



**Swan River First Nation**

**Wapsewsepi Awasis Weyasowewin-Swan River Child Well-Being Law**  
**Box 270, Kinuso AB, T0G 1K0, 780-775-3536(P) 780-775-3796(F)**

There has been 2 community engagement sessions planned so far, one in BC and then one in Edmonton coming up. There will be a presentation and information Work/session coming up in the Edmonton area for gathering band member input/suggestions for a new law that will be created to replace the current provincially operated Child Welfare program that does placements for our children in care. Lunch and a few door prizes will be provided. The next dates will be announced soon.

The new Child Law program is just beginning for Swan River First Nation but has progressed quickly. The 1<sup>st</sup> steps are these engagement meetings to ask band members what they would like to see changed in the current provincially ran Child Welfare system. Specifically input about what problems existed and suggestions of what did and did not work.

**Wapsewsepi Awasis Weyasowewin-Swan River Child Law-History**

- July 15, 2020: Treaty 8 Chiefs mandated Treaty 8 Urban Child and Family Services Office to develop a collective **Kisiwatsiwin** Child Well-Being Law (Legislation) and then each Nation will also have its own set of unique laws
- July 11, 2021: Swan River Leadership mandate to proceed in the development of our own Sovereign Child Well-Being Law (July 11, 2021)
- February 14, 2022: The Team Lead-Connie Twin was hired on, to begin collaborating with Chief & Council, the Child Welfare Committee, community members on and off reserve in the development of a “Child Well-Being Law” for Swan River First Nation.
- April 30, 2022: Swan River First Nation Elder Orientation: (NIHIYAW) KISÎWÂTISIWIN (DENE) AYTU Ô NAY 'I
- May 1, 2022: Swan River First Nation Declaration “Bringing Our Children Home.”
- May 1, 2022: Wapsewsepi Awasis Weyasowewin (Swan River Child Law) - Name & Logo Reveal. Blanket presentation
- May 1, 2022: Swan River First Nation Chief and Council signed the Nehiyaw and Dene Nations of Treaty No. 8 Adoption and Private Guardianship Law to help prevent more “illegal” adoptions
- September 2022: Community consultation Engagement Input meetings start on & off reserve



**Wapsewsepi Awasis Weyasowewin-Swan River Child Law-Standards**

1	History Lesson	Service providers receive history lessons about First Nations (Knowledge/Lifestyle)
2	Cultural/Ceremonial Spiritual	Children will have access to ceremonial and cultural supports
3	Family Unity	Family Unity is a priority
4	Children will have a voice	Children will have a voice in decisions affecting them
5	Indigenous Assessment Tools	Use of indigenous assessment tools will be used to determine safe places/homes
6	Support to All family members	Support will be offered to ALL members of the Family (past,present,future)

The next steps are these engagement sessions with band members, then the Treaty 8 Chiefs and our First Nation will ratify the laws and then the First Nations will apply to make these into the new Federal\First Nation laws