

# Red River Current News|letter

A Fort McKay First Nation Publication

Volume 13: Issue 3 • March 2023



## Arctic Winter Games 2023 a Great Success!



Fort McKay First Nation Chief and Council would like to acknowledge everyone who made the Arctic Winter Games (AWG) such a successful event! Our community was awarded the Fair Play Pin from Team Alaska and Team Nunavut, demonstrating our community's dedication to providing such a great experience to the athletes and their coaches. Furthermore, one of our young Youth Workers, Cold Gladue, was also awarded a Fair Play pin for his kindness and for representing Fort McKay as a true ambassador. His Bleach Doggy hoodies were given to and worn by the visiting athletes, making our community proud of his noticeable good nature.

AWG 2023 started on January 29th at Legacy Dodge Field with Elder Lina Gallup lighting up the cauldron during the opening ceremony and featured a performance of this year's theme song 'Time to Shine' by our

very own Kaydence Gladue. The song was presented and co-written with Zion Afuang, Darren Mercredi, Rory O'Hearn, Dan Tulk, Katie Williams, and Jerome Cardinal. The artists collectively wrote Time to Shine following the region-wide artist call in January 2021. Theme Song Committee Co-chair Rick Kirschner describes the song as "a cultural celebration of our region and the event itself" and stated that he was thrilled that it was created with such talented locals.

Athletes Alicia Gladue and Tayden Shott did a fantastic job representing Fort McKay First Nation

**(story continue on p.2)**

### MIRANDA BEATON AND HOLLY FORTIER EMCEE AWG

The event was emceed by Miranda Beaton and Holly Fortier, who are quickly becoming the favoured presenters of the region. Both wore handmade ribbon skirts sewn in the official Games colours; a symbol of identity and belonging, used to find common ground and to honour the voices of all the women of all the many different Indigenous and Aboriginal peoples of this land.



**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,  
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**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.

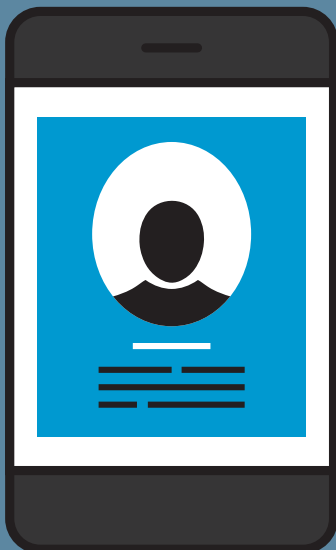
**SUBMISSIONS**

If you have any photos, stories or  
ideas for the Red River Current,  
please contact us at email:  
[communications@fortmckay.com](mailto:communications@fortmckay.com)

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# Arctic Winter Games 2023



*(Story continued from p.1)*

as part of Team Alberta North at the Arctic Winter Games. This year's AWG also included Archery - a sport suitable for anyone who enjoys solitary games; what started as a tool for hunting was officially included as an official sport this year. Tayden represented our community with his archery skills and presence during his first-ever TV interview on APTN News, where Tayden explained the archery

hardware and the importance of remaining calm.

The Speed Skating event required a great deal of effort, and we want to express our gratitude to Simon Adams and his team; they worked so hard to ensure a fast surface for the competitors, which led to athlete Sage Acorn from the Northwest Territories to break two 20-year-old AWG records. He skated a time of 45:02 in the Junior Male 500m competition,



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# 2023 a Great Success!

breaking the old record by an impressive .35 seconds, and also beat the record in the 700m competition. The ice was in perfect condition, and we want to recognize the many track stewards and timers, and Arena Coordinator Jesse Rodriguez for the hard work that went into this before and during the event. Also, we would like to thank Shay Laurent, who was behind coordinating these efforts, and for being present throughout the event.

A-B Originalz, a local Hip-Hop group, also performed during AWG. Beverly McKenzie, Blair Faichney and Felix Faichney (known as Bizzy, Felo Barney Gumble, and Bubbinz Baybee) played in front of hundreds and showcased music from their new album A.B.O. Volume 1.

The Stephanie Harpe Experiences performed at the closing ceremony, which was held at MacDonald Island Park on Saturday, February 4th. Stephanie was joined on stage by Juno-winning Canadian artist Maria Dunn, the Northern World Drummers (Ryan Grandjambe and Randy Martine), and world percussionist Daniel St. Pierre. Together they performed A Warrior's Call, a song

Stephanie wrote a few years ago for the World Indigenous Games in Alberta. The song evokes Indigenous traditions, identity, and sacred relationships with animals; it celebrates Indigenous athletes and addresses the importance of standing up for each other as a Nation.

These games are so much more than just a showcase of sports but also a cultural gathering that offers dance, exhibits, and so much more! This year, AWG also included an Every Child Matters Exhibit that honoured residential and intergenerational school survivors as part of the cultural programming, which aimed to educate viewers as a step toward reconciliation.

The amount of community and staff efforts that went into the accomplishment of this event is massive, and many stepped out of their comfort zones with their roles to make this event such a success. AWG 2023 was an incredible experience for our community to take part of and we would like to thank you all for your participation!



## FORT MCKAY HEALTH CENTRE

Doctor O'Connor and Charlene O'Connor will be in Fort McKay on: March 6-9

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

### Immunizations

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

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

## FORT MCKAY EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

The Employment and Training Center is there to help you with creating/ updating resumes, searching for and applying for jobs, and offering support for employment and training.

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact the office at (780) 828-2478.

## FORT MCKAY 106.3 FM



STAY up to date with the latest news!!

Listening to Fort McKay's community radio station!

## Celebrating Fort McKay Recipients Recognition Awards (RARA) 2023

Fort McKay Chief and Council would like to recognize and applaud all of the members from our community who were honoured at the Wood Buffalo Regional Aboriginal Awards (RARA), which took place on Saturday, February 11th, at the Shell Place Grand Ballroom.

Amongst this year's RARA recipients, we would like to congratulate Jaxson Hunter, Anna Mercredi and Grayson Shott who all received the Junior Achievement Award, and Alicia Gladue, who was recognized as Outstanding Athlete and Female Youth of the Year! Throughout the ceremony, all recipients were presented on stage with a plaque and a written profile that described the unique contributions that each of them have made toward their community.

Jaxson Hunter was recognized for his "quiet, and calm demeanor and his appreciation for his culture and traditional ways. He demonstrates qualities of an exceptional person,

likes to share his cultural background, and is animated as he talks about some of the traditions he carries on with his family. He shares stories with his peers about his Indigenous roots; he smiles and tells you of the things that make him proud to be First Nation. When asked about some traditional ways by our Elder in Residence, he offered his information with a smile and was so respectful. He honours his Indigenous roots by speaking his truth and showing kindness to others."

Anna Mercredi was introduced as "an incredibly talented grade three student who has exemplified school and community involvement at Walter & Gladys Hill Public School. In her classroom, Anna is always writing to share her traditional knowledge of smudging and jingle dancing. As a talented jingle dancer, she has shared her love of dance to the entire school assemblies, as well as for various FMPSD events. Anna has also been a leader at Full Circle Mentorship through a school partnership with Big Sisters Wood Buffalo. She

encourages others to dance to the beat of their own drum, just as she does herself."

Alicia Gladue was presented as "a well-spoken student who promotes social justice. Alicia is very active in her home community, Fort McKay. She is team captain of the Northern Spirits Football team and brought motivation and positivity to a group that often needed it. She made history as the first female to play of the Fort McMurray Saints High School football team, and started a tradition where they smudge before games. Alicia has hopes of going to University after graduation, in the field of Indigenous Language Revitalization, to learn and teach her Cree language."

Grayson was recognized as "one of the hardest working people at school and outside. His involvement in the community is admirable. He has faced challenges and overcomes them and he takes pride in himself and his culture. Grayson is a leader in our classroom. He is always respectful



Alicia Gladue recognized as Outstanding Athlete and Female Youth of the Year



Anna Mercredi received the Junior Achievement Award

# of the Regional Aboriginal

to everyone, including his peers. He never has a bad thing to say about school or people. He is so positive and just an all-around good person. His peers would describe him as a quiet, but nice and helpful boy. He is so proud to be Indigenous. He takes part in as many traditional groups as he can. He recently joined a drumming circle on top of an after-school bead club and dancing Grass Dance. He has been one to sport his braids at school and correct others to teach them about the sacredness of his hair. Grayson is a role model to others in the school. He also played a leading role in our Christmas Concert this year donned in full regalia and showcased his dancing skills”.

Unfortunately Grayson Shott was not able to attend RARA and not receive his award in person, however sent his gratitude for winning the Junior Achievement Award.

Miranda Beaton was also chosen as this year’s emcee and did a wonderful job keeping everyone captivated throughout the evening. Miranda has been emceeing

various events around the Wood Buffalo region and was recently recognized as one of YMM's 2022 Top 50 under 50. Her talents and capacity to host the event were apparent from the positive responses seen from the audience in the room. The evening also included a special performance from the Moose Lake Drummers who presented an honour song recognizing all the recipients, and night was beautifully captured thanks to the talented photographer Nick Vardy, who generously circulated his photos after the event.

This year's keynote speaker was actress, model, host, and First Nation activist from Enoch Cree First Nation Ashley Callingbull. Mrs. Callingbull is recognized across the globe for being the first Canadian and Indigenous woman to win the Mrs. Universe in 2015 and for participating in the 4th season of The Amazing Race Canada. Throughout the evening, she captivated everyone with her story, which left the audience feeling moved and inspired. Callingbull shared that the evening felt like medicine and that it was an

honour for her to connect with the community and build new friendships while honouring youth and individuals who are making such positive contributions. RARA is celebrated every year to recognize and honor individuals who have positively contributed to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. The recipients selected for the awards are chosen for setting examples for others to do well. Categories of recognition included Elder, Leadership, Culture, Outstanding Adult Student, Entrepreneur, Trapper, Outstanding Athlete, Lifetime Achievement, Arts, Female Youth, Male Youth, Citizen of the Year (Female), Citizen of the Year (Male), and lastly Volunteer of the Year.

We wish to congratulate all the nominees and winners from this year’s RARA. Additionally, we would like to recognize that the success of this event would not be possible without the time, efforts, and talent from many people; well done, everyone!



Jaxson Hunter received the Junior Achievement Award



Keynote speaker Ashley Callingbull

# Chief Grandjamb Teaches Students Trapping



Last month, students at Elsie Fabian School learned practical skills for skinning animals trapped on Fort McKay First Nation traditional land. The animals were donated by Chief Mel Grandjamb, who also shared his trapping expertise with the students.

*“It is a privilege to be able to show our youth our land-based values and for them to experience that feeling of working together. We teach the students about love and respect, to be kind to each other and to the animals. It is all about understanding our culture and our values.”*

“I am Chief, but I am also a hunter and trapper and I want to share that knowledge with our youth,” said Chief Grandjamb. “There is no better way to show our youth our culture than to bring them fur.”

“In 1975 I was 10 years old when my father Wilfred first took me out to his trapline on a dog sled. It took three days to get there, and we had to camp outside for three nights. In those days the fur was our only income for the full year. We needed the money to survive.”

“Now I am able to donate the animals I trap to the school for teaching purposes,” said Chief Grandjamb. “I can also share my traditional knowledge with the youth.”

Instructor Junior Poulin, the school’s Land Based Learning Assistant, learned his skills from Chief Grandjamb as they trapped together for the last eight years. “My father taught me and his father taught him,” said Chief Grandjamb. “It used to be all family-based knowledge. Now I am able to pass on that knowledge to our youth.”

“I was very impressed and happy when I found out Junior was hired to be an instructor,” he said. “I taught him and now he is teaching others.”

Poulin is excited about the engagement and enthusiasm he sees from the students. “There is such a high level of interest,” he said.

“When I started in December, I didn’t know how much the students would like it, whether they would be missing their video games. But they really want to be outside and to be experiencing our land. They make me so proud every day. They go full tilt at learning, and they are doing an incredible job.”

The students have already learned a lot about skinning, fleshing, and boarding said Poulin. “Our next steps will be getting them out to the trapline and setting traps and getting all the experience around that.” Poulin also takes great pride in passing along what he has learned about his culture as well as trapping skills.

# Additional Trapping Skills



"It is a privilege to be able to show our youth our land-based values and for them to experience that feeling of working together," he said. "We teach the students about love and respect, to be kind to each other and to the animals. It is all about understanding our culture and our values."

Chief Grandjamb spent 23 days on the trapline in late 2022 and donated the animals he trapped during that time to the program. "Any time I caught an animal, it was not to use for money but to train you guys," the Chief told the students. "I thanked The Creator for the animal to use to train you."

The students in the skinning class included Abigail McClure, age 12 in Grade 7, who skinned a fisher. Malibu Grandjambe, age 14 and in Grade 9, and Zyree Janvier, age 14 and in Grade 8, each skinned a lynx. Danica McDonald was in attendance.

While the other students had previously had training, Hailey Calliou, age 11 and in Grade 6, was learning for the first time. When Hailey completed skinning her

mink, she got a round of applause and congratulations from fellow students and her instructors.

"It is a great supportive atmosphere," said the Chief. "There were no girls doing this when I was growing up. It is good to see them interested and involved. The big thing is to develop the program for everyone."

The skinning class is linked to the Elsie Fabian curriculum, which emphasizes land-based learning in all aspects. The enthusiastic students are already sharing their knowledge with each other and helping new students as they begin their learning journey. Plans for next year include day camps and an overnight trip.

The chief imparted his traditional knowledge to the students, teaching them about different types of fur and their unique properties. He handed around pelts at different stages of the process from stretched on boards to tanned so that they could see and feel the difference. The most important rule, he told the students, was to honour the

*The skinning class is just one of the ways the Chief passes on traditional knowledge. He and Birch Mountain Enterprises began a program several years ago called Awake Cultural Camp. The program teaches fundamentals of hunting and trapping and carries on the tradition of passing along knowledge.*

animal for its part in our nation's traditions. "Always respect your animal. Never disrespect it. No laughing or joking. We don't do that. Never, never disrespect an animal."

The skinning class is just one of the ways the Chief passes on traditional knowledge. He and Birch Mountain Enterprises began a program several years ago called Awake Cultural Camp.

The program teaches the fundamentals of hunting and trapping and carries on the tradition of passing along knowledge. "When Chris Wilson was young, I passed on traditional skills to him," said Chief Grandjamb, "and now we are working together to pass those on to the next generation."

"Under the Awake program, I felt I had to give back to the community. Teaching trapping was how I was going to do that. Now is the time in my life to give back."

# YOUTH CENTRE ACTIVITIES

## VALENTINE'S DAY

*Our Youth Centre workers had a great time organizing and celebrating Valentine's Day this year! The day included a variety of fun Valentines games, delicious chocolate treats and exciting prizes for the youth.*



## TEAM SPIRIT

*Our local Northern Spirits girls attended the Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards (RARA) to support their captain Alicia Gladue who won two awards, female youth of the year and outstanding athlete of the year.*

## 2023 AWG

*Congratulations to Adonis L'Hommecourt who was one of the many selected to walk with the torch for the Arctic Winter Games this past month.*





## MEMBER SUCCESS STORY

# Megan Shott's First-Ever Short Film

Fort McKay First Nation is pleased to announce that Megan Shott's first-ever short film has been selected for the Māoriland Film Festival, all the way on the Kapiti Coast!

The Māoriland Film Festival is Aotearoa's annual international Indigenous Film Festival. Every year, people from around the world gather in Ōtaki to celebrate Indigenous voices and storytelling in film. The festival was founded in 2014 to honour and elevate Indigenous peoples' viewpoints, beliefs, and meaning.

Megan explained, "This opportunity to show this piece of work with other Indigenous Creatives does not even feel real, and I feel so lucky to be part of this event. MFF is celebrating ten years of indigenous storytelling, and their theme for this year's festival is: Ma mua e kea no ai ma muri- We look to the past so that the future

may be different. Marci Cho to the Māoriland Film Festival for including me, my niece, and my late Grandpa".

The film "My Girl," was written and directed by Megan Shott, and filmed in Fort McKay and Chipewyan Prairie First Nation. Symmetree Theatre premiered "My Girl" as part of the Connection to Land video series, which was presented at Buffy's 2022 awards showcase in October. All of the videos from the Connection to Land series focused on demonstrating the connection to the land through an Indigenous lens.

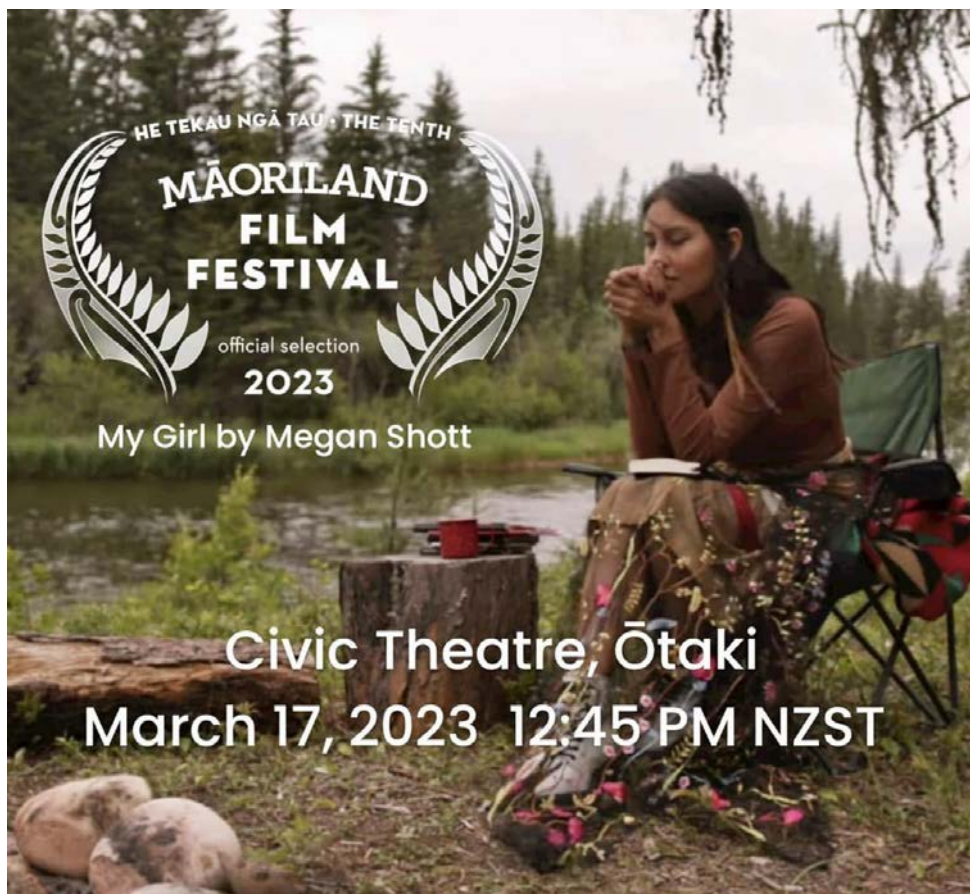
The festival has been growing over the past nine years and is now considered the largest presenter of Indigenous screen content in the Southern Hemisphere, with events and programming offered throughout the year. "My Girl" will be screening on March 17th at the Civic Theatre.

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION OR  
TO VIEW THE  
SHORT FILM



## "MY GIRL"

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY:  
Megan Shott  
PRODUCER: Luay Eljamal  
FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:  
Alexei Berteig  
CAST:  
Megan Shott  
Zara Nokohoo  
Late David Janvier  
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: Garry Berteig  
CAMERA: Benja Fiddler-Berteig  
GIMBAL & DRONE / EDITOR:  
Alexei Berteig  
MUSIC:  
"Morning Song" - Performed by Dawson John Clark  
MARC CHO / SPECIAL THANKS TO:  
Joelle Erskine from Eli'sasit Stiches, Shawn Janvier, Joey Podlubny



# WELLNESS CENTER CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Feb 27</b> <b>No School</b> <b>Teachers Convention</b>  <b>Open 8:30 am – 4:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 28</b> <b>No School</b> <b>Teachers Convention</b>  <b>Open 8:30 am – 4:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 1</b> <b>No School</b> <b>Teachers Convention</b>  <b>Open 8:30 am – 4:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 2</b> <b>No School</b> <b>Teachers Convention</b>  <b>Open 8:30 am – 4:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 3</b> <b>Open 8:30 am-4:30 pm</b> <b>No School Day</b> <b>Field Trip</b> <b>(Ages 5+)</b> <b>*Permission Slip Required*</b> <b>Bus Leaves at 12:30 pm</b> <b>Bus Returns at 4:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 4</b>  <b>Wellness Center</b> <b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Feb 6</b> <b>Afterschool Program (Ages 5+)</b> <b>3:30 pm – 6:00 pm</b>  <b>MOVIE NIGHT (Ages 5+)</b> <b>6:00 pm – 8:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 7</b> <b>Afterschool Program (Ages 5+)</b> <b>3:30 pm – 6:00 pm</b> <b>Young Chefs (Ages 8+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b> <b>Backyard Games (Ages 5+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 8</b> <b>Afterschool Program (Ages 5+)</b> <b>3:30 pm – 6:00 pm</b> <b>Just Dance/Rockband (Ages 5+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b> <b>Nerf Battle (Ages 8+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 9</b> <b>Afterschool Program (Ages 5+)</b> <b>3:30 pm – 6:00 pm</b> <b>Obstacle Course/Scavenger Hunt (Ages 5+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b> <b>Sewing Club (Ages 8+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 10</b> <b>Open 8:30 am-4:30 pm</b> <b>No School Day</b>  <b>No Field Trip</b> <b>Sliding, Outdoor Activities, Movie</b> <b>Day at Wellness</b>	<b>Feb 11</b>  <b>Skiing/Snowboarding</b> <b>(Ages 9+)</b> <b>*Permission Slip Required*</b> <b>Bus Leaves at 9:00am</b> <b>Bus Returns at 4:30 pm</b>
<b>Feb 13</b> <b>Afterschool Program (Ages 5+)</b> <b>3:30 pm – 6:00 pm</b> <b>Around the World (Ages 5+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b> <b>Board Games (Ages 5+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 14</b> <b>Afterschool Program (Ages 5+)</b> <b>3:30 pm – 6:00 pm</b> <b>Young Chefs (Ages 8+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b> <b>Backyard Games (Ages 5+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 15</b> <b>Afterschool Program (Ages 5+)</b> <b>3:30 pm – 6:00 pm</b> <b>Just Dance/Rockband (Ages 5+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b> <b>Game Show Night (Ages 8+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 16</b> <b>Afterschool Program (Ages 5+)</b> <b>3:30 pm – 6:00 pm</b> <b>Obstacle Course/Scavenger Hunt (Ages 5+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b> <b>Sewing Club (Ages 8+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 17</b>  <b>PRE-TEEN NIGHT</b> <b>Field Trip</b> <b>(Ages 5+)</b> <b>*Permission Slip Required*</b> <b>Bus Leaves at 5:00 pm</b> <b>Bus Returns at 9:00 pm</b>	<b>Feb 18</b>  <b>Wellness Center</b> <b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Feb 20</b> <b>Afterschool Program (Ages 5+)</b> <b>3:30 pm – 6:00 pm</b> <b>Around the World (Ages 5+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b> <b>Board Games (Ages 5+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 21</b> <b>Afterschool Program (Ages 5+)</b> <b>3:30 pm – 6:00 pm</b>  <b>KIDS CHOICE NIGHT (Ages 5+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 22</b> <b>Afterschool Program (Ages 5+)</b> <b>3:30 pm – 6:00 pm</b> <b>Just Dance/Rockband (Ages 5+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b> <b>Nerf Battle (Ages 8+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 23</b> <b>Afterschool Program (Ages 5+)</b> <b>3:30 pm – 6:00 pm</b> <b>Obstacle Course/Scavenger Hunt (Ages 5+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b> <b>Sewing Club (Ages 8+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 24</b> <b>Open 8:30 am-9:00 pm</b> <b>No School Day</b> <b>TUBING PARTY</b> <b>(Ages 5+)</b> <b>*Permission Slip Required*</b> <b>Bus Leaves at 4:00 pm</b> <b>Bus Returns at 9:00 pm</b>	<b>Feb 25</b>  <b>Wellness Center</b> <b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Feb 27</b> <b>Afterschool Program (Ages 5+)</b> <b>3:30 pm – 6:00 pm</b> <b>Around the World (Ages 5+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b> <b>Board Games (Ages 5+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 28</b> <b>Afterschool Program (Ages 5+)</b> <b>3:30 pm – 6:00 pm</b> <b>Young Chefs (Ages 8+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b> <b>Backyard Games (Ages 5+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 29</b> <b>Afterschool Program (Ages 5+)</b> <b>3:30 pm – 6:00 pm</b> <b>Just Dance/Rockband (Ages 5+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b> <b>Game Show Night (Ages 8+)</b> <b>6:00 pm-8:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 30</b> <b>Afterschool Program (Ages 5+)</b> <b>3:30 pm – 6:00 pm</b>  <b>JUNIOR LEADERS MEETING</b> <b>(AGES 10+)</b> <b>6:00 pm – 8:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 31</b> <b>Open 8:30 am-4:30 pm</b> <b>No School Day</b> <b>Field Trip</b> <b>(Ages 5+)</b> <b>*Permission Slip Required*</b> <b>Bus Leaves at 12:30 pm</b> <b>Bus Returns at 4:30 pm</b>	<b>Feb 4</b>  <b>Wellness Center</b> <b>CLOSED</b>

## ENVIRONMENTAL GUARDIAN PROGRAM

*FMFN Members will see new signage with information about the Environmental Guardian program's wildlife camera research program. If you want more information please contact Ryan at 587.646.1865 or email [rgrandjambe@fortmckay.com](mailto:rgrandjambe@fortmckay.com).*



# Fort McKay First Nation Land Code is Now Officially Certified



**F**or the first time in 150 years, our community will have control over decision making on our reserve land.

The Fort McKay First Nation Land Code has come into effect on March 1, 2023, and the verification of official documents was passed mid-February at a meeting of FMFN Chief and Council. A community-wide land code vote saw 86 per cent of participating voters in favour of adopting a land code.

“This is a truly historic event for our Nation,” said Chief Mel Grandjamb. “We saw a tremendous turnout of members who overwhelmingly supported this vote in favour of our Nation’s future. We are united and we are one.”

Over the past two years, the Land Code was developed and overseen by a committee of FMFN members. A legal agreement transferring responsibility from Indigenous Services Canada to Fort McKay First Nation was also voted on and approved as part of the process.

“In agreeing to take control of our own lands, our community has taken a major step towards our Nation’s self-determination and ongoing prosperity,” said Chief Grandjamb. “We are well positioned to implement our Land Code, setting the stage in a positive way for generations to come.”

### Adopting a Land Code means:

- All decisions made regarding development of FMFN’s land and resources will be made locally with input from band members. The Government of Canada will no longer have a role in these decisions.
- FMFN will have control over law-making as it applies to its reserve lands. This will strengthen the Nation’s ability to protect and conserve its land and environment in a culturally appropriate way. It also means that FMFN will have the ability to prosecute polluters and those who break First Nation laws enacted under the authority of the Land Code.
- Having control over land and resources also means that FMFN is in a better position to respond to business opportunities on reserve as they arise, rather than waiting for Canada to go through its Indian Act approval process, which can add years to the development of a project.

Adopting a Land Code does not impact the Nation’s status as an Indian reserve set aside for the collective use and benefit of FMFN band members. His Majesty the King retains title to the land, as federal Crown land, meaning Fort McKay reserve land may never be sold or surrendered and will be protected for generations to come.

## NOTICE OF ELECTION

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Notice is hereby given to the Electors of Fort McKay First Nation that an **Election will be held on April 5, 2023**, to elect one (1) Chief and four (4) Councillors.

The Election will be held in accordance with the Fort McKay First Nation Election Code.

The date of the Election will be **Wednesday, April 5, 2023, between the hours of 10:00 am and 8:00 pm**. Polls will be held in Fort McKay, Fort McMurray, and Edmonton (venues will be confirmed).

Advance voting will be on **Saturday, April 1, 2023, between the hours of 10:00 am and 8:00 pm**. The poll will be held in Fort McKay, Fort McMurray, and Edmonton (venues will be confirmed).

**In accordance with the Election Code valid photo identification will be required to vote.**

Chief and Council have appointed Joanne Day as the Returning Officer for the Election.

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## Fun Cultural Activities and Programs Available for Everyone in Our Community

If you would like to be a volunteer or be a Resource Worker for Community Programs or Events feel free to submit an email, please include what events you are interested in, or what skill sets you can provide as a resource person i.e.: fish filleting, hunter, medicinal plant teachings, arts and craft teachings etc.

First priority will be given to community members.

For more information about our upcoming programs, please contact:

Audrey Redcrow  
Fort McKay First Nation  
Cultural and Special Events Lead  
Sustainability Department  
780-215-2384  
Special Events: Aredcrow@fort-mckay.com  
Culture: Culture@fortmckay.com

The Fort McKay Cultural and Special Events Culture Programs oversee and offers a variety of programs such as:

- Dancer and Drummer Performances
- Traditional Healing Assistance
- Round Dance / Dene Dance
- Cultural Workshops
- Moose/Buffalo Lake Summer Retreat
- Moose Lake Camps and Events
- Casual/part time Employment Opportunities
- Community and Special Events

Watch out for posts of upcoming Events on Fort McKay First Nations Members Page and Fort McKay First Nation Page on Social Media or go to our website [www.fortmckay.com](http://www.fortmckay.com)

Our Cultural Programs are ongoing from September to June. Here are a few activities too look forward to:

### **CREE & DENE CLASSES**

Every Tuesday Cree class on Zoom  
Every Wednesday Dene class on Zoom  
Contact [culture@fortmckay.com](mailto:culture@fortmckay.com) to register

### **DRUM PRACTICE**

Every Wednesday at 6 pm in the Band Hall  
All males welcome. Drop In, no registration required!

### **DENE HAND GAMES TOURNAMENT**

March 04, 2023  
2-5pm, Supper 5-7pm



# SAVE THE DATE

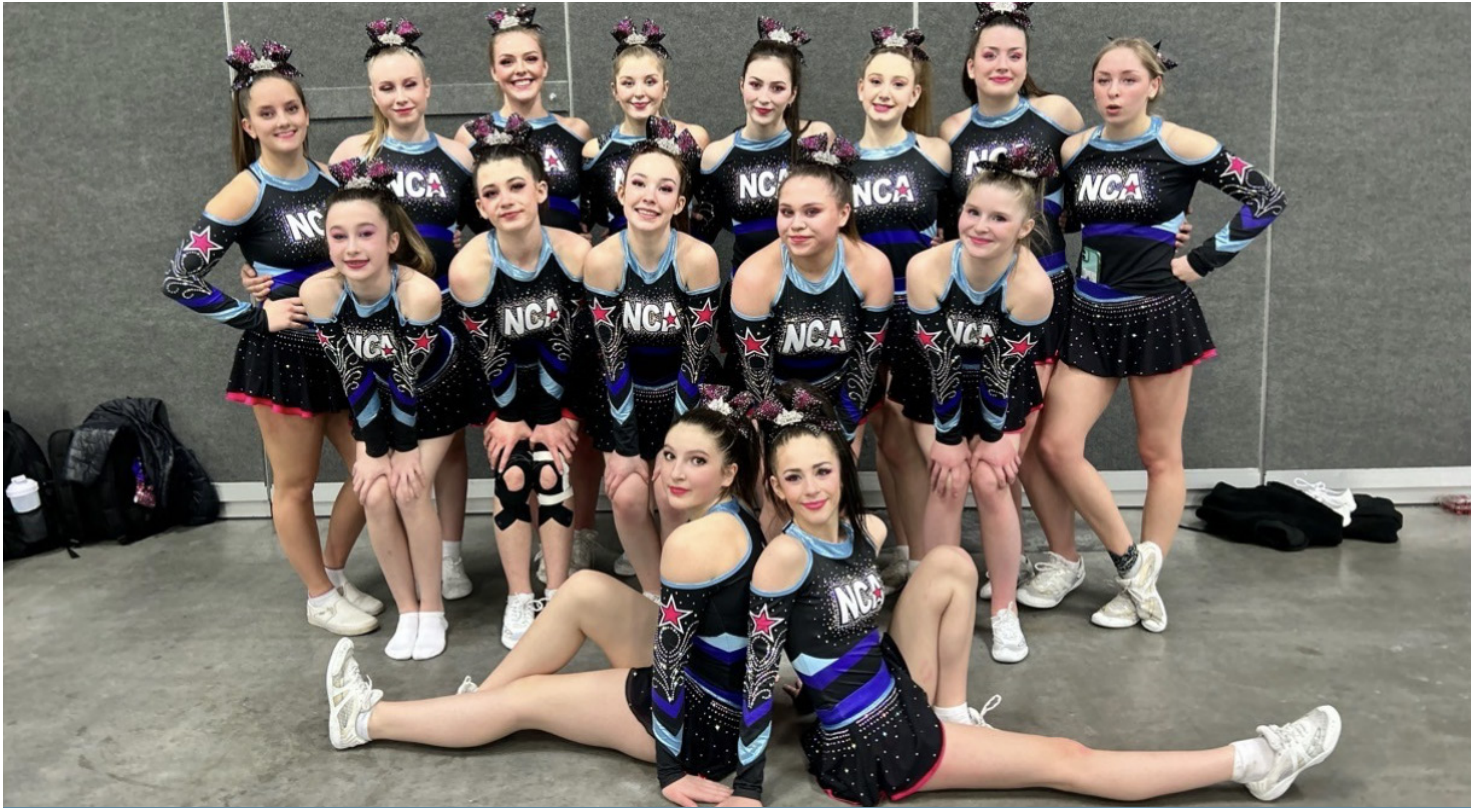
## JUNE 15-18, 2023

### CELEBRATING COMMUNITY, CULTURE & CONNECTION



**FORT MCKAY**  
FIRST NATION

# Fort McKay Youth & The Northern Cheerleading Allstar Blizzards Compete In Red Deer



The Northern Cheerleading Allstar Blizzards team had a tough competition recently, but they persevered and came out on top! To celebrate their win, the Fort McKay crew headed to Montana's for a well-deserved lunch.

The Blizzards are a U12 Level 1 team and are part of the Northern Cheerleading Allstars organization. This organization has seen an increase in popularity since Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, and now has five teams for those 18 and under, with three different skill levels to learn.

Emma Proulx is a former flyer, main base, and front tumbler for the Blizzards team. She has been involved in cheer since 2019 and hopes to become a flyer again in the 2023-2024 season. Ayria Boucher-Moses and Mya Wilson Beaudry are both new to cheer and are excited to continue their journey and improve their skills.

The Ice Queens, a U18AG Level 3 team, is another team in the Northern Cheerleading Allstars organization. They recently competed in the Red Carpet Cheer Classic in Red Deer on February 11th and 12th and placed third. The team is now vying for a bid to attend The Worlds Cheerleading Competition in Orlando, Florida in April. Lexi Hynes-Redcrow is a level 3 cheerleader, the back base, main base, and front tumbler for the Ice Queens, and has been involved in cheer since 2017. She has quickly advanced her skills and hopes to one day join Team Canada or receive a scholarship to a U.S. team.

It is inspiring to see these young athletes working hard and achieving their goals. Cheerleading requires dedication, discipline, and teamwork, and these young individuals embody these traits. It is also a testament to the Northern Cheerleading Allstars organization and the coaches who have guided and supported these teams.

As the world continues to navigate the ongoing pandemic, it is important to find joy and celebrate achievements where we can. The Fort McKay crew heading to Montana for lunch was a small but meaningful way to acknowledge the hard work and accomplishments of the Blizzards team. We can all learn from their perseverance and dedication to achieving their goals, no matter how big or small.



Emma, Mya, & Ayria

# THE HUB ON WHEELS

## Program Dates

### March 8

Music Play  
Band Hall; 1 pm - 2:30 pm

### March 15

Baby Café  
Youth Centre; 1 pm - 2:30 pm

### March 22

Caregivers Matter Sharing Circle  
Youth Centre; 1 pm - 2:30 pm

### March 29

Loose Parts Crafting Day  
Band Hall; 1 pm - 2:30 pm

## Contact us

Questions about programming? Text us at: 780-713-9150

For More Information visit: [thehubfrc.ca](http://thehubfrc.ca)  
Email: [inquiries@thehubfrc.ca](mailto:inquiries@thehubfrc.ca)

## Want more health tips?

Check out Alberta Health Services' website for the latest health information at: [www.albertahealthservices.ca](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca)

or simply use this QR code:



The Hub Family Resource Centre offers free play, child development, and parent/caregiver education programs throughout Wood Buffalo! Hub programs are an opportunity to make connections with other families, engage in fun, developmentally appropriate activities, and get connected with other community resources.

Family Resource Networks are a province-wide Government of Alberta initiative offering programs and services that promote healthy environments and positive experiences during infancy, the early years of childhood and adolescence. In Wood Buffalo, the Family Resource Network is a partnership between The Hub Family Resource Centre, the YMCA of Northern Alberta, and WJS Canada that offers inclusive and accessible family-focused, child and youth-centred, community-based programs and services for families and children and youth ages 0-18. All Family Resource Network programs are available throughout Wood Buffalo.



To connect with our Systems Navigator to find out what programs are a good fit for your family visit [thehubfrc.ca/frn](http://thehubfrc.ca/frn)



## Programs and Services



Every year, more than 4,000 Albertans die because of tobacco use, while tens of thousands more Albertans have serious tobacco-related illnesses that greatly affect their quality of life.

Commercial tobacco use (such as cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars and chewing tobacco) is the leading preventable cause of disease, disability and premature death in Alberta, and increases the risk of heart disease, lung cancer, oral cancers, chronic lung disease, diabetes and other illnesses. Quitting tobacco is one of the best ways to improve health and well-being. It may

## Autism and ADHD Assessments

The Fort McKay Family Support Center will be offering a registered clinical psychologist to complete Autism and ADHD assessments in the community.

- Assessments for those under the age of 18, will require a Jordan's Principal application to be completed. The Family Support Worker will assist in the application process.
- A Jordan's Principal application will require a band registry number from either the child, biological mother or biological father.
- Assessment dates are available for March 31st, April 6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th. If you are interested in the assessment process, or want further information, please contact Katelyn at: 780-828-4048 or 780-215-8146.

## Services to Help You Quit Smoking

take several attempts to quit, so it's important to not give up. AHS has programs and services to help Albertans quit:

- The AlbertaQuits Helpline, 1-866-710-QUIT (7848) provides one-to-one telephone counselling.
- Try a free text message service that gives tips and motivational messaging to help people quit. The text service includes support for quitting vaping and a live chat feature, with quit counsellors. Enroll today by texting ABQUITS to 123456.
- The website [albertaquits.ca](http://albertaquits.ca) provides information and tools for people preparing to quit.
- QuitCore is a group support program that provides people with strategies and skills they need to quit tobacco, while connecting them with others who are also trying to quit. This program is offered in person, as well as virtually through Zoom.
- Use of cessation medications increases your chances of success, and the cost of the medications may be covered.

# Fort McKay Elders St. Patrick's Party



**FORT MCKAY**  
FIRST NATION

**Wednesday, March 15th | 12 pm to 4 pm | Band Hall**

**With special guests "Walter Quinn & Company"**

**Join us for Lunch and an afternoon of Shenanigans and Live Music!**

**Try your luck of the Irish with Door Prizes and Games**

**For help with transportation call Tara at 780-742-4927**