



October 2022

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# FORT MCKAY HOSTS FOURTH ANNUAL POW WOW



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After taking a two-year break due to COVID restrictions, Fort McKay First Nation was finally able to host its fourth annual Pow Wow on September 23rd to the 25th. The ceremony brought in many visitors and dancers of all ages from various communities to participate in the event and experience a part of our culture. "It is a pleasure to once again welcome everyone to the Fort McKay Annual Pow

Wow," shared FMFN Chief Mel Grandjamb in a press release.

The Pow Wow was held across the road from the Band Hall at the Arbor and welcomed hundreds of people from surrounding communities. There was no registration fee, and the event was open to anyone who wanted to attend. Shuttle services were also available to help bring people

*(Story continued on p.2)*

# FORT MCKAY HOSTS FOU



## 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

## 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](mailto:communications@fortmckay.com)

*(Story continued from p1)*  
to and from the community, and  
camping was available on-site  
at no cost for travelers from  
outside the area.

The event started on Friday  
evening with a Grand Entry and  
continued through the entire  
weekend, and involved  
traditional food, dancing,  
activities, and music for

everyone to enjoy! The Pow  
Wow hosted various types of  
traditional dances and  
competitions, while the drums  
were felt throughout the entire  
community. The Arbor was  
filled with stunning colors that  
came from the beautiful regalia  
worn by participants of all ages  
who danced to the beat of the  
drum.



# URTH ANNUAL POW WOW



Each day also involved traditional feasts and fun activities like moose calling, laughing, drumming contests, and a potato dance that continued throughout the evening until 10 pm. “This gathering of our people, family, and friends, is a celebration of our traditions, our dance, our food, and our music,” said Chief Grandjamb.

“It honours both our past and our future.”

The annual Pow Wow showcased our community’s commitment to preserving our culture and Indigenous tradition. “Through celebrations like the Fort McKay Pow Wow, we bring our rich history to life,” said Chief Grandjamb.

We are happy to share that the Pow Wow had another extraordinary turnout and was a great success! We would like to thank all of the volunteers and staff who went above and beyond to help make this event possible. To view more photos, check out Fort McKay First Nation’s Facebook page.



# FORT MCKAY CELEBRATES NEW ELSIE FABIAN



Ribbon cutting ceremony

It's been a month since school started again, and that means a month since the Elsie Fabian school has been fully operational! After several years of collaboration, planning, coordinating, building the school, and hiring the proper staff, the Elsie Fabian school finally opened its doors to students ranging from kindergarten to grade ten on September 6, 2022. "At the moment, we have over 145 students registered", explained Fort McKay's Director of Education, Christine Gullion.

The school's grand opening was celebrated on September 1, when teachers, students, parents, community members, and Chief and Council united to celebrate a truly historic achievement. During the grand opening, Chief Mel Grandjamb shared the benefits the Elsie Fabian school will bring to our community, "We're focused on our culture, and we're focused on our future."

The Fort McKay First Nation funded the new thirty-five-million-dollar building with the help of the federal government funds and

sponsorships from various oil sands and other construction companies. The school comprises 5,000 square meters of space that includes large classrooms, a library, a full-sized gymnasium with a second-story running track, shop classes, an art room, and a spiritual area where students can go to participate in smudging ceremonies.

What makes this school unique from other schools is that it is operated and managed independently by our community. Its curriculum will offer a modified version of the Alberta education system that incorporates our community's culture and better reflects the needs of our students. Some new programs students can look forward to include Dene and Cree Language classes and culture and Land-Based Education, where they will be able to learn about their rich local history and discover the traditions and stories that come from Dene and Cree culture. In addition to these programs, the school is also planning to host cultural camps at Moose Lake, where students will learn how to trap, hunt, fish, cook,



# BRATES OPENING OF BIAN SCHOOL



build shelters, and identify plants and animals. "These new initiatives will help promote and preserve our languages, history, and culture, revitalize our community, and improve our students and our community's overall success," shared Gullion.

And there is also plenty of room to host various sporting and after-school activities which all community members will benefit from. Everyone is encouraged to check out Fort McKay's Facebook page to learn about the various fun after-school activities that are currently happening.

The school was named after the late and memorable Elsie Fabian, a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who was engaged and passionate about education. She dedicated over 25 years of her life to education as the Fort McKay Local School Board Committee Chairperson and Northland School Division No. 61 Board of Trustees member. The education department stated "It is our sincerest hope that her tenacity, commitment to life-long learning and her cultural and traditional connectedness will be a lesson and inspiration to many, while at the same time honouring her memory."





FORT MCKAY  
FIRST NATION

# INTRODUCING NEW IN OUR COMMUNITY

## DARREL LABOUCAN



We would like to welcome Darrel Laboucan, who is the new Sergeant (CPO 1) of the Peace Officer and Bylaw program of Fort McKay First Nation. In his role, Darrel's main responsibilities will mainly focus on supervising other peace officers, communicating with the RCMP, and handling various issues that may arise within our community.

Darrel has been an RCMP member for 12 years now and holds extensive investigative and supervisory experience. Before this position, he worked in Fort Chipewyan, Slave Lake, Wabasca-Desmarais, and most recently in Fort McMurray. He was promoted to Corporal in 2018 and spent a large part of that time as an acting Operations NCO and an acting Watch Commander.

Throughout his experience in the RCMP, he shared that he most enjoyed working in Indigenous communities. He is passionate about his work and is looking forward to utilizing his past policing experience with the peace officer team and making our community safer. "I feel this is a great and unique opportunity, and I am excited to get to know everyone and be part of this community."

Darrel is already familiar with Fort McKay and has spent much time here through various sporting events. "I also have some friends here and am looking forward to making new connections in the community."

When he is not working, he loves spending time with his family. "Aside from my policing experience, I am most proud of my young family; my fiancée Cassandra and my three beautiful children: Benjamin, Abigail, and Emma." During his spare time, Darrel also enjoys playing golf and coaching; he was involved in the last four Arctic Winter Games as a coach for Team Alberta North in Alaska, Greenland, Yukon, and the NWT.



## BEVERLY OLLERHEAD

We would like to welcome Beverly Ollerhead, who was recently hired as Fort McKay First Nation's Housing Manager. Some of her responsibilities will be to provide clean, comfortable, and safe housing to all community members, manage housing requests and oversee all public housing properties within our community. Beverly is also there to help community members with applications and the day-to-day functioning of the Housing, Construction & Facilities Maintenance Department.

She holds an honors degree in the Administrative Travel and Tourism Program and has worked in property management for over 12 years. "Working in the Hospitality Industry helped develop my interest in Property Management and introduced me to the Accommodation and Housing Field. Fort McMurray has been my home since 2009, and I have worked in property management since then."



Although Beverly has no previous connection with Fort McKay, she is excited to work here and get to know everyone. "I love that there is very much a sense of pride and community here. The respect and consideration given to the Elders is admirable, and it speaks volumes to know that the sacrifice and experience of those who blazed the way is woven into the fabric of how the community moves forward".

Aside from work, Beverly loves to spend time with her family and is a dedicated wife, mom, and grandmother. She and her husband have two grown children and five grandchildren. "My family is my world." She and her family have made Fort McMurray their home and enjoy the diversity the Wood Buffalo region has offered. "We are humbled by the acceptance we have experienced in this region."

She looks forward to sharing some of her knowledge, mentorship, and support where it is needed and in a way that will grow and advance our community. "It is my privilege to be a part of this community, and I hope to exceed the expectations entrusted to me."



# FORT MCKAY GROUP OF COMPANIES JOINS VENTURE PARTNERSHIP WITH IMPERIAL OIL



*Chief Mel Grandjamb and Councillors standing with Fort McKay Group of Companies, Graham and Imperial representatives, in front of FMGOC's Every Child Matters haul truck in efforts to raise awareness of residential schools at Kearl site.*

Earlier this year, Fort McKay Group of Companies signed a joint venture deal with Imperial Oil, which Imperial Oil announced as the largest contract they have ever entered with any Indigenous company. "Never before at Imperial have contracts of this scale been provided through Indigenous-owned companies," shared Kearl production manager Jamie Long.

Through Fort McKay Graham, this new venture allows Fort McKay Group of Companies to manage 38 million cubic meters of land through work such as land reclamation, mining support services, and earthwork at Kearl. The terms of these heavy construction projects comprise a \$250 million, five-year contract with Imperial Oil.

"We're excited to bring the combined capabilities of the Fort McKay Group of Companies (FMGOC) and Graham to Kearl," says Sami Saad, chief executive officer at Fort McKay Group of Companies. "This is an opportunity for us to show industry in the region that we have a presence in the mining and heavy equipment space and we are successful, safe, and efficient at delivering quality service."

In addition to financial prospects, this deal may also generate employment opportunities for community members. "Having secured this contract allows our nation and surrounding Indigenous communities to benefit in terms of building employment capacity, investment into education, housing and health," explains Saad.

For more information about Fort McKay Graham or other business ventures from Fort McKay Group of Companies, check out their website at: [www.fortmckaygroup.com](http://www.fortmckaygroup.com)



Elders were invited to a Spa day on September the 11th at the Elders Centre, and those who attended were pampered with a choice of getting their hair cut and styled, receiving facials, or getting their nails done. In addition to these services, delightful snacks and refreshments were also provided by Rose Beaton. Everyone really enjoyed themselves and came out looking great and feeling very relaxed!



## *Elders Spa Day*



Family  
Support  
Center



FORT MCKAY  
FIRST NATION

## AA & NA Meetings

Family Support will be hosting AA & NA meetings  
every Monday at 8:00 pm at the Family Support Centre.

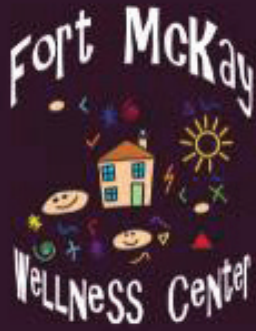
Current dates set:

Sept 26, Oct 3, Oct 17, Oct 24

*More dates to follow.*

**We are here to help.**





# CASINO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Fort McKay Wellness Center is looking for volunteers to help with our upcoming Casino fundraiser on Wednesday, October 12th and Thursday, October 13th, 2022 at **Rivers Casino and Entertainment Center** in Fort McMurray. We are seeking volunteers for the following shifts:

## Wednesday, October 12th :

3:00 PM to 8:30 PM (4 volunteers- General Manager, Banker, Cashier and Chip runner)

8:15 PM to 1:45 AM (4 volunteers- General Manager, Banker, Cashier and Chip runner)

9:00 PM to 1:45 AM (6 volunteers- Count Room)

## Thursday, October 13th :

3:00 PM to 9:00 PM (4 volunteers- General Manager, Banker, Cashier and Chip runner)

8:45 PM to 2:45 AM (4 volunteers- General Manager, Banker, Cashier and Chip runner)

10:00 PM to 2:45 AM (6 volunteers- Count Room)

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Julia Soucie at 780-838-1812 or email at [fortmckaywellnesscenter@hotmail.ca](mailto:fortmckaywellnesscenter@hotmail.ca)

The Fort McKay Wellness Center is a Non-Profit Organization so we rely on fundraisers to help fund the many programs that we have to offer. This is a major fundraiser for us, so we can use all the help we can get! All volunteers receive free food from the casino restaurant during their shift and we will also provide Tim Hortons to keep everyone awake. All volunteers must be 18 years of age or older, have no criminal record, and are not permitted to gamble or consume alcohol at the casino during the two days of the event (October 12th and 13th).

**Thank you for all your support!**



# LET'S PLAY BALL With the Wellness Center



On July 9th, the Fort McKay Wellness Center and the Jays Care Foundation hosted a Jays Care Cross Country Celebration Day at Fort McKay's Baseball Diamond. The event was open to all community members and included special guest appearances from the Jays Care Foundation, who flew in from Toronto to host an unforgettable day for the entire community!

The Girls at Bat Program teaches the basic fundamentals of baseball through a variety of skills, drills, and activities to help boost confidence and instill a love of sport for self-identifying girls. "Everyone who attended the event enjoyed a day of baseball drills, team-building exercises, and most of all, they all had lots of Fun!" shared Julia Soucie, Director of the Fort McKay Wellness Center.

A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to the Jays Care Foundation for this fantastic partnership with the Fort McKay Wellness Center and for helping us to introduce the sport of baseball to girls and everyone in the community!





# Fun Activities for Adults

**OCTOBER 6TH**

**Cookie decoration @ 5:30 pm**

**OCTOBER 11TH**

**DIY Halloween Craft @ 4:45 pm**

**OCTOBER 18TH**

**Icing cake decoration @ 5 pm**

*Registration is mandatory for all workshops as supplies are limited. Call 780-714-7094 for more info!*

Join us for a fun family  
Halloween activity!

## Pumpkin Carving Contest

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October 25, 2022, 6 PM  
At the Band Hall

Pumpkins and Décor supplies will be available  
(until supplies last). *Feel free to bring your own!*

# Have a Safe Halloween!

Halloween is a fun time for children. However when combined with costumes, the weather, and darkness, the excitement of the night can pose danger to little ones. We can't control the weather or the darkness. But we can do a few things to keep Halloween safe.

## COSTUMES

- Ensure footwear and costumes fit properly and provide protection against weather conditions.
- Ensure costumes aren't a tripping hazard.
- Add reflective tape to costumes and treat bags. This ensures your child is visible in the dark.
- Choose costumes, beards and wigs labeled "flame-resistant".
- Choose face paint or make-up instead of a mask that can interfere with your child's vision.
- If your child is wearing a mask or a head piece, ensure they can see clearly from the front and both sides, and that it doesn't interfere with their breathing.
- Never allow your child to carry a sharp or dangerous costume prop, such as a knife or sword.

## TRICK-OR-TREATING

- Children are safest if they trick-or-treat in groups. Don't let them trick-or-treat alone.
- Accompany your child until you feel comfortable that they are old enough to go without supervision.
- Remind your child that the same safe road rules apply when trick-or-treating as they do any other night. Always walk on sidewalks, and cross the street at crosswalks or street corners only.
- Teach kids to trick-or-treat in well-lit areas, and only visit homes that have outside lights turned on.
- Pack a flashlight in your child's trick-or-treat bag.
- Remind your child never to go inside a stranger's home or car.
- Before your child digs into their treat bag, be sure to inspect all goodies.
- Discard all candy that has a loose, broken, open wrapper, homemade candy or baked goods provided by people you don't know.
- Wash all fruit, and cut it into pieces to inspect it before eating.



In conjunction with Mobile Mammography Services,  
Screen Test presents

## A virtual workshop about Breast Health

*(This session is open to anyone interested in learning more)*

**Thursday October 13, 2022**  
**1:00pm to 2:00pm**



At the end of the session participants will:

- Know the importance of mammograms and who should be screened
- Know how to minimize breast cancer risks
- Know the signs to look out for during breast examination
- Know how to book an appointment with Screen Test
- Know what to expect during and after an appointment

Registration is required. Please email:  
**Screen.Test@ahs.ca**



# October

with





Program being offered	M	T	W	T	F
					1
Wellness for Caregivers	<b>Anzac 3</b> Rec Centre 11am -12pm <b>FMFN 468</b> Quonset 1pm-2:30pm	<b>4</b> <b>Janvier</b> Health Centre 1pm- 2pm	<b>5</b> <b>Fort McKay</b> Youth Centre 1pm- 2pm	<b>6</b> <b>Conklin</b> Rec Centre 1pm -2pm	<b>7</b>
Stay & Play	<b>10</b> <b>Hub on Wheels program cancelled</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Janvier</b> Health Centre 1pm- 2pm	<b>12</b> <b>Fort McKay</b> Youth Centre 1pm- 2pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
Story Time	<b>17</b> <b>Anzac</b> Rec Centre 11am until 12pm	<b>18</b> <b>Janvier</b> Health Centre 1pm -2pm	<b>19</b> <b>Fort McKay</b> Youth Centre 1pm- 2pm	<b>20</b> <b>Fort McKay</b> Indigenous Women & Mothers Group Band Hall 1:30pm-2:30	<b>21</b>
	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
Hub on Wheels programming cancelled					
Halloween Fun	<b>31</b> <b>Anzac</b> Rec Centre 11am until 12pm	 <b>THE HUB</b> FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE			



# COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

## Wellness Center October Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>3</b> Young Chefs (Ages 8+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Playground Games (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	<b>4</b> Gamers Club (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm-7:30 pm  Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm-8:30 pm	<b>5</b> Board Game Night (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm-7:30 pm  Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm-8:30 pm	<b>6</b> Junior Leaders Night (Ages 10+)  6:00 pm-8:30 pm	<b>7</b> NO SCHOOL DAY Open 8:30am-4:30pm Field Trip – SAP (Ages 6+) *Permission Slip Required* Bus Leaves at 12:30 pm Bus Returns at 4:30 pm
<b>10</b> Wellness Center CLOSED  Thanksgiving Holiday	<b>11</b> DIY Night (Ages 8+) 6:00 pm-7:30 pm STEAM Activities (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm-8:30 pm	<b>12</b> Wellness Center CLOSED  Casino Fundraiser	<b>13</b> Wellness Center CLOSED  Casino Fundraiser	<b>14</b> TEEN NIGHT (Ages 10+) Field Trip – Mac Island *Permission Slip Required* Bus Leaves at 5:30 pm Bus Returns at 9:30 pm
<b>17</b> Young Chefs (Ages 8+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Playground Games (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	<b>18</b> DIY Night (Ages 8+) 6:00 pm-7:30 pm STEAM Activities (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm-8:30 pm	<b>19</b> Board Game Night (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm-7:30 pm Pool Tournament (Ages 8+) 6:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm-8:30 pm	<b>20</b> Junior Leaders Night (Ages 10+)  6:00 pm-8:30 pm	<b>21</b> NO SCHOOL DAY Wellness Center Open 8:30 am -2:30pm  HALLOWEEN VIDEO DANCE PARTY 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
<b>24</b> Young Chefs (Ages 8+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Playground Games (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	<b>25</b> Wellness Center CLOSED At 6:00 PM  Family Pumpkin Carving At the Band Hall 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	<b>26</b> Board Game Night (Ages 6+) 6:00 pm-7:30 pm Pool Tournament (Ages 8+) 6:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Choice (Ages 10+) 7:30 pm-8:30 pm	<b>27</b> Junior Leaders Night (Ages 10+)  6:00 pm-8:30 pm	<b>28</b> NO SCHOOL DAY Open 8:30am-4:30pm Field Trip – Birchwood Trails (Ages 6+) *Permission Slip Required* Bus Leaves at 12:30 pm Bus Returns at 4:30 pm
<b>31</b> Halloween Crafts and Trick or Treating at Wellness 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm  Wellness CLOSED at 6:00 PM	<div>  <p>On Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> the Wellness Center will be hosting our Halloween Party at the Wellness Center in the morning before going on A field trip to the Birchwood Trails to go hiking. Children are invited to wear their costumes on the trails for a spooky walk!</p>  </div>			

## 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

