



Red River Current Newsletter

A Fort McKay First Nation Publication

Volume 13: Issue 7 • July 2023

Chief & Council Inuguration 2023



Chief & Council's inauguration featured many family members, community members, dignitaries and invited guests in the Fort McKay arena.

The Inauguration of a Chief and the instatement of the Councillors elected by the community is an important day in the long and successful history of Fort McKay First Nation. We honour our traditions and culture with a ceremony that is symbolic of our people and our ways. The community has placed its trust in this leadership and the Oath of Office Ceremony conveys the significance of these elected roles and their connection to our people and our ancestors, particularly those who led our people in the past.

After the swearing in, each member of the Council was presented with traditional gifts; a blanket, sweetgrass, tobacco and an eagle feather, symbolizing their contract with the

community. The Chief's headdress was then blessed and presented to Chief Raymond Powder by former Chief Jim Bouchier, before everyone joined in the buffet dinner feast to celebrate a memorable and historic day in our community. Congratulations to Chief Raymond Powder and Councillors David Bouchier, Crystal McDonald, Bobby Shott and Melinda Stewart.

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The opening ceremony was led in by the Eagle Staff and flag bearers, and was completed by the Fort McKay traditional dancers.

TREATY DAYS 2023

The Fort McKay First Nation Treaty Day celebrations, held over the weekend of the 15th-18th June, originally honoured the nation-to-nation relationship formed between the federal government and our people with the signing of Treaty 8 with the Crown in 1899.



What was once a remembrance of the historic commitment to the treaty has evolved into a celebration bringing families and the community together, enjoying our culture, heritage and history. It celebrates who we are and our identity as a First Nation, and over the course of the weekend Fort McKay doubles in size with well-wishers from far and wide.

See pages 4 & 5 for more pictures.



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 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.

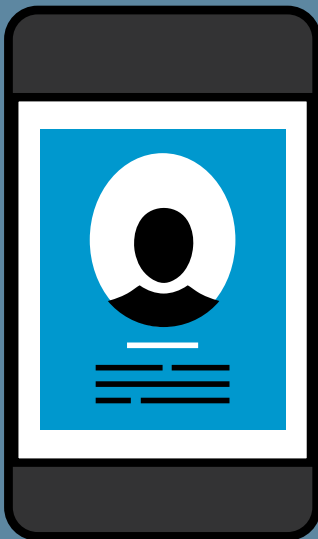
SUBMISSIONS

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

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Chief & Council Inuguration 2023



To be elected Chief and Council in our Nation is a great honour. Community members have placed their trust in the elected leadership to guide their community over the coming years. Seen above the newly elected Chief and Council marked the beginning of this journey with a special Oath of Office Ceremony.



Above: Chief Raymond Powder accompanied by Elder Lena Gallup, and youths Amelia Powder and Mya Wilson.



Right: Councillor Melinda Stewart accompanied by Elder Myrna McClure and youth Stella Dyson.



Left: Councillor Crystal McDonald accompanied by Elder Clara Boucher, and Youth Cruz Fabian.



Right: Councillor Bobby Shott accompanied by Elder Marie Boucher, and Yvonne Shott.



Left: Councillor David Bouchier accompanied by Elder Rena Bouchier and youth Kandis Bouchier.

This was another important day in the long and successful history of Fort McKay First Nation. This community of members, friends, families, special guests, and stakeholders gathered to honour the traditions and culture of the Nation and to support the new Chief and Council as they began the important work that the community has entrusted to them.

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.fortmackayfm.com

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Treaty Days 2023 in pictures



"It is with great pride that we once again welcome everyone to Fort McKay Treaty Days," said Chief Raymond Powder. "We are honored that our presenting sponsor is Bouchier, which since its launch 25 years ago has proudly supported our community."





Every year, everyone is welcome to attend Treaty Days. The events go all weekend: Kids Bike Parade, Kids Discovery Zone, Teen Wonder Zone, Cultural Village, and Dene Hand Games. The Fort McKay Idol and jigging contest are supported by the Nicely Put Together Band.



The Canoe races and Tug of War were highlights of the daytime activities on Saturday before the main event in the evening: The Stephanie Harpe Experience (SHE), Big Sugar, and Johnny Reid.

See you next year!

Photos by Fred McDonald & Crystal Mercredi



MEMBER SUCCESS STORY



Jim Boucher honoured by Canadian Business Hall of Fame

The Fort McKay First Nation is proud to congratulate former Chief Jim Boucher on his induction as a Companion of the Canadian Business Hall of Fame (CBHF).

The induction is a great honour. The Canadian Business Hall of Fame recognizes the outstanding contributions made by Canada's foremost business leaders to the economic growth and development of Canada and their efforts as role models for future generations of enterprising youth. Since 1979, only 200 business leaders have been enshrined in the Hall.

The CBHF notes that its Companions' entrepreneurial and management skills, vision, determination, and perseverance have helped to shape Canada. The jobs they have created and the products and services they have developed play a significant role in maintaining our high standard of living. As leaders and mentors, they have earned the respect of their peers for their integrity and sound business ethics.

Former Chief Boucher joins three other 2023 inductees: Madeleine Paquin, President and CEO of Logistec Corp., Edward Sonshine, Founder and CEO of RioCan Real Estate Investment Trust, and Hugh Anthony Arrell, Chairman and Co-Founder of Burgundy Asset. The formal induction took place at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on May 11. "We are extremely grateful to former

Chief Jim Boucher for the great strides taken under his leadership towards our nation's sustainable economic prosperity and cultural preservation," said Chief Raymond Powder. "He greatly deserves this recognition as one of the top businesspeople not only in the Indigenous community, but on a national level."

In their description of Boucher's contribution to the national business landscape, the CBHF noted the following: "Jim Boucher is an influential First Nations leader in Canada. Under his direction, Fort McKay First Nation has been internationally recognized as one of the most enterprising Indigenous communities in the world. Fort McKay First Nation is situated in the heart of Canada's Athabasca oil sands. Mr. Boucher was the long-standing Chief of Fort McKay First Nation and Founder and Chairperson of the Fort McKay Group of Companies for three decades. He led his Nation to strategically take advantage of their geographical location by enhancing the community's social and economic conditions."

"Jim initiated effective and long-standing partnerships with industry and government and developed many successful First Nation-owned businesses that continue to create economic wealth and opportunity for the community. Jim believes that preservation of FMFN's traditional ways of life can occur alongside sustainable development. In 2020, Jim

co-founded the Saa Dene Group of Companies, to continue his vision of to increase Indigenous, Diversity and Inclusion through economic and social participation in the global economy." Former Chief Boucher was also recognized for his efforts to balance the economic needs of the community with its cultural and environmental needs.

"When I was young, our lands were pristine in the sense that there was no development going on," said Boucher, noting that the Nation's traditional lands have always been part of its economic life. "People made a living off the land. It was a beautiful way to live."

As that way of life evolved, Boucher sought to protect the land and the community. The CBHF notes that he has always believed that the practice and preservation of a traditional way of life can occur simultaneously alongside long-term sustainable oil sands development.



"He has this great ability to think from the future," said ATCO CEO Nancy Southern, who spoke about Boucher's contribution. "Indeed, it is part of Jim's talent for business that he always looked at the long game, to where the community wanted to be, and took them along that path."

As a result of this success, Jim has been recognized far and wide for his acumen and humanity. In 2020, he was inducted into the Alberta Order of Excellence, and he has also been recognized by RARA, Indspire, The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, the Governor General, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, and many other business and community-minded groups.

Congratulations, former Chief Boucher, on your much deserved recognitions!

FORT MCKAY ELDERS

What's happening in July

Elders Town Trip on Tuesday, July 11th.

Elders Quarterly General Meeting, in the Band Hall or online - 12:30 pm to 3 pm on Tuesday, July 18th.

July 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th Lunch & Bingo at the Elders Center.

FORT MCKAY ELDERS BINGO!

Date
Thursdays

Time
Noon - 2:00 pm

Location
Elders Centre

Call Peggy for cards at
780-598-3575.



Fort McKay Elders QGM Meeting

Tuesday, July 18th
Lunch at 12:30 pm.

Meeting from 1 pm – 3 pm
In the Band Hall or online if preferred

Chief and Council Update

Elders who prefer to attend an online meeting are asked to provide an email address to receive a ZOOM invitation.

If you have questions or need help registering, please contact Tara at 780.742.4927.

Transportation available.

CFWE RADIO BINGO

Date
Mondays and Saturdays

Time
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Location
Fort McKay Radio
Canada



INSPIRED BY OUR PAST, INVESTED IN OUR FUTURE

FMFN GRADUATION CELEBRATION



The Fort McKay graduation Ceremony on Friday the 23rd of June honoured the educational achievements of the Nation and acknowledge the pride the community had in the first year of operation of our new school, named after the late leading Elder Elsie Fabian. Chief Raymond noted how Grad day was one of his favourite

days of the year as it celebrates the hard work of the students of the community, achieving their goals and going forward to apply their learnings.

Graduation 2023 celebrated the major educational stepping stones - kindergarten, Grade 6, Grade 9, Grade 12 and post-secondary.

The ceremony was followed by a BBQ and social event.

Coming in August

A bumper graduation issue showcasing the pictures of each graduating student. See you next month.

Photos by Fred McDonald





The Original Foundational Values of Elsie Fabian School are engagement in teaching and learning, parents and community, culture and traditions, and a school environment based on the principles of love, responsibility,

respect, listening, nurturing, relationships, humility and learning. The first Graduation celebration from the new school honoured these, as they are also the values of the community.



Graduation in Fort McKay is a family event. Not only are they there to congratulate and celebrate, graduates from other institutions and age groups also celebrate their successes. Parents and grandparents with their own diplomas and degrees share in the value of education for the Nation. Congratulations to all our success stories. Fort McKay First Nation celebrates with you.

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



FMFN lends aid to Fort Chipewyan Evacuees

Just as we went to press last month, Fort Chipewyan received an evacuation order due to the proximity of a wildfire.

It has been a difficult fire season in Alberta, the worst since 2016, and we all waited nervously for further news.

Fortunately, the entire community was safely evacuated by commercial and military airplanes as well as boaters who came down the Athabasca River to Fort McKay. We were honoured to welcome evacuees to our community as they waited to find out the effects of the fire on Fort Chipewyan.

As we go to press this month, the evacuation order is lifted and the residents of Fort McKay have returned home.

We wish them all the best in their recovery efforts.





Groundbreaking ceremony in St. Albert

A ground-breaking ceremony was held in St. Albert on June 22, 2023, to mark the beginning of construction for the East Village, a real estate development project in St. Albert. It is owned 50-50 between Fort McKay First Nation and Landrex, a real estate development company.

East Village is a 13-acre mixed-use lifestyle development located in the growing neighborhood of St. Albert's Erin Ridge North. It will include 180 residential units as well as 90,000 square feet of built-to-suit commercial space. It will include a one-acre amenity park and is located near restaurants and stores. It is expected to take five years to complete.

FMFN's investment in the project is in keeping with its policy of economic diversification away from oil and designed to reduce the potential financial risk to the community in terms of long-term income.

"We are thinking about the financial prosperity of our Nation for generations to come," said Chief Powder. "One of the sectors we decided to look at was the Alberta real estate sector. Our careful research led us to partner with Landrex. We are proud to be 50-50 owners in this development."

"Fort McKay First Nation and Landrex are also aware of the housing affordability crisis taking place in cities across Canada," said Chief Powder. "That is why we have decided to make 10 per cent of the 180 units in this building affordable units."

The sod turning was presented by Fort McKay First Nation Chief Raymond Powder, Councillors Melinda Stewart and Bobby Shott, and Landrex founder Larry Andrews. Among those present was Shelly Biermanski, deputy mayor of St. Albert, who praised the new housing units.

Also participating was Dale Nally, Member of the Legislative Assembly for St. Albert-Morinville and Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction. In a brief speech Minister Nally praised the project and congratulated Landrex and Fort McKay First Nation on their collaboration, noting FMFN as a sophisticated investor in real estate.





Be Bear Smart!



Bears venture into human habitat most often when they detect easy food sources left out by humans.

If you live near a forested area or treeline, minimize the risk of bear encounters by managing food sources:

- Put out garbage the morning of collection day.
- Store garbage cans indoors, or clean them regularly.
- Clean your barbecue after every use.
- Collect fruit from trees and gardens quickly, or pick fruit before it ripens.
- Keep meat, fish and oils out of your compost heap.
- Do not put out birdfeeders from April to October.

Without tempting snacks and smells, bears have less reason to wander into your backyard. They will not become habituated to an area if they do not find a food reward.

What should I do if I see a bear in my backyard?

- Do not panic. Do not run.
- Notify the Fort McKay Park Rangers on **780-598-9644** or Fish & Wildlife on **780-743-7200**.



Emma Proulx receiving her Junioe Leader award from Julia Soucie and Kory Torraville.

Junior Leader Awards

On Tuesday, June 20th, we held our Junior Leaders Achievement Night where we recognized the efforts of 17 Junior Leaders who volunteered and fundraised over 600 hours collectively in the 2022 year!

A special thank you goes out to Chief Raymond Powder for his kind words and to Elder Marie Boucher for opening our evening with a prayer. Another thank you to Rose Beaton for the delicious meal!

Congratulations to the following Junior Leaders on an amazing year:

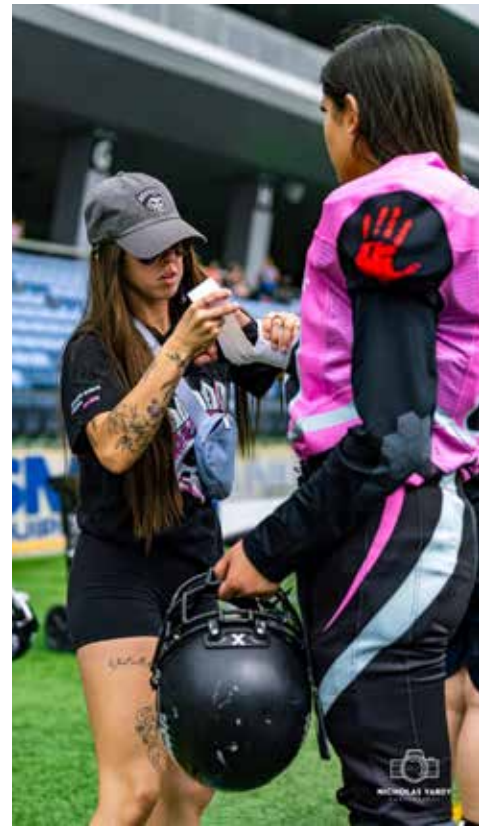
Harley Gladue
Scarlett McClure
Abigail McClure
Ethen Fabian
Patience Grandjambe
Hayden Faichey
Victoria Gladue
Sadi Gladue
Matayah Grandjambe



Above: Chief Raymond Powder, Julia Soucie and Kory Torraville with all the Junior Leader recipients.

Emmett Mclsaac
Hailey Calliou
Amira Laliberte
Dakota Tobin
Samara Donofrio
Shania Grandjambe
Joely Grandjambe
Emma Proulx-Redcrow





Football team ends on a high note

The Northern Spirits homecoming game was delayed for that most Alberta of reasons. The original opposition, the Saint Albert Valkyries, had to cancel as their bus was commandeered to help in wildfire evacuations. The game was postponed, nearly cancelled and then rearranged, eventually taking place against a Wetaskawin Invitation team, Sunday June the 18th at Shell Place.

And what a game it was. For those who don't follow the team, and shame on you if that's the case, the game was played on a full length but narrowed field, 30 yards instead of 50. This promotes a more compelling running game with keener clashes 'twixt offense and defense.

Our girls ran out the winners of a game that nearly exhausted the fans, let alone the players. The final score was 47-29 in our favor, 7 touchdowns to 4. **Roll on next season.**



BUSINESS NEWS

Day	Date	Event	Details
Friday	July 7, 2023	World Chocolate Day	Bring a treat to work
Monday	July 10, 2023	Girls at Bat Program with the Jays Care Foundation	9am-noon
Monday	July 10, 2023	Ribbon skirt workshop (adult program @ school)	
Tuesday	July 11, 2023	Elders Town Trip	Details to Follow
Tuesday	July 11, 2023	Girls at Bat Program with the Jays Care Foundation	9am-noon
Tuesday	July 11, 2023	Dehydration food workshop (adult program @ school)	
Wednesday	July 12, 2023	Student Summer Programming: Girls Workout	6pm-8pm
Wednesday	July 12, 2023	Girls at Bat Program with the Jays Care Foundation	9am-noon
Wednesday	July 12, 2023	Comedy Bingo (Adult program @ Band Hall)	
Thursday	July 13, 2023	Elders Lunch and Bingo	Elders Centre
Thursday	July 13, 2023	Girls at Bat Program with the Jays Care Foundation	9am-noon
Friday	July 14, 2023	Girls at Bat Program with the Jays Care Foundation	9am-noon
Saturday	July 15, 2023	Start of the North American Indigenous Games, Halifax.	5000 Athletes from more than 700 Nations, July 15-23
Tuesday	July 18, 2023	Quarterly General Meeting - Elders, 12:30pm-3pm. Online available as well	Fort McKay Band Hall
Tuesday	July 18, 2023	Quarterly General Meeting - Fort McKay Band Members, 6pm-9pm. Online also	Fort McKay Band Hall
Tuesday	July 18, 2023	Dance camp (ages 5-11yrs @ schoo	
Tuesday	July 18, 2023	Basketball camp (ages 5-11yrs @ school)	
Tuesday	July 18, 2023	FMFN Financial Literacy Course, Register with Lila Hommecourt	Online, 11am
Wednesday	July 19, 2023	PACE Awards Lunch	Dorothy McDonald Band Hall. 12pm
Wednesday	July 19, 2023	Student Summer Programming: Girls Workout	6pm-8pm
Wednesday	July 19, 2023	Quarterly General Meeting - Fort McMurray Band Members, 6pm-9pm.	Radisson Inn, Fort McMurray
Wednesday	July 19, 2023	Elders Picnic in the Park	Details to Follow
Wednesday	July 19, 2023	Dance camp (ages 5-11yrs @ schoo	
Wednesday	July 19, 2023	Basketball camp (ages 5-11yrs @ school)	
Thursday	July 20, 2023	Quarterly General Meeting - Edmonton Elders, 12:30pm-3pm. No Online service	Edmonton Inn and Conference Centre
Thursday	July 20, 2023	Quarterly General Meeting - Edmonton Band Members, 6pm-9pm. No Online service	Edmonton Inn and Conference Centre
Thursday	July 20, 2023	Elders Lunch and Bingo	Elders Centre
Thursday	July 20, 2023	Dance camp (ages 5-11 yrs @ school)	
Thursday	July 20, 2023	Basketball camp (ages 5-11 yrs @ school)	
Thursday	July 20, 2023	FMFN Trades Exp Event	10:30am-3:30pm in the Band Hall. Lunch for community members
Friday	July 21, 2023	Dance camp (ages 5-11 yrs @ school)	
Friday	July 21, 2023	Basketball camp (ages 5-11 yrs @ school)	
Wednesday	July 26, 2023	Student Summer Programming: Girls Workout	6pm-8pm
Thursday	July 27, 2023	Elders Lunch and Bingo	Elders Centre
Monday	July 31, 2023	Dance Pl3y with Matt Leung. Afternoon session for kids	https://www.dancepl3y.com/ Evening classes for adults.
Monday	July 31, 2023	Gymnastics camp (ages 7-11yrs in town)	
Monday	July 31, 2023	Dance Pl3y with Matt Leung. Afternoon session for kids	https://www.dancepl3y.com/ Evening classes for adults.
Monday	July 31, 2023	Gymnastics camp (ages 7-11yrs in town)	



FORT MCKAY
FIRST NATION

NOTICE

To Members of Fort McKay First Nation

Quarterly General Meeting (Q1 2023):

Fort McKay First Nation highly encourages the members of the Community to attend.

Date, Time and Location:

Fort McKay, AB

Tuesday, July 18th at 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Fort McKay Band Hall, or online via Zoom - to register, visit

<https://bit.ly/3PAqecJ>

Fort McMurray, AB

Wednesday, July 19th at 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Radisson Inn, 435 Gregoire Drive, Fort McMurray, AB

Edmonton, AB

Thursday, July 20th at 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Edmonton Inn & Conference Centre, 11834 Kingsway NW,

Edmonton, AB

Need help? Just call Sophie Powder at **780.828.2426**.

On the Tips and Tricks sheet, if you're using Zoom, you'll find the number to call if you need help during the meeting.