



# Red River Current

DECEMBER 2014

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## GROUP OF COMPANIES EXPANDS BUSINESS TO EDMONTON

The Fort McKay Group of Companies has evolved since 1986, continuing to move forward to reach new avenues. On November 21 2014, the company officially expanded its business into the Edmonton region with one of its divisions, Fort McKay Logistics.

Chief Jim Boucher, General Manager Mathieu Leger, FMGC CEO Jim Carbery, and Board Chair Dayle Hyde together cut the ribbon during the official grand opening on November 21.

Fort McKay Logistics, a trucking and delivery business has operat-

ing for over 10 years within the Fort McKay and Fort McMurray region. The company focuses on delivering parcels to and from sites and holds many contracts with oil sands industry including Syncrude.

The company started with only one truck and three employees and has now expanded to employing over 250 workers, 40 of them in Edmonton.

"This means we're not only local any more, we're outside of Fort McMurray and we have the potential to grow," Leger said.

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# GROUP OF COMPANIES EXPANDS BUSINESS TO EDMONTON

The new 28,000 square foot warehouse is located at 5477 67th Avenue. It hosts many shipments for oil sand company Syncrude, and delivers parcels weighing as much as 9,060 kilograms. Fort McKay Logistics operates seven days a week, as seven to ten trucks make their way up North every night.

"McKay has always delivered top-quality, cost-competitive, safe contracting services to us, and the award of this new contract is just another example of that," said Kara Flynn, Syncrude's

vice-president of government and public affairs during an interview with the Edmonton Journal.

For over 25 years now, the Fort McKay Group of Companies LP has been providing a variety of services to the Canadian Oil Sands. The company has successfully expanded its horizons in the last 20 years and, according to plans, will continue to do so in the future.

"We hope that this is just the beginning and that we are able

to do more business in other regions and expand our services across the country in the future," said Chief Jim Boucher.

The Fort McKay Group of Companies is 100% governed and operated by the Fort McKay First Nation. It currently owns 7 business divisions. They include Muskeg Mountain-Earthworks Division, Logistics Division, Site Services Division, Muskeg Distributors, Land & Leasing Division, and Environment Services.

Congratulations!



## FMFN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jim Boucher, Chief  
Raymond Powder, Councillor  
Gerald Gladue, Councillor  
Ruth McKenzie, Councillor

George Arcand, CEO  
Larry Hewko, CFO

## 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

## SUBMISSIONS

If you have any photos, stories or ideas for the Fort McKay Current, please contact Nancy Robin at:  
780-715-4512 or  
email: nancydoire@msn.com



From left to right: Jim Carbery, CEO FMGC, Mathieu Leger, General Manager, Larry Rodo, President of Day & Ross, Dayle Hyde, Chair of FMGOC, John Moss, AVP for all Day and Ross Terminals, Chief Boucher, Darmon Pike, Director of Sales, Western Canada for Day & Ross, and Veronica Cyr, Day & Ross Dispatcher.





# ALBERTA PREMIER VISITS FORT MCKAY



**Chief & Council took advantage of this face-to-face meeting with the Premier to highlight the impact the oil sands development has on Fort McKay, and to share the ongoing concerns and issues expressed by the community.**

On November 10, 2014, newly elected Premier Jim Prentice stopped in Fort McKay First Nation for a visit with Chief and Council and executive. Also in attendance were Minister of Environment Kyle Fawcett, Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Relations Donovan Young, and Assistant Deputy Minister Clay Buchanan.

Chief Boucher took advantage of this face-to-face meeting with the Premier to highlight the impact the oil sands development has on Fort McK-

ay, and to share the ongoing concerns and issues expressed by the community.

Topics discussed included a buffer zone around Moose Lake, the importance of the Moose Lake Protection Plan, and concerns regarding the continuous expansion of development in the region.

With the assistance of maps of the area, Chief Boucher was able to illustrate the cumulative effects of oil sands development on Fort McKay, and the importance of co-manage-

ment of the land and natural resource development, if the Province and Fort McKay are going to work together in a “new and cooperative agreement.”

Premier Prentice’s visit to Fort McKay First Nation was a part of a series of visits with First Nation Chiefs in Northern Alberta, wherein he proposes to chair a roundtable with the Chiefs of the Athabasca Tribal Council to discuss a number of issues, such as land-use planning, the environment, and health concerns.



# FORT MCKAY WINS HEALTH AWARD



**Julia Soucie holds the award after receiving it during the ceremony on behalf of Fort McKay First Nations.**

Fort McKay First Nation has been recognized many times for being an innovative and resourceful community. This year, ChooseWell Healthy Community Awards has recognized Fort McKay as the Overall Healthy Community Champion throughout Alberta.

The award was presented on October 25th 2014, during the President's Banquet at the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association Conference in Jasper, Alberta. Over 550 people appeared at the ceremony including Premier of Alberta Jim Prentice, as well as Minister of Health Stephen Mandel.

The ChooseWell healthy Community Awards

was initiated to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of the many communities across Alberta that promote and create conditions that support active living as well as healthy eating.

Fort McKay won the top award out of 199 communities registered in the Communities ChooseWell program. Throughout the night, many awards were given to identify many communities' accomplishments in respects to healthy eating and active living.

"This is the third year that we have taken part in the Communities ChooseWell program and the third year we have won awards. In previous years, we were awarded with the Overall High Achiever (2014), Creating Healthy Opportunities (2013), Most Significant Change (2013) and Creating Healthy Opportunities (2012). We are a catalyst for other communities in promoting healthy lifestyles and physical activity among residents!" explained Julia Soucie, Coordinator of the Fort McKay Wellness Centre, who applied for the award.

In the application, many initiatives were highlighted including the Wellness Centre's free dinner programs, the community arena's many activities during the winter and summer months, free recreation programs, the Annual Community Health Fair and so much more.

"The greatest accomplishment which contributed to Fort McKay winning the award is our dedication to providing Physical Activity and Healthy lifestyle choices for the residents in the community. Fort McKay promotes a great quality of life for its residents and we were honoured to win this award," described Soucie.

Fort McKay is certainly a community that leads by example. We should all be proud to call ourselves McKay people!





# HUSKY ENERGY & BP DONATE 4 MILLION TO FORT MCKAY

Sunrise Energy Project partners Husky Energy and BP Canada have generously donated a total of \$4 million to Fort McKay First Nation initiatives. The donation includes \$3 million for the new Youth Centre, and \$1 million for skills and trades training. The announcement was made at a community celebration on November 7th, 2014. Construction on the youth centre is expected to begin in the spring, and it is expected to open in 2016. The state of the art Youth Centre will house a community radio station, an art studio, and a recording studio.



**From left to right: Councillor Raymond Powder, John Myer, Senior VP Oil Sands-Husky Energy, Chief Jim Boucher, and Gordon Kemp, OBO Productions & HSE BP Canada.**

## CHIEF SPEAKS AT INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE



**Chief Jim Boucher discusses the importance of investing in people at the symposium.**

On October 16 2014, Chief Boucher was invited to participate as part of a distinguished panel discussing how to improve the overall standard of living for First Nations through economic devel-

opment. The panel, Wealth Creation in Practice, moderated by Toronto Dominion Bank VP, Clint Davis, was part of a two day symposium hosted by the Institute on Governance themed “Towards Reconciliation: The Future of Indigenous Governance.”

Chief Boucher discussed the importance of Fort McKay First Nation invests in its people, its community and the environment to maximize wealth creation, stating “we will not succeed without the buying in of our people – governance and communication is important” and “the issues that are here today, are not issues, but opportunities.” Chief Boucher’s message was clear on Chief and Council’s stance with regard to ensuring the longevity of the community and the environment while working with industry. The goal of the symposium is to bring together key stakeholders from Indigenous communities and institutions, practitioners, public sector and academia to discuss and reflect upon key issues such as economic development, nation rebuilding and closing social and economic gaps.



# **WELLNESS CENTER HOLIDAY FUN!!**

## **Gingerbread house decorating at the Wellness Center**

December 9th from 6 - 8 pm for ages 6 and 7

December 10th from 6-8 pm for ages 8-9

December 11th from 6-8 pm for ages 10 and up

## **Skiing and Snowboarding**

for ages 10-17

December 6th and 13th: Bus leaves at 9 AM

## **Wellness Center Pre-Teen Christmas Party**

on December 16th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

including Christmas games, crafts and snacks for all kids 6-10

## **Wellness Center Teen Christmas Party**

on December 19th from 11 AM to 8 PM

Includes Skiing and Snowboarding at Vista Ridge,  
followed by Christmas Dinner

Bus leaves at 11 AM and returns at 8 PM.

For information call 780-828-4312.

Please note that the Wellness Center will be CLOSED from Wednesday,  
December 24th to Sunday, January 4th for Christmas holidays.

## **MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!!!**





# NEW CAREER CENTRE OPENS

On November 25th 2014, Fort McKay's Employment & Training Centre held an open house to celebrate the opening of its new Career Centre.

Many people came to see the new Centre including industry representatives, providing the opportunity for those looking for work to meet with industry. Some of these reps included CEDA, Kearnl- Imperial Oil, Suncor, and Syncrude.

The new Career Centre is located within the Employment & Training Centre and features 5 new computers that Employment & Training clients can use. These computers also possess software programs that help clients build resumes.

"The programs are very user friendly, and will allow our clients to creatively develop or update their own resume independently," explained Charlotte Barnes, Employment & Training Officer.

"Not only will the centre allow the



**The new computer station features 5 new computers that Employment & Training clients can use on a daily basis.**

clients to work independently, but they will gain valuable computer skills including job search, file management, attaching documents, creating email accounts, writing skills, online applications are some examples. In addition more clients can be helped. We have one computer set up in a private office where clients can work on online training, online testing or other employment tasks requiring privacy or concentration. Clients will experience a new level

of autonomy and feel empowered to find meaningful employment," said Barnes.

Catherine Angutittauruq-Rogers, Employment & Training Administrative Assistant, is also very excited about the new changes. "Our Clients have needed access to computers for a long time now. These computers will allow our clients to become more self-sufficient and in return build confidence."

There is no need to make an appointment to use these computers. They are available on a first come, first serve basis. All people have to do is drop by during the Centre's regular business hours. Hours are Monday to Thursday from 8:30am-4:30pm, and Fridays from 8:30am-2:00pm.

The Employment & Training Centre would like to invite anyone to stop by anytime and check out the new Career Centre.



**Industry reps were also at open house to meet with those seeking employment.**



# NEW HEALTH CENTRE OPENS IN MCKAY INDUSTRIAL PARK

A new Occupational Health Clinic has recently opened near Fort McKay and is operated by Calian Technologies Ltd. This new centre is located at the Fort McKay Industrial Park, and will be utilized mostly by oil companies within the surrounding area for health related services.

The clinic offers many services in relations to occupational health such as physicals, work related injury medical care, immunizations, medical examination etc.

Calian holds more than 170 Health care clinics across Canada employing approximately 1500 health care professionals. The company has been known for its excellence in health care emergencies as well as family health services.

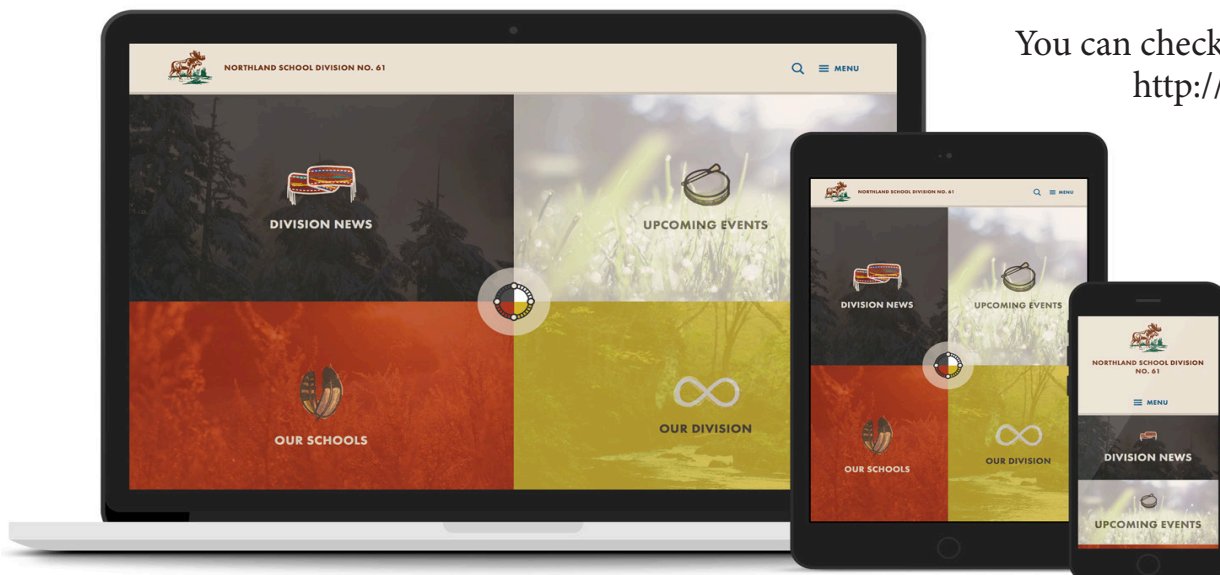


(left to right) Holly Mitchelmore, Roderick Paterson, Julia Cardinal, Scott Murray, Sarah Blennerhassett, and Jennifer Powell.

# NORTHLAND SCHOOL DIVISION LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Northland School Division No.61 has just launched a brand new website! This new website demonstrates the cultural roots in Northland communities. It incorporates the four quadrants of the learning wheel, symbolism relating to First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) culture and imagery that showcases nature and student success! The website design allows users to find information quickly and easily and it supports the division's goal to keep students, parents, staff and community members better informed.

You can check it out at:  
<http://nsd61.ca>







# ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

December 11, 2014  
Noon – 3:00 pm

*At the Elder Centre*

*Fort McKay, Alberta*

*Elders Needing a ride please call  
(780) 828-4650*



# Dear Santa

**The following letters were written to Santa by Grades 1, 2 and 3 students at the Fort McKay school at Christmas around 1980. (Names have been omitted to protect the naughty!)**

Dear Santa: I am 7 years old. For Christmas I want a toy gun with caps and cow pants and a game. Ive been good all year Santa.  
Love, (boy).

Dear Santa: I am 6 years old. For Christmas I want a toy boat and a race car. I've been a good boy. Love, (boy).

Dear Santa: I am 5 years old. For Christmas I want roller skates.

Dear Santa: I am 6 years old. For Christmas I want a bowling game and cap gun. I'm a good boy. Love, (boy).

Dear Santa: I like to get a toy gun. I like to get a racing car. and I like to get a toy Spider-men. I like you Santa Claus. Love, (boy).

Dear Santa: I was a good boy. I would like a racing track and go go car and an automatic horse and some hockey equipment, a car.  
Love, (boy).

Dear Santa: I want a good present. I am in grade 2. I am 8 years old. I live in Fort McKay. I would like a hockey stick with the puck and a truck, a bike, a ball, and a hockey pants.  
From: (boy)

Dear Santa: I am rotten because I don't know what to do so I fight in Fort McKay. It is the best place to fight Because we are all in grade three. My name is (boy), (boy) for short. I would like a dog.

Dear Santa: I would like a walk doll and Barbie Doll I am 6 years old and I'm going to school. I love you Santa. My Santa Box 828-42XX.  
Love, Santa Love, (girl).

Dear Santa: I just turned 8. My name is (girl). I would like a doll that you could curl her hair and she has lots of clothes and I would like a new Pair of skates and have a MERRY CHRISTMAS. To Santa Claus.

Dear Santa: My name is (girl). I'm 9 years old. I go to Fort McKay School. I would like to have a pair of skates and some books to read and some candycanes and one bell, a toboggan, a Hungry, Hungry, Hippo game. P.S. I am in grade 3 oh yes and MERRY CHRISTMAS Santa Claus. Sign (girl).





# The RMWB Needs Your Input!



The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is developing an **Indoor Recreational and Community Facilities Master Plan**. We need your input to help us identify current community needs, issues, and priorities for leisure and recreational opportunities across the region.

Please complete our online survey at:

[www.fluidsurveys.com/s/recfacilitieswoodbuffalo](http://www.fluidsurveys.com/s/recfacilitieswoodbuffalo) or pick up a hard copy at your closest municipal contact office, or Anzac Recreation Centre. The survey will be open until December 8th – we'd love to hear from you!

If you have any questions, about the survey or project please contact Nadia Power, Community Strategies Coordinator at the RMWB at [nadia.power@woodbuffalo.ab.ca](mailto:nadia.power@woodbuffalo.ab.ca) or 780-788-4336, or Sally Turner, Consultant at Sierra Planning and Management, at [sturner@sierraplan.com](mailto:sturner@sierraplan.com) or 1-416-363-4443 x24.



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF WOOD BUFFALO



# SMOKE SIGNALS

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT

### Family Swimming

December 12th

\*bus leaves at 4pm from the arena

To register, please call 780-714-7094

## WELLNESS CENTRE

**780-828-4312**

### Monday to Thursday:

3:00pm to 5:00pm After-school Activities (Ages 6-17)

5:00-6:00pm Supper Program (Ages 6-17)

### Mondays:

6:30-8:00 pm Young Chef's (ages 10+)

6:00-7:00pm

Tutoring- grade 1 to 3

### Movie Making (ages 10+)

Dec. 2,3,4 6:00pm-8:00pm

### Skiing/Snowboarding at Vista Ridge (ages 10+)

Dec. 6 & 13

Bus leaves at 9:00am and returns at 4:30pm

\*permission slip required

### Gingerbread House Making

Dec. 9 (ages 6-7) 6-8pm

Dec.10 (ages 8-9) 6-8pm

Dec.11 (ages 10+) 6-8pm

### Pre-teen Night

Dec. 12 (ages 6-9)

\*permission slip required bus leaves at 6:30pm and returns at 10:00pm

### Pre-teen Christmas Party

Dec. 16, 6:00pm-8:00pm at Wellness Centre

### School Christmas Concert

Dec. 17 at Band Hall

\*centre closed at 6pm

### Metis Christmas Party/ Santa Skate Dec. 18

5:00pm-8:00pm at arena

### Teen Christmas Party

(ages 10-17) Dec. 19

\*premission slip required bus leaves at 11:00am and returns at 8:00pm

### Christmas Activities

Dec. 22 & 23

10:00am-4:00pm

Follow us on FACEBOOK for updates and information: Fort McKay Wellness Center

## ELDERS CENTRE

**780-828-4650**

### Tuesdays and Thursdays

Elders Luncheons

### Wednesdays

Cultural Activities

### Christmas shopping

December 1-4th, 2014

### Elders Christmas Dinner

December 11th, 2014

If you need more information please contact us!

## YOUTH CENTRE

**780-828-4462**

Check next month's newsletter for a full list of programs and activities that will be available.

## FORT MCKAY 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 month-probation/ parole Services.

## Tuesdays

Women's Sharing Circle 7:00pm – 9:00pm.

## Wednesdays

Victim services – Victims of Crime support, Narcotics. Anonymous (NA) Meeting 7:30pm – 8:30pm.

## Thursdays

NEAFAN – Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Assessments. Karaoke – 7:00pm–9:00pm.

## Saturdays

Sweat Lodge – 1:00pm.

## HEALTH CENTRE

**780-828-2450**

### Mondays-Wednesdays

The Doctor is in

### Mondays (half days) and Thursdays (full days)

Physiotherapy & Dr. Taiwo

\*please call in advance to verify

### Intakes:

December 15

### Santa's Anonymous:

December 19

### Check Release Date:

Dec. 19

**Please note the Dorothy McDonald Centre will be closed for the holidays starting December 20th and will reopen January 5th 2015.**

*If you would like to submit a story to the Red River Current, please email Nancy Robin at: [nancydoire@msn.com](mailto:nancydoire@msn.com) or call 780-715-4512*

