



## EFS Junior Chief and Council meet FMFN Chief and Council



It was a very special Tuesday, the last one in November, as Junior Chief and Council were invited into Council Chambers for a photo opportunity and luncheon with Chief Raymond Powder and Councillors David Bouchier, Crystal McDonald, Bobby Shott, and Melinda Stewart. Afterwards, over their shared meal, whatever advice the two sets of leaders gave each other wasn't revealed to this reporter, but we're sure it was a productive meeting.

Junior Chief and Council are Chief Gracie Dyson, Vice Chief Harley Gladue, Councillor Layla Serefinchan, Councillor McKanna Serefinchan, Councillor Liam Thompson, Councillor Perla Langdon,

Councillor Creedon Gladue, and Councillor Ayria Boucher.



Chief Raymond Powder with Junior Chief Gracie Dyson

## ROCK YOUR MOCS

Rock your Mocs is a worldwide social media unity event celebrating and uniting First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people across Canada. It is a symbolic way to stand united through the artistry and vibrancy of our moccasins, celebrating our ancestors and recognizing our common causes. In Fort McKay we celebrated by having a virtual photo draw contest.

Fort McKay First Nation Culture would like to thank all the participants of Rock your Mocs week!

Thank you for showcasing your indigenous pride by rocking your beautiful Mocs and sharing your photos!

The 10 lucky draw names are as follows:

**Shilla Hobbs**

**Allison Harpe**

**Gena Calliou**

**Ginny Gin**

**Nikki Fitzpatrick - Group**

**Didi Grandjambe**

**Ashley Laviolette**

**Kirsten L'Hommecourt**

**Katherine Durocher**

**Nana Umperville**

Thank you all again for participating in Rock your Mocs week 2024!

We look forward to seeing your entries for 2025!

## 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)

## Sign up for the FMFN App Today!

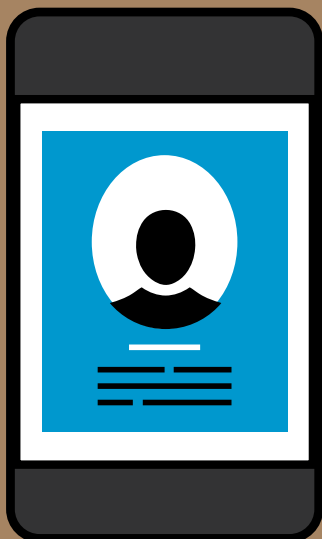
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notifications simply by  
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# FORT MCKAY CHRISTMAS NEWS

## Santa Ready For His Visit To Fort McKay



Fort McKay Chief and Council would like to congratulate Santa Claus on another successful year of preparations for his annual trip to bring joy around the world. Santa will take off on his journey on Christmas Eve, and he has confirmed to Chief Powder that Fort McKay will definitely be one of his stops.

Even though he has a very busy schedule, Santa made time to let Chief and Council know that the children of Fort McKay First Nation have all been very good this year, and no one is on his naughty list.

"I have a book with the names of every kid who has been naughty. Fortunately, I have an even bigger book of every kid who has been nice," said Santa. "My elves do most of the research on this. They are very good at their jobs, and I let Chief Powder know we found only nice kids in Fort McKay."

Santa also reports that Rudolph has no trouble finding Fort McKay, even when it is snowing. The bright Christmas lights on many of our homes and buildings help guide Rudolph as he leads the team of reindeer.

"Rudolph is the team captain, of course," said Santa. "He is our Connor McDavid."

Santa also said he is looking forward to the treats left out for him. The food gives him the extra energy to get everything done in one night. Different cultures leave out different treats. Kids in Mexico leave him burritos. In Germany they leave cake with nuts.

"Bannock is one of my favourites and I like it fried or baked," said Santa. "I also like cookies, any flavour. I like broccoli, Brussel sprouts, and apples, too. I like everything."

Chief and Council will of course be keeping an eye on Santa's journey on Christmas Eve. Fort McKay's girls and boys can also track his trip by radar at **Official NORAD Tracks Santa ([noradsanta.org](http://noradsanta.org))**. NORAD even has an app to download if moms and dads want to keep up-to-date on exactly where Santa is as he travels the entire world in just one night.

"I'm looking forward to seeing all the beautiful Christmas lights in Fort McKay," Santa said. "I wish everyone joy and peace. Merry Christmas Fort McKay!"



# FORT MCKAY MEMBERS NEWS

## Roy and the Boys keep winning

The Pool Team was back on the road again at the Cold Lake Championships. As usual they did well, placing high in all the competitions, but they have become a victim of their own success. The Fargo points handicapping system meant that the team had no real chance in the Open Division. Sometimes the handicapping system, which is designed to level the playing field, tilts towards the players with lower Fargo scores, and this was certainly the case at Cold Lake. Still, Maurice McDonald came second in the Super Seniors competition while Roy McDonald carded a fifth place in the same event. Gilbert, Maurice and Curtis had a good third place in the three man team event, while Gilbert and Maurice also came in third in the Scotch Doubles. Roy had a first place finish in the Redemption category while Gilbert had a good fourth place in the 50-plus Open tournament. With more tournaments to come, let's hope they stay on course for qualifying for the big



tournament in Las Vegas early next year. Well done guys.

## FORT MCKAY HEALTH CENTRE

### Clinic Dates:

Dr O'Connor - Dec 9th - 13th  
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**.

## CORRECTION



In the story on the opening of the Alec and Alice Boucher Industrial Park, we mistakenly referred to Councillor Shott and Councillor Boucher as great-grandchildren of the honoured couple. They are in fact grandchildren and we apologize for any confusion we may have caused.

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# Halloween Yard Decorating Contest

It's the most wonderful time of the year. The decorations were wild and spooky out at the

Nation, with many houses entering into the spirit of the event. It was definitely a scary time to be out and about on the streets. Thanks to all who entered and thanks for creeping it real. We know the night is for the children, but the adults seemed to be having a howl lot of fun as well and the houses looked boo-tiful.

### The On Reserve Halloween Yard Decorating Winners were.

May Tourangeau won the Real Deadly prize of \$250, Christopher Grandjambe took the best theme prize of \$500, Tyler Young won \$750 for spookiest house (most spooktacular?) while the top two prizes went to Georgette Yellowknee, \$1000 for best overall decorated house, and Ryan Grandjambe, also \$1000 for best overall haunted house.



May Tourangeau won the Real Deadly prize.



Christopher Grandjambe took the best theme prize.



Georgette Yellowknee won the best overall decorated house.



Ryan Grandjambe won the best overall haunted house prize.



Tyler Young took the spookiest house prize.



# FORT MCKAY MEMBERS NEWS

## The Off Reserve Halloween Yard Decorating Winners were!

Roseanne Boucher won the Real Deadly prize of \$250, Elissa Whiteknife took the best theme prize of \$500, Shyla Hobbs \$750 for spookiest house (most spooktacular?) while the top prize went to Shelly Harte, \$1000 for best overall decorated house. Let's hope next year is even more fang-tastic.

Congratulations!



Roseanne Boucher won the Real Deadly prize.



Elissa Whiteknife took the best theme prize.



Shyla Hobbs won the prize for the spookiest house.



Top prize went to Shelly Harte for best overall decorated house.



# Elders Christmas Party a great success

One of the highlights of the Fort McKay First Nation Calendar every year is the Elders Christmas party. Hosted jointly by the Sustainability and Healthcare Departments, they seem to get bigger and better every December, and this year was no exception. Chief and Council joined in the fun in the Band Hall, welcoming everyone and joining in the dancing to music provided by the Nicely Put Together Band. One of the many highlights of the day was when the band guitarist Jimmy Cardinal's daughter Kezlee sang for the Elders in both English and Cree.

The food was sumptuous – there were at least nine different desserts – the door prizes were so plentiful that many of the winners needed help to get their prizes home. Added to that, Chief and Council presented the Elders with gift baskets and coolers as Christmas presents so the bounty just kept on flowing.

In tune with the theme Christmas Party on the Beach, both Santa Claus and the Grinch wore their finest floral Hawaiian shirts and were available for pictures in the extra-sized Santa's chair with local photographer Nick Vardy behind the camera. Every Elder was also presented with a floral lei to tie into the summer theme, the whole event made the wintry gusts outside seem less harsh.

Congratulations to Sustainability and Healthcare for a wonderful event. We are already looking forward to next year.





# FMFN ELDERS



## FORT MCKAY CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

### DANCER AND DRUMMER PERFORMANCES

- Traditional Healing Assistance
- Round Dance / Dene Dance
- Cultural Workshops
- Moose/Bufalo 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.

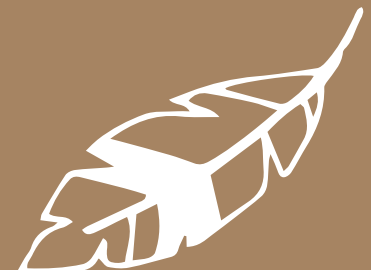
For more information about our upcoming programs, please contact:

**Audrey Redcrow**

Cultural and Special Events Lead

**780-215-2384**

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





# Elite hockey holds sway in Fort McKay

It was only a couple of years ago that Fort McKay had one player on a local representative team. Now we have 14. This step up has been due to a commitment by the Nation to provide quality coaching, equipment, and ice time so that our youth can fulfill their potential as well as the commitment by the players themselves.

"It's not about numbers," said Shay Laurent, "although it is good to see all the hard work paying off. Our goal is to give the players all the opportunities they deserve to be the best they can be. I am so proud of each hockey player. They show the hard work and dedication necessary to make a travel team and the commitment from each individual to practice, show courage and the love for the game of hockey is strong. Keep up the amazing work everyone!"

Shay provided a quick snapshot of all 14 players here:



**Ryett Laurent** – You have come so far and I am so proud of you. Keep working hard on and off the ice and continue practicing achieving your goals. Love Coach Shay (also Dad)



**Cruz Fabian** – Congratulations on making your first travel team. All the hard work and dedication has paid off and I am so proud of you.



**Zayah L'Hommecourt** – Your hard work and dedication to hockey and the willingness to get better everyday is contagious. Keep up the great work.



**Kye Folkerson** – Congratulations on making your first travel team. Your determination at working hard and getting better hasn't gone unnoticed, keep up the great work.



**Rayden Grandjambe** – I love your work ethic and how you bounce back when things don't go your way. You have a bright future ahead of you. Keep up the great work on and off the ice.



**Maddon L'Hommecourt** – You've spent countless hours practicing here at the arena in Fort McKay. All the hard work you have put into hockey has set you up for a successful future. Keep working hard and having fun.



**Dayton Beaudry-Wilson** – You have a bright future in the game of hockey. Continue working hard and having fun doing so.



# COMMUNITY YOUTH



**Kayleigh Bouchier** – Congrats on making the U18 Huskies travel team . All the hard work and determination has paid off.



**Kane Folkerson** – All the hard work and dedication has paid off, but it doesn't stop now. Continue working hard and build your confidence for a bright future ahead.



**Ben Asadi** – For someone who stopped playing hockey during covid and staredg back up after three years, you have amazed me by the work ethic and the dedication it took to make a travel team. Continue working hard and having fun.



**Jonah Grandjambe** – The hard work and dedication hasn't gone unnoticed. You're a natural born leader and have a bright future ahead of you. keep up the great work on and off the ice.



**Leanne Grandjambe** – The goalie Allstar, keep up the amazing work and I look forward to watching you play for team Canada one day.



**Blaize Bouchier** – To see how far you have come has been breathtaking. I am so proud of your accomplishment to date and look forward to what the future has in store for you. Keep up the great work.



**Logan Fitzpatrick** – Congrats on making the U18 Huskies travel team. All the hard work and dedication has paid off.

## 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



STAY up to date with  
the latest music and news!!

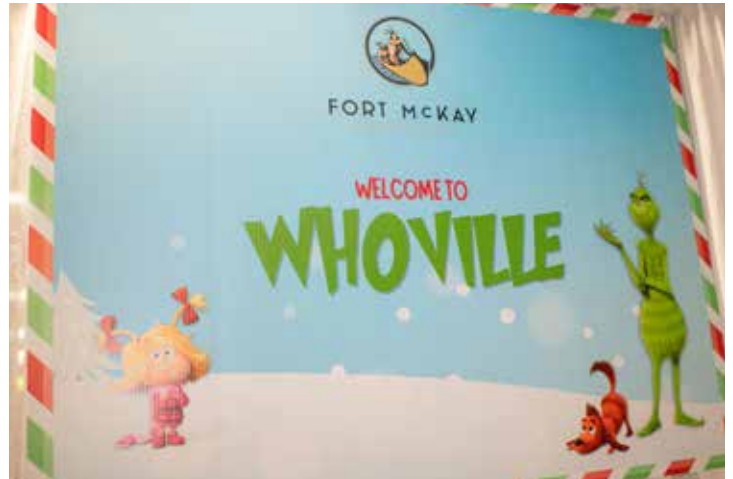
Listening to Fort McKay's  
community radio station!

[www.fortmackayfm.com](http://www.fortmackayfm.com)

# On-Reserve Community Christmas Party

The Fort McKay First Nation Family Christmas Party was celebrated at Shell Place on Sunday, December 1st. This family event took place in the afternoon and the main event, lunch with Santa, was surrounded by all kinds of festivities, including photos with Santa Claus, a Christmas meal filled with all the traditional food, and fun and entertainment all afternoon. For the children, the activities included a craft corner, cookie decorating, bouncy castles, face painting, balloon twisting, and a Christmas painting class. There was also the Whoville giftshop for everyone, while adult entertainment included Bingo, spin the wheel, raffle draws, and a Christmas ugly sweater contest that was so bad it was really good. Ugly is the new beautiful. After the cultural community dance, the evening ended with the traditional gifts from Santa before the bus trip home.

Enjoy these photos and see if you can spot who's who in Whoville.





# COMMUNITY NEWS



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Day	Date	Event	Details
Every Mon	Dec 9 to Dec 16	Health Centre: Mental Health Travel Team. 10am - 4pm	Appointments and Walk-ins. Contact The Health Centre at 780-828-2450.
Every Tues	Dec 10 to Dec 31	AA Support Group, every Tuesday at the Family Support Centre	8:30pm - 10pm, Doors Open at 8pm
Every Tues	Dec 10 to Dec 31	Cree Online Classes, 6pm - 7:30pm, Instructor Edith Orr	Register through Audrey at <a href="mailto:culture@fortmckay.com">culture@fortmckay.com</a>
Every Tues	Dec 10 to Dec 17	Youth Sports, 5:30pm - 7pm at Elsie Fabian School	Contact Katara, 780-972-9810
Every Wed	Dec 11 to Dec 18	Dene Online Classes, 6pm - 7:30pm, Instructor Janette Flett-Jones	Register through Audrey at <a href="mailto:culture@fortmckay.com">culture@fortmckay.com</a>
Every Wed	Dec 11 to Dec 18	Light Exercise Program - Rest, Stretch and Relax, 1pm	Transport Provided. Call Trinda 780-215-0478
Tues, Wed & Thur	Dec 10 to Dec 19	Drop in Workout at the Youth Centre 4:30pm - 9pm	Ages 12-18. Contact Dylan at 780-799-2406
Every Thur	Dec 12 to Dec 19	Open Gym at the School Gym - Enter through the Side Door	7:15pm - 9:15pm Contact Number is 780-215-5276
Mon & Wed	Dec 9 to Dec 30	Influenza and Covid Vaccines in the Health Centre	Call 780-828-4229 for information
Every Fri	Dec 13 to Dec 19	NA Support Group, every Friday at the Family Support Centre	8pm - 9pm, Doors Open at 7:30pm
Mon	Dec 9	Free Family Christmas Photos	At the Elders Centre 5pm - 7pm
Mon to Fri	Dec 4 to Dec 20	After school Program 3:15pm - 5pm	Fort McKay Wellness Centre
Mon to Fri	Dec 4 to Dec 20	Supper Program 5pm - 6pm	Fort McKay Wellness Centre
Thur	Dec 12	Flow Hot Yoga at Oxygen in YMM	4:45pm - 5:45pm

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

