

March 2014

VOLUME 5:: ISSUE 3

# AGREEMENT REACHED ON DOVER PROJECT

At high noon on February 21, in Fort McKay, Chief and Council sat down with the president and CEOs of the Brion Energy Corporation and Athabasca Oil Corporation and reached an agreement on the Dover Commercial Project next to Moose Lake.

After two years of negotiations, "a mutually-beneficial agreement" was accepted in writing. Chief and Council and the oil executives met in Chief and Council chambers, shook hands and then gathered around the large, solid, wooden table to sign the

agreement papers.

Dozens of signatures were needed and just before Chief Jim Boucher started the lengthy process he stated, "This is an auspicious and historical moment."

The negotiations reached a breaking point last August when the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) went ahead and approved The Dover Oil Project next to Fort McKay's Moose Lake reserves, even after Fort McKay expressed its many great concerns about the development. The people of Fort McKay became united and decid-

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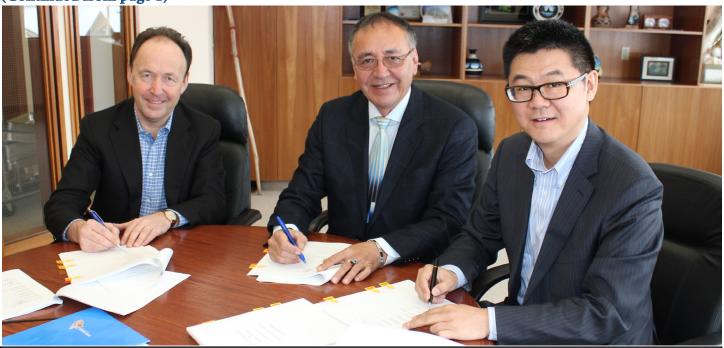






# AGREEMENT REACHED ON DOVER PROJECT

(Continued from page 1)



Sven Svarte, CEO of Athabasca Oil Corporattion, Chief Jim Boucher and Zhiming Li, Brion president and chief executive officer of Brion Energy sign the Dover Project agreement on February 21, 2014



#### **FMFN LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Jim 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

#### **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. ed to take a stand. An appeal of the AER decision was launched, citing a violation of Fort McKay's constitutional rights. Oil companies from all around the world watched the negotiations with great interest. Many of the oil companies who also have leases next to Moose Lake watched earnestly, they had much at stake.

Alvaro Pinto, the Director of Fort McKay's Sustainability Department was the chief negotiator for Fort McKay. Pinto says the agreement raises the bar in terms of what's expected from oil sands companies operating around Fort McKay, especially Moose Lake.

"If they come with the position that this is what we want, it's going to be our way, and we are going to get all the approvals we need ... I think that is the wrong approach," says Pinto. "The more proactive you are in working with First Nations, the more creative

you are in finding solutions together. That is what is necessary."

The confidential deal has three components: environmental protection, fiscal terms and business opportunities.

Mr. Pinto said it was the environmental component that caused the most disagreement and that led the band to challenge the project before regulators and in the courts. The agreement involves implementing best-management practices to protect the Moose Lake reserves.

"Moose Lake is integral to the health and cultural survival of the people of Fort McKay," says Jim Boucher. "Our community has had positive working relationships with energy developers in the area for many years. Reaching this agreement with Brion shows it's possible to protect our traditional territory while partnering

#### (Continued from page 2)



From left to right: Sven Svarte, CEO of Athabasca Oil Corporattion, Chief Jim Boucher, Councilor Raymond Powder, Councilor David Bouchier, Councilor Ruth McKenzie, Councilor Gerald Gladue and Zhiming Li, Brion president and Chief Executive Officer of Brion Energy were all the signatories of the Dover Project agreement on February 21, 2014.

with those who work in the area."

As new oil sands operators, Athabasca and Brion didn't fully

appreciate the importance of getting their leadership involved in the discussions with Aboriginal groups like those in Fort McKay. Now they do, and Athabasca and Brion admit it is lesson learned.

This is an auspicious community."

and historical After all the signatures we made and the signature of the local community.

- Chief Jim Boucher

Zhiming Li, Brion president and chief executive officer said, "Our lease and Fort McKay's Reserves at Moose Lake sit next to each other. We're neighbours. As good neighbours, Brion is committed to developing the lease in an environmentally sound manner, while delivering

> social and economic benefits for the local community."

After all the signatures were made and the deal was official, both the CEOs of Athabasca Oil Corp and Brion Energy, partners in the Dover

Project, made statements to the Red River Current.

Sven Svarte, CEO of Athabasca

stated, "I think this agreement shows that it is possible to work together. It's progress for all the companies in the area. I think we have reached a solid future of cooperation that will be beneficial for all parties."

Li stated, "We are very grateful to set our starting point of this great relationship with Fort McKay. We have been communicating for a year and a half now and communication was key to understanding each other's positions. The agreement we signed today is one of mutual understanding and of mutual benefit. We are really looking forward to building our brilliant future for both Fort McKay and us."

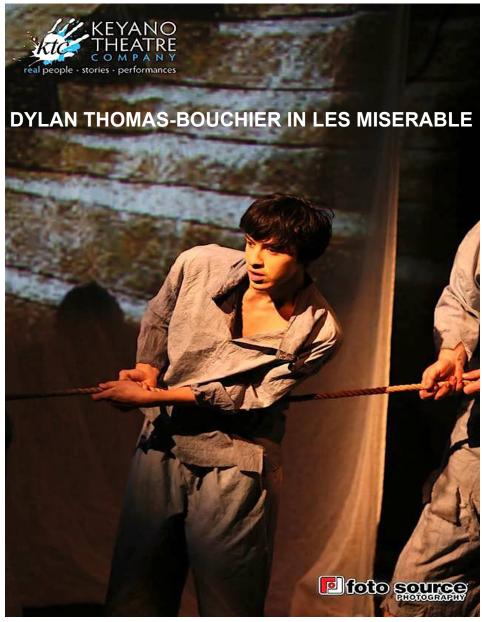


# **DYLAN THOMAS-BOUCHIER**

## A STAR IS BORN

Fifteen years ago, Nadia Bouchier of Fort McKay, was sitting in the Keyano Theatre in Fort McMurray enjoying the musical The Taming of The Shrew. Suddenly she went into labour with her son Dylan Thomas-Bouchier. Exactly fifteen years later, Dylan would again be in the same theatre where he began coming into this world. This time however, he was on the stage, as part of the cast of Les Miserable. "He has a beautiful voice, just like his mother," says Dylan's father, Russell Thomas. Dylan had been involved with Keyano College last year as a crewmember, where he didn't let his physical challenges slow him down (Dylan has cerebral palsy and has undergone two major corrective surgeries that took months of intensive rehabilitation). Dylan worked very hard at Keyano Theatre; he was a great team player and he excelled at his job. Then last year while at the eleventh annual Mindcamp, Canada's creativity conference, set at YMCA Geneva Park northwest of Orillia, Ontario, along the shores of Lake Couchiching he was "discovered."

One night, Dylan had his iPad headphones in and was singing



some Seth McFarlane songs (yes that Seth McFarlane who creates the TV Show Family Guy). While singing Dylan bumped into a fellow mind-camper who said, "Dylan you can really sing! You should try karaoke that is going on right now."

Dylan calmly replied, "I can do that."

The next thing you know Dylan was singing a Seth

MacFarlane song in front of an appreciative group of people. As the song came to an end, applause was followed by cries of "ENCORE, ENCORE, ENCORE!" Dylan found another track to sing, sitting on a stool on the small stage in the dark, microphone in hand and he slammed through another vocal standard.

"Look at him," beamed a listener. "He's sitting so tall."



That was the very first time Dylan sang in front of people other than his parents. When it came time to get involved in this year's Keyano Theatre musical production, rather than work as a crewmember, Dylan decided to audition as a cast member. This year's production, Les Miserable, is a complex, demanding play. It was no prob-

"His involvement, singing in the play Les Miserable, has been extraordinary for him says his father. "He did a terrific job."

lem for Dylan, he got a part in

the play.

The sold out show ran Feb. 13 through 23 at the Keyano Theatre and Arts Centre. On opening night, Dylan's birthday, the cast was singing through their pre-show routine when they decided to do one more surprise tune. The keyboardist launched into Happy Birthday.

"It was with the most amazing, harmony-filled, rendition of Happy Birthday that I have ever heard," says Thomas. Dylan was weeping openly by the end of it, incredibly moved. The cast moved in and grabbed him, giving a sustained bear hug. Then everyone joined in. Forty-eight people surrounded Dylan and gave him an unforgettable group hug.

Eventually Dylan was able to share some words.

"I just want to say thank you," he began. "Now I'm going to

cry again."

"Being in Les Mis has been a life-changing experience for me, especially being able to do it with my family."

More tears - and not just from Dylan - another group hug. "The fact that it was my son, being embraced by a loving cast and crew in the building from whence he first made his presence known 15 years ago, made it that much more extraordinary," says Thomas. They went on to do an amazing performance, with Dylan's mom (Nadia), grandma (Patsy) and grandpa (Joe) in the audience. They were beaming when Dylan came out to visit at the end of the show.



## POST PERFORMANCE PARTY

Celebrating a great
performance with
the star/birthday
boy (from left to
right) are Peggy
Lacorde, Brenda
Tourangeau, Joe
Tourangeau, Dylan
Thomas-Bouchier,
Patsy Bouchier and
Nadia
Bouchier.



# FROM OUR HEARTS, THANK YOU RODDY ROLLAND

At this time the Ahyasou family of Clara Mercer, Elsie Rolland and Roy Ahyasou would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Roddy Rolland.

On January 1st, 2014 when our sister Lila needed help, Roddy came forward to Elsie and told her he was worried

about Lila. He had been checking up on her for three days and she had not been around. The family then called the RCMP. About 10P.M. the RCMP decided to kick the door open and sure enough, Lila had suffered a heart attack and was laying on the floor. If it wasn't for Roddy, Lila would not be here now or have her 56th Birthday on Janu-

It warms our hearts to know there are still people out there that have enough Love, caring and compassion when it comes to Family and Elders.

From our hearts, thank you Roddy Rolland!

-submitted by Clara Mercer



ary 29th.

# SHELL INCREASES COMMITMENT TO FORT MCKAY COMMUNITY

The Fort McKay First Nation thanks Shell Albian Sands

for their generous contribution through their Community Social Investment Fund to the Steps Forward Program. This new commitment of \$150,000 per year for the next three years will enable Steps Forward to continue to help promote positive social change within the community of Fort McKay. The aim of Steps Forward is to help improve the educational attainment and work readiness levels of Fort McKay First Nation community members.

Dayle Hyde, Chairperson of the Steps Forward Advisory Committee stated, "Shell Albian Sands has been our key partner since the inception of Steps Forward. This program is unique to Fort McKay, and we are building it from the ground up to suit the needs of our community. We are lucky to benefit from Shell's support as we continue to go through the process of growing and developing the Steps Forward Program." The Steps Forward approach first involves gathering information on our client's basic skills, interests, values and aptitudes through personal interviews and comprehensive assessments. Career counseling is then offered to assist the clients in formulating their personal roadmap to higher educational attainment and improved work readiness.

Steps Forward also works with high school students, teachers, school counselors and parents to solve issues before they become chronic and help students avoid pitfalls that would otherwise limit their career choices.

Shell Senior Aboriginal Relations Specialist Pat Flett stated: "Shell is proud to continue to support the Steps Forward Program as we view it as a win-win. The people of Fort McKay have an opportunity to build capacity therefore we benefit with a stronger developed workforce. To be a partner is a privilege."

Shell Community Relations Representative Jaclyn Schick added, "It is exciting to be involved with a program that is held in high regard as it empowers the individual to set and achieve their personal goals."

The Steps Forward program will continue to provide opportunities for Fort McKay community members to gain greater fulfillment in their lives. Gaining knowledge of one's self empowers the individual to assess and reflect on their choices, thus building confidence and maximizing chances for success.



## McKAY LADIES FEATURED IN MAGAZINE

In back to back months, two McKay businesswomen appeared in the glossy new magazine McMurray Girl. Holly Fortier was featured in the December 2013 issue and Miranda Beaton was featured in the January 2014 issue. The ladies were the focus in a monthly feature of the magazine called Paving Pathways To Success, Applauding Aboriginal Women In Business.

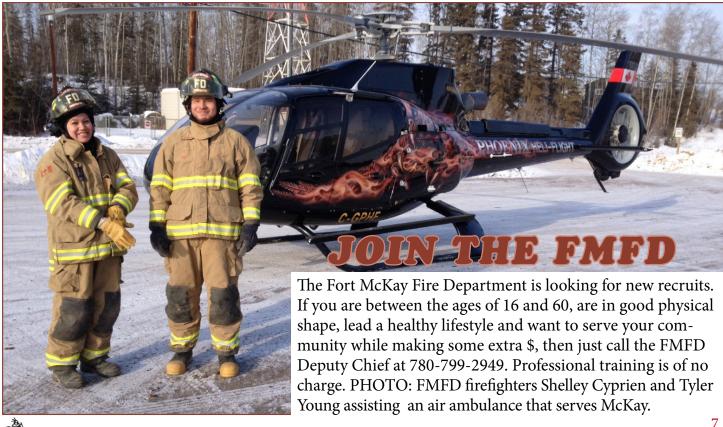
Fortier is the Director and Facilitator of Nisto Consulting Inc. She has taught aboriginal awareness training to thousands of individuals in over 40 different groups of Industry, Government, Business and Agencies. Beaton is the Director of Human Resources for the Fort McKay First Nation where she provides opportunities for others by creating new positions, promoting capable employees and developing current employees training and education. Fortier's feature can be found online

at: http://issuu.com/mcmurraygirl/ docs/holiday2013/61 and Beaton's feature can be found online at:

http://issuu.com/mcmurraygirl/ docs/mcmurray\_girl\_jan/5.



# FORT MCKAY FIRE DEPARTMENT IS RECRUTING



## NORTHWIND DANCERS TO PERFORM AT 2014 AWG

The Fort McKay Northwind Dancers will be performing at the 2014 Arctic Winter Games in Fairbanks Alaska this month. Four of the Northwind Dancers will be traveling to Fairbanks to perform at the games being held March 14-22.

The dancers are Trace Quintal, 16, who will dance the Mens' Traditional, Star Grandjambe, 18, who will dance the fancy shawl, and Taylor McDonald, 17, and Heaven-leigh Grandjambe, 14, who will dance the Jingle Dress. Star Grandjambe is also one of seven athletes from Fort McKay who will be competing in the Dene games event at the Arctic Winter Games.

To join the Northwind Dancers as a drummer or a dancer call Audrey Redcrow at 780-215-2384. All are welcome and it's free. Now is a great time to join the pow-wow group.

Fort McKay is planning on hosting our own pow-wow later this year.



Trace Quintal, 16, (in photo above) will carry the Eagle Staff in a grand entry dance and perform a traditional dance at the 2014 Arctic Winter Games this month.

The Northwind Dancers hold drum and dance practices on Tuesdays from 5:30PM-7:00PM at the Elders' Centre.



### **School Bake Sale**

Parents, students and staff of Fort McKay school held yet another incredible bake sale. The delicious goods were quickly sold out on January 26 and the proceeds were given to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Fort McKay people are excellent bakers.



# **ELDERS' CENTRE HAS EXCITING PLANS**

The Fort McKay Elders' Centre welcomes Lilly Marcel, of Fort Chipewyan. Marcel grew up in a trapline cabin 30km south of Fort Chipewyan and eventually attended residential school for 7 years. She returned to the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) to help her father with trapping and his commercial fishing operation. She then left Fort Chip to further her education in Lac LaBiche. She was a Dene language teacher at Athabasca Delta Community School in Fort Chip for 7 years and was on the ACFN council for 7 years. She then worked at the Nunnee Health Board as a health promoter and graduated from Health Promotion at the University of Alberta. She created the Food Box Program in 2008. It uses fresh produce only and promotes healthy diets in rural communities. It is still going today. At the Elders' Centre, Marcel plans on continuing the monthly birthday parties and will be extending weekly lunches by 2 hours. She will be implementing many cultural activities and will be setting up a teepee and drying meat and fish. She will add a sewing program and will be hosting bingos twice per month. She looks forward to the Lac St. Anne trips and the Moose Lake excursions where she will share her traditional knowledge. "We are going to have cultural activities right outside the Elders' Centre too, where we can all share our cooking techniques," says Marcel. "We will be working with the awesome daycare staff, and inviting the daycare kids to the cultural activities. It is nice to have that teamwork with them." Marcel also plans to have the Elders Centre open on evenings for social events and utilizing the big screens there for entertainment. "I really enjoy coming to work here says Marcel, the atmosphere is so comforting and it is a great



Lilly Marcel and Yvonne Shott of the Elders' Centre

building and kitchen. And working with Yvonne is a real bonus."

Lilly Marcel- Elder Program Coordinator-Community Services Email: lmarcel@fortmckay.com Office Phone: 780-828-4650



## **Jump Rope For Heart**

All the students at Fort McKay School skipped on January 26. The healthy activity was part of their physical education period and is designed to maintain health by exercising indoors during the cold winter months.

## STRONG ANTI-BULLYING MESSAGE

On February 26, people of all ages in McKay made a statement by simply wearing

a pink shirt. The message was "bullying will not be accepted in our community!"

Anti-Bullying Day (a.k.a. Pink Shirt Day) is a day celebrated on various dates across the world, originating in Canada and most commonly known in North America. It takes place on the last Wednesday of February or the second Thursday in September. It originally started as a protest against a bullying incident at Central Kings Rural High School in Nova Scotia when a grade nine student, Charles McNeill, arrived to school wearing a pink shirt. On this day, many of those who participate wear pink to symbolize a stand against bullying.

Famous TV star, Dakota House, best known for his work on North of 60, did an anti-bullying presentation on Pink Shirt Day at the Fort McKay School.









# **EXCITING GROWTH FOR GOC**

The Fort McKay Group of Companies (GOC) is recently experiencing many positive developments, the biggest being the Logistics Division securing a new contract. They have been awarded the 'Integrated Supply Chain Solution' contract for Syncrude Canada Ltd. This new contract will be for the coordination and delivery of all land freight for Syncrude, also covered under this contract is the oversight of 'Tool Cribs' and 'Site Stores'. This contract cements Fort McKay Logistics as a major player in the logistics world of Northern Alberta. "It's a huge contract," says GOC Interim CEO Jim Carbery. "It means we've made it and Logisitcs is successful." Carbery first came to Fort

McKay GOC LP as CEO in August 1997. He has worked for the GOC in different capacities ever since and is now the interim CEO until another CEO is selected.

Carbery is also excited about the GOC's new office building in the Fort McKay Industrial Park. The two story modular building has 36 offices and a state of the art boardroom "that rocks." Over the next 2 months the GOC will be moving out of their current location on the second floor of the Dorothy McDonald Business Centre to the new location. The GOC also has two new engineers supplied by Shell Albian. This is great news for the community because the Fort McKay Construction and Maintenance Department can utilize the two

engineers for Fort McK-ay's capital projects if available.



Another development at the GOC that benefits the community greatly is the hiring of Peggy Lacorde as a recruiter. Lacorde is from and lives in Fort McKay, and brings years of experience along with her solid community connection.

"This means I can help my own people," says Lacorde. "The people in the community now have one of their own that they can turn to when looking for a job with the GOC."

Peggy Lacorde can be contacted at: placorde@fortmckaygroup. com or call 780-828-2427.



# **HAPPY BIRTHDAY FLORA AND JAMES!**



James Grandjambe (left) celebrated his 94th on February 20. Seen here with family members, Ryan Grandjambe, Trevor Grandjambe, Tina Black, and Elizabeth Grandjambe Flora Grandjambe (below with Joe Grandjambe) celebrated her 92nd on February 23.

-Submitted by Tina Black



## RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS CONFERENCE

# ALBERTA NATIONAL EVENT MARCH 27-30, 2014

EDMONTON | SHAW CONFERENCE CENTRE

For 116 years, thousands of Aboriginal children in Alberta were sent to Indian Residential Schools funded by the Government of Canada and run by churches. They were taken from their parents and communities, often forcibly, in order to be stripped of family ties, language, cultural identity and traditions. There were more Indian Residential Schools in Alberta than in any other province.

Come and share your truth about the schools and their legacy. Witness and celebrate the resilience of Aboriginal cultures! Be a part of the National Journey for Healing and Reconciliation!

All gatherings are open to the public. Admission is free.

Join the TRC from March 27-30, 2014 for:

- Statement Gathering
- Traditional Ceremonies
- Survivor Gatherings
- Witnessing Survivor Statements
- Cultural Performances
- Films, and more
- Education Day

Health Canada will be available on site. For agenda and more details, visit trc.ca or call 1 (888) TRC-5554.

A Chartered Bus will be available for Survivors that would like to attend this event. It departs Fort McMurray on March 26, 2014, and returning back to Fort McMurray on March 31, 2014. Please submit your name to Hilda Lepine (RHSW) at Athabasca Tribal Council (780) 791-6538 ext. 288 or with Alison Richards ext. 222. Deadline for submitting your name is: March 14, 2014.



# YOUNG MCKAY ARTIST IS BLOSSOMING



Richelle Stewart *Hawaiian Flower* Water colour on paper, 2014





Richelle Stewart Black Butler Pencil on paper, 2013

Richelle Stewart

My Favourite Place, Targets

Water colour on paper, 2014

Richelle Stewart is 13 years old and attends Holy Trinity School, Grade 8.

- submitted by Melinda Stewart





## **Mad Trapper Events**

(individual and teams)

**Sled Pull** 

Log Toss

Swooshing

**Indian Leg Wrestle** 

**Pole Push** 

Age categories

5-9/10-15/

16 - 49 / 50 +





Warming Stations

Hamburgers, Hot

Dogs, Hot Drinks

**Drummers** 

Dinner

Live Entertainment

50 / 50 Tickets



Events start at 10:00am

King & Queen Of The North Age 16 + **Snowshoe Race Log Sawing Bannock & Tea Making Moose Calling** 

**Adult Prizes** 

1st - \$1500

2nd - \$1000

3rd - \$500

**Jigging High Kick** 

**Prince & Princess Of The North** 

Age 10 - 15

**Snowshoe Race** 

**Log Sawing** 

**Moose Calling** 

**Youth Prizes** 

1st - IPad

2nd - IPod

3rd - Mini-Ipod

Royal Trapper competitors meet at hockey arena at 10:00 am



**Jigging** 



# **CNRL SCORES BIG**

Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL) demonstrated their great support for the youth of Fort McKay last month. On February 7, CNRL presented the Fort McKay Hockey Society President Ron Quintal with a check for \$40,000

"This is what we like to see, a rink full of healthy kids. It's just a real positive program for Fort McKay," said Bob Dunn of CNRL. "It gets them out from in front of their video screens and being active."

Thank you CNRL!

Some of the funding will support the Fort McKay Hockey Academy Warriors.

## The Fort McKay Hockey Academy Warriors Spring 2014 Schedule

Fort McKay School, every Tuesday at 3:15pm to 4:30pm (Ages 5 to 9), March 4, 11, 18 and 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29th, May 6, 13th.

Fort McMurray Students and Fort McKay School, Fridays 2:30pm – 3:45pm (Ages 9 to 17)

Greater Stride Camp, March 7, March 21st April 3rd to April 6th (Native Provincials) April 18th and 25th, May 9th and 30th. Please contact Simon Adams at 780-881-9096 for more information.









# **SMOKE SIGNALS**

#### **RECREATION**

#### **Mondays**

12-1pm Lunch Workout 4-5pm Crafts (4yrs-12yrs old) 5-7pm Youth Open Gym (13yrs-18yrs) 7-9pm Adult Volleyball

**Tuesdays** 

12-1pm Yoga

3:15-4:15pm Afterschool (girls 8-12vrs)

5-6pm Mommy and Baby Workout

Wednesdays

5-7pm Youth Open Gym (13yrs-18yrs)

7-9pm Adult Volleyball

Thursdays

12-1pm Lunch Workout

Fridays

12-1pm Yoga

Other:

Healthy Cooking (girls only 6-12 years old), March 19th (11am-12pm), no school day.

### **WELLNESS CENTRE**

Granny

COMMUNITY TUBING AT VISTA RIDGE!!

Friday, March 21st, 2014
You and your family are invited to join the Fort McKay
Wellness Center and the Fort
McKay Recreation Department in an evening of tubing,
reserved just for FORT MCKAY
COMMUNITY MEMBERS!
Buses Leave the Fort McK-

ay Arena at 4:00pm SHARP. Buses Leave Vista Ridge at 8:30pm SHARP to return to Fort McKay.

One bus will be reserved for children ages 6-13 who do not have an adult to supervise, and will be supervised by Wellness Center Staff.

Another bus will be reserved for community members and families (All children must attend with an adult at least 18 years of age).

Pizza and drinks will be provided upon arrival at Vista

THIS EVENT IS FREE! No Registration required, just make sure you are ON TIME for the BUS!

Please contact Julia at the Wellness Center at 780-828-4312 or Stefany at the Recreation Department at 780-714-7094 with any questions.

# FORT MCKAY FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRE

**Programs** 

Evening Counseling, day programs for individual and Family counseling for grief/ loss, conflict resolutions, family violence, addictions (gambling, alcohol, drugs) high risk behaviors & self injuries / mutilations, co-dependency, lateral violence and depression/anxiety disorders. Resources on site.

#### **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

#### **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**

Mondays-Wednesdays
The Doctor is in
Tuesdays and Thursday
Physiotherapy

Community Weight-loss Fitness Challenge, Starting March 4th, Contact Belinda at 780-828-2455.

Social Intake March 24-28. Cheque release March 31. Food Bank, please contact Peggy at Health Centre. Infant Immunization March 12. Please call the Health Centre for all inquiries, 780-828-4048.

