

DECEMBER 2013

VOLUME 4:: ISSUE 12

BOUCHIERS WIN PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

A Fort McKay husband and wife team received high recognition for their incredible business success at the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year Program 2013. Nicole Bourque-Bouchier and David Bouchier, owners of The Bouchier Group, were honoured with the Oil and Gas Entrepreneur Of The Year award at the black tie awards gala on Oct. 17.

"I guess this means I don't have to set my rabbit snares anymore," joked Bouchier upon receiving the award in front of a large crowd at the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre.

EY Entrepreneur Of The Year celebrates the contribution and spirit of entrepreneurs every-

where. The Canadian program is in its 20th year of honouring the country's most impressive entrepreneurs from all areas of business. Judges look at a wide variety of criteria to pick award recipients like the Bouchiers, including financial performance, vision, leadership, innovation, personal integrity and influence, and community engagement. The judges discovered that Nicole and David excelled in all these areas, especially in community engagement. The Bouchiers' record of giving back to the community is unsurpassed. In fact it is imbedded in their business philosophy. The Bouchier Group is now a leading oilsands site

(Continued on page 3)

UFOs EXPLAINED	2
YOUTH CENTRE	6
CHRISTMAS FEAST	8
SAY NO TO DRUGS	10
HUNTING&TRAPPING	13
SKI DOO SAFETY	14









WE ARE WATCHING THE SKIES



They're heeeere. In Fort McKay many people have seen the green laser beaming in the night sky. Some have even thought

from a mother ship and reported the "UFO' to authorities. The sightings are not the result of some wild imaginations or hallucinations; the green laser beam actually is real. The green laser beam is not beaming down, however, it is beaming

Environment Canada is "heeeere" in Fort McKay where they have set up a very sophisticated air monitoring station which includes a lidar trailer (for laser radar), the source

FMFN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Iim Boucher, Chief Raymond Powder, Councillor David Bouchier, Councillor Gerald Gladue, Councillor Ruth McKenzie, Councillor

George Arcand, CEO Larry Hewko, CFO/COO

ADMINISTRATION DEPT.

Dorothy McDonald Business Centre General Delivery Fort McKay, AB T0P 1C0 Phone: 780-828-2430

Hours of Operation: Mon. to Thurs. - 8:30am - 4:30pm Friday - 8:30am - 2:00pm

COMMUNITY INFO LINE 780-828-2442

SUBMISSIONS

Cort Gallup, Editor If you have any photos, stories or ideas for the Fort McKay Current, please contact Cort at cgallup@fortmckay.com or call 780-838-6061.

of the green laser light, and CAM1, also known as the Comprehensive Air Monitoring Trailer. The green light is one of two lights that shine straight up for 20 kilometers high into the sky from the middle of Fort McKay. The other light is an infrait was coming down red laser beam that is not visible at day or night. The green laser beam is only visible at night. Both lights

are on 24/7 and are used to measure the particulate matter, between ground level and 20km elevation. The laser beams measure the quantity, size and elevation of the particulate matter while several other devices at CAM1 measure chemistry, wind direction, temperature, air pressure, etc. therefore the source of the particulate matter may be determined at any one time.

The site with the lasers and CAM1 is located on Target Road on the clearing just west of Scotty's house. There is a collaborative agreement between Fort McKay First Nation and Environment Canada for cooperative activities here pertaining to short-term air quality monitoring studies in the Fort McKay region. "This tells you the whole picture," said Dr. Jeffrey R. Brook,

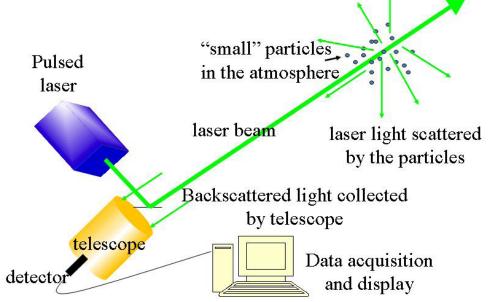
Environment Canada Senior Research Scientist about CAM1 while on a tour of the station on November 25.

Dr. Brook says the light beams work much like a ray of sunshine that shines through your curtains at home to reveal the dust particles in the air. There is a special telescope that looks at the particulate matter in the air very closely and then logs that information in real time on a computer.

At the same time a twenty member Fort McKay air monitoring panel, made up of twenty community members, will be trained to recognize, describe and report odours in the air of Fort McKay.

The research gathered by the panel will then be combined with the research of CAM1 after about one

For any questions regarding CAM1 or the lidar call Ryan Abel, FMFN Environmental Coordinator, at 780-370-6689. For air quality emergencies and concerns call Environment Alberta at 1-800-222-6514 AND/ OR Wood Buffalo Environmental Association at 1-866-685-3699, (WWW.WBEA.ORG).



Fort McKay's laser radar, or, Lidar, combined with Fort McKay's Comprehensive Air Monitoring trailer, (CAM1), watches our air 24/7. See photos on page 8.

BOUCHIERS WIN EY OIL AND GAS ENTREPRENUERS OF THE YEAR

(Continued from page 1)

service provider (road maintenance, medical, janitorial and security) that is "committed to building and enhancing sustainable business relationships that strengthen our community." Dave and Nicole's investments in their community are countless. Local sports teams, non-profit groups, educational institutions, and aboriginal groups have all greatly benefited from incredibly generous support and donations from the Bouchiers.

"Philanthropy has always been a passion of ours and one area that we are giving more and more time to these days," says Nicole. "Of course we both have a real passion for our work and furthering the awareness of aboriginal businesses and women in our business."

Nicole and David spending "more time" on philanthropy is a huge understatement. They appear to be in business for the sole purpose of being in a position that they can give back to their community. Supporting

aboriginal business and women in business may be the Bouchier's focus, but Fort McKay is the first priority.

Simply because, "it is our home," says David.

Dave and his wife started Bouchier Contracting in the fall of 2004 with 10 people and one project working on a temporary access road for CNRL. They secured a \$70,000 loan from Alberta Indian Investment Corporation and bought a D6 bulldozer. As a small company competing with giants in the Athabasca oilsands, Nicole says she and David had to show great fortitude in the early

"You must enter into entrepreneurship with an entrepreneurial spirit," she says. "I think this is something you have within you. This ensures your passion and commitment to everything you do within your business and will continually drive you forward, even during the tough patches." Nicole and David's passion and commitment have led to business and philanthropy success. Today,

tens of millions of dollars, employs over 500 people year round and they now have over 200 pieces of equipment including excavators, water trucks, snow plows, skid steers, snow cats, gravel trucks and dozers. The Bouchiers have donated generously to the Fort McKay Hockey Arena, Fort McKay Treaty Days, Keyano College, The United Way, SOS Kids, Big Brother and Big Sisters, Kids First, Fort McMurray Family Crisis Society, Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association, Edge Hockey, Learning Through The Arts, Sunny Smiles Preschool, Athabasca Delta School, Girls Inc., Minor Hockey, Fort McKay Wellness Centre, Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards, National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, The Justin Slade Youth Foundation and the SPCA. And that is naming only a few. And they did this all while being devoted parents of five children, Kandis 27, Keegan 17, Brayden 14, Michelle-Hartley 2 and Blaize 6 who was born on the same day as their granddaughter Kayleigh

The Bouchier Group is worth

David is the son of Freddy and Rena Bouchier. His grandparents are Alex and Alice Bouchier whom he was very close to. David says he was very honoured to be just nominated for the prestigious award. And to win it? "It's awesome. I have never expected anything like that in my life," says Bouchier. "If My Father and Grandfather were alive today they would be very proud of their Son. I know it."



JUNIOR LEADERS VISIT WEST COAST

By Julia Graus Contributing writer/photogrpaher

The Junior Leaders were busy fundraising this year! They had a dream to visit Vancouver, British Columbia and that dream became a reality in October! From October 10th to 14th, 2013, a group of 10 youth visited Vancouver and had a fun-filled Thanksgiving Weekend! On Friday, October 11th, we got up really early and headed to Grouse Mountain in North Vancouver. We started out our tour by riding the giant gondola up to the top of the mountain. We then got to meet an elder by the name of Kwel-a-a-nexw who is part of the Squamish First Nations. He told us stories of his culture and their local traditions, did some drumming and even got us all up dancing around. We got to be part of the "Wolf Clan" and learned the "Dance of the Wolf." After visiting the longhouse, we headed off to the Alpine Cabin to meet a resident owl. We got to learn about the way owls see, hear and hunt. We also got to visit the Grizzly Bear habitat and meet two resident grizzly bears named Grinder and Coola. They were GIGANTIC!

After Grouse Mountain, we headed off to the Capilano Suspension Bridge. It is 140 meters long and 70 meters above the river. We had a hard time keeping our balance as we tried to cross it! We got to roam through



the forest and see maple leafs that were bigger than our heads! We went up in a tree house and did a tree top walk filled with a bunch of mini suspension bridges! Even though it was very high, none of us were scared and we had a blast!

On Saturday morning, we headed to Granville Island. We got to walk to the aquabus station and take the aquabus across the river to the island. The aquabus was a rainbow coloured boat that had room for 30 people on it. Even though the ride was only 2 minutes long, we still had fun. We even got to see a group of seals splashing and playing around in the ocean water.

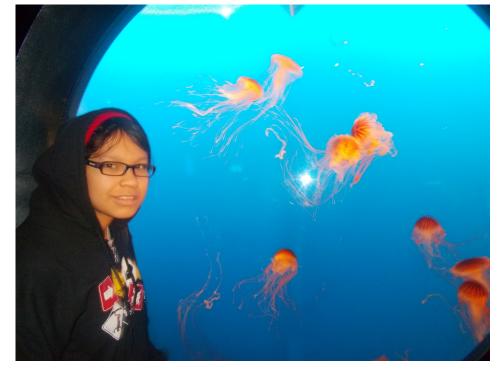
On Granville Island, we visited some of the local shops, museums and artisans. Then we came to a BIG yellow building that said "Kids Market" on it and knew

we had to go see! It was filled with toy stores, an arcade, a play center and everything a kid could ever want. We would have stayed there all day, but our next activity was something we had been waiting for since we stepped foot in Vancouver.

We left the market and headed to Wildplay Element Park. We put our physical abilities to the test in this wild adventure. We got to put on harnesses and climb up into the trees to do a variety of activities. Sometimes we had to zip line from tree to tree, other times we had to take a Tarzan rope, cross a tight-rope, or jump from swinging logs onto trees. Some activities were very hard, but we managed to do it! What a great workout that was! After Wildplay, we went and enjoyed a nice supper, followed by swimming for the rest of the

night at a place called Watermania in Richmond, BC. It was a huge swimming place with waterslides, diving boards, jumping towers and a wave pool with 9 foot waves! We would have spent the whole trip here if we could! Sunday morning, we woke up to the sun shining bright through our balcony windows of the hotel. We headed to Stanley Park to check out the Aquarium. We started off with a 4D movie called "SpongeBob and the Jellyfish." This was the coolest theatre we had ever been to because not only was it 3D, but the seats moved, they splashed water on you, there was bubbles floatingit was like we were literally IN THE MOVIE!

After the movie, we explored the museum. We got to see all different types of ocean fish and mammals, as well as different types of sea life. We even got to see dol-



phins, sharks and alligators. We watched a live show with Beluga whales and got to learn how the marine biologists train the whales to do all kinds of tricks. After the aquarium, we went to the HR MacMillan Space Center. We met a scientist who taught us

all about rockets and how they work. We finished off the day with a movie in the Star Theatre where we got to learn about astronomy and space.

After all that we were exhaust-

After all that, we were exhausted and went to bed early so we could catch our flight in the

morning. We had an amazing time and wish we had many more days to spend by the ocean. We were blessed with beautiful weather and amazing company.

A huge shout out to the Junior Leaders for their hard work and efforts in fundraising for this trip! The Junior Leaders would also like to send a HUGE THANK YOU to the Fort McKay First Nations and Shell Canada for supporting us with this AMAZING Opportunity! Without you, this trip wouldn't have been possible! THANK YOU!!!!





TANSI, WE ARE YOUR YOUTH CENTRE STAFF



Hello, I am the Youth Coordinator Kerry Trueman. I am originally from Nova Scotia but have made Fort McMurray my home. I have 4 years experience in childcare, I have studied childhood development and have a diploma in recreational leadership. I have worked with children and youth in many different aspects. They include babysitting, daycare worker, private nanny, City of Halifax as a summer camp coordinator, Halifax sports programming coordinator, girl's basketball coach, homeschooled children gym classes, youth at risk worker and in juvenile detention centres. I have worked at a boys and girls club and even worked here in McKay at the wellness center. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for their continued support

in my being the youth coordinator at the youth center and I am excited for all the fall/winter programming we will be offering youth ages 12-18 here in Fort McKay. I am especially excited for the development of the new youth center and all the new programming we will be able to offer in the very near future. If you have any questions, suggestions etc. please feel free to drop by the youth center or call 780-215-1248. Now I'd like to take this opportunity to have the Youth Centre staff introduce themselves. New and ongoing of course.



Hi everyone, my name is Emily Morrison and I am a Youth Programmer at the Youth Centre. When I was a young girl I was adopted into a family in Fort Mc-Murray. I have always been fascinated with working with people in general. My father always said that I was going to be more of a leader but I never believed him through my angst-filled teenage years. After

I graduated high school, I never really had any idea of what I wanted to do for a living. An opportunity came up volunteering at the youth center. After one year as a volunteer I was hired. I'm a guitar player (but I'm not that great). I could probably beat you in a videogame though, and I challenge you to swing by and try me!



Tansi, I am the Youth Centre Administrative Assistant Maureen Bouchier. I am an aboriginal treaty Indian from Fort McKay. I am originally born and raised in Edmonton and I moved to Fort McMurray at a young age. I commuted back and forth from McMurray to McKay so that while my mom worked at

Syncrude I stayed at my auntie's house here in McKay. We then moved to Fort McKay when I was 12. I have always called Fort McKay my home my mother told me all the time that we are from Fort McKay. When I was going to grade school out here I use to babysit my cousins. When I became an auntie to numerous nieces and nephews I also babysat them. Now they all look up to me as their coolest auntie. I am a role model to my oldest niece. I have always liked to watch kids and they all liked me whether we are related or not. I had this feeling I wanted to work with kids in some sort of way but didn't know exactly in what way. I started upgrading at Keyano out here in Fort

McKay and took a computer course about computers, and during the summer I worked for the Summer Student Employment Program. I went back to school at Keyano College in Fort McMurray, lived in the purple palace, and commuted back to McKay. I got my first home here in McKay at age 21 and began completing my high school diploma. I have a life motto "never give up and always keep myself going." I've worked at the Fort McKay band office as an administrative assistant and as a front desk receptionist. I am excited for the new Youth Centre building, it will be great for the kids. I am thankful for the opportunities I have received and the people who have encouraged me to keep going.



rangeau. I am originally from Fort Chipewyan. I have lived in Fort McKay most of my life. Growing up here taught me a lot about what a "community" meant. As a young child I was always very helpful with my three younger

As a young child I was always very helpful with my three younger brothers and my Mom's friends' children. I am very good at listening to any problems they may have had at school or home. Kids have always seemed to be drawn to me, and I am someone they have looked up to and counted on.

In 1995, at age twelve I secured a job at the Wellness Centre as a Summer Youth Councillor. The Summer Youth program at that time was run by Bonnie Hodge and John Flemming. I loved my job and can say I learned a lot from my mentors as well as the youth I worked with. I knew from then on I wanted to work with the youth, learn with them, grow with them and above all be the best influence on them as I can be.

Unfortunately I dropped out of high school as a result of getting pregnant at the young age of 16 and I was scared to go back to school. By the age of 18 I started working at the Fort McKay daycare (our chil-

dren, our future). By 2004 I moved, and kept moving every couple of years, living all over Canada. I had two more beautiful children. I came to learn that no matter where I was, Fort McKay would always be my home. I am interested in incorporating a cultural component into the programming we have to offer here at the youth center. Also I am currently working towards certain certificates and training that will insure my future as a leader, as I would like to one day open a foster or group home for youth at risk. My children's futures are just as important as all the kids of our community and I am grateful to be given the chance to work with the youth here at the Fort McKay youth



Hello my name is Jean Corrigan. I was born and raised in Wabasca, Alberta. I came to Fort McMurray as a student in 1983, and it's been home to me since graduating from Composite High in 1984. "No matter where I have gone, I keep coming back" I was hired as a Youth Centre Worker on October 18, 2013 and I have spent this last month getting to know my role, the staff, youth and the community. My work experience with children,

youth and adults has been varied, diverse and rewarding. During high school, I supervised youth for Bigstone Cree Nation summer employment.

I had an opportunity to work with young offenders and children at risk in group homes, while working towards a two year Social Work Diploma in Slave Lake in 1993-95. I studied courses on how to teach Cree phonetics, vocabulary and cultural awareness while working with grades 1-6 students for Northland and Bigstone Cree Nation schools.

When I lived in Toronto in 2004-06, I worked for Scouts Canada with a program called *Scouts About*, facilitating recreational activities in five schools during lunch hour and after school.

I came back to Fort McMurray in 2006, employed as House Mother for Conklin House, providing home-care duties with Northland Schools to seven high school students from Conklin and Janvier. At that same time, I obtained parttime employment with Mark Amy Treatment Centre in Gregoire Lake, supervising clients, cooking meals and facilitating information workshops regarding addictions, which lead to full-time employment until April 2008.

center.

I have been at the oil sands plants since 2008 and my job was not satisfactory. My spirit desired the relationships and friendships with people at a community level. My heart missed being in touch with the aboriginal relations, youth, elders and their laughter that brings me much joy. I am so pleased to be starting a new job here at the youth centre. Feel free to drop by anytime that the centre is open and say hi. Thank you friends, neighbors, relations, staff and especially the youth of Fort McKay.



7









🖒 Like

Are you on Facebook?
Do you live in Fort
McKay? If you
answered "yes" to
either or both these
questions then you
might want to "LIKE"
our Facebook page:

FORT MCKAY First Nation

Important community information is posted there as well as special event announcments and photos from community events.
"LIKE" us today.

BAKE SALES ARE HOT



Both the Fort McKay School and the Fort McKay Wellness Centre have been holding very sucessful bake sales for fundraising. The baked goods are made by volunteers in the community. All baked good have been selling out quickly. Keep an eye on FORT MCKAY First Nation Facebook page for future bake sales and other community events and announcements.



BISON HARVEST

The Fort McKay Sustainability Department will be working with Syncrude Canada on this year's Bison Harvest on Tuesday, December 3rd, 2013, 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. The harvest will take place at the Bison Corral, behind the water treatment plant. Please note: there is limited access to that area during harvest time. The Fort McKay Sustainability Department is working with the Fort McKay Health Centre to have the meat sent for testing. Upon testing completion, Syncrude Canada will then send the meat to a butcher. Please call the Fort McKay Sustainability office at (780) 828-2480 if you are interested in meat being provided to your household or if you have any questions. Please also indicate the type of cuts of meat you prefer and the Sustainability Department will do their best to accommodate you.



BIRDS OF A FEATHER....



The Blue Jay and the Evening Grosbeak are common in Fort McKay. To see Blue Jays at your home put peanuts, with or without shells, in a bowl off the ground outside your patio doors. To see Evening Grosbeak use seeds. Use both to see both types of birds like in this photo here that was taken in Fort McKay. Many other bird species will visit too. Photo: Cecile Calliou

HUNTING AND TRAPPING COURSES





The Fort McKay Sustainability Department (SD) in conjunction with the Alberta Trappers' Association conducts trappers training courses every year in Fort McKay. They cover topics such as history of the Fur Industry, management of furbearers, required equipment, humane harvesting, fur handling and marketing. In this photo (top left) from a course last month, Melinda Stewart, DeeDee Grandjambe and Levi Campre prepare for the practical portion of the skinning lesson at the Trappers Course. The FMFN SD also

offers the Canadian Firearms Safety Course presented by the Alberta Hunter **Education Instruc**tors' Association. Certification in the course is necessary to obtain your gun license from the RCMP. In the photo (bottom), Cy Whisky Jack takes his practical portion of the safety couse last month with instructor William Bowie. Call the SD at 780-828-2480 to register for courses in the new year. Photos: Wayne Courchene

SKI DOO AND ATV SAFETY



Facts about snowmobiles and safety.

There are many reasons to use proper safety practices when snowmobiling. While it's a great sport, it has the potential for personal injury and even death. To stay safe, snowmobilers need to understand the risks.

- The most dangerous situations happen when a snowmobiler is injured while alone, far from help.
- Snowmobiles can be a hazard even when they're on the trailer.
- Wearing the wrong clothing can cost you your life.
- Most collisions happen during reduced winter light or darkness.
- Overall, when involved in a collision, snow mobilers are more likely to receive serious and incapacitating injuries, than other people in other vehicles.
- Riding in the backcountry and in mountainous terrain requires proper equipment and training.

Some common-sense rules for the ride.

There's an exhilaration that comes with sledding in the great outdoors. All sledders, from the novice to the expert, need to keep safety in mind every time they head out. Ride safe. Ride Sober.

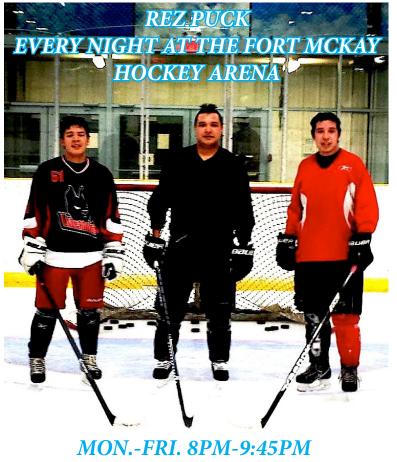
Use these tips to put safety into action - and have a great time.

- Do not use alcohol or drugs before or during
 snowmobiling.
- Operate at safe and reasonable speeds driving within the limits of the machine and your ability.
- Remember the rules of the road. Always travel on the right hand side of the trail and adhere to trail signage.
- Stay on trails and in areas where snowmobiling is permitted.
- Use extra caution when riding during the evening or night.
- Become familiar with the snowmobile you ride.
- Keep your snowmobile properly maintained.
- Know the terrain you travel.
- Avoid travel over unfamiliar bodies of water.
- Listen to the weather forecast before you venture out.
- Always wear a safety certified helmet and prop er layered clothing.
- Ride with a buddy or with a group.
- Inform someone of where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Carry emergency supplies, learn first aid and survival skills.
- Know and use the proper hand signals.

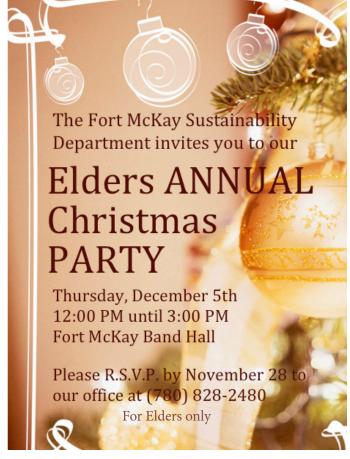
It's up to you to make snowmobiling safe.

LEARNING TO SKATE IS EASY









SMOKE SIGNALS

HIDE TANNING 587-644-0772

To anyone that hunts and traps I know it is a lot of work to prepare and smoke a hide, but there are many people that want to learn. If you have a hide please donate it. It can be used to make moccasins and mukluks, and be used to continue our traditinal teachings. Rebecca Fabian-587-644-0772.

FORT MCKAY RECREATION 780-714-7094

Volleyball Monday and Wednesday 7:00pm-9:00pm.

FORT MCKAY WELLNESS CENTRE 780-828-4312, 828-4403

Christmas Bake Sale for Wednesday, December 11th from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Make sure you come by and get some goodies!

Monday nights: Young Chef's from 6pm to 8pm for ages 10-17

Tutoring from 6:00pm to 8:00pm for ages 6-12

Tuesday nights: Volleyball from 6:00pm to 8:00pm for ages 10-17 Wednesday nights: Snowshoeing in the community from 6:30pm to 8:00pm for ages 10-17 Tutoring from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

for ages 6-12

Special Events:

Friday, December 5th: No School, Wellness is open 9:00am to 4:30pm. There will be no field trip this night.

Tuesday, December 10th: Gingerbread House Decorating

Granny from 6:00pm to 8:00pm for ages

6-9 ONLY.

Wednesday, December 11th: Early Dismissal- BAKE SALE from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Closed at 5:30pm for the Metis Kids Christmas Party

Thursday, December 12th: Gingerbread House Decorating from 6:00pm to 8:00pm for ages 10-17 ONLY

Friday, December 13th: Teen Night, ages 10-17 only. Permission slip Required

Thursday, December 19th: Pre Teen Christmas Party at Tour North Ranch for a night of hay rides and sliding for ages 6-10. Bus leaves at 5:30pm sharp. Permission slips required. Friday, December 20th: Teen **Christmas Party at Vista Ridge** for ages 10-17. Bus leaves at 10:00am. Permission slip required. Saturday December 21st-Sunday, January 5th: The Wellness Center will be closed for Christmas holidays. We will re-open on Monday January 6th with regular after-school hours.

YOUTH CENTRE 780-828-4462

Advance Tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays (math and science) from 6:00pm-10:00pm (this tutoring has been moved to the E-Learning classroom). Call Casey at 780-804-0709 for after hours band hall access.

Regular Tutoring is on Monday and Thursday 6:00pm-8:00pm.

The Youth Centre will be closed for Christmas holidays on Saturday December 21st. We will re-open on Monday January 6th.

SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT 780-828-2480

Fort McKay Sustainability Elders **Christmas Party December 5th** Noon-3:00pm, Band Hall. For elders only. Please RSVP if you will be attending, 780-828-2480. The Sustainability Department is on a mission to update thier community contact list. Please call the office at (780) 828-2480 and provide updated phone numbers so that we can contact people for Community Consultation sessions. The reason for this request is peoples numbers change so much and we are having a hard time contacting people.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRE 780-828-4048

Mondays: ATC Child & Family Services, Foster Program & Family Enhancement, Alcohol Anonymous (AA) Meeting 7:00pm – 8:30pm.

Last Monday of every month: Probation/ Parole Services Tuesday: Sharing circle - 6:00pm -8:00pm.

Wednesdays: Victim services – Victims of Crime support Narcotics Anonymous (NA) Meeting 7:30pm – 8:30pm. Thursdays: NEAFAN –North East Alberta FASD Network.

