



## Junior Chief and Councillors elected at Elsie Fabian School school

Elsie Fabian School held elections for Junior Chief and Council. Those chosen were Chief Gracie Dyson, Vice Chief Harley Gladue, and Councillors Layla Serefinchan, Creedon Gladue, McKenna Serefinchan, Liam Thompson, Perla Langdon, and Ayria Boucher.

Chief Raymond Powder sent a letter of congratulations to the newly elected youth encouraging them to embrace their roles and to represent their fellow students dutifully.

“Your peers have recognized your character and dedication,” he said, “and you should be proud of the trust they have placed in you. I look forward to our discussions and witnessing the positive impact your



Chief Gracie Dyson decisions will have on the future of Elsie Fabian School. Most importantly, I encourage you to enjoy this experience!”

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Vice Chief Harley Gladue



Councillor Layla Serefinchan

## CHIEF POWDER ATTENDS AFN MEETING



Chief Raymond Powder attended the recent gathering of Chiefs and First Nations Leaders held in Edmonton, representing Fort McKay First Nation in the conversation and vote about the Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program. Pictured with Chief Powder is AFN Chief Cindy Woodhouse.

Pictured below is leading Child Care expert Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director of First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada, Associate Professor & Director of FNCARES (First Nations Children’s Action Research and Education Service) at University of Alberta and Professor in McGill’s School of Social Work.



# FORT MCKAY YOUTH

## FMFN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Raymond Powder, Chief  
David Bouchier, Councillor  
Crystal McDonald, Councillor  
Bobby Shott, Councillor  
Melinda Stewart, Councillor

Alvaro Pinto, CEO Oilsands  
Development and Sustainability

### 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.

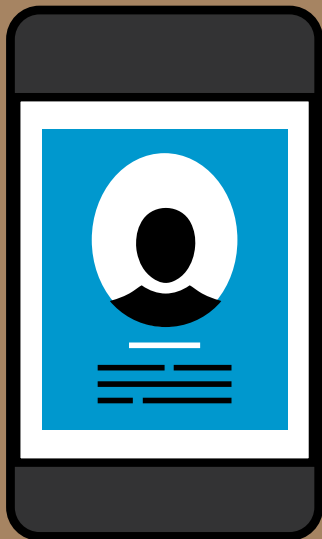
### SUBMISSIONS

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

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The Junior Chief and Councillors are an advisory board and will learn about leadership, responsibility and representation. They have also already learned about the limits of their advisory capacity.

“Their first decision was to ask if they could have every Monday off,” said school Principal Sarah Hiscock. “I had to explain to them that we also have limits to our authority and we were not allowed to shorten the school year any further. Then they came to us with the idea of a school spirit week, which we thought was wonderful, and we backed that fully.”

The Junior Chief and Councillors meet lunchtime every Monday in the school boardroom. The plan is to have a new election three times a school year, and the campaigning and voting are great learning experiences for all the youth.

Remember these names. Some day we will see them again in positions of leadership within the community.



Councillor McKenna Serefinchan



Councillor Liam Thompson



Councillor Perla Langdon



Councillor Ayria Boucher



Councillor Creedon Gladue

# FORT MCKAY YOUTH

## Ryett posts some big numbers

There is another member of the Laurent family skating his way into the record books. Eight year old Ryett Laurent, son of Hockey Arena Facilities Manager Shay and grandson of former Fire Chief Stan is having a grand season so far in the Alberta U9 Premier Hockey League. Ryett is currently leading the points table in his division with 38 points after only 8 games. That's nearly 5 points a game, and what's more impressive is the tilt towards goals vs assists, 31 and 7.

"Ryett is a very keen hockey player," said Katelyn Willier, Ryett's mother "but what's most important is he just loves the game and is having so much fun on the ice."

The Premier Hockey League is an organization of elite travelling teams throughout Alberta and Ryett is one of a number of Nation players playing in these leagues. Due to the distances involved the league typically brings its teams together in one location for an intense weekend of



Ryett is pictured with his proud dad Shay and grandfather Stan at the Fort McKay Arena

hockey, four and sometimes five games over a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The last mini tournament was at home in Fort McMurray, and our local arena was proud to host one of the games. Other locations include Edmonton, Lehbridge and Red Deer. It's a big commitment from coaches and family for all the weekends away from home, but the end results are that our youth are being given the opportunity to fulfill their potential.

Congratulations Ryett.

# FORT MCKAY HEALTH CENTRE

### Clinic Dates:

Dr O'Connor - Nov 11th - 15th  
 Dr Taiwo - Nov 26th - 28th  
 PCN Nurse - Every Mon & Wed

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

### 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 Centre 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](http://www.fortmackayfm.com)

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# Fort McKay members recognised at Oilers Alumni game

Chief Raymond Powder and Councillors Bouchier, McDonald, Stewart, and Shott wish to congratulate members Shay Laurent and Keegan Pruden for the considerable work they do for the community, especially in all the hockey programs in Fort McKay. Their sterling efforts as coaches and mentors to our youth, as well as their volunteer work through the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation, was recognized and honoured on the weekend at the recent alumni game.

Before the puck dropped, Chief Raymond Powder shared the land acknowledgement, recognizing that the game was taking place on the traditional lands of Treaty 8 First Nations Peoples.

If you are a hockey fan, and many among the Nation are, you may have recognized some of the players who came to Fort McMurray recently to play in the Oilers/Canucks foundation fundraiser. The Canucks boasted such luminaries as Dave Babych, Jyrki Lumme, Doug Bodger, and Chris Higgins, while the Oilers were similarly manned, with former captain Andrew Ference lining up with four-time Stanley Cup winner Craig McTavish, goaltender Ben Scrivens – and Fort McKay's own Shay and Keegan.

Shay played for the Oil Barons before spending four years in the BCHL, while Keegan played for the Oil Barons a couple of years after Shay and later went on to play in Germany and Sweden. Their on-ice careers led naturally to hockey



coaching, and today Shay and Keegan are the mainstays of all the hockey programming in our Nation.

The Alumni games are part of the Oilers Foundation fundraising program. The Foundation and the Oilers organization have a long and proud history with Fort McKay First Nation. Both Shay and Keegan volunteer at training camps run by the Oilers for youth all over Oilers country, as well as bringing coaches to Fort McKay. The Oilers Foundation is dedicated to building strong, vibrant, and safe communities. It has contributed to more than 2,900 charitable organizations and minor hockey programs across Oil Country.

Congratulations again, Shay Laurent and Keegan Pruden.



# Water Treatment Plant Maintenance Notice

Essential maintenance work will be happening at the Fort McKay Water Treatment Plant starting October 28th for approximately two months. During this work, tap water will continue to be safe to drink with quality standards being maintained and no interruptions to water service or pressure.

### **Water will be temporarily supplied from Fort McMurray for four weeks**

To complete this work, potable water will be temporarily supplied from Fort McMurray and hauled to the Fort McKay Water Treatment Plant to supply water to the community for four to eight weeks beginning in mid-November.

The potable water being provided from Fort McMurray may have a faint chlorine smell and a slightly higher level of chlorine than the treated water produced from the Fort McKay Water Treatment Plant. Chlorine is used in the water treatment process to kill bacteria and help ensure the potable water is safe to drink.

### **Water quality closely monitored and regularly tested**

Tap water will continue to be safe to drink with chlorine levels remaining below the limit in the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality. The water quality in Fort McKay will continue to be closely monitored and regularly tested.

If you have any questions, please contact Pulse at **780-743-7000** or [rmwb.ca/pulse](http://rmwb.ca/pulse).



## 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**

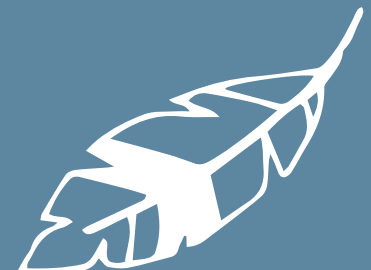
Every Wednesday at 6 pm in the Band Hall.

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



## Elders Fall Feast

Fort McKay First Nation Elders came together in the Band Hall on Tuesday October 15th when the Senior Services department hosted a Thanksgiving Feast and Bingo. It was a great afternoon with a delicious meal prepared by Evelyn Boucher and her team. The Bingo went into the afternoon with many great prizes won and six door prize draws! Thank you to all involved who made this a successful event and to all the Elders who participated.



## Moccasin Making

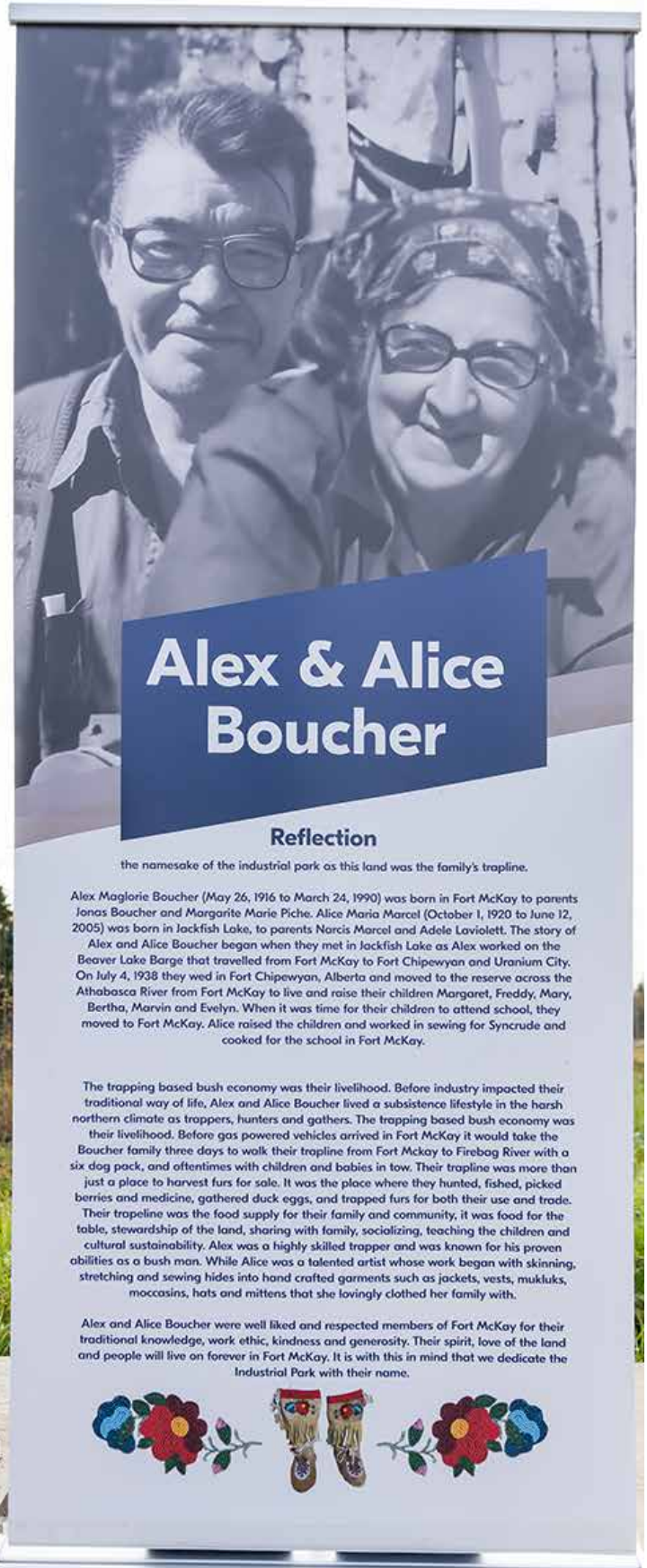
The Seniors' Centre was the place to be for moccasin making this October and as the pictures show, the success is seen in the finished products. Fine pairs of moccasins all around. Congratulations.



## The Alex and Alice Boucher Industrial Park naming ceremony

Fort McKay Chief and Council, descendants of Alex and Alice Boucher, and distinguished Elders were among the guests invited to the unveiling of the sign celebrating the naming of the Fort McKay Industrial Park in honour of Alex and Alice Boucher. The Park is on land that was once part of their trapline, which stretched all the way to the Firebag River. Chief Powder's welcoming address was followed by memories from their great-grandchildren Councillor Dave Bouchier, Susan Shott, and Councillor Bobby Shott. Afterwards the guests were treated to a feast in celebration of the event.

Evelyn Bouchier wrote this about Alex and Alice in her memories of that simpler time. ***"It took them three days to walk their trapline from Fort McKay to Firebag River with a six-dog pack, often with little kids and babies in tow. This was where they hunted, fished, picked berries and medicine, gathered duck eggs, and trapped furs for their own use and for trade. The trapline was their lifeline."***



### Alex & Alice Boucher

#### Reflection

the namesake of the industrial park as this land was the family's trapline.

Alex Maglonie Boucher (May 26, 1916 to March 24, 1990) was born in Fort McKay to parents Jonas Boucher and Margarite Marie Piche. Alice Maria Marcel (October 1, 1920 to June 12, 2005) was born in Jackfish Lake, to parents Narcis Marcel and Adele Laviolett. The story of Alex and Alice Boucher began when they met in Jackfish Lake as Alex worked on the Beaver Lake Barge that travelled from Fort McKay to Fort Chipewyan and Uranium City. On July 4, 1938 they wed in Fort Chipewyan, Alberta and moved to the reserve across the Athabasca River from Fort McKay to live and raise their children Margaret, Freddy, Mary, Bertha, Marvin and Evelyn. When it was time for their children to attend school, they moved to Fort McKay. Alice raised the children and worked in sewing for Syncrude and cooked for the school in Fort McKay.

The trapping based bush economy was their livelihood. Before industry impacted their traditional way of life, Alex and Alice Boucher lived a subsistence lifestyle in the harsh northern climate as trappers, hunters and gatherers. The trapping based bush economy was their livelihood. Before gas powered vehicles arrived in Fort McKay it would take the Boucher family three days to walk their trapline from Fort McKay to Firebag River with a six dog pack, and oftentimes with children and babies in tow. Their trapline was more than just a place to harvest furs for sale. It was the place where they hunted, fished, picked berries and medicine, gathered duck eggs, and trapped furs for both their use and trade. Their trapline was the food supply for their family and community, it was food for the table, stewardship of the land, sharing with family, socializing, teaching the children and cultural sustainability. Alex was a highly skilled trapper and was known for his proven abilities as a bush man. While Alice was a talented artist whose work began with skinning, stretching and sewing hides into hand crafted garments such as jackets, vests, mukluks, moccasins, hats and mittens that she lovingly clothed her family with.

Alex and Alice Boucher were well liked and respected members of Fort McKay for their traditional knowledge, work ethic, kindness and generosity. Their spirit, love of the land and people will live on forever in Fort McKay. It is with this in mind that we dedicate the Industrial Park with their name.





# CHIEF AND COUNCIL NEWS



Left to right: Susan Shott, Councillors David Boucher and Bobby Shott.

## 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



# Music success in Fort McKay

The Wood Buffalo Singers describe themselves as 'The drum group from the RMWB'. Most of the members are from the Fort McKay First Nation: Leon Grandjamb, Dante Howe, Bryce Fabian and his sons Josiah and Ace as well as Daniel Deranger and Simon Reece. They were recently nominated for the Indigenous Artist of the Year award at the Wood Buffalo Excellence in Arts Evening and were delighted when they took home the prize. The Buffy, as it is known, was awarded for their excellence in traditional drumming, singing, and storytelling. As group leader Bryce Fabian said, "The award is a testament to the power of our collective voices and the support we have received from our community and families. It inspires us to continue our journey with even greater passion and dedication.

The Nation congratulates them on their win. By earning the Indigenous Artist Award, the group has shown how their dedication to traditional singing and drumming serves as a vital link to our heritage. Each member's contribution reflects a deep respect for the past, while ensuring our culture lives on through their music. This award honours their role in keeping Indigenous traditions alive and sharing them with new generations.



# Male Athlete of the year Tayden Shott



Fort McKay First Nation congratulates Tayden Shott, who was recognized by the Wood Buffalo Sports Connection as their male athlete of the year.

The award was given at the Multi Sports Award banquet held on October 5th at MacDonald Island. The event is to honour the achievements of the Wood Buffalo community's athletes and coaches, as well as volunteers, sport leaders, and the corporations that support them.

Tayden's sporting achievements include Gold at the Alberta Indigenous Games on two separate occasions; Gold at the North American Indigenous Games; Silver at the Alberta 3D Target competition, and Gold at the Arctic Winter Games,

In addition, Tayden won the Spirit of Belonging Award at the AIG, which recognizes his kindness and care for others and is voted on by all the coaches.

The Awards Banquet also awards places in the Wood Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame, and few would bet against Tayden being honoured in such a manner one day. Let's give him some time though. Even after all these achievements, Tayden is still only 17. Who knows what else lies in his future?

## Pool Club goes from strength to strength

The number of pool players in Fort McKay is increasing steadily, Roy McDonald, who runs the pool teams and community tournaments, is delighted with the interest from the community. “We had two local competitions, with 12 and 16 participants, which is a good turnout,” he said.

They also have two teams in the local leagues which is a first for this year and as a note for the future, not only did two women play in the local tourney, the silver team has Angela Bouchier on their roster. Women’s pool is a fast-growing sport in Alberta and Roy hopes that in the not-too-distant future Fort McKay will be able to field a full ladies’ team in competition.

There is also another step forward for the future. Over the past couple of years, Roy has been coaching the youngsters over at the youth centre. A couple of them took part in the local pool tournament and, according to Roy, did really well.

Meanwhile, at the recent Top Shots Tournament in Edmonton, the gold team, the Fort McKay Golden Warriors, came second in the team event overall. Unfortunately, they were beaten by their local rivals from Fort McMurray, in a sudden-death, one-game playoff. Still, it was a good team effort and in the individuals tournament, Curtis McDonald came third while team gun

and number one player Gilbert Estes followed up his competition win over the summer with a fine second place showing.

Pool tournaments are governed by score rankings to ensure equitable matchups. Similar to golf handicapping, the Fargo system ranks tournament players so that players can play either below five hundred or above five hundred competitions. To get a Fargo score there is a lesser ranking system, the Challenge, which allows newer players to build towards a Fargo ranking. Because of the new facilities, the quality tables, the coaching, and the local tournaments, Fort McKay First Nation players can now build their Challenge rating in local play, building towards bigger provincial and even national tournaments. By way of example, the gold team is playing a team and individual-qualifying tournament in November. If they do well, they will qualify for the world competition in Las Vegas in February. And maybe in a few years it will be the ladies’ team, or a group of youngsters, heading off to Nevada.

Go team.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Day	Date	Event	Details
Every Mon	Nov 4 to Nov 25	Health Centre: Mental Health Travel Team. 10am - 4pm	Appointments and Walk-ins. Contact The Health Centre at 780-828-2450.
Every Tues	Nov 5 to Nov 26	AA Support Group, every Tuesday at the Family Support Centre	8:30pm - 10pm, Doors Open at 8pm
Every Tues	Nov 5 to Nov 26	Cree Online Classes, 6pm - 7:30pm, Instructor Edith Orr	Register through Audrey at culture@fortmckay.com
Every Tues	Nov 5 to Nov 26	Youth Sports, 5:30pm - 7pm at Elsie Fabian School	Contact Katara, 780-972-9810
Every Wed	Nov 6 to Nov 27	Dene Online Classes, 6pm - 7:30pm, Instructor Janette Flett-Jones	Register through Audrey at culture@fortmckay.com
Every Wed	Nov 6 to Nov 27	Light Exercise Program - Rest, Stretch and Relax, 1pm	Transport Provided. Call Trinda 780-215-0478
Mon & Wed	Nov 4 to Nov 27	Drop in Workout at the Youth Centre 4:30pm - 9pm	Ages 12-18. Contact Dylan at 780-799-2406
Every Thur	Nov 7 to Nov 28	Open Gym at the School Gym - Enter through the Side Door	7:15pm - 9:15pm Contact Number is 780-215-5276
Mon & Wed	Nov 4 to Nov 27	Influenza and Covid Vaccines in the Health Centre	Call 780-828-4229 for information
Every Fri	Nov 8 to Nov 29	NA Support Group, every Friday at the Family Support Centre	8pm - 9pm, Doors Open at 7:30pm
Mon	Nov 4	Elders Will Clinic 9am - 3pm	At the Elders Centre, book through Tara at 780-742-4927
Mon	Nov 4 and Nov 25	Indigenous Womens & Mothers Group, Family Support Centre	1pm - 2:30pm. Contact Leah 780-828-4048. A safe space to connect with other women
Tues to Fri	Nov 5 to Nov 8	Fort McKay Simulator Golf Tournament - varied start times	In the Arena, Contact James Black to register by November 5 at 780-838-5739
Fri	Nov 8	Indigenous Veterans Day	Remembering and honouring Indigenous people's military service to Canada
Mon	Nov 11	Remembrance Day	Lest we forget
Tues to Fri	Nov 12 to Nov 15	Rock your Mocs week, submit a pic wearing your mocs, win a prize	Email pics to culture@fortmckay.com
Thur	Nov 14	Crib Tournament, Adult Recreation Centre 5pm - 9pm	Contact Roy to register 780-690-2933
Wed	Nov 20	Victim Services, at the Family Support Centre 10am - 3pm	Supporting victims of crime and trauma. Contact Lori, 780-828-4048
Thur	Nov 28	Victim Services, at the Family Support Centre 10am - 3pm	Supporting victims of crime and trauma. Contact Lori, 780-828-4048