



MINI THNI FOUNDATION FALL NEWS 2022

Nakoda Classic Labour Day PowWow - "Honouring Our Children"
Photo courtesy of Goodstoney First Nation



INDEX

- 1 - Nakoda Classic PowWow
- 2 - About Us
MTF Board of Directors
- 3 - MTF General Manager
- 4 - Employee Spotlight

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FALL NEWS 2022 - Page 2

About Us...

Mini Thni Foundation (MTF) was established in November, 2007 as a Charitable Foundation for the purpose of organizing and funding programs and charities that benefit the communities within the Stoney Nakoda First Nations. Mini Thni Foundation provides financial support through gaming revenues to Bearspaw First Nation, Chiniki First Nation and Goodstoney First Nation. Funds distributed by Mini Thni Foundation are subject to approval by Alberta Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis (AGLC).

The Foundation is guided by a Board of Directors appointed by Stoney Tribal Council. The Board of Directors is comprised of a representative chosen by each of the three Bands and a representative from Stoney Tribal Administration appointed by Tribal Common. The Directors are responsible for all funding decisions which are then subject to the approval of AGLC. The Bylaws of the Foundation call for an equitable distribution of funds to the three Bands after administrative, and operations have been funded.

In addition, the Foundation employs all of the staff operating the Cash Cage at the Stoney Nakoda Resort & Casino.

Mini Thni Foundation Board of Directors 2022 - 2023



Rob Shotclose, *Board Chair*



Adele Rabbitt, *Director*



Cherith Mark, *Director*

MISSION & **VISION**

The mission of the Mini Thni Foundation is to create positive and long-lasting impacts in the Stoney Nakoda Community.

The vision of the Mini Thni Foundation is to be an effective Foundation that is respected and accountable for building a stronger Stoney Nakoda Community.



General Manager (GM) Says Farewell



Claire Macdonald (Carrie) has worked for Mini Thni Foundation since its inception in December, 2007. In the early days, Carrie was responsible for hiring and training staff for the opening of the Cash Cage at the Stoney Nakoda Resort & Casino which officially opened in June, 2008. Since, then Carrie has hired and trained many, many staff in her almost 15 years of employment with Mini Thni Foundation. She has also worked with three Executive Directors during her tenure.

Carrie would be the first to say “things were so different back then” – it was a real juggling act with scheduling, hiring, and training employees as the Foundation had around 17 employees in the early years of operations. Although, things did not always go smoothly she said there have been a lot of laughs throughout the years – some tears were shed as well but the laughs far outweighed the tears.

Carrie said “it has been great working with the Foundation, I truly have loved my job and I have thoroughly enjoyed coming to work everyday”. Carrie is really going to miss the employees that she has had the opportunity to meet and work with – as some employees have been with the Foundation for several years. When you work somewhere for a really long time Carrie says “the employees become family” – she sees the employees as her extended family and she is proud that she had the opportunity to work with Stoney Nakoda Nation members. However, Carrie was quick to point out that although she will miss everyone dearly, she will not miss the 14-hour shifts and the highway drive in the middle of the night in winter.

On September 26, 2022 Carrie hung up her MTF General Manager hat. Carrie is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren, traveling and a lot more golfing.

The MTF Board of Directors thank Carrie for her service over the years with the Foundation, the Stoney Tribe and the three Bands. The team at MTF will dearly miss her – we hope she enjoys her new found freedom.

Isniyes (thank you) Carrie!



Employee Spotlight



Cornell Twoyoungmen started working for Mini Thni Foundation as a part-time Cashier/Chip Runner in 2013. In 2014, the opportunity to apply for a full-time position with the Foundation came up – unfortunately, Cornell was not the successful candidate. Cornell continued to work hard by demonstrating a strong work ethic – the Foundation could always count on Cornell to arrive on time and be ready to start his shift.

Later in 2014, another full-time position came up with the Foundation and this time Cornell was the successful candidate.

In 2015, Cornell started covering some Banker shifts in the Cash Cage – he quite liked the role of Banker and eventually became a full-time Banker in 2019.

In January of 2017 Cornell embarked on obtaining his Combined General Manager/Advisor (CGMA) through Alberta Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis (AGLC). He studied for the Cash Cage and Count Room exam for the majority of the year – he successfully passed the exams in October, 2017 and became the back-up CGMA for Mini Thni Foundation. Cornell's goal is to become a permanent full-time CGMA.

Fast forward to 2022 and Cornell is in the process of upgrading his English and Math – as his new goal is to obtain a certificate/diploma in Management/Leadership through a Post-Secondary Institution.

Cornell continues to enjoy his work with the Foundation – the hours fit his lifestyle. He is a committed and dedicated employee who the Foundation is proud to employ. He is also a family man and is the proud father of 5 children – he enjoys spending time with his family. When Cornell is not working in the Cash Cage for Mini Thni Foundation you will find him exploring the outdoors whether its camping, hiking, hunting, or fishing – he loves it all.

Cornell's motto is; *Never Give Up! Work Hard!*