

ALEXIS NAKOTA SIOUX NATION

HERITAGE & LANGUAGE



DEPARTMENT REPORT

Presented by Eugene Alexis, Director of Language & Elizabeth Letendre, Director of History & Archives

Dated: September 20, 2019





I?abi Wanorozi Yohad

Language Has Spirit



Isga I?abi Ihnobicin

L a n g u a g e R e v i t a l i z a t i o n

Wakâ nimi ikum ne

Igibi Wakâ Mne Isgabi ne otab nen igicedaham ne

**Wakâ wishodeshi wacigebe abadâ igihamina Xam mne
wicashda daca wicoxagine augihnabina igibasnibdabicin**

**Wakâ Taupa Agduyami ihnobamina Wakâ daca gare nesh
igiyobamicin Dagugicem ne ?um doshgamin da?a uzhicigebina
wazhike wodegice inimicin**

**Wakâ ne daca igikubnesh Isgabi duken toxemzhecen itus
iginabina taudagizhi âgiyamicin**

**Wakâ Mne Isga wicashdabi Taucii Tacâ Cade Wanarozi
dabage Wash?a hamicin Wazhike ihamicin**

Dukenag hicedog



Daca Adocaxa?

(D e p a r t m e n t I n f o r m a t i o n)

MANDATE: Under the authority of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Chief and Council, the department's mandate is to promote and maintain the Stoney Language and History of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation and to develop Alexis as a bilingual community.

AUTHORITY: The Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Elders are the Knowledge Keepers of the language and history and provide direction, guidance and support to the staff and program.

The Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Stoney Language Program was initially formed in the year 1996 by the authority of the Alexis Chief and Council to teach the language at the school. To meet community needs, the program expanded and is now operating as the Alexis Heritage & Language Department. The department is governed and managed in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation.

Ish?awimin Wahùcakisa

(Elders Advisory)



- ✓ **Tau?i?abi yusbecakebina, makoce nesh awiyabicin.**
Teach and protect the language.
- ✓ **Dukin nimi wizhanabi yusbecakebicin.**
Provide spiritual and cultural guidance.
- ✓ **Dukin yusbecakebi wagicarabicin.**
Provide insight and support on language revitalization strategies.
- ✓ **Yusbecakebi ca i?abne , ima?ish , gicuzabi gihnaamne, dukin oxem nesh.**
Provide education on language laws and protocols.

Isga I?abi Ihnobicin

Language Revitalization Goals



Promote



Speak



Write



Comprehend

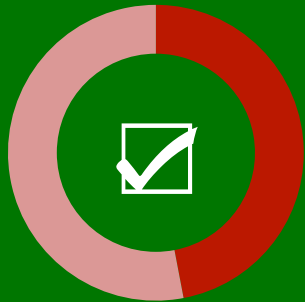


Develop
Resources

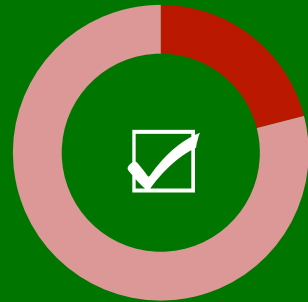
Our Language program focuses on increasing fluency and literacy (writing system) in the community. We develop resources for professionals and learners. We engage our community through various methods of language revitalization efforts.



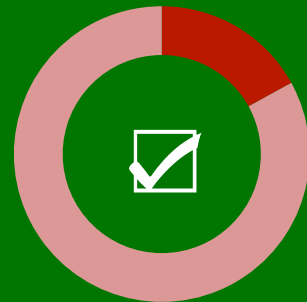
Goals for History & Archives



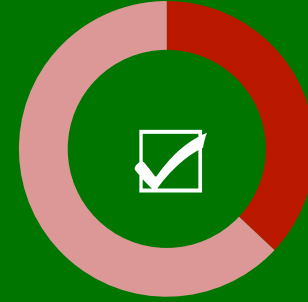
Researching



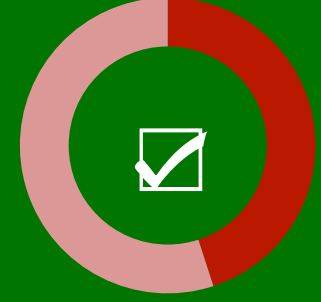
Documenting



Archiving



Promoting



Developing
Resources

Our History program focuses on researching, documenting, archiving and promoting our history. We help develop resources for language learners. Our main research projects are to repatriate cultural items that were taken from our people and updating our new data base system.



Duca Canucin Nikubi (Staff - who does what?)

| Cazhe (Name) | Duca Canucin (Role) | PROFILE | | |
|------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|------|
| | | Language Category (1 st Language / 2 nd Language) | !?abi? Language Proficiency | Year |
| Ish?awinmin (Elders) | Wahùcakisa (Advisors) | Bilingual (Isga /English) | !?abi yusbenasdi ca | 2002 |
| Eugene Alexis | Director of Language | Bilingual (Isga /English) | !?abi yusbenasdi ca | 2002 |
| Liz Letendre | Director of History & Archives | Bilingual (Isga /English) | !?abi yusbenasdi ca | 2002 |
| Brenda Arlene Potts | Stoney Language Instructor / Literacy Training Leader / Stoney Curriculum Resource Developer & Translator | Bilingual (Isga /English) | !?abi yusbenasdi ca | 2002 |
| Francis Alexis | Knowledge Keeper/ Stoney Language Protector | Bilingual (Isga /English) | !?abi yusbenasdi ca | 2013 |
| Cindy Bearhead | Master Speaker / Language Helper | Bilingual (Isga /English) | !?abi yusbenasdi ca | 2015 |
| Archie Bruno | Administrative Assistant / Stoney Dictionary AP Registrar) | Bilingual (English/ Isga) | !?abi nohe ca | 2018 |
| Alexandra Alexis | History & Archives Administration / Projects Planner | Bilingual (English/ Isga) | !?abi nohe ca | 2018 |
| Lucas Alexis | Technician – Stoney Dictionary AP (Audio Files / Pictures) | Bilingual (English/ Isga) | !?abi nohe ca | 2018 |
| Stephanie Alexis | Researcher / Helper (Database / Treaty Curriculum) | Bilingual (English/ Isga) | !?abi nohe ca | 2019 |
| Bernice Alexis | Master Speaker / Researcher (History Book on Chiefs) | Bilingual (Isga /English) | !?abi yusbenasdi ca | 2019 |
| Alex Potts | Master Speaker / Language Helper | Bilingual (Isga /English) | !?abi yusbenasdi ca | 2019 |
| Marcus Letendre-Alexis | History & Archives / Youth Researcher (Cultural Stories) | Bilingual (English/ Isga) | !?abi nohe ca - | 2019 |
| Ron Potts | Knowledge Keeper / Consultant | Bilingual (Isga /English) | !?abi yusbenasdi ca | 2019 |



Funding & Partnerships

Our department operates on funds that are proposal driven on a year to year basis.

Northern Isga Foundation
\$28,541 (YTD)

Backwoods Partnership
(Isga I?abi Stoney Language Boot Camp)
\$10,000 (YTD)

Other Partnerships
Project Based Funding
(Alexis Lands, UofA, Monument, Flowering Rush, Feasibility Study)
\$66,000 (Pending)

ANSN Partnerships
Alexis Chief & Council
Alexis Lands Consultation
Alexis Education (Culture & Language)
Backwoods Energy Services
Northern Isga Foundation
Yellowhead Tribal Council Education (FNSSP)
Yellowhead Tribal Development Foundation

Government Partners
Heritage Canada (Federal)
Alberta Education (Provincial)

Institutions
Alberta Museum of Archives
Jasper National Park
Royal Tyrell Museum
Onoway Museum
University of Alberta (Anthropology)

Heritage Canada (Federal)
Aboriginal Languages Initiative
\$149,942 (YTD)

Indigenous Services Canada (Federal)
Culture & Language Funding (Alexis Education)
(Isga I?abi Stoney Language Boot Camp)
\$5,000 (YTD)

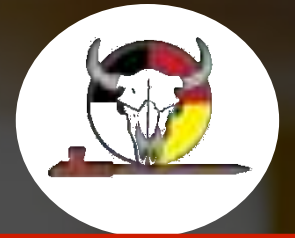
Alberta Education (Provincial)
Innovation in First Nations Education (IFNE)
\$155,656 (YTD)

**Refer to ANSN Annual Audit (2018-2019) for an overall report on Heritage & Language Department Finances.*



Staff Professional Development

| Archival Training | University of Alberta | Professional Development & Stoney Literacy Training | Dictionary App. | Consultants |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p>Liz Letendre, Bernice Alexis and Alexandra Alexis are training in archives.</p> <p>Training will build capacity in all areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Nature of records and archives ✓ The life-cycle of records from creation to preservation ✓ Records systems and archival systems ✓ Selection of records and their acquisition in archives ✓ Intellectual control of records and archives and provision of access ✓ Records, archives and the law ✓ Ethical and professional responsibilities ✓ History of record-keeping and archives ✓ Other | <p>Brenda , Cindy , Myra, Martina, and Chantelle attended the Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute. (CILLDI)</p> <p>Staff will gain expertise in the areas of linguistics, endangered language documentation and revitalization, language and literacy learning, second language teaching and curriculum development, and language policy and planning. This program provides a unique opportunity for our staff to earn university credit while learning about Indigenous languages and culture.</p> <p>Stephanie is taking Native Studies and Education courses at the University of Alberta.</p> | <p>All staff required to participate and join weekly staff meetings (as required), as well as monthly PR Day Staff Meeting and Community Meetings.</p> <p>Staff also participate and continue to study Stoney Literacy.</p> <p>We had our first round of Community Stoney Language Evening Classes from April to June 2019. All learners attended and continue to develop their capacity.</p> <p>We are having our second round of Community Stoney Language Evening Classes in Edmonton (YTC) from October 1 – November 5, 2019.</p> | <p>The dictionary AP is a work in progress. It is becoming a great resource for our Apprentice learners and Master Speakers who are learning how to read and write in Stoney.</p> <p>Kevin Alexis and Archie Bruno are the gate keepers for the AP. They are responsible for giving out passwords to members.</p> <p>Arlene Brenda Potts, Archie Bruno, and Lucas Alexis are in charge of the upkeep of the Stoney words.</p> | <p>Through our Masters Apprentice Program, we have two (2) Elder Consultants on our Advisory Committee and four (4) Master Speakers. These consultants will support the Department with various language revitalization projects.</p> |



LANGUAGE SERVICES

✓ Community Language Nest Projects:

We engage our Community through Language Nest Projects:

- Community Language Classes
- Band Staff Literacy Training
- Isga Signs
- Social Media

✓ Stoney Dictionary

Our Stoney Dictionary AP is managed by ANSN Membership Clerk and three (3) Heritage & Language Staff: Registrar, Audio Files, and Photographs.

- 9,000 Stoney words approved.
- 5,000 Stoney words prepared for AP.
- 3,000 Stoney words uploaded to AP

✓ Translation & Resource Development

We provide translation services for meetings, program activities and curriculum development.

We are developing resources for learners. We provide books, pamphlets, words and resources for students.

✓ Stoney Outreach Project

Our Master Speakers / Apprentices will be travelling to various Schools raising awareness on Stoney Language and Cultural issues.

✓ Stoney Language Teacher Training

Our department provides training to Stoney Teachers. We developed the K-12 curriculum for Alexis School and continue to provide Stoney Language resources for our school. Eventually we hope to expand the number of teachers that are fluent and trained in the writing system.

✓ Stoney Language Boot Camp

Our department hosted a Stoney Language Boot Camp on August 6 -9, 2019. Details found in the following slides.



Capacity Development Projects



**Stoney Language AP
OFFICIAL LAUNCH
APRIL 3, 2019**



**Community History & Stoney
Language Classes
April 22, 2019 – June 11, 2019**



**Best Practices & Language
Programming
Morley, Ab
May 22, 2019**



Stoney Language AP

The Official Launch of the Alexis Stoney Language AP took place April 3, 2019.

Acknowledgments:

- Alexis Chief & Council (Present & Former)
 - Eugene Alexis, Director of Language
 - Elizabeth Letendre, Director of Heritage / History
 - Arlene Brenda Potts, Mentor, Master Speaker, Facilitator & Curriculum Developer
 - Alexandra Alexis, Administrative Assistant / History & Language
 - Archie Bruno, Administrative Assistant / Stoney Language AP Technician
 - Harvey Alexis, Master Speaker
 - Kevin Alexis, Indian Registry Administrator / Stoney Language AP Gatekeeper
 - Lucas Alexis, Stoney Language AP Technician
 - Brennan Mustus, History Researcher
 - Vanessa Kyme, History Researcher
 - Jonny Letendre Jr., History Researcher
 - Tanisha Alexis, Stoney Language AP Technician (Picture Editor Input)
- Francis Alexis, Knowledge Keeper/ Stoney Language Protector

Special appreciation and tribute to all the elders/knowledge keepers who have passed onto the spirit world, for their contributions to the protection of our language and the development of our literacy. We love our elders and will continue their work. Special thanks to our Elders/Knowledge Keepers and Master Speakers for helping with Words: Ronald Potts, Celina M. Potts, Marilyn Elmquist, Judy Alexis, Floyd Kootenay, Arnold Alexis, Cindy Bearhead, Deanna Alexis, Victoria Alexis, Shane Potts, Richard Paul, and late Sidney Potts.

The AP is a work in progress. The Language department will continue researching words and developing the AP to its full potential.



STONEY LANGUAGE DICTIONARY

1. DOWNLOAD THE APP
2. REGISTER FOR AN ACCOUNT
3. ACTIVATION LINK WILL BE SENT WITHIN 24 HOURS
4. ONCE ACTIVATED, YOU CAN LOG IN TO THE APP

NOW AVAILABLE ON THE APP & GOOGLE PLAY STORES

Available on the Google Play Store | Download on the App Store

THIS LANGUAGE AP IS THE PROPERTY OF THE ALEXIS STONEY BLOOD NATION. THIS MATERIAL IS COPYRIGHT PROTECTED AND SUBJECT TO PRIVACY USE. MEMBERSHIP WILL ONLY BE PROVIDED TO THOSE WHO HAVE A VALID REGISTRATION TOGETHER WITH THE NATION. FOR ALL OTHER INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT THE ALEXIS HERITAGE DEPARTMENT - STONEY LANGUAGE OFFICE AT (780) 760-5124.



Staff Literacy Training – Capacity Building

In 2015, we began Literacy Training with Band Staff.

WEEKLY DEPARTMENT TRAINING SESSIONS

Brenda Arlene Potts leads the Literacy Training for Band Staff. Training is open to anyone who would like to learn to read and write in Stoney.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

We also continue to provide Literacy Training for the Leadership during Regular Council Meetings.

PR DAY (STAFF MEETINGS)

We continue to have live teach-ins during PR Day (every last Monday of the month – Monthly Staff Meeting.)

EDUCATION – ALEXIS SCHOOL

We also work with Education to train and evaluate Stoney Teachers / Teacher Aids. We provide Language and Cultural instruction to orientate new staff and teachers and support the school with their language needs. We provide resources and training for Stoney Language Instructors and TA's.





Community History & Stoney Language Classes



We appreciate everyone who attended the final class at the community hall.

- Chief Tony Alexis
- Councillor Dwayne Alexis
- Councillor Corrine Potts
- Councillor Lonnie Letendre
- Knowledge Keeper/ Elder Francis Alexis
- Heritage & Language Staff.

Our community Stoney Class was a huge success. This was an Introductory Course to familiarize learners to the writing system. Classes took place from April 23, 2019 to June 11, 2019. There was a total of 7 evening classes every Tuesday for the past 8 weeks. Participants received a certificate and gathered for a feast honouring their participation.

The next session will take place at the Alexis Sub-Office (YTC Building, Edmonton) every Tuesday evenings (6 pm – 8 pm) beginning October 1, 2019 and ending November 1, 2019.

This course is FREE for Alexis Band Members. To register contact Heritage & Language Office at 780-967-3186





Best Practices – Capacity Building

On May 22, 2019 we travelled to Morley, Alberta to meet Morley and Paul Nakoda Nations to discuss best practices in language programming, literacy and curriculum development.

Best practices includes creating an engaging and learning environment where students have many opportunities to improve their language learning. Language experts advise:

- Make It Visual
- Build in More Group Work
- Communicate with Teacher Aids.
- Honor The “Silent Period.”
- Allow Some Scaffolding with The Native Language.
- Look Out for Culturally Unique Vocabulary.
- Use Sentence Frames to Give Students Practice with Academic Language.

We are planning to host a **Stoney Language Nakoda Summit / Teacher Training & Professional Development**. Together with other Stoney Tribes,. Our goal is to train teachers, collaborate, share resources and build our capacity as Stoney Speaking Nations.



Repatriation & Research Projects



Repatriation

We are working with Smithsonian to repatriate cultural items belonging to members of Alexis. Repatriation is the process whereby specific kinds of American Indian cultural items in a museum collection are returned to lineal descendants and culturally affiliated Indian tribes. Human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony are all materials that may be considered for repatriation.



Historical Information Database

Alexis in Partnership with the Yellowhead Tribal Foundation has developed a database for genealogy purposes. The database will also be a repository for our Historical Information.



Research Projects

- ✓ Community History (Time-line)
- ✓ Kinship and Genealogy
- ✓ Ish?awinmin (Elders)
- ✓ Leaders
- ✓ History of Treaty



Feasibility Study Alexis Museum Structure

Part of repatriating our cultural items is to find a home for them.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Repatriation - Smithsonian

History & Archives

SIX STEPS TO REPATRIATION

There are six steps to getting an object repatriated to a Native community:

- ✓ **Step One:** Informational Request
- ✓ **Step Two:** Formal Request for a Visit and Collections Review
- ✓ **Step Three:** Consultation Visit and Collections Review
- ✓ **Step Four:** Formal Repatriation Request
- ✓ **Step Five:** Repatriation Research and Reporting
- ✓ **Step Six:** Decision and Repatriation

Source: <https://americanindian.si.edu/explore/collections/repatriation> Accessed June 1, 2019

Through our History & Archives Program, we are developing a repository of Historical Information and Resources for community groups and members to access. We are currently developing a process and system on how to manage the following information:

- **Community Pictures**
- **Community Stories**
- **Maps**
- **Timeline**
- **Kinship**
- **Treaty**
- **Leadership**
- **Ish?awinmin**



Alexis History & Archives – Research Projects

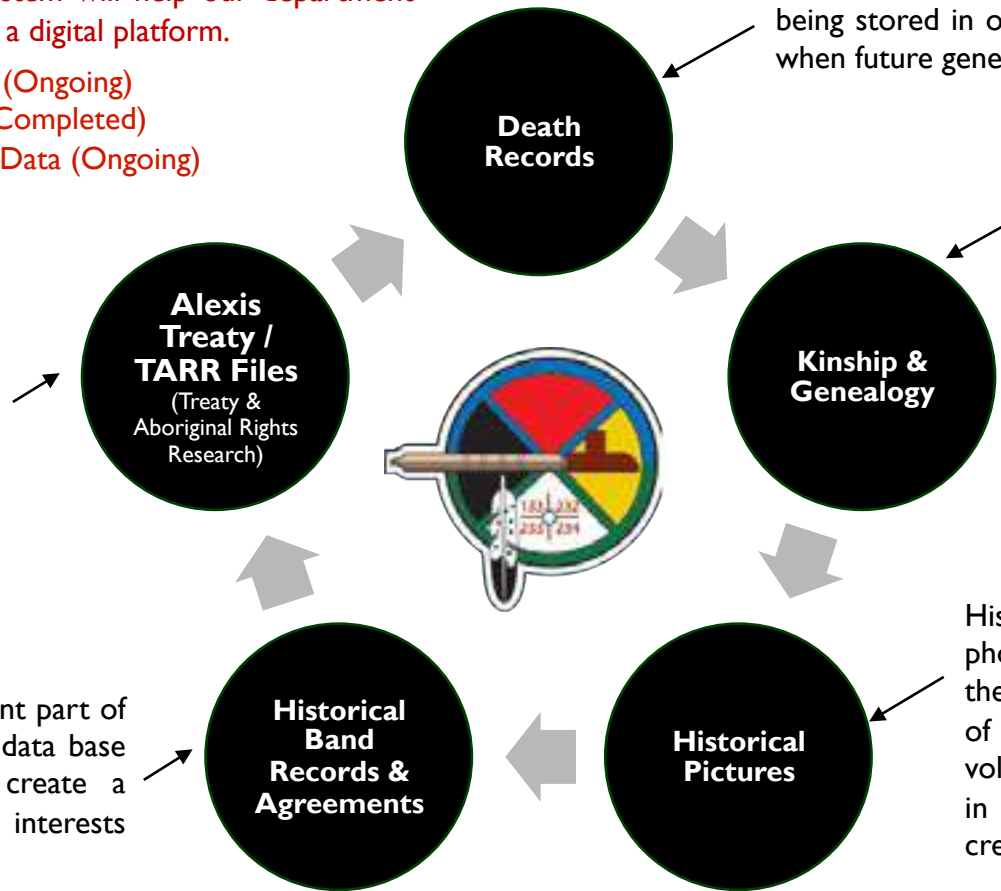
Update on New Data Base System

UPDATE: In August of 2019, through a partnership agreement, Alexis Heritage & Language received a new data base system from the Yellowhead Tribal Development Foundation. This new system will help our department organize and maintain historical records using a digital platform.

- Phase 1: Research / Collecting Information (Ongoing)
- Phase 2: Data Base System Development (Completed)
- Phase 3: Organizing Records and Inputting Data (Ongoing)

Treaty is an important part of our history. As part of our Alexis Treaty Curriculum project, we are researching and visiting elders and documenting their Treaty stories. As well, we are going to research the TARR files located in Slave Lake, Alberta to gather information on Alexis. We hope to create a repository of Alexis Treaty documents for safekeeping and access for future generations to research.

Band records and agreements are an important part of our history. We included this section in our data base for historical purposes. We hope to create a repository of band archives to protect our interests and information.



We are currently researching death records of past relatives / ancestors. (Born in the 1800's-1900's) to keep track of our overall population. Alexis Membership maintains Treaty Registrations (birth records). This information is being stored in our data base system for safekeeping, historical purposes and when future generations want to research their lineage.

We have copies of Family Tree's from various Alexis Families. These records will be added to our new system (We also have Kinship Research forms available for members to include their family tree in the new data base system.) We have approximately 300 files retrieved from the Alberta Provincial Archives. (These records came from the Oblates of the Immaculate Mary regarding Alexis Families. These records verify the 1st generation of Alexis people that were documented and given First and Last - English/French names.) This information is being stored in our new data base system for historical purposes. When it is completed, future generations can research their lineage.

History provides identity. Alexis families have documents, photographs, and artifacts that tell stories of themselves and their families, and our community. We are collecting old pictures of all Alexis families. This information is provided to us voluntarily with consent of usage. We will store these records in our data base system for historical purposes, as well as creating resources for promoting Alexis history.

ARCHIVES

A Call for Community Photo's & Family History

Heritage is collecting old photo's to add to our archives.

Contact History & Archives at 780-967-3186 to make a submission!

“We are gathering all the stories that makes our people a strong Nation, Wakan has given this vision to us.”

“We are putting back pieces of our Nation that was scattered because of all the trauma that our relatives went through.”





ANSN Community Initiatives

Alexis Heritage & Language is involved in a number of Community Initiatives including:

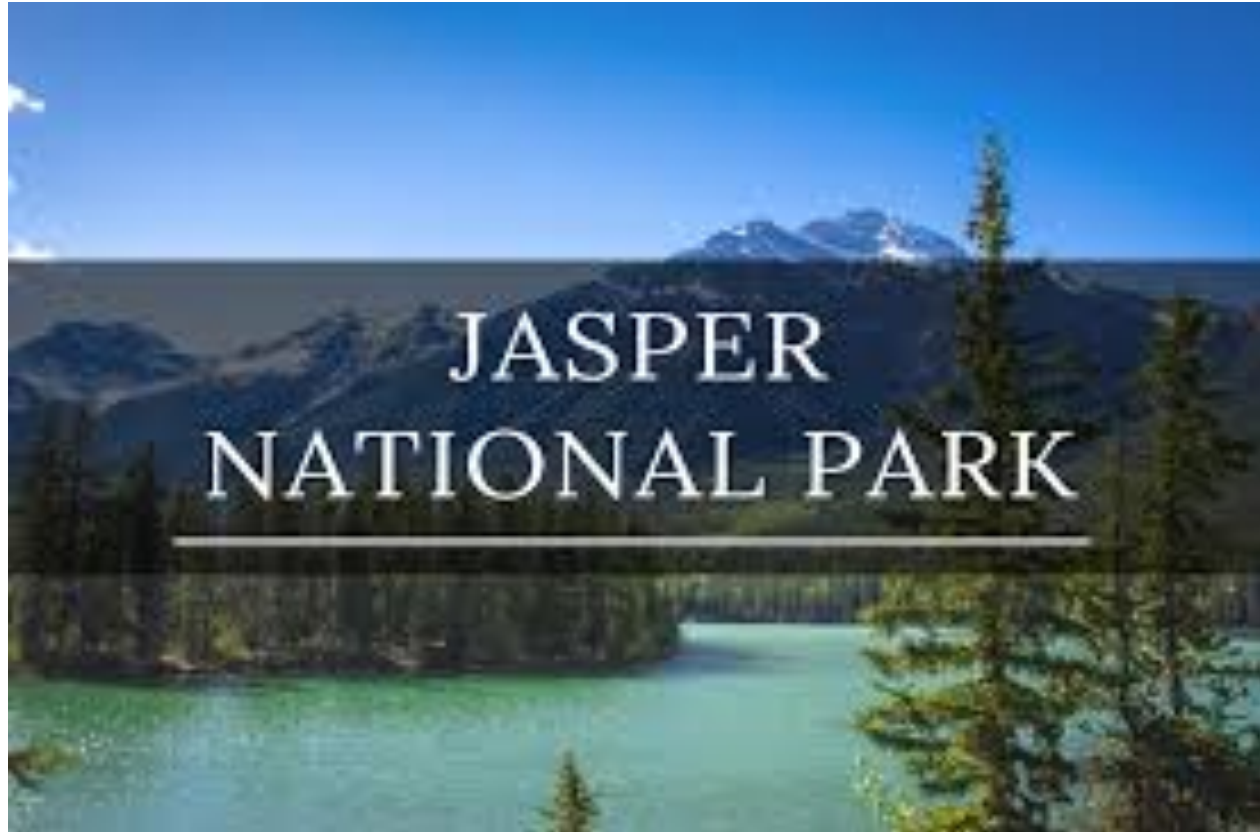
- **Alexis Chief and Council**
 - Community Meetings
 - Elder Meetings
 - Constitution Project (Translations)
 - Treaty Meetings
 - Community Calendar
 - Special Events
- **Alexis Interagency (ANSN Band Departments)**
 - Aboriginal Day Community Celebration
 - Alexis Community Camp-Out
 - Jasper Park Project (Lands)

- **Special Projects**
 - Training Programs - we continue to provide cultural and language support for various departments.
 - Flouring Rush Project (Spring & Summer 2019)
 - New Solar & Memorial Garden Project (Summer 2019)
 - Wakamne Health Project (Fall of 2019)
 - YTC – FNSSP cultural and language camp.





Jasper National Park Project Update



Alexis Heritage & Language and the Alexis Lands Consultation have been meeting with Jasper National Park to design a panel representing Alexis which will be placed in Jasper Park.

This project is ongoing.

ISGA I?ABI BOOT CAMP

HIGHLIGHTS
August 6 – 9, 2019 @ Alexis School



I?abi Wanorozi Yohad – Isga I?abi

Our Isga I?abi Boot Camp was designed to improve fluency and literacy for all learners, to share our culture with the Youth and Alexis Families.
Fluent speakers taught non-fluent speakers how to speak the language. Instructors taught everyone how to use the Stoney Language Writing System.
Ishnish to our Elders and Cultural Helpers for their support and guidance.
Ishnish to our Sponsors: Backwoods Energy Services, Alexis Lands Consultation & Education Programs for supporting this community based project.

ISGA I?ABI BOOT CAMP



Our elders guided this cultural camp. They have given us permission to record all the activities and we are going to create more resources for learners.

Makoce Daha Ni?c'ebi (Land Based Teachings)

ISGA I?ABI BOOT CAMP



Our elders guided this cultural camp. They have given us permission to record all the activities and we are going to create more resources for learners.



2019 Upcoming Events

Alexis Stoney Language & History – Evening Classes (Fall 2019)

Date: October 1 – November 9, 2019

Time: 6-8 PM (Evening classes)

Location: Alexis Sub-Office (YTC Building – Main Floor)

On-Site Registration.

To pre-register, you can contact Heritage & Language Office at 780-967-3186

Alexis Heritage & Language "Healing Through Drum Session"

Date: October 9, 2019

Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Location: Band Hall

Description: This session is to teach about the gift of the drum and how it can help us in our spirit. Our focus will be healing from intergenerational trauma, depression, grief and loss. This will be a safe space to meditate and allow the spirit of the drum to lift you. Elders will be available to smudge participants. Please respect protocol. Ishnish

Open to Band Staff, Students and Community Members. Participants will be asked to sign in. For more information contact Alexis Heritage & Language at 780-967-3186

Stoney Language Nakoda Summit

(Stoney Language Teacher Training & Professional Development)

Date: TBA (November 2019)

Location: Edmonton, Alberta

Description: Gathering for Nakota people – Elders, Leaders, Language Staff, Teachers, Teacher Assistants & Professionals.

For more information contact Eugene Alexis at eugene.alexis@ansn.ca or 780-967-3186

ANSN HERITAGE & LANGUAGE WILL CONTINUE SUPPORTING ANSN COMMUNITY PROJECTS & INITIATIVES



Ish Nish!

 Alexis Heritage & Language

 isga@ansn.ca

 780-967-3186

**Hours of Operation: Monday thru Friday -
8:30 am – 4:30 pm**
Closed during statutory holidays.