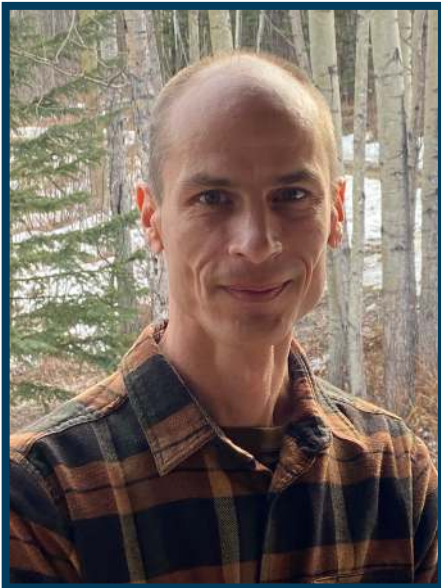


STAFF LETTER - DARREN SHANKEL

Darren Shankel, Director of Education and Agriculture Services at SN, writes a warm welcome to our new Education Advisor, Ronda Ziakris



We are very excited to welcome Ronda Ziakris to our Strategies North family. My friendship with Ronda goes back to high school (sometime in the eighties...). We were able to continue our friendship through university and she remains a valued personal acquaintance.

A constant theme in our newsletters deals with the “why” in connection to what we do. A primary foundation of our “why” is a connection through building relationships. When you have this connection, you are better able to understand the needs, interests and priorities of the people and communities you interact with and support.

My relationship with Ronda is why I am so pleased that we now have her as a part of the SN Team.

Ronda has a strong background in education, having spent many years in the classroom and at various levels of administration including Vice-Principal of a First Nations school and as a Superintendent of a school system. Her energy and laugh are contagious and help to make her easy to like and feel like she’s someone you’ve known for a long time.

Our Education Department at SN continues to strive toward meeting the various educational challenges and dreams that our partners have for each one of their students. I am confident that Ronda will provide us with an additional level of expertise that will allow those dreams to become a reality.

-Darren Shankel

Welcome Ronda!

We are excited to welcome Ronda Ziakris to Strategies North.

Ronda Ziakris, based out of Lacombe, Alberta, holds a Bachelor of Education degree as well as a Masters degree in Education Leadership and Administration. She has extensive experience as a classroom teacher, a principal and as an education superintendent. Her experience also includes her time as a vice-principal at a First Nations school. She has led teams in the non-profit sector and is a well-received public speaker on topics of leadership and personal growth. Ronda is passionate about fostering positive relationships while helping to build capacity in others. In her spare time, Ronda enjoys travelling, hiking and reading.



We're very much looking forward to bringing your expertise to the Strategies North team!

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

The Working Group on Indigenous Populations at the United Nations (UN) held their first meeting on August 9th, 1982. In December of 1994, the UN determined that the **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples** would be celebrated on August 9 annually.

Each year, the UN focuses on a theme with this years being "Leaving No One Behind: Indigenous Peoples and the call for a new social contract." A virtual event will be held this day, where the UN states they have two speakers to discuss the topic of "Indigenous peoples' own forms of governance and ways of life must be respected and based on their free, prior, and informed consent and genuine and inclusive participation and partnership."

More information can be found at <https://www.un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day>

Sts'ailes Visit

This month Strategies North team members Anna, Jason, and Nick had the opportunity to visit Sts'ailes in Agassiz, BC at the end of July. While there, our team and Sts'ailes worked on strategic planning, business development, and identifying funding opportunities for the exciting projects underway. Our team stayed at the Sasquatch Crossing Ecolodge, which is owned and operated by Sts'ailes Development Corporation. Pictured below, this charming bed and breakfast is highly recommended for anyone looking to visit the area!



The Sasquatch mask pictured above can be found in the Sts'ailes Administration building and was lost a year after it was created in 1948. It wasn't until 2014 that it was found and repatriated to the Nation where it is now displayed today!

TOURISM RELIEF FUND (TRF)

A \$500-million national program to support the tourism sector in Canada. A minimum of \$50 million of the TRF will specifically support Indigenous tourism initiatives.

Applications are open now, with funding ending March 2023.

Contributions to businesses will be either:

1. Non-repayable contributions up to **50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$100,000**; OR
2. Repayable contributions up to **75% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$500,000**.

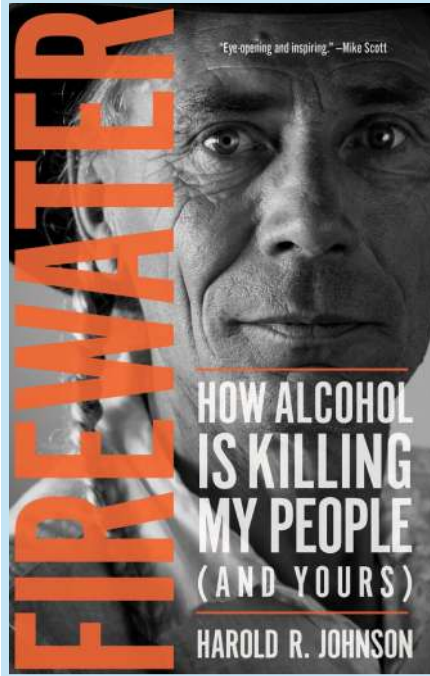
Applicants must fall under one or more of the following categories to be eligible for funding:

- A key supplier/operator in the visitor experience
 - Part of a defined tourism cluster
 - An anchor product in a destination.

Reach out to your Client Rep at SN for more information on this exciting fund!

SN's Book Club: Jason's Book Review

Firewater: How Alcohol is Killing My People (and Yours) by Harold R. Johnson



Firewater, by Harold R. Johnson, is a challenging book to read. Expressly writing for an Indigenous audience, Johnson makes the startling yet defensible claim that half of the deaths of his Woodland Cree people are caused by alcohol. He provides the historic context of why this might be the case - alcohol is a common tool of colonialism, used to break down social order and create dependencies on colonialists - and then challenges his readers to accept that they are choosing to be stuck in a narrative with alcohol in the centre. Johnson argues that only by changing the narrative that gives alcohol power at the expense of their own power can Indigenous people set a new course away from alcohol and the carnage it brings, and towards their full potential as individuals and as communities. As a person of settler ancestry, I found myself struggling against Johnson's assessment, feeling that these were arguments that would sound racist in the mouth of a non-Indigenous person. At the

same time, reading this book caused me to think about my own relationship to alcohol and what other unhealthy narratives I might be telling myself to reduce my own potential. It is a harrowing book, but ultimately one aimed at providing empowerment, not condemnation.

We grieve with the many communities across Canada as further discoveries are made connected to residential "schools." Survivors and families can access the **National Indian Residential School Crisis Line**, set up to provide support for former Residential School students and those affected. You can access emotional and crisis referral services by calling the **24-Hour National Crisis Line at 1-866-925-4419**

KEY DATES

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples - August 9

Discovery Day (Yukon Only) - Stat holiday;
August 16

Own-Source Revenue in Indigenous Communities Initiative - ISC intake deadline
August 31

Rapid Housing Initiative (Round 2) -
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
intake deadline August 31