



FORT MCKAY FIRST NATION

Fort McKay First Nation marks Red Dress Day

Government, agencies, and industry urged to follow FMFN example

For immediate release.

FORT MCKAY, AB / May 5, 2022 — Today the Fort McKay First Nation (FMFN) is observing Red Dress Day, a national day to remember missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, with a call to action to government, agencies, and industry.

“We mark this day by wearing red in memory of our stolen sisters and in solidarity with their grieving family members and loved ones,” said Chief Mel Grandjamb. “We are committed to taking concrete actions to end violence against Indigenous women and girls. We call on government, agencies, and industry to follow our example.”

FMFN is actively engaged in advocacy and education on behalf of Murdered or Missing Exploited Indigenous People (MMEIP). This includes developing programming for its members such as teachings about violence, grief, and healing. Education is directed towards all ages, men and women, boys and girls, and the gender-diverse community.

FMFN has also taken the lead in developing a regional MMEIP working group with such partners as the Athabasca Tribal Council, the Nistawoyou Friendship Centre, and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. FMFN took the lead role in creating the first local gathering on this topic, an all-day online teaching on the impacts of violence and healing.

FMFN’s advocacy is on a local, regional, provincial, and national level. This includes development of teachings to be presented nationally by Enbridge Inc., as well as the development of an Edmonton honour park recognizing MMEIP victims. FMFN is also working with The Action Coalition on Human Trafficking Alberta in collaboration with local, provincial, and national partners to identify, respond to and prevent human trafficking.

FMFN also supported the collection of provincial data for the Alberta Action Plan, part of the National Action Plan being developed by the federal government in response to Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action No 41 to find ways to end the victimization of Indigenous women and girls.

For an overview of FMFN’s work around the issue of MMEIP, members and the public are invited to view a live Facebook update today from 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. with grassroots advocate Stephanie Harpe, who is spearheading the community’s efforts.



FMFN is committed to continuing to work with governments, the RCMP, stakeholders and educators year-round to advocate for an end to decades of pain and injustice.

“We call on government, industry, and agencies to follow FMFN’s example,” said Chief Grandjamb. “This issue must be a top priority all year long. This ongoing national tragedy must end.”

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About FMFN:

Fort McKay First Nation has nearly 900 band members of Cree and Dene heritage, with approximately 450 living in the on-reserve section of the community of Fort McKay, located 60 kilometres north of Fort McMurray, on the shores of the Athabasca River. In addition to the Fort McKay community, FMFN has reserves 174A at Gardiner (Moose) Lake and 174B at Namur (Buffalo) Lake, approximately 65 kilometres northwest of Fort McKay. Moose Lake is the traditional home of what is now the Fort McKay First Nation.

A signatory to Treaty 8, Fort McKay First Nation’s mission is to assert Treaty rights, revitalize culture and language, promote education, build economic capacity, and support wellness to create opportunities for our Nation’s healthy and sustainable future.

The Nation also manages a business portfolio of 14 entities. Business revenues are invested in infrastructure, programs, services, and directly benefit both the community of Fort McKay and individual band members. Only five to 10 per cent of FMFN’s annual operating budget comes from federal or provincial governments.

For more information about Fort McKay First Nation, visit our website at www.fortmckay.com, or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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