



Nipisihkopahk
Iyiniwin
Trust
Fund

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

nitf.ca



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About us

Mission

Our mission is to promote and encourage Samson Cree Nation (SCN) members with their educational endeavors. Nipisihkopahk Iyiniisiwin Trust Fund (NITF) seeks to officially recognize Samson members who have successfully completed their education and have obtained a profession or occupation that will benefit themselves and the Samson Cree Nation.

History

Nipisihkopahk Iyiniisiwin Trust Fund was established by the Samson Cree Nation Chief and Council on June 23, 1980. The leadership at that time saw the need to invest in education for SCN and its members and set aside 1 million dollars. Since then SCN leadership continued to value the importance of education and work towards assisting and honoring SCN students with NITF. Today that trust fund has grown to \$35 million. This growth has been with the assistance of past Chief and Councillors.

Our Services

Nipisihkopahk Iyiniisiwin Trust Fund (NITF) helps SCN members with support education services such as monthly attendance incentives, completion grants and more! It is NITF goal to offer additional services to Samson Cree Nation members so they can be successful in their educational endeavors.

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

Another interesting year has passed. We had an in-person awards night! We finally had an opportunity to gather together in person and recognize all our students' accomplishments! As the Covid-19 pandemic lifts and we enter into the endemic phase we are now able to return to the classroom! To our recent graduates, you received your diploma/degree under new words like Zoom and Google Classroom. To our returning students... welcome back! Continue to persevere and as we say in our language, Akameymow! It is going to be great to eventually see you all in person.

And although restrictions have been lifted from health authorities and we are allowed to gather in person again, we still need to be careful as new illnesses are upon us like monkeypox and RSV. So, be careful and stay healthy as you return to school. Enjoy the social interaction. Enjoy meeting instructors one on one again. Mostly enjoy learning and growing in an in-person environment!

Last, thank you to our amazing employees, Larron and Doris, who kept our NITF office going during the Pandemic, and to our Board of Trustees who ensure that the Trust fund continues to grow and meet the needs of all Samson Cree Nation members who want to pursue their education.

Enjoy this coming year students and thank you Board and staff for all you do for kahkiyaw Nipsihkopahk iyisinowak.
Ekosi pitama



Chief Saddleback
Ninaskomtinawaw, Sahkitinawaw



CHAIRWOMAN'S MESSAGE

Our mission statement of encouraging students to complete their educational endeavors is important to us. To live up to this undertaking the NITF Trustees meet annually to review and improve the services to the students.

As a result of the discussions in regards to the student's needs we have created a separate program for the Masters student's incentive program. They now have a set of allotted months to receive the mid-month incentives. Implementing these additions is our way of assisting the students in the various levels of studies available, and is added to the NITF Student Handbook.

In addition, and most exciting is to report the IMC file has been a very smart move for the trust fund and you can see that within the audit reports attached. Furthermore, to have the fundamental values of supporting the population student growth of our Nation, we at NITF have hired a growth manager. We now have two money managers for the trust to create the diversity a trust of this size requires for added growth. It is normal practice for a trust fund that is over \$25 million. to have two money managers. Leith Wheeler has been with the trust fund since April 2012, and we welcome Dixon Mitchell to the team. These business transactions are what being prudent trustees do, to create more growth to the trust fund for the benefit of the students. These additions to the trust will allow the trust to grow even faster.

For the purpose of honoring our graduates, we were able to have an in-person awards event themed "Not even a Pandemic Can stop us!" This theme was in relation to showing the perseverance our students have with continuing their studies, and on the positive side, we have had record breaking results of graduates in many of the categories. This year we provided each of the students who completed a degree, masters or doctorate with a laptop that was either donated by our many sponsors, or purchased by NITF.

It was an honor to meet and see the students at this well attended awards event and truly excited to see an expansion within our graduates.

Nonetheless, we look forward to hearing from you the students to see how we can help make further improvements to the various programs. Continue making our Nation proud in achieving our goals of having a healthy and educated Nation!

Yours in Education



Louise Omeasoo, B.A
Samson Cree Nation Councillor
Nipisihkopahk Iyiniisiwin Trust Fund Chair,





"NITF has deep roots in Education responsibility – doing our part to leave things a little better than when we came"

LARRON NORTHWEST

Coordinators Message

As the coordinator and on behalf of the NITF Board of Trustees, I am pleased to provide the 42nd NITF Annual Report to the members of the Samson Cree Nation through the Chief and Council. Samson Cree Nation has always been my home. It is where I grew up with my family, cousins, aunts, uncles, and my Kokom Alice. And it is where I continue to find inspiration in the lands, in the people, and in my work as the NITF Coordinator. There's simply no place like home. Which is why it's important we take care of it and our people.

NITF has deep roots in Education responsibility – doing our part to leave things a little better than when we came. As a department serving the community since 1980, we believe it's our responsibility to look after future generations of this great Nation. Our work in this space has been ongoing and we have always been passionate about our member's Treaty Rights to Education. We are equally passionate about supporting our members with financial assistance from the trust for Incentives, completion awards, and information on scholarships and bursaries.

Over the years the NITF has supported nation members with their educational goals. Among the initiatives we've undertaken are increases to incentive rates, completion awards, student benefits for school trips, laptop reimbursements for Post-Secondary students, and Grad Assistance for Post-Secondary completion, to name just a few.

We know it's been a challenging couple of years for everyone – a pandemic and record-high inflation makes it harder to stretch our personal budgets. We will continue to move forward because progress matters and every little action makes a difference. I would like to thank the NITF Board of Trustees for their valuable contributions and hard work and thank members of the Samson Cree Nation for their support and understanding.

Larron Northwest



Board of Trustees

The Nipisihkopahk Iyinihiwin Trust Fund Board of Trustees is responsible for overseeing its management and administration for the benefit of the members of the Samson Cree Nation, in accordance with the NITF mission and objectives. NITF thanks the 2020-2023 Board of Trustees for their service to the program and for contributing to student success.



Vernon Saddleback



Katherine Swampy



Louise Omeasoo



Mario Swampy



Marvin Yellowbird

HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION

Grade 9

- Baptiste-Cardinal, Nathaniel Evan
- Bennet, Arianna Yvette
- Bruno-Carter, Nathan Arron
- Buffalo, Ella R.
- Buffalo, Faith Dawn
- Buffalo, Jarren
- Buffalo, Sugar Shane Ezikiya
- Buffalo-Crier, Anthony Tyler
- Buffalo-Littlechild, Taneasha Tracy
- Crane, Alayia Roselle
- Crane, Cashis
- Crier, Dena Mae
- Crier, Syera-Lynn Shayde
- Half-Soosay, Evangaline
- Lightning, Hayleigh Allyssa Fay
- Nepoose, Brooke-Lynn Teylor
- Nepoose-Soosay, Delvine Connie
- Northwest, Ali Jonathan
- Okeymow-Lightning, Dezirae Mary
- Rain, Braden
- Rain, Destiny Alice Robyn
- Redcrow, Jayda Marie
- Rowan, Anya
- Saddleback, Aaliyah
- Saddleback, Keiron
- Saddleback, Trevor Cory Darren
- Saddlecack-Cardinal, Sykora
- Saskatchewan, Amirah
- Soosay, Isaac Edward
- Soosay, Kendrick
- Soosay, Melina Casey-Rae
- Wolfe-Crier, Julia Marie Rose
- Yellowbird, Alyssa Skye
- Yellowbird, Serenady Kylie Marie

Grade 10

- Applegarth, Angel Inez Agnes
- Boysis, Kathryne Tyra
- Buffalo-MacDonald, Kristopher
- Buffalo-MacDonald, Robbie Gerald
- Buffalo-Roasting, Treston Boris JR.
- Bull-Buffer, Dontrelle
- Crane, Alayia Roselle
- Crier, Kiara Seanna
- Green, Jayce Lee
- Johnson, Landy Terrance
- Johnson-Buffer, Trayden
- Lightning, Kayleaha Chevelle
- Lightning, Leona Anne-Marie T.
- Littlepoplar, D'arcy
- Montour, Iana
- Montour-Wapass, Xavier Ray Donald
- Potts, Jaiden Jerry Boston
- Rain, Hailey Ida
- Rain, Troy Everette
- Saddleback, Kinsleigh Joseph Louis
- Saddleback, Melayna
- Saddleback, Shanell Braun'tae
- Saddleback, Shaynen Marc
- Saddleback, Shyenne Madison
- Saddleback-Cabry, Martel Elias Jace
- Swampy, Marshal Ceasar Armond
- Wolfe, Taecyn
- Yellowbird, Serenady Kylie Marie

HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION

Grade 11

- Applegarth, Angel Inez Agnes
- Applegarth, Destiny
- Applegarth, Shayntaya K.M.
- Baptiste-Louis, Jaiden
- Bird, Kailan Kirby Henry John
- Bruno, Kiya
- Bruno-Smolik, Sabrina
- Buffalo, Aaliyah Kristy-Ann (Taylor)
- Buffalo, Alyssa Marie
- Buffalo, Ashton Barry N.
- Buffalo, Kai
- Buffalo, Seth Lance
- Buffalo-Elias, Kia Simone
- Buffalo-Roasting, Treston Boris JR.
- Cabry-Thom, Nicholas
- Crane, Alayia Roselle
- Crane-Saddleback, Sammarah
- Crier, Angel Rose
- Crier, Dante Gabriel
- Crier, Kenneth Eddie
- Crier, Kenita Electra
- Cutknife, Orlando Kerwin Jonas
- Goodpipe-Buffalo, Marshall
- Greene, Liam Mackenzie James
- Johnson-Buffalo, Trayden
- Lightning, Leona Anne-Marie T.
- Lightning-Swampy, Madison
- Littlepoplar, D'arcy
- Littlepoplar-Henderson, Dalelyn
- Louis, Jetta Zowie Danae
- Montour-Crumblin, Western Lee
- Nepoose, Graeme
- Northwest, Ali Jonathan
- Northwest-Saddleback, Brandon
- Northwest, Shalarity

Grade 11 Continued

- Okeymow, Jasmine
- Omeasoo, Wayne
- Potts, Tairrah A.
- Rain, Brooklyn
- Saddleback, Cecilia
- Saddleback, Lloyd Dale Preston
- Saddleback, Mary-Jo Chanell
- Saddleback, Sakora
- Samson, Nevaeh Mercedes
- Samson, Ray-vin
- Soosay, Gage Camrin Joseph
- Soosay, Nevah Recheal Braelyn
- Soosay, Richard Jr
- Soosay, Shavez Michele
- Soosay-Omeasoo, Chanel Jasmine
- Swampy, Hayvon Sky Blaze
- Swampy, Jadon Tyrone Braye
- Williams, Hailey Jewel Deana
- Yellowbird, Julieanna
- Yellowbird, Kamron Beatrice
- Yellowbird, Tianna
- Yellowbird, Windyboy Ezsrick

HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION

Grade 12

- Baptiste-Cardinal, Nicholas
- Buffalo, Adrian Alexan
- Buffalo, Derian
- Buffalo, Donovan
- Buffalo, Drace Levi
- Buffalo, Jordan
- Buffalo, Kai
- Buffalo, Kaydence
- Buffalo, Keegan
- Buffalo, Waylon
- Buffalo-Crier, Grant
- Buffalo-Crier, Shanelle Jennifer
- Buffalo-Freeman, Corea
- Crane, Jade
- Crane, Savanna Summer
- Crier, Sebastian
- Cutknife, Orlando
- Dennehy, Eijah Cilas
- Dion, Danzelle
- Dion, Heaven-leigh Isabella
- Green, Sage Marie Danielle
- Henderson-Littlepoplar, Kodee
- Johnson, Azira
- Johnson, Cordell Keestin
- Johnson, Cullen
- Johnson, Damian K.
- Johnson, Tristen
- Littlepoplar, Elise
- Louis, Jetta Zowie Danae
- Nepoose, Christine Marlia
- Nepoose, Jerriid
- Nepoose-Buffalo, Anastacia
- Montour, Clinton
- Okeymow, Dion Lawrence Jr
- Okeymow-Firingstoneym Destiney
- Omeasoo, Erica Jacey Paige
- Omeasoo, Wayne

Grade 12 Continued

- Ratzmann-Northwest, Patience
- Rowan-RoastingStick, Damon Lee
- Saddleback, Brandon
- Saddleback, Jerry Jr.
- Saddleback, Shayna Lahtaunia
- Saddleback, Skylar
- Saddleback, Zaydence
- Samson-Primeau, Blake
- Samson-Primeau, Sicora
- Simon, Kyrail Leona
- Soosay, Ava Candace Rose
- Soosay, Camrin
- Soosay, Calynn
- Soosay, Gabrielle
- Soosay, Kayla Marie
- Soosay, Kaylee
- Soosay, Keenan Ethan
- Soosay, Mackenzie
- Soosay, Richard Jr.
- Soosay, Vanessa Heaven
- Soosay-Potts, Avery
- Swampy, Darian Kateri
- Swampy, Karissa
- Yellowbird-Saetern, Thone Tan
- Yellowbird, Tristan

Grade 12 Advanced

- Baptiste, Dorian Ares
- Bruno, Tanysha Jade Krys
- Buffalo, Azhalyne Gina
- Buffalo, Nathaniel
- Buffalo-MacDonald, Robbie
- Crane, Niklas
- Crier, Katherine
- Crier, Lorenzo
- Foureyes, Taylor
- Nepoose-Wood, Madison Augusta
- Saddleback, Donny Barry
- Swampy, Bryson

Grade 12 Equivalency & GED

- Baptiste, Mariam Eternity
- Bonaise, Sheena Meryl

KIDS AWARDS



Name	Award
Buffalo, Faith Dawn	Excellence in Academic
Buffalo, Faith Dawn	Most Improved Student
Buffalo, Kelayce Kamren	Academic Honor Roll Standing
Lightning, Brianna	Language Arts Award
Littlepoplar-Allistone, Eden-Lilly	Nehiyawewin Cree Award
Littlepoplar-Allistone, Eden-Lilly	Wahkotowin Award Citizenship
Littlepoplar-Allistone, Eden-Lilly	Nehiyawatisiwin Award-Athlete of the Year
Littlepoplar-Allistone, Azalea	Wahkotowin Award
Nepoose, Brooke-Lynn	Farewell
Swampy, Vienna	Excellence in Academic



STUDENT SUCCESS PROFILES

We are very proud to share
some of our students stories
towards success!

"Our people are very resilient and so
that means you can start a new history
today that your children and
grandchildren will look back and be so
proud of" -Councillor Mario Swampy

"I encourage you to stay in school,
pursue your dreams and prove everyone
wrong" -Councillor Marvin Yellowbird

GRACE DION

STUDENT SUCCESS



I first give thanks to my older sister who taught me to always acknowledge our Creator (kisemanito) first and foremost, for miyo askiy pimâtisiwin (Good earth life). I am grateful to all those who prayed and made offerings on my and my family's behalf and to all the Elders and Knowledge Keepers who keep us all in prayer. I am the youngest daughter of the late Myers Buffalo (kinesiw) and the late Nellie Omeasoo (pâkwêsimô iswkew). It is with this type of support that we are able to complete what we start.

My academic journey began with adult upgrading. Although I completed high school (Grade 12), I discovered that I did not have the academic grades to pursue a post-secondary education. After the loss of a child, through sudden infant death syndrome, I knew I had to pursue a higher level of education in order to care for my children. I decided to pursue a degree in Psychology in my attempt to actively heal the grief, anxiety and depression I experienced during that time.

The journey to connect with mental health and healing, both from a Western and Nehiyaw perspective, continued through my Masters and Doctorate Degree Programs. I completed a Master's of Counseling Degree through Athabasca University in 2011 and in 2022, I completed the iyiniw pimâtisiwin kiskeyihtamowin Doctoral Program (ipk-Doc) at the University nuhelot'jine thaiyots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills (Saddle Lake, Alberta). As my final dissertation project, I designed a Jingle Dress outfit in order to learn over 400 energy points within the body. I applied nearly 200 beaded medallions that represented energy points known to positively affect mental health and which have connections with plants and planets. My plan is to utilize what I have learned and integrate them into the delivery of programs, services, and mental health practices. Learning is never completed. Once we think we know, we realize it was only one level and we find ourselves listening for more.

I am very grateful to both the Nipisihkopahk Iyiniwin Trust Fund (NITF) and Nipisihkopahk Education Authority (NEA) for all the support they have offered. It is with your vision and support that we, as Nation members, are able to pursue and complete our academic goals. Thank you.

JUSTICE SOOSAY

STUDENT SUCCESS



My name is Justice Soosay and I have recently graduated from the Mount Royal University with a Bachelors of Business Administration. I am currently employed as an Employment Specialist working with our Indigenous peoples within the city of Red Deer and surrounding areas. Working with our people by providing employment support while educating and encouraging those to reach for their goals and aspirations is a very rewarding role.

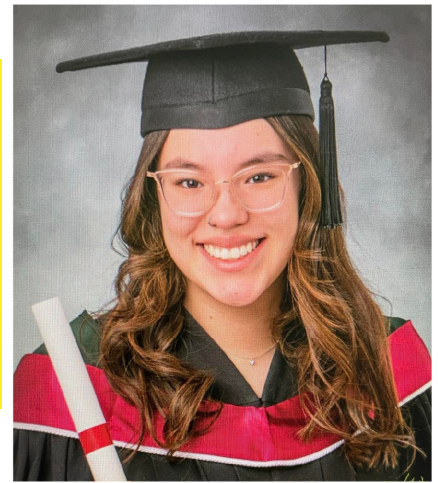
In the fall of 2016, I uprooted my family and left my home community of Samson Cree Nation to pursue a post-secondary education in business to ultimately provide a better future for my children.

As I reflect back over the years, I am truly grateful for my family, friends, community and supports such as Nipisihkopahk Education Authority and Nipisihkopahk Iyiniwin Trust Fund that have played a major role in my educational success! Ai Hai, wishing many blessings to you all.

If you are on the fence about pursuing a higher education in post-secondary or pursuing a career in the trades, I hope to encourage you to do so. Life is an adventure and change can be scary, but you will not regret taking the leap of faith into the unknown to find your way in the world. With that said, I dedicate my Bachelors of Business Administration credential to my Late Brother Chance Justin Emerson Soosay who passed during this time and did not have the opportunity to complete his studies at the Maskwacis Cultural College.

MADISON NEPOOSE-WOOD

STUDENT SUCCESS



Madison Nepoose-Wood is a 18-year-old student who goes to the University of Alberta in her first year in the Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology with the hope of becoming a physiotherapist.

Throughout all three years in high school, Madison was on the honour roll while balancing a hockey-filled extracurricular life. It was during one of her seasons when Madison visited and used physio to help rehabilitate an injury and return to the ice and sport that she loves. She realized then, that she could combine her love of schooling with sports and find a career that would satisfy both.

After graduating high school, Madison was accepted at multiple universities and selected her first choice at the University of British Columbia in the Faculty of Science. Although her first term was successful, Madison realized she needed the in-person support of her family and friends and she transferred to the University of Alberta.

Madison is very thankful for this opportunity and the support that she receives from NITF, family and friends.

SARAH JO BUFFALO-CLAZIE

STUDENT SUCCESS



Hello. My name is Sarah Jo Buffalo-Clazie. I am Cree, Nêhiyaw-iskwêw, from Samson First Nation. I identify as a Mom, wife, woman and healer. I am the proud owner of Willow Stone Connective Health, formally Trinity Massage Therapy. Since I can remember, I wanted to be a healer. I remember going around the campfire massaging the athletes after a golf tournament or a ball tournament when I was about 10 or so. My parents were always ones to host.

I graduated high school in 2002, from Ponoka Composite. I worked, and travelled for 3 years, then returned to school to be a Massage Therapist. In March of 2006 I graduated from the Alberta Institute of Massage, which led to owning my own business by June 2007. I had been massaging for 14 years when I decided to return to school to further my knowledge, by becoming a Manual Osteopath. Manual meaning "work done by hands", osteopath meaning "manipulative medicine".

I graduated from the National Manual Osteopathic College, in Innisfail, Alberta, in July 2022, with honors and distinction. When I'm not treating, I enjoy weight lifting, yoga, volleyball, softball and spending time with my husband and two very busy son's. I love to encourage an active and healthy life-style, and believe it adds to my treatments. I am also a 240 hr trained yoga instructor, which also plays a role in my knowledge of the body. My goal for all my clients, is for each one to be able to live life to the fullest. Mind, body, soul. Maintaining a pain free life is crucial in doing so. I use this approach for each treatment I have the pleasure of doing.

Manual Osteopathy is a newer modality in Canada, but is surely becoming more popular. This training was incredibly humbling, but it also helped to validate my natural capabilities. I am so very fortunate to have found a career that brings me so much joy on a daily basis.

Thank you to NITF for the support through this journey. Myself and my family truly appreciate all you did for us. Hiy hiy

JACK OMEASOO

STUDENT SUCCESS



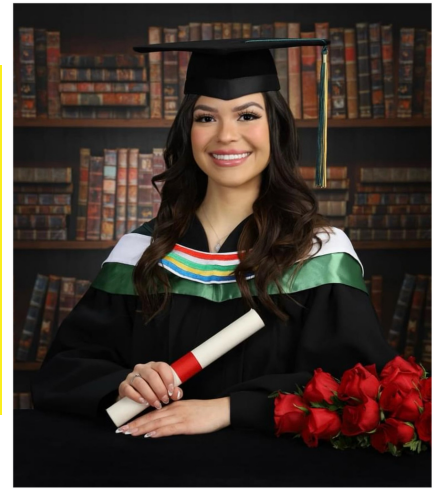
Tansi, my name is Jack Omeasoo and thanks to the Nipisikopahk Iyiniwin Trust Fund I'm a recent graduate from the University of Victoria. I finished my undergrad with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. After some work experience this year, I'll be attending grad school for a Master in Clinical Psychology. Then I'll work as a therapist until I decide what the next steps in my education bring.

Following in my father's footsteps, I'd like to work for the First Nations health authority here in British Columbia and work in harm reduction for those who struggle with addiction. Growing up visiting the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver I've seen first-hand how trauma and abuse can manifest as addiction in Indigenous people. Being eternally grateful to the band and our people for the support, I'd like to do all that I can to improve the lives of others.

I believe that education is the new buffalo and is one of the most important steps in improving an individual's life, whether it be formal, traditional, or any other form. The NITF has extended that opportunity to me and many others who might not have had access. I'm humbled to have been supported in my journey this far and will be forever grateful.

LATIYA NORTHWEST

STUDENT SUCCESS



Latiya graduated from the University of Alberta in June 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Conservation Sciences and a Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies. She is currently working as a Lands Management Officer with the Government of Canada and sits on Samson Cree Nation's nipîy (water) committee.

Growing up within the community and participating in cultural ceremonies, it was clear to Latiya that environmental management and corresponding policies must be inclusive of Indigenous perspectives. Latiya hopes that her education and experience can help bridge the gaps between Western science and Indigenous knowledge to find solutions to the ongoing issues of climate change.

Samson Cree Nation NITF has helped immensely with supporting her educational journey through breaking down any financial barriers and Latiya is proud to represent her community in a positive light.

Latiya Northwest

CHASE SOOSAY

STUDENT SUCCESS



Tansi – My name is Chase Soosay, recent undergraduate obtained with distinction from MacEwan University with the BComm program majoring in accounting and a recipient of the Presidents Medal received in 2021. Graduate student from the University of Alberta from the Master of Accounting (MAcc) program recently obtained in 2022.

Currently articling with KPMG Canada with pursuits of obtaining the Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation. I would not be here today if it was not for the strength of our ancestors and the continued support of not only our Nation, but our community members across all facets of my journey. We all come from some form of adversity. Myself, I was a troubled youth. It is these trials in our lives, these tests, that bring us together as people. We have all shared some experience's more than most than our counterparts in society, and yet we continue to strive forward. I believe it is our duty to honor our ancestors who have laid a path for us to walk upon. We are all meant for great things, but the definition of greatness is different for us all. Know thyself, be a servant to one another, and honor not only your loved ones but your gifts. The secret to success is the ability to help more people. Live a good life.

Thank you to the many staff who have made a commitment into empowering students and assisting them to achieve their best self.

KATHERINE SWAMPY

STUDENT SUCCESS

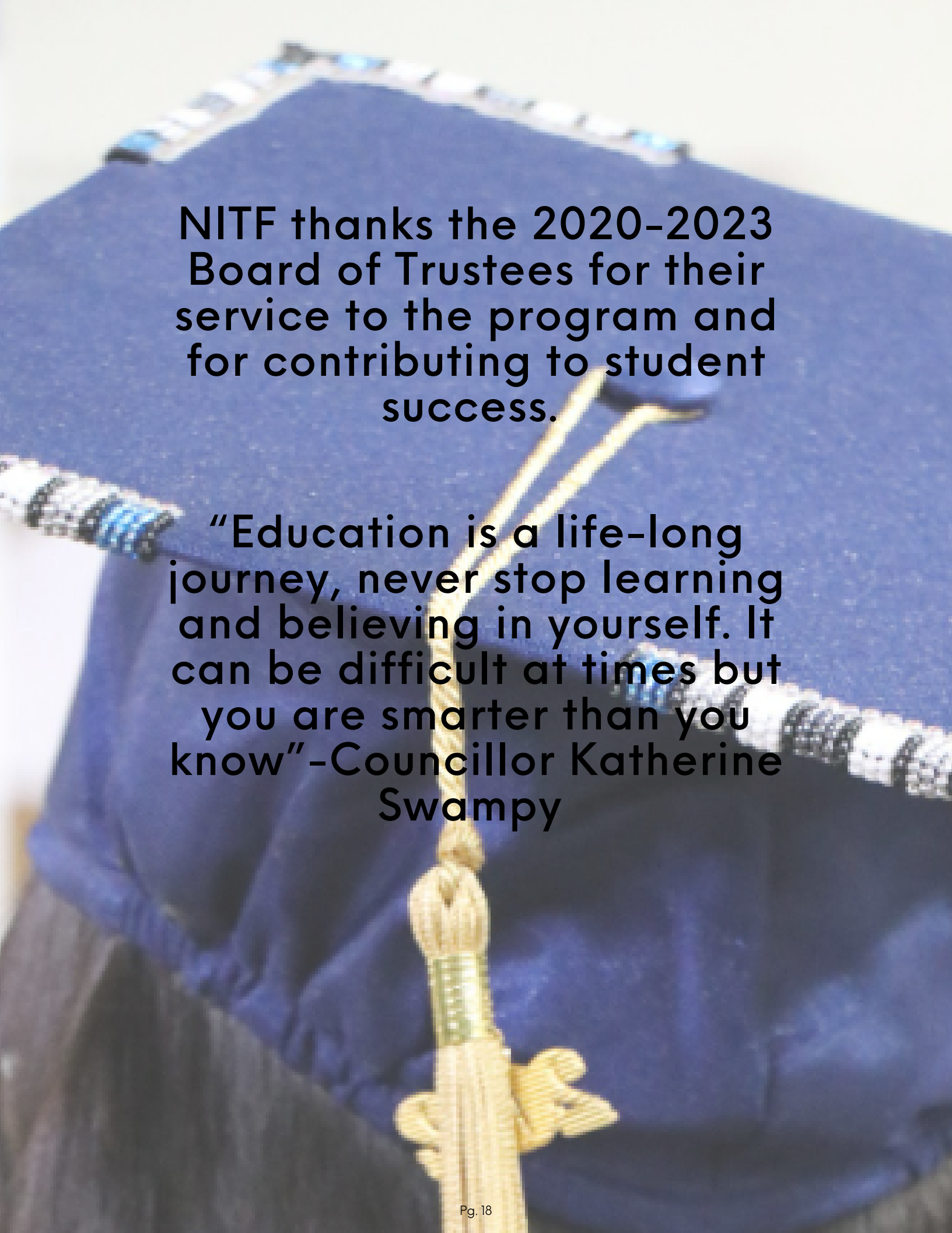


My name is Katherine Swampy. I am in the final year of her PhD in Public Policy Administration.

Being a student in a digital age has its fair share of benefits and complications. I use technology to my advantage, when I was in my undergraduate degree in economics I used Youtube to get a good understanding of many mathematical equations. And now if I have a reading I need to complete, I often multi task and use my computer to read aloud while I'm cooking or washing dishes. But I know that in Maskwacis we don't have the greatest internet connection, it can be frustrating to use technology too. What I want to share is a story of inspiration, I faced so many struggles throughout my education journey, struggles like death, suicides, addictions, violence, poverty, no vehicle, no food, no internet, depression, and I wanted to quit so many times. I often thought about that saying, "if you can't fly, run. If you can't run, walk. If you can't walk, crawl. Just don't give up." And there has been many times I crawled along the way.

The elders say Education is our new Buffalo, and I'm grateful I pursued my education. I carried the weight of my community, thinking, I'm out here learning so I can give back to my community, so I can help my community. I was the first in my family to graduate high school, let alone go into post-secondary. It was a lot of pressure, but I told myself to think about the thousands of ancestors who are cheering for me, supporting me on the spiritual side. For all of us, the ancestors, the kokums, and mosums, they want to see us succeed, and for our youth, my children watched me go to school, they are learning too.

Katherine Swampy



NITF thanks the 2020-2023
Board of Trustees for their
service to the program and
for contributing to student
success.

“Education is a life-long
journey, never stop learning
and believing in yourself. It
can be difficult at times but
you are smarter than you
know” -Councillor Katherine
Swampy

CERTIFICATES: POST-SECONDARY

- Baptiste, Jewel, Indigenous Leadership Program
- Baptiste, Keith, Indigenous Canada
- Bruno, Melissa, Indigital: Healing Through Technology
- Buffalo, Drae Anna, Certificate in Leadership & Administration
- Buffalo, Erin, Digital Video Certificate
- Buffalo, Erin, Strategic Copywriting Certificate
- Buffalo, Erin, Social Media Certificate
- Buffalo, Kaylyn, Cumulative Effects Assessment
- Buffalo, Lyndon, Advancing Indigenous Management-Energy Sector
- Buffalo, Rebecca, Building Service Worker
- Buffalo, Skylar Grey, Business & Digital Marketing Management
- Crier, Carolyn, Certified Hospitality Personal
- Crier, Carolyn, Line Cook - Online Learning
- Crier, Serranna, Certified Industrial Personnel Apprenticeship
- Desjarlais, Lauren, Business Management & Accounting
- Green, Tim, Many Short term Certificates
- Lane, Laneesa Jae, Child & Youth Service Worker
- Littlepoplar, Jessie, Marketing & Merchandising for Fashion
- Littlepoplar, Jordana, Youth Suicide Prevention Training
- Littlepoplar, Lindsay, Indigenous University Bridging Program
- Littlepoplar, Lorna, ECD Level 3
- Montour, Lucy, Youth Suicide Prevention Training
- Nepoose, Nicole, Administrative Office Assistant
- Nepoose, Renee, UCEP
- Northwest, Erin, Makeup Artistry Program
- Northwest, Patience, Technology Certificate
- Omeasoo, Beth, Dental Receptionist
- Potts, BillieDee, Management Certification
- Rain-Mackinaw, Breanne, NAIT Business Administration
- Rowan, Mavis, Business Plan Development
- Saddleback, Braylene, Management Certificate
- Saddleback, Noreen E., ECD Level 3
- Simon, Kerrin, Lash/Nail Technician
- Simon, Kerrin, Adult Education Program
- Soosay, Azure, Educational Assistant
- Soosay, Chenise, Masters in Barbering
- Soosay, Josie Nadia, Certified Hospitality Personal
- Soosay, Leah, Certified Hospitality Personal
- Soosay, Nancy, Certified Retail Personnel
- Soosay, Natasha, Spa/Massage Certification
- Soosay, Natasha, Skin Care Specialist
- Soosay, Rhiannon, MCC
- Yellowbird, Jacqueline, Practical Nurse Program
- Yellowbird, Jacqueline, Personal Protective Equipment and You
- Yellowbird, Jacqueline, Nursing Documentation 101
- Yellowbird, Jacqueline, Relational Practice Course
- Yellowbird, Jacqueline, Elder Abuse Course
- Yellowbird, Tyrelle, Human Resources Administration w/ Honors

DIPLOMAS: POST-SECONDARY

- Applegarth, Shaniah, Graphic Design & Photography Diploma Progra,
- Baptiste, Candace, Cree Language Teacher Development Diploma
- Baptiste, Racey, Indigenous Bachelors of Business Management
- Buffalo, Drae-Anna, Indigenous Education Diploma
- Buffalo, Jaime D., Indigenous Education Diploma
- Buffalo, Jaren, Library & Information Technology
- Buffalo-Clazie, Sarah Jo, Manual Osteopath
- Buffalo, Vanessa Chantille, Commerce-Accounting, Tax & Payroll
- Bruno, Leo Jr., Addictions & Community Service Worker
- Cutknife, Deanna, Addictions Community Health Professional
- Greene, Shanea, Paralegal Diploma
- Littlepoplar, Lorna, Diploma in Early Childhood Development Program - Level 3
- Littlepoplar, Vivian, Cree Language Teacher Development Diploma
- Montour-Boysis, Desiree, Indigenous Arts Diploma
- Montour-Boysis, Desiree, Indigenous Business Diploma
- Redcrow, Reiny, Indigenous Addictions Services Diploma
- Saddleback, Shennaya, Diploma in Manual Osteopathic Practice
- Soosay, Andrea, Indigenous Social Work Diploma



UNDERGRADUATE

- Anderson, Danielle, Bachelor of Nursing
- Boysis-Bull, Angela, Bachelor of Science
- Buffalo, Frank, Bachelors of Arts - Psychology Major, Drama Minor
- Crier, Jonathan, Bachelors of Education
- Dennehy, Nikita, Indigenous Bachelor of Social Work
- Frame, Joan, Bachelors of Education, Aboriginal Adult Education
- Lightning, Paskwamoostoosi, Bachelor of Arts - Major Indigenous Studies
- Norman, Sarah, Bachelors of Education, Elementary/Middle Years
- Northwest, Latiya, Bachelors of Science in Environmental & Conservation Sciences
- Omeasoo, Jack Lebeau, BA Psychology
- Rides the Grey Hourse, Galendeon, Social Work Associates Degree
- Rowan, Mavis, Bachelor of Management
- Saddleback, Natasha, Bachelors of Business Administration-Management
- Soosay, Justice, Bachelors of Business Administration
- Yellowbird, Cherish, Bachelor of Commerce
- Yellowbird, Janessa, Bachelor of Science

2nd Degree

- Northwest, Latiya, Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies

GRADUATE

- Soosay, Chase, Masters of Accounting
- Swampy, Katherine, Master of Philosophy

DOCTORATE

- Dion, Grace, Doctorate of Iyiniw Pimatisiwin Kiskeyihtamowin
- Johnson, Holly, Doctorate of Iyiniw Pimatisiwin Kiskeyihtamowin



NITF ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT 2022

.....
"Emerging out of the Pandemic"
.....



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



Samson Cree Nation
Education Youth and Skills Development



Samson Management LTD.

"First Nation Owned & Operated"

Managing Various Businesses & Real Estate Holdings

Nipisihkopahk Iyiniisiwin Trust Fund Financial Statements

DECEMBER 31, 2022

PREPARED BY

MNP



Nipisihkopahk Iyiniisiwin Trust Fund

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For the year ended December 31, 2022

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To the To the Board of Trustees of Nipisihkopahk Iyiniwini Trust Fund:

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Nipisihkopahk Iyiniwini Trust Fund (the "Trust"), which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2022, and the statements of earnings (loss) and changes in trust capital and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust as at December 31, 2022, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the basis of accounting as described in Note 2 to the financial statements..

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use

We draw attention to Note 2 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared for the purpose of providing information to the management and Board of Trustees of Nipisihkopahk Iyiniwini Trust Fund and the members of Samson Cree Nation. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the management and board of Trustees of Nipisihkopahk Iyiniwini Trust Fund and the members of Samson Cree Nation and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than those specified.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting as described in Note 2 to the financial statements., and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Trust's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Trust to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Edmonton, Alberta

March 28, 2023

MNP LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Nipisihkopahk Iyiniisiwin Trust Fund


Balance Sheet

As at December 31, 2022

	2022	2021
Assets		
Current		
Cash and cash equivalents	774,838	203,975
Accrued investment income	32,511	34,471
	807,349	238,446
Investments (Note 4)	37,697,360	40,828,758
	38,504,709	41,067,204
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accruals (Note 8)	33,607	42,387
Distribution payable (Note 5)	2,677,918	1,469,193
Due to Samson Cree Nation (Note 8)	211,473	199,923
	2,922,998	1,711,503
Equity		
Trust capital	35,581,711	39,355,701
	38,504,709	41,067,204

Approved on behalf of the Trustees


Trustee
LOUISE OMEAKOO


Trustee
MARVIN
YELLOWBIRD

Nipisihkopahk Iyiniisiwin Trust Fund

Statement of Earnings (Loss)

For the year ended December 31, 2022

	2022	2021
Revenue		
Investment income <i>(Note 6)</i>	1,246,216	1,048,100
Unrealized gains (losses) on investments	(5,496,626)	3,090,860
Realized gains on investments	3,445,273	875,145
	(805,137)	5,014,105
Expenses		
Investment management fees <i>(Note 7)</i>	152,012	188,474
Peace Hills Trust custodial fees <i>(Note 8)</i>	44,891	37,332
Audit fees	11,550	10,500
Professional fees	3,675	3,275
	212,128	239,581
Net earnings (loss)	(1,017,265)	4,774,524

Nipisihkopahk Iyiniisiwin Trust Fund

Statement of Changes in Trust Capital

For the year ended December 31, 2022

	2022	2021
Trust capital, beginning of year	39,355,701	36,075,485
Net earnings (loss)	(1,017,265)	4,774,524
Distributions (Note 5)	(2,756,725)	(1,494,308)
Trust capital, end of year	35,581,711	39,355,701

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Nipisihkopahk Iyiniisiwin Trust Fund

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31, 2022

	2022	2021
Cash provided by (used for) the following activities		
Operating activities		
Net earnings (loss)	(1,017,265)	4,774,524
Unrealized losses (gains) on investments	5,496,626	(3,090,860)
	4,479,361	1,683,664
Changes in working capital accounts		
Accrued investment income	1,960	(34,471)
Accounts payable and accruals	(8,780)	3,946
	4,472,541	1,653,139
Financing activities		
Advances from Samson Cree Nation (Note 8)	11,550	11,025
Distributions (Note 5)	(1,548,000)	(1,080,000)
	(1,536,450)	(1,068,975)
Investing activities		
Purchase of investments, net of proceeds on disposal	(2,365,228)	(783,977)
Increase (decrease) in cash resources	570,863	(199,813)
Cash resources, beginning of year	203,975	403,788
Cash resources, end of year	774,838	203,975

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Nipisihkopahk Iyiniisiwin Trust Fund

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2022

1. Nature of operations

Nipisihkopahk Iyiniisiwin Trust Fund (the "Trust") was established by the Samson Cree Nation, the Settlor and Beneficiary of the Trust, on January 1, 2018 to promote education and well being through Trust Grants for the long-term benefit of Samson Cree Nation and its members.

2. Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises set out in Part II of the CPA Canada Handbook - Accounting, as issued by the Accounting Standards Board in Canada. The Trust is governed by Trustees who are all members of Chief and Council of Samson Cree Nation and as an entity controlled by a First Nation, the Trust should be reporting under Canadian public sector accounting standards. Consequently, the basis of accounting used in these financial statements materially differs from Canadian public sector accounting standards.

3. Significant accounting policies

Revenue recognition

Interest and dividends are recognized as investment income when they are received or become receivable.

All realized gains and losses on disposition of investments, together with unrealized gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of investments during the year, are reflected in the statement of earnings and recorded as gains or losses on investments.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include short-term investments with maturities of three months or less.

Foreign currency translation

These financial statements have been presented in Canadian dollars, the principal currency of the Trust's operations. Transaction amounts denominated in foreign currencies are translated into their Canadian dollar equivalents at exchange rates prevailing at the transaction dates. Carrying values of monetary assets and liabilities reflect the exchange rates at the balance sheet date. Gains and losses on translation or settlement are included in the determination of net earnings for the current period.

Measurement uncertainty (use of estimates)

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period.

The amounts reported for the fair values of the investments are based on management's estimates of the value of the investments at the reporting date.

The amounts reported for distributions on the statement of changes in trust capital and distribution payable on the balance sheet are based on calculations of net income as defined in the Trust Deed. This calculation requires estimates of taxable income from the Trust's investments to be made by management as taxable income information for these investments is not available when the financial statements are prepared. If differences exist between management's estimate and actual taxable income reported by investments, the Trust adjusts the distribution in the subsequent year to account for the difference.

These estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become necessary they are reported in net earnings in the years in which they become known.

Financial instruments

The Trust recognizes its financial instruments when the Trust becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

3. Significant accounting policies *(Continued from previous page)*

Arm's length financial instruments

Financial instruments originated/acquired or issued/assumed in an arm's length transaction ("arm's length financial instruments") are initially recorded at their fair value.

At initial recognition, the Trust may irrevocably elect to subsequently measure any arm's length financial instrument at fair value. The Trust has not made such an election during the year.

The Trust subsequently measures investments in equity instruments quoted in an active market and all derivative instruments, except those designated in a qualifying hedging relationship or that are linked to, and must be settled by delivery of, unquoted equity instruments of another entity, at fair value. Fair value is determined by [describe method – i.e., published price quotations]. Investments in equity instruments not quoted in an active market and derivatives that are linked to, and must be settled by delivery of, unquoted equity instruments of another entity, are subsequently measured at cost less impairment. With the exception of financial liabilities indexed to a measure of the Trust's performance or value of its equity and those instruments designated at fair value, all other financial assets and liabilities are subsequently measured at amortized cost.

Transaction costs and financing fees directly attributable to the origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption of financial instruments subsequently measured at fair value are immediately recognized in net income/loss. Conversely, transaction costs and financing fees are added to the carrying amount for those financial instruments subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost.

Related party financial instruments

The Trust initially measures investments or debt instruments with a quoted market value or derivatives originated in a related party transaction ("related party financial instruments") at fair value.

All other related party financial instruments are measured at cost on initial recognition.

At initial recognition, the Trust may elect to subsequently measure related party debt instruments that are quoted in active market, or that have observable inputs significant to the determination of fair value, at fair value.

The Trust subsequently measures investments in equity instruments quoted in an active market and all derivative instruments at fair value. Financial instruments that were initially measured at cost and derivatives that are linked to, and must be settled by, delivery of unquoted equity instruments of another entity, are subsequently measured using the cost method less any reduction for impairment.

Transaction costs and financing fees directly attributable to the origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption of related party financial instruments are immediately recognized in net earnings (loss).

Financial asset impairment

The Trust assesses impairment of all its financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost. The Trust reduces the carrying amount of any impaired financial assets to the highest of: the present value of cash flows expected to be generated by holding the assets; the amount that could be realized by selling the assets at the balance sheet date; and the amount expected to be realized by exercising any rights to collateral held against those assets.

For related party equity instruments initially measured at cost, the Trust reduces the carrying amount of the asset (or group of assets), to the amount that could be realized by selling the asset(s) at the balance sheet date.

Any impairment, which is not considered temporary, is included in current year net earnings (loss).

The Trust reverses impairment losses on financial assets when there is a decrease in impairment and the decrease can be objectively related to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognized. The amount of the reversal is recognized in net earnings (loss) in the year the reversal occurs.

Nipisihkopahk Iyiniisiwin Trust Fund
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2022

4. Investments

	2022	2021
Fixed income	9,352,523	12,645,111
Canadian equities	10,634,796	14,136,209
Foreign equities	17,710,041	14,047,438
	37,697,360	40,828,758

The cost of marketable securities at year-end is \$36,183,890 (2021 - \$33,818,662). Cumulative unrealized gains to December 31, 2022 are \$1,513,470 (2021 - \$7,010,096).

5. Distributions

Pursuant to the terms of the Trust Deed, the Trust is required to distribute each year an amount equal to the greater of the following:

	2022	2021
a) all of the income for Canadian federal tax purposes arising from Trust Property in any fiscal year, estimated as follows:		
Revenue for the year per the financial statements	(805,137)	5,014,105
Less: Unrealized gains on investments	5,496,627	(3,090,860)
Less: Non-taxable portion of realized gains on investments	(1,722,637)	(437,573)
Less: Expenses for the year per the financial statements	(212,128)	(239,581)
	2,756,725	1,246,091
b) an amount equivalent to 4% of the closing market value of the Authorized Investments, which consists of cash and cash equivalents and investments, during the immediately preceding fiscal year.	1,641,309	1,494,308

In accordance with this requirement, the Trust has made cash distributions to the Beneficiary of \$1,548,000 (2021 - \$1,080,000) in 2022 with an additional amount of \$1,208,725 (2021 - \$414,308) to be paid out subsequent to year-end. Amounts relating to prior years of \$1,469,193 remains in distribution payable as at December 31, 2022.

Nipisihkopahk Iyiniisiwin Trust Fund
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2022

6. Investment income

	2022	2021
Dividends	908,195	793,289
Interest income	314,979	101,838
Capital gains distribution	23,042	152,973
	1,246,216	1,048,100

7. Investment management fees

Investment management fees are payable quarterly at rates which have been negotiated with the professional fund manager who has been appointed by the Trustees to manage the Trust's investments.

8. Related party transactions

During the year, the Trust incurred custodial fees expense of \$44,891 (2021 - \$37,332) to Peace Hills Trust, a company ultimately owned by Samson Cree Nation, of which \$3,062 (2021 - \$3,169) is in accounts payable and accruals at December 31, 2022.

During the year, Samson Cree Nation paid investment management fees of and audit fees of \$11,550 (2021 - \$11,025) on behalf of the Trust. As at December 31, 2022, the amount owing to Samson Cree Nation is unsecured, non-interest bearing, and has no set terms of repayment.

These transactions are incurred in the normal course of business and are measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

9. Financial instruments

The Trust, as part of its operations, carries a number of financial instruments. It is management's opinion that the Trust is not exposed to significant interest, currency, credit, liquidity or other price risks arising from these financial instruments except as otherwise disclosed.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The financial instruments that potentially subject the Trust to a significant concentration of credit risk consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents and fixed income investments. The Trust mitigates its exposure to credit loss by placing its cash and cash equivalents with major financial institutions and government issued securities. The Trust mitigates its exposure to credit loss with respect to its fixed income investments by an established investment policy which sets out minimum quality requirements, including minimum quality ratings from a recognized bond rating agency.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The financial instruments that potentially subject the Trust to a significant concentration of interest rate risk consist primarily of investments in fixed income securities and cash equivalents which earn income at a fixed rate of interest.

Other price risk

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The financial instruments that potentially subject the Trust to a significant concentration of market risk consist primarily of equities and fixed income securities. The Trust mitigates this risk by establishing investment policies and procedures with quality and quantity restrictions, and requiring each investment manager to sign and acknowledge annually a statement of the policies and procedures.



PHOTO CREDITS

We would like to thank Molly Applegarth for taking the photos at the NITF Annual Awards Night for 2022

Here are the people listed in the Annual Report

- Cover page: Perry Omeasoo, Jack Omeasoo
- Page 9- Victoria Swampy
- Page 10- Louise Eyahpaise & Summer Littlechild Carlson
- Page 20) Left to Right: Flora Northwest, Ryan Lightning | Angela Boysis-Bull, Louise Omeasoo, Serena Littlechild, Andrea Dion, Summer Littlechild-Carlson, and Craig Dion
- Page 22) Left to Right Top Row: Vanessa Buffalo & Stella Potts | Teresa Yellowbird, Cherish Yellowbird, Angela Boysis-Bull, Allyson Yellowbird | Clarence Soosay & Daughters Kallie Rain & Lilly Rain | Left to Right Centre Row: Dawson Saddleback, Alliyah Rattlesnake, Baby Preston Rattlesnake Saddleback | Heidi Brown & Kai Buffalo| Left to Right Bottom Row: Karlene Cutknife with daughters Kalaya and Alyrika Buffalo | Louise Omeasoo, Frank Dion, Elesha Buffalo, Jonathan Crier, Mya Bailey and Akira Rattlesnake



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