



Red River Current

April 2022

VOLUME 12 : ISSUE 4

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It's been two years since Fort McKay hosted its last Winterfest, and, once again, the event proved to be a blast for everyone!

The one-day festival was hosted on March 20th and had 40 participants register for the King and Queen of the North competition! Outdoor activities were held at the soccer field and included the usual fun and traditional competitions like snowshoeing, sled pulling, leg wrestling, log toss, moose calling, Bannock making, and jigging. Participation rates were

high, and many people from around the community came out to view the events and encourage this year's competitors.

After a full day of fun outdoor activities, the event continued in the Band Hall at the Dorothy McDonald Business Centre to announce this year's winners. The evening included a delicious dinner, a jigging competition, and great entertainment from the Nicely Put Together band that everyone enjoyed!

"Congratulations to all the winners, and thank you to all the

volunteers, staff, Capital Projects team, Nicely Put Together band for the amazing music and fiddling for our jigging contest," shared Audrey Redcrow, Cultural & Special Events Lead.

Altogether, we are happy to announce that this year's Winterfest was a great success! We want to thank everyone for participating again and hope to see you all join us again next year!

To view a list of this year's winners, please go to page 3.

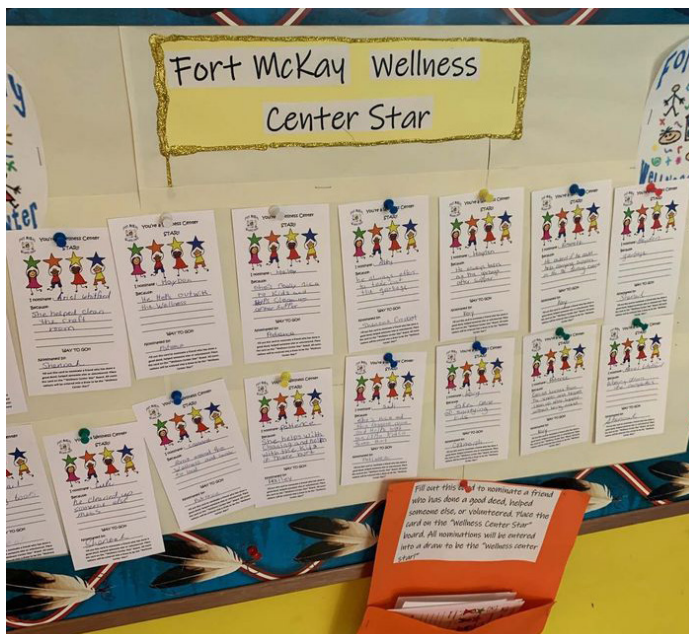


INTRODUCING THE WELLNESS CENTER STAR PROGRAM

The Wellness Center Star programs gives children, youth and staff at the Fort McKay Wellness Center an opportunity to nominate each other for being kind, doing good deeds or helping others by filling out a card and posting it on the Wellness Center Star board!

At the end of the month, all cards are put in a draw and one individual is selected to be the star of the month!

February's Star was Blake H.
Congratulations Blake!



FMFN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mel Grandjamb, Chief
Raymond Powder, Councillor
David Bouchier, Councillor
Melinda Stewart, Councillor
Crystal McDonald, Councillor

Chris Johnson, CEO
Alvaro Pinto, CEO Oilsands Development and Sustainability
Stuart Randell,
Director, Strategic Portfolio Investments
James Owl, Executive Director,
Capital Projects

ADMINISTRATION DEPT.

Dorothy McDonald Business Centre
General Delivery
Fort McKay, AB T0P 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 the Communications Department
email: communications@fortmckay.com



FORT MCKAY WELLNESS CENTER PRESENTS:

2nd Annual

COMMUNITY GIANT EGG HUNT

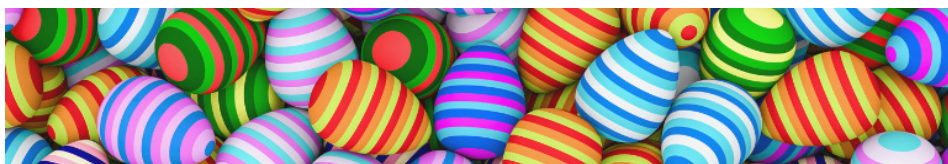
3:00 pm to 8:00 pm
(or until all eggs have been found)

There will be multiple giant eggs of all colors, hidden all around the community of Fort McKay in public places. Get outdoors with your family and find a giant egg with a **GOLDEN TICKET** inside and bring it to the Wellness Center before 8 PM to trade it for a prize!

This event is open to everyone—of any age! **Only one egg may be claimed per person. 30 eggs total** will be available to find. Hints of some locations will be posted throughout the evening on the Fort McKay Wellness Center Facebook page. A final post on social media will be posted when all eggs have been found.

*A special private egg hunt will take place for children attending daycare on **April 7th**.

Please contact the Wellness Center at 780-828-4312 for more information.



WINTER FESTIVAL 2022

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S WINNERS



Senior King and Queen of the North - Winners
Sr. King of the North 60+ 1st - Maurice Sr McDonald \$300
Sr. Queen of the North 60+ 1st Brenda Tourangeau \$300 | 2nd Cecile Calliou \$200

King - 18-59 years Winners
1st Charlie Antinozzi \$500 | 2nd James McLissac \$400 | 3rd Ryan Grandjambe \$300
Queen of the North - 18-59 years Winners
1st Shelley Cyprien \$500 | 2nd Star Grandjambe \$400 | 3rd Peggy Poitras \$300

Prince of the North - 14-17 years Winners
1st River Boucher \$300 | 2nd Deacon Grandjambe \$200 | 3rd Keegan Shott \$100
Princess of the North - 14-17 years Winners
1st Desiree Smith \$300 | 2nd Hope Grandjambe \$200

Duke of the North 10 – 13 years Winners
1st Emmett McLissac \$150 | 2nd Hayden Faichney \$100
Duchess of the North - 10 – 13 years Winners
1st Samara Donofrio \$150 | 2nd Patience Grandjambe \$100 | 3rd Emma Proulx-Redcrow \$50

Kiddies of the North - 5 – 9 years Winners
1st Maddox Donofrio \$100 | 1st Dominic McLissac \$100
2nd Decimus McDonald \$50 | 2nd Katani Berard \$50
3rd Hunter Calliou \$25 | 3rd Creedon Gladue \$25

Jigging Contest had 16 participants!
9 & under Winners - 1st Hunter Calliou \$75 | 2nd Aurora Grandjambe \$50
3rd Tie x 3 \$25 each - Creedon Gladue | Samara Donofrio | Tasia Shott
10-13 Winners - 1st Patience Grandjambe \$75 | 2nd Abby Gladue \$50
14-17 Winners - 1st Pauline Katetzne \$100 | 2nd Hope Grandjambe \$75
18-54 Winners - 1st Mikeela Cooper \$100 | 2nd Peggy Poitras \$75 | 3rd Ryan Grandjambe \$50
55+ Winners - 1st Leona Grandjambe \$100



ELDER LINA GALLUP RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

On March 19, over 450 guests joined Girls Inc of Northern Alberta and their sponsor Bouchier at Shell Place, Macdonald Park for "Voices: Women of Inspiration Celebration 2022". A formal and lavish event where local women are recognized for their accomplishments and contributions to society.

Recipients included doctors, advocates, and businesswomen and among them was Fort McKay's very own Elder Lina Gallup. Lina is no stranger to accolades, recognition, and achievements. Ever since her first award in the 60's from the City of Calgary for Volunteer of the Year, she has received countless recognitions spanning almost 60 years!

At the beginning of her career, she was working with The Native Friendship Centre, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and Kainai News, and was very active in politics. She helped Indigenous peoples living on the street get their feet under them and get a fresh start. Later in the early 80's, Lina started a group home for Indigenous youth, run by Indigenous staff, a very first in Canada. Groundbreaking to say the least. Over 2000 youth went thru her program.

Her mission was clear, "I wanted to do the opposite of Residential School. They stripped me of my culture, I wanted to help reconnect our culture to those who have lost it." There are too many stories to count of her mentoring Indigenous young adults in their own success stories, including, the very well-known and loved, Elder Tom Cranebear of the Siksika Nation, who credited her as "saving his life."

Lina is not only a residential school survivor, but she is also a thriver. Now age 90, one of her twin sons Mark Gallup held her arm as she accepted the Women of Inspiration award at Shell Place. "There are many God moments in life, this is one of them," she said as a packed room gave her a standing ovation.



Rod Hyde Annual Men's Hockey Tournament

 **BOUCHIER**



FORT MCKAY
FIRST NATION



**Fort McKay Arena
Friday, May 6th to
Sunday, May 8th
2022**

Fort McKay First Nation will be hosting a Senior Men's Hockey Tournament starting Friday May 6th, to Sunday May 8th, 2022. Must be 17 years and older to participate.

The tournament is proudly sponsored by Fort McKay First Nation and Bouchier Group.

**The tournament will be an 8 Team Competition for cash prizes:
1st Place - \$10,000 | 2nd Place - \$5,000 | 3rd Place - \$3,000**

- Entry fee per team will be \$1,000/team.
- Certified Referee's
- 50/50 Draw
- Concession
- Skate Sharpening onsite (\$5)

Deadline to register will be Tuesday April 26th, 2022 at 4 p.m.

Please contact Shay Laurent at 780.742.4622 or slaurent@fortmckay.com to register.



STAYING BUSY WITH THE YOUTH CENTRE



Alicia Gladue and Shelley Cyprien: Shelley made a beautiful ribbon skirt for her friend Alicia, who played for the Saints (High School team), which included colors as well as the number that Alicia played with in the Fall.



Alicia Gladue and Mataya Cooper went to a development camp in Edmonton on February 20th and 21st 2022 in hopes to develop their skills and join the U18 Team Alberta National Team. Tryouts will be held in the next few months!



Spring season has begun and that means it's Football season again! The girls will be training hard throughout the next few months as the Northern Spirits have upgraded to the senior division.



The youth and Youth Centre staff participating in the Pink Shirt Day on February 23rd, 2022.

Psychological First Aid

April 26th - 27th, 2022



What is Psychological First Aid?

Psychological First Aid is a resiliency-building wellness program that equips individuals in supporting themselves and others to cope with the effects of stress, loss, trauma and grief.

This 2-day course is open to staff and community members working or living in Fort McKay.

Dates: Tuesday, April 26th to Wednesday, April 27th, 2022

Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm each day

Location: Fort McKay Youth Center

*Participants must attend both days to receive certification.

**Lunch will be provided both days.

BOOK NOW!

To register for a spot in our Psychological First Aid course please contact Julia Soucie by phone or email. Spaces are limited.



fortmckaywellnesscenter@hotmail.ca



780-838-1812



FORT MCKAY
FIRST NATION



FORT MCKAY FIRST NATION LANDS AND



Fort McKay Land Management Technician Tara Telnes assists with site visits for the Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment conducted in 2020.

The Fort McKay Lands and Leasing department is responsible for implementation of administration, planning and governance over Fort McKay First Nation reserve land. The department is currently part of Fort McKay First Nation's Business Development unit and has three full-time staff, including one Fort McKay First Nation member, working on various aspects of land administration, planning and governance.

A priority of Fort McKay as a Nation is Self-Efficacy which is a belief in oneself as an individual or organization to achieve the goals and outcomes required for social and economic success. Control over land and land governance is one of the key aspects of self-efficacy and self-reliance for First Nation communities across Canada. Fort McKay Lands and Leasing is undertaking several initiatives that are aimed at taking greater control over Fort McKay First Nation reserve land and resources – Addition to Reserve, Land Code Development and Environmental Management Planning.

As a department, Lands and Leasing also oversees lease administration for the Nation's two major industrial parks and other commercial and industrial developments on reserve land.

The Fort McKay Caribou Energy Park is ideally situated to support the operation of various commercial industries supplying northern oil sands developments and other local commercial interests. The park is owned by Fort McKay First Nation and managed jointly by Fort McKay Group of Companies and Waiward Capital. For more information on the Fort McKay Caribou Industrial Park scan visit: <https://www.fortmckay.com/joint-ventures/land-property/fort-mckay-caribou-energy-park/> or scan the QR code at the bottom of the page.

The smaller Fort McKay Business Incubator Park is located closer to the Fort McKay community and supports member-owned businesses exclusively. There are currently 1.3 acre and 2.7 acre lots available for lease by member-owned businesses at very competitive rental rates. Members interested in learning more about leasing a lot in the Incubator Park can contact Benita Koochicum, Senior Manager, Lands and Leasing, at bkoochicum@fortmckay.com.

ADDITION TO RESERVE

A First Nation's ability to add land to their reserve base is an important aspect of taking back control over land and resources. Once land is reserve, the province and local municipality no longer have authority or direct influence over how land is used, managed, or developed for the benefit of the Nation. Instead, the land becomes subject to First Nation by-laws relating to land use and, if the First Nation is under its own land code, the Nation has control over all aspects of land and resources governance.

Fort McKay First Nation recently concluded the addition to reserve of 11 parcels of land within the main community of Fort McKay – increasing the land base by over 100 acres. Some of these lots were identified in the 2003 Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement Agreement and are already developed for community purposes. The conclusion of the addition to reserve of this land was a major accomplishment for the Nation as it took nearly a decade to acquire the land from the previous owners and go through Canada's addition to reserve process.

In 2019, Lands and Leasing applied for the addition to the reserve of the Northland School Division land in the community (the current school location) and several other parcels within the community that are owned by local and provincial governments. Canada provided conditional



LEASING DEPARTMENT – AN OVERVIEW



Moose Lake - Paradise Bay

approval for the proposed additions to reserve, and steps are being taken to make the land part of Fort McKay 174. Lands and leasing is working diligently to conclude these additions to reserve as quickly as possible.

LAND CODE DEVELOPMENT

To strengthen Fort McKay's self-efficacy, Fort McKay First Nation is developing a Land Code to replace the 44 sections of the Indian Act that currently dictate how reserve land is used, developed, and occupied for the benefit of Fort McKay First Nation members. Once the Land Code is ratified by eligible voting members and enacted by the Nation, Canada will no longer have authority over Fort McKay First Nation reserve land. Instead, decision-making authority will rest where it belongs -- with Fort McKay First Nation and its members.

A Land Code Committee made up of 13 Fort McKay First Nation members have spent the past year working on a draft land code that reflects the culture, traditions and values of the Fort McKay First Nation and its members. A vote to approve and ratify the Land Code will be held later this year. Fort McKay Lands and Leasing is supporting the Land Code Committee through the land code development process by coordinating meetings, producing land code content, and liaising with lawyers, land governance experts, and Indigenous Services Canada on their behalf. For more information on the Land Code development initiative and Land Code Committee visit the website: <https://www.fortmckay.com/governance/land-code/> or scan the QR code at the bottom of the page.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANNING

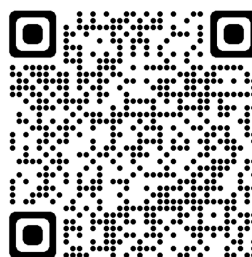
Effective environmental management, protection and conservation is a key aspect of effective land governance

and reinforces Fort McKay's self-efficacy as a Nation. Fort McKay Lands and Leasing staff are working closely with the Fort McKay Sustainability Department to develop an Environmental Management Plan for Moose Lake and the commercial/industrial properties located on Fort McKay 174. The Environmental Management Plan will identify priorities for environmental protection and conservation and set out policies, processes and guidelines that will ensure the environmental priorities of Fort McKay First Nation are met.

A reserve-wide Environmental Site Assessment, or "ESA", to identify actual or potential environmental concerns on Fort McKay reserve land was conducted in 2020 as part of the Land Code development process. Fort McKay Lands and Leasing is working closely with Indigenous Services Canada to complete follow-up investigations and, in some cases, remediation on sites that were identified in the Environmental Site Assessment report.

The ESA report findings are available for any Fort McKay First Nation member to access and review. Please contact Tara Telnes, Land Management Technician, at ttelnes@fortmckay.com to obtain a copy of the report findings. Fort McKay Lands and leasing will provide updates on our progress with both the Environmental Management Plan and Environmental Site Assessment response on a regular basis

Land Code Page



Industrial Park QR:





On Tuesday, March 22nd, Fort McKay First Nation and Landrex broke ground on the East Pine Development in Beaumont Alberta.

Left to right in the photo:
Chris Fillmore, President Fillmore Construction, Bill Daneluik, Mayor of Beaumont, FMFN Councillor Raymond Powder, Sophie Baran, Executive Vice President, Landrex, FMFN Chief Grandjamb, and Treaty 8 Grand Chief Arthur Noskey.



FORT MCKAY
FIRST NATION

Firetack Training Opportunity



Are you a Fort McKay First Nation community member who desires to pursue a career as a wildfire initial response crew member for the province of Alberta? Are you interested in learning the aspects of wildfire behaviour, fire safety, suppression, strategy, tactics, fire line ignition, and operational policy? Do you believe in working together as a team to protect our valuable wilderness resources? Are you willing to be deployed around the province on short notice, during peak fire season for extended periods of time? If so, this may be the opportunity for you!

Prerequisites prior to training:

- Must be physically fit, able to carry 50lbs over extended distances,
 - Completion of WHMIS and ICS 100 through the Hinton Training College (this training is online & covered by FMFN – for members only)
 - Completion of a valid First Aid certificate
- **Deadline for submissions – April 15th, 2022**

Training dates: April 28th – May 4th, 2022

*Due to limited space, training will be limited to a first-come, first-serve basis. Acceptance into the program will require prerequisites to be completed by April 15th. For more information, contact Craig Randal at: Crandell@fortmckay.com.

THE HUB IS IN FORT MCKAY

The Hub in Fort McKay offers fun and free programming happening every Wednesday from 1pm until 3:30pm at the Fort McKay Youth Centre... For April, we will be doing music play to sing and dance around, art and sensory, tiny movers to get those little bodies moving around as well as a stay and play program which will have new toys children can explore! There's something for every little one from ages 0 to 6. We ask that you pre-register on our website under the rural community programs! We hope to see you out.

Did you know that Wood Buffalo Family Resource Network programs are available in Fort McKay? The Wood Buffalo Family Resource Network is a partnership between The Hub Family Resource Centre, the YMCA of Northern Alberta, and WJS Canada.



All programs are voluntary and free of charge!

Looking for programs and services? Not sure which program will best meet your needs?



**Can you spot the differences?
There are 5!**

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Wellness Center April Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Spring Break FORT MCKAY SCHOOL Wellness Center Open 9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Spring Break FORT MCKAY SCHOOL Wellness Center Open 9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Spring Break FORT MCKAY SCHOOL Wellness Center Open 9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Spring Break FORT MCKAY SCHOOL Wellness Center Open 9:00 am – 5:00 pm	No School ALL SCHOOLS Wellness Center Open 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Outdoor Games (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm DIY Night (Ages 8+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Scavenger Hunt/Nature Walk (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Homework Club (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Free Being Me (Ages 8+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Book Club (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Super Size Science (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm-7:30 pm Homework Club (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Community Egg Hunt 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Spring Break TOWN SCHOOLS Wellness Center Open 9:00 am – 6:00 pm	Spring Break TOWN SCHOOLS Wellness Center Open 9:00 am – 6:00 pm	Spring Break TOWN SCHOOLS Wellness Center Open 9:00 am – 6:00 pm	Spring Break - TOWN SCHOOLS Open 9:00 am – 6:00 pm Easter Activities 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Wellness Center CLOSED Good Friday
Wellness Center CLOSED Easter Monday	Scavenger Hunt/Nature Walk (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Homework Club (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Free Being Me (Ages 8+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Book Club (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Super Size Science (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm-7:30 pm Homework Club (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Earth Day Activities (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Outdoor Games (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Spring Paint Night (Ages 8+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Wellness Center Open 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Closed at 5:00 pm due to Staff Training	Wellness Center Open 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Closed at 5:00 pm due to Staff Training	Super Size Science (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm-7:30 pm Homework Club (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	No School TOWN SCHOOLS Wellness Center Open 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

*Homework and Book Club will be available from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm on NO SCHOOL DAYS.
 **Outdoor activities are subject to change based on weather. Children MUST wear warm outdoor clothing (Boots, Jacket, Hat, Mitts, Snowpants, etc.) to participate.
 ***Scheduled activities are subject to change on short notice due to Covid-19 public health guidelines.

STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS!!



FORT MCKAY

Stay informed by :

Listening to Fort McKay's community radio station:

106.3 fm

& going on Fort McKay's Facebook page