



Red River Current Newsletter

A Fort McKay First Nation Publication

Volume 15: Issue 9 • September 2025

Chief Powder attends First Nations' Summit



Pictured left to right: Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Tim Hodgson, Minister responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs, Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Indigenous Services, Mandy Gull-Masty, and Chief Powder.

On Thursday, July 17th, Chief Powder was in Gatineau, Québec — along the Ottawa River just across from Canada's Parliament — for the First Nations' Summit hosted by the Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada.

At the summit, Chief Powder joined over 250 First Nations leaders, regional organizations, and other rightsholders to connect with the Prime Minister and cabinet ministers

to discuss Bill C-5, the Building Canada Act.

Over the course of the day, the group talked about a range of priorities — including First Nations engagement, economic opportunities, protecting and upholding First Nations rights, environmental protection, Treaty Rights, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Continued on page 2



Chief Powder and Prime Minister Mark Carney.

CHIEF POWDER AND TREATY 8 CHIEFS MEET WITH PREMIER DANIELLE SMITH

In mid-August, Chief Powder represented Fort McKay First Nation in Slave Lake at a meeting between Treaty 8 Chiefs and leaders from the Government of Alberta, including Premier Danielle Smith, Minister of Indigenous Relations Rajan Sawhney, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction Rick Wilson, and other ministers.

The discussions focused on the sharing of natural resources revenue, and on collaboration between First Nations and Alberta. The meeting concluded with new funding being announced by Alberta to help First Nations students in need of mental health support — a portion of which is for Fort McKay.



FMFN LEADERSHIP TEAM

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

Alvaro Pinto

Vice President of Oilsands
Development & 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.

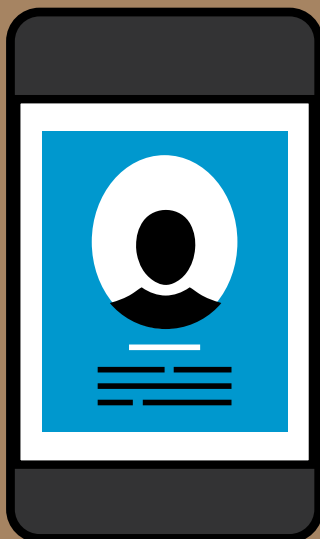
SUBMISSIONS

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

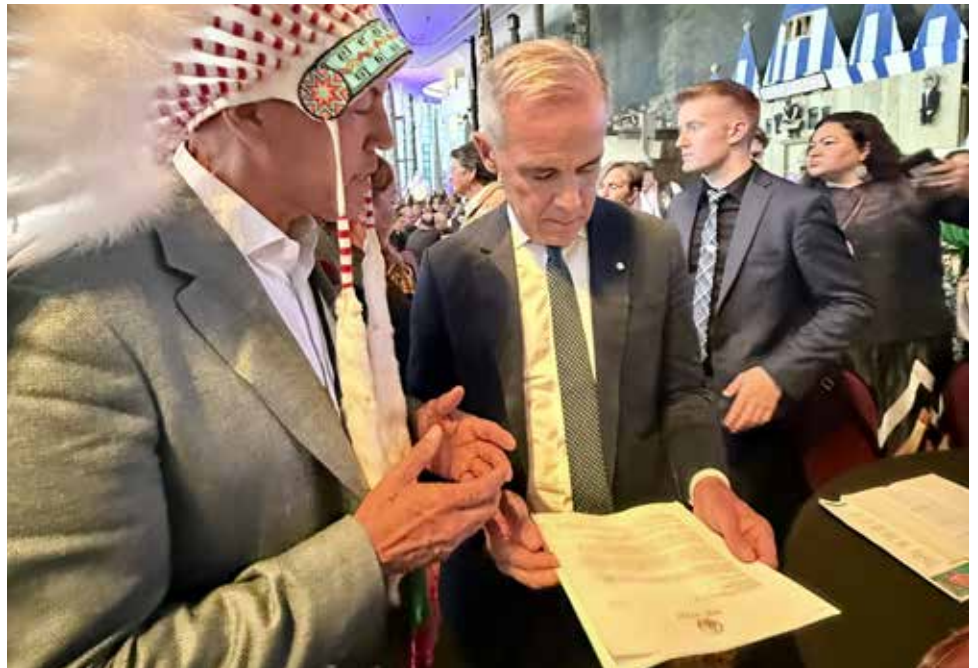
Sign up for the FMFN App Today!

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

Never miss an update and
download the app now!



CHIEF AND COUNCIL NEWS



Chief Powder sharing Fort McKay First Nation's priorities with PM Mark Carney.

Continued from page 1

While at the summit, Chief Powder spoke one-on-one with the Prime Minister, sharing Fort McKay First Nation's priorities and highlighting the opportunities that could help to build a stronger partnership with the Government of Canada.

The Chief also took part in a panel discussion on First Nations economic prosperity, partnership and participation.

He was joined by Chief Crystal Smith (Haisla Nation) and Chief Harley Chingee (McLeod Lake Indian Band), and members of the federal cabinet including Minister Tim Hodgson (Energy and Natural Resources), Minister Mandy Gull-Masty (Indigenous Services), and Minister Dominic LeBlanc (Minister responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs).



Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak.

FORT MCKAY EVENTS NEWS

ATV Safety Presentation

The FMFN ATV Safety Presentation was hosted by 4G Motorsports and Fort McMurray Search and Rescue at the Band Hall on June the 28th. Also in attendance were local RCMP officer Burke and FMFN Peace Officer Ahmad Kabalan.

In addition to presenting measures to preempt accidents, such as training on ATV safety, Fort McMurray Search and Rescue is a non-profit organization that provides assistance through its trained members to assist local

authorities with ground search and rescue operations.

If you wish to know more, contact them at www.fortmcmurraysearchandrescue.com



FORT MCKAY HEALTH CENTRE

Clinic Dates:

Dr O'Connor - September 8th - 12th

Dr Taiwo - September 23rd - 25th

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

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

In this Issue...

Chief Powder attends First Nations' Summit.....	1 & 2
Chief Powder and Treaty 8 Chiefs Meet with Premier Danielle Smith.....	1
ATV Safety Presentation.....	3
Bike Safety Event 2025.....	4
Fort McKay member Ethan Fabian stepsup to bat.....	4
Lac Ste Anne Pilgrimage.....	5
FMFN Dene Day 2025.....	6 & 7
Fort McKay-strong team wins in Finland.....	8
FMFN Stampede Luncheon Honours Business Partners.....	9
Elders Summer BBQ.....	10 & 11
FMFN Youth at Alberta Indigenous Games.....	12 & 13
Fort McKay teams at the Top Shots Tournament in Edmonton.....	14
RCMP Summer Camp.....	15
Youth Summer Fun In Fort McKay.....	16, 17 & 18
The Teddy Bear Fair.....	19
Upcoming Events.....	20

Bike Safety Event 2025

Safe Community Wood Buffalo hosted a Bike Safety Event in the Band Hall Car Park on July 22nd, there were helmets available for all the riders, bikes were inspected, and everyone had fun on the obstacle course!



Fort McKay member Ethan Fabian steps up to bat

Fort McKay First Nation member Ethen Fabian started playing representative Baseball in 2023 making the 11U AA Oil Giants team, in 2024 he made the 13U AA Oil Giants, and this year he made the 13U AAA Oil Giants. Ethen continues to work hard in achieving his goals in his baseball. Ethen Fabian has also made the 14U team in representing Fort McMurray, Fort McKay and FMMBA in the Rawlings Cup Tournament taking place between Aug 21st to 24th in Sherwood Park.

The Rawlings Cup started in 2022 and has quickly become a highly anticipated annual event. Returning once again this season, the showcase tournament will feature top 16U and 14U talent from across Alberta, continuing to build on its growing reputation for excellence. Congratulations Ethan!



Lac Ste. Anne Pilgrimage

As they do every year, Fort McKay Chief and Council hosted their annual BBQ for Band members and Elders at the annual Lac Ste. Anne pilgrimage. Despite the cool weather the 2025 outdoor event was enjoyed by all.

The annual pilgrimage was held over the weekend of the 20th-23rd July. It is an event that many of the Elders look forward to as it is a chance to gather with old friends and family, eat, pray, and enjoy the outdoors.

First called Wakamne (or "God's Lake") by the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation who live on the west end of the Lake, and Manito Sahkahigan (or "Spirit Lake") by the Cree, the lake was called "Lac Ste. Anne" by Rev. Jean-Baptiste Thibault, the first Catholic priest to establish a mission on the site. The pilgrimage grounds had been sacred for generations of peoples and had become widely known as a place of healing. In 2022 Pope Francis attended the event, beginning his address, *"Dear brothers and sisters, âbawash-did! Tansi! Oki! I am very pleased to be here, a pilgrim with you and among you."*



FMFN Dene Day 2025

There was something new on the Fort McKay calendar this year. Dene Day, on July 31, was a free event welcoming all to come together and celebrate Dene pride. It was a fun day for all who took part as well as a busy one, with many events and opportunities to gather and share. From the moment the vendors started arriving at 8:30am until the end of the Dance late in the evening, the day was a wonderful celebration of Dene culture and traditions. There were workshops, an exhibition of historic photographs, Dene language, prize bingo, drum making, singing, and drumming, as well as herb lessons, a display of Dene artifacts and history, and a look into the rich storytelling traditions of the Dene.

And there were also competitions. Here are the results.

The Youth Dene Hand Games Winners

1st Place Rezz Rockets \$1000 - Savannah, Cruz, Patience, Joely, Blake

2nd Place The Littles \$800 - Emma, Leanne, Mya, Adele

3rd Place The Fantastic Four \$600 - Amelia, Precious, Denea, Kierra

The Adult 16+ Dene Hand Games Winners

1st Tipi Crawlers \$2000 - Leon, Malibu, Sid, Km

2nd MamaS Kats \$1500 - Lorraine, Lydia, Gabby, Sadie

3rd Big Trout \$1000 - James, Patrick, Juni, Ashto

4th Deadly Denes \$500 - John, Norman, Maureen, April.

The Fried Bannock competition was won by Tina Whitford, followed by Felix Faichnet, Yvonne Johnson, Beverly McKenzie, and Candace Cooper. **The Baked Bannock** division saw Lawrence Chile as the victor, ahead of Leona Grandjambe, Tina Whitford, Rebecca Fabian, and Kathleen Faichney.

The evening ended with a traditional community feast in the Band Hall, followed by a dance in the Upper Arbor.

See you next year? We hope so.



FORT MCKAY DENE DAY 2025



Fort McKay-strong team wins in Finland



The Lions Summer Cup is a prestigious Hockey Tournament that is played in Finland every year. While there are many age group competitions at the tournament, the premier event is the U18 event. Three groups of four battled it out for a chance to make the semi-finals, the group winners, and the best second place team (keep this in mind, it's important).

The tournament, which is held in Espoo, a satellite city of the capital Helsinki, is played at the local team's facility. The Keiko-Espoo hockey team play in the Finnish Liiga, their equivalent to the NHL, and they have enough arenas and ice to host the tournament comfortably.

The Northern Canadian Kodiaks invitation team was put together and sponsored with the help of Chris Wilson at Birch Mountain Enterprises, the Bouchier Group and Fort McKay First Nation. While it was a truly representative team with some of Alberta's best and brightest young hockey players, it's hard not to recognize the Fort McKay hockey DNA in the team. In addition to players Ben Asadi, Blaize Bouchier, Maddon L'Hommecourt, Zayah L'Hommecourt, Rayden Grandjambe, Jonah Grandjambe and Kane Folkersen, the team was coached by Shay Laurent and Keegan Pruden and the manager was Fort McKay Metis' own Deanna Simard. Special mention too must be made of Ryan Laurent who was the assistant coach and chief stick man for the team.

It was a lightning-fast tour and the preparation before the tournament paid off. In addition to whirlwind practices prior to departure, the Kodiaks played two warm-up games in Sweden, winning both, and this form took them well into the tournament, beating the local Keikko-Espoo

team 7-1 before coming unstuck against Liepaja a strong Latvian side, losing 3-1.

"Losing to Liepaja was the making of this team," said Coach Laurent. "Up until then everything had gone their way, but after our loss we realized we weren't playing together, and the resolve strengthened after that."

They needed a good win in their final round robin game, and they delivered, beating the German team Preussen Berlin Capitals 6-1. This meant they went through to the semi-finals as the best second place finisher on goal difference, and a return match against the Latvians. At the end of the game, they had beaten Liepaja 2-1 and were in the finals.

The game was against the local team, the Ice Force, and the Kodiaks prevailed, winning 3-0 and taking the trophy at their first attempt.

There is already talk of going back in 2026 to defend their title. Let's hope they have their chance.



Fort McKay First Nation Stampede luncheon honours business partners

Fort McKay First Nation hosted another well-attended Business Success luncheon on Friday, July 12, 2024, at the River Cafe in Calgary. The purpose of this event, held annually during the Calgary Stampede, is to share and showcase positive news about Fort McKay First Nation's business successes.

Fort McKay First Nation is proud of the work that we do with our business partners throughout Alberta. The event was an opportunity to show our gratitude to our many business and industry partners and stakeholders.

Speakers Chief Raymond Powder, Councillor Bobby Shott, and FMFN Group of Companies CEO Sami Saad addressed the gathering. Chief and Council also presented gifts to partners and stakeholders.

In his remarks, Chief Powder acknowledged the 125th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 8, and thanked many of those present for sponsoring FMFN's 2025 Treaty Days celebration in June. "We appreciate that your support extends beyond the boardroom and the bottom line," said Chief Powder. "You also support us in showcasing our rich cultural heritage."

A special thank you to Rick Wilson, Alberta's Minister of Indigenous Relations, for joining us as we celebrated the ongoing efforts related to economic reconciliation.



Elders Summer BBQ

The Elders Summer Barbecue, hosted by Sustainability, was bananas. At least the décor was. Happy Minions watched over the event in their yellow colouring and blue overalls, and in keeping with the theme, all the cooks and servers wore yellow. The traditional barbecue menu was well prepared and well received, and afterwards there were big prizes to be won at the bingo, and they were.

It was a wonderful event. Fifty-two elders attended the BBQ and it would not have been possible without these volunteers. Bori Arrobo, Ryan Abel, Craig Randell, Lolita Ladouceur, Darlene Soucy, Candace Fabian, Dane Holz, Ryan Grandjambe, Keon Grandjambe, Christian McDonald, Nick Laurent, Lakeisha Black and Jonathan Zachariah, as well as Moccasin Media, Jesse, Tyler and Reba from Public Works, Richard and Kelly from Janitorial, Tom and Michael from IT, and Trinda, Elizabeth and Tara from Elders Services.



FORT MCKAY ELDER NEWS



FMFN Youth at Alberta Indigenous Games



The Alberta Indigenous Games have been held since 2011, founded by the late Allan Ross, who saw the need for Alberta Indigenous people to have their own Olympic style games with the purpose of reclaiming our youth through sport development, educational empowerment, career opportunities, and cultural connections. Since then, it has become the largest summer games in Canada and the largest Indigenous games in the world.

Fort McKay First Nation is proud of all of our members who competed, especially those who attained excellence through personal improvement or measurable results, including:

• U15 Volleyball (Silver Medal):

A remarkable achievement by Joely Grandjambe, Scarlett McClure, Abigail McClure, Kalisha Mercredi, Kinley Serafinchan, Rhea Powder, and Presley Prue.



• **U13 Volleyball (Bronze Medal):** Outstanding effort by Maria Dacosta, Samara Donofrio, Mya Wilson, Gracie Dyson, Leanne Grandjambe, McKenna Serafinchan, and Amira Asadi.

• Hand Games – “Rez Rockets” (Silver Medal):

Congratulations to Savanna Dyson, Blake Hoffman, Cruz Fabian, Joely Grandjambe, Patience Grandjambe, and Abigail McClure.

• **Hand Games – “Bad Rez Kids”:** Great teamwork and spirit shown by Samara Donofrio, Gracie Dyson, Adele Shott, Mya Wilson, Scarlett McClure, and Maria DaCosta.

• **U19 Basketball Team:** Congratulations to Keon Grandjambe, Lyric McKenzie, Kaplan McKenzie, Brayden Lacorde, Ashton Shott, Damien Richards, Calten Caribou, and Silas Kragnes for their teamwork, determination, and representation at the Games.

• **Baseball:** Special recognition to Cruz Fabian who competed as a guest player, representing our community with pride.





Track & Field Highlights:

- **Alicia Gladue (21U):** 1st – Javelin (22.54 ft), 1st – Shot put (7.59 ft), 2nd – Discus (18.35 ft).
- **Gabby Gladue (18U):** 2nd – Discus (18.84 ft), 2nd – Javelin (15.32 ft), 4th – Shot put (8.12 ft).
- **Malibu Grandjambe (18U):** 3rd – Javelin (14.65 ft), 5th – Shot put (7.27 ft), 5th – Discus (14.72 ft).
- **Chanel McClure (18U):** 1st – Javelin (18.15 ft), 3rd – Shot put (8.15 ft), 3rd – 100M Sprint (16.7 sec), 5th – 200M Sprint, 6th – Discus (14.2 ft).

We also wish to highlight the words of Coach Katara White, who shared a touching moment from the Games:

“As a coach and former athlete, it’s inspiring to watch one of my athletes take others under their wing, sharing knowledge and techniques with such generosity. Moments like these remind us that true leadership is not just about winning—it is about lifting others up. Alicia has been competing in AIG for the last 3 years, and each year she has grown not only as an athlete but as a leader and future coach. Watching her help a group of athletes who had no idea how to throw a javelin was such a rewarding feeling.”

These words capture the true spirit of sport and community. Our athletes are not only competing but also building each other up and carrying forward the values of respect, generosity, and leadership.

Chief and Council extend our deepest pride and congratulations to every athlete, coach, volunteer, and family member who made these achievements possible. Whether you brought home medals or memories, you have represented our Nation with excellence and heart.



Fort McKay sends two teams to the Top Shots Tournament in Edmonton

It wasn't too long ago that Fort McKay First Nation struggled to make up one team for local and Alberta pool competitions. Now, thanks to a renewed interest and to the excellent pool room facilities, and the enthusiasm of its manager Roy McDonald, we were able to send two teams to the Top Shots Tournament, with some much improved results, and there is talk about being able to field a third team soon.

The Fort McKay Northern Warriors, the originals, came first in the team event while their junior teammates, the Fort McKay Rez'd Out Wrackers came in in a very commendable fifth place which is an excellent result for a team that didn't exist a year ago. In addition, Maurice McDonald won the Scotch Doubles event, and while Curtis McDonald was unable to attend due to injury, his teammates continued to advance the cause of Fort McKay pool. Along with honourable mentions to Josh Orr, Angela Bouchier, Aidan Gardiner and Elvis LaCorde, Shawn McClure won the C Bracket singles, John Paquette came second in the B Bracket and Roy McDonald and Gilbert Estes placed third and fourth respectively in the A Bracket.

Although pool is a calm steady game, and players have their feet firmly on the ground, it is safe to say that the Fort McKay First Nation pool nation is coming along in leaps and bounds.

Well done to everyone.



RCMP Summer Camp

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police hosted a summer camp highlighting the careers available in the RCMP and ways to become a First Nations police officer. Culminating in an all-day trip to Athabasca to see the Musical Ride, the famous Mountie precision horsemanship display, the camp demonstrated fingerprinting techniques, the Forensic Identification Service, Community Policing, Search and Rescue, the new Fitness course for the Force, and the Police Dog Service. While it was unfortunate that the fully trained police dog was unable to attend – he was working that morning – it turned the morning into the highlight of the camp as Arlo, an 11-week-old trainee puppy, came in his place. As he was still in training he was allowed to mingle with the youth, and his soft fluffy presence won the hearts of everyone in the camp.

Thanks to local RCMP officer for arranging the event and to Sergeant Larry McDonald, the Indigenous Liaison NCO at the Fort McMurray Detachment, for ensuring all the Mountie experts were available.



Youth Summer Fun In Fort McKay

It's good to be young in Fort McKay. As you can see by these pictures there were enough sports, activities, excursions, and adventure to keep even the quietest youth busy and involved. Bored? You can't be, not in this community.

Thanks to all the contributors, Julia, Sarah, Katara, Wally, Simon, Stefany, Dylan, Shay, and Roy.



Basketball Camp.



Cheerleader Camp.



Colour Run.



Dance Camp.



Golf Camp.

Youth Summer Fun In Fort McKay



Gymnastics Camp.



Soccer Camp.

Lacrosse Camp.



Summer Fun Sports Programs.



Youth Summer Fun In Fort McKay



Summer Student Keyano Tour.



Wellness Centre Youth Cultural Excursion.



Treaty 8 Tipi Course.



Youth Bingo.



Volleyball Camp.



Northern Spirits Banquet.

The Teddy Bear Fair

The Teddy Bear Fair, now an annual event, has always had a dual purpose. The first, and some would say the most important one, is making sure all the lonely teddy bears find homes in Fort McKay, and there are always just the right number of children willing to take on the responsibility of caring for a bear.

While that is happening, the event is also an opportunity for children and families to learn. Health information is available, assessments are offered, and resources are highlighted. Health care professionals with specific expertise, such as child development, nutrition and safety, were available all day, providing other sources and resources. It is a one-stop shop for questions and answers and is vital part of Alberta Primary Health Care. In providing health awareness in a welcoming, family-friendly environment parents and children alike can prioritize their health needs.

And get a teddy.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Day	Date	Event	Details
Thurs	Sept 4	Ladies Night at the Pool Hall 7:00pm - 9:00pm.	Contact Roy, 780-690-2933.
Sun	Sept 7	Holy Mass - every First Sunday of the Month.	4pm in the Church, call 780-791-4305.
Every Tues	Sept 9 to Sept 30	Cree Online Classes, 6:00pm - 7:30pm, Instructor Edith Orr.	Register through Audrey at culture@fortmckay.com.
Every Wed	Sept 10 to Sept 24	Dene Online Classes, 6:00pm - 7:30pm, Instructor Janette Flett-Jones.	Register through Audrey at culture@fortmckay.com.
Every Wed	Sept 10 to Sept 24	Beading Circle, Orange Shirt Day Pins, Family Support Centre.	Drop in, 1:00 - 3:00pm or 5:00 - 7:00pm. Call 780-828-4048.
Wed	Sept 10	Foot Care Clinic, Elders Centre.	10:00am - 2:00pm with Refreshments.
Thurs	Sept 11	Ladies Night at the Pool Hall 7:00pm - 9:00pm.	Contact Roy, 780-690-2933.
Mon	Sept 15	Elders Movie Afternoon at Landmark, with popcorn & drink.	Contact Trinda, 780-215-0478.
Tues	Sept 16	Lunch with the Health Director at Noon. Medicine Bag making at 1:00pm.	Contact Hailey, 780-215-6442.
Wed	Sept 17	Fort McKay First Nation Trade Show 10:00am - 3:00pm.	New Community Hall, Contact May Tourangeau 780-742-6305.
Thurs	Sept 18	Ladies Tournament at the Pool Hall 7:00pm - 9:00pm.	Contact Roy, 780-690-2933.
Fri, Sat & Sun	Sept 19 to Sept 21	Year End Softball Tournament.	Contact Shay, 780-742-4622.
Mon	Sept 22	FMFN Elders QGM Band Hall 10:00am - 12:00pm, then Lunch.	Contact Tara 780-742-4927 to register.
Mon	Sept 22	FMFN QGM Band Hall 6:00pm.	Contact Sophie, 780-828-2426.
Wed	Sept 24	Elders Financial Clinic in the Elders Centre 10:00am - 3:00pm.	With St. Aiden's & the CRA. Contact Trinda, 780-215-0478.
Mon	Sept 229	Nutrition Game, in the Band Hall 10:30am-12:30pm.	Contact Erin 780-215-6723.



Check out our website: www.careersnextgen.ca

For more information, please contact Sabrina:

P: 780-804-5181 | E: swatson@nextgen.org

We are a provincial non-profit organization that is dedicated to building strong, vibrant communities to enable youth on their path to rewarding careers.