



FORT MCKAY
FIRST NATION



Fort McKay Métis Nation

May 10, 2023

Joint Letter to the People of Fort McKay regarding Wildfire Prevention

Dear Fort McKay Residents

As you know, the wildfire risk for our community has been **EXTREME** – the very highest level – for over a week. While we were blessed with gentle rain this week, there is none expected in the coming days. Extreme temperatures over 30C are forecast for the weekend.

This means our traditional lands are under extreme stress. As Indigenous People, we are stewards of the land, and it is our duty to protect it. We need to do everything we can to ensure our own actions are not contributing to the factors putting our lands at risk.

As you know, Alberta issued an order on May 5 banning the use of Quads and all Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) such as side-by-sides, dirt bikes, 4x4 Jeeps, pick-up trucks, and sport utility vehicles due to the extreme risk of fire. There is an exception for Indigenous Peoples exercising traditional Treaty Rights such as visiting a trapline, hunting and fishing.

In the interest of community safety and fire prevention, Fort McKay First Nation Chief and Council and Fort McKay Métis Nation President and Council are asking our members to **respect the ban for recreational use until the risk to our land has passed.**

We also ask you to follow the advice of emergency preparedness experts and get ready for a possible evacuation that we pray does not happen. Please go to www.fortmckay.com and click on the Wildfire Emergency Preparedness button, which outlines the process for evacuation alerts and orders. It also includes a Family Emergency Checklist, and an Emergency Toolkit for Seniors. There is a link to the FMFN App, which will be updated during an emergency, as well as both McKay Métis and FMFN social media sites. Information will also be posted on www.fortmckaymetis.com in the event of an evacuation. You can also tune to Fort McKay Radio 106.3 FM for updates.

The safety and well-being of our people is the highest of our priorities as leaders. We have faith that by working together as organizations and as individual residents, the people of Fort McKay will do everything in their power to keep our community safe.

If you have any questions or concerns you wish to share with your respective Leadership Team, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Chief Raymond Powder
Fort McKay First Nation

President Ron Quintal
Fort McKay Métis Nation