



Semá:th

Sumas First Nation Community Newsletter December 2020



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Want to be added to the Communication email list for various communication from SFN Administration and Council?

Email Kevin at communications@sumasfirstnation.com

604-852-4041 EXT 215

2788 Sumas Mountain Road, Abbotsford, BC V3G 2J2

December 1, 2020



Aho! Greetings to all Band Members. First, I want to thank all of you who have greeted me with open arms. I know this is a time of great change. I came here with a great story I wanted to share about the Wolf people. Back home, I am part of the Bear Clan. We are supposed to watch over the community like a police force. This is to keep everything in check for our culture, language, governance, and over enforcement of the rules. We are called Coonake (Cho-Na-Kay). Our greatest friends are the Wolf Clan.

When I was small, I wanted to change my Indian name to Grey Wolf (Sukjak Xoc Ka). I never knew why for a long time. I had this realization driving to work last week that now I was working with the "Fierce Wolf People." It was quite a revelation to see it from a quantum physics point of view. I was like wow, exciting! I kept saying that in my mind, "Fierce Wolf Nation, Fierce Wolf Nation...(howl)." I could even hear that howl in the background.

I just want people to know that sometimes change can be quite scary. I want to provide a baseline of trust, honesty, and integrity with my words and actions. If you have a question, I have an open-door policy. If you have Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Web Ex, Facebook, or just about any other medium, I would like to speak with you and hear your words, your ideas, your stories, your complaints, your criticisms of how we are doing.

I hope all of you are doing well despite all the COVID-19 that is happening around us. During this fine holiday season, I hope you provide for the ones you love most. I love my morning drive. I know it is supposed to be a rat race, but I love seeing the mountains. I heard some stories about them, and I was enamored by their majestic beauty.

Updates

1. Cannabis law – SFN is scheduled to open its first dispensary this month. This is a huge economic move that will bring a lot of opportunity, including many jobs. Indigenous Bloom is fixing up the old Busy Bear Daycare.
2. Smoke Shack – We are wanting this to open as well to match the dispensary and bring in more revenue.
3. Update all forms, laws, documents. This is a six-month project with all departments.
4. Sumas First Nation to enter a name change. Right now, we are looking at a whole new marketing campaign for Semá:th to be the name again from a traditional point of view.
5. Encourage Language and Culture to all employees, band members, and programs, especially values embedded with words, ideas, and land.
6. Developing better protocols for customer service to all people at all buildings.
7. Listen to employees and their concerns for a safe and healthy work environment. Currently working 3-month plan, including timely communication.

Thank you.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Office Closure:

All Sumas First Nation offices will be closed from **December 23rd until January 4th, 2021.**

Maintenance staff will be available during the holiday closure. Maintenance can be reached at 778-779-4587

Current job openings with Sumas First Nation

- 1) **Social Development Worker (Open until filled)**
- 2) **Early Childhood Educator (Open until filled)**
- 3) **AP Clerk: Closing Date December 7, 2020**

Send all resumes to human.resources@sumasfirstnation.com

Do you want a copy of the Job Description?
Email communications@sumasfirstnation.com



OLD BUSY BEAR GETS FACE LIFT FOR NEW INDIGENOUS BLOOM DISPENSARY

By Forrest Funmaker



The old versus the new is quite a sight at the Old Busy Bear Daycare. The transformation has been quite quick since SXDL Economic Development signed its partnership with Indigenous Bloom.

Now that the permit was granted, renovations have been fast and furious to get done. A crew hired by Indigenous Bloom has come in and done the work in record time.

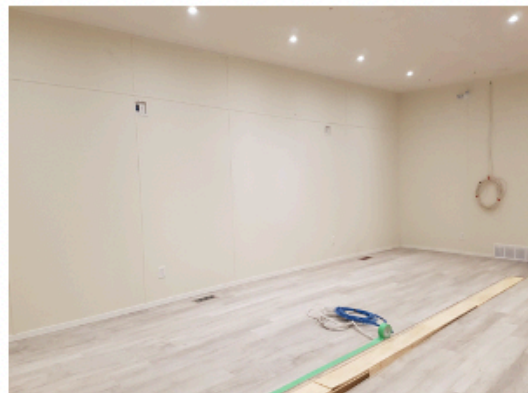
The crew made modifications to the old building. "We wish we could have done the extensive work of raising the place to be level all around. However, the water that came from up the road made an impact on the grade towards the building," explained the site foreman. "We

made it better though. It's usable now."

There is a lot of excitement to see how this new venture will perform in this location. Then in May 2021, when the Kilgard Business Park comes into play, the dispensary will move to its new location. It is slated to open soon.

The renovations will be done in nine (9) days. This is surprising that it could be brought online so fast. 14 SFN Band Members have applied for different positions in the new business and training for all will happen soon.

There is a great security system in place. This building will be like no other, and LFFA will use the building once the dispensary moves to Kilgard. This is an incredible considering its use plan to serve the community in multiple ways.



Busy Bear Update



December 04, 2020 Newsletter Updates



Dear Parents,

Pajama Day & Pizza

Day---On Thursday, December 17, 2020 we will be having a pajama day! The Preschoolers are invited to wear their pajamas and bring their favorite stuffed animal! Parents do not need to pack lunch on this day!



Daycare Hours---The hours of operation are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday. Please pick up children between these hours.

COVID-19 Screening---This applies to all staff, children, and parents, please stay home if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Fever/chills
- sneezing
- coughing
- runny nose
- Muscle aches

Winter Weather---The cold winter weather has arrived; however, the classes will still be going outside to play. Please dress your child in clothes that are appropriate for the weather (cold = snow pants, warm jackets, muddy buddies, boots etc.). We also recommend that parents leave a hat and a pair of mittens or gloves in your child's cubby for them to use outside.

Extra Clothing---Please provide your child with a change of clothes and underwear to keep in their cubbies.

Attendance--- If your child is going to be away, please let the manager know as soon as possible, either by phone or email @ 604-852-1260 Geshia.flores@sumasfirstnation.com

PRESCHOOL CLOSURES

The Preschool will be closed on the following dates:

**December 21, 2020 –
January 1, 2021-
Christmas Break**

Preschool Resume

January 4, 2021

Welcome back to a new year!

*Wishing you and your family a
Happy Holidays & a safe and
happy New Year!*

*~The Busy Bear Club Preschool
Team*



SUMAS FIRST NATION



2020-2021

Annex School Update: Semá:th Stó:mex Totí:lta:wtxw (Sumas Warrior Place of Learning).

Our Collaborative Community Kindergarten to Grade 12 school has successfully completed their first quarter and has had many highlights so far. We would like to take the time to celebrate these highlights with you. One of our first significant shared learning experiences was around Orange Shirt Day. Our school took the week to honour residential school survivors and their families, as well as personally respect the opportunity to intertwine traditional and curricular learning together this year. Students expressed appreciation for learning their own songs, stories, and language. Students then created orange shirts with good intentions and with one another. On Orange Shirt Day we went around the community to drum and sing for some of our elders. It was a day full of heart.



Another significant learning experience was that our students explored the draining of the Sumas Lake. Students in Grades 4 through 8, went to the REACH Gallery exhibits: *Semá:th Xo:tsta* and *Our Living Languages*, and then journeyed around Abbotsford and Chilliwack to recognize the scope of the lake's area as well as to hear stories of the lake and the life that resided in the lake. In Halq'eméylem, students learned place names and stories. In Social Studies, students learned about the historical changes to the physical landscape and communicated the relationship between land and culture. The older students have now taken the time to read Thetáx Chris Silver, Xémontélót Carrielynn Victor, Kris Foulds and Laura Schneider's book *Semá:th Xo:tsta* to the younger

students. Students were gifted with their very own copy of this special book. Please encourage the children around you to read this book with you (virtually or in-person).



Students and teachers then prepared for our Opening and Naming Ceremony by practicing singing and drumming, preparing giveaways, inviting a couple of guests (only a couple due to COVID safety rules at the time), and learning to use our voices with confidence. Markus Ned created a song for our school and taught his peers the song. We are looking forward to a day when we can share this song with you all. Unfortunately, as COVID numbers increased, we were required to postpone our ceremony, but it is with honour and respect that we share our school name with you now: Semá:th Stó:mex Totí:lta:wtxw (Sumas Warrior Place of Learning).

In addition to the various learning opportunities, students are having fun with one another. Students come together as supportive families especially during buddy reading, practicing the Halq'eméylem alphabet, and our Morning Prayer. Below you will see a couple of photos just for fun: Our Pajama Spirit Day (organized by our Senior Students) and Hallowe'en. Our students also really enjoyed themselves on our Pow Wow Day, led by Ms. Julian. Coming up next, our littles will be doing a gingerbread man unit where students will be happily baking and decorating gingerbread cookies.

HEALTH

Coming soon...Foundry at Semá:th

Attention Community,

We will be having some extra support for our youth. Foundry will provide us with more information on exact details to this programming

Background information:

- Foundry will provide in person, walk in counselling for youth aged 12-24 once a week for a 3-hour block.
- The counsellor will use Solution Focused Brief Therapy.
- If caregivers need support caring for their youth aged 12-24, they can also access the service.

More information to follow. If you have any questions, contact: Laureen or Flora

Laureen Duerksen RN, BSN, M.Ed.
Interim Health and Wellness Manager
604-852-4041 ext. 103

Flora Silver
Interim Community Health Representative
604-852-4041 ext.118

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HEALTH

Counselling available



Ernest continues to support Sumas First Nation during the pandemic. Please call him directly to arrange for the type of supports you need.

Ernest Chorabik

Indigenous Addictions Counsellor

Email: ernest.chorabik@archway.ca

Phone: 604-850-5109 Ext 211

Cell: 778-222-1963



First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day

Your wellness. Your way.

Family doctors are on call to provide culturally safe care, seven days a week



1. Call 1-855-344-3800 to book an appointment by video or phone.



2. See a doctor as soon as today!



To learn more or
provide feedback visit
[FNHA.ca/VirtualHealth](https://fnha.ca/VirtualHealth)

Services are open to all First Nations people living in BC and their family members, including family members who are not Indigenous.

If you need urgent medical help, please call 911 or your local emergency response service.

First Nations Virtual Substance Use & Psychiatry Service

Your culture. Your comfort. Your care.

Specialists are here to provide culturally safe support for your health and wellbeing.



1. For a referral, ask a health provider who supports you or call the First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day.



2. You and your provider can call the service together to set up an appointment by video or phone.



3. An assistant will connect you with a specialist to give you the support you need.



To learn more or
provide feedback visit
[FNHA.ca/VirtualHealth](https://fnha.ca/VirtualHealth)

Services are open to all First Nations people living in BC and their family members, including family members who are not Indigenous.

If you need urgent medical help, please call 911 or your local emergency response service.



LANDS

Semá:th celebrates 9 years of being operational on the Land Code

Laws that have been adopted under the Semá:th Land Code are the following:

1. Semá:th Animal Control Law
2. Semá:th Funeral Protocol During Covid-19
3. Semá:th Business Permit Law
4. SFN Subdivision, Development & Servicing Law
5. Soil Deposit Removal and Transport Law
6. Semá:th Prevention of Disorderly Conduct Law
7. Semá:th Matrimonial Spousal Property Law
8. Semá:th Flood Prevention Law
9. Semá:th CP Law
10. Semá:th Community Protection Law



Next Lands Advisory Committee Meeting – December 9, 2020

Lands Manager – Val Sam – Lands@sumasfirstnation.com , 604-852-4041 Ext 224

Lands & Taxation Manager – Murray Sam- 604-852-4041 Ext 225

Lands Officer – Josie Kelly – josie.kelly@sumasfirstnation.com – 604-852-4041 Ext 227

Lands Officer- Chantal Douglas – Chantal.douglas@sumasfirstnation.com - 604-852-4041 Ext 223

Lands Environmental Compliance Officer – Carrie Milsop – carrie.milsop@sumasfirstnation.com

Environmental Monitor – Kelly Sam

LANDS



Semá:th Lands Mini Quiz

Answer the following questions to have your name entered in a draw to win a **\$50.00 Gift Card**, answers can be submitted written form or emailed to Chantal Douglas – Lands Clerk at: Chantal.Douglas@sumasfirstnation.com

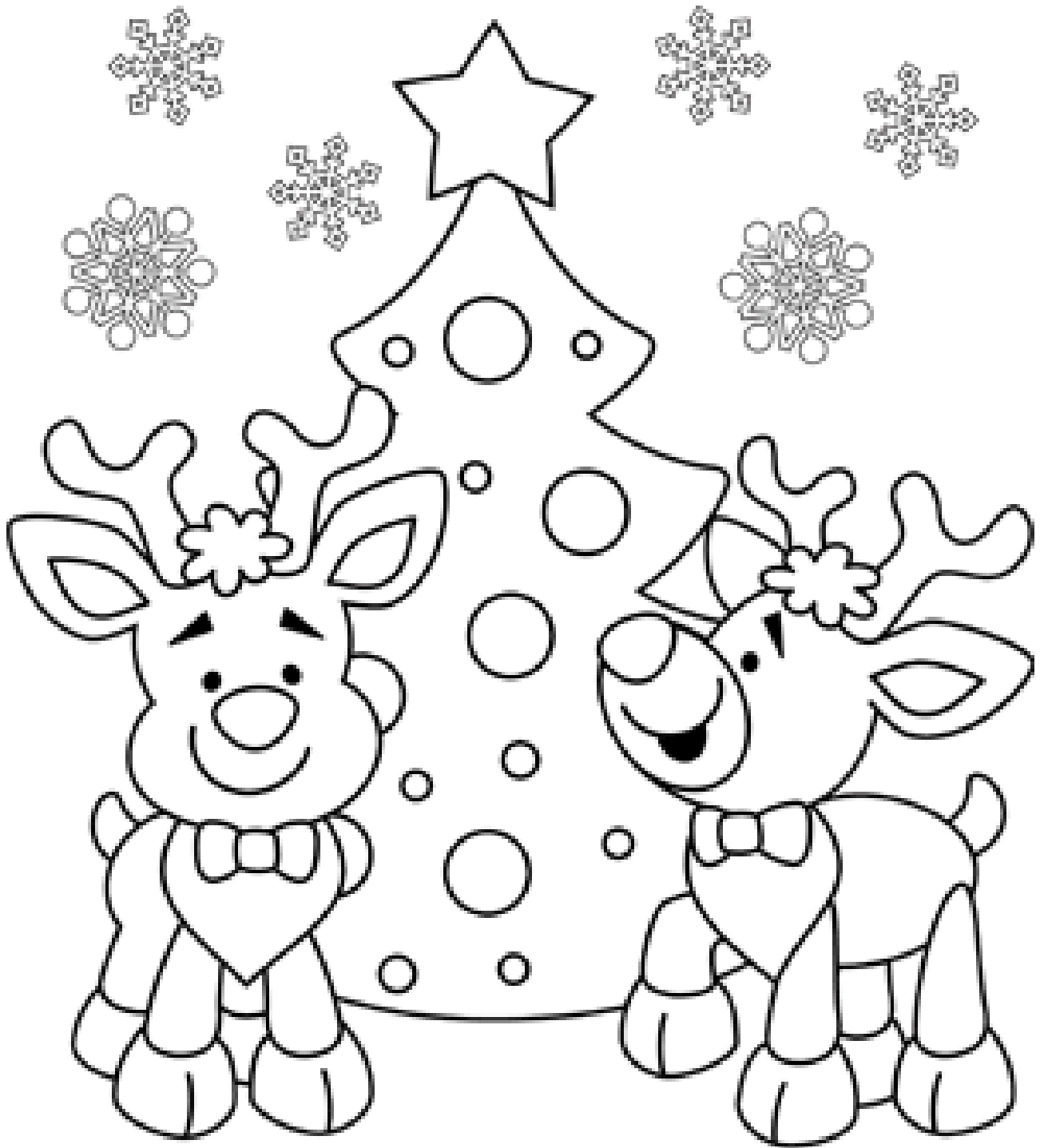
Good Luck all!

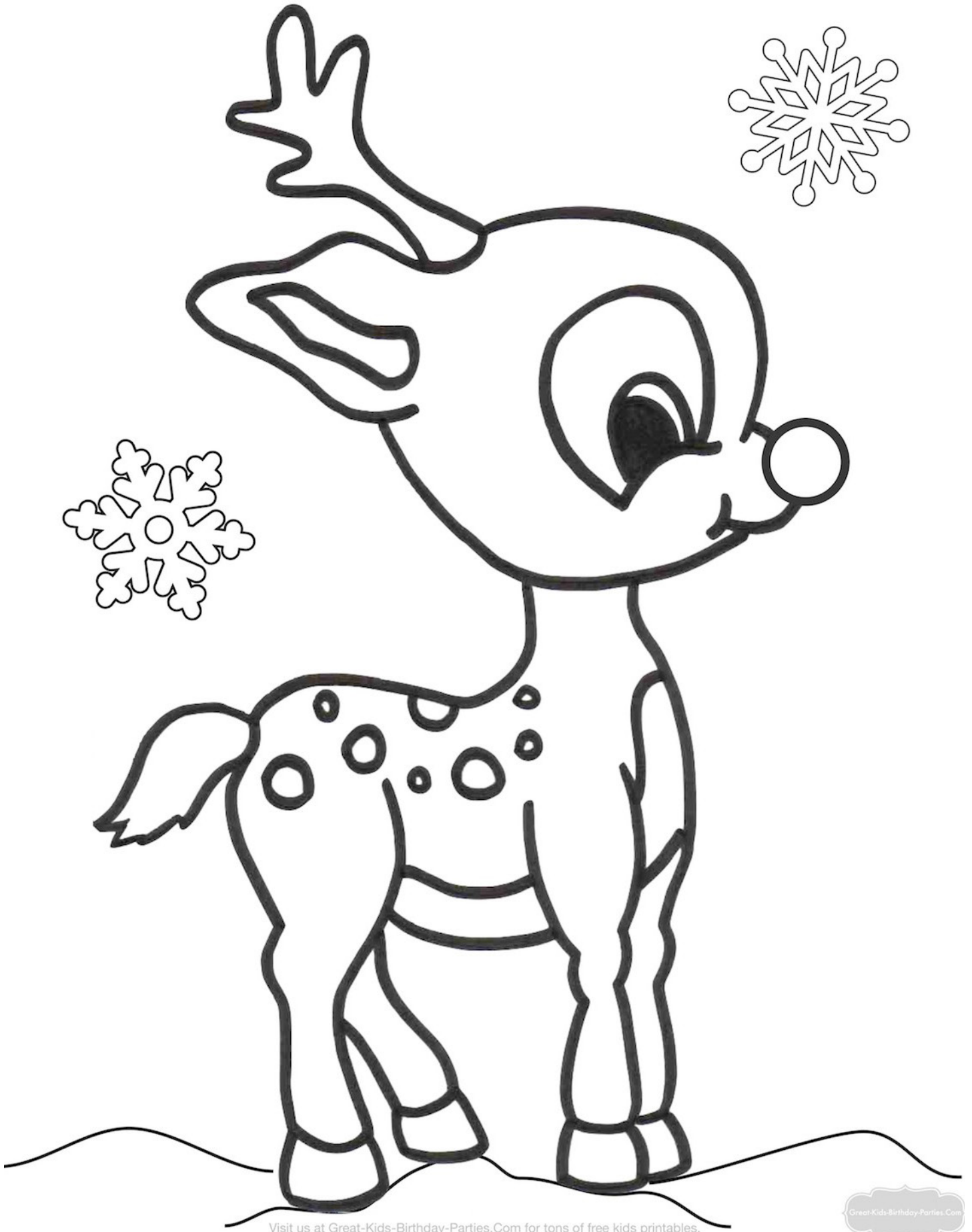
- 1) What does the acronym LAC stand for?
- 2) If you see any illegal suspicious activity taking place on Semá:th Lands, who should you call first?
- 3) Is it important to have a will put in place while residing on reserve lands?
- 4) If you spot this type of plant on reserve lands you should contact the lands department so it can be recorded.
Hint JA ___ E SE K ___ W _ E D
- 5) Complete this sentence - Taking back control of

Hint: WWW.SUMASFIRSTNATION.COM









Visit us at Great-Kids-Birthday-Parties.Com for tons of free kids printables.

