



# Red River Current

SEPTEMBER 2014

VOLUME 5 :: ISSUE 8

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

### Lower Athabasca Regional Plan (LARP)

On August 14, 2014 the Government of Alberta released three reports on the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan (LARP). The reports say that land-use management is on track, but there's a lot that the reports don't say.

The LARP was started in 2009 and was approved in 2012 to address concerns about the environment, wildlife, and land-use in the oil sands area. It was the first plan in Alberta's new land-use management. The LARP includes Fort McKay and its traditional territory. [map] [www.landuse.alberta.ca](http://www.landuse.alberta.ca)

The government said that the

LARP "sets the stage for robust growth, vibrant communities and a healthy environment within the region over the next 50 years."

The government committed to including Aboriginal people in land-use planning, but this has not happened. Instead of building the LARP with us, government gave us their plan. They asked for our feedback, but most of what we told them was not included in the final LARP.

To make sure that the LARP would support sustainable development and respect and  
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# UPCOMING HEALTH STUDY:

## A Letter From Chief & Council

To all Fort McKay residents:

As you know, Fort McKay has been waiting for the Governments of Canada and Alberta to follow up on the promise of a comprehensive health study of our community. Considering the number of concerns expressed by our residents and Dr. O'Connor over the years, this study is long overdue. A commitment was made by the provincial and federal governments three years ago to undertake such a study. As asked by Chief and Council, Dr. O'Connor represented Fort McKay at the subsequent meetings held in Edmonton. Three meetings were held in that time, and we were satisfied that the study would progress. The next meeting was scheduled for April 2013 in Fort McKay, which was cancelled by the office of the Health Minister of Alberta. We have received no replies in our efforts to meet since that time.

Since then, we've found that the local air and water monitoring systems – described as “world class” by the Alberta government – are likely flawed. There have been a number of independent and trustworthy scientific reports over the last few years that point to major adverse environmental impacts in our region. Community members have expressed concerns about the possible impacts on human health for many, many years. We feel this study cannot be delayed any longer, and we are ready to proceed with a health study without the participation of the provincial and federal governments.

We are committed to developing a comprehensive, scientifically sound health study. We will have a community meeting in the very near future to provide further information, answer any questions, and hear your concerns. We thank you for your patience regarding this long awaited study.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. O'Connor at (780) 799-1040 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the upcoming health study.

We will continue to inform and engage the community as the details of the health study are developed.

Sincerely,

Chief and Council



### 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

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



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

## LARP (continued)

*(Continued from page 1)*

protect Fort McKay's Aboriginal and Treaty rights, Fort McKay has been working to change the LARP since 2009.

Here are just a few of the things we've done:

- Gave advice and comments on every part of the plan, including resource development, land use activities, energy, tourism, culture, air quality, water quality, water quantity, ground water use, protected areas, and access management. <http://fmsd.fortmckay.com>
- Filed an application to the LARP Review Panel <https://www.landuse.alberta.ca/RegionalPlans/LowerAthabascaRegion/Pages/LARPrequestsforReview.aspx>
- Took part in all government meetings on the LARP and the five management frameworks.
- Issued a legal challenge to the completeness of LARP.
- Presented a cumulative effects study at the Dover OPCO Hearing.

It's been two years since the government approved the LARP. In August they released three reports on their progress. The reports show that the government is on track with the LARP, Air Quality, and Surface Water Quality. For Fort McKay, there are a number of problems with these reports.

The August 14 reports include information on air and water qual-

ity that is almost two years old. The type of information that was included is not the type of information that Fort McKay believes is the most important. The way that the information was collected is not the way that Fort McKay believes it should be collected. Most importantly, cumulative impacts are still not being addressed.

There are five management frameworks for the LARP. The reports only gave updates on Air Quality and Surface Water Quality. That's because the management frameworks for Water Quantity, Tailings Management, and Biodiversity are not finished yet.

The Surface Water Quality report shows that only three of the 38 water quality indicators were exceeded in 2012, which we believe is inaccurate because the location of the water quality

monitoring station was 150 km downstream at the Old Fort Monitoring Station. Fort McKay asked that a water quality monitoring station be placed closer to Fort McKay. We're working with the federal government to address this in the near future.

The Air Quality report only includes two types of stack emissions. While those are important, there are a number of emissions that concern Fort McKay. In addition to Fort McKay's concerns about health impacts on people, animals, and the land, emissions cause daily odours in our community. These odours and their impacts are not included in the

Air Quality management.

Triggers, limits, and thresholds are important, but the management frameworks in the LARP are incomplete and are only one step in protecting the rights, interests, and health of Fort McKay.

The idea of a land-use management plan is a good one. That's why Fort McKay created its own land-use management plan.

The LARP was supposed to protect Aboriginal and Treaty rights and provide opportunities for Traditional Land Use activities, but it does not do this. We support the reason for the LARP, but it is not a complete plan. It does not reflect Fort McKay's input. It does not address cumulative effects. It does not protect our Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

### What's next for the LARP?

Fort McKay is still working with the Government of Alberta to make sure that Aboriginal and Treaty rights are protected. We are working with technical experts and lawyers. The LARP Review Panel has asked the government for more information on what they have done to make the LARP work. That panel will read Fort McKay's request for the entire LARP to be reviewed. Other First Nations have asked for the same thing and have the same concerns we do.

*Submitted by:  
Sustainability Department*





# BE BEAR AWARE!

There has been a lot of wildlife activity reported in the Fort McKay region lately including bears and wolves. Please be cautious and read these tips to learn about bear safety:

## How do I keep bears out of my backyard?

- Keep your garbage and recyclable bottles and cans in bear-resistant, airtight containers.
- Keep your compost indoors. Outdoor compost attracts bears. Look into using an indoor composter.
- Remove bird feeders from your yard between April and October. Be sure to clean up any spilled bird feed off the ground.
- Clean your barbecues. Scrub your barbecue clean after each use and store it in a bear-resistant building, such as the garage or shed.
- Consider removing fruit trees and berry-producing bushes from your property. Bears are attracted to the fruit and berries. If you must keep the trees, pick the ripening fruit as early as possible and store them in secure, airtight containers.
- Never leave food out for wildlife.
- Talk to your neighbours. Let your neighbours know if you've seen a bear in the community, and talk to them about being BearSmart at home.

## What should I teach my children about being safe around bears?

- Do not approach the bear or

irritate it by yelling or throwing things at it.

- Never run away from a bear. Back away slowly and find a safe place, such as a building or vehicle.
- Stay with your group and back away from the bear together.
- As soon as you've reached a safe place, tell an adult that you've seen a bear.
- Stay away from areas that may attract bears, such as garbage bins, berry patches and along creeks and rivers.
- Bears are more active at dusk, night and dawn. Children should play close to the house and under supervision during those times.

## How can I keep my pets safe?

- Always keep your dog on a leash. Keeping your dog on a leash keeps it under your close control. It also prevents the dog from sniffing out and provoking a bear into an encounter.
- Feed your pets and store pet food indoors. Keeping pet food outside can attract bears. If you must feed your pets outdoors, bring in the pet food and feeders overnight when bears are most active.
- All bears are individuals so all bear encounters will be unique. Serious attacks are rare, but you must always be cautious and alert when in bear territory.

## What should I do if I see a bear in my backyard?

- Do not panic. Do not run. Quickly and calmly collect

your children and pets and go indoors.

- Notify your nearest Fish and Wildlife office. Call 310-0000 or 1-800-642-3800 if it's after regular business hours.
- Once the bear has left the area, remove anything from your property that might attract a bear. Ask your neighbours to do the same. If food sources in the area remain available, the bear will likely return.

## When I see a bear, should I use a noisemaker or bear spray?

- Noisemakers are best used to deter a bear that is at a distance – one that sees you and continues to approach or one that's heading to your camp or settlement.
- Before using noisemakers, be sure to assess the situation. Make sure the surroundings are clear of people and the bear has an obvious way out. A bear that's been startled by a noisemaker may not be able to avoid groups of people as it flees the area.
- Remember, the noisemaker may not immediately deter the bear, especially if the bear has had previously experience with noise deterrents. Also, noisemakers may not prevent the bear from returning to the area.
- Bear spray is best used when you need to deter a bear at close range.

*excerpts taken from:*

*<http://esrd.alberta.ca/recreation-public-use/alberta-bear-smart/>*



# GROUP OF COMPANIES RAISE OVER \$100,000



**Left to right: CFO Larry Hewko, CEO George Arcand, CEO of Fort McKay Group of Companies LP Jim Carbery and Education Director Brent Devost**

Not only does the Fort McKay Group of Companies staff work hard during their daily work hours, but they also find the time to organize events for the betterment of our community. On June 18th, 156 people participated in the Fort McKay Group of Companies' 8th Annual Golf Tournament.

This fun-filled day has become one of the opening events of Fort McKay's Treaty Days and attracts

many businesses and locals for a day of golfing, all for a good cause. All of the money raised for the event goes back into Fort McKay's education programs. This year, the Group of Companies raised over \$100,000 for the Fort McKay School as well as E-Learning Centre.

Jim Carbery, CEO of Fort McKay Group of Companies, presented the cheque to FMFN's George Arcand, Brent Devost, and Larry

Hewko on July 29th, who received the cheque on behalf of the E-Learning Centre and the Fort McKay School.

Fort McKay First Nation would like to thank the Fort McKay Group of Companies for supporting our young students who who continue to make our community proud. We also extend our special thanks to the tournament volunteers!

On September 11th, the Fort McKay Group of Companies will be celebrating the grand opening of their new Bulk Fuel Station at the Fort McKay Industrial Park, from 10am -2pm.

With the help of many contractors including Keller Denali and from generous donations made by Petro-Canada, the new Fuel Bulk Station has received many improvements. The station, which previously served only 15 to 16 million liters a year, can now serve up to 24 to 30 million liters per year. Other upgrades the new station has experienced include new high-speed satellite diesel pumps; three kiosks, as well as a new generator back-up.

Everyone is welcome to attend! There will a BBQ, prizes and give aways throughout the afternoon. Please bring your family and friends and join us to celebrate!





# Fire Prevention Week 2014 COMMUNITY KICK OFF

Join Regional Emergency Services, Fire Prevention Branch and a variety of industry fire department and community partners at MacDonald Island for a fun filled day of family fire safety! Throughout Fire Prevention Week, the Fire Prevention Branch will also be visiting all of the schools throughout the Municipality, sharing fire safety presentations with students.

Saturday October 4, 2014  
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
MacDonald Island Parking Lot

Featuring the theme "SMOKE  
ALARM SAVES LIVES", free BBQ,  
fire department vehicles and  
equipment displays, fire safety  
trailer & much more!!

For more information call: 780.792.5519 or  
visit: [www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca/fireprevention](http://www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca/fireprevention)



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF WOOD BUFFALO





# FORT MCKAY FIRE DEPARTMENT WINS FIRST AT NATIONALS



## The Fort McKay fire team proudly receives the 1st Place Trophy along with team Saskatchewan at the 25th National Firefighters Competition.

All of the hard work and practice has really paid off for the Fort McKay Volunteer Fire Department Team! The local volunteer fire team is officially known as the best Aboriginal fire team in Canada for 2014 after placing first in the Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada 25th National Firefighters competition.

This year's event was hosted and held in Fort McKay on August 16th 2014. There were eight teams in total competing; each team representing their own province. The competition featured 15 different real-life based scenarios, and each team was assigned four challenges each.

"There was a lot of pressure on our team this year because we were asked to host the Nationals without the guarantee to have a spot in the Nationals. We became Team Alberta months after accepting to host the event." Explains Mel Grandjamb; Fire Chief of Fort McKay.

Each participating team must win the provincial competition before being able to register for the National Championship. Fort McKay received the honor of representing Alberta this June for the third consecutive year. They spent much of their summer training for the Nationals.

In the end, Fort McKay tied for first place with Team Saskatchewan, who have been the first place winners for the previous three years.

Fort McKay's win was a boon for the local fire team, especially as hosts of this year's Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada National Firefighters competition. "Being able to host this on the 25th anniversary was a huge honour for us and we took this very seriously," said Deputy Fire Chief and team captain Ron Quintal.

All of the teams arrived three days prior to the competition. The event incorporated a tour of the

oil sands, a fun baseball game as well as many different training sessions for all of the teams to participate in and share knowledge with one another.

Fort McKay can rest assured knowing that it has some of the strongest and bravest people working to keep our community safe. As explained by Quintal: "This was an amazing experience, but in the end we train specifically for one reason: to ensure the protection of our community."

The Fort McKay Fire Department Team is always looking for new volunteers to join their team. If you would be interested in joining or have any questions, please talk to Mel Grandjamb or Ron Quintal. You can also simply meet the crew at their next training session every Wednesday at 7:30pm.

Congratulations, Team Alberta!  
You make our community proud!



# GOING THE DISTANCE FOR A GOOD CAUSE



**Miranda and Stefany ready for the challenge!**

You might have seen two determined cyclists this summer on the highway going the distance! That's because Miranda Beaton and Stefany Guillen trained extensively in preparation for a journey that they will always remember. On August 9th and 10th, these remarkable young women joined hundreds who together cycled 210kms for the 6th Annual Enbridge Ride to Conquer Cancer event.

"After my grandma was diagnosed with lung cancer, I wanted to do something to raise awareness about cancer. I took part in the Ride to Conquer Cancer for my grandma and for all of those who had already suffered from cancer in Fort McKay" explained Miranda Beaton. Beaton's grandmother was diagnosed with lung cancer in July

2013 and sadly passed away in March of 2014, after Beaton had already registered for the race.

There were 1,768 riders in total and altogether the group raised an amazing \$7.9 million dollars! The money raised from this event goes directly to help and support cancer patients as well as their families. Before the event, the girls helped raise money for this event by hosting various BBQs, doing 50/50 draws, and organizing a big yard sale. They also received generous donations from many locals including the Fort McKay Group of Companies. "Without the community's generosity and support, we would not have been able to make it this far," stated Beaton. And with all of the support from the community, Miranda and Stefany raised

over \$6000! Then it was time to pedal!

Known as Alberta's largest cycling fundraiser, the journey started in Calgary. The cyclists then travelled their way down into the great Canadian Rockies for the next two days. Both days consisted of over seven hours of continuous pedaling on mountainous terrain under the scorching hot sun... Muscles ached during the distance travelled, but the mission remained clear - to make it to the finish line with the hope for a cancer-free future...

"During the opening ceremonies, the guest speaker was a child who had fought a rare type of cancer; it amazed me how brave he was... Just listening to his story made me reflect on how blessed I am to have healthy kids! It is scary because cancer is an illness we just can't control," explained Guillen. "The ride was long, but every time I saw a 'survivor' (survivors had a yellow flag on their bikes), I kept pedaling. I mean fourteen hours of sore butt and legs won't compare to all the pain and suffering cancer patients go through."

Everyday, 43 Albertans get diagnosed with cancer. The Alberta Cancer Foundation has become the largest cancer foundation in Alberta investing in cancer prevention and screening, enhanced care and research across Alberta. To donate to the Canadian Cancer Society, please visit [cancer.ca](http://cancer.ca) and click "donate."





# Fort McKay Bridge Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is welcoming you to join in celebrating the opening of the new Fort McKay Bridge. On Friday, September 19th at 2 p.m.

Parking will be available at the Fort McKay Band Hall with a shuttle transporting guests to the bridge. Snacks and refreshments will also be provided.

For more information, please email [jason.white@woodbuffalo.ab.ca](mailto:jason.white@woodbuffalo.ab.ca), or call 780-762-3601.



## IN SEARCH OF REMARKABLE PEOPLE

Our employees are as diverse as our careers.

At Shell, we're in search of remarkable people who will thrive in an inclusive, supportive work environment to deliver exciting projects locally and globally. Join us on September 11 for a session about jobs and careers at Shell, and hear directly from our employees who work for us. For information or questions, please contact Jaclyn Schick at: (780) 881-0371 or Patt Flett at: (780) 370-5000.

### Event Details:

When: Thursday, September 11, 2014

Time: afternoon session: 3:00pm to 4:00p.m. or evening session: 7:00pm to 8:00p.m.

Location: Dorothy McDonald Business Centre (Band Hall)

Provided: Presentations, light refreshments, and coffee

### Shell speakers:

**Patt Flett**, Senior Community relations Specialist

**Mark Shilliday**, Diversity Recruiter for Shell Canada

**Robert Guy**, Coordinator Resourcing & Development

**Nathan Whiteknife**, Manager of events – Plants Turnaround

**We look forward to seeing you there! Great People. Great Place. Great Community.**



# FORT MCKAY HISTORY PICS



Do you recognize these faces?

Left photo:  
Fort McKay School  
students during a fieldtrip  
to Edmonton circa 1985  
Photo credit-Rod Hyde

Right photo:  
Fort McKay School  
students with their  
teacher Father Begin in  
1950 pose in front of the  
church. Photo credit-  
Father Begin



Left photo:  
First school in Fort  
McKay, located in the  
community church  
in 1950  
Photo credit-Father Begin





# HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR SCHOOL YET?

Do you want to upgrade your education but want to stay within Fort McKay? Consider these options:

## The Fort McKay E-Learning Centre

The Fort McKay E-Learning Centre is an alternative high school located at the Dorothy McDonald Business Centre. Under the guidance of a mentor, students either log into online classes taught by certified teachers, or complete modules through Alberta Distance Learning. Credits can also be earned on-site for physical education, fashion studies and special projects. Semesters run from September to January and from February to June. To apply, or to learn about the program, please call Ona at (780) 828-2490.

## Dorothy McDonald Learning Centre (Keyano College)

Apart from its Fort McMurray campuses, Keyano College operates an adult learning centre in Fort McKay. The centre has an instructor and an instructional aide; is equipped with classrooms, computer laboratory, and library materials; and serves as a Community Access Point (CAP site).

## **The Outreach program includes:**

### Academic Foundations - Grades One to Nine

Upgrading for basic skills in reading, writing, math and computer skills. The skills learned will help adults to continue their education at the high school level or prepare for employment.

### College Preparation - Grades 10 to 12

College Preparation programs allow you to upgrade your education to qualify for entry into career and university programs or to gain employment requiring a high school diploma. Classroom delivery for full and part-time studies



## **FORT MCKAY DAYCARE NOW OPEN!**

It's official; the Fort McKay daycare has reopened its doors since August 5, 2014 and is now accepting new registrations for children up to the age of 6 years old.

## **MOM's Aboriginal Head Start Program:**

Program runs every Monday through Thursday; from 9:30am – 11:30am  
(there may be an afternoon class depending on the amount of participants registered)  
3-4 year olds welcomed (Must be 3 years old by December 2014)

To register your child, please pick up your registration at the Daycare Centre.  
For more information, please contact Janet McDonald at: 780-792-8845



# SMOKE SIGNALS

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT

### **Mondays**

7-9pm Volleyball (18yrs+)

### **Wednesdays**

7-9pm Volleyball (18yrs+)

### **Thursdays**

12-1pm W.O.

### **Family swimming Sept 26,**

bus leaves from the arena at 4pm comes back at 7pm (registration is mandatory)

### **Preschool swimming 3-5yrs**

old, twice a week, 1:15-2pm; Parents and tots are welcome to join for leisure swimming at MacDonald Island. Transposition will be provided.

## WELLNESS CENTRE 780-828-4312

### **Welcome back to School!**

The Wellness Center is back to after school hours and will be open the following times:

#### **Monday to Thursday:**

3:00 PM to 5:00 PM (Ages 6-17)

5:00 PM to 6:00 PM Supper Program (Ages 6-17)

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Evening Programming (Ages 10-17)

#### **Fridays:**

3:00 PM to 4:30 PM (Ages 6-17)

4:30 PM to 5:30 PM Supper Program (Ages 6-17)

Pre Teen Nights (Alternating Fridays, Ages 6-9)

5:30 PM to 10 PM

Teen Nights (Alternating Fridays, Ages 10-17)

**No School Fridays:** Open 9 AM to 5 PM with a field trip in the afternoon  
Holidays: Closed

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

## YOUTH CENTRE 780-828-4462

The Youth Centre has officially reopened its doors on September 7th 2014.

If you would like to hear about this month's programs, please call the Youth Centre during operating hours.

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

### **Tuesdays and Thursdays**

Physiotherapy & Dr. Taiwo

\*please call in advance to verify

## TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS OF ALBERTA COMMUNITY VISIT

### **Presentations on:**

- Education Model
- Education Act
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

### **Location:**

Fort McKay Dorothy McDonald Centre  
(Band Hall)

### **Date:**

September 16th, 2014  
from 10 am – 4 pm

\*Lunch will be provided\*  
\*Door prizes\*

**For more information,**  
please contact  
Treaty 8 Department  
at: 780-444-9366 or  
Rita Marten  
at: 780-791-6538

*If you would like to submit  
a story to the  
Red River Current,  
please email  
Nancy Robin at:  
nancydoire@msn.com*

