



Red River Current

May 2022

VOLUME 12 : ISSUE 5

FORT MCKAY FIRST NATION CREATES ROOM TO GROW THROUGH RESERVE ADDITIONS



Fort McKay First Nation is proud to announce the addition of eleven parcels of land to its reserve holdings following a multi-year process with the Federal Government. The parcels of land, totaling 114 acres, include land set aside for our community during the 2003 Treaty Land Entitlement process and land located within Fort McKay to better allow our community to administer jurisdiction. This addition of land rectifies oversights in the

2003 Treaty Land Entitlement process and allows more authority over our own territories and resources and the ability to manage them as our Nation sees fit.

“Expanding our reserve land through the ATR process is essential to our community’s oversight of our resources,” said Chief Mel Grandjamb. “It is a vital step in our sovereignty and commitment to providing community-based wellness

services and building economic development for our members.”

This acquisition of additional land for our community was made possible through a joint effort of the Fort McKay Group of Companies LP, Fort McKay Strategic Services Ltd., and Fort McKay First Nation. A Ministerial Order for the additions to the reserve was signed by a representative

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(Story continued from p.1)

for the Crown, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Marc Miller, in January 2022, and the land was officially made reserve on February 17, 2022.

These additional parcels of land align with our community's goal to determine and manage resources on our territory, including rights to our traditional land and territories. We are currently undergoing the development of a Land Code

specific to our own reserve lands through the Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management. This groundbreaking land code will enable our community to fully realize its land stewardship by recognizing our legal authority to create laws regarding our properties and resources and opt out of land and resource management provisions set by the Indian Act. The land code has been designed through a multi-year-long committee process that includes

members of Fort McKay and legal experts and will be voted upon by community members later in 2022 for approval.

Many steps have already been taken to enhance our community, and through land management and careful stewardship of our resources, our community will be able to continue to create a vibrant and thriving community for generations to come.

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

POOL TOURNAMENT WINNERS!!



A big congratulations to Roy McDonald, Gilbert Estes and Steve Benoit along with other team mates who won the Fort McMurray Pool Tournament last month! The winning team was invited to participate in the Shane Goodrunning 1st Memorial Hockey, Softball, and Pool Tournament in Red Deer Alberta.





SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 16-19, 2022

CELEBRATING
COMMUNITY,
CULTURE &
CONNECTION



FORT MCKAY
FIRST NATION

FEATURING
BIG WRECK
STEPHANIE HARPE EXPERIENCE
STREETHEART



BIG WRECK



FREDERICK MCDONALD A STEP TOWARD R



Frederick McDonald speaking at the unveiling of the Indigenous Reconciliation Artworks

The Municipality of Wood Buffalo unveiled the Indigenous Reconciliation Artworks during a meaningful ceremony in Council Chambers on April 25th. This project is a part of the Municipality's efforts in dedicating and taking responsibility toward the truth and reconciliation that is aimed at recognizing the Indigenous People's true stories and lived experiences.

The initiative was initially launched in 2019, and most of the artwork featured in the Council Chambers was created by Frederick McDonald, who was selected as the lead artist for the project. The paintings were designed to represent our connection to the land and the waters, along with the shared history, traditions, and lived experiences, in a way that honors Indigenous culture.

Elder Robert Cree introduced the ceremony by offering a blessing which included words from Elder Alice Martin, who started the journey and

helped create the group known as The Circle of Knowledge and Artistic Expression. As residential school survivors, the group shared their stories and lived experiences with Frederick and how this influenced and shaped their lives. Frederick then used his artistic expression to convey their experiences, stories, or emotions without the use of words. The Seven Sacred Teachings of Honesty, Love, Humility, Wisdom, Courage, and Respect were also implemented into Frederick's work.

In addition to Frederick's art, a Talking Stick that Elder Shirley Arthurs created is also displayed in the Council Chamber. This piece symbolizes the sharing circle which was implemented and used to help bring agreements between the group when selecting the artist and deciding on design concepts throughout the brainstorming stages.

In a press release, Mayor Sandy Bowman shared that "The artworks in our Council Chambers help



'S ARTWORK UNVEILED: RECONCILIATION

us acknowledge the truth of Indigenous Peoples and their experiences” and expressed hope that these pieces could establish unity and offer insights. “We can—and we will—continue to recognize Indigenous Peoples lived experiences and their everlasting contributions to this region. My deepest appreciation goes to everyone that played a role in making this a reality.”

The main purpose of these paintings is to begin the conversation towards and along the path of Truth and Reconciliation.



Mayor Sandy Bowman

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

RARA 2022

This year's event will be hosted on
June 11th, 2022. Check out our
Facebook for more details soon!



GLASSMASTERS! SHOW US YOUR CRACK!



Photo Caption: Jamie Goddard, GlassMasters VP Sales & Development (left) and Roger Tulk, GlassMasters President/CEO watch GlassMasters Edmonton Shop Foreman Jared Hooey, put in a new windshield.

Fort McKay First Nation's Chief and Council are diversifying the Nation's economic portfolio to allow Fort McKay First Nation to continue to provide a full range of services and programs to members even when oil prices dip. GlassMasters Auto Glass is another addition to the FMFN Business portfolio, with Fort McKay having a 40 per cent stake in the 12 locations across western Canada. Business is booming at all 12 locations in Lethbridge, Calgary, Airdrie, Red Deer, Edmonton, Sherwood Park, Saskatoon and Regina.

As Owners there is discount for Fort McKay Members. Any member who calls one of the GlassMasters stores or goes on-line simply needs to identify themselves as a Fort McKay member and they will automatically receive a \$25 discount on autoglass replacement and rock chip repairs at half price (retail is \$40, members \$20). They can also access the same discount by going to the GlassMasters site and putting "Fort McKay" in the promo code box.

Store locations and contact info as well as access to our on-line/quoting site can be found at:
<https://glassmastersautoglass.com/get-a-quote.html>



Annual Spring Home MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST



- Replace smoke detector and carbon monoxide batteries
- Test smoke detectors and carbon monoxide and replace if older than ten years
- Check electrical outlets for fire hazard
- Change air filter and clean vents
- Re-caulk around windows, bathroom vanities, tubs, or showers if needed
- Clean lint trapped in the dryer and check the outside vent for buildup
- Replace burnt-out light bulbs
- Check the roof for any potential damages
- Clean leaves and debris from gutters
- Inspect roof, brickwork, siding for any damages
- Touch up exterior paint
- Prune trees and shrubs
- Inspect yard for wet spots and install drainage
- Check your deck for wear and re-stain if needed



HOCKEY SEASONS MANY GREAT



Dayton Wilson who plays for the Fort McMurray Junior Oil Barons AA was asked to play with Hobema at the Native Provincials and they won the tournament in the U11 category.
Way to go Dayton!!



We would also like to congratulate Team Bouchier Bulls for winning the first Annual Shane Goodrunning Memorial Hockey Tournament that was held in Red Deer Alberta. The Bouchier Bulls won the grand prize of \$22,000, along with a trophy and medals!

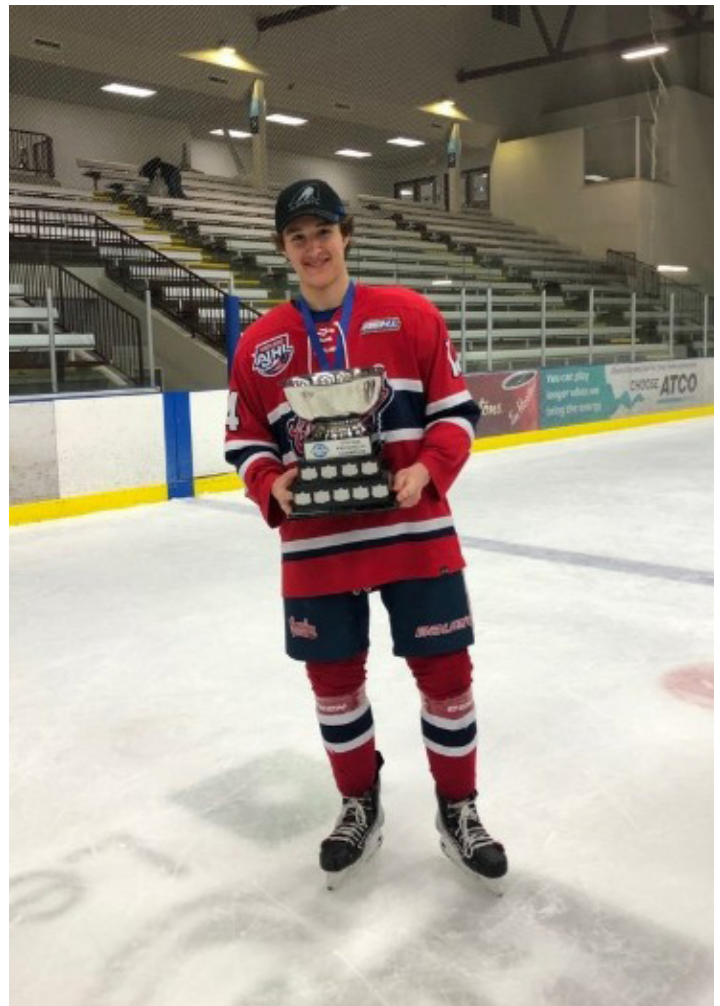


ON ENDS WITH T VICTORIES

Congratulations to Brogan Fischer and his team, the Canadian Athletic Club (CAC) Canadians, for winning this year's U16 AAA Provincial Championship playoff tournament! The last game of the season ended with the CAC Canadians beating the Calgary Royals with a score of 5-2 in Grande Prairie on April 10th. The last time the CAC Canadians became the provincial champions was in 2014, and this is the first time the team received the Alberta Elite Hockey League's first U16 AAA banner since its transition from the Alberta Minor Midget Hockey League.

Brogan has been playing hockey since he was able to put skates on at around the age of three and has been playing hockey ever since. Since he was seven, Brogan has been part of the Wood Buffalo team and played in the Native Provincials almost every year. He is now sixteen years old, and his positions include playing, center, right-wing, or left-wing. In the first game of Provincial Championships, Brogan was awarded game MVP and finished the tournament tied for third in scoring!

While the season ended really well for him and his team, they did experience some challenges throughout the year. One particular challenge involved the limited ice time he and his team got in 2020-21 due to the pandemic restrictions. Last year, Brogan only played five games total. He shared that this season also started off slow this year, and it took Brogan a while to get back into the game. Brogan also dislocated his shoulder at the start of the season, which took a few weeks to recover. "It was pretty hard cause once I got back, I had to recover and missed a few games, and it took a while to get my confidence back." Brogan takes his sport very seriously and trains often; in addition to playing hockey, he trains once a week with his team and twice a week with his personal trainer. He is very thankful for his trainer Marla Grant and his family for the



continued support throughout the season. Brogan is currently a student at Louie St Laurent Hockey Academy where he attributes a lot of his late season success leading up to Provincial Championships.

Hockey season may be over, but that does not mean it's over for Brogan, as he plans to participate in various hockey camps this summer and prepare himself for the U18 AAA hockey league next season. In the future Brogan is hoping to play the next level of hockey, Junior A, then to play in the NCAA Division 1 while pursuing a college education. Brogan would like to thank Fort McKay First Nation and Fort McKay Metis Nation and the Wood Buffalo Youth Hockey Association for all their



STAYING BUSY WITH THE YOUTH CENTRE



Some lucky youth got the opportunity to take a trip down south and visit Blue Rein Ranch from March 31st to April 3rd, 2022. The weekend was hosted by the Family Support Center and offered a great activities that encouraged the group to get out of their comfort zones, build confidence, and get in touch with nature. We would like to send a big thank you to the Family Support Centre for doing such an excellent job running these trips. Everyone who visited Blue Rein Ranch had so much fun and really enjoyed themselves!



On April 8th - 10th 2022, some youth participated in an informative session that took place that focused on important topics like Drugs/Addiction, Gang violence, Racism, and the benefits of higher education. This event took place at the Youth Centre but was organized and ran by the Family Support Centre.

Another big thank you to the Family Support Centre for hosting such a practical and educational event for our youth!



NORTHERN SPIRITS ARE BACK!

2022 NORTHERN SPIRITS GAME SCHEDULE

MAY 1ST - NORTHERN SPIRITS VS WEST EDMONTON OLEXIUK 2:00 PM
(EXHIBITION GAME)

MAY 7TH - NORTHERN SPIRITS VS WETASKIWIN
SHELL PLACE 11:00 AM

MAY 15TH - NORTHERN SPIRITS VS WEST EDMONTON
MILLWOODS @ :20 AM

MAY 28TH - SEMI FINALS

JUNE 6TH - FINALS



Here is a photo of our very own
Fort McKay athletes
after their first game with
the Fort McMurray Raven's
on April 3rd, 2022, in Edmonton.

Alicia Gladue, Keon Grandjambe,
Exzander Mercredi, and Sonny Pruden.



LAND CODE- MY

Fort McKay First Nation became a signatory to the Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management in 2007. The Framework Agreement provides a process for the Nation to take back control over land and resources from Canada and puts decision-making in the hands of Fort McKay members – where it should be.

The Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management is not new. In the 23 years that the Framework Agreement has been in effect across Canada, over 100 First Nations have opted out of the land management provisions of the Indian Act and adopted their own unique land codes. At the same time myths and misconceptions about what the Framework Agreement does and does not do have been floating around creating confusion and uncertainty about land codes.

It is important that all Fort McKay members have a clear understanding of what accepting the Framework Agreement and adopting a land code means for Fort McKay First Nation. The following are some common Myths and Facts relating to the Framework Agreement and Land Codes:

MYTH: The Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management is a federal government program.

FACT: No, it is a nation-to-nation agreement that is being implemented by First Nations and Canada. The Framework Agreement was a specific arrangement sought, developed and driven by First Nations as an alternative to the Indian Act lands provisions.

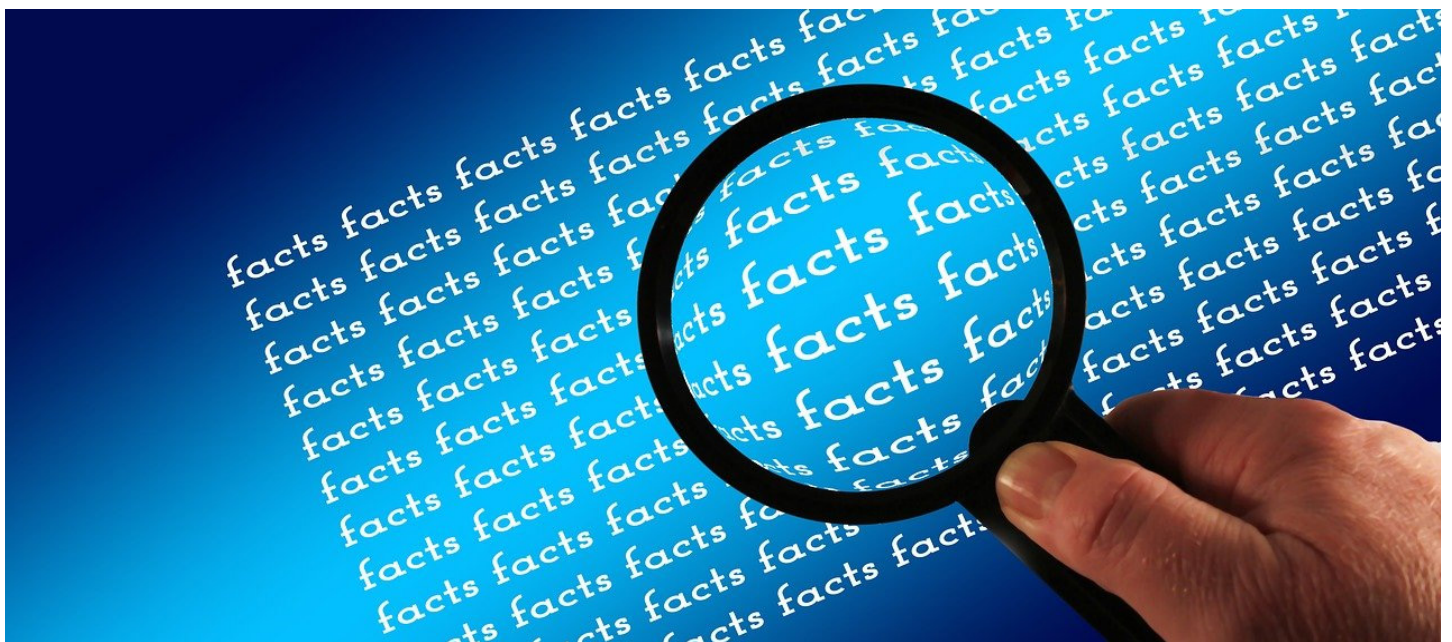
MYTH: If Fort McKay adopts a Land Code it will become a “Municipality”

FACT: Municipalities are creations of provincial law and subject to provincial legislation. First Nations are not brought under provincial authority or made municipalities under the Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management.

MYTH: The Land Code prevents First Nations from asserting Aboriginal Title over Lands

FACT: Aboriginal and treaty rights are not affected by the Framework Agreement or adoption of a land code. First Nation ability to make Aboriginal Title claims to unceded or traditional lands are not changed.

MYTH: The Land Code facilitates the creation of Fee Simple title (private ownership) out of Reserve Lands



MYTHS AND FACTS

FACT: The Framework Agreement forbids the creation of such title. First Nation Lands continue to retain the same protections as “Lands Reserved for the Indians” under section 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867.

MYTH: The Framework Agreement and Land Code is about getting rid of lands reserved for the Indians

FACT: No in fact the opposite occurs as follows:

- **Lands retain section 91(24) status as defined by the Constitution Act**
- **Surrender for sale of reserve land is prohibited**
- **Expropriation of land by the province or utility companies is prohibited**
- **Expropriation of land by the federal Crown is very restricted to a national public purpose, for as short a time as possible, with a reversion to reserve status after the use is over.**

MYTH: Land Code will create taxation

FACT: A land code does not deal with taxation. Fort McKay already has a property tax bylaw that only applies to the Industrial Park tenants and pipeline permits.

MYTH: The Framework Agreement is an unstudied, unproven experiment with no statistics or tangible outcomes

FACT: There are many First Nations that have been operating under their own land codes for more than 23 years now. 103 First Nations in Canada have developed, approved and implemented their own land codes.

FACT: Once a First Nation approves and implements its own land code, they can never go back to the Indian Act lands provisions
This is true. Despite governance challenges of Operational First Nations, none have indicated a willingness to go back. For some First Nations, the land code has become part of broader self-government arrangements.

A wealth of information and studies are readily available on the First Nation Land Management Resource Center website and the websites of most Operational First Nations.

Myths and Facts Source: First Nation Land Management Resource Center website
– April 20, 2022.

Scan the QR code below to access the FMLM Resource Center website:



COMING SOON IN MAY!

Member information sessions:

Framework Agreement on First Nation
Land Management & Fort McKay First
Nation Land Code.

DATES and LOCATIONS will be posted
in the community and online.





INDIGENOUS EARLY LEARNING CHILD CARE ONLINE PROGRAM

FOR THE RURAL WOOD BUFFALO REGION INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY MEMBERS



This opportunity to start a career in child care is open to all Indigenous community members residing in the rural Wood Buffalo Region.

COMPLETE THIS 1-YEAR CERTIFICATE IN JUST 32-WEEKS ONLINE!

Graduates of this online program are able to be employed as:

- Early Childhood Educators in daycares, preschools or out of school care programs
- Day home providers
- Infant Child Development Workers
- Family Resource Centre Workers

Program provides students with:

- Level 2 Early Childhood Educator Certificate (Level 1 NOT needed to take Level 2)
- Skills to support exploration through play
- Skills to observe and properly document a child's learning and behaviour
- Skills to foster creativity by actively engaging children in meaningful exploration
- Skills to create vibrant environments for children in a variety of child care settings

Participants must:

- Be an First Nation, Indigenous, Inuit, or Métis person residing within the rural Wood Buffalo Region.
- A Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Check will be required of all participants prior to acceptance into the program.
- Complete an Accuplacer Test

If you are interested in this program, please contact:

Korissa Goudie

Employment & Training Project Coordinator | Athabasca Tribal Council

780-598-9951 | Korissa.Goudie@atcfnc.ca





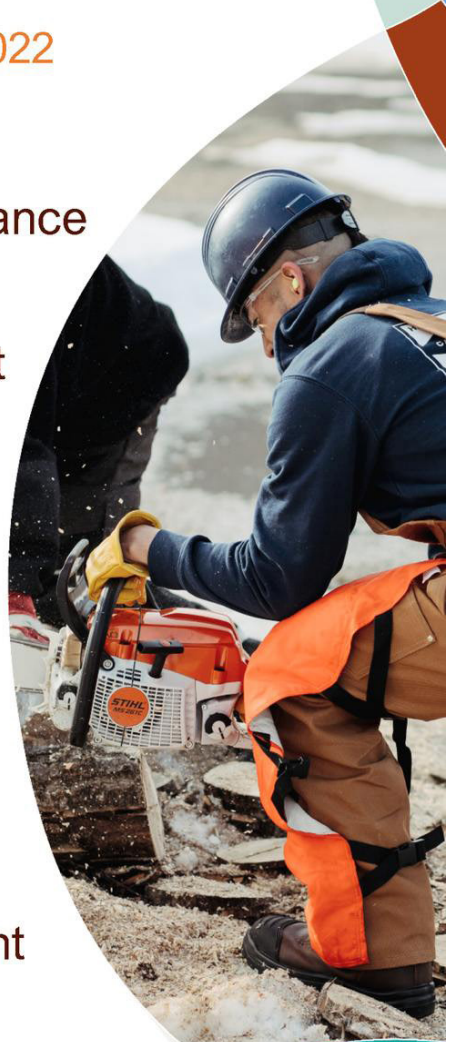
Construction Craft Worker Training

Edmonton Program: July 4, 2022 – August 26, 2022

- ✓ For First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people
- ✓ Great opportunity to get started and advance in a construction trades career!
- ✓ Graduates are connected to employment opportunities and great wages from the Laborers' International Union of North America
- ✓ Access to training for numerous tickets
- ✓ No cost to participate; living allowance is available to eligible candidates

To apply, call **(877) 362-4771** or email **edmonton@twts.ca** to book an appointment to attend an info session!

Deadline to apply is May 27, 2022!



In partnership with:



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Wellness Center May Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Kickball (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	3 Playground Games (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Just Dance/Karaoke Club (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	4 Archery (Ages 8+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Book Club (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	5 Junior Leaders Night (Ages 10+) 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	6 No School - TOWN SCHOOLS Open 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Field Trip – Mac Island (Ages 6+) *Permission Slip Required* Bus Leaves at 11:30 pm Bus returns at 3:00 pm
9 Spring Community Clean Up (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	10 Relay Races/Obstacle Course (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Young Chefs (Ages 8+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	11 Origami Craft Night (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Book Club (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	12 Junior Leaders Night (Ages 10+) 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	13 TEEN NIGHT (Ages 9+) Field Trip – Mac Island *Permission Slip Required* Bus Leaves at 5:30 pm Bus returns at 10:00 pm
16 Street Hockey (Ages 8+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Gardening Club (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	17 Playground Games (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Just Dance/Karaoke Club (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	18 Archery (Ages 8+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Book Club (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	19 Junior Leaders Night (Ages 10+) 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	20 No School - ALL SCHOOLS Open 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Field Trip – Bowling (Ages 6+) *Permission Slip Required* Bus Leaves at 1:00 pm Bus returns at 5:00 pm
23 Wellness Center CLOSED Victoria Day	24 Relay Races/Obstacle Course (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Young Chefs (Ages 8+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	25 Origami Craft Night (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Book Club (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	26 Junior Leaders Night (Ages 10+) 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	27 PRE-TEEN NIGHT (Ages 6-8) Field Trip – Movies *Permission Slip Required* Bus Leaves at 5:30 pm Bus returns at 10:00 pm
30 Soccer (Ages 8+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Gardening Club (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	31 Playground Games (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Just Dance/Karaoke Club (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	31 Archery (Ages 8+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Book Club (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	*Homework Help is available every evening 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm during the week. Please call to arrange for your child to get tutoring/homework help. **Scheduled activities are subject to change on short notice due to Covid-19 public health guidelines.	

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

