



# MEDIA RELEASE

February 10, 2026

## FHQTC STEM FAIR CREATES NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

**Lebret, SK** – More than 100 students from across Treaty 4 territory will gather in Lebret this week for the annual File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council (FHQTC) STEM Fair, an event that is increasingly serving as a launch point to provincial and national science competitions for Indigenous youth.

The 2026 fair will take place on **Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at Wa-pii-moos-toosis (Whitecalf) Gym and Rink in Lebret, SK.**

The event will welcome 115 students to present projects in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Top projects may advance to the FSIN Science Fair and the Canada-Wide Science Fair, creating opportunities for students to showcase their work on a larger stage and pursue future pathways in STEM education and careers.

In recent years, participating students have progressed to national-level competition. This year's event includes a returning participant who previously competed at the National Science Fair and will share their experience with younger students.

Also new this year is the Inclusive Indigenist Category. This has been introduced to reduce barriers to participation and ensure students with diverse learning needs can fully engage in STEM learning and project presentation.

"This new category reflects our commitment to inclusion, equity, and Indigenous ways of knowing," says Shasta Hanna, Literacy Consultant for the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council (FHQTC) and STEM Fair organizer. "By removing barriers and honouring diverse learning pathways, we are creating space for more students to see themselves as scientists, innovators, and problem-solvers."

The fair is supported by SaskPower, whose sponsorship helps expand hands-on STEM learning opportunities for Indigenous students across the region.

By bringing together students, educators, families, and community partners, the FHQTC STEM Fair continues to strengthen Indigenous representation and achievement in STEM, while opening doors to future education and career opportunities.

**Event Details:**

- **Date:** Wednesday, February 11, 2026
- **Time:** 10:00am – 3:00pm
- **Location:** Wa-pii-moos-toosis (Whitecalf) Gym and Rink, Lebret, SK.

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**File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council**

The File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council (FHQTC) is the regional advisory, program, and service organization for the 11 member First Nations affiliated under the File Hills Agency and the Qu'Appelle Agency located in southern Saskatchewan, in Treaty 4 territory. It's the only tribal council in Saskatchewan to represent five linguistic cultural groups: Nehiyaw (Cree), Nakoda (Assiniboine), Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), Dakota (Sioux), and Lakota. The FHQTC total registered population for all 11 member First Nations is more than 18,000 with two-thirds residing off-reserve.

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