

July/August 2021

VOLUME 11: ISSUE 7

NOT A YEAR TO CELEBRATE



From left to right: Councillor Raymond Powder, Chief Mel Grandjamb, Councillor Crystal McDonald, Elder Cecile Calliou, Councillor Melinda Stewart, CEO Chris Johnson

On July 1st, Fort McKay First Nation did not celebrate. Our community gathered to remember and to honour the 215 (and all children) who never made it home from residential schools.

In a news release, Chief Mel Grandjamb said "We are not denying or dismissing Canada's global reputation as a safe and peace-keeping country. However, with the ongoing efforts to locate, identify, and honour
Indigenous children who died
at former residential schools
across this country, this is
simply not a year to
celebrate. This is a year to
listen, to learn, and to act.
Our nation calls on all
Canadians to listen to the
experiences of Indigenous
peoples, to learn about
Canada's history and how it
affects Indigenous peoples
today, and to act with

compassion to help make this a country of reconciliation."

Councillor Melinda Stewart shared, "as a mother, I am devastated, as a band member, I am hurting, and as a counsellor, I am determined. But it's time for us to remember, honour and support each other, and also heal. Today, we drum, we pray, and dance, reclaim and

(story continued on p.3)

POST-SECONDARY SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Post-Secondary Student Support Program is to provide support to Fort McKay Band members who are pursuing Post-Secondary Education, such as:

Application fee support
Tuition & book fees support
Technology fee support
Tutoring fee support
School supplies support
Living allowance for full-time students

Email education@fortmckay.com to get your application and set up an appointment with the Post Secondary Coordinator to learn more.

FMFN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mel Grandjamb, Chief Raymond Powder, Councillor David Bouchier, Councillor Melinda Stewart, Councillor Crystal McDonald, Councillor

Chris Johnson, CEO Alvaro Pinto, CEO Oilsands Development and Sustainability Stuart Randell, Director, Strategic Portfolio Investments James Owl, Executive Director, Capital Projects

ADMINISTRATION DEPT.

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

Hours of Operation: Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed daily: 12 - 1 p.m.

SUBMISSIONS

If you have any photos, stories or ideas for the Red River Current, please contact the Communications Department email: communications@fortmckay.com



Fort McKay First Nation members can book now.

Camp opens July 5th
Camp closes September 19th

For flight schedule information or to book, contact Audrey Redcrow 780.215.2384.

(Monday to Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Friday 8:30 am - 2 pm only).



NOT A YEAR TO CELEBRATE



(Story continued from p.1)

revitalise our Indigenous voices, our identity and the presence not only in our community but in our country."

Councillor Raymond Powder, who also emceed the ceremony, shared, "We, as Indigenous people, have all been affected by Indian residential schools and responded in many ways, to this dark chapter. Today is that day to declare this publicly, and offer our love, support, and prayers to our brothers and sisters of First Nations of Canada and our family members here in our community." He left the audience with a quote from Chief Dan George, "May the stars carry your sadness away, may the flowers fill your heart with beauty, may hope forever wipe away your tears."

On July 1st, our community gathered for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began. While it wasn't a celebration, it was a much-needed opportunity to reconnect and support each other through prayers, drumming, jingle dancing, cultural ceremonies, and sharing food.

If you're struggling or just need someone to talk to, please reach out.

Fort McKay First Nation Health and Wellness:

Nadine at 780-881-9651 or ndalheim@fortmckay.com

Amaka at 780-799-6370 or achijioke@fortmckay.com

24-hour Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line:

1-866-925-4419



FORT MCKAY TE







Although we could not celebrate Treaty Days in person this year, the two-day event offered lots of fun virtual activities that offered plenty of competition, laughter, and unforgettable moments for everyone in our community!

The celebration started with a virtual opening ceremony and had over 179 registered members participating in various activities and contests such as bingo, jigging, moose calling, Talent McKay Idol, Bannock making, and traditional attire. In addition, many traditional workshops were offered through the Cultural Village classes and included drum making, fish fileting, trap setting, dream catcher making, beaded pop socket making, and beaded headdress making. As usual, Treaty ended with beautiful fireworks display that lit up the night sky throughout our community.

We would like to thank our sponsors for their continued support (Fort McKay Group of Companies, Birch Mountain Enterprises (BME), Fort McKay OffRoad, and Suncor Energy), and also thank all Fort McKay First Nation staff, volunteers, Chief and Council, Cree and Dene Drummers, Dancers, Elder prayers, workshop instructors, and photographer Brandon Wilson, for all their help to make this event happen! We would also

like to express our gratitude to all of the local artists who made and donated handmade items to our Local Artist Door Prize Basket: Patricia Grandjambe - breakable dream Catcher, granny scarf heart cake, Charlene Boucher - beaded pop sockets, Sherry Faichney - beaded earrings, Ruby McKay - granny scarf scrunchies, and Ashley Laviolette - welcome wreath.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Virtual Treaty Days Event, and congratulations to all this year's winners!

BIKE DECORATING WINNERS

1st: Leighton Young

2nd: Aurora Grandjambe

3rd: Celina Harpe 4th: Victoria Block

5th: Scarlette Raymond

ROCK DECORATING WINNERS

1st: Mya Wilson

2nd: Eliza Howe

3rd: Ashley Laviolette

4th: Wilfred Grandjambe

5th: Elsie Rolland

6th: Jennifer Wilson

7th: Jaidynn McKenzie







REATY DAYS 2021







WINDOW DECORATING WINNERS

1st: Cheyanne Faichney

2nd: Ryan & Kristy Grandjamb

3rd: April Beaulieu 4th: Ashley Laviolette 5th: Rebecca Fabian

DECK DECORATING WINNERS

1st: Ashley Laviolette 2nd: Maureen Grandjambe 3rd: Suzanne McDonald 4th: Hermaline Wilson 5th: Ryan Grandjamb

PARTICIPANT DRAW - PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Traditional Games: Cheryl Laurent

Traditional Attire: Ryan Grandjamb, Eden Laliberte,

& Jaxson Herman

Bannock Making: Tara Telnes, Katelyn Willier,

& Rebecca Fabian

MOOSE CALLING WINNERS

1st: Price Poulin, Mya Wilson, Ryan Grandjambe, Rebecca Fabian, Wilfred Grandjambe,

& Elsie Rolland.

2nd: Aurora Grandjambe, Ace Lacorde, Brian

Block, & Maurice McDonald.

JIGGING WINNERS

1st: Kolton McKenzie, Jocelynn McKenzie, Mya Wilson, Ethan Cardinal, Rebecca Fabian, Tyson Adby, and Maurice McDonald.

2nd: Mason Cardinal, Creedon Gladue, and Ace Lacorde.

3rd: Josiah Fabian & Aurora Grandjambe.

FORT MCKAY IDOL WINNERS

1st: Kolton McKenzie, Aurora Grandjambe, Ace Lacorde, Jorja Wilson, James McDonald, Loretta Boucher, Maurice McDonald, & Lorraine Bellerose. 2nd: Price Poulin, Sadie Gladue, Ryan Grandjambe, & Darlene Fabian.

3rd: Creedon Gladue, Bryce Fabian JR., Rebecca Fabian, & Leona Grandjambe.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE WINNERS

Moose Calling Contest: Price Poulin & Ryan

Grandjamb

Jigging Contest: Mya Wilson, Rebecca Fabian,

& Tyson Adby.

Fort McKay Idol: Kolton McKenzie, Aurora Grandjambe, Jorja Wilson, James McDonald,

& Maurice McDonald.









FORT MCKAY PARTICIPATES IN MEMORIAL GATHERING IN SOLIDARITY

Many members of our community, including Chief Mel Grandjamb and Councillor Melinda Stewart, joined Chipewyan Prairie Déne First Nation members and Chief Vern Janvier along with other First Nation and Métis communities to participate in a Memorial Walk from the Janvier Heath Centre to Snye Point Park in Fort McMurray from July 6th to the 7th 2021.

The event was organized to honour Residential School Survivors and the children who didn't make it home from residential schools. The walk started at 8:00 a.m. on Highway 881, and individuals walked along Highway 63 all the way to the Snye Point Park, which ended with a Memorial Gathering in Solidarity the following day.

All five First Nation Chiefs of the Athabasca Tribal Council together walked in unity with Residential School Survivors and their families that were impacted and the children that never made it home. The goal of the event was to create a healing enviroment where peoples' experiences could be shared openly. Community members who have felt the impacts of the Residential School system were invited to come and share their experiences, and the public was invited to attend, listen and learn about the Residential School experience. ATC also set up a teepee and trappers tent to include a small cultural village and Indigenous community members shared their knowledge and traditional practices with attendees.

Community Members who are in need of emotional support are encouraged to call the Athabasca Tribal Council's IRS Support Worker, Lyn Chartrand, at 780-799-2461, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.





The National Indian Residential School Crisis Line at 1-866-925-4419 is also available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to all Indigenous people.





What will you do at culture camp?

Go on nature walks, target shoot, learn and play traditional games, crafts, fish, fillet fish, smoke fish, make bannock on-a-stick, make a fire, make small animal snares, make friends, learn new things, be proud of your culture, and have fun!

What do you need to bring?

Bedding, clothes, and toiletries (including sunscreen and mosquito repellent). Make sure to pack clothes for all kinds of weather (warm, cool, rain).

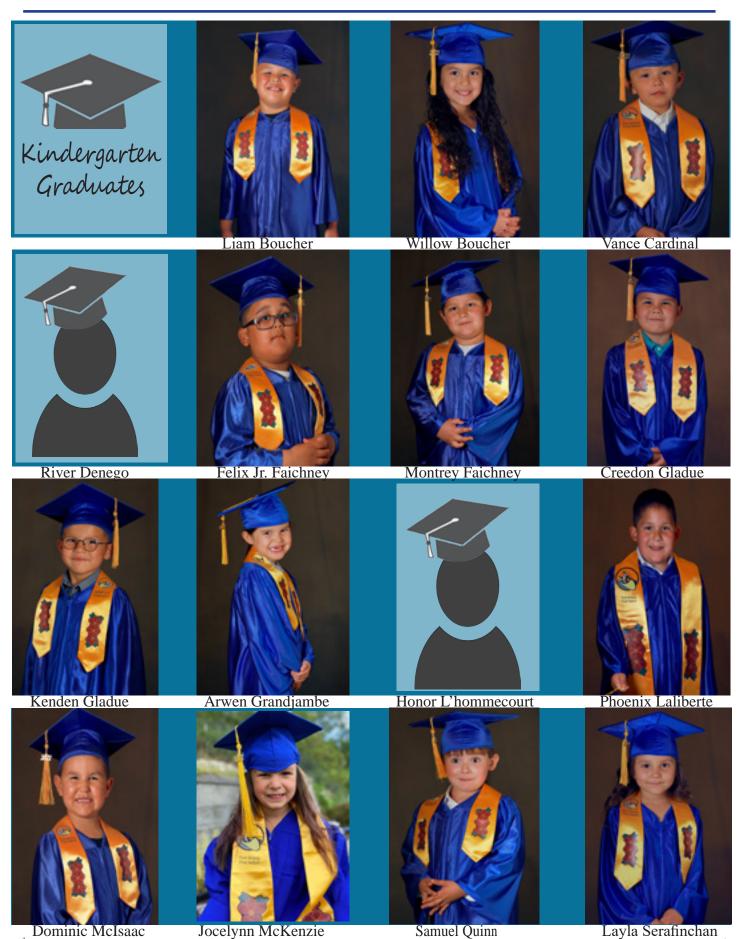
How do you register?

Online at https://forms.gle/MLtDY1cVSAS2qSdJ7 Parent/guardian must sign Trip Release Form.

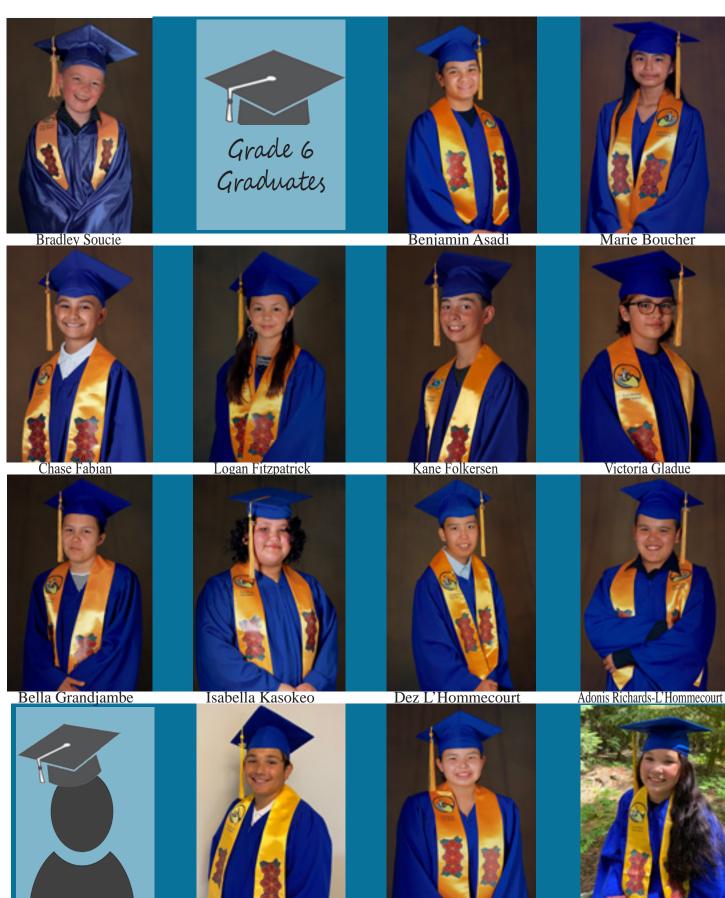
Camp will have 4 supervisors, including 3 Education employees. Questions? Need more info? Contact Christine Gullion 780.881.4164.



FORT MCKAY



Fraduates 2021



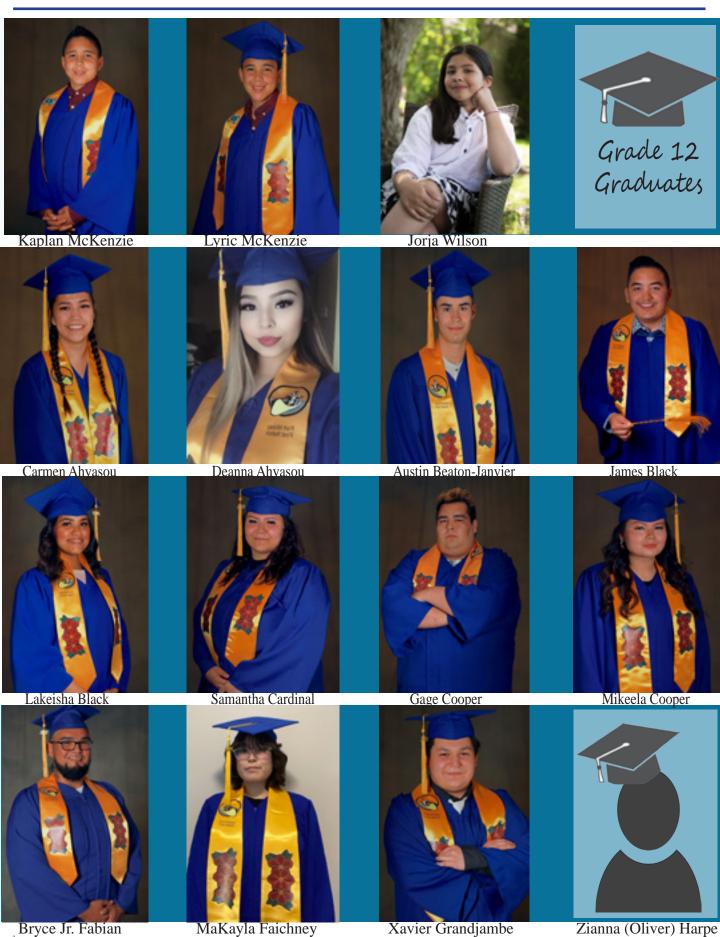
Natalia Lacorde

Kingston Makkinga

Jaidynn-Marie McKenzie

Keira Marcel

FORT MCKAY (



Xavier Grandjambe

MaKayla Faichney

Fraduates 2021



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NORTHLAND SCHOOL DIVISION NO.61 NEWS

NEW AGREEMENT ALLOWS NSD STUDENTS TO TAKE UNIVERSITY COURSE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Northland School Division (NSD) students will be able to flash university identification cards while attending high school! NSD and MacEwan University signed a five-year agreement that will give students access to the dual credit course, INDG 100: Introduction to Indigenous Studies.

Students will take INDG 100 through remote delivery, receiving high school credit for Indigenous 30 and three university credits for INDG 100. The cost of teacher time is covered by the school board and faculty time is funded by MacEwan, so the dual-credit course is offered to students at no cost.

In a school division that covers 288,000 square kilometres in some of the most remote parts of the province, getting a taste of university before graduating from high school is simply not possible for most students, says Dr. Nancy Spencer Poitras.

"University can seem out of reach if you've never had the opportunity to see yourself there," says the superintendent of schools for Northland School Division. "We think that when students have the chance to be successful, not only earning high school credit but earning three university credits



Left to right: Dr. Heather McRae, Dean of MacEwan's School of Continuing Education, and Dr. Nancy Spencer Poitras, Superintendent of Schools

at the same time, that it will be a real confidence booster – and believe that these types of programs will make a difference in our graduation rates."

To learn more about the agreement, visit the MacEwan University website https://www.mace-wan.ca/wcm/MacEwanNews/NEWS_INDG_100_SIGNING_21.

NSD AND TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO SUPPORT SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

"We are thrilled to have an official MOU in place with the TELUS World of Science - Edmonton," said Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras, Superintendent of Schools. "As a school division, we are always looking for creative ways to support students and staff. Since the beginning of our relationship with TELUS World of Science, NSD teachers have been able to learn innovative ways to deliver science-related topics into the classroom environment. In addition, the Science in Motion

team organized science themed events exclusively for NSD. These events have enhanced the science experience and improved student engagement. We are excited to continue the positive momentum through this important agreement."

This partnership will continue to have students engaged and excited about their learning in the areas of science.



2021-2022 School and Bus Registration



Dear Fort McKay Families,

Fort McMurray Public and Catholic School registration for the 2021/2022 school year is now open.

You can register online at:

- Fort McKay School: https://www.nsd61.ca/download/298149
- Fort Mckay E-Learning School: https://forms.gle/KyCZ6yPDZ7oxL34ZA
- Catholic School District: https://fmcschools.ca/how-to-register/
- Public School District: https://www.fmpsdschools.ca/Registration.php

Fort McKay provides bussing to the following schools:

- Elsie Yanik School
- Sister Mary Phillip's School
- St. Anne's School School
- Christina Gordon (Public School option)
- Father Mercredi Catholic High School
- Holy Trinity Catholic High School

Bus registration can be completed online at:

https://forms.gle/twzCEXymFRJKbY6VA

If you have any questions or require support please contact Casey at chowlett@fortmckay.com or phone 780-215-5868.















FINDING A WAY TOWARD SOBRIETY

~Helpful Advice Provided by The Addictions and Mental Health Services/Family Support Centre~



There are many ways that people in recovery from drug or alcohol addiction choose to support their sobriety. Living sober is not one size fits all; what works for one person may not work for another. However, often people who are new in sobriety find that going back to regular life after treatment can be hard and so they look for support in the early stages of their journey. One option for support is living in a Sober Living House.

What is a Sober Living House?

Sober Living Houses are supportive housing for people in recovery from drug or alcohol use. Usually those who move into a sober living house have attended a treatment program and are looking for a drug and alcohol-free place where they can stay sober after treatment.

Those living in sober houses abstain from alcohol or drug use and follow certain rules during their time as a tenant. In return, they receive support in developing a sober way of living by working with staff to address needs such as life skills, mental health, coping, and moving forward towards future goals.

What are the benefits of Sober Living Houses?

For some people, the transition out of treatment and back into normal life is difficult, especially when they are going back to the same environments/situations that they lived in when they were active in addiction. Relapses in the early days of recovery can be common.

Recovery from addiction involves re-learning how to live life without drugs and alcohol. This can take longer than 30-90 days in a treatment program for some people. Sober living houses can offer a long-term option for establishing a life in recovery to people who need it.

Sober living houses offer:

- Support from staff and sober peers
- Structure and an agreement to follow certain rules that support sobriety
- Establish a social circle of people who are also abstinent from drugs and alcohol
- Learn life skills needed to move forward with a drug and alcohol free life
- Receive support for mental health, stress management, general health and well-being
- Spend the early days of recovery in a place that decreases the presence of triggers related to past addiction (being around others who are using for example)

Is moving into a Sober Living House better than returning home or moving in with family?

Since each person has different needs, it is important to think about whether you are ready to return home right after treatment. Some people feel ready after finishing a treatment program or have supportive family/friends who they choose to live with.

However, there are people who find that once they have left treatment and returned home, they are at risk for relapse due to there being many triggers related to their addiction. For this reason, some may benefit from a longer period of support before going back to past places of residence, work, or social circles.

Is Sober Living the same as a treatment program?

No. Usually, a person moves into a Sober Living House after attending a treatment program. Residential Treatment Programs have a specific length (30 days for example), provide direct treatment for alcohol and drug addiction, and do not typically provide ongoing housing. (story continued on p.15)



FORT MCKAY GROUP OF COMPANIES REMODELS 777 HAUL TRUCK TO RAISE AWARENESS

An initiative has been underway for the past few weeks at Fort McKay Group of Companies. We are excited to unveil our newly remodeled 777 Haul Truck in recognition and awareness of the legacy of residential schools.

The Fort McKay Group of Companies now has a freshly painted orange truck adorned with two small children, feathers and other images, along with the phrase "Every Child Matters". "Through industry awareness, we are honouring the children who were forced to attend residential schools and those who never returned home," says Bobby Shott, Business Development Manager and Fort McKay First Nation member.

Fort McKay Group of Companies is calling on the federal government to declare September 30th, National Truth and Reconciliation Day, a national public statutory holiday. Much like other public statutory holidays, it could be a time for Canadians to come together to commemorate survivors, to mourn and to inspire communities to come together in spirit. "As Canada's largest Indigenous owned organization, it's so important for us to look at ways industry can participate in formative conversation and bring our company purpose and values to life for our employees," says Director of Human Resources, Mary Beth Green.

We have more activities planned and look forward to continuing the dialogue and sharing with our community.



Counsellor Crystal McDonald acknowledged and thanked Bobby Shott, Business
Development Manager from the Group of
Companies, for remodeling a 777 Haul and parking it near the access road to Fort McKay to help raise awareness of the legacy of residential schools.

In closing, we'd like to take a moment to recognize Weldco Heavy Industries and TS Signs for providing the material and their incredible support to bring this idea to life.

If you are a former residential school student in distress, or have been affected by the residential school system and need help, you can contact the 24 hour Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line: 1-866-925-4419

(story continued from page 14)

Sober Living Houses act as the person's actual home while they live there. While living there, they receive support in areas such as mental health, finding a job, applying to school, or connecting with other services.

Sober living houses do not necessarily have staff present all the time. The goal is to offer a transitional level of support, where tenants do not need constant supervision, but are not yet ready for completely independent living either. If a person requires a higher level of supervision to follow the rules at a sober living facility, it may be a sign that they need to go back to treatment.

Sober living houses usually allow residents to stay much longer than a treatment program, sometimes for a year or more. Sober living houses can be flexible to meet the needs of residents to acknowledge the uniqueness of each person's recovery journey.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Sober Living Houses, or exploring options in this area, please call the Fort McKay Addictions and Mental Health Team at 780 828 4048. We are always happy to speak with you and our services are confidential.





Mobile Mammography Screening is coming to:

Fort McKay First Nation Dorothy McDonald Business Centre

September 14 & 15, 2021

Due to COVID-19 protocols, it is necessary that Screen Test staff speaks directly with clients to book an appointment.

Many new processes have been added to keep our clients and staff safe. Screen Test staff will share the new processes and details, gather eligibility and registration information, and the client will choose an appointment time.



Appointments are required. Call to book:

1-800-667-0604 (toll free)

To learn more visit: Screeningforlife.ca







Post until: Sept. 15, 2021





INDIGENOUS HAUL TRUCK PROGRAM





Launch your career as a Haul Truck Driver

living in the Wood Buffalo Region. Sign-up for this in-person program starting Fall 2021.

Participants must:

- Be Indigenous
- · Be at least 18 years of age
- Grade 12 or GED
- Class 5 License

- Criminal Record Check
- Driver's Abstract
- Pass a Physical Demands Test

If you are interested in this program, please contact:

Brittany Kozak

Employment & Training Team Lead | Athabasca Tribal Council 587-645-5929 | Brittany.Kozak@atcfn.ca





To better understand the odours in our region, the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association (WBEA) is asking community members to check out our COMP app and share information about the odours you are experiencing.

The WBEA launched the Community Odour Monitoring Program (COMP) and the COMP App so people could anonymously submit odour observations and track odour events in the RMWB. The collected information is then compared to the ambient air quality parameters measured at the WBEA's air monitoring stations to determine if there is a relationship between regional odours and air quality. Submitted observations can be found at comp. wbea.org, and findings are reported to the public in an annual report. The 2020 COMP Annual Report can be found here.

Please share your odour observations on the COMP app (available for iOS and Android devices) and help us better understand the odours in our region!

TELL US WHAT YOU SMELL.

Participate in the Community Odour Monitoring Program (COMP) and help the WBEA research odours in the communities of the RMWB.

- 1
- Download the COMP app from your app store or go to wbea.org/apps
- 2

When you smell an odour in the air, submit an observation in the app

3

Check out the COMP website for more information: comp.wbea.org



WOOD BUFFALO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION



AIR QUALITY HEALTH INDEX (AQHI)

The AQHI is a number from 1 to 10 that indicates the relative health risk associated with local air quality. A low AQHI number means that it is a good time to be active outdoors. A high AQHI number means that precautions should be taken to limit exposure to the air, especially for children, seniors, and people with lung conditions - all of whom are considered 'at risk'. During extreme air quality events like forest fires, the AQHI may reach 10 or above. You can check the AQHI 24 hours a day at wbea.org or on the AQHI Canada App.

The table below shows a list of recommended actions based on the AQHI and health risk. The pie chart to the right shows a breakdown of Fort McKay's hourly AQHI in 2020, measured at the WBEA's Bertha Ganter - Fort McKay air monitoring station. The air quality was low risk for nearly 98% of the year.

Health risk	AQHI	At Risk Population	General Population
Low Risk	1-3	Enjoy your usual outdoor activities.	Ideal air quality for outdoor activities.
Moderate Risk	4-6	Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you are experiencing symptoms.	No need to modify your usual outdoor activities unless you are experiencing symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.
High Risk	7-10	Reduce or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors. Children and the elderly should also take it easy.	Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you are experiencing symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.
Very High Risk	10+	Avoid strenuous activities outdoors. Children and the elderly should also avoid outdoor physical exertion.	Reduce or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors, especially if you experiene symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.









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COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

WELLNESS CENTER SUMMER CAMP 2021

Monday to Friday

8:30 am to 4:30 pm June 28th, 2021 to August 27th 2021 Ages 5 to 13

Spaces are limited and registration is required. Contact Julia (780-838-1812) or Kory (780-788-5500) to register.

Summer Camp activities will take place in small groups or cohorts and activities may take place outdoor or indoors depending on the current community gathering restrictions.

Children should come prepared for all weather conditions. Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided. Programs are subject to change at any time and on short notice. For more information, please check out our Facebook page.

FORT MCKAY HEALTH CENTRE 780-828-2450

DR. O'CONNOR

Please call in advance if you need to make an appointment with Dr. O'Connor.

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION:

Contact 780-742-8843 for after hours Edmonton Referral Unit 1-800-514-7106 with any questions.

PHYSIO

Mondays (9am-2:30pm) & Thursdays (9-12)

DR TAIWO.

Contact the Health Centre to make an appointment

IMMUNIZATIONS

Contact the Health Centre to make an appointment with the Public Health Nurse

For more information on the services offered at the Health Centre, please contact the centre

STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS!!



FORT MCKAY

Stay informed by:

Listening to Fort McKay's community radio station: 106.3 fm

& going on Fort McKay's Facebook page

