



Red River Current

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FORT MCKAY YOUTH PARTICIPATING IN 2016 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

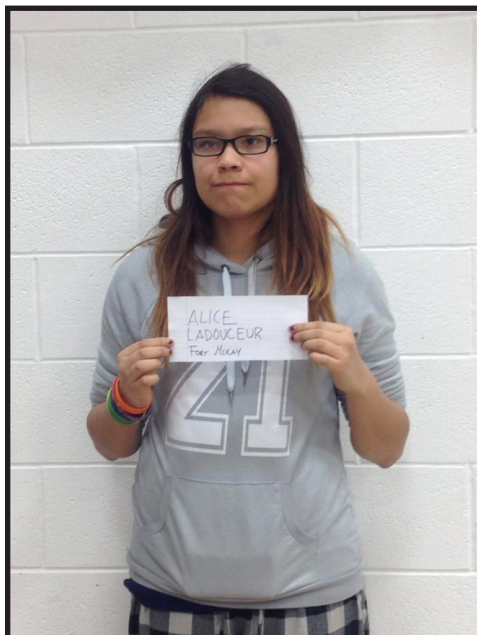
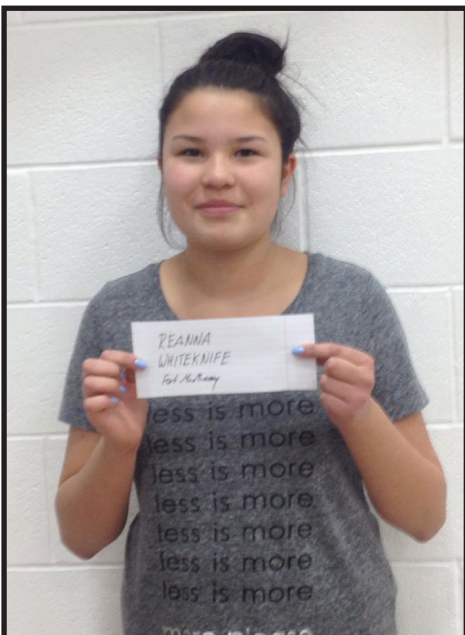
On November 27th and 28th, many youth from Fort McKay traveled to Slave Lake to tryout for the 2016 Arctic Winter Games. Hundreds came from around the region to make an attempt for the Alberta Team. After two full days of careful skills testing, 244 athletes have been chosen to become part of Team Alberta North and participate in this year's Arctic Winter Games.

We would like to congratulate Alice Ladouceur, Mikeela Cooper and Reanna Whiteknife for becoming part of Team Alberta North. These youth will be going to Nuuk, Greenland

from March 5th to the 12th 2016 and will be participating in the Dene Games, which include Stick Pull, Finger Pull, Snow Snake, Pole Push and Hand Games. For the next three months, these young athletes will be working very hard at developing and fine-tuning their abilities for the big event.

The Arctic Winter Games is an international sport event that brings together competitors from various Northern regions such as Northern Alberta, the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Nunavut, Alaska, Greenland, Russia, Nunavik, and the Indigenous people (Sami) of Norway and Finland.

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NORTHERN LIGHTS HEALTH FOUNDATION RECOGNIZES FORT MCKAY FIRST NATION

On December 17th, Fort McKay First Nation was recognized by the Northern Lights Health Foundation and Finning Canada, for their generosity and support during the Health Foundations Annual Festival of Trees Fundraiser.

Representatives from both organizations personally came to Fort McKay to thank Chief Boucher and the Nation for his ongoing support to the NLHF.



FMFN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jim Boucher, Chief
Raymond Powder, Councillor
Crystal McDonald, Councillor
Gerald Gladue, Councillor
Peggy Lacorde, Councillor

George Arcand, CEO
Larry Hewko, CFO
Barrie Robb, CEO of Business
Development

ADMINISTRATION DEPT.

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

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Thursday : 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
and communications@fortmckay.com

“We’re blown away by the success of Festival in light of these current economic times. “On behalf of the Health Foundation, I’d like to thank Fort McKay and Chief Boucher for their generous support. The funds raised will support new medical equipment, programs and services throughout the

Wood Buffalo region.” says Amy Boutilier from the Health Foundation.

This year’s 26th Annual Festival of Trees raised a record \$549,000 for the Foundation. All funds raised support health care enhancements in the Wood Buffalo region.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF FORT MCKAY FIRST NATION

NEXT QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

**CHIEF AND COUNCIL HIGHLY ENCOURAGES FORT MCKAY
FIRST NATION MEMBERS TO ATTEND.**

FORT MCKAY, AB

Tuesday, January 12th, 2016 @ 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM
Father Begin Hall, Dorothy McDonald Business Centre

FORT MCMURRAY, AB

Wednesday, January 13th, 2016 @ 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM
Stonebridge Hotel, 9713 Hardin Street

EDMONTON, AB

Thursday, January 14th, 2016 @ 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM
Chateau Nova Kingsway Hotel, 159 Airport Road



PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU DECLARES NEW PLAN



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during the Assembly of First Nation Annual General Meeting. *Photo credit: Councillor Raymond Powder*

It's only been a few months since Justin Trudeau has been appointed as our new Prime Minister, and already he seems to be rendering some of his promises declared during his election campaign.

On December 8th to the 10th, he appeared in front of many First Nation leaders including Regional Chiefs. The Assembly of First Nation Annual General Meeting was an important and historic moment for our Country as Trudeau discussed his new plans to reset Canada's relationship with First Nations people in Gatineau, Québec.

At the Assembly, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his goals that are to be undertaken and are now part of our government's newest commitments.

These priorities are:

1. Launch a national public investigation for missing and murdered indigenous women.
2. Make substantial contributions in First Nations education.
3. Remove the two per cent cap on funding for First Nations programs.
4. Implement all 94 recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
5. Revoke all legislation unilaterally imposed on indigenous people by the preceding government.

During his speech, he expressed the significance of his objectives: "I note it is an ambitious goal and we can achieve the goal. We can achieve this goal if we work together. In the mandate letter

given to the First Ministers, no relationship is more important to me than the First Nations, Métis and Inuit."

Councillor Raymond Powder was also present. He explained that many people received the opportunity to share their insights: "All of the First Nations of Alberta presented thoughts, comments, feedback on the various issues affecting First Nations of Alberta to the Minister of Indigenous Affairs, Honourable Carolyn Bennett."

One week later, The Prime Minister made his way to Ottawa for the release of the final report of Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This report was released after a six-year investigation and describes the many devastating consequences resulting from residential schools and as a result, offers 94 recommendations.

These recommendations summon all levels of government to aid and improve the lives of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in areas that include health, education, justice, child welfare, language and culture.

"Our goal, as we move forward toward together, is clear: it is to lift this burden from your shoulders, from those of your families and communities. It is to accept fully our responsibilities — and our failings, as a government and as a country," explained Trudeau.

68 FORT MCKAY DOGS RESCUED LAST YEAR

2015 saw a large number of dogs, mostly strays, removed from Fort McKay, and transported to the Fort McMurray SPCA. Sixty-eight dogs is the official number of Fort McKay dogs that were surrendered last year to the SPCA from McKay. Almost all of the dogs were rescued by Fort McKay's Animal Control Officer, Wilfred Grandjambe, and Shelley Cyprien of Fort McKay Pet Rescue.

"Stray dogs was identified as one of the biggest concerns by the community, so we are trying to address it as best we can," says Cort Gallup, Fort McKay's Community Safety Coordinator.

However, rounding up stray dogs and taking them back to their owners, or taking them to the SPCA is "only a band aid solution," says Gallup. Fort McKay is going to start taking a proactive approach to the stray dogs problem that continuously faces the community says Gallup.

He says there are 3 components to the proactive approach. One is Chief and Council are about to pass a "Responsible Pet Ownership By-Law" that



Fort McKay Animal Control Officer, Wilfred Grandjambe, is seen here with a dog surrendered by a community member along with four of its puppies. The dogs were taken to the SPCA where they all eventually found new homes.



Shelley Cyprien of the Fort McKay Pet Rescue is seen here with "Amber". Amber was a stray that was called in because she was hanging around someone's home.

Shelley fostered Amber for 1.5 months before she went to the SPCA, where she was adopted by a loving family home one month later.

will see irresponsible dog owners be fined and/or have their dogs removed from the community. The bylaws will include fines for stray dogs and restrictions on dangerous breeds.

The second component of the proactive approach is an intensive spaying and neutering program. The SPCA is fully supportive of this program and will be offering this service to Fort McKay.

The third component is public education of responsible pet ownership. Students at the school will learn what it takes to be a responsible dog owner. There will also be more health and wellness clinics for pets held at the arena that will provide, microchipping, shots and spaying/neutering.

"One thing I learned at the last health and wellness clinic held in McKay," says Gallup, "is that there are many responsible and loving pet owners in McKay, and that is a great thing."

FOR FORT MCKAY ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES CALL WILFRED GRANDJAMBE AT 780-788-0598



LET IT SNOW!!

Joshua Orr is seen here snowplowing Fort McKay's newest sidewalks. A total of 1200 meters have been completed at this point and another 800 meters is expected to be made later in the spring.

Photo credit: Arnold Faichney.



CHRISTMAS LIGHT CONTEST WINNERS!

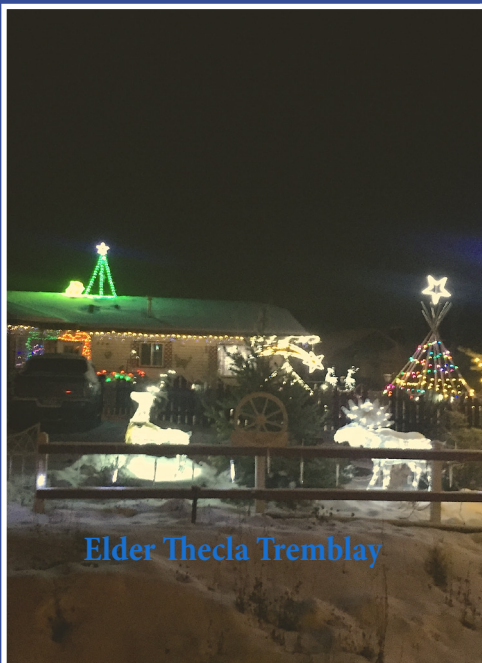
The Fort McKay Group of Companies Community Christmas Light Contest Winners Are:

Best Overall: Yvonne L'Hommecourt

Best Traditional Native: Elder Thecla Tremblay

Brightest and Most Decorated: Gordon & Norma Grandjambe

The prizes will be in gift cards, and can be picked up at the Band Hall Reception. On behalf of the Fort McKay Group of Companies, we would like to say Thank You and have a Merry Christmas!



Elder Thecla Tremblay



Yvonne L'Hommecourt



Gordon & Norma Grandjambe





GIVING GENEROUSLY DURING THE HOLIDAYS



Santa was not the only one handing out presents to the kids during this holiday season. Chief Boucher visited the kids at the Fort McKay School and ensured each kid had a gift this year on behalf of Chief and Council. The kids and staff were so thankful for the visit, they all made handmade thank you cards for Chief and Council. This was a first and kinda a special day for the kids.



HELPING OUT THOSE IN NEED

On December 4th, the Fort McKay Sustainability Department all lifted their sleeves and helped out the Wood Buffalo Food Bank Association.

It's important to remember that while most of us enjoyed the Holidays eating turkey and opening presents, many were still many struggling with paying the bills and simply putting food on the table. Since October, over 7000 people are now depending on the Wood Buffalo Food Bank, a 70 percent increase from last year.

Whatever way people chose to help, a little always goes a long way!



SANTA VISITS FORT MCKAY



This year, Santa Clause didn't just come visit the children during the Holidays. He was spotted at many different locations around the community last month.

In the photos on the right, Santa is found visiting brother and sister, James and Flora Grandjambe who must have made it on the nice list this year! James and Flora are Fort McKay's very respected and eldest Elders.

Cooking Safety

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

"COOK WITH CAUTION"

- » Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- » Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.
- » If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the kitchen while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- » Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

If you have a small (grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire...

- » On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- » For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire...

- » Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- » Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.



Cooking and Kids

Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

FACTS

- ! The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- ! Most cooking fires in the home involve the stovetop.



Regional Emergency Services

Fire Prevention - 780-792-5519

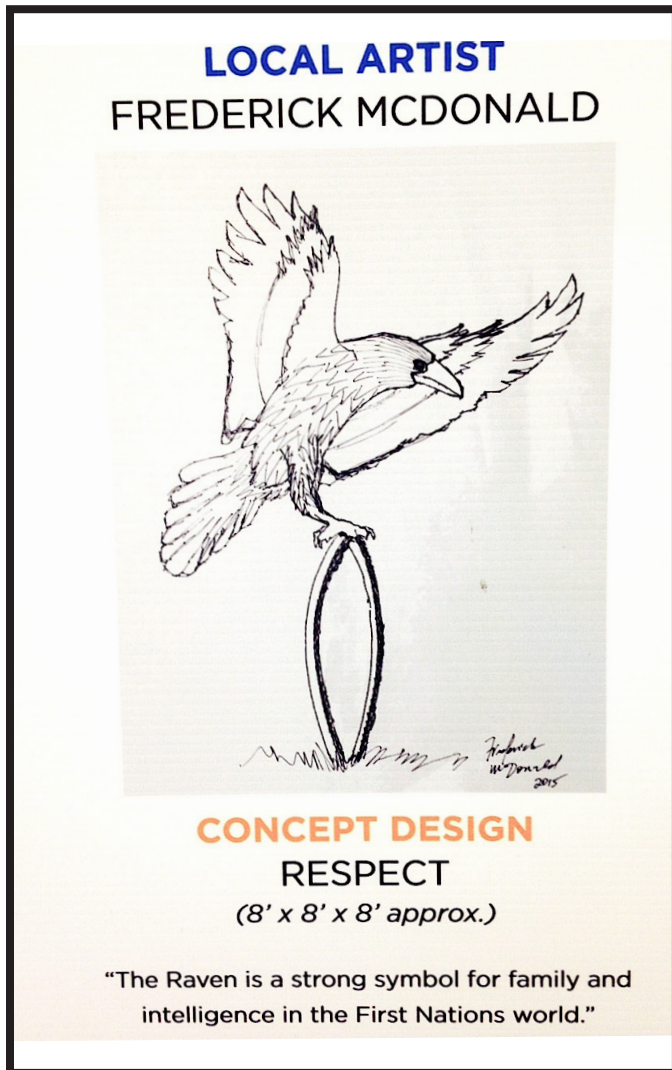


Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

www.nfpa.org/education

WOOD BUFFALO HISTORICAL PROJECT FEATURES ABORIGINAL ARTISTS



His talent has always been displayed and well liked all over Fort McKay, but soon you will be able to see his artwork exhibited in Fort McMurray's latest historical site. Frederick McDonald has been chosen to be part of the Seven Public Installations, a historical and cultural project that has been in the works since 2013.

This summer, you will find McDonald's piece as you walk down the TOTAL Aboriginal Interpretive Trail along with other sculptures from six different Aboriginal artists. The Seven Public Art Installations will be assigned to commemorate all of the Aboriginal cultures in the Wood Buffalo

region. The project is expected to be complete in June 2016.

Each three-dimensional sculpture will represent spiritual principals and its connection to Mother Earth. These principals include love, wisdom, respect, humility, courage, truth and honesty. Frederick McDonald was granted the principal of respect and chose the eagle to accompany this principal.

In MacDonald Island's website it is explained that: "the long and rich history in the region will be reflected along the Total Aboriginal Interpretive Walking Trail, a trail that pays homage to the spirit of the north and the beauty of the boreal forest, A pedestrian path running between C.A. Knight Way and the Athabasca and Clearwater rivers will emphasize health and wellness, and focus on the abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation in a region known for free flowing rivers and stunning northern lights."

The interpretive trail project was undertaken by the collaborative work from MacDonald Island Park, and Total E&P Canada. Situated within the MacDonald Island Park, the trail will be located in a high-traffic and historical area in Fort McMurray.

Through art and history, it will serve as an educational focal point for schools, and will also be utilized for marathons, runs and walks. The trail is also expected to develop furthermore with the forthcoming plans to develop an Aboriginal Cultural Centre in the future.

You can see the plans of the Seven Public Installation project for yourself displayed at Macdonald Island in the hallway on the second floor. To get more information on Total's interpretative trail, please go to: <http://ca.total.com/en-us/total-aboriginal-trail-showcasing-local-history>



SUBMIT YOUR R.A.R.A. NOMINATIONS



Nominate Your Community Members!

Our Vision:

“To bestow appreciation for the achievement of Aboriginal people in or from this region by recognizing excellence in specific fields, by doing this in such a way that more and more people and institutions participate in ensuring the Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards make a positive impact on the lives of all people.”

The 28th Annual R.A.R.A is scheduled for March 5, 2016, at the Quality Inn and Conference Centre. Nominations are now being accepted until January 23rd, 2016.

Nomination forms available at:

- Anzac ~ Municipal Office: (780) 334-2298 or Anzac Community School: (780) 334-2271
- Conklin~ Municipal Office: (780) 559-2235; Conklin Resource: (780) 559-8900; Conklin Community School: (780) 559-2228
- Janvier ~ Municipal Office: (780) 559-2230; Father R. Perin School: (780) 559-2240
- Fort Chipewyan ~ Keyano College Campus (780) 697-3767; ADCS School: (780) 697-3933; Family & Community Support Services (780) 697-9017
- Fort McKay ~ Fort McKay First Nations Office: (780) 828-4220; Fort McKay School: (780) 828-4222
- Gregoire Lake ~ Fort McMurray First Nation Office: (780) 334-2293; Gregoire Lake Health Centre: (780) 334-2443

Nomination forms will also be available at www.raraevent.ca

**Completed nomination forms may be E-mailed to the RARA Nomination Committee:
raravol@shaw.ca or fax: (780) 334-2860**

For additional information or assistance, please call the Nominations Chair Stella Kreutzer at (780) 715-5775.

SLEDDING AND SNOW SAFETY

Getting outside in the winter is a great way for families to be active. But remember to keep your child safe while doing winter activities like sledding and playing in the snow.

TO HELP LOWER THE RISK OF YOUR CHILD GETTING HURT, MAKE SURE:

- you supervise your child closely
- your child is always in a safe place
- you and your child know about any dangers
- your child does age-appropriate activities
- Check the weather forecast so you know how to dress for the day.

WINTER SAFETY TIPS:

- Choose play areas with warm shelters nearby.
- Dress in layers. Have a windproof, waterproof outer layer. Wear:
 - a hat to keep the ears covered. If under 3, your child's head is larger than the rest of the body and heat is lost quickly from the head.
 - mittens instead of gloves
 - warm, dry, waterproof boots that aren't too tight
 - a neck warmer instead of scarf
 - clothes without drawstrings
- Snow forts can be fun, but building tunnels can be dangerous. Tunnels can collapse and suffocate a child.
- Watch your child for wet clothes, feeling chilled, frostbite, and being tired.
- Teach your child about frostbite and hypothermia and how important it is to dress warmly.

- Only sled when the temperature is above -19 °C. Think about the windchill factor.
- Choose hills with a gentle slope and a long, clear run-off area.
- Sled on snowy hills and stay away from icy surfaces. Make sure the hill has no jumps, bumps, holes, bare spots, and obstacles.

SLEDDING SAFETY TIPS

- Stay away from roads, rivers, railway tracks, and parking lots.
- Don't sled over ice-covered rivers, streams, or ponds.
- Only go sledding in the daylight on hills that are well-lit.
- Your child must be supervised by a responsible adult. If your child is under 5, have a responsible adult on the sled with him or her.
- Go down the hill sitting up or kneeling on the sled. Don't go head first.
- Wear a hockey or ski/snowboard helmet.
- Check the sled to make sure it is in good shape. Use a sled with good brakes and steering. Plastic discs and inner tubes are not safe because they are hard to control.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

WELLNESS CENTER 780-828-2412

MONDAYS:

Afterschool Activities 3-5pm
Supper Program 5-6 pm
Home Economics (8-11)
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Evolution of Games
(ages 12-17)
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

TUESDAYS

Afterschool Activities 3-5pm
Supper Program 5-6 pm
Junior Leader's 7 Teachings
(Ages 12-17) 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

WEDNESDAYS

Afterschool Activities 3-5pm
Supper Program 5-6 pm
Outdoor Activities
(Ages 12-17)
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

THURSDAYS

Afterschool Activities 3-5pm
Supper Program 5-6 pm
Gym Night
(Ages 12-17) 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

FRIDAYS

Supper Program 4:30-5:30

NO SCHOOL FRIDAYS
OPEN 9 AM to 5 PM

SATURDAYS

Skiing/Snowboarding
At Vista Ridge
Ages 10+
Bus leaves at 9:00am
Bus returns at 4:30pm
*Permission slip required

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!!

Check out the Fort McKay calendar for the latest upcoming meetings and events!

For more information, please go to:
WWW.FORTMCKAY.COM/CALENDAR-EVENTS

HEALTH CENTRE 780-828-2450

Doctor day: Mon – Wed
Physiotherapy:
Mon (morning only),
Thurs (all day)

Mobile Food Bank inquiries: 780-743-1125

To make an appointment with Dr. Taiwo
Dr. Al-Naami Pediatrician please contact the
Health Centre.

Flu shots still available
anytime.

Please call in advance to find out scheduled
immunization.

**Please call the Health
Centre to book an appointment.*

FIELD TRIP

January 15th & 29th
(Ages 6-13)
*Permission slip
required
Bus leaves at
1:00 PM
Bus Returns at
5:00 PM

TEEN NIGHT

January 8th & 22nd
2015
*Permission slip
required
Ages 12+
Bus leaves at 5:30 pm
*Kids 9 and under
MUST be picked
up by 5:30 pm

