



# WINTER 2024 EDITION

Showcasing Achievements,  
Contributions & Events

**GREY EAGLE**  
RESORT & CASINO

ON THE BEAUTIFUL TSUUT'INA NATION





## Meet the Tsuut'ina Hospitality Gaming Board Members

### Proud Leaders of Grey Eagle Resort & Casino

We are honoured to introduce the esteemed Tsuut'ina Hospitality & Gaming Board Members, whose leadership and vision guide the success of Grey Eagle Resort & Casino. Each board member brings invaluable expertise and a shared commitment to ensuring that our resort and casino reflect the culture, values, and excellence of the Tsuut'ina Nation.

Together, they play a pivotal role in shaping Grey Eagle Resort & Casino into a premier destination for entertainment, hospitality, and gaming, all while honoring the heritage and traditions of the Tsuut'ina people.

Their collective efforts ensure that Grey Eagle Resort & Casino thrives as a symbol of cultural pride and economic growth for the Tsuut'ina Nation. Their dedication helps us create meaningful guest experiences, blending modern amenities with the rich cultural identity of our land.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our board members for their unwavering commitment, leadership, and guidance.



**Paula  
Big Plume**



**Emmet  
Crowchild**



**Andrew  
Onespot Sr.**



**Shay  
Runner**



## Message from the CEO

*From Tyrone Waite, CEO of Grey Eagle Resort & Casino*

*Gúj Náguá gòy*

It is an exciting time for Grey Eagle Resort & Casino.

December 16th, 2024, will mark the first full year of operation for the consolidated Grey Eagle Resort & Casino business and facility. Over the past year, Grey Eagle Resort & Casino has successfully merged the three businesses (Casino, Hotel, and Event Centre) under one structure, reporting to the Grey Eagle Resort & Casino Board of Directors. While the transition has been a detailed and complicated process, the business has flourished. Additionally, the Board and staff have developed and approved an extensive plan for growth and development that will benefit the entire Tsuut'ina Nation.

The past year has focused on three key areas: Human Resources, Finance/

Compliance, and Development. Day-to-day operations remain focused on delivering revenue to the Nation for programming and home building. On that note, Grey Eagle Resort & Casino is on pace for a record year, with excellent business performance.

In Human Resources, all three employee groups were brought together under the direction of one department, reporting to VP of Human Resources Tammy Whitney. Exhaustive operating and governance policies were drafted, revised, and approved by the Grey Eagle Resort & Casino Board for the entire resort. Human Resources also placed a strong focus on Tsuut'ina and Indigenous management development and hiring programs. The results of those efforts are already evident across the property, with Tsuut'ina leadership in most departments and several eager,



maturing leaders being mentored in the operational areas of the business. It is a bright future for Tsuut'ina leadership.

On the Finance side, all three units have been consolidated under CFO Britt Gudmundson. Grey Eagle Resort & Casino has settled all outstanding debt and is in excellent shape to finance upcoming expansions and development. Finance, working with Dit'Onik'Odza, was also responsible for the challenging process of creating a competent and effective AML compliance and oversight team. This has placed Grey Eagle Resort & Casino in an excellent position for future growth.

While the business has performed very well in 2024, with the Casino, Hotel, and Event Centre all achieving superb results, the strategic focus has been on the future. Under the Board's purview, an extensive multi-phased expansion has been approved for the Casino, with future phases planned to add additional entertainment and hotel capacity. Following Nation engagement and RFP acceptance, Phase 1 will break

ground in mid-2025. There are also several significant projects currently underway, including hotel room refurbishments (guest feedback has been outstanding!) and Casino F&B and high-limit additions.

Grey Eagle Resort & Casino also has some special projects underway that will take the business to the next level of performance, public awareness, and customer engagement. Special Projects Director Sharlene Big Plume and Marketing Director Chelsie Whitney are working on a few exciting initiatives that will elevate Grey Eagle Resort & Casino's and Tsuut'ina's brand recognition in Alberta. We expect to reveal more about these projects in early 2025. While details remain confidential for now, we promise they are very exciting! Stay tuned!

Grey Eagle Resort & Casino thanks you for your support in 2024, and we look forward to continuing to make the Tsuut'ina Nation proud and successful in 2025.

*Siyisgaas (Thank you)*

## Awards & Recognition

Celebrating Excellence



### YYC Music Awards 2024 Venue/Presenter of the Year

The Event Centre at Grey Eagle Resort & Casino proudly received the Venue/Presenter of the Year award at the 2024 YYC Music Awards. This prestigious recognition celebrates the Event Centre's commitment to supporting the YYC music community and its role as a premier entertainment destination on Tsuut'ina Nation land. We sincerely thank the YYC Music Awards, our dedicated Event Centre team, and the exceptional performers who make every event truly unforgettable.



### YYC Music Awards 2024 Industry Person of the Year

Our very own Director of Entertainment Sheldon Lachambre was also recognized with a nomination for YYC Music Awards Industry Person of the Year. This award nomination recognizes an individual contribution to the YYC and area music scene. Congratulations Sheldon on the nomination.





### **Best Bar None Accreditation - Stage Bar**

Grey Eagle Resort & Casino is proud to have received the Best Bar None accreditation, a recognition of our commitment to providing a safe, responsible, and welcoming environment for all our guests. This accreditation reflects our dedication to maintaining the highest standards of service and safety.



### **YYC Hot Chocolate Fest 2024 – Best Overall Hot Chocolate**

We are proud to announce that Little Chief's Tsuut'ina Sage Tlikonituwa was selected as the Best Overall Hot Chocolate at YYC Hot Chocolate Fest 2024. Inspired by Tsuut'ina Nation culture, this unique drink incorporates sage and cinnamon-dusted fry bread, and its name, Tlikonituwa, means "hot chocolate water" in the Dene language. Thanks to the overwhelming support of our guests in February, we raised \$4,761 for Calgary Meals on Wheels. We are honoured to share a piece of our Tsuut'ina heritage while contributing to such a worthy cause.



### **YYC Pizza Fest 2024 – Most Innovative Pizza**

We are proud to announce that Little Chiefs Elk Meatball Pizza has been named 2024 YYC Pizza Fest's Most Innovative Pizza! This award is provided to the most out-of-the-box pizza, based on public votes.



### **2024 Booking.com Travel Awards**

Grey Eagle Resort & Casino was honoured with the prestigious 2024 Booking.com Travel Award, recognizing our commitment to delivering exceptional guest experiences.



### **2024 Best Hotels in Calgary**

We are proud to rank #6 in the 2024 Best Hotels in Calgary list by US News Travel. This achievement underscores our dedication to offering world-class hospitality.



### **2024 TripAdvisor Traveler's Choice Award**

Grey Eagle Resort & Casino was named #9 of 109 hotels in Calgary, a testament to our commitment to quality and guest satisfaction.



### **2024 Best Value Hotel on TripAdvisor**

We also earned the Best Value Hotel recognition on TripAdvisor, highlighting our ability to offer top-tier experiences at exceptional value.





## Media Highlights

### Event Centre Upgrades to L-Acoustics Sound System

Grey Eagle Resort & Casino, located on the beautiful Tsuut'ina Nation, is pleased to announce a groundbreaking enhancement to its audio infrastructure at the Event Centre. The Event Centre at Grey Eagle Resort & Casino is now fitted with a top-of-the-line L-Acoustics K2/K3i concert sound system expertly installed by FM Systems.

Named one of Fast Company's Most Innovative Companies of 2020 and 2023, L-Acoustics continues to shape the future of sound with solutions such as the L-ISA Immersive Hyper real Sound technology, which offers 3D

multi-dimensional audio. L-Acoustics sound systems can be heard around the globe in venues like the Hollywood Bowl and the Philharmonie de Paris, at the world's top-grossing festivals such as Coachella and Tomorrowland, and on tour with world-class artists such as Billie Eilish, Post Malone and Arctic Monkeys.

Grey Eagle Resort & Casino invites media and the public to experience the enhanced audio capabilities of the L-Acoustics K2/ K3i sound system at upcoming events.



### Avenue Magazine – Must-Visit Hotel Restaurants Feature

We are thrilled to announce that Little Chief has been featured in Avenue Magazine's list of must-visit hotel restaurants! This recognition reflects our dedication to exceptional food and our deep appreciation for Indigenous culinary philosophies. Whether you're a local or just passing through, we can't wait to share our culinary delights with you. Thank you to Avenue Calgary for the feature!



### Calgary Herald – Indigenous-Inspired Food and Stories on the Menu at Little Chief

Chorney Booth from the Calgary Herald spotlighted Little Chief restaurant, emphasizing the Indigenous-inspired dishes and storytelling that are central to the dining experience. This feature showcases how the restaurant weaves Tsuut'ina culture into its culinary offerings, creating a unique and meaningful dining experience for both locals and visitors.





NATIONAL DAY FOR  
**TRUTH AND  
RECONCILIATION**  
SEPTEMBER 30



## Community Contribution

### Making a Difference Together

We are proud to share that, with the incredible support of our guests and the broader local community, we raised over \$6,300 on National Truth and Reconciliation Day! This remarkable achievement reflects the collective kindness and dedication of everyone involved, and we are honoured to see these funds making a meaningful impact.

Half of the funds were donated to the Indian Residential School Survivors Society (IRSSS), an organization that provides vital support to survivors of residential schools and their families. Their essential work includes counseling, healing programs, and advocacy, helping individuals and communities on their journey toward healing.

The other half was directed to the Elders Program on the Tsuut'ina Nation, a program that plays a crucial role in preserving the well-being of Elders. This initiative ensures that the invaluable knowledge, traditions, and cultural connections of Elders are nurtured and passed down to future generations, safeguarding the heart of the community.

We are deeply honoured to contribute to these two meaningful causes. This effort reflects our shared commitment to reconciliation and respect for the culture and heritage of the Tsuut'ina Nation. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped make this possible—your generosity and support inspire us all to continue fostering understanding, connection, and positive change.

---



## Empowering Tsuut'ina Youth Through Hospitality

*Marcus Manywounds spent the summer working in Guest Services. Photo by Joelle Tomlinson  
Story on next page...*



# Empowering Tsuut'ina Youth Through Hospitality

## A Summer of Firsts

This summer, nine teenagers from the Tsuut'ina First Nation took their first steps into the workforce through an innovative Indigenous youth program at Grey Eagle Resort & Casino. Designed to inspire and empower, the program provides paid internships in the hospitality industry, offering life-changing opportunities for these young individuals.

The Indigenous Youth Success Story was born when two individuals met at a Calgary art show: one from CAREERS: The Next Generation, an Alberta non-profit connecting youth with employers, and the other, Colleen Waskewitch Runner, Guest Services Manager at Grey Eagle Resort & Casino.

"This opportunity could change the trajectory of their lives," says Waskewitch Runner, who co-created the program. "It's been inspiring to watch them gain confidence, learn life skills, and envision a future for themselves. I tell them they should be running this place one day, and they are starting to believe it."

Through a partnership with CAREERS, Grey Eagle, and Many Horses High School, the youth participated in hands-on learning

across various hospitality roles while earning credits toward graduation. The resort provided support to eliminate barriers by offering on-site Elder guidance, transportation, and daily meals.

For some, like Marcus Manywounds, 17, the experience was about more than just a summer job. Working in guest services helped him build confidence and prepare for his dream of becoming an engineer or physicist. Aurora Big Plume found her passion in the kitchen and now envisions a future in hospitality, saying the experience "turned her thinking around" and gave her hope for brighter possibilities.

The program highlights how opening doors for Indigenous youth can spark meaningful change. In addition to hospitality, future opportunities will extend to skilled trades, health care, agriculture, and business.

By investing in their community, Grey Eagle Resort & Casino is not just providing jobs but creating hope and opportunities for the next generation of Tsuut'ina leaders.



## Renovation Updates

We're thrilled to share updates on the ongoing hotel renovations at Grey Eagle Resort & Casino:

- **Floor 4 Renovation Underway:** Work is actively progressing on the fourth floor of the hotel, bringing fresh and modern updates to our spaces.
- **Floors 2 and 3 Completed:** With renovations on Floors 2 and 3 finished, we're excited for guests to experience these newly revitalized areas.
- **Completion by February 2025:** We're on track to complete the entire project by February, ensuring our spaces meet the high standards you deserve.

### Furniture Donations to the Community

As part of our commitment to giving back, used furniture from the renovated floors is being donated to the Tsuut'ina Nation. These items are finding new homes within the community, extending the life of these resources while supporting local families.

We're proud to continue strengthening our connection to the Nation through these efforts. Stay tuned for more updates in the coming months!





# Upcoming Entertainment

Mark Your Calendars!

Dallas Smith

## December 2024

### Elton Rohn

Friday, December 6  
8:00 PM

### Christmas w/ Johnny Reid

Sunday, December 8  
8:00 PM

### Marianas Trench

Tuesday, December 10  
8:00 PM

### Dallas Smith

Monday, December 30  
8:00 PM

### Default (18+ Only)

Tuesday, December 31  
8:00 PM

## January 2025

### Mike Epps

Friday, January 10, 2025  
8:00 PM

### 90's Dance Mix Tour

Friday, January 17, 2025  
8:00 PM

### Alan Doyle

Saturday, January 18, 2025  
8:00 PM

### The Lalas – Los Angeles Burlesque Show (18+ Only)

Friday, January 24, 2025  
8:00 PM

### Jeff Arcuri

Friday, January 31, 2025  
8:00 PM

## February 2025

### EBI

Saturday, February 1, 2025  
8:00 PM

### Jeff Arcuri

Sunday, February 2, 2025  
8:00 PM

### Peach Pit

Friday, February 7, 2025  
7:00 PM

### Gilberto Santa Rosa

Sunday, February 9, 2025  
8:00 PM

### The Debaters Live on Tour (18+ Only)

Monday, February 17, 2025

### Trooper

Friday, February 21, 2025  
8:00 PM

### Apocalyptica Plays Metallica Vol. 2 Tour

Saturday, February 22, 2025  
7:30 PM

### Mini Pop Kids Live

Sunday, February 23, 2025  
3:00 PM

### Colin James

Wednesday, February 26, 2025  
8:00 PM

Tickets available now at [Ticketmaster.ca](https://www.ticketmaster.ca). Save up to \$5 on Ticketmaster fees when you purchase directly from the Event Centre Box Office.



# What's Happening at the Casino

At Grey Eagle Resort & Casino

Grey Eagle Resort & Casino has been buzzing with activity, bringing unforgettable experiences to our guests. Here's what we've achieved together from May to November:

- Almost **500,000** guests have walked through our doors, making Grey Eagle Resort & Casino a hub for entertainment, dining, and connection.
- Over **\$100,000 in prizes** and over **\$175,000 in cash** have been awarded through thrilling promotions.
- Millions in jackpots have been paid out, turning dreams into reality.

## Current & Ongoing Promotions

### Birthday Free Play

Celebrate your birthday with us and enjoy \$10 Free Slot Play! This special offer is redeemable on your birthday, or the day before or after. Stop by and let us make your special day even more memorable.

### Spin & Win Seniors Day

**When:** Sundays and Tuesdays  
**Time:** 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Seniors aged 55 and above can spin the wheel at Guest Services to win cash prizes.

### Spin & Win Seniors' Spectacular

**When:** First Tuesday of each month  
**Time:** 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Join our Mini-Slot Tournament for a chance to win up to \$350, with prizes awarded to the top 10 participants. Plus, enjoy live music at the Stage Bar from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Spectacular days.

### Pucks & Bucks

**Dates:** During Calgary's major pro hockey games (October 9 – April 15)

**Prizes:** \$130 per Calgary goal and \$250 (or \$500 if Calgary wins) after each game.

Visit Guest Services on game days to receive a free ballot. Entries close before the start of the 3rd period.

### Football Fundays

**Dates:** Sundays, Sept. 8, 2024 – Jan. 5, 2025

Every Sunday, join the excitement of Football Fundays. After each selected 11:00 AM, 2:00 PM, and 6:00 PM game, participate in cash prize draws ranging from \$250 to \$500. Visit Guest Services on the day of the draw to receive a ballot.

### Trivia Night

**Dates:** December 4 & 18  
**Time:** 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Put your knowledge to the test at Trivia Night. Guests can compete for exciting prizes, including cash and buffet passes. It's a fun-filled evening of brain-teasing entertainment.

### 80's Night

**Date:** December 26

Step back into the 80s with a live performance by Hollywood Angels, a local 80s hair band, starting at 9:15 PM at the Stage Bar. Leading up to the show, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, join the Crazy 80's Cash Bash for a chance to win tickets and cash prizes.





### Roll to Riches

**Dates:** Oct. 1 – Dec. 30

Guests can “roll” their way to weekly cash prizes every Monday. Place a bet on the Hardway in craps to earn ballots or visit Guest Services for a free ballot on draw days until 8 PM. Double ballots are available Monday through Thursday.

### NFR 2024 Viewing Party

**Dates:** December 5 – 14

Watch the National Finals Rodeo at Blaze Bar & Grill, where the action will be shown on the big screen daily. Enjoy great food and drinks while cheering on your favorite competitors.

### Holiday Hospitality

**Dates:** December 2 – 30

**Time:** Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM, and 9:00 PM

Join us for a chance to win a \$200 Co-op or Chinook Mall gift card or \$500 cash. Visit Guest Services on the day of the draw to enter.

### Photos with Santa

**Dates:** December 20 & 21

**Time:** 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Celebrate the holidays with free photos with Santa in the casino lobby. Guests must be 18+ to enter.

### Noon Year’s Eve

**Date:** December 31

**Time:** Elvis tribute performance from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM; cash draw at 5:00 PM

Ring in 2025 early with an Elvis tribute by Elvis Evolution at the Stage Bar, party favours, and a \$2,025 cash draw.

### New Year’s Eve Celebration

**Date:** December 31

**Time:** Prime Rib & Prawns buffet from 4:30 PM – 10:30 PM; live performance from 10:30 PM – 1:30 AM

Welcome 2025 with a festive Prime Rib & Prawns dinner buffet at the Buffet & Restaurant for \$52.99 plus tax, followed by a live performance by Foxx Worthee at the Stage Bar.

### Supporting the Tsuut’ina Nation Food Bank

This December, Grey Eagle Resort & Casino is honoured to support the Tsuut’ina Nation Food Bank through our Give Back, Make an Impact promotion. From December 1 to 27, we invite guests to drop off nonperishable food items at the Casino Lobby to help local families within the Tsuut’ina Nation. As a way to encourage generosity, each donation will earn two ballots for our weekly Make an Impact Cash Draws, held every Friday in December. Participants will have the chance to win \$500 in cash. We are proud to stand with the Tsuut’ina community and make a meaningful impact together this holiday season!



## Celebrating 17 Years of Grey Eagle Casino

This year, we are proud to celebrate the 17th anniversary of Grey Eagle Resort & Casino’s casino opening! Since 2007, the casino has become a cornerstone of entertainment and gaming, welcoming guests from near and far to experience everything we have to offer.

### Join Us for the Celebration on December 17th!

We’re marking this milestone with a day of exciting activities and entertainment:

- **\$170 Cash Draws** every half hour from 4:30 PM to 10:00 PM – Don’t miss your chance to win!
- **Complimentary Cupcakes** – A sweet treat to share the joy with all our guests.
- **Photo Booth** – Capture the memories of this special day.
- **Traditional Dancers and Drummers at 5:00 PM** – Celebrating the rich culture of the Tsuut’ina Nation.
- **Metis Country Singer Jacquie Daniels** performing live at the Stage Bar from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM – Enjoy an evening of fantastic music and entertainment.

### Highlights of 17 Years of Success:

- Grey Eagle Casino has grown into a premier entertainment destination on the Tsuut’ina Nation for gaming and entertainment.
- Over the years, we’ve introduced exciting casino promotions, hosted countless memorable events, and created a vibrant, welcoming environment for our guests.
- We continue to honor the traditions and culture of the Tsuut’ina Nation, showcasing our unique heritage throughout our operations.

Thank you! We couldn’t have reached this milestone without the incredible support of our staff, the Tsuut’ina Nation, and our loyal guests. Thank you for being part of this journey and for making Grey Eagle Casino a place where memories are made.

Join us as we celebrate 17 years of excellence with a day filled with fun, tradition, and community spirit. Here’s to many more years of success and celebration!





# LITTLE CHIEF

## A Celebration of Tsuut'ina Heritage

As the only Indigenous restaurant in the Calgary area, the Little Chief continues to thrive, drawing in guests with its exceptional dining experiences and heartfelt storytelling. With roots deeply connected to the Tsuut'ina Nation, Little Chief not only serves as a culinary destination but also as a space that shares the rich history and traditions of the Nation.

To further enhance guest experiences, Little Chief has recently added a private dining space, available for bookings for private events, meetings, and special occasions. This addition reflects the restaurant's dedication to creating meaningful and memorable experiences for every guest.

At the heart of Little Chief's success is Chef Brandon Dashnay, a talented and innovative culinary professional. Chef Dashnay's dishes are more than meals—they are stories told on the plate, blending bold flavours with exceptional technical skill. His passion for quality and creativity elevates the guest experience, making him a standout figure in the culinary world. Guests are equally captivated by his in-person storytelling, which deepens the connection between the food and the rich heritage it represents.

Whether through empowering youth, sharing the Tsuut'ina story, or redefining Indigenous cuisine, Grey Eagle Resort & Casino and the Little Chief continue to celebrate the excellence of the Tsuut'ina Nation.



## Tsuut'ina Employee Story

### Chef Robert Meguinis

It is with immense pride and gratitude that we honour Robert for his dedicated service here at the casino. Robert's contributions to our culinary team have been pivotal in shaping the exceptional dining experience we offer to our guests.

Robert has trained and worked in all areas of the resort, from à la carte kitchens, buffets, and banquets to receiving and off-site catering. His hands-on experience across diverse culinary settings, combined with the many courses he has taken, has made him a well-rounded and highly skilled manager.

As an Indigenous chef, Robert brings a unique perspective and cultural richness

to his work, embodying the spirit of connection, creativity, and authenticity. Over the years, his unwavering passion for the culinary arts, leadership in the kitchen, and mentorship to colleagues have left a mark on the Grey Eagle Casino family.

Robert's journey with us is a testament to his resilience, talent, and professionalism. From crafting memorable dishes and sharing stories through food to working extra days during peak periods to ensure smooth operations, Robert's work has enriched the lives of countless guests and colleagues alike.





[www.greyeagleresortandcasino.ca](http://www.greyeagleresortandcasino.ca)