

# Newsletter

## February 2020



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*Nehiyaw Kisakinohamasâkiwin Nakacîwîn*  
—  
*Excellence in Indigenous Education*



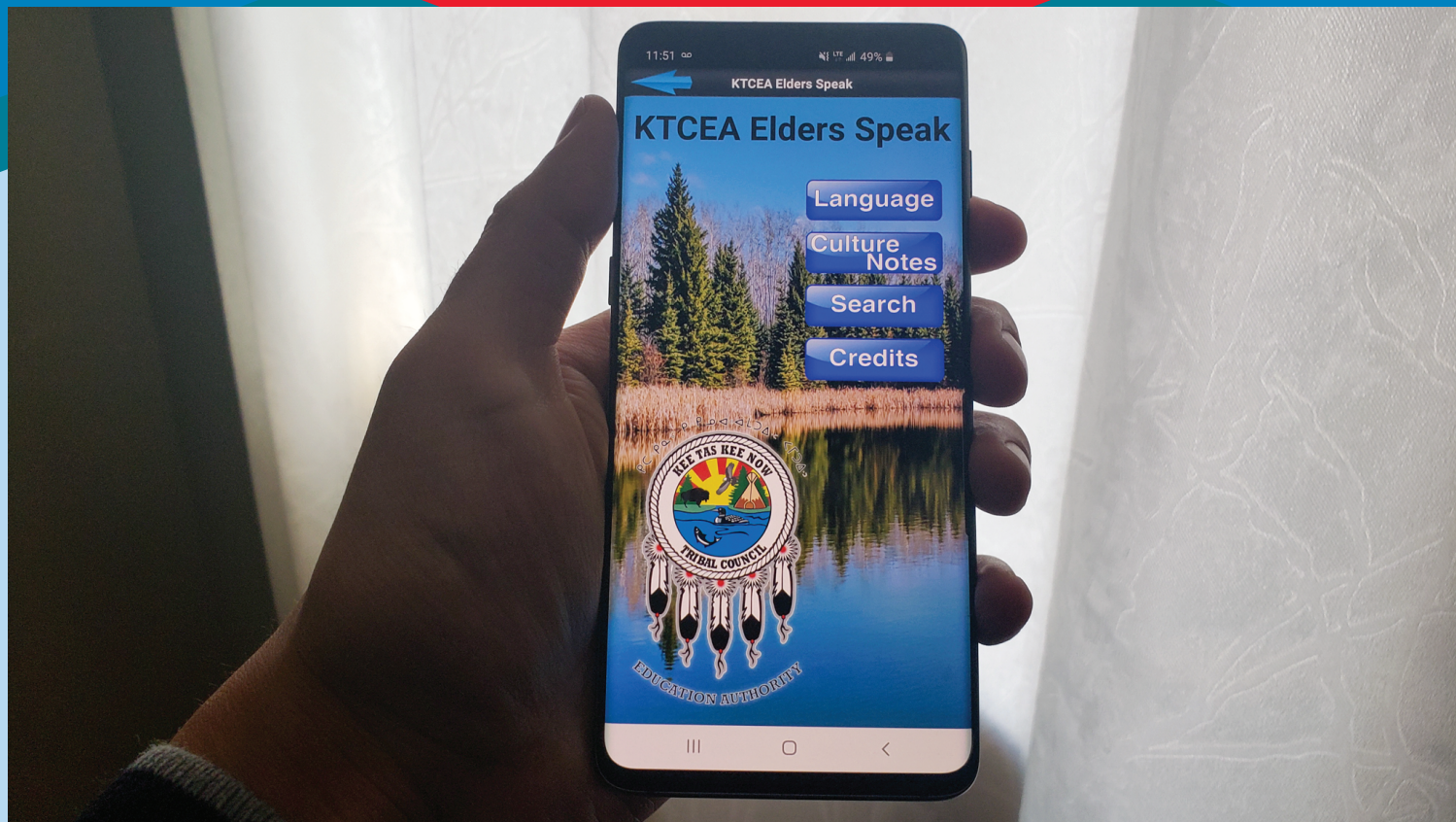
## Kateri School Graduation 2019

# *Congratulations*



KTCEA wants to congratulate the brand new high school graduates from Kateri School! Joyce Yellowknee (valedictorian), Larissa Noskiye, Frankie Metsikassus, and Tyler Yellowknee all worked hard to finish school and have made their community, families, and friends proud. To celebrate the occasion, Kateri School put on a dinner at the community hall where there were speeches, jokes, tears of joy, and proud families. Congratulations graduates!





# KTCEA Elders Speak App Launch

## *Learn Cree From Our Elders*

We are happy to announce that the KTCEA Elders Speak app is ready to be downloaded on your Apple or Android devices. We have posted the app launch announcement on our Facebook page and over 40,000 people have seen it—the Elders have gone viral! You can see news about it on the CBC Edmonton News website, in the Edmonton Journal, the Edmonton Sun, and Windspeaker. There will even be a live TV interview on CTV Calgary about the app!

The app was designed by our KTC Elders. They chose which words should be in the app and lent their voices to record the words in the app. Over 150 Elders gave input and shared their knowledge and wisdom with us so that Cree can be preserved and learned. Updates are already being worked on so download it today to begin learning Cree from our Elders!





# AFN Education Transformation Forum

## *Speaking Our Truth*

Land-Based Learning and Cree language are important to Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority (KTCEA). Our vision is *Nehiyaw Kiskeyohamasâkiwin Nakacîwîn—Excellence in Indigenous Education*. This means that we should learn, share, and work with others so that we can improve.



The Assembly of First Nations gave KTCEA a chance to share at the First Nations Education Transformation Forum in Calgary on October 8 and 9, 2019. This meeting was for First Nations and education organizations to share experiences and learn how to make our education systems better. Loon River First Nation Chief Ivan Sawan, Superintendent Dr. Daphne Mai'Stoina, and Senior Policy Advisor Dan Smith presented for KTCEA to over 200 people from across Canada on KTCEA's story, our Regional Education Agreement, and why Land-Based Learning and the Cree language is important to us. The story of KTCEA's success is the story of your success. We will share our story of Excellence in Indigenous Education for many years to come.



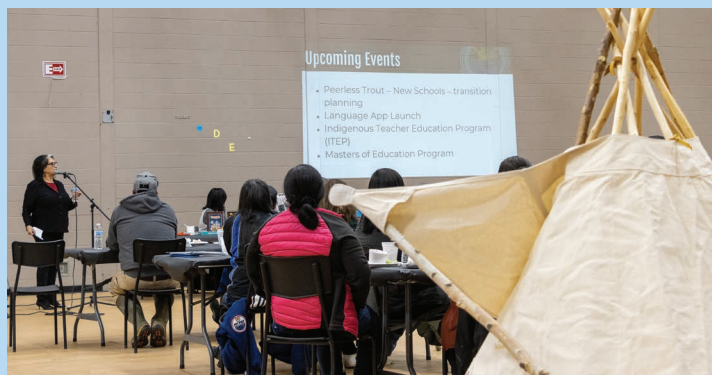
# Community Information Sessions

## *Your Education Authority*

Community information sessions were held at each KTCEA school so that we can better communicate with each community. The community information sessions had booths from each of KTCEA's programs and services. The programs and services can be used by any KTCEA students and our specialists are happy to help provide them. The community information sessions also had a healthy supper from the cafeteria cooks that everyone was welcome to eat!

Dr. Daphne Mai'Stoina, KTCEA Superintendent, or Pearl Calahasen, KTCEA Deputy Superintendent, were happy to give a presentation on KTCEA's history, what KTCEA is doing now, and the future plans for KTCEA.

Some people were lucky enough to win prizes, just for coming to the session! We look forward to meeting more people face-to-face in future community information sessions.





KTCEA staff, including principals, teachers, educational assistants, and more, went to training at Clarence Jaxcox School in Loon River First Nation on November 28, 2019.

Dr. Kevin wâsakâyâsiw Lewis gave a speech to start the day. He is a nêhiyaw (Plains Cree) professor and writer from Ministikwan Lake Cree Nation in Saskatchewan. He is best known for speaking out for land-based and Cree language teaching. He is the founder of the kâniyâsihk Culture Camps, a nonprofit organization. Dr. Lewis talked about how important Cree language and Land-Based Learning is for students. KTCEA would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to Dr. Lewis for speaking to us.

## Professional Development Day 2019

### *Growth for Excellence*



The rest of the training day included short sessions on how KTCEA specialists provide programs and services in KTCEA schools. The sessions were:

- Traditional Games with Deen Flett and Bill Sewepagaham
- Cree language and Culture with Jason Bigcharles, Delores Cox, and Audrey Anderson;
- Speech and Language and Early Childhood Learning with Theresa Brown and Wendy Calahasen;
- High School and Career and Technology Services (CTS) with Gwena Cunningham and Paul Neethling;
- Literacy and Numeracy with Emma Anso and Dr. Tedman Onyango; and
- Operations and Maintenance with Marvin O'Brien and the O&M Specialists.



# Christmas Staff Gathering and Concerts

## Season's Greetings

KTCEA hosted its yearly Christmas Staff Gathering at Atikameg School on December 12, 2019. There was a delicious turkey dinner, gifts, and a one-women play by Michelle Thrush. Every teacher was given a Christmas gift for their hard work in making school a great place for KTC students. We love giving back to the people who make our schools wonderful places to learn. Lovermore Chiutsi, one of our excellent physical education teachers, was given an Award of Honor by KTCEA Sports for his coaching and contributions to the sports program. The extra time and care that he gives to students and to sports is special.



Michelle Thrush, a Gemini Award-winning Cree actress, put on a play for the staff called "Finding Your Inner Elder," where she talked about her *kokohm* and how finding your inner Elder can help you heal. We laughed, we cried, and then we laughed some more! She put on a great performance.

KTCEA schools put on Christmas Concerts for friends and families. The concerts had adorable singing by our younger students and some amazing singing from our older students! Good job to all of the teachers, students, and helpers who made the shows possible, and thanks to everyone who came to watch!





## **New Peerless Trout Schools Update** *Naming and Opening*

KTCEA is opening two new schools in Peerless Trout First Nation (PTFN). We are looking forward to opening the schools in September 2020 so that our students can enjoy the new facilities in a new school year. The new Peerless Lake School will also have a new name! PTFN community members wrote in to KTCEA and PTFN with their new school name suggestions. The name submissions were creative and many included stories about the rich history of Peerless Lake. PTFN community members will have a chance to vote for their favourite name, so if you received a ballot in the mail be sure to select a name and submit your vote! The votes will be counted by PTFN Chief and Council.

The grand opening for both schools will be in August 2020 and will also serve as a kick off for Treaty Days. Come with your appetites and be ready to have some fun—the day will include a Treaty Day Parade, supper, a fireworks show, and more. We hope to see you there!

## **Acknowledgements**

KTCEA would like to thank Canadian Natural Resources (CNRL) for the generous \$3000 donation to the new Peerless-Trout First Nation schools.

We would also like to thank the Red Earth Lodge for their generous \$5,000 donation, which KTCEA has used to purchase new sports equipment.