



İLΔ· ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ·
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ
ᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁᄁ

mâmawi acimostâkîwi
masinahikan

COMMUNITY REPORT
2023/24



GILBERT OKEMOW
Chief, Peerless Trout First Nation



JULIANNE NOSKIYE
Councillor, Peerless Trout First Nation



IVAN SAWAN
Chief, Loon River First Nation



CODY LETENDRE
Councillor, Loon River First Nation



DARREN AUGER
Councillor, Whitefish Lake First Nation #459



CLIFFORD LABOUCAN
Councillor, Whitefish Lake First Nation #459

ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ ᐃᐃᐃ ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ

mâdawaci kâ-takâhkipayik

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS



ELDERS WORK WITH KTCEA AND NRLC ON CURRICULUM

The KTCEA Elders Advisory Council, Student Services, Curriculum & Instruction, Cree Language & Culture teams, educators, and NRLC met in Peace River to work on the curriculum. They focused on bringing Nehiyaw Ways of Knowing and Being into the new Grades 1-3 Science Curriculum, Grades 4-6 Numeracy, and English Language Arts & Literature (ELAL). This shows how important Indigenous knowledge, culture, and history are, and it builds pride in KTCEA schools. Their hard work has helped put KTCEA on the map with other educators.



CREE LANGUAGE SYMPOSIUM

The KTCEA Cree Language Symposium, held in partnership with NRLC and Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia, had a great turnout of Elders and community members from KTCEA nations. Attendees were invited to share their thoughts on language instruction in the community and offer suggestions on how to best support Cree language learning in KTC. Speakers shared their experiences in overcoming challenges in their language programs and discussed the important roles of Elders, community members, and teachers in language revitalization. One speaker focused on Indigenous ways of knowing and being, emphasizing the need to integrate local knowledge, stories, and personal narratives into the curriculum, and linking land-based learning activities to strengthen language and culture.



ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

We are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Lexis Savard and Trevor Gladue from Atikameg School, who represented KTCEA at the prestigious Arctic Winter Games in Alaska. This esteemed event brings together athletes from northern and Arctic regions, promoting both athletic excellence and cultural exchange.

We are especially proud to announce that Lexis earned a Bronze medal in Pole Push and a Silver medal in Hand Games, while Trevor delivered an impressive performance throughout the competition. Congratulations to both Lexis and Trevor for their remarkable accomplishments!



NEW TEACHER ORIENTATION

At the beginning of the year, we held our new teacher orientation to welcome all the new teachers for the 2023-2024 school year. Each day featured presentations, games, and activities designed to help them get to know KTCEA better.



KTCEA STUDENT NAMED TO MINISTER'S YOUTH COUNCIL (MYC) FOR THE 2023/24 TERM

Tanisha Nahachick, a grade 11 student from Little Buffalo School, has been selected as the KTCEA representative for the prestigious Minister's Youth Council (MYC) for the 2023-2024 term. She was chosen from among 39 outstanding students out of 180 applicants. In addition, Tanisha was invited to speak at the College of Alberta School Superintendents Conference (CASS), marking another impressive achievement.



STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

KTCEA held its first student mental health summit on November 3, 2023. Six elders participated in the event and their table was available to students throughout the day. There was an overview of the summit and Indigenous wellness circles by Alexia Miron and Sam Kahil from Jack.org. Afternoon breakout sessions included presenters from KTC Health, KTCEA, AHS, and Jack.org. The day closed with a dinner and keynote speaker, Cody Demarais from Limitless Gear. The event was sponsored by ATB.

KTCEA FOOD SERVICES MANAGER FEATURED IN NATIONAL MAGAZINE

"Reclaiming Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Security in Canada" – Our Food Services Manager, Clifford Gladue, is featured in the nationally distributed magazine, Winds of Change. The article highlights career and educational opportunities for Indigenous people in science, technology, engineering, and math. Clifford shares his efforts to revive traditional food practices and promote nutrient-rich meals sourced from hunting, moving away from processed foods. We are proud to be an example of Indigenous initiatives reclaiming food sovereignty.

Reclaiming Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Security in Canada

By Patrick Quinn





LAND-BASED LEARNING WINTER CAMP 2023

From November 28th to December 1st, students from grades 7, 8, and 9, selected by our schools, embarked on an unforgettable journey to Mihkowapikwaniy Camp, where they engaged in hands-on learning focused on winter survival skills. Over four days, students learned to care for themselves and others on the land while participating in a wide range of activities, such as exploring local watersheds with the Slave Lake and Athabasca Watershed Council, experiencing equine therapy, and playing with Everactive Schools. They also learned about local fur-bearing animals and their Cree names, listened to stories from Elders, practiced snaring techniques, stargazed, played traditional games, and explored their creativity through watercolor painting. A big thank you to everyone who made this camp a success—we're so proud of our students for embracing this rich learning experience!



2ND ANNUAL KTCEA REGIONAL SPELLING BEE

Sanctioned by the Spelling Bee of Canada, the KTCEA Spelling Bee took place on Tuesday, March 26 at Red Earth Creek Hall. Students from all KTCEA schools participated, and the first-place winners from each category will head to Toronto for the finals on May 26th. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the supporters from each nation, as well as Nufloors Slave Lake, TC Energy, Road Runner Leasing, TAs Slave Lake, Lesser Slave Lake Watershed Council, Vanderwell, Northern Lakes College, Slave Lake Friendship Center, Creating Communicators, Functional Therapy, Sensory Solutions, Xcel Energy, and Royal Bank of Canada for their generous contributions to make this event a success.

Our winners are:

Primary (Age 6-8)

- 1ST Joel Laboucan, Elizabeth Quintal (\$500)
- 2ND Titus Raj, Atikameg School (\$350)
- 3^R Daydence Auger, Cadotte Lake School (\$250)

Junior (Age 9-11)

- 1ST Nhyira Yeboah, Cadotte Lake (\$500)
- 2ND Randall Flett, Cadotte Lake (\$350)
- 3^R Tristan Whitehead, Kateri (\$250)

Intermediate (Age 12-14)

- 1ST Kyle Oar, EQS (\$500)
- 2ND Elijah Wilson, Kateri (\$350)
- 3RD Delaney Nezcroche (\$250)



KTCEA COMMUNITY MEETINGS

We held our 2023 Community Meetings in each KTCEA Nation, which were a great success! We presented our report, handed out the 2022-2023 Community Report booklets, and shared a meal while engaging in meaningful table discussions. Attendees took part in a short survey, sharing valuable feedback with us. Everyone received a gas card (one per household), and we had some exciting door prizes, including an iPad. We're grateful to everyone who joined us and contributed to the discussions!



PRINCIPAL MABEL NOSKIYE AWARDED THE ALBERTA GRADUATE EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP (AGES)

Mabel Noskiye, our esteemed Principal of CJS, has just been awarded the Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship (AGES)! Her dedication and leadership at CJS over the past 5 years with KTCEA have made a significant impact. We are incredibly proud of her achievement and look forward to seeing how her continued efforts will shape the future. Mabel's award is a true reflection of her hard work and passion for education. Congratulations, Mabel!



HIGH PRAIRIE SCHOOL DIVISION HOSTS COLLABORATIVE WILDFIRE TABLETOP EXERCISE

On March 25, the High Prairie School Division hosted a collaborative Wildfire Tabletop Exercise to enhance proactive communication and planning among various organizations in preparation for potential wildfire events. Participants included Holy Family Catholic Regional Division, Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority, Living Waters Separate School Division, and Northland School Division. The exercise focused on resource sharing, strategic planning, and standardizing processes for messaging, busing, and operations during wildfire alerts or evacuation scenarios. These collaborative efforts will strengthen preparedness, improve safety, and ensure consistent protocols for students, families, and staff as we approach the warmer, drier season.



CREE SPELLING BEE PILOT PROJECT AT ATIKAMEG SCHOOL

Atikameg School hosted a Cree Spelling Bee challenge as a pilot project, with 29 enthusiastic participants from Grades 1 to 9.

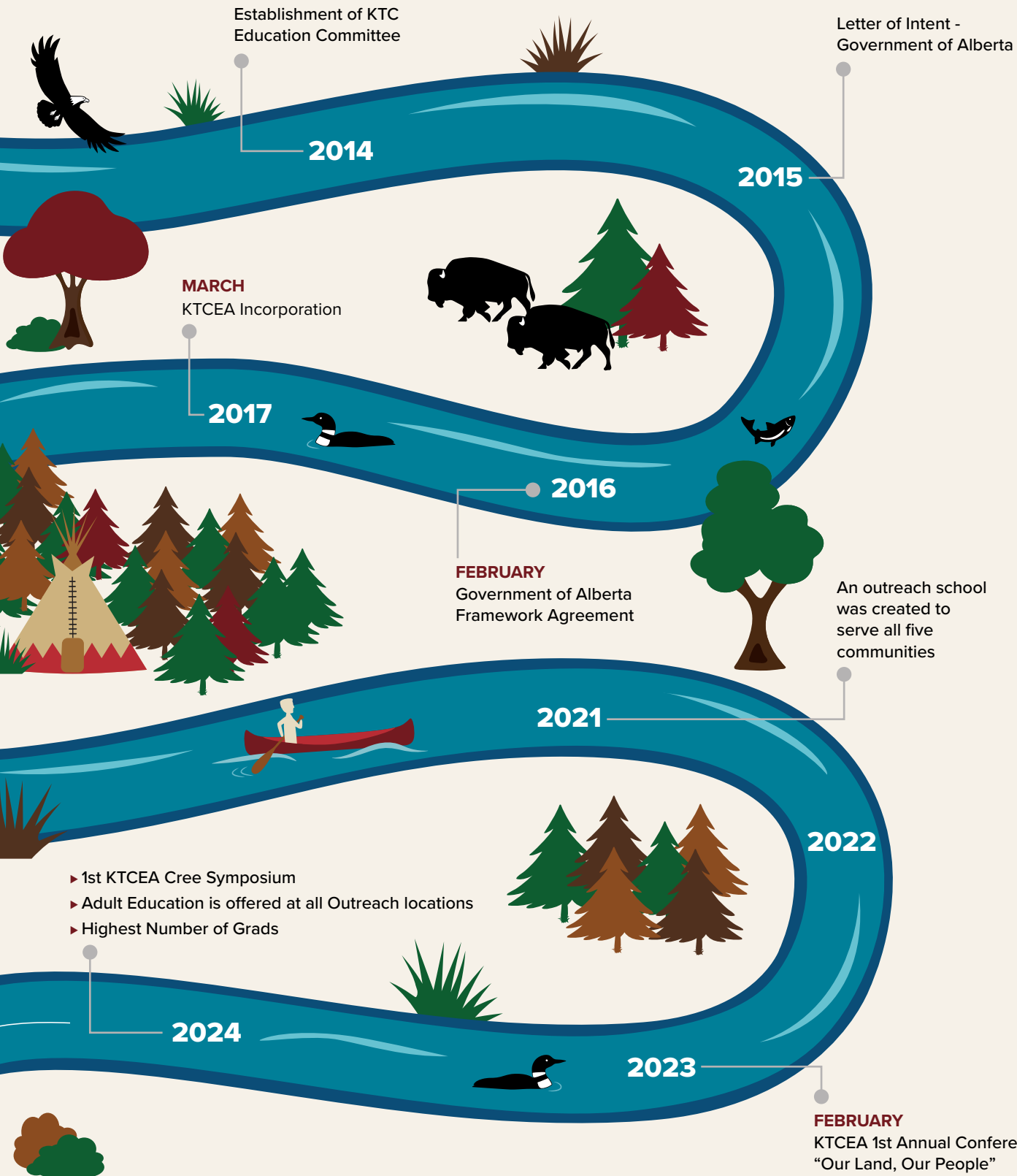
The winners were:

	Grade 1-3	Grade 4-6	Grade 7-9
1 ST	Titus Raj	Kloe Calliou-Tallman	Halle Nahachick
2 ND	Taija Laboucan	Jordan Seeseewatum	Martin Anderson
3 RD	Liam Laboucan	Akeelah Anderson	Leonard Oar



YOUTH SYMPOSIUM/KTC CAREER FAIR

KTC partnered with KTCEA to host a two-day career showcase at the Back Lakes Recreational Centre on May 14-15, 2024. This event was created to offer high school students and community members valuable insights into various career paths and opportunities within the nations. KASP, a motivational speaker, facilitator, and hip-hop artist, emceed the event. The first day featured a Youth Palooza with interactive activities and sessions, while the second day concluded with a banquet, celebrating the connections and discoveries made during the showcase.





KTCEA Outreach School: 7-12

Serves students from all KTC Nations.

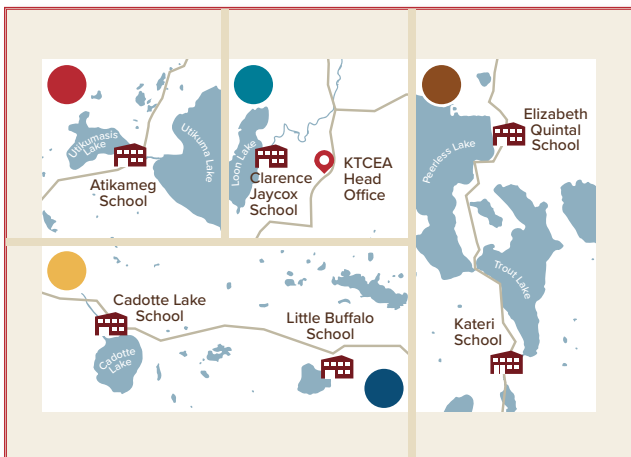
Total student population: 80

Locations: Outreach is available in all KTCEA communities with flexible, online, and in-person learning.

Outreach Principal/Principal Mentor: Enrique Toledo

Email: enrique.toledo@ktcea.ca

Phone: 780-316-9119



2023-2024 HIGHLIGHT

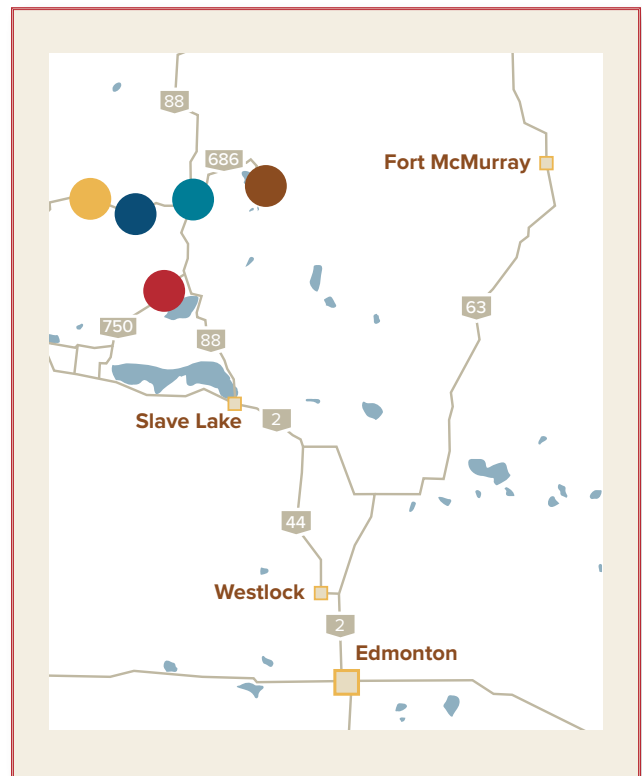


LAUNCH OF A NEW KTCEA WEBSITE

Our new website is here to better serve our community with a fresh look, easier navigation, and a wealth of resources right at your fingertips. Whether you're searching for the latest KTCEA news, events, or educational materials, you'll find it all on **KTCEA.ca**.

Stay up-to-date with our events calendar, explore a variety of educational resources, and read the latest news and announcements. Plus, you can easily reach out to us through our contact page.

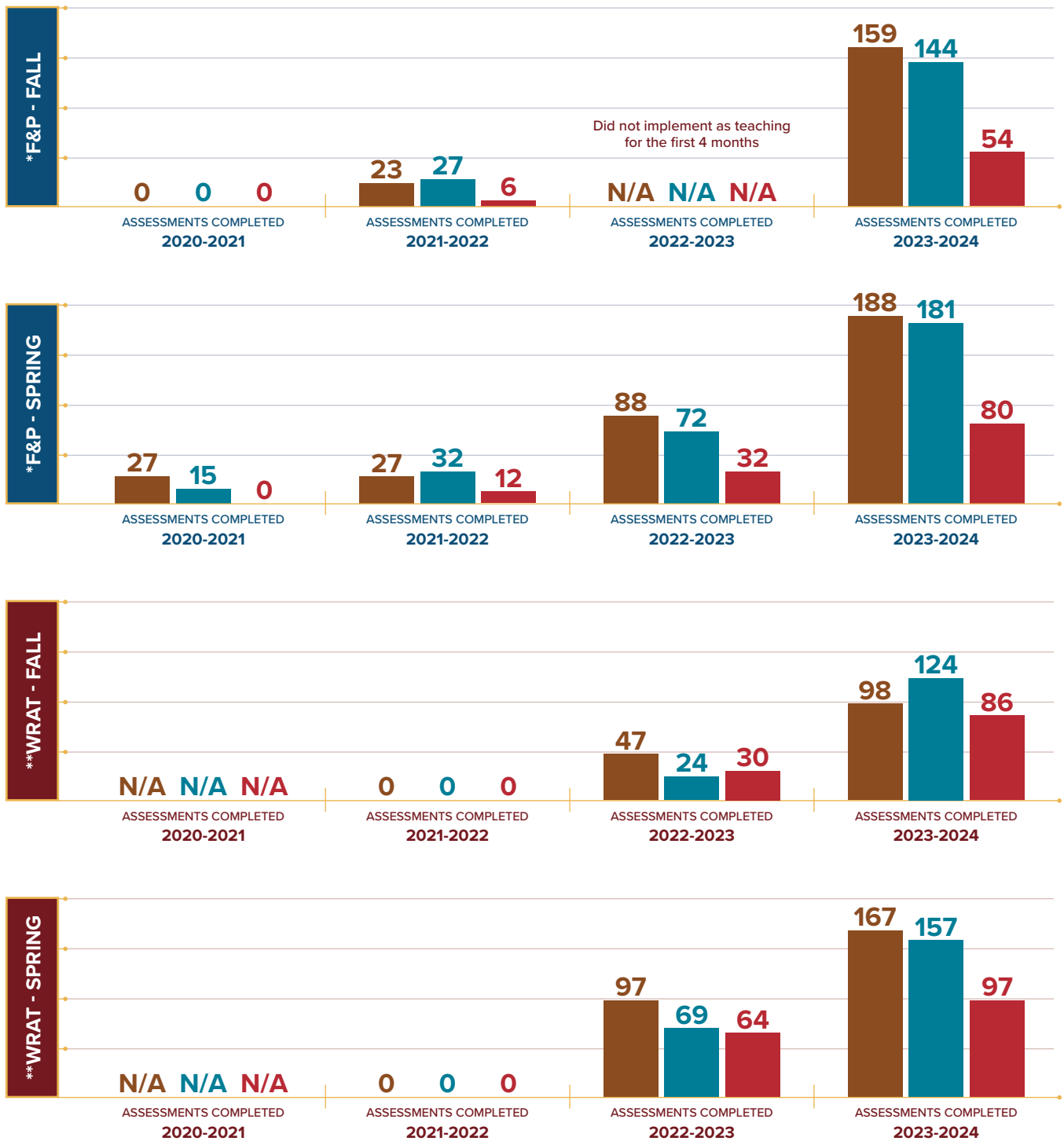
Visit **KTCEA.ca** today to explore the new features, and we look forward to hearing your feedback as we continue to support our amazing community!







Assessment Attendance Growth



*Fountas & Pinnell is a reading assessment for K - Grade 8. It allows teachers to learn about each student's skills and develop strategies to help them in the classroom. This assessment lets teachers know their word decoding strategies and comprehension of the book.

**WRAT5: This is the Wide Range Achievement Test (5th edition). This test gives a brief measure of a student's reading, spelling, and math for ages 5 through 85+.

This means since the COVID pandemic ended, it's been great to see more students attending school, community members supporting their community school, and teachers learning about their students' strengths. Teachers can now provide "just right" instruction and support to help students grow in their studies, social skills, and confidence. This is so important, and we want to thank all the families, students, and community members for making education a priority.

Fine Arts

Fine Arts programming is alive and well in our schools and has many faces. Some schools have taken advantage of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts grant and have had Trickster Theatre in their schools. Other schools have invited a puppeteer, while other schools have guitar programming. All programming is beneficial to the students as the school community is invited in for a performance in the school. An amazing feat for our students and school community as Fine Arts not only encourages students to step out of their comfort zone but to deliver and create a performance or showcase a piece. Hence, a new type of learning is envisioned and students find other ways to share their voice and express themselves.

Many of our schools have also taken advantage of sewing equipment purchased for their schools. Ribbon skirt making has been a popular way of Indigenizing learning opportunities. All the while, utilizing local community resources first to teach students.

Our high school students are also provided opportunities to create their own Indigenous Arts during CTS programming in their respective schools. The arts are also offered at Land Based Learning camps and CTS camps.

On another note, Atikameg School was successful in receiving a grant of \$200,000.00. This grant has offered women, girls and 2S+ people an opportunity to not only learn about entrepreneurship but also create Indigenous pieces to be sold at a store-front both virtual and in person at the school. Students will benefit from this grant as they learn to build a website, business programming, creation of Indigenous art based on cultural teachings, leather making, create signage, photography, and how to run a retail business. Cultural teachings and creating pieces

will take place in school in the evenings and during school hours. All women, girls and 2S+ people are all encouraged to participate in this project, and benefit from the monetary gains in their merchandise created. The project has begun and CTS courses are being offered to students. Also, a multi-year grant has been applied for with input from school leaders to echo this project.

Our high school students are also provided opportunities to create their own Indigenous Arts during CTS programming in their respective schools. The arts are also offered at Land Based Learning camps and CTS camps.



To reinforce our Cree instructors' teaching processes and increase student successes, we obtained a grant from Heritage Canada which we used to contract Learning Bird to work in partnership with us to develop teaching materials. Our KTCEA Cree language team and Learning Bird worked together to build a database of local Cree conversations. Local Elders were consulted, and their stories were recorded. That information was organized and transformed into stimulating, entertaining, multimedia tools for learning. The result is 49 illustrated conversations in Cree and language videos of animated images with community members' voices. Education guides are provided advising how to use the videos and printed materials. All these materials will be made accessible on the KTCEA website. The project was so exciting that funding applications have been submitted to hopefully create more locally inspired resources.

To continuously build quality Cree language instruction and support community fluency online access to a Cree language course was offered in May and June 2024. Chromebooks and earphones were purchased for language instructors and a trip is also planned to purchase more Cree language resource materials for schools. To further explore best practices a team from KTCEA is also planning a trip to Onion Lake School to observe and learn from their Cree Immersion Program, as we build towards Cree immersion.



Our KTCEA Cree language team and Learning Bird worked together to build a DATABASE OF LOCAL CREE CONVERSATIONS. Local Elders were consulted, and their stories were recorded.



ᓕᓕᓐ ᓐᓴᓕᓐ ᓐᓴᓕᓐ

sakâwi-pimâcihowin / askiyîhk
kiskinohamâkîwin

Land Based Learning

Land Based Learning is the foundation of education in KTCEA schools and helps to engage students in relevant, meaningful learning within a Cree context in their own communities. Land Based Learning is one of the four pillars in the KTCEA Common Consistent Curriculum and is used in all grades and across all subjects.



Land Based Learning is the foundation of education in KTCEA schools and helps to engage students in relevant, meaningful learning within a Cree context in their own communities.



What we accomplished:

This past year was the first year that our Land Based Learning specialist Chelsea Cattroll joined KTCEA. She was a former teacher at Peerless Lake school and was heavily involved with past Land Based Learning camps through the KTC- NSD partnership. She has created and led LBL programs across Alberta, and is noted for tailoring programming to the unique needs of each community. In the fall, she assessed what resources and assets were in each community.

The first KTCEA camp of the school year was held in November for Grades 7-8. The theme was winter survival skills. The enrollment at the camp was 52 students, full camp capacity. Students did various team building activities, skinning squirrels, Tracking animals, Equine Therapy, Teachings on watershed management, fur bearing animals in Alberta, nature art and stories from local elders.

Dogsledding historically in this area was used as a means of transportation. In January we brought Dogsledding to each school. Eager students and teachers had the opportunity to either ride in the sled or to be the driver. A goal of bringing the dogs to each school was to teach the various skills required to keep animals and their history in the area. This experience was well received by students and staff.



In February, we held a Moosehide tanning camp. Students learned how to process hides from the flesh stage all the way to the final softening stage and smoke within the week. Students were able to see the hide progress during the week and were able to experience frost scraping. During the camp students were also able to witness the release of the bison at Little Buffalo.

In March, we held the girls in sport camp that was targeted towards girls in grade 7-12. The camp combined both modern ways to be physically active with the mini volleyball camp, self defense in jiu-jitsu, soca-fit dancing as well as traditional ways to be active with dogsledding and sessions with Nike S7 rep Kendra. The girls were able to experience different ways of achieving physical activity through various outlets.

In April, Taxidermy from Dave Booth Taxidermy was distributed to schools. The hope is that students and staff will be able to utilize them to teach about various fur bearing animals and fish in Alberta, to connect to various curricular outcomes, or to use as props for storytelling.

In May, Chelsea supported staff and students with connecting learning from the February moosehide camp to all ages of students at Atikameg school. She was supported by LBL teacher Darrell Fors and Herman Sutherland. Students that attended the camp were able to showcase their skills and help instruct students new to hide tanning. It was a great success to see the knowledge

gained at camp be continued on within the school year. Great job Atikameg! During this month, a camp that was scheduled had to be cancelled due to instructor availability, we hope to bring this camp back this year.

A professional development camp was also held for the Land Based Learning leads and Cree instructors to become certified Paddle Canada Instructors. This year there will be paddling opportunities in the fall that schools can sign up for.



How are we supporting Literacy?

KTCEA's Schools participated in Family Literacy Week: Literacy weeks were held in each school from February to April with school-based events, book fairs, take-home books, literacy celebrations and prizes, storytelling, Land Based Learning, contests, and more.

We continued with the Summer reading programs, in partnership with United For Literacy, in July and August 2024. This took place in 5 Nations, with after-school or during the day, club programming in Little Buffalo, Kateri and Atikameg. Over 30 students, aged 5-12 years old, participated. Local staff were hired to run the camps and provide meals.

Summer Reading packages were also available in all nations, as Summer is often a time to visit family and friends, take part in Pow Wows, along with Treaty Days. Students could bring writing and reading books home to continue their love of learning.

Summer reading packages from Mathletics were also sent home with students to access and use over the summer.

Students had access to Reading Eggs, Math Seeds and Mathletics, all summer. Fun and engaging online games that promote literacy and numeracy foundations, growth and skill development.



Literacy weeks were held in each school from February to April





The winners from each of three categories attended the final national competition on May 26th in Toronto for the Spelling Bee of Canada Championship which was broadcasted on CBC sports.

Second Annual KTCEA Spelling Bee

KTCEA held its second annual spelling bee March 26, 2024. Students from all KTCEA schools participated. The event was sanctioned by the Spelling Bee of Canada. The winners from each of three categories (Primary ages 6-8, Junior ages 9-11, and Intermediate 12-14) attended the final national competition on May 26th in Toronto for the Spelling Bee of Canada Championship which was broadcasted on CBC sports. Our kids had an amazing experience traveling across the country and touring Toronto with their chaperones.

How are we supporting Numeracy?

During the 2023-2024 year, all KTCEA schools were encouraged to submit proposals (outlining Pi-related activities to inspire and engage students in learning math to receive \$500 towards their Pi Week (mathematical constant that is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter) activities in March. Elizabeth Quintal School submitted their proposal and received the incentive funds. Teachers sent in pictures of students participating in a variety of Pi-related Math activities and contests; the engagement and enjoyment was evident. Well done, EQS! We hope all schools will encourage teachers to participate in the coming year.

Collaborative Math Groups became a focus this year, after Numeracy Leads agreed that there needed to be more collaboration between schools and similar grade teachers, to share challenges and best practices. Teacher groups

(K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12) were scheduled for monthly Google Meets. Although it was slow to start, primary and junior high teachers began to develop some great discussions and helped each other to solve common issues/challenges. Those who participated learned some great new strategies and began to build a network of colleagues to support them into the coming year.

In August of 2024, after being presented with some options, Principals decided to move forward with the Key Math 3 (Numeracy Assessment). This assessment provides for digital scoring capability, identifies concepts students struggle with and prescribes intervention strategies/resources. Training is scheduled for September 26, 2024 (for all grade 1-9 teachers) and the first round of assessments will be administered throughout October.



Strategic Plan Item

“Hold monthly student forums to better understand the learning needs of students across KTCEA”

Youth Forums

Schools were asked to identify 6-8 students (grades 6-12) to represent and be the voice for their school. Four schools signed up, two schools participated and only one was involved in all three sessions - Kateri. Students looked at the positive and negative aspects of their educational experience and how they impacted their attitudes about school. They talked about education and learning as a Holistic experience, encompassing areas of physical, social, emotional, spiritual and intellectual wellbeing. Students were able to look at the traits/skills that made each of them who they are today and linked various supports their school and teachers provided. They also identified supports that were missing, but integral to their success. To wrap up, students identified traits and skills they felt they would like to have in 10-15 years, in order to be “successful” in life and in the careers they wanted. There was discussion around how the school/teachers could better support this journey. The students were very insightful and clear on what they would like to see and how it could positively impact their growth (Holistically). Youth Forums will continue for the 2024-2025 year.



Students identified traits and skills they felt they would like to have in 10-15 years, in order to be “successful” in life and in the careers they wanted.



Grow Our Own: Career Fair & Youth Symposium

On May 14-15, KTCEA Learning Services and Academic Success partnered with KTC ISETP to host a Career Fair and Youth Symposium, engaging over 211 junior and senior high students. Students from all of our schools attended, as did a large number of students from Red Earth School. The event featured 15 local businesses showcasing career and employment opportunities and information. Motivational speaker and Hip Hop artist KASP provided entertainment and delivered an inspiring message, also performing at the youth social and banquet. The symposium offered students valuable career insights while fostering community spirit and engagement.



OVER 1,200 CLINICAL HOURS WERE PROVIDED to students in KTCEA schools in 2023-24

Wellness Workers at our schools provided psychosocial support to students and promoted mental health initiatives in the schools. This increased awareness for both staff and students to reduce stigma and increase resilience with their mental health.

Sensory spaces that provide a safe area for students were completed at Atikameg, Clarence Jaycox and Kateri Schools. Art walls, mood lighting, glow in the dark carpets and Bluetooth music create a healing safe space for self-regulation and mental health.

Workshops: Workshops provided training at all our schools. Our clinical services team, educational consultants and external providers like KTC health gave workshops in the schools for both students and staff on topics like vaping, bullying, autism, classroom management and behaviour, self-regulation and classroom routines.

Mental Health First Aid was offered both virtually and in person to our staff, and monthly professional learning circles delivered Parabytes for paraprofessionals for all KTCEA support staff. Inclusive Education Week PD day saw all KTCEA's clinicians come out with tables and information about their services. They also provided workshops on self-regulation, growth mindset, equine assisted learning, literacy, and positive mental health in the classroom.

Student Mental Health Summit: Partnering with Jack.org and local mental health providers, November 2023 there was a Student Mental Health Summit, sponsored by ATB. Elders were in attendance, and over 120 students and staff attended. There was a keynote talk from Jack.org's Indigenous Liaison, and then breakout sessions in the afternoon. Students rotated through sessions on healthy relationships, campfire teachings and bannock on a stick, art therapy, healthy living and nutrition, and becoming a mental health champion. The event ended with a keynote talk by Cody Demarais who shared his inspirational story over dinner with staff, students and community members.

Elders in Residence: Principals invited elders to be a part of the school community. Learning services supported the elder in-residence program, where Principals invited elders in for special lunches, presentations, traditional and land-based teachings and relationship building.

Community Engagement: Inclusive Education Week brings Wâhkôhtowin to the community through events at all the schools. Bingos, feasts, outdoor activities, Cree scavenger hunts and parent engagement occurred throughout four days. The 2nd Annual Virtual KTCEA's Got Talent, not-your-regular-talent-show was a huge success with 60 entries from students and parents alike, including art, performance, science, math and land based skills, with 4 categories of finalists for our top three grand prizes.

Learning Gaps: KTCEA held its Second Annual Spelling Bee. 45 students competed in three age categories for cash prizes and trophies for the top three finalists. Sanctioned by the Spelling Bee of Canada, the winners from the three categories traveled to Toronto for the finals in May 2023. We also had educational consultants in our classroom who developed programming for successful high school transition, with increased awareness of positive classroom supports in our classrooms.

WRAT-5: A standardized assessment was given by teachers to their students at the beginning of the year and again in June. This helped teachers with planning for targeted teaching to reach students where they are at, and to evaluate what worked and where improvements were needed for next year.

ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ

mîtaŵîwin isîhcikîwina

Sports Programs

Our goal for the 2023–2024 school year was to further strengthen the sports programs by increasing participation, expanding our range of activities, and deepening community engagement. We focused on continuing the momentum from last year and making sports more inclusive for all students, while also enhancing the competitive aspects of our events.

Achievements and Growth

We achieved significant milestones this year, with 80% of our planned events successfully hosted. Participation continued to grow across all grades, with several new accomplishments that highlight our expanding sports culture:

- **Battle Band Success:** We took six teams to the Battle Band competition this year, marking a major step in expanding our volleyball program. The students' enthusiasm and performance were commendable, and this success has inspired even more interest in volleyball across the schools.
- **Arctic Winter Games:** Two of our students had the incredible opportunity to participate in the Arctic Winter Games in Alaska. Their participation not only showcased their talent on a larger stage but also inspired many of their peers to strive for similar opportunities. We are planning to take more students to the next Arctic Winter Games, helping them gain exposure and experience in international competitions.
- **Community Engagement:** We continued to prioritize community involvement by hosting sports events across various communities. Our sports program is increasingly becoming the foundation for building school spirit and culture, with community members actively encouraging and supporting student-athletes at all events.



Challenges and Areas for Improvement

This year brought its share of challenges, including weather-related cancellations such as the Beach Volleyball Tournament. Additionally, while participation has increased, there is still room for more consistent involvement from some schools. Our goal is to further encourage participation by addressing any barriers and providing more opportunities for students to engage in sports clinics and training sessions.

Looking Forward

Looking ahead to the 2024–2025 school year, we have set ambitious goals. One of our key objectives is for our schools to participate in the zones organized by the North West Alberta Student's Athletic Association (NWSAAA). Additionally, we plan to offer more sports clinics to help students refine their skills and prepare for competitive play.

Our sports programs will continue to be a vital foundation for fostering school spirit and culture. With the ongoing support of the community, we aim to encourage all our student-athletes to excel, both on and off the field. By expanding our competitive reach and enhancing our training opportunities, we are confident that the coming year will see even greater success for our sports teams.

How we are supporting high school completion

We provided high school career counseling and coaching for high school students in 2023–2024. This work included transition meetings to review student profiles, discuss credits, and provide access to high school handbooks.

Our new High School Career Counseling Specialist took over the role in April and began to monitor grade 12 students who were on track to graduate in 2023–2024, to ensure they knew which credits and courses they needed to complete, and that all credits were entered into the student information system. We also offered incentives to students which included grad photos, grad rings, computers, backpacks, hoodies, and monetary incentives.

A career symposium was held in May where a number of local employers, educational institutions and a motivational speaker engaged with our students.

Northern Lakes College visited our secondary students at schools and also took part with an information booth at our career symposium. Atikameg students visited NLC and took part in hands-on seminars in fabrication.

Atikameg and Kateri schools visited the U of A, Macewan University and NAIT.

To encourage leadership in our schools, KTCEA continued with the Nîkânîwin Kîhçiyîhtâkosiwin/Honouring Leadership Award, sponsored by our partners MNP and Emery Jamieson LLP. Five students, one from each community, were awarded \$600 for demonstrating outstanding leadership qualities within the school and community.

High School PLCs were held for teachers to share strategies, resources, and professional learning for high school. Student incentive funds were also provided to each school to support local activities with students and families.



Post-secondary Collaboration

KTCEA has begun to foster a relationship with Olds College and hopes to offer Olds College dual credit classes online during the 2024-2025 school year.

Northern Lakes College visited our secondary students at schools and also took part with an information booth at our career symposium. Atikameg students visited NLC and took part in hands-on seminars in fabrication.

In 2024 the Nîsôhkamâtotân Centre at NAIT, First people house at U of A, and kihêw waciston at Macewan University were visited by KTCEA students and leaders.

18 Students took part in the Carpentry and Welding camp at Kateri School in partnership with Northern Lakes College (NLC).

KTCEA collaborated with many school districts in Northern Alberta, offering a virtual Aboriginal Youth Career Workshop, which highlighted many of our nations, leaders, and changemakers in our communities.



**65 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
 earned a combined total of 209
 CREDITS at the High School Camp.**

Outreach School Program

In September 2021, KTCEA launched an Outreach School program that offers courses in an alternative setting for students aged 12 to 21. Providing an outreach program was in response to requests from the community and the KTCEA Board of Directors to provide options for students not currently attending school.

- Outreach provides an alternative option for students to return to school to upgrade their marks, complete high school courses, or for those who prefer to attend school outside of a regular school setting.
- In the 2021/2022 school year, the program offered distance learning for students in all KTCEA communities in grades 7–12. The program also offered in-person learning at the Youth Centre Building location in Atikameg.
- In the 2022/2023 school year, the program offered distance learning for students in all KTCEA communities in grades 7–12. The program also offered in-person learning at the Youth Centre Building location in Atikameg and the old LRC location in Loon River.

- For the 2023-2024 school year, the Outreach School Program was available in all KTCEA communities and offered Adult Education free for anyone over the age of 21 who ordinarily resides in KTC First Nations. It includes a variety of options for students including full-time, part-time, in-class, online, or hybrid learning.

What we achieved:

- By creating safe and welcoming learning environments and atmospheres, KTCEA Outreach Schools have enabled adult learners to explore their unique learning needs without fearing shame, stigma, or judgment. Outreach Schools have played a vital role in providing learners with access to information, services, or learning opportunities they need to be successful. Many students have experienced success when they have had some element of blended learning, face-to-face interaction with their teacher through required drop-ins at the Outreach schools. As a result, 15 students completed their Alberta High School Diploma with KTCEA Outreach Schools during the 2023-2024 school year.

Providing an outreach program was in response to requests from the community and the KTCEA Board of Directors.



KTCEA Nîkânîwin Kîhcîyhtâkosiwin/Honouring Leadership Award

The KTCEA Nîkânîwin Kîhcîyhtâkosiwin/Honouring Leadership Award program continued in the 2023-2024 school year. This annual award of \$600 is awarded to one student from each Nation who demonstrates leadership in their school, at home, and in the community.

Who is eligible?

Students from Grades 6 to 12 who attend a KTCEA school regularly and meet the award criteria.

Annual Award: One \$600 award for a student in each Nation and a plaque.

Nîkânîwin Kîhcîyhtâkosiwin Honouring Leadership Award 2024 Recipients

Loon River First Nation,
Delaney Auger

Whitefish Lake First Nation,
Leonard Oar

Peerless Trout First Nation,
Fayanna Okemow

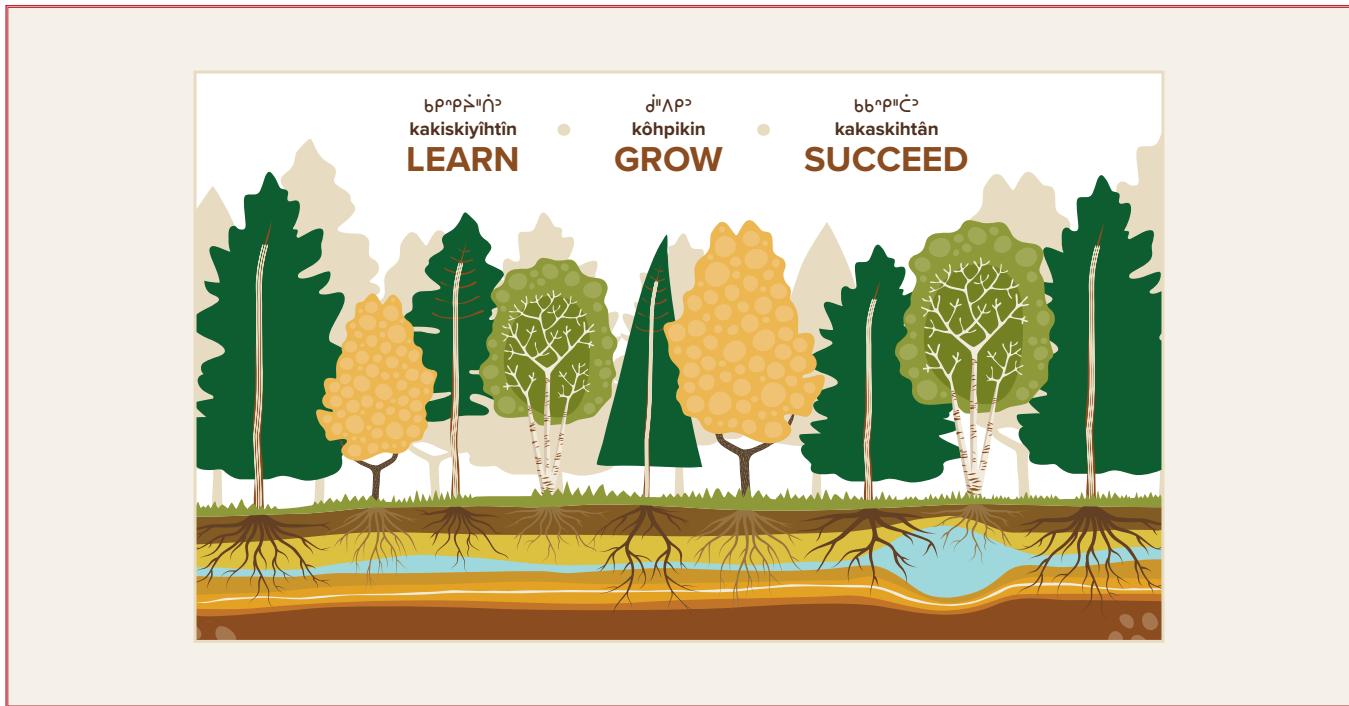
Lubicon Lake First Nation,
Logan Noskiye

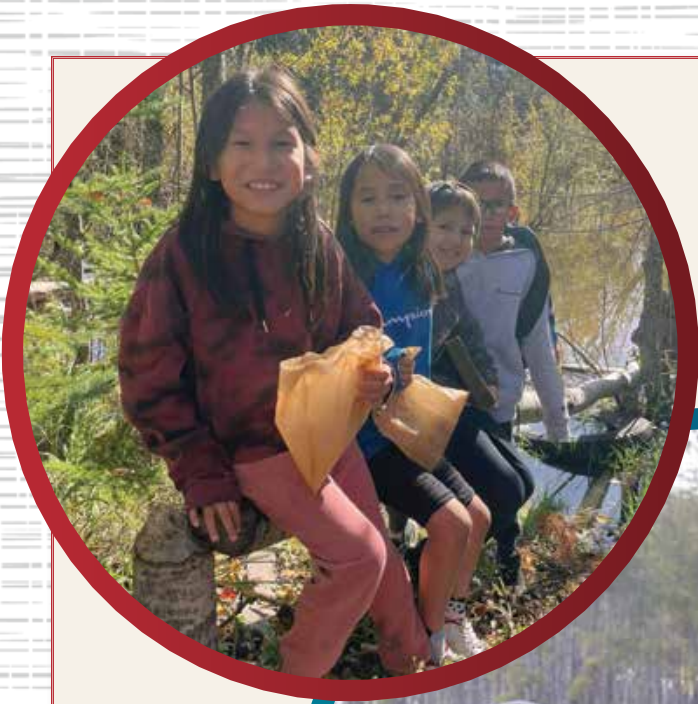
Woodland Cree First Nation,
Justine Carifelle

Adult Education

KTCEA began work in 2023 to be able to offer adult education for everyone in KTCEA communities starting in the 2023-2024 school year. The KTCEA Outreach school locations in each community offer adult education programming for adults currently not attending school or those who wish to complete or upgrade high school courses in an alternate setting for ages 21 and older. There is no age limit

In the 2023-2024 school year, Outreach School offered Adult Education to everyone in KTC Nations over the age of 21









okimawapiwin/kaskihtawin.

An effectively managed and governed education authority.

ᓂᓂᓂᓂ ᓂ <Γ"Δ' 7ᓐ Δ.ᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ

sôniyâw kâ-pamihiht mîna wiyascikîwina

Financial and Capital Planning

KTCEA is committed to the responsible management, stewardship, and planning of all financial and capital assets for the delivery of K-12 education in KTCEA schools. KTCEA provides regular financial updates to the Board of Directors at regular board meetings. The Board of Directors approves all Financial Reports.

KTCEA AUDIT

The KTCEA Audit is completed from August to October each year.

KTCEA's Audits can be found on our website at KTCEA.ca.

KTCEA is committed to fiscal responsibility and all administrative procedures are built to align with Board priorities and ensure accountability. These can be found on the KTCEA website:

KTCEA.ca/about/administrative-procedures





okimawapiwin/kaskihtawin awiyak kanakateyimiht.

An organization staffed by well-trained KTC First Nations members—while attracting and retaining the best.

ì σ∩αΔ·"Ç·° ρC ρ∩σ"Ç·° ∆C∩^9∆·^

kâ-nitonawihtwâw kita kitinihtwâw otatoskîwak

Staff Retention

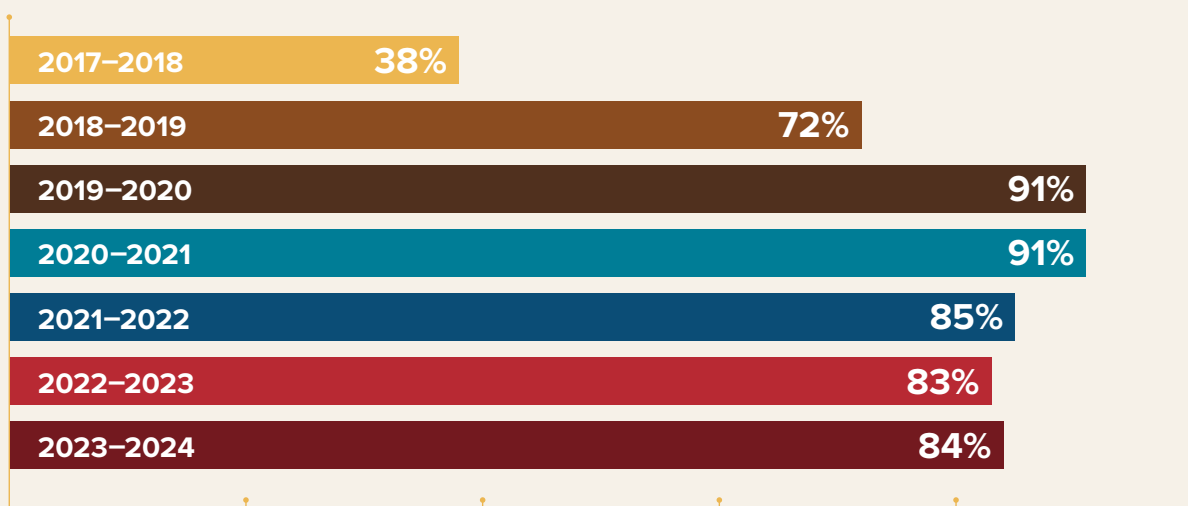
To encourage staff retention, the Human Resources team coordinated a series of opportunities for staff induction, recognition, and team building throughout the year.

In 2023-2024 KTCEA's teacher retention rate was 84% which was an increase from the previous year's rate.

Developing our staff and hiring locally helps to support staff retention through return service agreements and building local capacity.



Retention rate for teaching staff



KTCEA Annual Conference

KTCEA held its second annual conference, "Let's All Lead the Way," in Edmonton, inviting all staff, along with participants from other schools. The event was open to all positions within the Education Authority, offering sessions for teachers, education assistants, bus drivers, cooks, operations/facilities staff, and more. The conference aimed to provide relevant training and development to meet the needs of our students, staff, and communities.



Keynote speakers included:
Waneek Horn-Miller
 and **Chris Smeaton**

381
 participants

34
 sessions held

2
 keynote sessions

23
 sessions

5
 Elder led sessions
 (Elders Advisory
 Circle Members)

4
 separate sessions
 geared towards
 operations and
 maintenance staff
 (cooks, drivers,
 maintenance)

95%
 approval ratings based on completed
 surveys taken at the end of the conference.





ΔU ì ∇· ΔCδ"U↳x

itî kê-wî itakohtiyahk

ASSETS

LL"CA· Δ<Γ"Γbσ ÎLLΔ·
P^P_δ"ΔL>Δ·³

mamahtâwî apacihcikan mâmawi
kiskinohamâtowin

Information Technology

In today's digital age, ensuring robust network security is paramount for any organization. Our IT department has implemented advanced security measures to protect sensitive data and prevent cyber threats. This includes regular updates to firewalls, intrusion detection systems, and comprehensive employee training on cybersecurity best practices. Additionally, we have invested in robust network capacity to handle increased data traffic and ensure seamless connectivity. This ensures that our systems remain efficient and reliable, even during peak usage times.

Device management is another critical aspect of our IT activities. We manage a wide range of devices, including laptops, printers, and mobile devices, ensuring they are all up-to-date and functioning optimally. Our cloud computing services provide scalable solutions for data storage and processing, enhancing our operational efficiency. Furthermore, we offer reliable WiFi services to support our employees' connectivity needs, whether they are working on-site or remotely. These efforts collectively ensure that our IT infrastructure is secure, efficient, and capable of supporting our organization's goals.

ΔCLΓ"▷Δ·³

itamachihowin ikwa

Γ<_δ^x Δ↳Δ·³

miywanohk âyâwin

Health and Safety

Ensuring health and safety in schools is a top priority, and our comprehensive approach includes various initiatives to protect students and staff. We provide staff with advanced learning tools and training programs to enhance their knowledge of safety protocols and emergency response procedures. A key part of this is the regular conduct of fire and safety drills, which are crucial in preparing the school community to respond effectively in case of an actual emergency. These drills ensure everyone is familiar with evacuation routes and emergency actions, thereby enhancing our emergency preparedness.

In addition to staff training, we offer print resources for teachers and students to emphasize the importance of school safety. Educational materials, workshops, and interactive sessions are available to help students understand safety practices and their role in maintaining a secure environment. Teachers have guidelines and support materials to integrate safety education into their lessons. By fostering a culture of safety awareness, we aim to create a secure and supportive learning environment for everyone.

We're excited to announce major progress in enhancing our Health and Safety measures across all KTCEA schools! Ensuring a safe and secure environment for our students and staff is a top priority, and we're thrilled to see these efforts take shape!

Jack.org & ATB

Jack.org is Canada's only charity training and empowering young leaders to revolutionize mental health in every province and territory. KTCEA used Jack Talks, Jack Chapters, and organized a Jack Summit in November, 2023 for our young leaders to identify and dismantle barriers to positive mental health in their communities. Alberta Treasury Branch provided a generous donation that covered the costs of holding the summit, where the theme was *kiya-ikwayikohk* ᐃᑲᑦᑲᑦ

Students achieved *Be There* certificates, facilitated in the high school classrooms. This online course taught them ways towards improved mental health literacy and mentorship skills. Jack.org's BE THERE GOLDEN RULES were translated into Cree by KTCEA specialists and are used in all our schools to promote psychological safety and positive mental health.

Ever Active Schools

Ever Active Schools supports and engages schools through a variety of methods. Their organization and work follows the Comprehensive School Health framework. Ever Active donated resources for our new teacher orientation in August of 2023 and promotes comprehensive school health projects with KTCEA sports, wellness and land based learning programming.

Classroom Champions

Classroom Champions was used at our schools for mentorship and mindset teachings by Indigenous world-class athletes, to improve student engagement, build growth mindsets, and inspire positive classroom culture.

Olds College

We have begun to foster a relationship with Olds college.

The KTC Education Authority administration team met with administrative teams from Peace River School Division, High Prairie School Division, and Northland School Division throughout the 2023-2024 school year. These meetings aimed to foster dialogue on potential partnerships, share best practices and resources, and explore new avenues for collaboration. These productive discussions have strengthened connections, and we look forward to exciting collaborative opportunities ahead.



KTCEA.ca

PO Box 360, Red Earth Creek, AB, CA
T0G 1X0

communications@ktcea.ca

P: 780.649.3103

TF: 1.855.965.8298

F: 780.649.2841