



FORT MCKAY

FIRST NATION

Media statement

Fort McKay First Nation on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

For immediate release: September 30, 2021

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is an opportunity to honour survivors and the children who never made it home from residential schools, to learn about hidden chapters of Canada's story, to listen to Indigenous voices, to create safe spaces for respectful conversations, and to take meaningful actions.

Fort McKay First Nation Chief and Council identified cultural revitalization as a priority for the health and wellness of their members and the future of their Nation.

"We are investing in our members, our culture, and our community to ensure we have a healthy and sustainable future for our Nation. Health and mental wellness programs, cultural camps for youth, park rangers protecting our traditional lands, a new school with an academic and cultural curriculum, creating a safe community – this is all part of creating a healthy and supportive community. We're helping to write the future story of our place in this country."

- Chief Mel Grandjamb

Nation-owned Fort McKay Group of Companies used their presence in the oil sands to raise awareness of #EveryChildMatters and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples #MMIP by painting haul trucks orange and red to get attention, spark conversations, and encourage the business community to increase Indigenous training and employment, support culturally-safe workplaces, and to be part of Indigenomics.

Individuals, families, the business community, and elected officials are encouraged to learn and start conversations about truth and reconciliation on September 30th, and every day.

- Listen to Fort McKay FM www.fortmckayradio.com at 2:15 pm on September 30th to observe a moment of silence, hear messages from Chief and Council, and listen to music by FMFN band members.
- Wear orange and share this sign of respect on your social media channels.
- Read the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission Reports](#).
- Help to keep the conversations and actions going after September 30th. #MoreThanOneDay



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A Fort McKay First Nation Truth

Moose Lake is the traditional home of what is now the Fort McKay First Nation. After hearing stories of neglect and abuse from families of Indigenous children taken to attend residential schools, Cree and Dene families persuaded the Indian agent to build a day school at the Fort McKay fur trading post. Families then moved from Moose Lake to form a community so their children could return home each night, but this move didn't happen without personal and cultural losses. Today, cultural revitalization remains a top priority for Fort McKay First Nation Chief and Council.

www.fortmckay.com/national-day-of-truth-and-reconciliation

