



Red River Current Newsletter

A Fort McKay First Nation Publication

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Remembering Treaty Days 2024



Treaty Days 2024 was of special significance this year, as it was the 125th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 8, a pivotal moment in the history of the nation. At the time of the signing, the First Nations signatories of Treaty 8 agreed to its terms for reasons of peace and friendship – ensuring what they thought

would be a partnership. Today the Mandate of the 41 Treaty 8 First Nations is still “Protect, Promote, Bring to Life, Implement, and Sustain the True Spirit and Intent of Treaty No.8 as Long as The Sun Shines, The Grass Grows, and The Waters Flow and Until such Time as Yidah Should Reverse.”

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Chief Powder and Lena Gallup enjoying the parade and the sunshine..

TREATY DAYS PARADE SHOWCASES COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Fort McKay First Nation hosted its annual Treaty Days between June 20-23. This included our main parade showcasing the Fort McKay First Nation community, our families, friends, and partners.

On a beautiful sunny morning, our Fort McKay departments were joined by our dignitaries, our local companies, and our external business partners in a joyful parade that showcased the incredible spirit of our vibrant community.

The theme of this year’s parade was Celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the signing of Treaty 8.

A special thanks to Bouchier, the Presenting Sponsor of Treaty Days, which was well represented on the parade route.



FMFN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Raymond Powder, Chief
David Bouchier, Councillor
Crystal McDonald, Councillor
Bobby Shott, Councillor
Melinda Stewart, Councillor

Rhonda Laboucan, CEO
Alvaro Pinto, CEO Oilsands
Development and Sustainability

ADMINISTRATION DEPT.
Dorothy McDonald Business
Centre, General Delivery,
Fort McKay, AB TOP 1C0

Phone: 780-828-2430

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Thursday:
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Closed daily: 12 - 1 p.m.

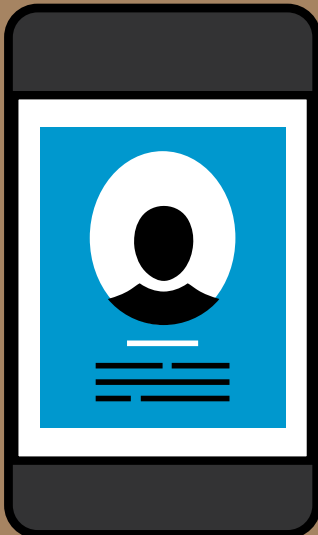
SUBMISSIONS

If you have any photos, stories or
ideas for the Red River Current,
please contact us via email at:
communications@fortmckay.com

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FORT MCKAY TREATY DAYS



Presenting sponsors Bouchier had a vintage truck in the parade.

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“Treaty Days has always been the most significant cultural event of the year for us,” said Chief Raymond Powder in the leadup to the four-day event. “This year, however, it is more important than ever, representing 125 years since the Treaty was signed. The celebrations will be more meaningful and emotional.”

And so it proved. In addition to all the traditional and popular events there were a few new

shows and competitions to enjoy. The Rez car competition, a version of people stuffing into a vehicle, proved both popular and amusing, and is sure to feature in years to come, and the archery demonstration caught the attention of many of the youth of the community.

After four days of fun, all we can say is thanks to all the volunteers and sponsors and see you next year.



Councillors Crystal McDonald and Melinda Stewart smiling in the sunshine.

FORT MCKAY TREATY DAYS

Treaty Days Grand Entry

Fort McKay First Nation hosted its annual Treaty Days and the Grand Entry saw many participants from our community, family, friends and partners.

A special thank you to FMFN Elders Joe Grandjambe our Eagle Staff Carrier, Roy McDonald our Fort McKay First Nation Flag Bearer, and Andrew Bouchier our Treaty 8 Flag Bearer.

The Grand Entry song was drummed by Thundering Spirit led by Randy Marten and included Nick Giant,

Mark Croocketneck, Derrick Kesswood, and Leon Whitstone. Fort McKay Drummers were Ryan Grandjambe, Leon Grandjambe, Bryce Fabian Junior, Dante Howe, Raymond Cardinal Junior, Daniel Deranger, Tayden Shott, and Grayson Shott.

The Dene Drummers Joe Tambour, Arthur Martel, Rodney Metacat, and Dakota Sanyetha drummed an Honour Song. Emcee Willis Flett joined in with the group.

Flag bearers included Fort

McKay youth Aliva Bouchier, Stella Dyson, Brielle and Bryson Shott, and Meadow McDonald, some carrying Fort McKay First Nation flags.

Fort McKay Elders invited to participate, some carrying Every Child Matters flags, included Ruth McKenzie, Suzanne McDonald, Dennis Shott, Stuart Tourangeau, Norman Bouchier, Ann Orr, Val McDonald, Lorraine Huppie, Myrna McClure, Roy Ahyasou, Jean L'Hommecourt, Maurice McDonald, Charles Bouchier, Lorraine Bellerose, Cece Fitzpatrick, Suzanne Grandjambe, Rose Beaton, and Roland Boucher. They were joined by Nicole Bourque-Bouchier of locally owned Bouchier, the Presenting Sponsor of the event, who also carried an Every Child Matters flag.

A special Edmonton Oilers flag was carried by 9-year-old Cruz Fabian.

President Loretta Waquan and the Fort McKay Metis Council also participated, as did Metis Elders Calvin Kennedy (Flag Bearer), Theresa Donovan, and Margie Wood.

Also participating were dignitaries from the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta, and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.



Chief and Council in the Grand Entry parade on June 21.



Fort McKay Elders were honoured in the Grand Entry.

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FORT MCKAY TREATY DAYS

Treaty Days Kids' Bike Parade A Hit

Fort McKay First Nation Treaty Days kicked off with our always popular kids' bike parade.

The previous evening saw a very successful bike decorating event at the Wellness Centre. The bike parade was filled with brightly decorated bicycles personally decked out by the children of Fort McKay First Nation.

The theme of this year's parade was a Celebration of the 125th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 8.



Canoe Races on Red River

Fort McKay First Nation members, staff, and friends showed off their paddling skills on Saturday, June 22, as part of our Treaty Days celebrations. It was a beautiful day for spectators to enjoy watching a friendly round of canoe racing on the Red River. Thanks to all the participants.



FORT MCKAY TREATY DAYS

Treaty Days Cultural Village

Fort McKay First Nation's Cultural Village was a popular site at the Treaty Days celebration. Community members and event attendees met there for two days full of fun and learning. The traditional Dene Hand Games with their drumming accompaniment were a particular favourite.

The Cultural Village was open until 5 pm each day. Visitors learned about FMFN's traditional ways including moose stew and bannock, fish fry, drum making, beaded orange and red shirt day pins, beaded head dresses, trappers showcase, moose-hide demo, birch bark basket making, historic photo gallery, and rattle making.



FORT MCKAY HEALTH CENTRE

Clinic Dates:

Dr O'Connor - July 2nd - 5th
Dr Taiwo - July 23rd - 25th PCN
Nurse - Every Mon & Wed

Please call in advance if you need to make an appointment with Dr. O'Connor or Charlene.

Immunizations:

Contact the Health Centre to make an appointment with the Public Health Nurse.

For more information on other services offered at the Health Centre, please contact the centre at **780.828.2450**.

FORT MCKAY EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

The Employment and Training Centre is there to help you with creating/ updating resumes, searching for and applying for jobs, and offering support for employment and training.

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact the office at **780.828.2478**.

FORT MCKAY 106.3 FM



STAY up to date with the latest music and news!!

Listening to Fort McKay's community radio station!

www.fortmackayfm.com

FORT MCKAY TREATY DAYS

Treaty Days Archery Demonstration

There was a special event in the old school gym on Saturday, June 22, 2024, as part of FMFN Treaty Days. Some of the children of the community were given their first try at archery under the watchful eye of Tayden Shott and his coach Daniel Newton.

Tayden is Fort McKay's archery champion, winning medals at almost every event he enters. The children clearly enjoyed listening to and learning from him.

Coach Daniel is proud of Tayden's achievements so far and there is a healthy mutual respect between the two. "When he does a good shot I tell everyone I taught him that," he jokes.

Who knows, maybe one of the youth who picked up a bow and arrow for the first time will one day be winning medals of their own!



Rez Car Competition

A new event at this year's Treaty Days was the Rez Car Competition, where teams compete to see how many people can pile into one car. The team who fits the most people in is the winner. Thanks to all the good sports who participated.



FORT MCKAY TREATY DAYS

Treaty Days Tug of War makes a splash!

Fort McKay First Nation staff and partners were front and centre for the Corporate Tug of War at this year's Treaty Days, on Friday, June 21, 2024. Congratulations to all the good sports who participated!

Contestants in the corporate tug of war were also among our corporate sponsors. FMFN is grateful for their generous support of this year's event celebrating the 125th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 8.





THA

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COMMUNITY TUG OF WAR SPONSOR



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THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!

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**FORT MCKAY
FIRST NATION**



**REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO**



PetroChina



Our 2024 Graduating Students



Niah Boucher - Kindergarten



Montaebyn Faichney - Kindergarten



Cash Fitzpatrick - Kindergarten



Mila Fitzpatrick - Kindergarten



Jake Mercredi - Kindergarten



Junior Spencer - Kindergarten



Bryson Whiteknife - Kindergarten



Nikita Ahyasou - Grade 12



Shalicia Boucher - Grade 12



Treasure Grant - Grade 12



Keon Grandjambe - Grade 12



Sylus Grandjambe - Grade 12

FMFN GRADUATING STUDENTS



Dante Howe - Grade 12



Lori-Lei Mercredi - Post-Secondary



Kaylyn Lacorde - Grade 12

Some graduates didn't have photos taken

Kindergarten

Kaylee Beaton
Kailynn L'Hommecourt
Lincoln Martin
Jackson Vardy

Grade 12

Breanna Campre
Amethyst Cardinal
Brogan Fischer
Kash Ganter
Matthew Gladu
Saharrah Huppier Piche
Jesse McGinnis
Kaden Noseworthy
Desiree Orr
Harmony Orr
Reese Simpson

Post Secondary

Bri Boucher
Kaydence Gladue
Brace Grandjambe
Brittany MacDonald
Angela McKenzie
Marinda White



Kaisha Boucher - Post-Secondary



Charlene Hansen - Post-Secondary

FORT MCKAY CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

DANCER AND DRUMMER PERFORMANCES

- Traditional Healing Assistance
- Round Dance / Dene Dance
- Cultural Workshops
- Moose/Buffalo Lake Summer Retreat
- Moose Lake Camps & Events
- Employment Opportunities
- Community & Special Events

CREE & DENE CLASSES

Every Tuesday Cree class on Zoom.

Every Wednesday Dene class on Zoom.

To register, contact culture@fortmckay.com

DRUM PRACTICE

Every Wednesday at 6 pm in the Band Hall.

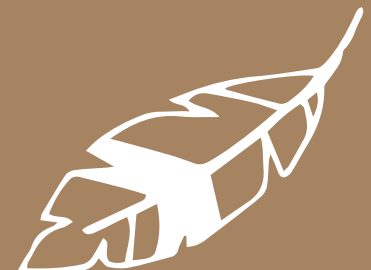
All males welcome. Drop In, no registration required!

If you would like to be a volunteer or be a Resource Worker for some of our programs or events, please submit an email, please include what events you are interested in, or what skill sets you can provide. First priority will be given to community members.

For more information about our upcoming programs, please contact:

Audrey Redcrow

Cultural and Special Events Lead
780-215-2384
Aredcrow@fortmckay.com



News Roundup from FMFN Sustainability Team



Climate Risk Assessment

The Fort McKay Sustainability Department conducted a Climate Risk Assessment for Fort McKay's Traditional Territory, to examine the impacts of climate change on the buildings, nature and environment, and social and cultural activities of Fort McKay. We worked with community members and climate experts to project what the climate in our Traditional Territory will look like over the next 30 years.

We found that the biggest risks to Fort McKay are:

- Ecoregion Shifts as the land gets drier,
- Extreme Heat, which may affect outdoor work and increase algal blooms in Moose Lake,
- Warming Temperatures, especially in Winter, impacting the amount and thickness of ice,
- Wildfires and Wildfire Smoke as forest fires increase.

Now that we know our biggest risks, our next steps are to create a Climate Adaptation Plan. This will also involve risk planning for things like fire evacuations. This will allow us to prepare for impacts before they happen to help Fort McKay adapt to the changing landscape. If you'd like more information, let the Sustainability Department know! The pamphlet and full report are available to anyone who would like a copy.

Thank you to the community participants, The Resilience Institute, Associated Engineering, and our funders. Our project was funded in part by the Government of Alberta, through the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre's Climate Resilience Capacity Building Program. The Municipal Climate Change Action Centre is a partnership of Alberta Municipalities, Rural Municipalities of Alberta, and the Government of Alberta.

Using Two-Eyed Seeing to Evaluate the Effects of Climate Change on Water Quality and Algal Blooms in the Moose Lake Area

The Fort McKay Sustainability Department is excited to announce that we have received a two-year grant from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) to do additional climate change monitoring in Moose Lake. This project will enhance the Moose Lake water monitoring program by filling knowledge gaps related to climate impacts on lakes. Community observations and community-based water quality monitoring in the Moose Lake area have reported more frequent and severe algal blooms in the Moose Lake area. These blooms affect the ability of community members to exercise traditional activities, especially fishing. Because there is little industry in the area, climate change is a potential driver of algal blooms through higher temperatures, nutrient inputs from wildfires, and also impacts the amount of water. This grant will be used to better understand the impacts of climate change on water quality and quantity in the Moose Lake area. We will purchase equipment to get high-resolution water temperature and dissolved oxygen data within the lakes and measure water flows into Lower and Upper Moose Lake. We will also use remote sensing to assess historical algal issues and regional development in the area. We will hold community workshops and school engagement activities as part of this project. The goal is to better understand the effects of climate change on lakes in the Moose Lake area.



Football Team Banquet



Coach Dylan Elias was accompanied by his dog Spirit.

The Northern Spirits Football Team celebrated their 2024 campaign with an end of season banquet held in the Fort McKay First Nation Youth Centre. Despite a crowded end to the season that saw their final league

game postponed due to the wildfire then moved 450 km, (a game they still managed to win) followed by a playoff game three days later, the coaching staff were proud of the team and their achievement in even making the playoffs at all. The best news is that most of the team will return next year, so there is excitement ahead and cautious optimism for the future.

One of the highlights of the banquet was the photo booth, where players and family were encouraged to get their photos taken together. This was very popular, and Coach Dylan Elias acknowledged the importance of family support. "Football is a team game, and the team is more than just the players, it's the whole community."

We're already looking forward to 2025.

Continued on page 14

FORT MCKAY ELDERS BINGO!

Date
Thursdays

Time
Noon - 2:00 pm

Location
Elders Centre

Call Peggy for cards at
780-598-3575.



CFWE RADIO BINGO

Date
Mondays and Saturdays

Time
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Location
Fort McKay Radio
Canada



Elder Ann Orr presented an award.

FOOTBALL NEWS

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FOOTBALL NEWS



UPCOMING EVENTS

Day	Date	Event	Details
Mon	July 8	Fort McKay Summer Camps Week 1. Pre-registration required.	Call 780-828-4312 Ages 5-13 at the Wellness Centre
Every Mon & Thurs	July 8 to July 29	Health Centre: Physiotherapy	Contact Erin for more Information 780-215-6723
Mon to Fri	July 8 to July 12	Junior Summer Students Health & Wellness camp	For daily itinerary of events contact Sarah at 780-215-7124
Every Tues, Wed & Fri	July 9 to July 31	Health Centre: Acupuncture	Contact Erin for more Information 780-215-6723
Every Thurs	July 11 to July 25	Addiction Recovery Support Group, Family Support Centre	1 - 2:30 pm. Contact Leah 780-828-4048. A safe space to for connections support. All welcome.
Every Fri	July 5 to July 26	Ice Cream Friday at the Elders Center	11:30am -1:30 pm River Café
Fri	July 12	FMFN Business Success Lunch, Calgary, by Invitation	11:30 am -1:30 pm River Café.
Sat	July 13	Thrift Store, 1 pm-4 pm in the Youth Centre	Contact Val McDonald 780-690-6074
Mon	July 15	Fort McKay Summer Camps Week 2. Pre-registration required.	Call 780-828-4312 Ages 5-13 at the Wellness Centre
Mon to Fri	July 15 to July 19	Junior Summer Students Health & Wellness camp	For daily itinerary of events contact Sarah at 780-215-7124
Wed	July 17	Sustainability Annual Elders BBQ at the Park Rangers Building	Time to be confirmed, Contact Lolita 780-881-6136
Mon	July 22	Fort McKay Summer Camps Week 3. Pre-registration required.	Call 780-828-4312 Ages 5-13 at the Wellness Centre
Mon to Fri	July 22 to July 26	Junior Summer Students Health & Wellness camp	For daily itinerary of events contact Sarah at 780-215-7124
Mon	July 29	Indigenous Womens & Mothers Group, Family Support Centre	1 - 2:30 pm. Contact Leah 780-828-4048. A safe space to connect with other women. All welcome.
Mon	July 29	Fort McKay Summer Camps Week 4. Pre-registration required.	Call 780-828-4312 Ages 5-13 at the Wellness Centre
Mon to Wed	July 29 to July 31	Junior Summer Students Health & Wellness camp	For daily itinerary of events contact Sarah at 780-215-7124
Every Thurs	Aug 1 to July 29	Addiction Recovery Support Group, Family Support Centre	1 - 2:30 pm. Contact Leah 780-828-4048. A safe space to for connections support. All welcome.
Every Mon	Aug 5 to Aug 26	Fort McKay Summer Camps Weeks 5, 6, 7 & 8. Call 780-828-4312	Pre-registration required. Ages 5-13 at the Wellness Centre
Mon	Aug 5 & 26	Indigenous Womens & Mothers Group, Family Support Centre	1-2:30pm. Contact Leah 780-828-4048. A safe space to connect with other women. All welcome.