

Chinook Arch

September 2024
Volume 6 Issue 7



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY
Supporting worldwide family history research

NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

Monday, September 9, 2024

Topic: Mind the Gap: Finding the Missing Child – A Case Study
Speaker: Grant Sikstrom
Location: Bow Cliff Seniors Centre and via Zoom
Time: 7 - 9 pm

FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday, September 16, 2024

Topic: Chit Chat: Share a Harvest story
Hosts: Linda Murray and Kelly Southworth
Location: Zoom (link on website calendar)
Time: 7 – 9 pm

Monday, October 21, 2024

Topic: A Visit to Blackfoot Crossing
Speaker: Jim Benedict
Location: Bow Cliff Seniors Centre and via Zoom
Time: 7 – 9 pm

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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Watch for our newsletter, *Chinook Arch*, distributed monthly by email from September to June.

We are looking for short articles with copyright-free pictures. Favourite relatives, fond family memories, research tips and tricks, new genealogy technology you love, book reviews or any related topics are accepted.

Editor: Amber Godfrey

Email: chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca

Gordon Lane

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and managed to grow some new branches on your family tree!

Here are a few things that happened over the summer months:

- We have renamed our Library to the Resource Centre. Since there more than just books and journals available, the Board felt this would more accurately reflect what our facility has to offer. This includes multiple computer workstations with internet access, document and book scanners, a photocopier and Wi-Fi for customers bringing their own devices. We are also a FamilySearch Affiliate Library, so items that you can't see when you search from home are available at the Resource Centre. And we have just added a library subscription to the Canadian newspapers on Newspaper Archive. We looked at getting a FindMyPast subscription for the Resource Centre but there was not enough interest.
- During Historic Calgary Week, we had the Resource Centre open for a public tour and Jim Benedict also did a presentation on the controversial Inspector Ephrem Brisebois of the North-West Mounted Police at Central Library.
- We received some great publicity from a CTV News story by Kevin Fleming. Jim Benedict was later interviewed by the *High River Online* and *Strathmore Now* about the cemetery project. A local historian from Granum saw the story on CTV and contacted Wendy Schultz. That led to a cemetery project for Granum Cemetery, organized by AFHS volunteer Dorothy Clements, which was then featured in the *Claresholm Local Press*.

I hope to see many of you at the Society Meeting on September 9, either in-person at Bow Cliff Seniors Centre or on Zoom. Grant Sikstrom will be doing a presentation on finding children missing from your family tree.

If you haven't registered for the upcoming conference, the deadline to register is **September 9**. We have two amazing speakers presenting four lectures. The price also includes refreshments, a buffet lunch and a digital copy of the syllabus.

Family Roots 2024 Genealogy Conference

Roots Are Long & Deep



Presented by Alberta Family Histories Society
October 5, 2024 | Hotel Blackfoot, Calgary

Speakers: Gord McBean and Kendra Gaede

\$70 for AFHS members

\$80 for Non-members

includes

4 Lectures, Lunch & Digital Syllabus

For more information, please visit our website www.afhs.ab.ca

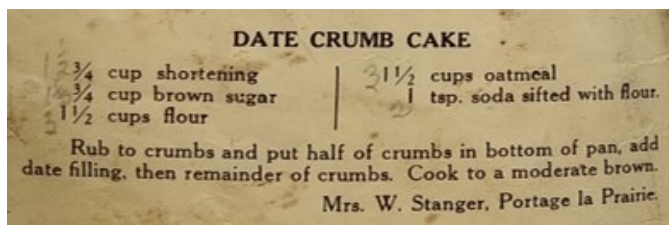


Cooking Up a Family History

Kelly Southworth

How many have a favourite family story that involves food? Food and family go together. Mum would often tell stories about “home” in England, and many involved food – the same “roast beef and Yorkshire puddings” of my Sundays as a child, along with Stottie, pitman’s sausage and many others. When pressed for stories, most of Dad’s had a food connection – his mother’s homemade wild strawberry jam, his grandmother’s chicken and biscuits with gravy.

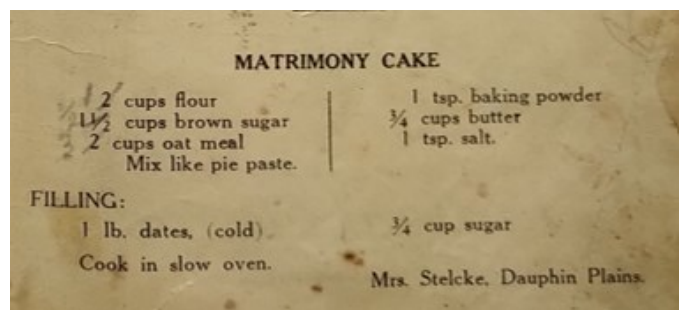
Mum collected recipes: clippings from magazines, newspapers and product labels, as well as recipe flyers from companies like Maple Leaf, OXO, Swift and the flour mills. Among them was a book, *The United Farm Women of Manitoba*, published in 1929 and consisting of recipes submitted by members from across the province.



Historically, cooking was primarily a task of women. Our female ancestors are often more difficult to trace and finding details about their lives is seldom easy. They did not leave the same type of paper trail as our male ancestors. Cookbooks were different, they were the domain of women and reflected their lives.

The 1929 UFWM cookbook revealed quite a lot about my family history. Mum did not come to Canada until 1945, so the book had belonged to my father’s family and been passed to her. I imagine Mum as a young bride coming to a strange country to set up housekeeping, and her mother-in-law reaching out, sharing the foods Dad had enjoyed as a child, as well as helping her to understand Canada.

The old book is well used and stained – disclosing which recipes were favourites! Both Grandma and Mum were recipe adjusters, noting altered amounts or ingredient substitutions. The handwriting of both can be found on the pages. There are lists in the back, written by Grandma, identifying recipes she wanted to try and those she had made. There were checks beside those she liked and notes beside others; “No” or “Not again.” This was eerie for me as I make the same lists and notes and had long before finding this book.



I experimented with the lists of ingredients, as these old cookbooks are seldom more than that. There are no cooking, mixing, or baking instructions, no pan sizes, and only approximate measurements. One recipe, written in the back, lists real measurements, then in brackets following, everything is qualified: cups become “good” or “scant”; teaspoons are “bumper” or “small.” I learned from attempts to make the Raisin Scones that the cups used were NOT standard Imperial measures! Instead of a “nice dough to pat out” I got pancake batter.

A phone call to Dad had him reminiscing about the flour bin in his mother’s kitchen that held a 100-pound sack and tipped open on a hinge. After many stories about flour misadventures, he casually mentioned an old granite-wear mug, kept inside the bin on a hook. Eureka! I had one of newer vintage in my camping gear. I was ready for Dad’s next visit, where he pronounced that the Raisin Scones were “just like Mom’s” lacking only the “smoky” taste of the woodstove.

Along with memories of those three women who came before me, other family stories are locked in that book. There were recipes submitted by Dad's great aunts. I learned the family had supported the UFWM and been members. Advertisements in the book told me about life and the interests of my female forbearers. Some of the recipes have withstood the test of time and are still used, but we had long since forgotten where or how they came into the family.

Community cookbooks have become a subject of study. In *Canadian Cookbooks (1825-1949): In The Heart of the Home* by Elizabeth Driver, a Canadian cookbook scholar, she describes them thus:

This type of publication is always a group effort: Recipes are solicited from the community; ... Typically, each recipe is credited with the name of the person who contributed it - the names attached to the recipes act as a sort of guarantee, for who would submit a recipe that wasn't useful or didn't work? The process bypasses the conventional publishing world and empowers ordinary women to produce their own recipe collections, so that each fund-raising cookbook is an authentic reflection of the culinary practices of a particular community.

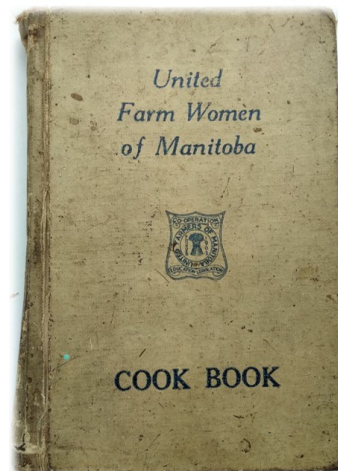
Driver points out that these were "written for use in the home ... and the books illuminate that intimate and normally private world ... are a powerful form of cultural expression. No other type reveals more about Canadian cooking and society."

Others recognize their role in our history - as a country, as a community, and as family. In an article for the *New York Times* titled *A League of Their Own: Community Cookbooks*, Michelle Green wrote: "In an era when females had few roles in public life, these cookbooks acknowledged their presence in the community."

The abstract for Jill Nussel's book about American cookbooks, *Heating Up the Sources: Using Community Cookbooks in Historical Inquiry*, summarizes their importance for understanding our female ancestors and their lives:

Even after immigrant women had changed to American dress and began sending their children to public school, the last aspect of life to change was their foodways. One of the ways by which women could stay within their sphere and still find a public voice was through the compilation of a community cookbook that was compiled for the benefit of their churches and a myriad of community organizations. But they were far more than just collections of recipes. A careful examination of charity cookbooks shows how women defined their roles, disseminated hierarchy within their own groups, advised others, dispensed moral teachings to a broader audience, and preserved the best parts of their own heritage for future generations. And in the process, women who probably never would have been published or remembered beyond their family ties have produced artifacts worthy of continued inquiry.

For genealogists, community cookbooks help locate female ancestors in their communities. They are a treasure, infused with a sense of time, place and character, and tell us much about the women who wrote them, as well as the women who used them and passed them on through generations.



Special Interest Groups

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs) are the ideal place to expand your knowledge and share your own family history challenges. The small-group setting gives you an opportunity to ask questions and get help from more experienced researchers.

SIGs are now being held in three formats: in-person only, Zoom only or a hybrid version of in-person & Zoom. Check the calendar on our website for up-to-date information or email the SIG leader. The SIG groups do not meet during July and August.

SIGs are an AFHS member benefit. If you would like to attend a SIG meeting to try one out before joining, ask for an invitation from communications@afhs.ab.ca

SIG GROUP	NEXT MEETING	TIME	CONTACT
BASICS	Saturday, October 26	10 am – Noon	bascis@afhs.ab.ca
CELTIC (Irish/Scots)	Saturday, September 28	10 am – Noon	celticsig@afhs.ab.ca
DIGITAL GENEALOGY	Saturday, September 14	10 am – Noon	familygenes@afhs.ab.ca
DNA	Sunday, September 8	12:30 – 2:30 pm	dnasig@afhs.ab.ca
ENGLISH/WELSH	Saturday, September 21	10 am – Noon	englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca
FAMILY TREE MAKER	Saturday, September 7	10 am – Noon	ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca
LEGACY	Tuesday, September 24	7:00 – 9:00 pm	legacysig@afhs.ab.ca
ONTARIO	Monday, September 23	1:30 – 3:30 pm	ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca
WRITING	Friday, September 13	9:30 – 11:30 am	writing@afhs.ab.ca
	New SIGs starting fall 2024!		

The AFHS Library is located at **712 - 16 Avenue NW, Calgary** and all in-person SIG group meetings are held there. Members are encouraged to stay after meetings, when possible, to browse the collection!

The Library has over twelve thousand print items and many are available to be borrowed for a one-month loan. Electronic resources include computers, a multi-function printer, scanners (flatbed and overhead) and a microfiche reader. Journals from around the world are available to view in-library in either print or digital formats. As a **FamilySearch Affiliate Library**, visitors can now view additional FamilySearch digital records at the AFHS library that they can't see at home.

SIG NEWS

- Kelly Southworth has agreed to lead a Writing SIG that will be held on the second Friday of each month at 9:30 am via Zoom. Members can join by emailing writing@afhs.ab.ca
- A Basics SIG will be starting up on Saturday, October 26, led by Bev Smith and Marion Peterson. The group will meet approximately every other month. Members can join by emailing basics@afhs.ab.ca.
- Our members can watch recorded sessions of past SIG meetings and peruse handouts at the AFHS website. You must be signed in to the website to access them. Go to Resources, then click on Meeting Videos & Handouts.
- If you or someone you know would like to be a guest at a SIG meeting, send your request to communications@afhs.ab.ca

But What Happened to the Children? My British Home Child Discovery

Tara Shymanski

Our family tree usually consists of people that we have personal knowledge of, have heard of from family members or have found through our research. But sometimes we also have a DNA family that is our bloodline, people we match through DNA, but know nothing about. In my own family, my mother has two fathers: a stepfather, Walter Dunn, and a biological father, John Edward Harrison. She seldom mentioned John Harrison, but I did know that he existed.

A few years ago, I won a free DNA test kit and when my results came back, I was matched with one of my mother's cousins from the Harrison line. He gave me access to a well-sourced tree on Ancestry, which was a great help, but there were still a few gaps. One of the gaps was the Atkins family.

Kate Atkins is my biological great-grandmother, John Edward Harrison's mother. She was born in Buckinghamshire, England, around 1895 to William Elbourne and Fanny Atkins. Fanny died in 1902, leaving Kate's father with seven children to raise. There are instances in my Canadian family lines where the mother died and the father quickly remarried, or other family members stepped in to raise the child or children. I was curious to see what happened to Kate and her siblings.

On the 1901 Census for England and Wales, William E. Atkins (39) was living in Chesham Bois, Buckinghamshire, with his wife Fanny (31), and their children: Elizabeth Beatrice (12), Edith (10), Rosa (8), Kate (7), Horace (5), Alice Minnie (3) and Edward Jesse (1). When I searched for the family on the next census, the 1911 Census for England and Wales, I was able to find William with his youngest son, Jesse, living in

a workhouse but the other children were elusive. Atkins is a common surname.

My first breakthrough was discovering Rosa Atkins on a passenger list that stated she was coming to Canada with the Barnardo Homes. Between 1869 and 1939, more than 100,000 British children were sent to Canada to work as servants or as farm labourers. The children were under 18, with most between the ages of 7 and 14, and were "emigrated by an agency to be 'adopted' or placed as indentured servants." Agencies like the Barnardo Homes and the Salvation Army arranged the placements. In Canada, they became known as "Home Children," because many came through places like the Barnardo Homes.

Library and Archives Canada has many resources to search for Home Children, including a database that lists children who were sent to Canada from Britain. I checked that database for the other children and found Elizabeth Beatrice, Rosa and Alice listed.

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/home-children-1869-1930/Pages/home-children>

After their mother's death, the sisters were sent to Barkingside Girls Village in Barkingside, Essex, England. It was supposed to be a progressive home for orphaned and poor children, started by Thomas Barnardo after his first girls' home had failed. The girls were trained to be domestic servants in England or sent to Canada to work as servants or farm labourers. During the early 1900s, 300 girls a year were sent to Canada.

In May 1903, 15-year-old Beatrice was sent to Hazelbrae Home for Girls (also known as Hazelbrae Barnardo Home) in Peterborough, Ontario, where she trained to work as a domestic servant. The 1911 Canada Census shows Beatrice Atkins working as a servant in a boarding

house owned by Alice Herman in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Beatrice married Frank Letcher and had two daughters and one son. Frank owned Letcher Auto Electric, which still exists in Moose Jaw today.



Frank and Beatrice (Atkins) Letcher with daughter Bea

Alice was the next to come over in 1904, at only 6 years old. Working as a servant on a farm owned by James Nattress in Vaughan, Ontario, on the 1911 Canada Census, she is going by her middle name, Minnie, as the farmer's daughter is also named Alice M. By 1921 she was in Toronto, working as a servant for an optician and once again using the name Alice. In 1922, she married William Plested and moved up north to Cochrane, Ontario.

Rosa, age 14, was sent to the Hazelbrae Home for Girls in Peterborough in 1907. On the 1911 Canada Census, she is working as a domestic servant for an optician in Port Dover, Ontario. Rosa was an interesting case as she returned

to England briefly around 1912, then came back to Canada and eventually ended up working as a servant in Upper New York State. It was here she married Frank Conway.

Kate didn't come to Canada until she was 16. She arrived in 1910 with the Salvation Army, another group that sent British Home Children to Canada. On the 1911 Canada Census, she is working as a domestic servant for the same family as her sister Rosa in Port Dover. Kate married John Edward Harrison in 1913 and moved to Cochrane, Ontario, where my mother was born.

The youngest child, Jesse, was in the workhouse with his father in 1911. In 1916, at age 17, he left his sister Edith's home in England and travelled by ship to New York, where he listed his married sister Rosa as his contact in the United States. In 1920, he applied to be a Naturalized U.S. citizen and was working as an auto mechanic in New Jersey. Around 1925, he married Julia McGann. They had two daughters and two sons.

Edith and Horace, the two remaining siblings, stayed in England.

Edith married Alfred Sackett in 1909. They lived in the London area.

Horace worked as a farm labourer in Denham, Buckinghamshire, then moved to London and became a porter. In 1914, at the outbreak of World War I, he enlisted in the army and became a cook. He married Florence Hall in 1920.

Through all this, the family stayed in contact. Beatrice visited her sisters in Cochrane. Rosa returned to England at least once. Jesse was in touch with his sisters Edith and Rosa. Most telling is that in Rosa's obituary her surviving siblings are mentioned, even the ones in remote Northern Ontario. Despite enduring tragedy and separation at a young age, they still remained a family.

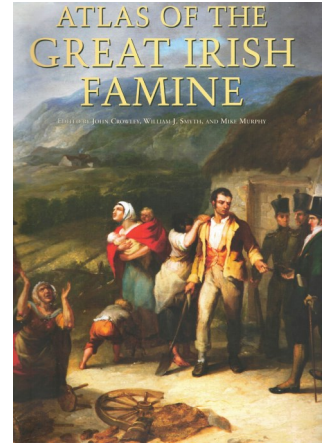
Marion Peterson

Atlas of the Great Irish Famine

edited by John Crowley, William J. Smyth and Mike Murphy

Published by Cork University Press, 2022 reprint

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If your ancestors were affected by the Great Irish Famine of 1845-1852, consult this book, richly illustrated with more than 150 maps and contributions from over 60 scholars. It is a valuable reference book at the Alberta Family Histories Society Library.

The early chapters outline the interesting history of potatoes in Ireland. Learn how potatoes came with the Spaniards in the sixteenth century, the varieties grown, methods of agriculture, and about the population's deepening dependence. By the 1770s, an Irish person's diet for about nine months of the year consisted of potatoes with milk or other liquid.

Earlier famines and crop failures suggested the Irish diversify, but tenant farmers had no viable choice. Potatoes could provide four times as much food as any other crop to support their families. When the potato blight emerged in 1845, the resulting crop failure was devastating. With no potatoes to eat and no money to buy other food, people starved or died of famine-related disease. Over a million people perished and at least 1,250,000 fled the country.

The book discusses the politics of relief assistance in depth. In the early years, food depots were established by the British government, but then the burden of relief was shifted to local work programs and workhouses. Drawings and photos depict the typical workhouse. One interesting tidbit is that unlike English Poor Law where every poor person had the right to relief, in Ireland, if a workhouse was full, the administrators were under no obligation to find accommodation for the destitute. One of the many interesting maps shows the location of early Poor Law Unions and workhouse locations.

Continuing the timeline, the book explains the resulting population decline and social transformations. Emigration to North America, the variations between cities and towns, the impact on subsistent women and how the landed classes fared are discussed. Four chapters describe how the famine was experienced in each of the four provinces.

The remainder of the book describes examples of the manuscripts written at the time, the scattering of destitute Irish to other parts of the world, the legacy in post-famine Ireland, and ways the famine is remembered in Irish folklore and art. The final chapter considers how world hunger is being fought today.

I highly recommend *Atlas of the Great Irish Famine*. It provides a broad range of perspectives and insights into this tragic event in history and is worth consulting if you have ancestors who were affected by this famine.

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Family History Coaching

In-person at Central Library

Calgary Public Library

September 28, 2024 1:00 – 3:00 pm

<https://calgarylibrary.ca/events-and-programs/programs/family-history-coaching>

CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

*all times listed are in MDT

A Genealogy Toolbox for Researching Ancestors in Ontario with Ken McKinlay

Virtual

Ontario Ancestors

September 5, 2024 5:00 pm

<https://ogs.on.ca/september-webinar-a-genealogy-toolbox-for-researching-ancestors-in-ontario-ken-mckinlay>

The Neighbors Knew: Strategies for Finding YOUR Ancestral Details in THEIR Records

Virtual

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

September 13, 2024 9:30 am

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/the-neighbors-knew-strategies-for-finding-your-ancestral-details-in-their-records>

Start with What You Know, Analyze What You Know

Virtual

FamilySearch

September 17, 2024 10:00 am

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/FamilySearch_Library_Classes_and_Webinars

Artificial Intelligence and Genealogy: Trouble Ahead?

Virtual

Qualicum Beach Family History Society

September 18, 2024 8:00 pm

<https://www.qbfhs.ca/category/speakers>

Using the Hudson Bay Company Records for Genealogy Research

Virtual

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

September 20, 2024 10:45 am

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/using-the-hudson-bay-company-records-for-genealogy-research>

Practical Tools for Family History Writers by Laura Hedgecock

Virtual

Ontario Ancestors

October 3, 2024 5:00 pm

<https://ogs.on.ca/october-webinar-practical-tools-for-family-history-writers-laura-hedgecock>

Family Roots 2024 Genealogy Conference: Roots Are Long & Deep

Speakers:

Kendra Gaede

Gord McBean

In-person

Alberta Family Histories Society

October 5, 2024 8:45 am – 3:45 pm

<https://afhs.ab.ca/event/family-roots-2024>

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About Our Society

Alberta Family Histories Society is a registered non-profit organization that welcomes anyone interested in genealogy and family history! For over 40 years, we've helped people grow their family trees and discover the stories of their roots. We have substantial resources about Calgary and southern Alberta but can help you research your roots worldwide. Our website is <https://afhs.ab.ca>.

We learn from each other in a variety of settings – Society meetings, Special Interest Group meetings, workshops and biannual conferences. For up-to-date meeting information, see our website calendar at <https://afhs.ab.ca/calendar>.

Visit one of our most valuable resources - the AFHS Resource Centre! While our library collection has an emphasis on materials pertaining to Alberta and Canada, we also have basic genealogy books and information from around the world. AFHS is a FamilySearch Affiliate Library, which gives you access to FamilySearch records you can't view at home. Our volunteers look forward to showing you what we have to offer for your genealogy research! You can view a catalogue of our holdings at <https://afhs.ab.ca/library>.

Documenting local historical records is part of our mission. Alberta Ancestors is a special project to showcase cemetery records at <https://albertaancestors.ca>. With 280 cemeteries and over 230,000 memorials, it is a priceless resource.

Members have a wealth of opportunities to share strategies, struggles, successes and stories with others who appreciate the challenges of this hobby. One option is for members to share family tree projects and to post stories online as part of our Family Genes website at <https://www.familygenes.ca>.

We welcome visitors, so please drop in at a meeting and introduce yourself. Come see how our services and programs can fit your needs. We hope you will join us either in-person or virtually! To receive a guest Zoom invitation to one of our Society meetings, contact Marion at communications@afhs.ab.ca.

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AFHS RESOURCE CENTRE

**712 - 16 Avenue NW
Calgary, AB T2M 0J8**

Fall/Winter Hours

Thursday, 10 am - 2 pm

Saturday, Noon - 4 pm

Check our website calendar for any time changes or closures.

<https://afhs.ab.ca/calendar>



CONTACT US

Email: info@afhs.ab.ca

Website: www.afhs.ab.ca

Phone: 403-214-1447

Facebook: Alberta Family Histories Society

Instagram: abfamilyhistoriessociety



Land Acknowledgement

In the spirit of reconciliation, we would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather and where we work to preserve the records and family history of those who came before us are on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising of the Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani First Nations), the Tsūūt'ínà, the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw and Goodstoney First Nations), the Métis Nation (Districts 5 & 6) and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.