

# edl'ánet'e

Summer 2024



**BUFFALO RIVER**  
DENE NATION

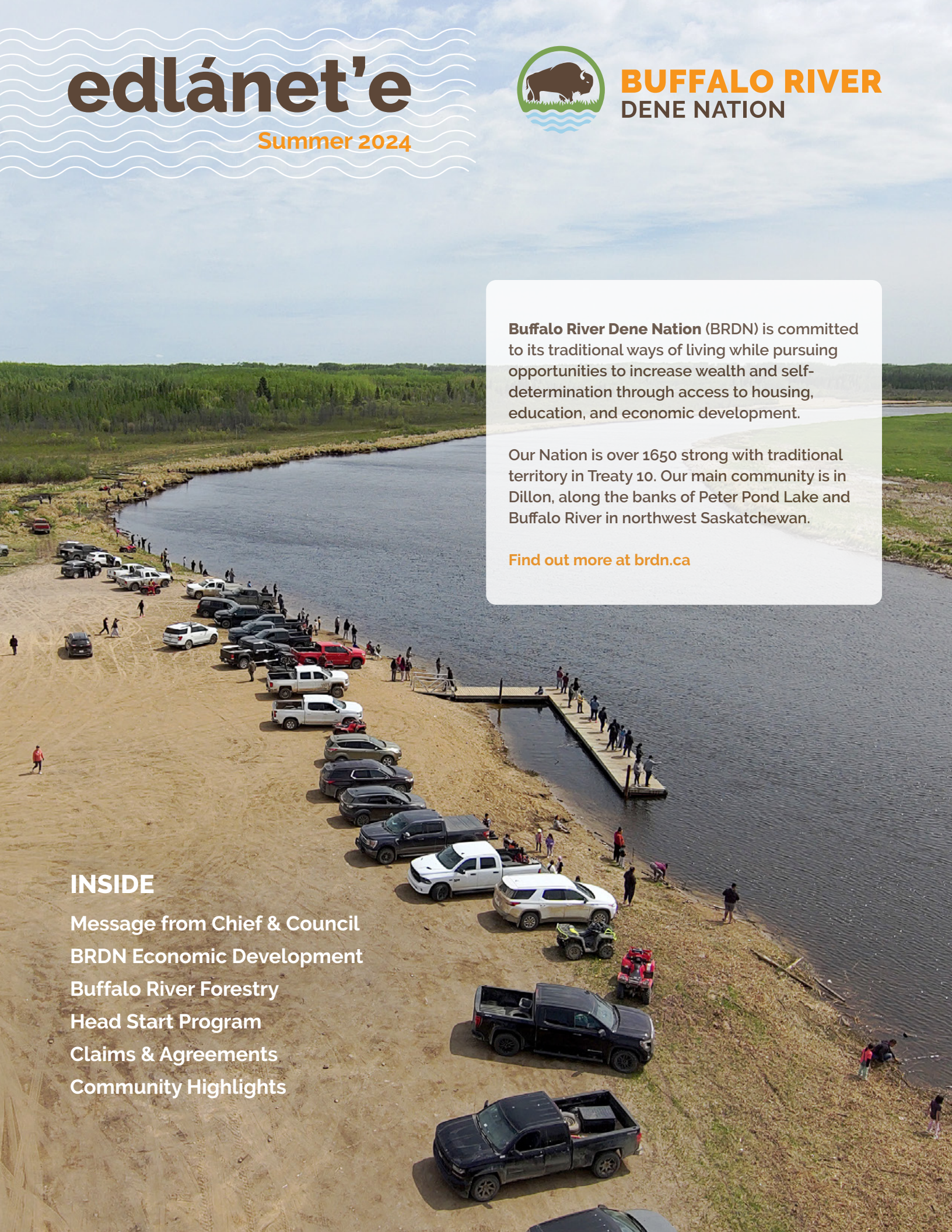
**Buffalo River Dene Nation (BRDN)** is committed to its traditional ways of living while pursuing opportunities to increase wealth and self-determination through access to housing, education, and economic development.

Our Nation is over 1650 strong with traditional territory in Treaty 10. Our main community is in Dillon, along the banks of Peter Pond Lake and Buffalo River in northwest Saskatchewan.

Find out more at [brdn.ca](http://brdn.ca)

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Community Highlights



## BRDN CHIEF & COUNCIL



**Chief**  
**Norma Catarat**



**Councillor**  
**Dallas Billette**



**Councillor**  
**Terrance Billette**



**Councillor**  
**Collin Catarat**



**Councillor**  
**Louis Chinalquay**



**Councillor**  
**Melissa Desjarlais**

## edlánet'e

### Greetings to all our members, near and far.

It has been an exciting few years for our Nation as we resolved two major claims, CLAWR and Cows & Plows, and started investing in our economic future. Many thanks to the settlement planning committee for their hard work to establish trusts and recommend a distribution process that will ensure these settlements support our Nation for many generations ahead. We also want to thank all the leadership before us, for beginning the journey to resolve these settlements.

In 2022, we officially established our economic development corporation, Buffalo River Development (BRDLP), and made three key investments: a 75% share of major Western Canadian industrial contractor Threeosix; a 51% stake in engineering, project and construction management service provider Mainstay; and 100% acquisition of P&E Forestry, which will now operate as Buffalo River Forestry. These investments put our Nation in a position to participate in the mining and forestry sectors in a big way.

The business strategy for BRDLP is grounded in our Nation's vision for a prosperous future, with more opportunities for jobs and training, and own source revenues we can invest in a strong and diverse business portfolio that extends beyond our region. This first newsletter, "edlánet'e!" shares some of these stories. We look forward to announcing more of our investments over the next year.

BRDN is taking its rightful place in the economy – this will ensure we gain financial independence and heal and grow as a people. We are proud to serve our Nation and grateful to be a part of this era of growth.

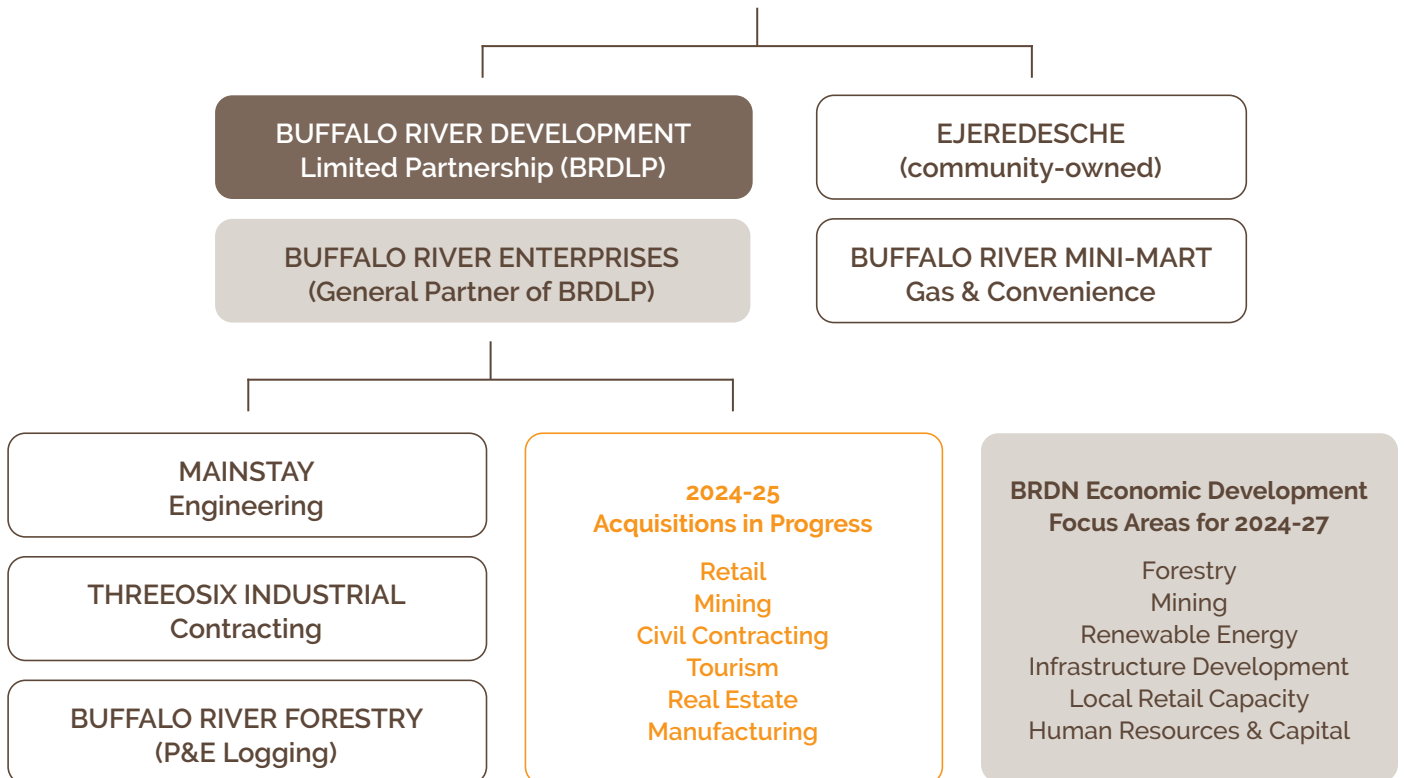
**Mahsi cho,**  
Chief & Council

# Building prosperity for future generations.

Guided by the goals of our Nation, BRDN investments are strategically chosen to maximize opportunities for economic growth in our territory and ensure a diverse, sustainable, and environmentally responsible portfolio that generates revenue for BRDN Members for generations to come.



## BUFFALO RIVER DENE NATION



# BUFFALO RIVER DEVELOPMENT (BRDLP)

## Brad Darbyshire • President & CEO

Throughout his career in construction and mining, Brad has advocated in support of increased Indigenous participation in the economy, holistic engagement with



community, and business approaches grounded in Indigenous values. Among many positions in leadership, Brad was CEO of STC Industrial from 2015-2021 and CEO of Points Athabasca from 2001-2014. A founding member and Board Director of the Indigenous

Manufacturing & Contracting Network (IMCN), Brad has dedicated his time to many other boards and charities over the years, including Saskatchewan Industrial & Mine Supply Association (SIMSA), White Buffalo Youth Lodge, Hands On Outreach, and others. Brad and his wife Deni live in Shell Lake and enjoy hunting, snowmobiling, and boating with family and friends. Their son, Lane, begins his second year at USask in Fall 2024, where he'll be joined by their daughter, Tori, who recently celebrated her high school graduation.



*Growing up in Buffalo Narrows with my Grandma Flora Pederson, I never imagined I'd have the opportunity to work for my home Nation one day. It's been so rewarding to reconnect with our community and work with Chief & Council and the BRDN team.*

*I've spent most of my career in mining and heavy industry. After working as a mechanic at Cluff Lake in the 1990s, I moved on to help establish Points Athabasca Contracting, where I was CEO for thirteen years. From there, I took on a leadership role with Saskatoon Tribal Council to create and build STC Industrial.*

*I believe in the power of the Indigenous economy and our rights as First Nations. Our goals with BRDLP reflect what our Nation needs, and how our Nation wants it done. I'm proud to see BRDN take its rightful place in territorial and regional development. With a strong foundation and good governance, we are investing in businesses that will benefit our community now and in the future.*

## Nasha Spence (CMA, CPA) • CFO, BRDLP

Nasha Spence has extensive expertise in financial analysis, accounting, management, strategic development, risk management and controls. Nasha joins BRDLP after four years as Director of Finance



at the Remai Modern. Designated as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Certified Management Accountant (CMA) since 2011, Nasha has worked in a range of finance and accounting roles with the City of Saskatoon, USask, and Federated Co-operatives limited. She

holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) and Bachelor of Arts (Psychology/Philosophy) from USask. Nasha is committed to protecting the interests of BRDN by ensuring due diligence evaluating potential investments and managing BRDLP's business portfolio. Nasha, her husband, and two children live in Saskatoon.

## Rory Duncan • COO, BRDLP

Rory Duncan has been working with BRDN Chief & Council on the Nation's economic development goals since 2021. With nearly two decades of experience in mining, oil and gas sectors and expertise in engineering,



design and project management, Rory also has a strong background in business administration (management, reporting, policy development and implementation), development, communications, finance, and strategy. He has served on a number of

boards during his career, including SIMSA (Saskatchewan Mining & Industrial Supply Association), and CIM Saskatoon, where he advocated in support of provincial and Indigenous businesses and community. Rory lives in Warman with his wife and two children.

## PARTNERS & ALLIES

### BRDLP Group of Companies

BRDLP is building a diverse portfolio of businesses in multiple sectors, including forestry, mining, tourism, and retail. We evaluate investment opportunities for their alignment with BRDLP's goals and existing businesses, and potential to provide employment and training opportunities for BRDN Members. A diversified investment strategy helps us navigate downturns in the commodities market, and expands the Nation's ability to grow capacity in construction, engineering, design, and many other areas that support community growth..



BRDLP is the wholly-owned economic development corporation of Buffalo River Dene Nation. Dedicated to supporting local enterprise and sustainable business and economic growth that benefits all BRDN Members, BRDLP is inspired by its people, culture, and lands, and excited to develop the community's workforce and abundant natural resources. **(100% ownership)**



Mainstay Engineers & Owners Reps provides mining and industrial companies with engineering services and qualified project and construction management professionals who act as owner's representatives on capital construction projects. Through a Mainstay representative, owners control project safety, quality, schedules, and costs. **(51% owned)**

Find out more at [mainstayreps.com](http://mainstayreps.com)



Buffalo River Forestry (formerly P&E Logging) is a full-service cutting, processing, hauling (stump-to-dump) operation north of Glaslyn. A family operation with Métis roots and majority-

Indigenous employees, P&E Logging has been in operation since the 1960s. BRDN is proud to now run a 100% Nation-owned forestry operation in its traditional territory. **(100% ownership)**



Threeosix is an industrial solutions provider located in Saskatoon with offices in Edmonton and Calgary serving both resource and infrastructure sectors across Canada. Threeosix develops long-term, value-added relationships, and provides timely and transparent services for project owners. Threeosix is committed to diversity, inclusion and hiring from the communities in which they do business. **(75% owned)**

Find out more at [threeosix.ca](http://threeosix.ca)

### Alliances & Partnerships

BRDLP is committed to nurturing multi-sector alliances and partnerships that support our ability to pursue economic opportunities within our traditional territory and beyond..

- 3twenty Modular - commercial & industrial buildings
- Cementation Mining Services - full mine services
- COOP - lumber & supplies
- Delco - water & sewage treatment
- Earth Drilling Services - sonic diamond drilling
- EngComp - engineering & project management
- Far North Crane - crane services & logistics support
- Finning Canada - generators & heavy equipment
- Flyer Electric - electrical & instrumentation
- FLSmidth - technology solutions for mining
- FDNSK - strategy & communications
- Full Force Drilling Services - diamond drilling
- Mato Industrial Contracting - vegetation control
- Mine Supply Company - mining supplies & solutions
- OBR Industrial - electrical, mechanical & millwright
- Outline Construction - road & site stabilization
- Polar Oils - full service fuel supply
- Rise Air Services - northern charter air services
- Sixteen Safety - staffing, paramedical & supply
- Westlund - pipes, valves, fittings & supplies

## Buffalo River Forestry: BRDN acquires P&E Logging

P&E Logging (now operating as Buffalo River Forestry) is a full-service cutting, processing, hauling (stump-to-dump) operation. A family business with Cree, Blackfoot and Métis roots and majority-Indigenous employees, P&E Logging has been in operation in one form or another since the 1980s. Founders Pat Sr. and Elaine Delainey have been working in the forestry sector since the 1960s. Two of their four sons will be staying on with the Buffalo River Forestry team, sharing their knowledge and expertise with the day-to-day operations.

Buffalo River Forestry is headquartered just north of Glaslyn on 15 acres of land with a full service maintenance shop. This investment includes a full range of heavy equipment including skid steers, graders, processors, skidders, bulldozers, and feller bunchers. Buffalo River Forestry holds a five year contract for nearly one million cubic metres of harvest allocation which will provide significant long-term development opportunities for BRDN and its Members through jobs, training, and subcontracting relationships.



Chief Norma Catarat and P&E Co-Founder Elaine Delainey



Zane Delainey beside one of P&E's first skidders



BRDLP, BRDN Chief & Council, and the P&E team celebrate the launch of Buffalo River Forestry

## BUFFALO RIVER FORESTRY

### Our role in processing, product and forest management

Buffalo River Forestry sends the majority of its harvesting to NorSask Forest Products for processing and export. BRDN owns a 10% stake in NorSask, which was acquired by the Meadow Lake Tribal Council in 1987. NorSask is the largest First Nations-owned forest products company in Canada, processes 500,000 cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) of softwood lumber every year. [www.norsask.ca](http://www.norsask.ca)

NorSask Forest Products LP (and Millar Western Pulp) jointly own Mistik Management, a licensee in a perpetual forest management agreement with the Province of Saskatchewan, is responsible for the sustainable management of 1.8 million hectares of boreal forest in northern Saskatchewan. [www.mistik.ca](http://www.mistik.ca)



100% ownership

All raw lumber is sent to NorSask for processing



**NORSASK**  
FOREST PRODUCTS LP  
PROUDLY OWNED BY THE MEADOW LAKE TRIBAL COUNCIL

10% ownership



Partial ownership through NorSask

**8000 SK Jobs**

**\$1.8 Billion in Forest Products**

Forestry is northern Saskatchewan's largest industry and supports nearly 8,000 direct and indirect jobs. In 2021, the forestry sector represented approximately one per cent of the provincial gross domestic product, selling \$1.8 billion worth of forest products, 61 percent of which was exported to other countries

Government of Saskatchewan State of the Environment, 2023

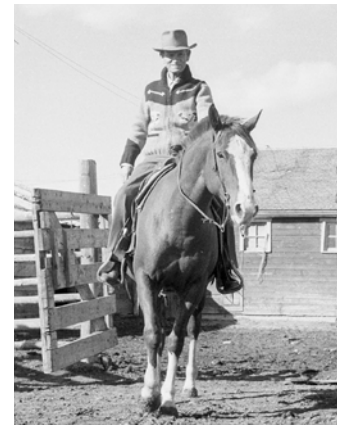
### DID YOU KNOW?

#### P&E Forestry founder Pat Sr's Great Uncle was the first Indigenous Senator of Canada!

James Gladstone (Akay-na-muka, 'Many Guns'; May 21, 1887 – September 4, 1971) was the first Treaty Indian to be appointed to the Senate of Canada, nominated for the Senate in 1958, two years before Status Indians had the right to vote in federal elections. Gladstone would serve on the Senate until March 31, 1971.

A member of the Blood Tribe of the Blackfoot Nation of Alberta, Gladstone worked as a farmer and rancher and fought for Indian Act reforms throughout his life. He's also known for integrating modern farming practices on reserve, including the use of the first tractor on Kainai First Nation in 1927. He served as president of the Indian Association of Alberta from 1949-54 and named honorary president in 1957.

In 2017, the Bank of Canada released a special Canada 150 \$10 bill that included Senator Gladstone's portrait.





## Buffalo River Head Start: Supporting children and families

Buffalo River's new daycare, "Head Start," supports early childhood development for children aged 3-5. Based on a "Learn through Play!" philosophy, the program is centred around culture and language and dedicated to providing school-readiness skills, holistic wellness and good nutrition. Head Start also provides supports for parents, guardians and extended family, who are always encouraged to be involved at the centre. The daycare has authorized capacity for 25 children.

With a targeted open date for the daycare, Chief & Council were concerned a traditional site-build approach wasn't going to work for the community. Saskatoon-based design-build company 3twenty Modular provided a solution that could meet the deadline, as modular construction projects are completed 30-50% quicker than traditional builds. Modular construction is also less expensive and generates less waste. 3twenty Modular prioritizes the use of eco-friendly materials and has provided many custom options that meet the needs of our community.

As a result of this project's success, BRDN is collaborating with 3twenty on our Youth Centre and school extension project with three new classroom portables. **Stay tuned for photos and an update in our next newsletter!**



*Our head start program promotes a healthy emotional, social, and spiritual environment for children in our community. We support positive outcomes for all our young children with relevant cultural, language, and learning experiences that reflect the unique needs of each child. I am proud to help teach and learn alongside our young generation of proud Dene people.*

**Raven Fiddler**  
(Head Start Director/Teacher)



## Approved Claims

### Cold Lake Air Weapons Range (CLAWR) - Completed 2021

Settlement for the impact of Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range on BRDN's traditional hunting, trapping, and fishing territory and the Crown's failure to provide adequate compensation.

### Agricultural Benefits Claim "Cows & Plows" - Completed 2024

Settlement for the Crown's failure to honour Treaty 10 by providing the tools necessary to support a transition to an agricultural way of life.

## Ongoing Claims

### Treaty Annuities

Related to the Treaty promise of an annuity of \$5 per year, this claim asserts the promise was connected to the commercial value of \$5 when Treaty 10 was signed in 1906 and needs to be adjusted to meet the current value.

### Treaty Land Entitlement

Related to the amount of land owed to the Nation under the terms of Treaty 10.

## Benefit Agreements: BRDN & Industry



### Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) signed July 2021

BRDN's Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) with NexGen Energy Ltd. is related to the BC company's Rook I Project, host of the Arrow uranium deposit in BRDN's traditional territory. Developed after six years of consultation, this IBA formalizes the mutual objective to responsibly develop Rook I and includes cultural, economic, employment, and other benefits to be provided to the Nation throughout the project's complete lifecycle.

Birch Narrows Dene Nation, Clearwater River Dene Nation and Métis Nation Saskatchewan have signed similar agreements with NexGen. BRDN leadership continues to oversee implementation of the agreement. An important part of BRDLP's development strategy is to expand on related employment, training and business opportunities.



### Benefit Agreement in Negotiation

BRDN leadership signed an engagement and communication agreement with Fission Uranium Corp. in July 2022 related to the PLS project, host of the Triple R uranium deposit in BRDN's traditional territory. Fission began the Environmental Assessment in December 2021 and published a Feasibility Study in 2023. The Environmental Impact Assessment was submitted in March 2024 and Fission has scheduled construction and production for 2029. Chief & Council are currently negotiating an impact benefit agreement to ensure cultural, economic, employment, and other benefits that is expected to be completed in early 2025.

**Note:** Australian mining company Paladin Energy is expected to finalize acquisition of Fission Uranium in fall of 2024.



**Congratulations to our 2024 Winners!**

Congratulations to fish derby winner Jack Billette on his 9.3lb Jackfish! He and his wife exchanged the trampoline they won for a swingset he installed the same day!

Mona Byhette won the grand prize at our annual BRDN Ec-Dev Days, hosted by BRDLP and many of our allies and partners (see back page)



Photos courtesy Madison Bymoien



Kindergarten Graduation (June 2024)



Kindergarten Graduation (June 2024)



Kindergarten Graduation (June 2024)



1st Annual Mud Bogs for Mikey



1st Annual Mud Bogs for Mikey



1st Annual Mud Bogs for Mikey



New BRDN bus with new bison graphics



Elders' Pilgrimage to Lac St. Anne's (new bus)



Grade 8-9 Edmonton Field Trip (on new bus)



Men's Mental Health Awareness Walk (60km)



Men's Mental Health Awareness Walk (60km)



Buffalo River Fishing Derby



BRDLP Annual Ec Dev Days - Dillon Job Fair



BRDLP acquires P&E Forestry



Youth Centre Modulars reach Dillon



# BUFFALO RIVER DENE NATION



Mona Byhette won the grand prize  
at our annual BRDN Economic  
Development Days, hosted by BRDLP  
allies and partners on June 5, 2024.

**Many thanks to our sponsors for the  
amazing prizes won that day!**

## Buffalo River Dene Nation

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Cover photo courtesy Madison Bymoan