

Overcoming Adversity: Embracing Diversity and Resilience

My name is Bernard Ross Ventura, but I prefer to be called Ross (he/him). I am a resilient 42-year-old indigenous two-spirit male from the Bigstone Cree Nation, located in Wabasca-Desmarais, Alberta, approximately 400 km north of Edmonton. My journey has been one marked by determination, overcoming adversity, and embracing my diverse identities. Currently, I am in my second year at Yellowhead Tribal College, pursuing my Indigenous Administration and Governance diploma, with the aim of graduating in the fall of 2024.

Experiencing the rich cultural environment of the Bigstone Cree Nation at a later age, I developed a deep appreciation for my indigenous heritage. The teachings, traditions, and values passed down through generations have shaped my identity and instilled in me a strong sense of community. However, along with the immense pride that comes from being indigenous, I have also experienced firsthand the challenges of racism and marginalization. These experiences have only fueled my commitment to celebrating and preserving indigenous culture while challenging stereotypes and advocating for the rights and well-being of indigenous communities.

Aside from navigating the complexities of my indigenous identity, I have faced additional obstacles due to my disabilities. Living with amputations, partial deafness and end-stage renal failure has presented me with physical challenges that require resilience and adaptability. However, I have refused to let my disabilities define me or limit my potential. Through the use of assistive technologies and a determined mindset, I have learned to navigate the world in my own unique way, while advocating for the rights and inclusion of disabled individuals.

Returning to school at the age of 40 was a decision born out of a desire for personal growth and a thirst for knowledge. Although the journey has not been without its challenges, I have found immense satisfaction in pursuing my education. Yellowhead Tribal College has provided me with a supportive environment that recognizes the value of life experiences and embraces mature students like myself. By immersing myself in the Indigenous Administration and Governance program, I hope to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to make a positive impact within my community, bridging the gap between traditional wisdom and contemporary leadership practices.

As a two-spirit individual, I have also confronted bigotry and prejudice due to my sexual orientation. Embracing my identity as a gay man has been an important part of my journey toward self-acceptance and understanding. By advocating for LGBTQ+ rights and challenging societal norms, I strive to create a more inclusive and accepting society for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

In conclusion, my life is a testament to the power of resilience, determination, and the embrace of diversity. As I continue my education at Yellowhead Tribal College, I am proud to represent my indigenous heritage, challenge misconceptions, and advocate for the rights of marginalized communities. By leveraging my experiences as a disabled, two-spirit individual, I aspire to contribute to the greater good, promoting inclusivity, equality, and understanding in both indigenous and non-indigenous spaces. I am grateful for the opportunities that education has provided me, and I look forward to making a meaningful impact in my community and beyond.



OUR STUDENTS / OUR COMMUNITY / OUR FUTURE

2023/24 Letter of Acceptance

Date: June 9, 2023
Student: Ross Ventura
Program: Administration Diploma
Term Dates
YTC Student Orientation: TBA
Fall 2022 Term: September 1-December 31, 2023
Winter 2023 Term: January 1- April 30, 2024
Spring 2023 Term: May 1-June 28, 2023

Dear Ross

We are pleased to provide you with this ACCEPTANCE into the Yellowhead Tribal College Administration Diploma Program 2023/24 year. I currently have you preregistered in your Fall 2023 courses, and we will be providing scheduling updated in June.

I look forward to working with you again in the Fall!

Trevor Duplessis, B.Ed, BFA, MFA

Department Head, General Studies, Admin and Governance Programs

10045-156 ST #251, Edmonton, AB, T5P-2P7

phone-(708) 484-0303, fax- (780) 481-7275, email- trevor.duplessis@ytced.ca



Your Fall 2023 Course Registration Confirmation

Fall 2023 Course Registration Confirmation/Term Estimate

Date: June 9, 2023
Student: Ross Ventura
Program: Administration Diploma

Term Dates

YTC Student Orientation: TBA
Fall 2022 Term: Sept 1-December 30, 2023
Winter 2023 Term: Jan 1- April 30, 2024
Spring 2023 Term: May 1-June 30, 2024

Dear Ross

Thank you for registering in your Fall 2022 courses. Here is your registration confirmation, schedule, and term estimate. Please note that course offerings may change due to student numbers and instructor availability.

Administration Diploma/Indigenous Bachelor of Admin & Governance

Course Descripti <https://ytced.ab.ca/programs-courses/programs/indigenous-administration-dipiloma/>

<u>Course Code</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Tuition</u>	<u>Books</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
ECON 200	Macroeconomics	3	705	180	tba	tba	tba	O Franke
MKTG 301	Marketing & Society	3	705	180	tba	tba	tba	D Hansen
ORGB 286	Human Resources Management	3	705	180	tba	tba	tba	D Hansen
SMDE 430	Small Business Development	3	705	180	tba	tba	tba	D Hansen

Tuition: 2820
Books: 720
Mand Fees: 500
Term Total Estim: 4040

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Bigstone Cree Nation

PO Box 960, 85 Duran Trail

WABASCA, AB T0G 2K0

780-891-3836

June 13, 2023

Re: Confirmation of Status

This is to confirm that the following is registered under the Indian Act with Bigstone Cree Nation;

VENTURA, BERNARD ROSS 1981/01/27 4580409601

If you require more information, please call the undersigned at the above noted number or address.

Sincerely,

Corrine Cardinal – IRA
Bigstone Cree Nation
Membership Department

cc, /file

Dr. Timothy Cooper, MD, MAS, FRCSC, Fellowship in Otology/ Neurotology
Division of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, Department of Surgery, University of Alberta
Suite 903, 9th Floor, College Plaza, 8215 112 Street, Edmonton, AB
Telephone: (780) 540-2112 Fax: (780) 540-2114

2023/01/31

RE:Bernard Noskiye
PHN:172624520
DOB:Jan 27, 1981

To whom it may concern:

Bernard Noskiye had right sudden sensorineural hearing loss and labyrinthitis on October 20, 2022. He has profound right sensorineural hearing loss.

Sincerely,

Dr. Timothy Cooper, MD, MAS, FRCSC
Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
PRACID #511401308

April 4, 2023

AISH Generalists
Edmonton AISH

Dear AISH Generalists,

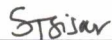
**RE: Bernard Ross NOSKIYE 'Ross NOSKIYE' (PHN 17262-4520- DOB: 1981 / JAN / 27)
CONFIRMATION OF CHANGE IN DIALYSIS MODALITY**

I am writing in response and request of Bernard Ross Noskiye 'Ross Noskiye'. I am the one of the attending nephrologists involved in his care. This letter confirms that Ross has transitioned renal replacement modalities from peritoneal dialysis to hemodialysis.

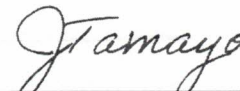
This letter also confirms that Ross is an active patient of Alberta Kidney Care – North, diagnosed with *end stage renal disease* (ESRD) a non-curable medical condition **requiring ongoing life sustaining treatment: renal replacement therapy – Hemodialysis indefinitely**. Treatment requires the patient to attend a dialysis minimally 3 times a week for up to 4.5 hours per treatment. Ross was previously on peritoneal dialysis; however, he has since been transitioned to hemodialysis as of 27-MAR-2023 due to hyperphosphatemia and uremic tumoral calcinosis, with masses on his hands, wrists and fingers. Ross' present schedule is every Monday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons indefinitely.

If you have further questions, please feel free to reach out to his Renal Social Worker via phone (780) 735-5023 or email (jonalyn.tamayo@albertahealthservices.ca).

Sincerely,



Dr. Solomia Tsisar, MD, FRCPC
Nephrologist
Royal Alexandra Hospital
Alberta Kidney Care – North
Cc: Health Record / Social Work File



Jonalyn Tamayo, BSW, RSW
Renal Social Worker
Royal Alexandra Hospital
Alberta Kidney Care - North

25 May 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Ross Ventura

DOB: 27/1/1981

This letter to to confirm that Ross had bilateral transtibial amputations on May 14, 2015 and was fit with bilateral transtibial prostheses. He also has end stage renal disease requiring dialysis and was recently diagnosed with hyperphosphatemia and uremic tumoral calcinosis.

Sincerely,



Heather Lindstrom, MD, FRCPC, CSCN (EMG)
Specialist in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
PRAC ID: 3776-38208