

## Ithinto Mechisowin Program Presents Seasonal Harvesting and Equipment Calendar



**2020-21**

We thank our youth for taking interest in land based food harvesting activities and helping us to keep our traditions alive.

-Chief Shirley Ducharme, OPCN



## Acknowledgement



Late Elder Annie Spence



Late Elder Murdo Dysart



Late Elder Betsy Linklater



Late Elder Louis Dumas with family



Late Elder Vivian Moose and Marie Spence

Elders of our community have always been the greatest inspiration and supporters of Ithinto Mechisowin Program. We would like to acknowledge our elders who have passed away in recent years. Many of our Elders have left us. But we are fortunate that we had the opportunity to learn from them. We will continue to acknowledge them in coming years and publish their photos and their lessons to keep their memories and knowledge alive in the community.



## Acknowledgement



For decades peoples from O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation (OPCN), also known as South Indian Lake community, have been very active challenging the colonial forces. The community suffered a severe flooding and displacement in early 70's caused by the construction of Hydroelectric dam in Churchill River. Known as Churchill River Diversion, the flooding caused massive resource depletion, including access to land based food and medicine, for OPCN and many other communities in northern Manitoba. Despite having minimum support OPCN community members continued the practice of harvesting food from the land and teaching youth the traditional livelihood skills. The program is a result of community vigour resulting in successful University-community collaboration. It was formed in 2012, literally with no funding, as a community platform to celebrate community health, youth spirit and create access to seasonal land based food.

From June 2013 the program is being acknowledged, appreciated and funded by support organizations. Besides training the youth, it is successfully distributing traditional food to Elders, diabetic patients and low income families and also archiving traditional knowledge as educational resources. We have been publishing this calendar since 2015. This year's Calendar is dedicated to our youth who are participating in IMP program from the very beginning. We hope this will be yet another educational resource for our youth and the community and help us regenerate our health, culture and language.

In 2018 Ithinto Mechisowin Program Committee collaborated with University of Saskatchewan. The project has been supported by our long time partner Northern Manitoba Food, Culture and Community Collaborative. This collaboration resulted a gathering where our community Elder Florence Donkey, Elder Hilda Dysart, Elder William Dysart, Elder Ross Moose and Barb Spence met and discussed the possibility of creating an educational calendar that can teach our youth about different seasonal harvesting equipment. This calendar has documented some common seasonal harvesting equipment and the Cree names for them. Our language expresses our knowledge, skills and values. We as a community and our youth should always remember that our language and culture is essential for improving our health.

Chief Shirley Ducharme

And

Ithinto Mechisowin Program Committee

South Indian Lake

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**Collaboration:** Ithinto Mechisowin Committee appreciate the use of the services and funding support from the following organizations: the Northern Manitoba Food, Culture and Community Collaborative, Aboriginal Education Research Center at the University of Saskatchewan, OPCN Chief and Council, OPCN's Tommy Thomas Memorial Health Complex, Fronter School Division and Waniskatan, an alliance of hydro-impacted communities, University of Manitoba.

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**Research and documentation:**

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**Photo Credit:** Asfia Gulrukh Kamal, Shirley Ducharme, Rene Linklater.





Cree names of seasons and months			
Season	Month	Cree Names	Translation
Sekwan (Spring)	March	Mikiswipisim	Eagle Month
	April	Niskipisim	Goose Month
	May	Athikihpisim	Frog Month
Nipin ( Summer)	June	Pináwipisim	Egg laying month
	July	Opaskawípism	Egg Hatching Month
	August	Opahowipisim	Flying Month
E-tah kwakik (Fall)	September	Nochitowipisim	Mating Month
	October	Pinaskowipisim	Leaves Falling Month
Pipon ( Winter)	November	Ahakwatinowipisim	Freezing Month
	December	Maskose Kisikawipisim	Christmas Month
	January	Kisinawipisim	Cold Month
	February	Opawahchakanisis	Wind Blowing Month

Examples of seasonal harvesting activities	
WINTER	SPRING
Rabbit snaring, winter fishing, caribou hunting, termigan and spruce grouse hunting and moose hunting	Duck and geese hunting, muskrat and beaver trapping
SUMMER	FALL
Fishing, berry and medicine picking, moose hunting, harvesting seagull eggs	Fishing, moose hunting, berry picking

## Spring (Sekwan)



### Geese hunting and fixing in O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation

"Duck hunting teaches our youth on importance of patience. Some equipments for duck and geese hunting are:

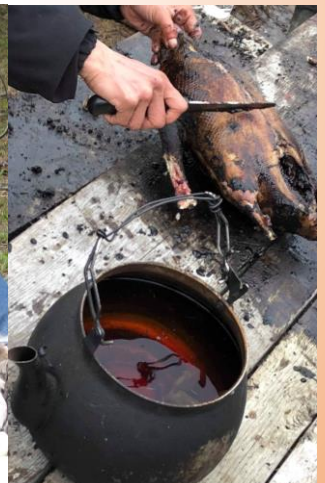
- Shot gun- niska sih ni pas kisikan
- Canoe- che man nes (smaller boat or canoe)
- Paddle-api wi
- Knife -moh ko man
- Strong hands to pluck the goose feather -nah ta pa sko pi chi kwew!"-

Barb Spence

2020

APR

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10



2020

MAY

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7





## Summer ( Nipin)



### Fish fixing in O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation

"Summer provides us lots of fish, berries, medicines and sea gull eggs. June, July and August are considered as summer. Some of the common summer equipment can be:

- Boat- che man
- Motor- en-chin
- Net- a tha pi
- Knife -moh ko man
- Fish tub- mah kahk ( wooden or plastic)
- Smoke house- a-kwa wan
- good fish fixer (nih ta kino si ki wak )"

Barb Spence

**2020**

**JUN**

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12



Seagull Eggs

**2020**

**JUL**

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

## Summer ( Nipin)



**Berry and medicine picking in O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation**

"During summer we go out for berry picking and medicine picking. Berries and medicines are important part of our diet throughout the year. We pick most of our medicines in July and August. Some of the things we need for berry and medicine picking are:

- Boat- Che man
- Pail- as kihk
- great berry pickers (Nih ta mah we so wak )"

**-Chief Shirley Ducharme**

2020							
AUG	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31	1	2	3	4	5	6



## Fall (e-tah kwa kik)



### Moose fixing in O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation

"Fall is moose hunting season. It is beautiful and celebratory. I remember as a child I was very excited when anyone brought a moose home. We used to run around and tried to help our parents by bringing them water or whatever they needed to fix and prepare the moose meat. Some equipment for moose hunting can be:

- Boat- che man
- Motor- en-chin
- Smoke house- a-kwa wan
- Knife -moh ko man
- Gun- pas ki si kan
- Bullet- moswasinih
- mo chi ki the ta mwak (happy and excited people)"

-Elder Florence Donkey

2020

OCT

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8



2020

SEP

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11



## Pipon (Winter)



### Winter fishing in O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation

"November, December, January and February are considered as winter months. During this season we do rabbit snaring, winter fishing, caribou hunting and harvesting termigan and spruce grouse and moose hunting.

List of some of the equipment for winter fishing:

- Chisel - asisweh • Knife - moh ko man
- Ice auger- twahikana • Net: a-tha-pi
- Snow Shovel-makoskwa hi kan
- Line hook -Willow or wire---o chi kwa chi kan
- Jigger- si pas se kwa he kan
- Sideline: pi sa ka na pi
- Boggan Sled- o ta pa nask
- Niso opah ki ta ha wak (two hard working fishermen )" -Elder William Dysart

**2020**

**NOV**

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6



**2020**

**DEC**

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10



## Pipon (Winter)



**Caribou hunting in O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation**

"For caribou hunting we need same things as winter fishing. We also need skidoo, bogan, snow shovel to bring the harvest back to the community. We need guns and bullets of course. And some additional equipment that we need for hunting and trapping rabbit in winter are:

- Knife- moh ko man
- Axe- che ka hi kan
- Snare ware- na kwa ka n-i a pew
- Hatchet- che ka hi kan nes
- Snow shoes- a-sa mak
- Pack sack-me wat
- and some rabbits (wapoos) to trap!"

**-Elder Ross Moose**

**2021**

**JAN**

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7



**2021**

**FEB**

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14





## Spring (Sekwan)



### Beaver and muskrat hunting in O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation

"Our spring season starts from March and ends in mid May. During this season we trap beaver, muskrat and hunt ducks and geese from the land. And here is a list of some equipment that we need for hunting and trapping in spring:

- Trap- wa ne hi kan (add nah when plural)—used them for trapping beaver and muskrat
- Beaver Snare- a misk ko na kwa ka ne a p<sup>ii</sup>
- Knife- moh ko man"

-Elder Hida Dysart



2021

MAR

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11



## Some of the Summer and Fall Equipment

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Boat - che man, motor - en chin



Smoke House - a-kwa wan



Pail - as kihk



Gun - pas ki si kan



Bullet for moose hunting - moswasihih



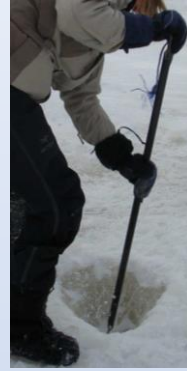
Fish tub - mah kahk



## Some of the Winter Equipment



Ice auger- twahikana



Chisel - asisweh



Snow Shovel- makoskwa hi kan



Boggan Sled- o ta pa nask



Line hook- o chi kwa chi kan



Jigger- si pas se kwa he kan



Knife-moh ko man



Net: a-da-pi

## Some of the Winter Equipment

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Snow shoes- a-sa mak



Hatchet- che ka hi kan nes  
(Small one is a hatchet in the  
above photo)



Snare ware- na kwa ka n-i a pew



Axe- che ka hi kan

## Some of the Spring Equipment

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Beaver Snare-  
a misk ko na kwa ka ne a p-ii



Canoe- che man nes



Paddle-api wi



Shot gun- niska sih ni pas kisikan



Bullet- niskasinih