

FHQTC EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025



Teachers Camp promotes Indigenization of curriculum

From July 7-17, educators were invited to attend the first annual FHQ Education Teacher's Land-Based Camp and Curriculum Development: Integrating Culture, Land, and Learning. The camp was created to further FHQ's mission and commitment to further Indigenous Knowledge and encourage the implementation of skills learned into curriculum.

"The process of Indigenizing curriculum is to create an awareness of Indigenous epistemology and pedagogy that can be lived today and not just something of the past," Superintendent of Education Noella Eagle says. Additionally, the land-based camp highlights one of the strands of strategic imperatives from the FHQ Education document, "Re-Imagining Education: Inspiring Change, A Ten-Year Vision 2024-2034.

The camp introduced further learning on the importance of the roles of Elders in this work, ceremonial practices, and cultural connections. Activities included Tipi teachings, traditional bow and arrow making, and innovation and recycling of the buffalo.

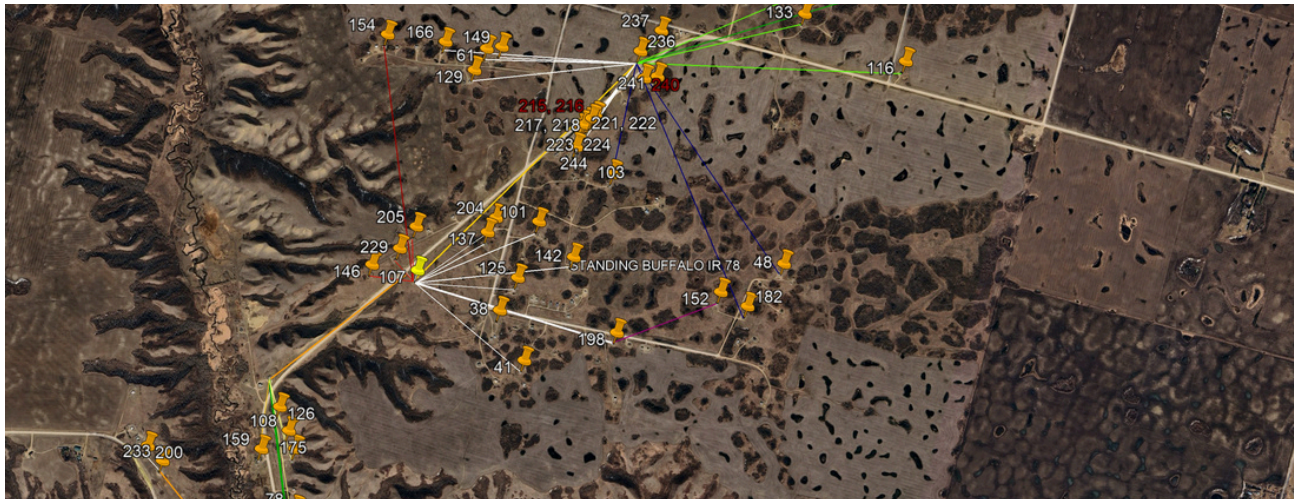
"Overall, 80 + lesson plans were created by 8 teachers using AI to generate these lesson plans. Each lesson plan demonstrates the knowledge and skills sets and it's learning outcomes which correspond to the Saskatchewan Curriculum documents," Eagle says.

FHQ Education hopes to sustain and commit to ongoing Land-Based Education for curriculum development through ongoing collaboration, resource development, and advocacy efforts from all levels of educators.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER YOU CAN EXPECT:

- Teacher's land-based education camp
- Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation Mesh Network Wi-Fi System
- Okanese First Nation re-opens new school
- Upcoming Event: Walking in Strength





Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation Mesh Network Wi-Fi System continues to benefit community

In 2022, in direct response to the growing digital divide exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, a mesh Wi-Fi system was installed in Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation. This initiative was undertaken to address critical connectivity challenges faced by many First Nation communities, where limited internet access posed barriers to education, communication, and essential services.

The mesh Wi-Fi network was developed to ensure reliable internet access for low socio-economic households, particularly those without the means to secure commercial internet services. In particular those homes who have children/students attending Tatonka Nijan School on the nation.

With many families forced into remote learning and digital communication during the pandemic, the system provided a vital lifeline, bridging the gap between digital exclusion and opportunity.

By decentralizing network access points across the community, the mesh system ensures strong, consistent coverage in homes that need it most supporting everything from virtual classrooms to telehealth appointments and community updates.

Today, this project continues and is IT team, who manage the system's ongoing performance, technical upkeep, and service quality. FHQTC Education's involvement ensures that the network aligns with the broader educational and digital equity goals of the region.



In collaboration with Standing Buffalo Chief and Council, the system is routinely evaluated and updated. Adjustments are made dynamically in response to family relocations, changes in household structures, and emerging needs within the community. This adaptive approach ensures that the service remains both equitable and responsive ensuring no household is left behind in an increasingly digital world.



PROFILE Tyson Creeley and the re-opening of Okanese School

Tell us a bit about yourself:

I was elected into council in 2020 and I was appointed the education portfolio at that point I took care of all Okanese student tuitions as well as post secondary students. My background before council was justice, so this was a learning curve.

Tell us about Okanese Learning Centre?

The Okanese Learning Centre first opened in 2000 long before my time so I can't speak too much of that except it was home to pre-K to grade 7. It had two classroom teachers, a Cree language, instructor, and a principal. Soon the OLC will be open to Kindergarten to Grade 3 students and FHQ remote learning grades 7 to 11 supported in person by Brian Endicott.

What are some of the goals for the re-opening?

Our ultimate goal is to meet the needs of the students. Our First Nations children are unique with how they learn and we know they deserve much more than what they've been receiving. A Wholistic cultural approach through land based learning, along with an emphasis on our Cree language, are three areas that will be intertwined with the curriculum requirements. It's no easy feat, but we have an incredible team- including FHQ, our new education board and our dedicated new staff working hard around the clock to make it happen. They are tackling any challenges as they appear. It's a dream of our team to have our learning center be an institution that unites not only Okanese children, but all children from File Hills. Okanese is geographically at the centre of the four bands, and if all goes well, we hope to be able to flourish with the other three nations.

The children are our future, the possibilities are truly endless.



UPCOMING EVENT:

FHQ EDUCATION
WELCOME GATHERING

**WALKING IN STRENGTH:
CULTIVATING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS**

August 28th
2025

8:30 - 4:00
AM PM

Queensbury
Convention
Centre
Regina, Sk

REGISTRATION TO FOLLOW

Networking Opportunities
Build relationships, share knowledge, and strengthen support systems that uplift Indigenous youth and families.

Inspirational Speakers
Hear from powerful speakers whose work uplifts Indigenous voices and centers on healing, empowerment, and building strong, positive relationships.

Vendors
Browse a rich selection of Indigenous vendors offering:
• Artisan Goods
• Educational Materials

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Niigaan Sinclair




Get in touch at info@fhqtc.net