Chief and Council Inauguration June 2



Pictured left to right: Councillor David Bouchier, Councillor Crystal McDonald, Chief Raymond Powder, Councillor Melinda Stewart, and Councillor Bobby Shott.

ort McKay First Nation's newly elected Chief and Council will be officially inaugurated at a special ceremony being held Friday, June 2, at the Fort McKay Arena.

The event will see the formal installation of the newly elected officials, Chief Raymond Powder, Councillor David Bouchier, Councillor Crystal McDonald, Councillor Bobby Shott, and Councillor Melinda Stewart. For more information on the Chief and Council members, please see page 2 and 3 of this issue of Red River Current for biographies and photographs.

All members are invited to attend this important occasion for our community. The doors open at 3:30 pm, and a gift giving area will be set up in the lobby area.

The ceremony starts at 4:30 pm. It will include a Grand Entry with Fort McKay Northwind dancers and drummers. Please note that there will be no recording permitted during the Cree and Dene Honour songs and the opening prayer.

During the ceremony, Chief Powder will be presented with his headdress

and eagle feather by a community Elder. This will be followed by the official swearing in of Chief and Councillors. This will include the verbal oath to the community and the ceremonial signing of office. This will be followed by a Grand Exit.

A buffet dinner will begin at 5:30 pm and will include a band member-only raffle.

The meal will be followed by a Community Tea Dance.

Dress for this occasion is appropriate cultural attire or business casual. Photographs will be permitted for some of the elements, with the emcee announcing when photographs are not appropriate.

A parking lot shuttle is being arranged for attendees coming from out of town.

Edmonton Members who plan to attend the inauguration must register for hotel accommodations for June 1 to 3 and to receive a \$250 travel card. Contact Shilla at

edmontonoffice@Fortmckay.com or by phone at **780-828-2420** by May 23.

TAKE A BOW, TAYDEN

The Fort McKay First Nation congratulates Tayden Shott for his recent performance at the 3D Archery Alberta Indoor Provincial Tournament held in Grande Prairie in March. The competition had nearly 150 entrants and took place over the weekend of the 18th and 19th. With over 80 targets ranging out to 50 meters, this is the largest tournament of its kind in the province. It was Tayden's first time competing in this competition and he placed second in the Under 18 event, an excellent achievement.

Tayden has had a good year with the bow. Recently he competed at the Arctic Winter archery event, and he has been selected to represent Team Alberta in the North America Indigenous Games in Halifax in 2023 based on his win at last summer's Alberta Indigenous competition.

Proud Mother Lolita Ladouceur said, "It's great seeing our youth do what they love, knowing that no matter the outcome it's always about the experiences shared and the friendships made."

Well done, Tayden. Keep up the hard work and dedication.



FMFN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Raymond Powder, Chief David Bouchier, Councillor Crystal McDonald, Councillor Bobby Shott, Councillor Melinda Stewart, 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 TOP 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 us at email: communications@fortmckay.com

Sign up for the FMFN App Today!

Stay updated with the latest community news and get important community notifications simply by downloading the Fort Mckay First Nation App on your your iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.

Never miss an update and download the app now!



Introducing Your Chief & Council

Chief Raymond Powder



proud member of the Fort McKay First Nation, Raymond attended post-secondary institutions in Saskatchewan and Alberta including religious studies at

Briercrest Bible College, Business Administration at Keyano College and attended Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. (SAIT). In recent years, he has furthered his education completing a certificate of Aboriginal Leadership, Governance and Management Excellence at the Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta.

Raymond has always felt a strong duty to give back to the First Nation in appreciation for all the support he received in terms of his education and career. Raymond has devoted himself to promoting and enhancing the opportunities for his First Nation.

Raymond cites working with the people of Fort McKay, and his opportunity to make a difference one step at a time is what he values the most. What makes him proudest about the community is knowing that Fort McKay is making significant strides in creating a better life for the Nation and its people.

During his spare time, Raymond enjoys reading, cooking, gardening, watching hockey, keeping physically and spiritually fit, and enjoys time with friends and family.

Contact

Email: chiefpowder@fortmckay.com

Councillor David Bouchier



avid Bouchier, a proud member of the Fort
McKay First Nation, is serving his fourth term as a FMFN
Councillor. Councillor Bouchier is the
Founder, President,

and Co-Owner of Bouchier. The company was established 25 years

ago with nothing more than an idea, a used dozer and a passionate, entrepreneurial spirit and has grown to be a leading provider of integrated site services in the Athabasca Oil Sands region. Bouchier is committed to being a good neighbour and this includes supporting and developing local communities.

Born and raised in Fort McKay, Councillor Bouchier has been honoured with numerous awards, including the Fort McKay Entrepreneur Award and Ernst & Young's Oil and Gas Entrepreneur of the Year Award. He is committed to Fort McKay's long-term success with a focus on diversification of the economy and supporting Indigenous youth and elders.

Contact

Email: david.bouchier@fortmckay.com

Councillor Crystal McDonald



rystal McDonald is a proud Fort McKay band member who has lived her entire life here and is now raising her own children as part of the community. This is

Crystal's third term in governance as she was first elected as a Fort McKay First Nation Councillor in the 2015 election.

As a Councillor, she is dedicated to ensuring that all voices are heard and bringing forward questions and concerns. She is committed to accountability, transparency and accessibility at the decision-making table. Ensuring the proper resources for capacity building for both the Nation and individual members is one of her priorities. Elders, youth, housing, Moose Lake access, family and mental health supports, and opportunities for business diversification are also among her main areas of concern.

Before becoming a Councillor, Crystal worked at the Mothers of McKay Daycare facility for ten years. While working at the daycare she was also on the Fort McKay Group of Companies Board of Directors for six years.

Crystal is very involved in the community. Each year her family hosts the Lawrence Bull Powder SLO Pitch Memorial Tournament during the Fort McKay Treaty Days.

Contact

Email: cmcdonald@fortmckay.com

Councillor Bobby Shott



obby Shott was born and raised in Fort McKay. This is his first term as a Fort McKay First Nation Councillor.

Prior to joining the Fort McKay First

Nation governance team, Councillor Shott was a member of the Executive Team of the Fort McKay Group of Companies. With over 20 years of experience working in the oil sands and construction, he has advanced both independent business and community ventures. He led the sales and development initiatives across the organization, establishing relationships with industry that continue to grow the business for the betterment and prosperity of his community.

As a Fort McKay First Nation member, Councillor Shott is committed to securing opportunities for the First Nation that benefit of the community and open career paths for members.

Contact

Email: bshott@fortmckay.com

Councillor Melinda Stewart



elinda Stewart was elected to a second term with Fort McKay First Nation in April 2023.

Before first being elected to office in 2019, Councillor Stewart's career

path took her from the oil sands operations to community engagement. In all roles, she focused on relationship-building, open communication, safe and sustainable growth strategies, cultural safety, and sustainability.

Councillor Stewart believes that investment in education, culture, housing, and wellness are investments in the health of FMFN members and the sustainable healthy growth of the nation.

Councillor Stewart and her family live in Fort McKay. They balance the hustle and bustle of work, school and family life with cultural teachings, traditional practices, and time on the land.

Contact

Email: mstewart@fortmckay.com



FORT MCKAY HEALTH CENTRE

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 at **780.828.2450.**

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 music and news!!

Listening to Fort McKay's community radio station!

www.fortmckayfm.com



Nation's pride stacks up in pool tournament

f you are old enough to have been able to drive, round about the turn of this century, to go out and learn pool and 9 ball, then it is likely you were among the last to play it the old school way. You likely played some in back-door bars with tobacco-stained walls and the smell of cheap rye and flat beer. That's not nostalgia, it's just the way it was for most of us who love the game and have seen at least their 35th birthday.

It's not that game anymore. It's played in well-lit convention centres and halls, the rules are monitored by officials not debated with the spectators, and if you practice hard and play well, you may get to go to a tournament and represent your town, district, even your province.

Several members of our Nation will be at the big tournament in Calgary in the first week of May, and we will tell you how they did in the next issue of RRC. They'll be part of a representative team of First Nations players at the Canadian Cue Sport Association Western Championships in Calgary, a prestigious event that involves several rounds of knockout games merely to get there. It is the peak tournament in this part of the world, but maybe not the most important ones to our player members. That would be the Battle of the Bands, the last iteration of which was held at Red Deer Casino at the beginning of April.

These are the guys who went into Battle: Rov McDonald. Gilbert Estes. Maurice McDonald, Roland Boucher and Sam Howe. We're not going to focus on the results, which tells you, if you are cynical about these things, that we didn't win. But this is a tournament that is not about winning, it's about competing, taking part, being a team against another team. Mostly though it's about camaraderie. Roy, who is the team captain/chief herder, spoke about how well they improved in their personal achievements and how well they had played in the face of stiff competition. "It's the toughest

pool tournament in North America," he said, because of the skill levels as well as the competitiveness – it pits Nation against Nation. The rivalries are high and the will to win is off the charts, but at the end of the day the old friendships renewed and the new ones formed are what is most important.

As to the results, they're hard to find. There is no website and the facebook page that may have them is restricted to people who were there. If you weren't it's like it never happened.

It did, as Roy testified. A couple of the team ended up about the middle of the pack in singles, and they were also there or thereabouts in the team event. Pride of place went to Gilbert Estes, who placed 5th in the singles out of 64 and looks to do better next time. As do the rest of them at the next one – which they're already planning for.

Go team.





FORT MCKAY CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

DANCER AND DRUMMER PERFORMANCES

- Traditional Healing Assistance
- Round Dance / Dene Dance
- Cultural Workshops
- Moose/Buffalo Lake Summer Retreat
- Moose Lake Camps & Events
- Employment Opportunities
- Community & Special Events

CREE & DENE CLASSES

Every Tuesday Cree class on Zoom.

Every Wednesday Dene class on Zoom.

To register, contact culture@fortmckay.com

DRUM PRACTICE

Every Wednesday at 6 pm in the Band Hall.

All males welcome. Drop In, no registration required!

FORT MCKAY FIRST NATION MOOSE LAKE BAND MEMBER SUMMER RETREAT BOOKINGS

July 01 - September 24, 2023

If you would like to be a volunteer or be a Resource Worker for some of our programs or events, please submit an email, please include what events you are interested in, or what skill sets you can provide. First priority will be given to community members.

For more information about our upcoming programs, please contact:

Audrey Redcrow
Cultural and Special Events Lead
780-215-2384
Aredcrow@fortmckay.com



Black Bear Safety Training

The Fort McKay Park Rangers have partnered with the province, arranging for one of our team to be hired as a wildlife technician, in effect a Bear Sheriff. They can now trap and relocate troublesome wildlife, adding speed and local knowledge to the safety aspect of bear conservation.

As part of this initiative the Park Rangers completed the Provincial Bear Hazing Training to better understand how to deal with real life bear necessities.

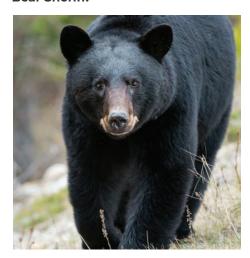
What is this all about?

The Wildlife Technician, to give him his official name, is a Provincial Employee with powers that complement our own Park Rangers. This allows them to manage pronlem bears.

Bear Hazing, as this process is known is defined as; to employ non-lethal techniques for black bear within Fort

McKay First Nation Reserve Land and surrounding areas as specified in the approved research plan using noise deterrents, noncontact projectiles, and contact projectiles (human presence, chase, whistle, air horns, bear spray, bear bangers, bean bags, rubber bullets, and paint balls).

Or as we prefer to call it, the **Bear Sheriff.**



The Lightning Strike that fried the Namur cell tower in August 2022 caused a collapse of the cell service between Namur Lake and Moose Lake.

Sustainability decided to service both cell towers and their contractors, Camo Solar and Arrow technology, replaced all the burnt bits and upgraded the infrastructure.

Normal cell service has now resumed and the lakes are now a safer place once more.



FORT MCKAY ELDERS

What is an Elder?

n Elder is a Knowledge keeper, an example and a tradition bearer, but the title is not automatic. Being older does not always mean being an Elder.

What do you think makes an Elder? Please share your thoughts to **communications@fortmckay.com,** and we will post the best answers.

What would you, as an Elder, like to see in this magazine? Puzzles, stories about the youth? A Calendar of upcoming events? Stories from the past? Send us an email to **communications@fortmckay.com,** or text us at **780-799-3664,** or come and talk to us at our table at the Elders Fair on June 8. We want to make this your magazine.



FORT MCKAY ELDERS BINGO!

Date

Thursdays

Time

Noon - 2:00 pm

Location

Elders Centre

Call Peggy for cards at **780-598-3575.**



What's happening in May

aturday May 6th is the tenth Anniversary of **Elsie Fabian**, celebrated at the school that bears her name.

Mothers Day Lunch & Bingo at the Band hall, Noon to 2 pm.

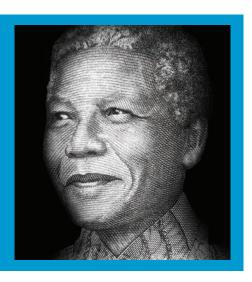
Lunch & Lac St. Anne meeting, May 18th at Noon, at the Elders Centre.

Victoria Day this year is Monday May the 22nd.



"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others."

Nelson Mandela was the Founder of the Elders, an organization of former World Leaders of integrity, many of whom are Nobel Prize Laureates. It is said he had the idea because wherever he went he saw that the most successful sustaining societies, including his own Xhosa Tribe, were those who respected their history and learnt from their Elders.



CFWE RADIO BINGO

Date

Mondays and Saturdays

Time

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Location

Fort McKay Radio Canada





Planning for Wildfire Season

Make sure that your family and the members of your household are prepared and ready to leave. Have go-bags packed.

Stay informed of weather conditions and advisories in your area.

Remove any fire hazards in and around your home, such as dried out branches, leaves and debris.

Keep a sprinkler that is in good working condition in an accessible location.

Make sure smoke alarms are placed on every level of the home, and preferably in every bedroom.

Consult with your local fire department or a qualified engineer about making your home fire-resistant.

Learn how to turn off the utilities in your residence.

Make sure that your vehicle has enough fuel.

Check on elderly relatives and neighbours to see if they require assistance.

Ensure that pets and/or service animals are accounted for.

Important Phone numbers

If you see a wildfire, report it immediately by calling 310-FIRE (3473).

If the fire is in the immediate community, call 911.

In Fort McKay, FMFN Peace Officer Contact Information is 780.828.5555 and press 3.

Every night our FMFN Security Team is on call from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Contact them at 587.644.4400.

You can also contact The Emergency Management Agency:

Hours: 8:15 am to 4:30 pm (open Monday to Friday, closed statutory holidays)

Phone: 780.422.9000.

Before you travel, check **Alberta 511** for current road conditions.

What to do in case of an Emergency or Evacuation Order

How will I know if Fort McKay is being evacuated?

If there is an evacuation order, FMFN Emergency Services will share information by

- Going door-to-door in the community to share the evacuation order
- Posting to social media at Fort McKay First Nation & Fort McKay Members Facebook pages and other official pages.
- Posting to the FMFN app, instructions about how to download the app can be found on our website at www.fortmckay.com.

What is an evacuation order?

There are three stages to an evacuation:

Evacuation Alert: A warning is issued to residents, and people are asked to be ready to leave on short notice. (When people choose to leave an area before or during the issuing of the alert, this is referred to as a voluntary evacuation.)

Evacuation Order: When there is an impending risk of a wildfire, an evacuation order is issued, and people must leave the area immediately.

Evacuation Rescind: An Evacuation Order or alert is rescinded when it is determined to be safe for residents to return home. An Evacuation Order may be reinstated if a threat returns.

Do I have to evacuate?

We understand that receiving an Evacuation Alert or Order can be an unsettling and emotional experience, particularly to those of us who experienced the 2016 Wildfire. We understand that you may be reluctant to leave your home and our community. However, choosing to remain in an area under Order puts yourself, your family, and first responders in danger. As we all learned in 2016, our region's strong commitment to safety training and complying with evacuation orders



lives.

If you have been placed under an Evacuation Order, that means you are advised to leave the area for your safety and the safety of first responders. People who remain in an area that is under Order may impede the ability of fire crews to fight a wildfire because they may be forced to stop fighting the fire to keep you out of harm's way.

How can I prepare for an evacuation?

In an evacuation, seconds can count. Prepare a "Go Bag" emergency kit for you and your family. Check the Emergency Preparedness information on our website at www.fortmckay.com.

What if you don't have a vehicle? How can I evacuate?

Transportation will be provided during an evacuation to ensure that risk is minimized during the evacuation.

What should people do with their pets if they have to evacuate?

If you need to evacuate due to a wildfire, take your pets with you. Do not leave them behind. Check the

Emergency Preparedness information on our website at **www.fortmckay.com.** to see what to pack for yourself and your pets.

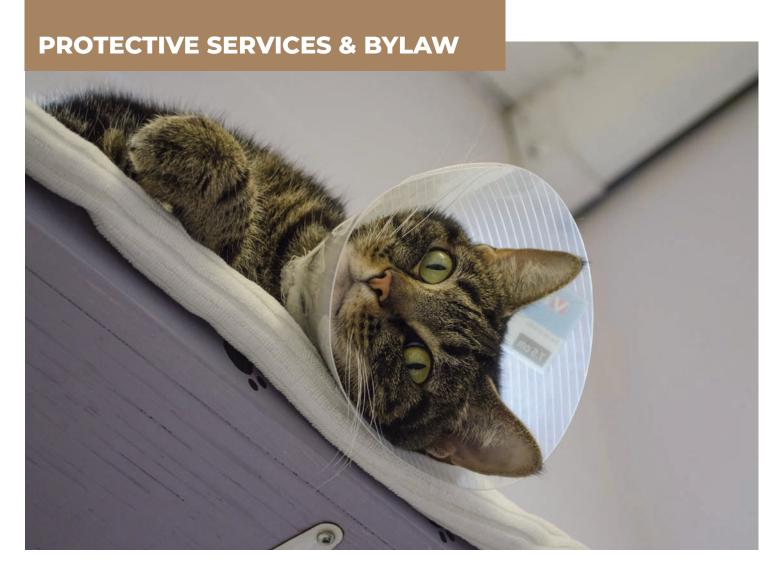
What if it looks fine when I get the order to evacuate?

You must comply with the order.

You may be in danger even if you cannot see the wildfire because it can spread quickly when embers are blown ahead of the fire. These embers can be carried for kilometres and start new fires between you and safety. Sheltering in a home or other structure is no guarantee that you'll be safe from an approaching wildfire.

Wildfire activity is heavily impacted by weather conditions which means that fire activity can increase suddenly and rapidly due to wind, heat, and dryness. The wildfire itself can contribute to these conditions.

A wildfire can be relentless. Stress and sleep deprivation over several days can decrease your alertness and impact your ability to think clearly. This can impair decision-making, slow your reaction time and increase the likelihood that you'll make mistakes.



Spaying & Neutering

rotective Services is finalizing dates with a clinic in Fort McMurray to bring more spay and neuter opportunities to Fort McKay First Nation residents.

In January, in conjunction with the SPCA, we were able to successfully spay/neuter approximately 30 dogs and cats.

Our plan is to do roughly the same number, with an emphasis on female animals. Protective Services will also prioritize elders that wish their pets to be treated.

Keep an eye out for messaging from the Communications Team (Facebook, the website and direct emails) about when information will be collected and appointments arranged.

This is a free service to FMFN onreserve residents, on behalf of Fort McKay First Nation.

Taking care of your pets

Spring weather often results in frisky animals. We have mentioned, above, the more enduring way of controlling such behaviour, but the Animal Control Bylaw also sets out quite specifically what your responsibilities as a pet lover and owner are.

- Among others, you need to register your pet. This is of particular importance during wildfire season. Knowing which homes have pets is very important in the event of an evacuation order.
- 2. All pets on Nation land must be immunized. If in doubt, ask the vet next time they visit.
- 3. All pets must be kept under control. This can mean many things. They need to be prevented, via fencing or tethering, from wandering around. They need to comply with

- noise rules. They need to be kept away from litter-making opportunities – see above, spaying and neutering, and they need to be fed and loved and cared for.
- 4. And most important of all, they need to be patrolled, dogs especially. Wherever they go and whatever they do, a responsible family member needs to be right with them, or behind them, doing a stoop and scoop. Remember, the only thing more irritating about pet ownership than picking up after them, is watching someone else and their pet not pick up after them.

Keep the peace, pick up please.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Day	Date	Event	Details
Thursday	May 11, 2023	Adult Volleyball	7 pm - 9 pm at the school gym
Thursday	May 11, 2023	Arts Night at the Youth Centre	Fun for the whole family
Thursday	May 11, 2023	Edmonton Mother's Day Radio Bingo & Dinner. \$25K in prizes, Edmonton Office.	Must Register by May 7 with Shilla 780.828.2420
Thursday	May 11, 2023	Mothers' Day Lunch and Bingo	Noon - 2 pm in the Band Hall, with lunch.
Friday	May 12, 2023	National Limerick Day	
Sunday	May 14, 2023	Mother's Day	
Tuesday	May 16, 2023	Adult Volleyball	7 pm - 9 pm at the school gym
Tuesday	May 16, 2023	Charcuterie Board Workshop	5-7pm at the school. Booking details to follow.
Tuesday	May 16, 2023	Cree Class	6-7 pm Instructor- Edith Orr
Tuesday	May 16, 2023	Spring Community Clean Up 6pm at the Wellness Centre	Snacks and refreshments are provided as well as a prize draw
Wednesday	May 17, 2023	Acupuncture at the Health Centre	Please make an Appointment
Wednesday	May 17, 2023	Dene Class	6-7 pm Instructor- Janette Flett
Wednesday	May 17, 2023	Mens Pow Wow Drum Practice	Band Hall, 6-7 pm
Wednesday	May 17, 2023	Youth Entrepeneur Program fun by Community Futures Wood Buffalo	Youth Centre, 6pm-7 pm
Thursday	May 18, 2023	Adult Volleyball	7 pm - 9 pm at the school gym
Thursday	May 18, 2023	Arts Night at the Youth Centre	Fun for the whole family
Monday	May 22, 2023	Victoria Day	
Tuesday	May 23, 2023	Adult Volleyball	7 pm - 9 pm at the school gym
Tuesday	May 23, 2023	Cree Class	6-7 pm Instructor- Edith Orr
Wednesday	May 24, 2023	Acupuncture at the Health Centre	Please make an Appointment
Wednesday	May 24, 2023	Dene Class	6-7 pm Instructor- Janette Flett
Wednesday	May 24, 2023	Mens Pow Wow Drum Practice	Band Hall, 6-7pm
Thursday	May 25, 2023	Adult Volleyball	7 pm - 9 pm at the school gym
Thursday	May 25, 2023	Arts Night at the Youth Centre	Fun for the whole family
Thursday	May 25, 2023	Placeholder for Provincial Election Vote Advanced Polling	More Details to come. Voting will likely be in the Band Hall
Thursday	May 25, 2023	Playground Sponsor Recognition Day	Details forthcoming
Sunday	May 28, 2023	Women's Show in town	Details to follow
Monday	May 29, 2023	Alberta Provincial Election	More Details to come. Voting will likely be in the Band Hall
Tuesday	May 30, 2023	Adult Volleyball	7 pm - 9 pm at the school gym
Tuesday	May 30, 2023	ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training)	Place Holder, Dates still to be confirmed. Only 30 spots available
Tuesday	May 30, 2023	Cree Class	6-7 pm Instructor- Edith Orr
Tuesday	May 30, 2023	Diabetes Walk	Details to follow
Tuesday	May 30, 2023	Junior Leaders Achievement Night, 6pm, Dinner and Awards in the Band Hall.	Come and applaud these exemplary youth.
Wednesday	May 31, 2023	Acupuncture at the Health Centre	Please make an Appointment
Wednesday	May 31, 2023	ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training)	Place Holder, Dates still to be confirmed. Only 30 spots available
Wednesday	May 31, 2023	Dene Class	6-7pm Instructor- Janette Flett
Wednesday	May 31, 2023	Mens Pow Wow Drum Practice	Band Hall, 6-7 pm
Wednesday	May 31, 2023	Street Naming Retreat, Edmonton	Tentative - Keep the Date. Travel down on
Treditesudy			the 30th



JUNE 15-18, 2023

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY, CULTURE & CONNECTION

EVENTS INCLUDE:

KIDS BIKE PARADE

MAIN PARADE

OPENING CEREMONIES

CORPORATE TUG OF WAR

CULTURAL VILLAGE

HAND GAMES TOURNAMENT

KIDS DISCOVERY ZONE

TEEN WONDER ZONE

ROUND DANCE

LAWRENCE "BULL" POWDER

ANNUAL MEMORIAL SLO-PITCH

TOURNAMENT

FORT MCKAY IDOL

HIP HOP SHOW

LIVE BANDS & FIREWORKS!