



## Blair Bellerose enters the Junos with Midnight Sparrows album



Fort McKay First Nation Chief and Council would like to congratulate Blair Bellerose on his continuing musical success. Following the launch of his second album in 2022, *Born in the City*, Blair, recording as Midnight Sparrows, has put it forward for the 2024 Junos in two categories. Rock album of the year and Contemporary Indigenous Artist or Group of the year. Both are perfect for the album. Not only does it rock like it's the eighties, the songs are imbued with images and memories of Blair's childhood as a member of the Nation.

Nowhere is this more obvious than the song *Butterfly Wings* which Blair wrote in honour of his late Mother Freda Bellerose, an Elder from the community and a residential school survivor. "The song celebrates all she taught me about how to live a good life," said Blair, "as well as being able to let go of loved ones when they are gone."

The Title Track of the Album is also close to his heart. *Born in the City* is one of Blair's most personal songs to date, reflecting his lived experience of urban Indigeneity. Having lived,

worked and studied in the urban Aboriginal community his entire life, this is a subject that Blair is very passionate about, even writing his recent Master's thesis on the ways in which government policies impact urban Indigenous non-profit organizations. "*Born in the City* defiantly challenges the notion that living in a city renders one's Indigeneity as inauthentic."

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## CHIEF POWDER AT OPENING OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Chief Raymond Powder was in Edmonton recently to attend the Speech from the Throne, a ceremony marking the beginning of the fall session of the Alberta legislature. The event took place at the Alberta Legislature Building.

"I was honoured to be invited to attend this important event," said Chief Powder. "It was a valuable opportunity to connect with MLAs and key members of the government, and to learn first-hand about the government priorities outlined in the throne speech."

The Throne Speech occurs at the opening of every new session of the legislature. It outlines the broad goals and direction for government during the session ahead, and plans for achieving them. Among the important issues raised by the Government were partnering with Indigenous communities, as well as education and economic diversification.

Continued on page 2



Salma Lakhani, Alberta's 19th Lieutenant Governor reading the Throne Speech in the Legislature Building

**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

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 Centre, General Delivery,  
 Fort McKay, AB T0P 1C0

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**Hours of Operation:**

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 Closed daily: 12 - 1 p.m.

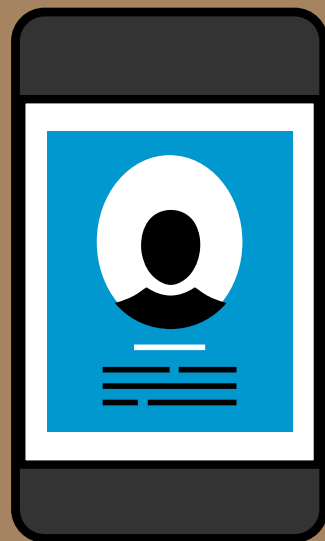
**SUBMISSIONS**

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

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**Continued from page 1**

While Blair identified as Métis for most of his earlier life, he is now also a proud member of Fort McKay First Nation thanks to a successful, women-led challenge to the Indian Act which allows for greater gender equity in passing on Indian status through the maternal family line.

As to the rest of the album, according to Blair, "Born in the City will make you believe that the magic of rock and roll still exists and its power is as strong as ever."

Blair records under the name Midnight Sparrows. His debut album Rock & Roll City was nominated for a Native American Music Award but didn't win.

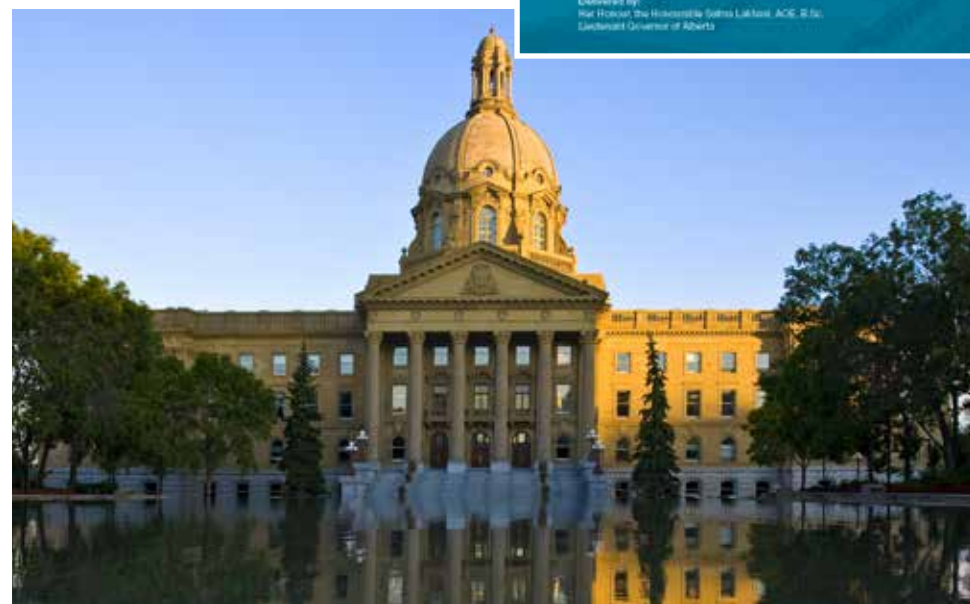
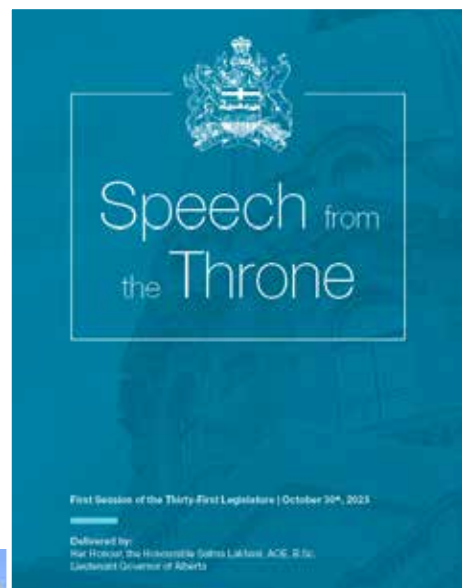
However next year, at the Junos, who knows?

Good luck Blair. Your Nation is rooting for you.



**Continued from page 1**

Chief Raymond met with Premier Danielle Smith in August to discuss areas of mutual interest, describing the meeting as productive and aimed at strengthening the relationship between the Fort McKay First Nation and the Provincial Government. He has also had the opportunity to meet with other members of the legislature in recent months and continues to further the Nation's tradition of working effectively with Government. Attending an event such as this allows him to maintain productive connections with the Province and to ensure the voice of the Nation continues to be heard.



**STAFF RETIREMENT**

**First Park Rangers Retire with Thanks from the Nation**



Andrew Bouchier and Joe Grandjambe cutting into their retirement cake.

Fort McKay First Nation Park Rangers Joe Grandjambe and Andrew Bouchier have retired. Fort McKay First Nation Chief and Council would like to congratulate them on this milestone, and also

thank them for their years of exemplary service. Founded in 2016, the Park Ranger program helps protect the Moose Lake Reserves and supports Fort McKay First Nation members who practice their Treaty



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Rights on those lands. Joe and Andrew were the first two people to undertake that important role.

"Elders Joe Grandjambe and Andrew Bouchier have faithfully served the community for the past seven years in the Park Ranger capacity," says Park Ranger Lead Craig Randell, "while leading the way in sharing their traditional knowledge with the community and keeping them safe, adding an invaluable asset to the new program."

Guided by Fort McKay First Nation traditions, practices, policies, and procedures, and by provincial and national safety standards, the Park Rangers' responsibilities are extensive.

As Bori Arrobo, Director of Sustainability explains, "The work of the Fort McKay Rangers is comprehensive and includes wilderness and remote first aid, search and rescue training, snowmobile and OHV operations, Canadian firearms safety training, trapping, wildlife awareness, and Hazing Training, along with Bylaw and Peace Officer duties and many other responsibilities."

"I want to personally thank Joe and Andrew for their founding work in these areas on behalf of the Nation," added Bori. "Joe and Andrew filled these duties faithfully and effectively and passed on their knowledge and wisdom to all the Rangers who followed."

Chief and Council, as well as members of a grateful community, joined the celebration honouring these two diligent Rangers and enjoyed a tour of the new Park Ranger facility.



## Land Code honoured with Golden Eagle Award

Fort McKay Chief and Council would like to congratulate the Land Code team for the recognition they attained with the Golden Eagle Award for their stellar work getting our Land Code enacted and verified. This prestigious award, given by the Land Advisory Board Resource Centre (LABRC), recognizes Indigenous communities that have successfully passed their land codes in the past year.

Benita Koochicum, Senior Manager of Lands and Leasing, notes that the award is a significant achievement as it recognizes our Nation's commitment to self-governance and management of lands and resources.

"Fort McKay First Nation now has control over land management and law-making as it applies to its reserve lands," said Benita. "This strengthens the Nation's ability to protect and conserve its land and environment in a culturally appropriate way. We are now working hard on the business of implementing the code in a way that reflects the members' goals for their traditional land in the present and the future."

The passing of Land Codes is an important step towards self-determination and sovereignty for First Nations. It allows the development of our own laws and regulations for land and resource management. This not only empowers First Nation communities but also ensures that decisions regarding their lands and resources are made by those who have a deep understanding of their traditional territories.

The Golden Eagle Award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the FMFN Land Code team.



It also highlights the collaboration between First Nations, governments, and organizations towards a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this significant milestone in our community.

## Seth Grandjambe receives a university scholarship

Fort McKay Chief and Council would like to congratulate the excellent achievements of Seth Grandjambe, a two-sports awards winner. Seth wasn't able to be at the Alberta Indigenous Games this year. He had already begun his academic year at his new college, Waldorf University in Iowa. Seth has a hockey scholarship that pays for his education and his game fees. "It's a pretty great deal I'd say," he told us. "I get to keep playing the sport I love and also get an education".

Seth is studying business management and playing for the Waldorf Warriors Division 2 Hockey Team. It is, as he says, a pretty good deal, but not a full ride so everything extra helps. He was therefore delighted to be awarded the Kean

Walker-Littlechild Golf Scholarship for his performance as part of the Fort McKay foursome at the 2022 Alberta games. That money will be applied to his studies in the USA and Seth is very grateful for it, as he is for all the help he's had on the way.

"There are too many names to mention, but I must thank Chief and Council for their support, as well as so many of the people up in Fort McKay, and special thanks to the E-Learning department." Family is important to Seth and he also made special mention of his family and teammates, singling out brother Ethan, sister Rane, his Dad Trevor, "as well as Simon Adams".

The examples from the past are what drives Seth now. "Being a positive role model is important, representing who



Seth proudly displaying the Fort McKay First Nation flag in his dorm room at the Waldorf University in Iowa.

I am and where I'm from. Although I am the only Indigenous student-athlete on the team, I let them know I'm from Fort McKay and that I am proud of my history and my heritage."

We're proud of you too Seth. Congratulations.

## PACE Awards Recognition, Beverly 'Bubbinz' McKenzie

Chief and Council congratulate Beverly 'Bubbinz' McKenzie on her PACE Award for 2023. These awards are nominated by fellow workers and recognizes people living our organizational values of People, Accountability, Culture, and Equity.

Bubbinz is lucky that much of her passion for music is part of her job at the radio station. She trained as a producer and audio engineer and applies her skills with the community uppermost in her mind. "I am always trying to find a nice smooth balance to appease all age groups in McKay & play music they can vibe too," she said. Everyone who listens to the station will recognize her passion in the music she plays.

According to her nomination 'Bubbinz should be recognized because she is an exemplary employee. She is passionate about her work and strives for excellence in all she does. Her consistent hard work

is motivated by her natural desire to maintain and improve the Radio Station and the First Nation.

Bubbinz usually arrives to work early and works late. She also regularly works late supporting our community producers. She holds herself accountable to Fort McKay FM and the FMFN to a very high level. Her positive attitude makes her pleasant to work with and she creates a productive work environment. Bubbinz is highly dependable and productivity is standard with her. She is a great team player.'

Congratulations.

The final PACE Awards of 2023 lunch celebration, and staff thank you for 2023 will take place on the **23rd of November** at Noon in the Youth Centre. All staff members please continue to nominate fellow workers and send the nominations to [Communications@fortmckay.com](mailto:Communications@fortmckay.com).



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](http://www.fortmckayfm.com)

# Elsie Fabian School Fall Week on the Land



Fort McKay First Nation Chief and Council want to congratulate Elsie Fabian School on its wonderful celebration, Fall Week on the Land.

This outdoor learning event is a vital part of the school's commitment to Indigenous-led, land-based learning and to building community connectedness, revitalizing Dene and Cree language, and gaining cultural knowledge and confidence.

The event also reinforces the fact that Indigenous people of the past had their own way of teaching things that are part of today's curriculum. Elders and Knowledge Keepers taught skills that included numeracy, science, plant identification, and comprehension skills.

The Fall Week on the Land follows the seasonal calendar of the Cree and Dene People. In both Cree (Onocihitopesim) and Dene (Denjye etk' enadaihiza) the month of September translates to Mating Season or Moose Breeding. It is also the month to start getting ready for winter.

Other activities were identifying plants, drumming, scaling fish and

making fish scale art, tipi teachings, traditional games, and preparing a bear pelt. Elder Joe Grandjambe came to the school, teaching about trapping and displaying pelts of lynx, wolverine, fishers and fox. There was also a Métis tent to acknowledge their teachings.

At the end of the week the community was invited in for a traditional meal, followed by both a jigging and a moose calling contest, and a celebration round dance in the gym.



## FORT MCKAY ELDERS BINGO!

**Date**  
Thursdays

**Time**  
Noon - 2:00 pm

**Location**  
Elders Centre

Call Peggy for cards at  
780-598-3575.



## CFWE RADIO BINGO

**Date**  
Mondays and Saturdays

**Time**  
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**Location**  
Fort McKay Radio  
Canada



# Winter Golf comes to Fort McKay



Artist's impression of the golf simulator in the Fort McKay arena.

Soon, you can trade the winter blues for greens – as well as fairways, bunkers, and rough. Because a new golf simulator is coming to the hockey arena. Known officially as The Full Swing Simulator, this state-of-the-art sports game centre is at least a 300-yard drive beyond anything that has come before.

The simulator provides access to 84 of the world's most famous golf courses. It also provides live video playback of individual shots, creating the opportunity to fine-tune every aspect of your game, from tee to green.

Even if you're not a golf enthusiast, the simulator has something for you.

"This simulator is not just about golf," said Simon Adams, Director of Community Services. "It offers access to many other sports as well. If an activity involves, throwing, kicking or hitting something, you can probably find it here."

The array of other sporting activities available through the simulator includes Golf, QB football, soccer, baseball pitching, hockey, and Big Buck hunting.

"On behalf of the entire community, we are indebted to Councillor David Bouchier for his generous donation that made this simulator a reality," says Simon.

As early as Christmas golfers could be standing on the first tee at Pebble

Beach or draining their birdie putt on the 18th green at Pinehurst, with another 82 legendary golf locations to choose from.

Our clubs are already packed and ready to go!



Baseball is just one of the many sports options available.

# Fort McKay First Nation announces a new Insurance and Risk Service business

Fort McKay First Nation is pleased to announce a new business recently, "Fort McKay Insurance and Risk Services Powered by Lloyd Sadd," which will offer a comprehensive range of insurance products to businesses and individuals across Canada. This partnership with Lloyd Sadd is the first First Nation-owned insurance company, and it will directly benefit the community of Fort McKay. Please visit the FM Insurance and Risk Services website to learn more: [www.lloydsadd.com/fortmckay](http://www.lloydsadd.com/fortmckay)

LloydSadd | NAVACORD



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Introducing Fort McKay Insurance & Risk Services: A Partnership between Fort McKay First Nation and Lloyd Sadd

Fort McKay, October 6, 2023 – A groundbreaking collaboration has emerged in the heart of Wood Buffalo as the Fort McKay First Nation and Lloyd Sadd join forces to establish Fort McKay Insurance & Risk Services. This dynamic partnership marks a significant milestone in empowering local businesses within the Wood Buffalo community by providing tailored insurance solutions and risk management services.

With a shared commitment to fostering growth and sustainability, the Fort McKay First Nation and Lloyd Sadd have united to launch this innovative insurance brokerage. Fort McKay Insurance & Risk Services is strategically positioned to cater to businesses operating or based in Fort McKay, offering them a comprehensive range of insurance options including Property, Auto, General Liability, Cyber and more that are tailored to their specific business requirements. By leveraging Lloyd Sadd's extensive industry expertise and the deep-rooted connection of the Fort McKay First Nation to the community, this collaboration seeks to deliver unparalleled value to local businesses.

"We are thrilled to embark on this journey with Lloyd Sadd to bring Fort McKay Insurance & Risk Services to life. Clients can expect personalized attention, competitive coverage options, and proactive risk management services to safeguard their assets and operations effectively. This business is one of the first Indigenous owned insurance companies in Canada and it will directly benefit the community of Fort McKay First Nation" said Chief Raymond Powder, Fort McKay First Nation.

Councillor Bobby Shott of Fort McKay First Nation said, "Lloyd Sadd, a recognized leader in the insurance and risk management industry, brings a wealth of knowledge and resources to the partnership. Their dedication to innovation and client-centric solutions aligns seamlessly with the vision of Fort McKay Insurance & Risk Services."

This partnership reflects a commitment to supporting local businesses and contributing to the long-term prosperity of Fort McKay First Nation.

For further information about Fort McKay Insurance & Risk Services, please contact:

Monika Wilson  
Vice President, Fort McKay Landing  
[mwilson@Fortmckay.com](mailto:mwilson@Fortmckay.com)

**About Fort McKay Insurance & Risk Services:** Fort McKay Insurance & Risk Services is a collaborative effort between the Fort McKay First Nations and Lloyd Sadd, aimed at providing specialized insurance solutions and risk management services. By combining local insights with industry expertise, the brokerage is dedicated to empowering businesses and ensuring their sustained success.

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

### DRUM PRACTICE

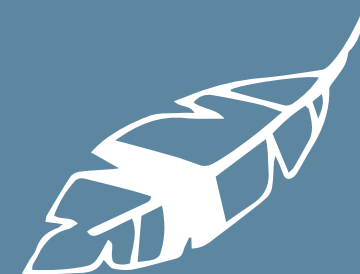
Every Wednesday at 6 pm in the Band Hall.

All males welcome. Drop In, no registration required!

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**  
[Redcrow@fortmckay.com](mailto:Redcrow@fortmckay.com)



# Another Awesome Halloween

Fort McKay First Nation went all out in Halloween spirit again this year with a variety of community events including Pumpkin Carving contest, Video Dance and Costume contest, and Halloween Yard Decorating contest. Congratulations to everyone who had fun joining in the contests. We hope our photos of these amazing events aren't too scary!

## Video Dance & Costume Contests

### Halloween Dance Contest Winners

**1st place age 0-5:** Mason Cardinal  
**2nd place 0-5:** Mila Fitzpatrick  
**3rd place 0-5:** Kailynn L'Hommecourt

**1st place age 6-9:** Ally Powder  
**2nd place age 6-9:** Maddox Donofrio  
**3rd place age 6-9:** Willow Boucher

**1st place age 10-17:** Victoria Block  
**2nd place age 10-17:** Abigail McClure  
**3rd place age 10-17:** Makayla Cardinal

**1st place adult 18+:** Georgette Yellowknee  
**2nd place adult 18+:** Kristy Kaskamin  
**3rd place adult 18+:** Audrey Redcrow

### Halloween Costume Contest Winners:

#### Scariest Costume age 0-11

**1st place:** Eulalie Yellowknee  
**2nd place:** Bradley Soucie  
**3rd place:** Zyanna Grandjambe

#### Scariest Costume age 12+

**1st place:** Leon Grandjambe  
**2nd place:** Georgette Yellowknee  
**3rd Place:** Geanna Grandjambe

#### Friendliest Costume age 0-11

**1st place:** Josiah  
**2nd place:** Aurora Grandjambe  
**3rd place:** Mila Fitzpatrick

#### Friendliest Costume age 12+

**1st place:** Gabby Gladue  
**2nd place:** Dakota Tobin  
**3rd place:** Patience Grandjambe

#### Best Homemade Costume age 0-11

**1st place:** Victoria Block  
**2nd place:** Ally  
**3rd place:** McKenna Serafinchan

#### Best Homemade Costume age 12+

**1st place:** Luke Fabian  
**2nd place:** Jay  
**3rd place:** Amber Harpe

#### Best Group Costume: 3 Winners

Lisa and Kane McKenzie  
 Kristy Kaskamin and Aurora Grandjambe  
 Emma Proulx-Redcrow and Sadie Gladue



## Pumpkin Carving Contest

### Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest Winners

**1st place age 6-9:** Layla  
**2nd place 6-9:** TBA  
**3rd place 6-9:** TBA

**1st place age 10-17:** Patience  
**2nd place age 10-17:** TBA  
**3rd place age 10-17:** Desiree

**1st place age 18+ Adults:** Marie McDonald  
**2nd place age 18+ Adults:** Margaret Boucher  
**3rd place age 18+ Adults:** Nicole Fitzpatrick

**1st place Family:** Josh Orr/Jay Jay  
**2nd place Family:** TBA  
**3rd place age Family:** Britney Courtorielle



# HALLOWEEN EVENTS

## Halloween Yard Decorating Contest

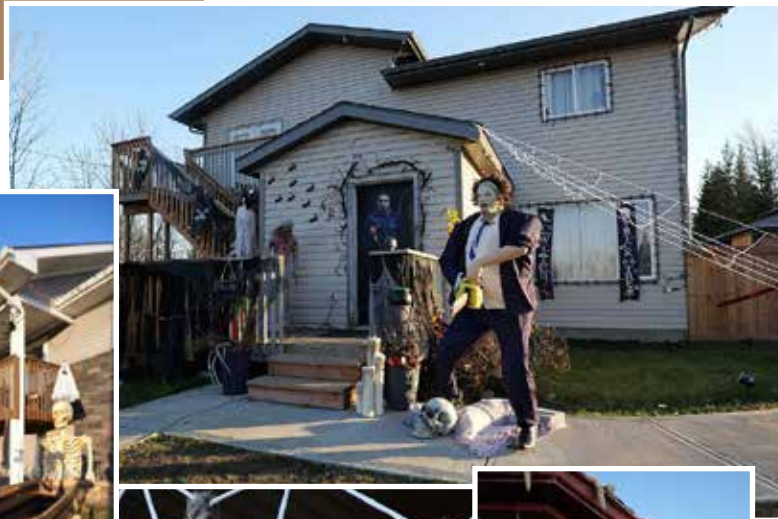
### Halloween Yard Decorating Winners

#### On Reserve

- Best Overall:** Georgette Yelooaknee
- Spookiest:** Tyler Young
- Best Theme:** Ryan Grandjambe
- Graveyard:** Chasity Powder
- Real Deadly:** Chelsey L'Hommecourt

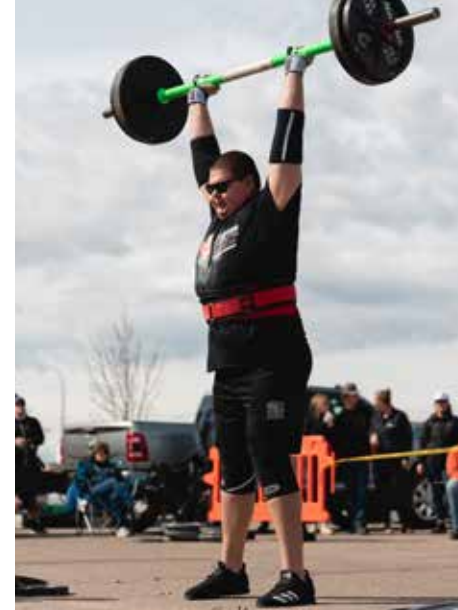
#### Off Reserve

- Best Overall:** Reggie Jr Boucher
- Spookiest:** Elissa Whiteknife
- Best Theme:** Shelley Harte
- Graveyard:** Verily Hill
- Real Deadly:** Christine Kinloch



# MEMBER SUCCESS STORY

## Riley Whiteknife



Fort McKay First Nation Chief and Council congratulate Riley Whiteknife on his success in the Magnus Classic Strongman competition held in Fort McMurray in September. In his first attempt, Riley placed sixth overall. More importantly he came second in the truck tire flipping competition and won the truck pull, where he towed four Chevy Silverados across the designated course in a faster time than all the other competitors. And that is not a misprint. Four trucks, linked in a train and harnessed at the front.

All the events in the competition require strength, endurance and determination. There is also an advantage if you have what sports science experts call long levers, arms and legs that help to propel heavy objects short distances. Riley has this, and his height is an advantage in these feats of strength. He is tall enough that people go quiet when he walks into a room, much nearer to seven feet than six. But he is also gentle, quiet spoken, soft of handshake, quick to smile, easy to laugh.

Until you point him towards a chain of trucks, where he explodes off the starting line with more power than Usain Bolt.

The challenge of strongman competitions comes from wishing to see how far you can push yourself. Riley talks of his friends, his training

partners, his coach, and all the people that help him. But the drive comes from within. All during the competition he was nursing a bicep injury. It didn't stop him from flipping truck tires. It hurt, but it didn't hurt enough. The Fort McMurray Strongman competition is an important step on Riley's way to the Worlds. The goal is to compete in Iceland, and it is a realistic one.

This was Riley's first attempt at a Pro-Am. Going up against the professionals as an amateur is an education, and Riley took away a lot of learning from the experience, including the friends he has made along the way. One of them is Colton Sloan, the winner of the event. Colton is a Cree from Treaty 6 and his win got him into the World's strongest man competition in Iceland. The path ahead is clear.

Riley doesn't talk about himself. He's not shy, just self-contained though he did mention that part of his training is a round or two of 500 pound squats. It's worth thinking of that level of intensity as a measure of

his commitment. Put the weight of a 350 small block Chevrolet engine – or a grand piano – on your back, and then go down and up. Repeat until tired.

Riley also doesn't mention the costs involved, which are considerable. His home gym equipment is more professional than most, essential for training after 12 hour shifts at Syncrude where he works with the Bird Environment team. It's also more expensive. Then there is membership at proper training facilities, nutrition costs, the hours involved, plus travel and time away from home. It all adds up.

Being an elite athlete is hard in a sport without much elite funding. But that's not why he does it. He's built for this sport like LeBron is for basketball, so lofty goals are attainable. Riley can get to the top. He has the ability, the physical prowess and he believes in himself, which may be the most important lesson in any sport. "The biggest muscle is the one in your head. You need to believe in yourself, set goals, keep going."

Lessons for life as well.

Congratulations Riley. Keep going.



## FMFN Hosts Year End Slo-Pitch Tournament



Fort McKay First Nation hosted the year end slo-pitch softball tournament at the Fort McKay diamond from Friday, September 22nd to Sunday, September 24th. Organizer Shay Laurent thanked the community for their support. "It was a huge success and the 4 teams involved had a great time with lots of hard fought but well-spirited competition."

The games were competitive all through the weekend. The Janvier Indios came in fourth place, and Team Bouchier in third. In the final, the game swung back and forth before the Bulls edged the Jays 11-10 to take home bragging rights until next fall.



## Band member's Orange Shirt Day message touches thousands



This year, on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Fort McKay, an orange T-shirt bearing a design created by FMFN member Reanna Whiteknife, made a large impact.

The shirt's design and message are painfully eloquent in their simplicity. On the back of the shirt is a stark, black image of a child's handprint and these words:

**What they missed out on...**

- Goodnight kisses
- Morning cuddles
- Bedtime stories
- Mommy when they were sick
- A kiss on their booboo
- Presents on Christmas Day
- No birthdays
- Swimming on a sunny day
- And an I Love You everyday

Reanna, now an Education Assistant at Elsie Fabian School, was shocked when she first learned about the history of residential schools as a Grade 7 student. She was even more deeply affected after she discovered that many members of her family were residential school survivors.

"I had to do something to honour what my relatives, and so many others, had gone through," Reanna said.

"Reanna was devastated to find out about residential schools and to understand what they had meant for her own family," said her mother, Elissa Whiteknife.

Since her first exposure to the reality of residential schools, Reanna has committed herself to raising awareness about this horrific part of the history of First Nations



people in Canada. Her T-shirt design reflects the awful scope of the losses experienced by First Nation children in residential schools, and the lingering trauma that followed.

Reanna's shirts were worn on Orange Shirt Day, this September 25th, by the students at Elsie Fabian School. The message touched everyone who attended this year's events. And the impact of the message quickly reached thousands more after a picture of the T-shirt was posted on social media by an event attendee. Within hours that image had been shared 5,000 times, and was shared more than 12,000 times within a week.

"The message is so sad and so true," said Reanna's mother Elissa, "that it struck a chord with people."

While Reanna's shirt design affected so many people in a positive way, there were also some negative results. Unscrupulous T-shirt makers copied and sold the design without Reanna's permission. Anyone who wants a copy of the T-shirt should make sure they get one of the official shirts, made by FMFN, and given away free to local participants.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day, is an annual event, set aside as a public recognition of the tragic and painful history, and the ongoing consequences, of residential schools. The day also focusses on emphasizing the ongoing need for reconciliation; the building and strengthening of relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, and the acknowledgement that **"Every Child Matters."**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Day	Date	Event	Details
Friday	November 3, 2023	No School - Professional Learning	For More Information see The Elsie Fabian School 2023-2024 Calendar
Friday to Tuesday	November 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7, 2023	Regalia Making Classes Grass Dance followed by Jingle Regalia	Contact Ona Fiddler-Berteig, 780-792-8538 in the E-learning Room, 16+. 4:30pm - 9pm
Monday	November 6, 2023	COVID-19 Vaccines available by appointment	Call or Text 780-713-6408 and leave your information
Every Mon & Weds	November 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 & 29, 2023	Influenza Inoculation - Drop in at the Health Centre	Contact the Health Centre at 780-828-2454
Tuesday	November 7, 2023	Cree Classes on Zoom with Edith Orr 6:30pm - 8pm	Register at culture@fortmckay.com
Every Tues, Wed & Thurs	November 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 2023	E-Learning, Grades 10-12.	4:30pm - 8:30pm Contact Ona, 780-792-8576
Wednesday	November 8, 2023	Aboriginal Veterans' Day	Day of Remembrance
Every Wednesday	November 8, 15, 22, 29, 2023	Anger Management Workshop 1pm - 4pm, Family Support Centre	Contact Leah, 780-828-4056
Wednesday	November 8, 2023	Dene Classes on Zoom with Janette Flett-Jones 6pm - 7:30pm	Register at culture@fortmckay.com
Wednesday	November 8, 2023	Indigenous Veterans Day Ceremony 10:30 am	For More Information see The Elsie Fabian School 2023-2024 Calendar
Friday	November 10, 2023	No School - Professional Learning	For More Information see The Elsie Fabian School 2023-2024 Calendar
Saturday	November 11, 2023	Remembrance Day	Public Holiday
Monday	November 13, 2023	Day off in lieu of Remembrance Day	Remembrance day commemoration
Monday	November 13, 2023	COVID-19 Vaccines available by appointment	Call or Text 780-713-6408 and leave your information
Monday	November 13, 2023	No School - School Break	For More Information see The Elsie Fabian School 2023-2024 Calendar
Tuesday	November 14, 2023	Cree Classes on Zoom with Edith Orr 6:30pm - 8pm	Register at culture@fortmckay.com
Wednesday	November 15, 2023	Anger Management Workshop 1pm - 4pm, Family Support Centre	Contact Leah, 780-828-4057
Wednesday	November 15, 2023	Dene Classes on Zoom with Janette Flett-Jones 6pm - 7:30pm	Register at culture@fortmckay.com
Thursday to Saturday	November 16, 17 & 18, 2023	Youth Empowerment Conference	In Fort Chipewyan. Contact Angela Marcel 780-838-0490.
Friday to Sunday	November 17, 18 & 19, 2023	Regalia Making Classes Grass Dance followed by Jingle Regalia. 4:30pm - 9pm	Contact Ona Fiddler-Berteig, 780-792-8538 in the E-learning Room, 16+.
Monday	November 20, 2023	COVID-19 Vaccines available by appointment	Call or Text 780-713-6408 and leave your information
Tuesday	November 21, 2023	Cree Classes on Zoom with Edith Orr 6:30pm - 8pm	Register at culture@fortmckay.com
Wednesday	November 22, 2023	Dene Classes on Zoom with Janette Flett-Jones 6pm - 7:30pm	Register at culture@fortmckay.com
Thursday	November 23, 2023	PACE Awards Lunch, 11:30 am - 1:30pm, in the Youth Centre	Thank you meal for all staff for 2023, and the final PACE Awards of the year.
Friday	November 24, 2023	No School - Professional Learning	For More Information see The Elsie Fabian School 2023-2024 Calendar
Tuesday	November 28, 2023	Cree Classes on Zoom with Edith Orr 6:30pm - 8pm	Register at culture@fortmckay.com
Wednesday	November 29, 2023	Dene Classes on Zoom with Janette Flett-Jones 6pm - 7:30pm	Register at culture@fortmckay.com