



Upcoming Events:

- FORESTRY 101 rescheduled – Contact Teresa Kwissiwa at ext.246 or at researchlandsandresources@picmobert.ca for updated place and time.
- WHITE RIVER FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN – Open House - February 29th 1-8 at the Community Hall
- VALUE MAP VIEWING – Schedule a time with the L&R Department
- CAREER FAIR – February 22nd at the Netamisakomik Centre for Education
- **Traplins WA-92 and WA-113, located south of Wawa have become open. Any members wishing further information please contact the L&R department.**

Your Chief & Council:

- Chief Johanna Desmoulin chiefjohanna@picmobert.ca
 Jeff Desmoulin
 John Kwissiwa Sr. johnkwissiwa@picmobert.ca
 James Kwissiwa jameskwissiwa@picmobert.ca
 Wayne Sabourin wsabourin@renegadeisp.com
 Stan Sabourin stansabourin@picmobert.ca
 Christopher Bananish Sr. cbananish@picmobert.ca
 Shawn Desmoulin housing@picmobert.ca
 Pamela Bananish pbananish@picmobert.ca

Did You Hear The One About...

A Cree man and an Ojibway woman who have never met before find themselves assigned to the same sleeping room on a Trans-Canada train. After the usual initial embarrassment and uneasiness, they both go to sleep. The Cree man in the upper berth, and the Ojibway woman in the lower berth.

In the middle of the night the Cree man shivering, leans over, wakes the Ojibway woman and says, "I'm sorry to bother you, but I'm awfully cold and I was wondering if you could possibly reach over and get me another blanket." The Ojibway woman leans out and, with a glint in her eye says, "I have better idea. Just for tonight let's pretend that we are married." Thinking the best, the man eagerly agrees, "OK! AWESOME!" The Ojibway woman says "GOOD..... Get your own blanket."

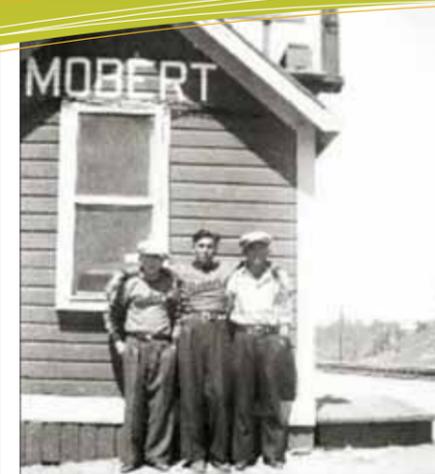
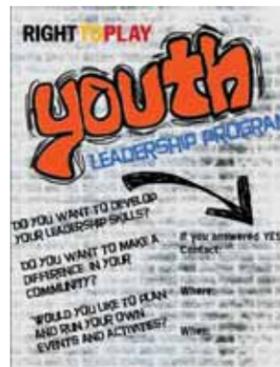
The Youth Leadership Program in Pic Mobert

Pic Mobert First Nation and Right To Play have partnered to launch the Youth Leadership Program for youth from grades 3 to 12 on Mondays and Wednesdays each week. The program, facilitated by Shanna Simpson has over 25 youth participants so far. The Youth Leadership Program includes a series of three fun and active workshops where youth have the chance to:

- Learn new leadership skills
- Practice working in teams, cooperating and collaborating
- Enhance their public speaking skills,
- Plan and lead events for the entire community.
- A brainstorm and plan movie nights, basketball tournaments, Pic Mobert Idol, and a bake-offs.

Youth who register for the program attend the program one night a week (either Monday or Wednesday) from 5:30 to 8:30pm at the Recreation Hall from October until June. Shanna picks up and drops off the youth and provides healthy snacks. Youth of all ages come together, play games, challenge themselves, learn new skills and have fun.

Shanna is always looking for adults who want to volunteer to support the program. If you are keen to help this dynamic program succeed, please call Shanna and let her know – 822-2625 ext. 259.



(Unidentified, John Desmoulin, Louis Kwissiwa)*

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Greetings from the Chief

It is an exciting and historic time for PMFN. Beginning my term in July 2009, the necessity to compile a stellar staff, administration and resource personnel to compliment the community's strengths and needs was imperative. Patiently, over the past three years I believe we have attained this goal. With a solid foundation, PMFN is moving forward in an advantageous manner through the variety of resource benefit agreements, hydroelectric projects, water treatment construction and government negotiations facing us.

Upon taking office, one of my priorities was to seek a solid funding commitment from the Government regarding our water facilities. In a November 2011 meeting with Lee Jensen (INAC), PMFN's ongoing struggle for potable water was brought to the forefront. From this meeting, a commitment of \$11 million towards the creation of our new water treatment facility was reached.

Another priority continues to be, bringing the Lands and Larger Land Base (LLL) negotiations to a signed final agreement. Numerous struggles over the last 20 years plagued the LLLB process from coming to fruition. Through consistent involvement during the last three years of my term, PMFN is optimistically targeting signing the final terms of the LLLB in late 2012. Working in conjunction with our legal counsels and researcher, we are also moving ahead with filing our Specific Claim by the end of this spring.

Phase I of the road upgrading project has reached completion and will proceed to Phase II after the LLLB agreement is signed. The Chief and Council negotiated the agreement of an additional \$650, 000 in funds

from the Government towards road project completion. In addition, the PMFN Chief and Council with Nokiwin Tribal Council recently submitted a Minor Capital Application for the purchase of a new fire truck.

I've put a strong emphasis towards the development of positive relationships with new industry partners as well as nurturing existing ones. Pic Mobert has now developed a reputation for being approachable, empowered and informed when dealing with outside parties.

I am passionate about our people, our community and our lands. Through a concerted effort to transfer skills and knowledge, capacity build our community members, as well as recruit band members for crucial positions; PMFN is in a commanding position. During my term, we've created the Lands and Resource Department. As well, we recruited Marlene Sabourin from Nokiwiin Tribal Council as our CEO. Likewise, we recruited the expertise of Mrs. Jackie Craig as our school Principal. As you will read in this newsletter PMFN is moving forward in a proud and respectable manner in politics, health, resource management, housing, and education.

At this time of resurgence, I am extremely proud to be of the Netamisakomik people. Through continued communication and community engagement, I hope our entire membership can feel informed and involved.

Miigwetch,
Johanna Desmoulin





Lands & Resources

Land Claim Update:

At the end of 2011 we submitted our documents for the discovery process in the Pic River treaty adhesion case.

Specific Claim Update:

As Chief Johanna stated, we are moving ahead with filing the Specific Claim and we are in the process of completing this by the end of March.

EYE ON IT

Environmental Trends

Durban Climate Change Conference - November/December 2011

The United Nations Climate Change Conference, Durban 2011, delivered a breakthrough on the international community's response to climate change. In the second largest meeting of its kind the implementation of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, the Bali Action Plan, and the Cancun Agreements. The outcomes included a decision by Parties to adopt a universal legal agreement on climate change as soon as possible, and no later than 2015.



http://unfccc.int/meetings/durban_nov_2011/meeting/6245.php

A year in review:

The Lands and Resources (L&R) Department manages the issues that arise with regard to natural resources (mining, forestry, water, development) within the traditional territory of Pic Mobert.

The L&R initiated the 2011 year by completing the land user interviews. Brandy Ward in conjunction with Chris McKay, formulated a PMFN values map. Any Band Members interested in viewing the values maps, should contact the L&R Department for a viewing.

Brandy's work was invaluable, and we were saddened at her departure in June. Her departure offered the Department another pivotal person, Jennifer Jaques. Jennifer Jaques, being an active land user, operates in the role of Land Manager Assistant / Coordinator. In this role Jennifer works in conjunction with the Manager, Theresa Bananish, on the breadth of growing consultation and land issues facing PMFN.

The Lands and Resources Department hosted the first annual PMFN fishing derby during the May long weekend

on the beautiful White Lake watershed. Sponsored by Harte Gold, the event with 64 registrants and over \$2000 in prizes was a tremendous success. The department is anticipating another successful derby this May, and is encouraging both on and off reserve members to register and actively use the watershed.

Over the summer, Theresa, Jennifer and Hannah conducted extensive elder interviews to document the diverse genealogy of our people.

The L&R Department partnered to bring PMFN and the surrounding communities, and industry partners together with a unified message. The department ambitiously undertook to fundraise and receive approximately thirty-five thousand dollars to host Dr. David Suzuki on Aboriginal Day 2011. This event posed PMFN no net expenditure. During this celebrated event, Dr. Suzuki spent time with our Chief and Council, band staff, amongst our membership, education staff and industry partners. His keynote address during this highly successful event, underscored the many issues that impact our specific environment.

Holding two Land Summits in March and September respectively, the participants were informed on such matters as consultation and accommodation protocols and IBA's. A variety of legal professionals updated the membership regarding Aboriginal and treaty rights, land claims, and historical updates. The LLLB (Land & Larger Land Base) is closing in on a final draft agreement for an additional 16 sq. km. of reserve land.

To educate the membership further on mineral and resource management rights and responsibilities, the department held a Mining 101 conference.

Another invaluable asset to the department is Teresa Kwisswa, who is under contract with us until March 31st. Teresa is working on forestry issues impacting PMFN. In this role she attends meetings with MNR, the Local Forest Management Committee, and provides feedback regarding forest management plans. She has hosted and planned community information sessions. Don Fry was also hired as a forestry advisor to assist Teresa.

Hannah Desmoulin is being capacity built and is receiving training in the field of environmental monitoring. She was at the Barrick mine site doing hands on training and in the L&R department office helping with administrative tasks.

The department brought numerous gun license and trapping courses to PMFN to help spur the next generation of active land users. Scaffolding on this, L&R hosted a fall hunt with numerous band members and staff members participating.

The Department applied for and received approximately \$80,000 for the Marathon Stillwater environmental assessment (EA) process, in which PMFN is actively participating. This is a joint federal and provincial EA process where panel hearings are scheduled to be held regarding the proper development of the mine.

Our PMFN Lands Advisory Committee was initiated a short time ago. A special thank you to Walter Desmoulin, Noreen Desmoulin, James Desmoulin, Thurston Kwisswa, Jocelyn McWatch and our Chief and Council.



Community Development

Hats off to the five community members who completed the *Diamond Drillers Helper Program*. The next step for these successful individuals is to complete their work placement. Congratulations on a job well done!

The A-Z Truck Driving program participants continue to complete their drivers training program in Sault Ste. Marie. Congratulations to all participants who enrolled in the Natural resources programs thus far, you have demonstrated your eagerness to learn and accept new challenges!

The suite of programs offered through the Natural Resources training program included Diamond Driller Helper, A-Z Truck Driving, Sawmill Worker Training, Forest Inventory Management, Business Management and Mobert

Entrepreneurship, Basic Line Cutting, Professional Tourist Lodge Training. If you are interested in any of these upcoming training programs please call Donna Sutherland at the PMFN Office. (807) 822-2134 ext 234 or call AETS at (1-(866)-870-2387)

Contact North Relocates
Contact North relocated back to 209 Second Street (Old Community Health Centre) We are looking for a temporary Conference Assistant to work at Contact North. Please see the picmobert.ca website or the Band Office for the job posting.

Contact North offers many Certificate and Post Secondary programs, as well as several free courses. Check them out!

Inquire regarding the following opportunities:

Carpentry Program

(4 weeks) We are seeking candidates with a good attitude and dependable work ethic. There are opportunities for workers with or without experience available.

Mining Essentials

If you have your Grade 12 or equivalent, and are interested in entering the mining industry the Mining Essentials course is the perfect opportunity for you.

For more information contact Doanna Sutherland at ext. 234 or at dsutherland@picmobert.ca

Converse in Anishinaabemowin

Aanii.
(Hello)

Aaniish naa ezhiyaayin?
(How are you?)

Nminoyaa gwa.
(I am fine.)

Kaawiin gwa nminoyaasii.
(I am not fine.)

Giin dash, aaniish naa ezhiyaayin?
(And you, how are you?)

Wegnesh ezhinikaazyin?
(What is your name?)

(name) ndizhinikaaz
(name) is my name.

Giin dash, wegnesh ezhinikaazyin?
(And you, what is your name?)

Aanii piish enjebayin?
(Where are you from?)

Pis Mobert First Nation ndojeba.
(Pic Mobert First Nation is where I am from.)

Miigwech giibinbwaachiweyin.
(Thank you for visiting with me)

This Month's Quote:

"The human brain now holds the key to our future. We have to recall the image of the planet from outer space: a single entity in which air, water, and continents are interconnected. That is our home."

Dr. David Suzuki



Watch and listen to Dr. Suzuki's keynote address in PMFN on June 21st 2011 @ youtube.com by searching:

"Mobert Suzuki"



Sisters

Greetings

from Jude and Susan to everyone. May you and your loved ones be greatly blessed throughout 2012. Wonderful news reached the Catholic and Aboriginal world in late December. After years of advocacy by Kateri Circles and prayers to recognize Kateri Tekakwitha as a Saint, Pope Benedict confirmed that she will be canonized in 2012. She is the first Aboriginal to be canonized by the Catholic Church.

Kateri, the daughter of a Mohawk Chief and an Algonquin mother, was born in Auriesville, New York in 1656. Kateri's parents and brother died of smallpox. She had scars on her face and body from smallpox since she was four years old. After meeting missionaries she embraced Christianity and was baptized when she was eighteen. She practiced her faith, performed good deeds, made sacrifices and was known to be very holy. When she died in 1680, her scars disappeared and the sick people in attendance at her funeral were healed. She died in and is buried in Kahnawake, Quebec.

Time moves along quickly as it will be ten years in May since we moved to White River after accepting Chief & Council's invitation to do volunteer work in Pic Mobert. We continue to provide footcare for nails and foot problems. We are available as "listening ears" to any band members or staff and are on the Drug Strategy Committee. We support any positive activities in the community. The Foot Care clinic is in the beautiful new Health Centre and we can be reached at 822-2625 x 227. Our office has moved from the Band Office to the clinic and that extension is 260. Our email address is sisters@picmobert.ca



Hydroelectric

Hydroelectric Project Currently out for Tender

With the completion of the environmental assessments for the hydro project in late 2011, the Pic Mobert Hydro Power Joint Venture is very happy to report that tenders for the project were issued in November, 2011 and will close in February, 2012.

Potential contractors have visited the sites and are now working on their bid packages. Once bids are received, the submissions will be evaluated and a decision on contract award should be made in March, 2012. If the bids are within the budget, the financial closing on the project should be completed by the end of March, and construction should commence in April. Further information will be announced in the coming weeks and months.

Gitchi Animki Energy Limited Partnership Created

Chief and Council recently approved the creation of the Gitchi Animki Energy Limited Partnership (GAELP) to hold our First Nation's interest in the Pic Mobert Hydro Power Joint Venture.

The use of an LP was recommended by our First Nation's legal and financial advisors as an effective form of organization to ensure that our financial risks related to the project are minimal, to ensure that our income from the project is protected from income taxes, and to ensure we are eligible for all available financial incentives.

The new limited partnership will have a general partner, Gitchi Animki Energy Corp., which is wholly owned by the Pic Mobert First Nation. The Council has appointed the founding Board of Directors, which includes Theresa Bananish (President), Marlene Sabourin (Secretary Treasurer) and Norm Jaehrling (Managing Director). The Board will be reporting on its activities and decisions in the coming weeks and months.

White Lake Resources Corporation Creates Joint Venture with Outland Camps

White Lake Resources Corporation, a wholly owned corporation of the Pic Mobert First Nation, has signed a joint venture agreement with Outland Camps (www.outlandcamps.com)

The new joint venture will be focused on pursuing and delivering business contracts related to work camps associated with construction projects and mining activities in the traditional territory of the Pic Mobert First Nation.

The joint venture includes provisions for hiring and training of Pic Mobert band members, the purchase of goods and services from the Corporation and revenue sharing. Job opportunities arising out of joint venture may include cooks, cooks assistance, housekeeping and maintenance person and camp management.

The joint venture is the first in a series of business partnerships that are being developed by the Corporation to increase its capabilities and benefits from resource developments in the area. Representatives of Outland Camps will in Mobert on February 22, 2012 to participate in the career fair.

Moving Forward with the "Pulsating Spirit"

During the *Pic Mobert Strategic Planning* Session on April 10th-11th, 2010 facilitated by Nokiwiin Tribal Council, the Community established their strategic vision for the next five years. The four tenets of the PMFN vision is for the creation of/to:

- Expand horizons
- A Safe and Secure Community
- Leaders in all of us to create a sustainable community
- *Pungde'ese Manidoog* Nurture the pulsating spirit (Address our needs)



Public Works

Water, being an integral part of our identity as Pic Mobert Anishinabe is of utmost priority. As such, PMFN Public Works chose some time ago to exceed the lax Federal regulations regarding water treatment, in favor of the more stringent Provincial regulations. In this regard, PMFN is ensuring the safety of its residents. Under the Provincial regulations, the entirety of the existing water treatment system is glaringly deficient for our population, and geographic location. The existing system is tested weekly in house by our operators, and monthly by the MOE for the presence of ecoli, coliforms and other pathogens. We continue to be on a "boil water" advisory as a preventative measure.

As mentioned, the 1st phase study has been completed for the new water treatment plant. We are currently in the 2nd phase of 4, the "pilot plant" design stage. As with projects of this size and complexity, it has taken some time to get to this point. Proudly, the design and implementation of the new plant will occur in short course in 2012.

To ensure the continued safety and effectiveness of the current system, and in preparation for the new treatment facility, the Public Works officers have undergone SWOP (Safe Water Operation Training), and Class I & II Water Treatment certification. Congratulations to Adam Bananish, Operator In-training, on passing his Class I Water Distribution course.

Bottled water deliveries continue to be on Thursday. Please ensure your empty jugs are out for replacement. As well, residents can pick-up jugs Wednesday afternoons at the skating rink.

If you require any additional information regarding the water treatment facilities, please contact Christopher Bananish, Water Treatment Manager at cbananish@picmobert.ca or at ext. 240

New Water Treatment Plant Design Project Progressing

Chief and Council recently approved the recommendations on the final treatment options for the new water treatment plant.

Engineering work on this project is being completed by Winnipeg-based JR Cousins. The final treatment options were contained in a feasibility study that was completed by the consulting engineers following 1 full year of water quality sampling.

The next step in the design process is the operation of a "pilot plant", which is basically a small version of the larger plant that we will be building. Using a pilot plant allows us to confirm that the water treatment processes that we have selected will work in real life applications using our actual water source.

The pilot plant will be located near the pump house in the old reserve area and should commence operating in February, 2012.

The final design for the larger project, which includes a new water intake, a water treatment plant with reservoir, and a connecting line between our two town sites, will continue and we expect to go to tender on the project late this year. This would permit construction to begin in 2013.



Long ago and not far away, a boy was born into a nice family. Before he could walk, a ceremony was held in his honour, a naming ceremony. He was given the name Wiigwaas. Wiigwaas was given many gifts from the creator. One of those gifts was to help others in a good way. He not only helped his father hunt and fish, he also helped his mother pick wild berries and tend the garden. He helped the elderly not only in his village, but in other villages. He would help make canoes and houses.

One day when he became a young man he had to go to battle. In this battle he lost his life. His brothers brought his body home and buried him, after they held a farewell ceremony. He was buried in pure white buckskin on a hill just beyond his village. The following spring his people noticed that a little tree began to grow at the site of his grave. As this tree grew tall a dream came to the father of Wiigwaas. In this dream he was told that Wiigwaas was still able to help his people and the dream showed him how.

In the springtime you can take the sweet sap from him and you can make syrup. You can peel the bark off to fashion food containers for keeping food and eating. You can make canoes and you can use the bark to make lodges. You can make boxes and baskets. From the strong wood you can make daabaagan, sleighs and lodges. You can make fires, so the people can keep warm and cook food. So, even in his death, Wiigwaas is still helping his people.



Housing

The housing department is moving forward. With the recent national media coverage First Nations Housing issues, PMFN likewise is surmounting the many hurdles and actively participating in the First Nation housing dialogue.

The department recently completed 10 housing units. Using the RRAP program, we retrofitted a unit, with more planned in the future.

Countless small repairs have been completed on the bulk of the units. With four units being renovated, including roofs, siding, bathrooms, upgraded plumbing and electrical the department has been quite active.

The ongoing maintenance of the public works buildings, Medical Clinic, Aftercare, School and Recreation Hall adds to the breadth of duties performed by the department. We continue to work closely with the school in the wake of the oil spill.

The department is planning the construction of 6 new units in 2012. The upgrading the HRV units in an additional 26 units will alleviate the persistent mold issues in those units.

On-going development of the department granted the crew members a variety of training opportunities such as First Aid training, septic installation/inspection, Emergency Preparedness and Response training, HRV installation and balancing, and Arrears Management pt.1. Attendance at the First Nation Housing conference this Feb. 14-16 will allow for PMFN to continue the dialogue in an assertive manner.

In conjunction with Nookiiwin Tribal Council, PMFN will be performing home inspections to document the state of the structure, plumbing, electrical, and insulation. These inspections will allow for the establishment of a priority list, as well as greatly assist in the establishment of specific goals within a housing strategic plan.

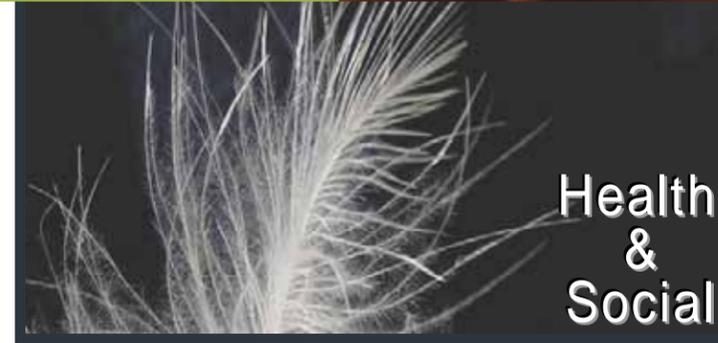
House are some of the largest assets PMFN and individuals hold. The necessity for proper home maintenance is paramount.

I am sure you will be seeing a lot of activity coming from the Pic Mobert Housing Department in the near future. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact our Housing Manager, Shawn at ext. 245 or at housing@picmobert.ca

The Housing department is available and willing to provide any housing, renovation, or maintenance advice to assist members in the upkeep of their units.

Pic Mobert First Nation Released from Co-Management

The Chief and Council ended the year with good news with confirmation from INAC that our First Nation was being released from co-management. Chief and Council completed and submitted an updated Remedial Management Plan to INAC in the fall of 2011, along with a request for release from co-management as soon as a Band Manager was in place. After the hiring and commencement of Marlene Sabourin, and following INAC's review of our annual audit, Council sought and received a final commitment from INAC to return to full independent control and management of the Band's finances. The Council is very proud of this accomplishment which was close to the targeted timeframes that were agreed to with the outgoing co-manager. Council extends its sincere thanks to Elaine Stewart, Finance Manager, Band Management and staff and the outgoing co-manager, Norm Jaehrling, for their collective and collaborative efforts. Going forward, Council will continue to implement the updated Remedial Management Plan and will hold quarterly meetings with INAC to monitor and report on activities and results.



Health & Social

Using a holistic approach, and with the determination of the staff, the Health department has slowly and steadily grown over the past year in its range of programs in services.

The department, growing from 4 staff, to close to 18 full and part time workers, has developed programming for ages 0-80. An open door, and linkages with other funders and agencies, have allowed for the implementation of programs including the community garden, Right to Play, Trillium Drumming Project, a disability program, elders programming, and Parents and Tots.

PMFN recently ran an alternative treatment intervention for opioid users based on the use of Suboxone. Financial assistance was provided by Barrick, and gracious support was provided by Dilico Family Services for the provision of one week treatment programming.

The physician and clinical support is provided by Brightstar clinic in Thunder Bay. The programming allows individuals to wean off of substances in 2-6 months. Thus far the program is going very well. The Health and Social team has implemented a variety of aftercare programming to assist in the mental, spiritual, emotional and physical growth of the individuals in the program. It is based on the concept that "treatment is not an event it is a life style". Anyone wanting support to deal with addictions is welcome to attend.

Examples of education based programming includes visits by the CHR three times weekly to the elementary school. The Early Childhood Assistants are now starting an Afterschool program. Beginning February 9th and continuing every Thursday at lunch, the department will be holding a "Girls Lunch" at Marathon High school.

Education

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please come by the Health Centre or contact us at 822-2625

A sampling of the current programming:

- Elders Wii Tournament
- Fitness Month
- Smoking cessation presentation
- Girls Lunch – Thursdays at lunch M.H.S.
- Aftercare and relapse prevention programming
- Chronic Disease Workshops – Dilico -look for dates and times

Hello to all PMFN members, It is with great pleasure to inform you that our Post Secondary Program is off to a superb start to the 2011/2012 academic year. Our initial number of students beginning of the year was 33 and now stands at 32. Some of the programs that Band Members are enrolled in this year range from: Social Services, Police Foundations, Environmental Technology, Business Marketing, Nursing, to Pre Trades and College Access Programs. It is very exciting to see our Band Members moving forward with such a wide variety of career choices. For specific details on our Post Secondary Student Support Policy and applications check the Pic Mobert First Nation website at picmobert.ca under Education. For information on how to apply for Post Secondary enrollment please feel free to contact me at 1-888-797-1123 or 1-807-822-2134 ext 238 or by email at: education@picmobert.ca

Reminders:
Post Secondary Students Please ensure to send in your transcripts as soon as they become available. send them via email to education@picmobert.ca

The deadline for Post Secondary sponsorship for the Fall/ Winter term of 2012 is June 15, 2012.