

NATION NEWS



**THE LATEST ON COWESSESS
CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT UPDATE BY BONNIE LAVALLE, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

I am pleased to introduce you to our Housing Staff: Colby Goodwin Tenant Relations, Sandra Delorme Administrative Assistant, Brandon Pelletier Plumbing and Heating Technician, Jamie Lerat Construction Supervisor, Crew Members Boston Mckay, Dillon Thomas. Chad Pelletier, Tyson Burke, Veronica Bergey, Chris Bunnie and Wilny Seaulteax. We've recently been approved for funding to hire an additional two staff members whom are youth between the ages of 16-30. Job Posting will be posted soon!

The Cowessess First Nation Housing Policy was adopted by Council April 2, 2019. We manage 230 housing

units on behalf of the Nation, ranging from one to five bedroom units.

The Tenant Relations services focuses on the housing application process, leasing requirements and responds to various tenancy issues.

Our maintenance services consist of responding to emergency calls pertaining to plumbing and heating, electrical and water and sewer systems.



CMHC committed limited renovation funding to renovate some of the CMHC units which are nearing the end of the mortgage period. These renovations were completed by the end of April 2021.

In preparation for renovation and maintenance planning we will be recruiting a certified inspector who will be inspecting each unit, this will enable us to develop a short- and long-term renovation plan based on the condition and age of the units these inspections will also

assist with the development of a preventative maintenance plan.

We have various New Housing Construction Projects on the go which will add an additional 18 new units to our housing inventory by the end of 2022, ranging from 2-4-bedroom units. We are also replacing two units which were destroyed by fire in 2019. Our Construction Crews Lead by Jamie Lerat have been busy with these numerous projects.



EVERY CHILD MATTERS

COWESSESS HEALING CEREMONY

With the discovery of 215 gravesites at the Kamloops Residential School came a re-living of events for many who endured traumatic experiences at residential schools. To support those who were forced to re-live painful memories and continue on their healing journey Cowessess wanted to do something to provide a safe space to come together, remember, share and heal. The goal was to honour the children who never made it home.

On Tuesday June 1st community members and residential school survivors came together at the Powwow arbour to help honour memories and to offer prayers. Following COVID-19 precautions a feast was also held at Pepsi Park in Regina that Tuesday. Cowessess Urban Office worked with Regina Mayor Masters, Regina Treaty Status Indian Services and other First Nations to honour the Kamloops Residential School recent finding of graves and a place for many to grieve and show support.

At the Powwow Arbor several survivors shared strong, powerful stories with those who gathered and painting vivid pictures of the horrors endured while attending residential school. These included Knowledge Keepers Deanna Lerat, Dennis Delorme, Carol Lavallee, Myrna Delorme, Bernard (Romeo) Redwood, Florence Sparvier, and Jubilee Wapemoose

Cowessess has also begun working with Saskatchewan Polytechnic who is working on a mapping project to help with the grave sites and identify all who rest there, as well as in surrounding areas. We will update the community as this project advances.

For support please make use of the National Residential School Help line: 1-866-925-4419



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