekosi niyanân kisikinwahamâkewak nitepehitenân ewakoni  
tanîkân mâmitonehitamihk.

So it is determined that we who educate will put these  
concepts and thoughts first and foremost.

Kahkiyaw kehitôtamahk, kâhatoskâtamâhk awâsis nîkan  
tahôtisô tamâmitoneyimâw.

All that we do, all that we work for will benefit the children and  
will be first in consideration.

Nikawîci atokskawânânak onîkihkomâw, kehtehaya ekwa  
onîkânîw kweyaks takisikinwahamâwasoyahk

We will work with the Parent, the Elder and the Leader to  
properly teach our children.

Osâm kahkiyaw ôma ewâhkôhtoyahk.

For we are all related.

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**“I believe it shows that we, as Maskwacîs Cree people, are ready and excited to deliver a locally-run education system.”**

**- Nina Makinaw  
MESC Board Chairperson  
Ermineskin Cree Nation Councillor**

## CHAIRPERSON MESSAGE

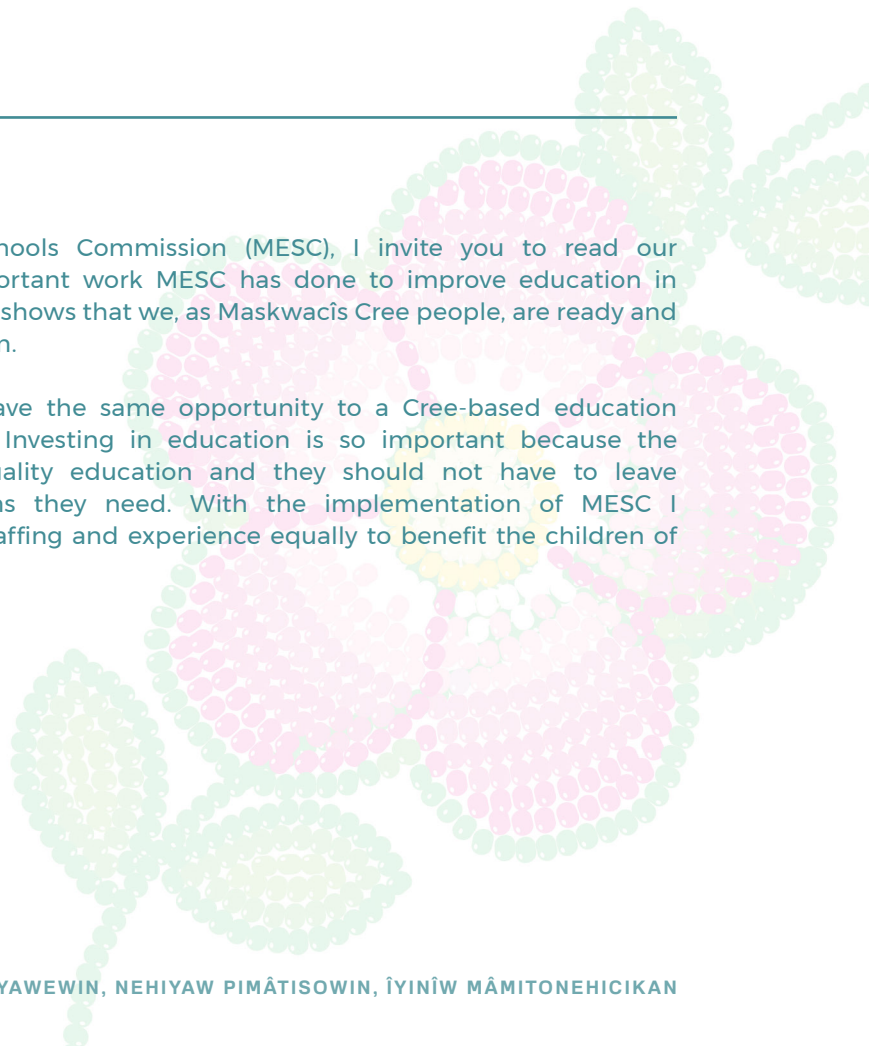
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Tansi,

On behalf of the Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission (MESC), I invite you to read our community report. Inside, we share the important work MESC has done to improve education in Maskwacîs. MESC is a local initiative. I believe it shows that we, as Maskwacîs Cree people, are ready and excited to deliver a locally-run education system.

To me, MESC means that every child will have the same opportunity to a Cree-based education system - and no child will be left behind. Investing in education is so important because the children of Maskwacîs deserve the best quality education and they should not have to leave Maskwacîs to get the educational programs they need. With the implementation of MESC I expect to see all 11 schools share resources, staffing and experience equally to benefit the children of Maskwacîs.

Nina Makinaw  
MESC Board Chairperson  
Ermineskin Cree Nation Councillor



**“MESC is committed to building an excellent Maskwacis Cree school system that will meet the needs of all our students”**

**- Brian Wildcat  
MESC Acting Superintendent**



## **ACTING SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE**

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Tansi,

It is my pleasure to submit this report to the community and share the activities of MESC over the past year. Working on uniting the schools has been an exciting and hopeful process - one that will lead to increased student success. MESC is committed to building an excellent Maskwacis Cree school system that will meet the needs of all our students. I have faith that our community will embrace this change for the future. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the MESC staff, consultants and Board of Governors - and in particular the commitment and effort of NEA Superintendent, Kevin Wells.

Thanks for your continued support of Maskwacis schools and the education of our children. I hope you will enjoy reading this report and learning about MESC.

Ekosi Pitama

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Wildcat'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brian Wildcat  
MESC Acting Superintendent

## THE SPIRIT AND INTENT OF THE TREATY RIGHT TO EDUCATION

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In 1876, the Plains Cree and other nations negotiated and signed Treaty 6 at Fort Carlton and Fort Pitt. The following year, Chief Kiskayo (Bobtail) signed an adherence to Treaty 6 on behalf of the Maskwacîs Cree. Treaty 6 provides for the delivery of education on-reserve with the following clause:

**“ Her Majesty agrees to maintain schools for instruction in such reserves hereby made as to Her Government of the Dominion of Canada may seem advisable, whenever the Indians of the reserve shall desire it.”**

Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission believes that the main step that Canada can take to uphold the spirit and intent of our treaty right to education is properly funding schools controlled by First Nation communities. As Maskwacîs Cree, we determine how to best implement our treaty right. We will implement the treaty right by delivering education at the highest possible standard, based on community priorities and Maskwacîs Cree beliefs.

By focusing on students, we have been able to continually improve the quality of Cree education for children. The number of students going to school on reserve has more than doubled since 1990 when local control began. In 2017, 58 students graduated from a Maskwacîs high school program, compared to only 10 students in 2003.

At MESOC, we believe Maskwacîs is a leader in implementing the treaty right to education—and the best way to implement the treaty right to education is to achieve a high degree of success within our Maskwacîs schools.

**“We’re practicing the treaties, we’re the ones implementing the treaties based on what we need”**

- Shannon Buffalo  
Councillor  
Samson Cree Nation  
MESOC Board Member

**“We are not giving up our treaty rights, what we are doing is figuring out how we pursue the treaty right to education from our interpretation”**

- Darrell Strongman  
Former Chief  
Montana First Nation

**“You are implementing the treaty right to education as leaders. After all, our children have treaty rights too.”**

- Wilton Littlechild  
Grand Chief Treaty Six  
Ermineskin Cree Nation

# WHAT IS THE MASKWACÎS EDUCATION SCHOOLS COMMISSION?



The primary goal of Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission (MESC) is improving educational opportunities, services and student success for all students who attend our schools in Maskwacîs.

## VISION

At MESC, we imagine a future with Cree speaking students who:

- ▶ Are academically successful;
- ▶ Live a healthy lifestyle; and
- ▶ Are confident, resilient, and know their history and culture.



# GUIDING VALUES

## BREATHING LIFE BACK INTO THE TREATY RELATIONSHIP

*"We recognize that in order to ensure we have strong systems of education it is important to revitalize a treaty relationship with the Governments of Canada. This relationship emanates from our sacred and historical relationship between ourselves and the Crown created through the signing of Treaty Six. Treaty Six imparted a responsibility onto the Government of Canada to help us create schools that allow us to succeed in Canadian society."*

Maskwacis Declaration on Education

## FOLLOWING THE CREE WAY

MESC will continue to indigenize curriculum, practices and policies by infusing Cree culture, language, and traditions into the school system with an emphasis on:

- ▶ Wâhkôhtowin
- ▶ Nehiyawewin
- ▶ Nehiyaw Pimâtisôwin
- ▶ Îyiniw Mâmitonehikan

## QUALITY EDUCATION

MESC will focus on student success, student achievement, school performance and high quality educational programming. Our priorities will be to:

- ▶ Improve achievement result in Cree language,
- ▶ Improve achievement result in literacy, and numeracy;
- ▶ Improve special needs education;
- ▶ Increase graduation rates;
- ▶ Retain staff through professional development and competitive salaries;
- ▶ Build leadership capacity in our system;
- ▶ Support all schools to achieve their goals;
- ▶ Develop land-based learning programs;
- ▶ Support healthy, safe and caring schools; and
- ▶ Improve accountability and transparency to parents, community, and Chiefs and Councils.



## GREATER ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND SERVICES

By working together with existing education authorities, staff, and Chiefs and Councils, MESC will improve resources and services for all schools. The purpose of MESC central administration and Board of Governors will be to support schools who will, in turn, support students. The central office will combine our expertise in such areas as:

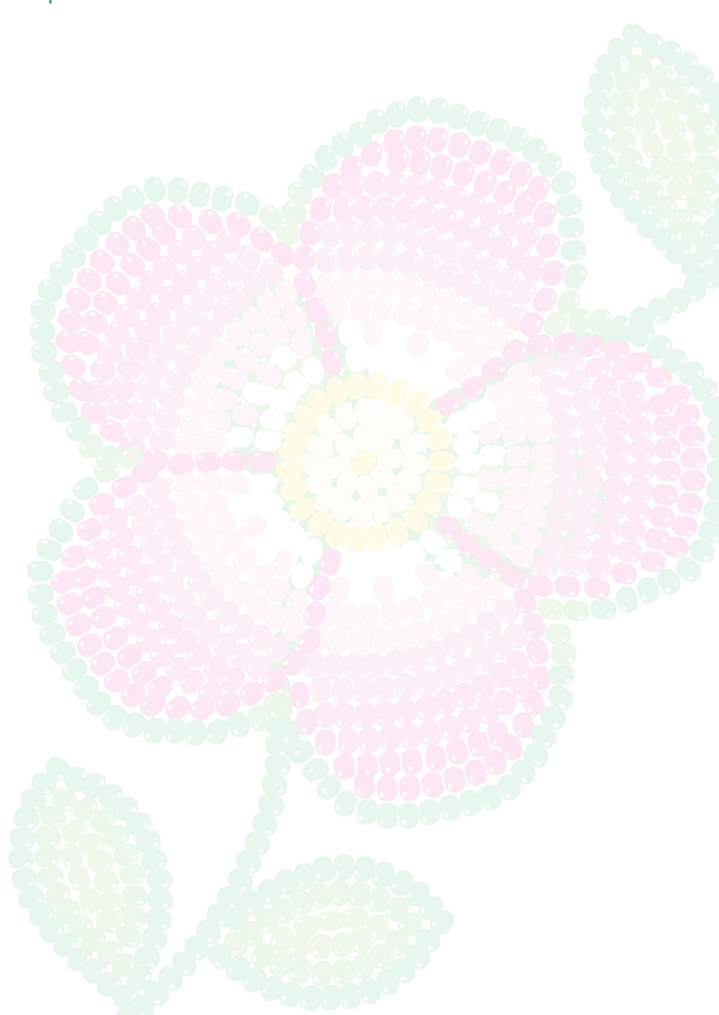
- ▶ Human resources and financial management;
- ▶ Measuring community defined student success;
- ▶ Strategic planning and data management;
- ▶ Technology, transportation and building maintenance; and
- ▶ Administering educational service agreements.

This important shift in resources and services has led to a significant increase in the overall educational budget for Maskwacis schools. We detail this increase on page 24.

## COMMUNITY DEFINED SUCCESS

Maskwacis Cree Chiefs and Councils have approved a governance structure that encourages a wide community dialogue. MESC will be guided by priorities and values that are determined in discussion with the community. The focus of the Board of Governors will be to:

- ▶ Promote Maskwacis unity;
- ▶ Promote community inclusion, communication and engagement; and
- ▶ Identify community educational priorities.





## HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN MASKWACÍS

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### RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

For 129 years, residential schools were an attempt by the Government of Canada to assimilate First Nations people into Canadian society. The Ermineskin Indian Residential School was operated by the Roman Catholic Church from 1895 to 1975. From 1975 until 1990, the Canadian Government assumed the responsibility for running Ermineskin Schools.

**“** Residential schools disrupted families and communities. They prevented elders from teaching children long-valued cultural and spiritual traditions and practices. They helped kill languages. These were not side effects of a well intentioned system: the purpose of the residential school system was to separate children from the influences of their parents and their community, so as to destroy their culture. The impact was devastating.”

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

## LOCAL CONTROL OF EDUCATION

Throughout our history, Maskwacîs Cree have passed on our traditions, ceremonies and cultural knowledge. Beginning in the 1970's, we began to establish organizations that helped us to continue passing on knowledge to future generations. Maskwacîs Cultural College (MCC) was established in 1974 and was part of a revival of First Nations education across Canada. The four nations of Maskwacîs created the MCC with a mission to:

- ▶ Preserve Plains Cree culture and history;
- ▶ Support Cree language development; and
- ▶ Provide post-secondary opportunities to members of Maskwacîs.

15 years after the creation of MCC, the four nations of Maskwacîs began to assume local control over Kindergarten to Grade 12 programs through the creation of the following authorities:

- ▶ Nipisihkopahk Education Authority (1989), created by Samson Cree Nation;
- ▶ Miyo Wâhkôhtowin Education Authority (1991), created by Ermineskin Cree Nation;
- ▶ Kisipatnahk School Society (1994), created by Louis Bull Tribe;
- ▶ Montana Cree Nation assumed the responsibility to deliver education at Meskahnahk Ka Nîpa Wit School (1996).

The creation of these four school authorities provided Maskwacîs with an opportunity to build nine new schools. Today, approximately 2300 students attending eleven schools will be part of the new Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission. Plans are currently underway for a new Ermineskin Kindergarten, and future priorities include the construction of a new Maskwacîs high school.

**MASKWACÎS  
EDUCATION  
SCHOOLS  
COMMISSION**



## HISTORY OF MESC

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MESC began as a collaboration between the education authorities in Maskwacîs. Originally MESC stood for Maskwacîs Education Steering Committee. The purpose of the committee was to examine ways of improving student achievement. In May 2015, the first Maskwacîs Education Summit was held to evaluate the proposal of creating a unified school system. At this meeting, a Four Nations motion was passed that directed MESC to research and explore the creation of a Maskwacîs education authority. The motion reads:

**“ Be it resolved that we, the Maskwacîs Cree Chiefs and Council, direct the Maskwacîs Education Steering Committee to investigate the possibility of developing a Maskwacîs Education Authority that meets the following criteria/principals/conditions:**

- 1. Treaty based**
- 2. Guaranteed funding for the process**
- 3. Adequate time frame; and**

***Further than, proper protocol be conducted to commence the process.”***

In February 2016, MESC was incorporated under the new title, Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission. Funding was secured to begin research on creating a Maskwacîs Cree school system. In the school year of 2018-19, all schools will move under the new authority.

## MESC TIMELINE

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### 2011

All four education authorities pass motions to create the Maskwacis Education Steering Committee (MESC).

### 2015

**Maskwacis Education Summit**  
All four Chiefs and Councils pass a motion directing MESC to explore the creation of a single Maskwacis Education Authority.

### 2017

**Building the School System:**

- ▶ MESC develops the declaration on education, education law and governance model;
- ▶ Maskwacis enters into negotiations with INAC on a new funding model called the Maskwacis Education Agreement; and
- ▶ Maskwacis Chiefs and Councils delegate authority and responsibility to MESC to manage schools in Maskwacis through band council resolutions and delegation agreements.

2010

### 2009 - 2010

Miyo Wâhkôhtowin begins to administer First Nation Student Success Program for all four nations. It is the first major collaboration among Maskwacis schools.

2011

2012

### 2012

Maskwacis Outreach School moves to a renovated space in the Maskwacis Mall, and becomes the second major MESC collaboration.

2015

2016

### 2016

MESC is incorporated. Research and development begins:

- ▶ A board is appointed;
- ▶ A management team is seconded and an office is opened at NEA; and
- ▶ Research consultants are hired to work on needs assessment, schools system review, Elders consultation, and community consultations.

2017

## MESC ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Since 2009, MESC as a steering committee had three major successes: First, delivery of the First Nations Student Success Program that administered \$22.5 million dollars for the schools over an eight-year period. Second, jointly opening the Maskwacis Outreach School in 2012. Finally, the ongoing collaboration of MESC led the Maskwacis Cree motion to explore of a unified school system.

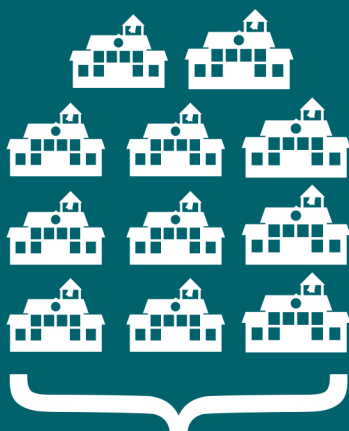
Since MESC has transitioned to becoming a commission in 2016, many achievements have been passed. These include:

- ▶ Creating the Maskwacis Cree Declaration on Education (pages 22 - 23);

MESC continues to work on:

- ▶ Drafting the Maskwacis Law on Education; and
- ▶ Negotiating the Maskwacis Education Agreement and Maskwacis Funding Formula with the federal government.

## WHERE ARE WE TODAY?



11 MASKWACIS  
SCHOOLS WITH  
APPROX.

**2300**  
STUDENTS



**58**

GRADUATES FROM  
THE FOUR HIGH  
SCHOOL PROGRAMS  
IN 2017

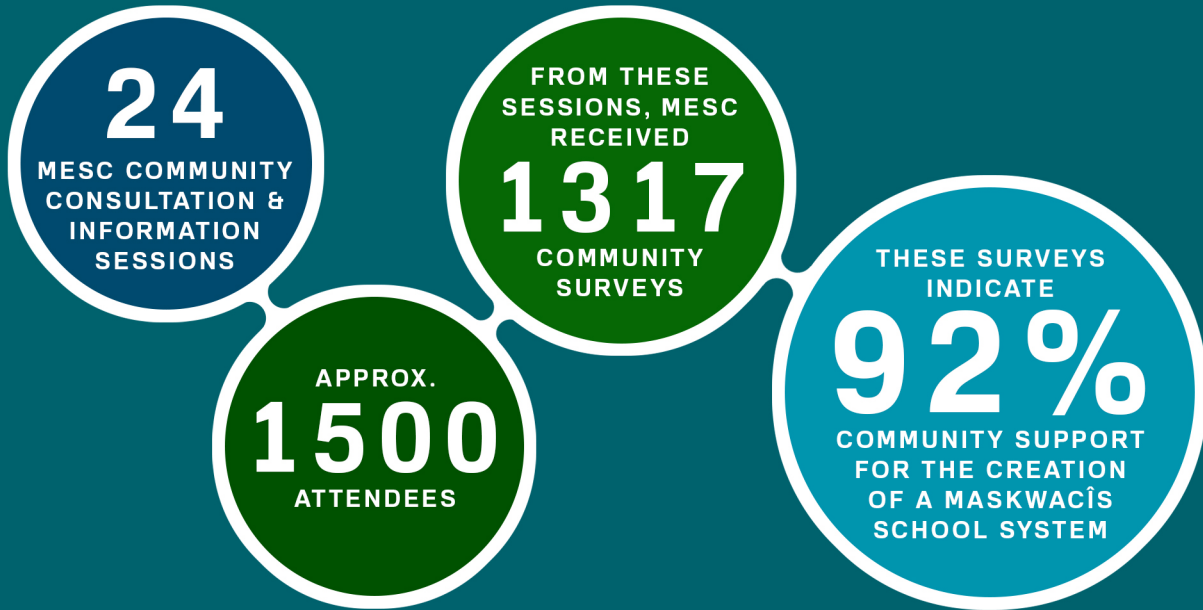
(100 credit diploma, 80 credit  
achievement and completion  
certificate)



**400+**

EMPLOYEES IN  
MASKWACIS  
SCHOOLS, WITH THE  
MAJORITY OF STAFF  
BEING FIRST NATIONS

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



## ONLINE ENGAGEMENT



IN THE PAST YEAR, MESC PRODUCED 4 VIDEOS THAT HAVE BEEN VIEWED MORE THAN  
**95000**  
TIMES



OUR FACEBOOK PAGE NOW HAS  
**1650+**  
LIKES AND  
**1700+**  
FOLLOWERS



OUR FACEBOOK PAGE CAN REACH  
**33000+**  
PEOPLE WITH ANY GIVEN POST





# MASKWACÎS SCHOOLS



**Ehpewapahk Alternate School**  
 Maskwacîs (Ermineskin Cree Nation)  
 Grade 8 - Grade 12  
 48 students  
 12 staff  
 Principal: Andrew Fulks  
 andrew\_fulks@miyo.ca  
 (780) 585-2202



**Ermineskin Kindergarten**  
 Maskwacîs (Ermineskin Cree Nation)  
 K4 - K5  
 159 students  
 19 staff  
 Principal: Micheal Currie  
 michael\_currie@miyo.ca  
 (780) 585-3788



**Ermineskin Jr./Sr. High School**  
 Maskwacîs (Ermineskin Cree Nation)  
 Grade 7 - Grade 12  
 312 students  
 48 staff  
 Principal: Keith MacQuarrie  
 keith\_macquarrie@miyo.ca  
 (780) 585-3931



**Ermineskin Elementary**  
 Maskwacîs (Ermineskin Cree Nation)  
 Grade 1 - Grade 6  
 472 students  
 62 staff  
 Principal: Debbie Micheal  
 debbie\_michael@miyo.ca  
 (780) 585-3760



**Grace Marie Swampy Memorial Primary School**  
 Maskwacîs (Samson Cree Nation)  
 K4 - Grade 1  
 198 students  
 38 staff  
 Principal: Deanna Morin  
 deannamorin@scnea.com  
 (780) 585-2017



**Kisipatnahk School**  
 Maskwacîs (Louis Bull Tribe)  
 K4 - Grade 9  
 207 students  
 44 staff  
 Principal: Tom Wilkinson  
 tom.wilkinson@lbschool.com  
 (780) 585-0035



**Maskwacis Outreach**  
 Maskwacis (4 Nations)  
 Grade 10 - Grade 12  
 84 students  
 8 staff  
 Principal: Sharon Seright  
[sharonseright@scnea.com](mailto:sharonseright@scnea.com)  
 (780) 585-3076



**Meskanahk Ka Nipa Wit School**  
 Maskwacis (Montana First Nation)  
 K4 - Grade 9  
 133 students  
 21 staff  
 Principal: Roxanne Harasymchuk-Bantick  
[roxanneharasymchuk@maskwacised.ca](mailto:roxanneharasymchuk@maskwacised.ca)  
 (780) 585-2799



**Mimiw Sakahikan School**  
 Pigeon Lake (Samson Cree Nation)  
 K4 - Grade 6  
 54 students  
 13 staff  
 Principal: Dianne Crane  
[diannecrane@scnea.com](mailto:diannecrane@scnea.com)  
 (780) 586-3808



**Nipisihkopahk Elementary School**  
 Maskwacis (Samson Cree Nation)  
 Grade 2 - Grade 6  
 302 students  
 35 staff  
 Principal: Greg Koett  
[gregkoett@scnea.com](mailto:gregkoett@scnea.com)  
 (780) 585-2244



**Nipisihkopahk Secondary School**  
 Maskwacis (Samson Cree Nation)  
 Grade 7 - Grade 12  
 298 students  
 40 staff  
 Principal: Bryan Richardson  
[bryanrichardson@scnea.com](mailto:bryanrichardson@scnea.com)  
 (780) 585-4449

## BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE OF MASKWACÎS EDUCATION

MESC has been in discussions with three levels of government to create a unified Maskwacîs education system:

- ▶ Locally between the Nations of Maskwacîs;
- ▶ With the Canadian Government to create the Maskwacîs Education Agreement;
- ▶ With the Alberta Government to create a Framework Agreement.

### KEY MESC DOCUMENTS

Maskwacîs Cree Nations	Maskwacîs Education Law	A law that establishes the creation of a Maskwacîs Cree Education system and governance structure.
	Maskwacîs Declaration on Education	A declaration of our understanding, beliefs and values about education - and a guide for the Maskwacîs Cree School System.
	Delegation agreements	A board governance model in which each Maskwacîs nation delegates MESC to be the Education Authority.
	Wâhkôhtowin inspired Board Governance	The Maskwacîs Cree governance model ensures participation and engagement of Maskwacîs education partners.
Federal	Maskwacîs Education Agreement	An education agreement which will include an improved education funding formula, known as the Maskwacîs funding model.
Provincial	Maskwacîs Cree - Government of Alberta Framework Agreement	An agreement to enter into discussions with Alberta Government to enhance funding and services for children in Maskwacîs as part of the province's reconciliation to the Maskwacîs Cree people.



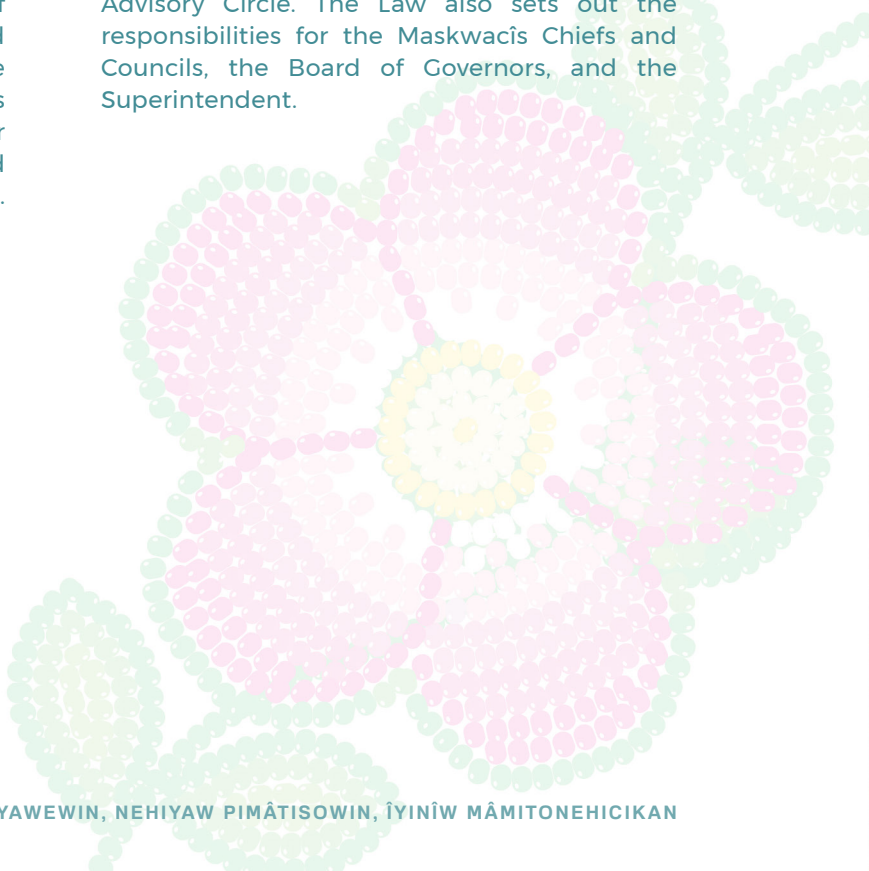


## MASKWACÎS EDUCATION LAW

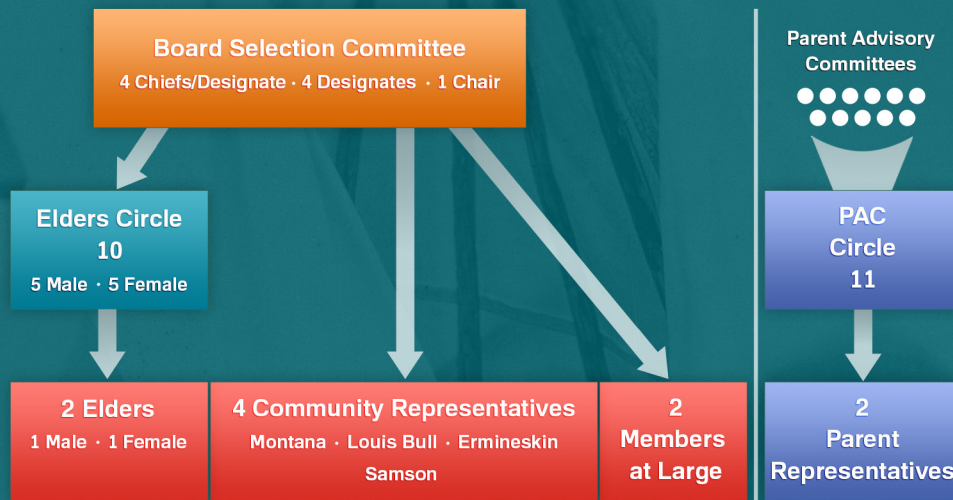
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The Maskwacîs Education Law sets out the obligations and responsibilities of the Board of Governors. The property, business and operation of the authority will be managed through regular meetings of the Board of Governors. It is the responsibility of the Board of Governors to build trust and foster positive working relationships within the Maskwacîs Education system. The Board is responsible for working with the community to identify and promote the values we share as Maskwacîs Cree.

The Maskwacîs Education law sets out the selection process, qualifications, responsibilities, powers and removal of the Board of Governors, Elders Circle, Members at Large and Parent Advisory Circle. The Law also sets out the responsibilities for the Maskwacîs Chiefs and Councils, the Board of Governors, and the Superintendent.

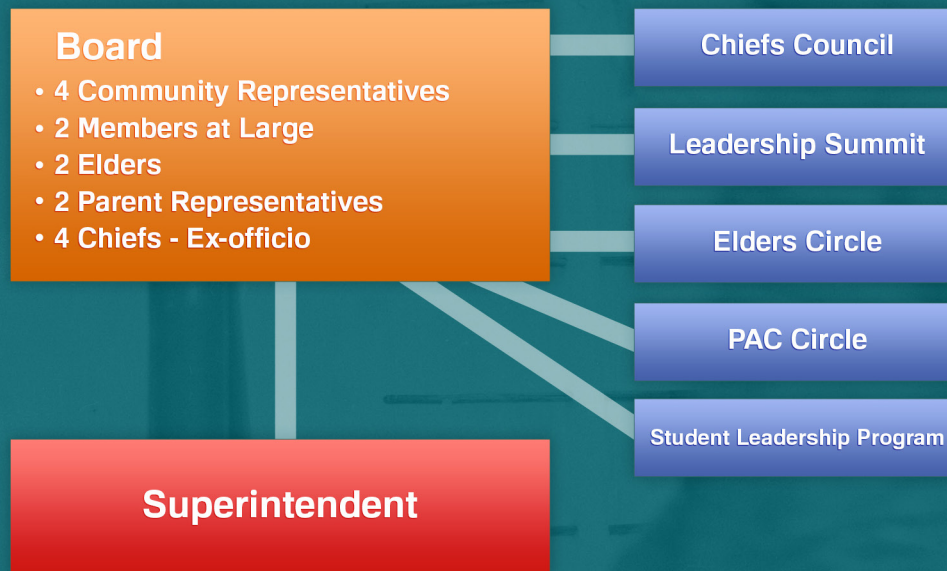


## BOARD SELECTION PROCESS



The selection process for the Board will be inclusive and fair. Our Board of Governors will be made up of members from each of the Four Nations.

## GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



Through our commitment to wāhkōhtowin, MESC has developed a governance system that guarantees the ongoing involvement and participation of parents, community, and Chiefs and Councils. Once formed, approximately 80 community members will be actively participating in our wāhkōhtowin-inspired governance model every year. The governance model ensures ongoing dialogue between the schools and community. MESC will work with elders, teachers, staff, students and parents from Ermineskin, Louis Bull, Montana and Samson Cree Nations to facilitate and encourage the sharing of knowledge, Cree language, traditions, teachings and philosophies.



## MASKWACÍS DECLARATION ON EDUCATION

*The following declaration was collectively created and reviewed by citizens of the Maskwacis Cree in the Winter and Spring of 2017. The process was led by the Maskwacis Education Schools Commission (MESC), reviewed by a panel of elders, recommended by the Board of MESC and approved by a Maskwacis Cree motion on June 13th, 2017. The declaration was formally signed by the Maskwacis Chiefs on November 29, 2017. The Maskwacis Declaration on Education was translated into Cree and written in Syllabics by a committee of Maskwacis Elders.*

Îyiniw Mâmitonehican (Cree thinking) is the foundation of education for Maskwacis people. Îyiniw Mâmitonehican is an all-encompassing way of seeing and understanding the world through the Cree perspective. Our language, ceremonies, values and understanding of good relationships all contribute to Îyiniw Mâmitonehican. Education systems that foster the Cree way of thinking are integral to pursuing self-determination as Cree peoples and ensuring the health and happiness of Maskwacis people. Exercising control over the formal systems of education is how we revitalize and pass on Cree ways of thought.

To guide our actions, we will follow cultural and traditional teachings, in particular Wâhkôhtowin. Wâhkôhtowin is the belief that all things are related and connected, that all of existence has spirit and that living in a good way requires us to maintain good relationships with each other and other aspects of existence. We

recognize that respect for mother earth, elders, youth, and the Treaties are paramount to planning ahead and making decisions for future generations.

We have a responsibility to honour and protect Treaty and historical sites, and share our knowledge with the world about Treaty. We recognize that in order to ensure we have strong systems of education it is important to revitalize a treaty relationship with the Government of Canada. This relationship emanates from our sacred and historic relationship between ourselves and the Crown created through the signing of Treaty Six and as recognized and affirmed by Section 35 of the Constitution Act of Canada, 1982. Treaty Six imparted a responsibility onto the Government of Canada to help us create schools that allow us to succeed in Canadian society.



Our treaty partners have not always respected the treaty relationship between us. The imposition of residential schools damaged the relationship between us. We feel that one of the primary avenues through which this relationship can be repaired is by properly funding education systems that are under our control and design. The Crown has a fiduciary duty, obligation and responsibility to provide unencumbered funding that allows Maskwacis to educate our children in our own ways.

We have the inherent right to operate our own schools, decide our own curriculum and determine our own outcomes. Motivated by our identity as Maskwacis Nehiyawak, our curriculum will focus on our history, culture and language. Nehiyaw teaching methods and perspectives relevant to Maskwacis will be included in all aspects of the education system.

All children in Maskwacis are important, are valued and will be at the centre of our decision making regarding education. Our schools will have the ability to work with the needs and aspirations of all students. Our schools will go above and beyond to ensure the success of our children and provide a safe environment that is conducive to learning.

A standardized Nehiyaw language curriculum will be continually and repetitively integrated into the daily life and activities of our schools. We will ensure land based forms of education are important aspects of the learning process.





We will motivate our children and build their self-esteem and personal wellness by promoting a balanced educational system. While passing on Nehiyaw Mâmitonehickan remains the core of schools, we will also utilize various teaching methods to suit the diversity of our children. This includes being innovators and leaders in providing special needs education and keeping current with relevant technology. We aim to prepare our children for future success in various fields of education and employment.

Parents and the community will be involved and engaged in all aspects of learning. Elders will be involved in the daily lives of students, through sharing our oral history, ceremonies, and storytelling. We affirm that it takes strong parental, elder and community leadership to ensure the success of our children's' education.

We affirm the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the OAS American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation "Calls to Action" and the Maskwacis Nehiyawewin Declaration that affirms Nehiyawewin is the Official Language of Maskwacis.

As Maskwacis Cree, we engage in a continual process of teaching and learning about how we enact our values and philosophies in the present. This includes enhancing our understanding of Treaties and Treaty laws, and the continual process of defining and practicing how we maintain respectful treaty relationships with others. It is through these practices of Îyiniw Mâmitonehickan and wâhkôhtowin that we will maintain and strengthen our education systems for future generations.

Signed by:

 Chief Irvin Bull	<u>November 29, 2017</u> Date
 Chief Craig Makinaw	<u>November 29, 2017</u> Date
 Chief Vernon Saddleback	<u>November 29, 2017</u> Date
 On behalf of Montana First Nation	<u>November 29, 2017</u> Date

# MASKWACÎS EDUCATION AGREEMENT (MASKWACÎS FUNDING FORMULA)

This Agreement will identify the roles and responsibilities of MESC and the Government of Canada in the creation of the new Maskwacîs funding formula. It affirms our existing aboriginal and treaty rights. The Agreement ensures nothing will erode or weaken our treaty rights, and consequently includes non-derogation clauses. The Agreement also recognizes the Maskwacîs Education Law and is founded on the Cree ideas of Wâhkôhtowin, Nehiyawewin, Nehiyaw Pimâtisôwin, Îyinîw Mamtohehikan. It acknowledges that the language of instruction for our schools will be Cree or either of the two official languages in Canada.

The Agreement will no longer follow the existing INAC funding policy - and includes the following new provisions:

- ▶ Core funding for seven to ten years;
- ▶ End of proposal driven dollars, will allow Board of Governors to direct funds to community priorities;
- ▶ Enhanced fund for Cree language, culture, literacy and numeracy;
- ▶ Full funding for K4, K5;
- ▶ The ability to carry over surpluses from year to year;
- ▶ Student transportation funding;
- ▶ A clause to protect against funding decreases during the term of the agreement; and
- ▶ Will include the administration of education service agreements.

This agreement establishes predictable, sustainable, stable flexible funding that will meet the needs of all Maskwacîs students moving forward.

# MASKWACÎS CREE - GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

This Agreement allows Maskwacîs to enter into discussions with the Government of Alberta to enhance funding and services for our children in the following five areas:

1. The Government of Alberta will provide grants for participation in education initiatives;
2. The Government of Alberta will facilitate communication with education partners, organizations of interest and will pursue opportunities for MESC to access Regional Collaborative Service Delivery;
3. MESC will develop community, school, and classroom-based strategies to enhance student outcomes in:
  - ▶ Cree language and culture;
  - ▶ Locally developed courses ie. land based education;
  - ▶ Improved student retention;
  - ▶ Improved literacy and numeracy;
  - ▶ Improved teacher retention;
  - ▶ Improved student use of technology; and
  - ▶ Alternative educational initiative and programs.

Alberta will look at ways to financially support these strategies with a per student enhancement allocation;

4. Maskwacîs and the Government of Alberta will co-develop appropriate student evaluation and performance measures; and
5. Maskwacîs and the Government of Alberta agrees to explore opportunities with federal education partners for such initiatives as a new regional composite high school.

This Agreement presents an opportunity for the Alberta Government to express one form of reconciliation with Maskwacîs. This agreement also opens the door for Maskwacîs to meet the Government of Alberta as equal partners to discuss ways to improve education for Maskwacîs youth.



## WHO ARE THE MESC BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND SUPERINTENDENT?

MESC Interim Board of Governors (September 2017 - June 2018)		
Councillor Nina Makinaw	Ermineskin Cree Nation	Chairperson
Tamara Wildcat	Ermineskin Cree Nation	Board Member
Councillor James Bull	Louis Bull Tribe	Board Member
Allison Adams-Bull	Louis Bull Tribe	Board Member
Councillor Brad Rabbit	Montana First Nation	Board Member
Leanne Louis	Montana First Nation	Board Member
Councillor Mario Swampy	Samson Cree Nation	Vice Chairperson
Councillor Shannon Buffalo	Samson Cree Nation	Board Member
Chief Craig Makinaw	Ermineskin Cree Nation	Board Member (Ex-officio)
Chief Irvin Bull	Louis Bull Tribe	Board Member (Ex-officio)
Chief Leonard Standingontheroad	Montana First Nation	Board Member (Ex-officio)
Chief Vern Saddleback	Samson Cree Nation	Board Member (Ex-officio)
John Nepoose	Samson Cree Nation	Board Elder (Ex-officio)
Brian Wildcat	Ermineskin Cree Nation	MESC CEO; Acting Superintendent of Schools

We appreciate the contributions and support of former Chiefs Randy Ermineskin, Darrel Strongman, Kurt Buffalo and the late Rusty Threefingers during the amalgamation process.





## CONTACT

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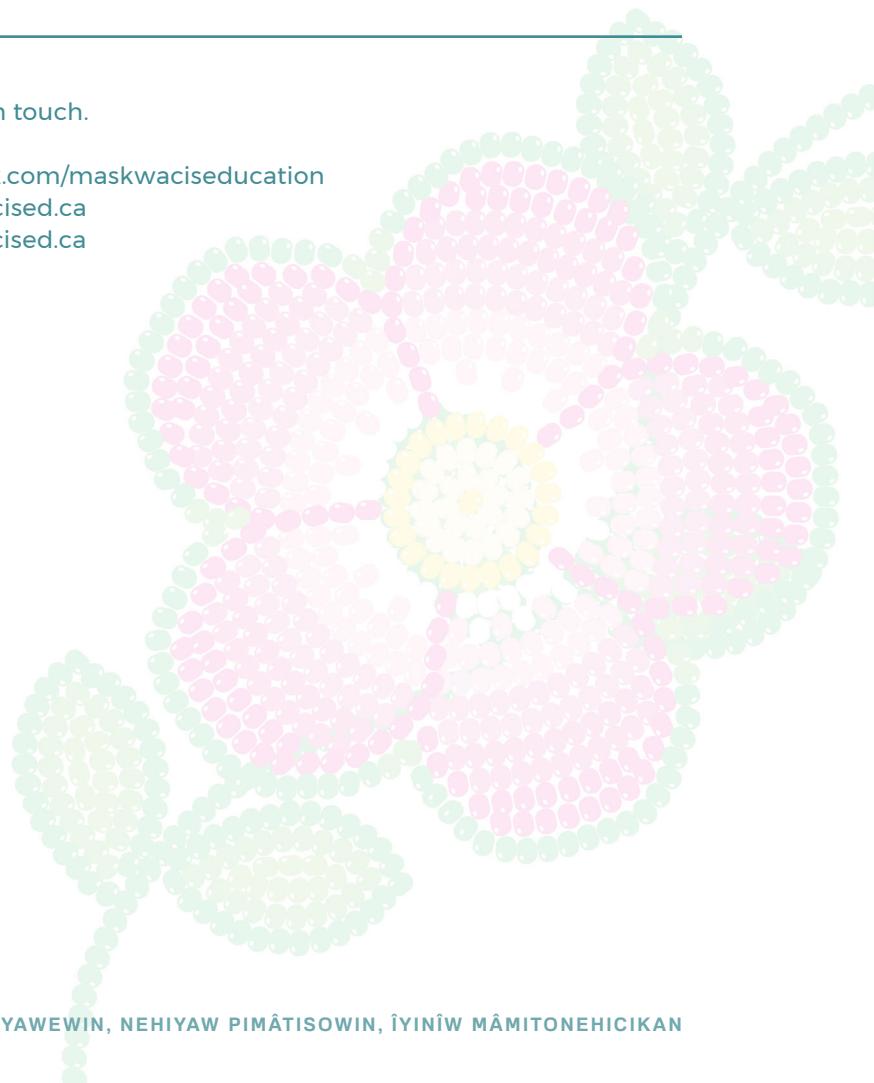
Do you have any questions for us? Please get in touch.

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Send us an email at: [info@maskwacised.ca](mailto:info@maskwacised.ca)

Call our office at: 780-585-3333







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