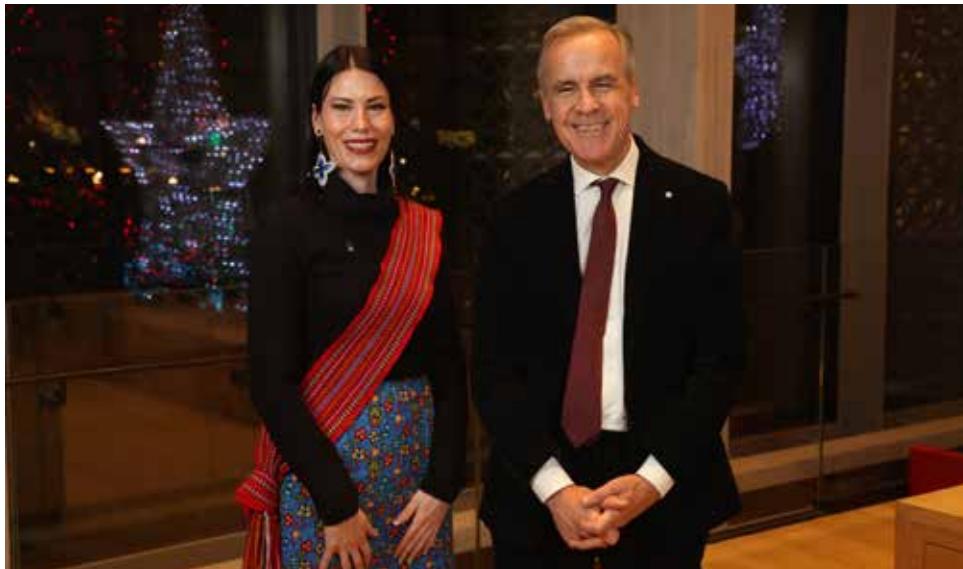




Erin Humphrey attends the Prime Minister's award ceremony



Erin Humphrey pictured with Prime Minister Mark Carney.

Last month we were delighted to share with you the news about Erin Humphrey being honoured with the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. It is an award that not only highlights Erin's excellence but also underscores the importance of empowering the next generation through robust educational practices within our own school environment.

The Award is awarded under the aegis of the Ministry of Science and Industry and as the Prime Minister was not able to be there for the whole event Erin's award was presented instead by Karim Bardeesy, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry. However, Prime Minister Carney did arrive later and was able to spend some time talking to all the recognized honorees,

where among other things he mentioned the importance of the work that all the winners did for their respective communities.

Continued on page 2



Karim Bardeesy, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry is pictured presenting the award to Erin Humphrey.

BOUCHIER GROUP NAMED INDIGENOUS BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Bouchier Group on being named the inaugural Indigenous Business of the Year by the Canadian Council for Indigenous Business!

Founded by David Bouchier and Nicole Bourque-Bouchier, Bouchier started with one dozer 27 years ago and today employs more than 1,300 team members.

Their approach to business is grounded in culture, guided by community priorities, and built through Indigenous leadership, a Wood Buffalo success story making an impact across Alberta and Canada.

Fort McKay First Nation are proud to celebrate their achievement and the example they set for Indigenous entrepreneurship, local jobs, and community investment.

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!



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Google Play

Download on the
App Store



FMFN EDUCATION NEWS



Continued from page 1

Unfortunately, it was a short trip, and very much a working one. Erin flew in one night, did presentations on her work the next day and the reasons why it is so important, went to the awards ceremony that evening, and then back home to Fort McKay and Elsie Fabian School the next day.

It was Erin's first time in Ottawa and while she would have liked to have seen some of the nation's capital, sadly that will have to wait until the next time. Still, there are plenty of new and wonderful memories for Erin, and we hope these photographs go some way to sharing her achievements with the Nation.



Left to right: Erin Humphrey, Prime Minister Mark Carney, Julia McDougall, Vice Principal Elsie Fabian School, and Miranda Beaton, FMFN Education Director.

FMFN takes delivery of two modular housing units



Fort McKay First Nation took delivery of two new modular housing units on January 6th, 2026. They arrived bang on schedule at 9:00am, bringing traffic in the community to a temporary standstill, though the AVC road was available.

Six more modular homes will be delivered to the community on January 14th, 28th, and February 11th, 2026. All welcome additions to our growing community.

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FORT MCKAY HEALTH CENTRE

Clinic Dates:

Dr O'Connor - Feb 9th - 13th
Dr Taiwo - Jan 27th - 29th
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.fortmckayfm.com

Bryce Fabian, author, and storyteller

Bryce Fabian Jr. is a Fort McKay success story. It is less than five years since he gained his high school diploma as an adult student. Since then, he has done his Management diploma and Bachelor of Business Administration through NAIT and is currently enrolled in the MBA program at Thompson Rivers University. While doing this Bryce was working for Fort McKay First Nation, until recently when he became the Indigenous Recruitment Lead for Soogardin, ran his own company with his dad, Bryce Fabian Sr, and recorded two albums, the first an Indigenous Rap sound, while the second delved into Adult country music, also with a nod to his musical heritage, and as if that wasn't enough, he is now a published author of not one, but two books.

The Legendary One and The Hollow Signal are the first two books in Bryce's trilogy which will be rounded out in the Spring of 2026 with his finale, The Spirit Network. The collection, the Spirit Signal Trilogy, is an immersive Indigenous science fiction and spiritual fantasy series rooted in Cree and Dené storytelling, memory, and myth. At its core, the trilogy follows Wâpan and a cast of voices drawn together by loss, fire, and prophecy. As ancient energies return through technology and dream, the characters must face what was erased, what remains buried, and what must be restored.



Bryce's work is thoughtful and meaningful. The writing process took over a year, and in the end, he realized that what he had written was too daunting for one book, so he edited the stories down to three more manageable, meaningful book sizes. In the first book, The Legendary One, the child Tahiaw Kisik is born during a night of silence and storm. Marked by forces older



than fire and memory, Tahiaw Kisik is not like others. He hears what trees whisper. He dreams of things long buried. He carries an ember inside; alive, watching, waiting. As he grows, visions lead him to forgotten trials, ancient fires, and shadows buried in the land. Spirits begin to stir, old powers awaken, and through it all, the boy must decide: will he carry the flame to remember... or let it burn him to ash? Rooted in Cree and Dené worldview and lyrical myth, The Legendary One is written in lyrical prose that captures the imagination. To tell you more would only spoil the journey, and story, that you take part in as you read the book.

His second work, The Hollow Signal, is a haunting continuation of The Spirit Signal Trilogy—a story of memory, betrayal, and the echoes that refuse to be silenced. Tahiaw Kisik carries more than a staff; he carries the weight of remembrance. As Tahiaw follows visions, voices, and the pulsing heartbeat of the earth itself, he discovers that the signal is not just history—it is alive, it breathes, it chooses, and it demands a voice. The Hollow Signal is not simply a sequel—it is a reckoning. A journey into the fractures of language.

Both of Bryce's books are currently available at Amazon, as will the final book, The Spirit Network.

Artist, musician, business owner, recruitment specialist and proud Fort McKay First Nation member, Bryce can add writer and storyteller to his resumé. We look forward to where his drive takes him next.

Well done, Bryce.

'Grandpa's Canoe' by Frederick McDonald

Each month we are going to feature poetry by our Fort McKay members, if you would like to be featured in the Red River Current newsletter, just send your poems to us at **communications@fortmckay.com**, if you want to include any background to the poem please send that along with your poems. This month we are featuring '**Grandpa's Canoe**' by Frederick McDonald.

that little 14' canoe
that my grandpa owned floats effortlessly
on the rivers of my heart
sshhwooosh
green paint chipped exposing red paint
underneath
then blue and bits of grey
like a layered birthday cake
sshhwooohhhp
bumps and squared edges show
where repairs were made
random as those accidents that caused them
kllluupooluuunk
the ribs are worn, clearly showing its age
if you're not careful you will get splinters
in your knees or feet or bum
sshpwuuukasshooops

bits of different coloured rope show
where many loads had been tied
onto gunnels that are chipped, split and
broken
sshpoink
blood congealed to the walls
splattered Rorschach test patterns from ducks,
geese, beavers, deer, moose and fish
sshpoooshh

I can still hear water lapping against the
canvas wall
a Morse Code of sorts, rhythms that calms my
soul and eases my mind – I'm smiling now
ssh pallooosshssooo laphss

I remember well, how he taught me to hold
the paddle
“pull the water, use ‘J’ strokes”, I hear his
smokey voice “don’t tip the canoe!”

Shhhaawooosh

2 paddles, there's seldom a matched set
stored by each seat, keep a clean edge –
grandpa reminds me push out from the shore
with the handle end

phsshguulooog ahhh

there are no life jackets
it's a time before that time, but there are
a single-shot shotgun and an old Lee Enfield
303 onboard

sshwooosh kaaplooo – kaaplooohhh

keep the weight low in the canoe
lower the center of gravity, especially when
it's windy or in a current fast and strong

buuurguldy shpaahlooosh

stories that are etched and scratched into
the wood and into the canvas body are just
like the scars that come from parts of my
grandfather's own story

sshwooohhhp

I remember the fun times and places that we
went in that 14' canoe – it drifts and remains in
my heart
largely as little bits and pieces and elements of
me and him

sshwwoooshhh

02/2021 & 01/2026.



Catching up on Youth events

Sometimes there is so much going on in the community that it is hard to get everything published in the Red River Current. These are photos from the last two months of 2025 that still deserve to be seen. They include pictures taken at the Halloween cupcake decorating, gingerbread houses, Arctic games tryouts, the volleyball camps with the Keyano Huskies, the cake workshop, candle workshop, paint night, wooden craft night, pottery class, beading class, and the Christmas market. Whew. Honestly, if you can't find anything to do in the community, you don't need to look far for something to pop up.

Thanks to our contributors Katara White and Stefany Guillen.

We hope you enjoy them.



FORT MCKAY YOUTH



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 Dene class on Zoom.

Every Wednesday Cree class on Zoom.

To register, contact culture@fortmckay.com

DRUM PRACTICE

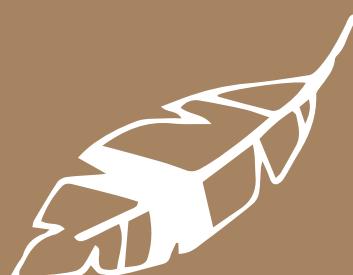
Every Wednesday at 6 pm in the Band Hall.

All males welcome. Drop In, no registration required!

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



Park Ranger / Moose Lake Program – Annual Reflection Letter

To our community, partners, and friends,

As we look back on the past year with our Park Ranger / Moose Lake Program, we are proud to share the incredible progress, dedication, and spirit shown by our Park Rangers and Moose Lake Team throughout 2025. Each season brought new challenges, new lessons, and new stories — and through it all, our staff stood steady, proving once again why this program continues to grow, strengthen, and inspire.

This year, the staff completed a tremendous amount of work throughout Moose Lake and the surrounding Fort McKay reserve. From Moose Lake beautification cleanups to infrastructure upgrades at the Moose Lake camp, to trail maintenance, cultural site monitoring, to habitat protection, and community support, the team demonstrated the perseverance and care that defines what it means to safeguard Fort McKay's traditional territory.

Training & Growth

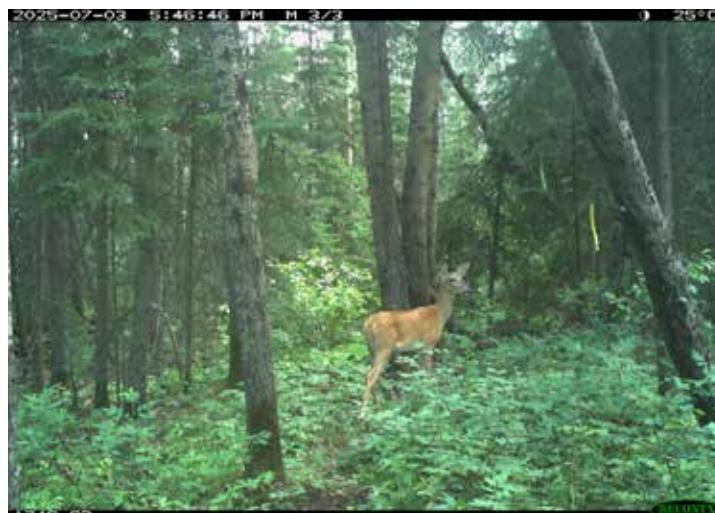
We also celebrated a year full of training accomplishments. Staff participated in wilderness first aid, Wildlife Hazing, jet boat training, traditional knowledge workshops, navigation skills, OHV training, chain saw safety and more. The growth was visible not just in certifications earned, but in the confidence, leadership, and professionalism each member of Our Team carried into the field. Every course completed added another layer of strength to our team — mentally, physically, and sometimes emotionally (especially during cold-weather training days).



FMFN SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

Wildlife Monitoring

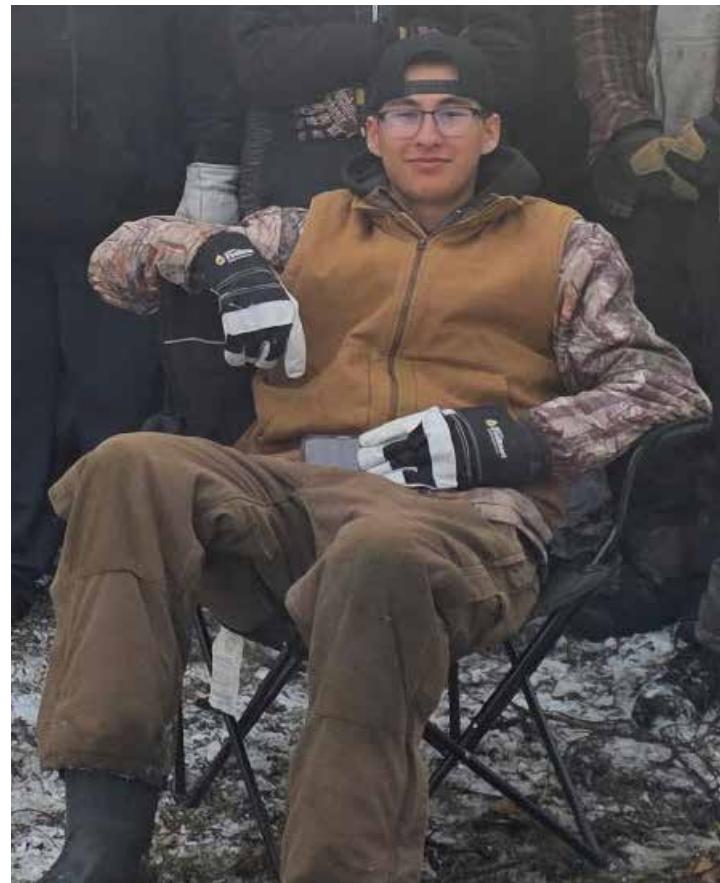
Our wildlife cameras were particularly generous this year, capturing an amazing variety of animals around the community. From curious moose moving silently through the bush, to bears who seemed a little too photogenic, our cameras gave us a deeper look into the active wildlife communities who share these lands with us. Even the smallest creatures have a big presence in this ecosystem.



FMFN SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

Welcoming a New Ranger

In 2025 we were also proud to welcome our newest Park Ranger, Tayden Shott, to the team. Tayden brought enthusiasm, fresh perspective, and a readiness to learn that fit perfectly with the Ranger spirit. We look forward to watching him grow within the program and contribute to the work that continues to protect, preserve, and honour Moose Lake and our cultural values.



Gratitude & Looking Ahead

To our current staff — thank you. Over the past year, your dedication, your early mornings, your late evenings, your willingness to learn, and your commitment to protecting the land have not gone unnoticed. You are the heartbeat of this program. Without you, the trails would be quieter, the cameras emptier, and the community less connected to the land we cherish.

And as we continue to build this program, we look forward to welcoming new faces — future Rangers with curiosity, courage, and a desire to serve the land. We hope to see more youth join, more community members participate, and more people discover that being a Park Ranger isn't just a job... it's a calling.

**When the trails get long and the packs feel heavy,
Our Rangers still walk true and steady.**

**When the moose stroll by and the cameras blink,
They take a photo — then stop to think.**

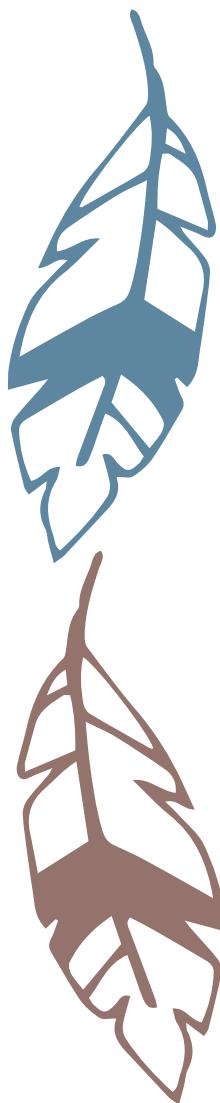
**“This land is life, this land is home,
And we protect it wherever we roam.”**

**So, here's to the Our Team — brave and strong,
Keeping Moose Lake and Our Community safe all year long.**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Park Ranger Program in 2025. Together, we continue to protect the land, uplift our Nation, and create opportunities for the next generation of guardians.

Checking the History of the Chiefs of Fort McKay

In an effort to ensure FMFN has accurate historical records of its leaders, the Sustainability Department undertook historical research on previous community leaders. Some gaps in records appear to exist, and we are hoping the community can help fill these in. Please contact Communications at: communications@fortmckay.com if you can help us!



University of Calgary students put on a STEAM event at Elsie Fabian school

Autumn Sneddon, the Community Health and Wellness Lead was delighted when some of the students from the University came to Elsie Fabian School to present a program of health screenings and science experiments to showcase the possibilities of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) related careers and studies.

As you can see from the photos, the program sought to engage students with a hands-on approach to understanding health issues and the fun possibilities of STEAM linked careers. Among many of the activities, the EFS students took part in visual field testing, pupillary exams, testing for tropias and phorias, and various interactive STEAM stations such as a suturing workshop, teddy bear first aid, learning how to make soap powered boats, and water pollution environmental activities. The two-day program was a fun time for the kids and may indeed have opened their eyes to new career possibilities.

Thanks to the University of Calgary Students Brooklyn, Mary, Kira, and Autumn for all the hard work they put into the programs, and the enthusiasm they showed the youth of the community.



Girls Volleyball Tournament

We are incredibly proud of our Ravens who competed recently in the FMEAA Girls volleyball tournament at the Syncrude Sport and Wellness Centre.

The girls played with determination, energy, and teamwork, giving it their all on the court and having a fantastic time watching the other teams compete. A huge thank you to our amazing community members who came out in full force and cheered loudly your support helped make the day unforgettable for our girls!



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.fortmckayfm.com

EFS Christmas Concert

Isie Fabian was proud to welcome families and community members to our school for the annual Christmas concert. The evening was filled with beautiful singing and creative plays performed by each class.

The celebration wrapped up with a fun staff performance of The 12 Days of Rezmas, followed by a special moment where staff and students came together to sing one final song, ending the night on a joyful note.



Ribbon Skirt Day at EFS



On January 6, Elsie Fabian proudly celebrated National Ribbon Skirt Day. Our halls were filled with colour, honour, and pride as students and staff wore their ribbon skirts with respect. National Ribbon Skirt Day, marked on January 4 across Canada, celebrates the cultural significance of ribbon skirts and honours Indigenous women and girls. The day was inspired by Isabella Kulak, a young Indigenous girl whose experience sparked a nationwide movement of support and awareness.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Day	Date	Event	Details
Sat & Sun	Jan 10 to Jan 11	Moccasin Making Workshop, 10:00am - 4:00pm Ages 13+	Email culture@fortmckay.com to register. Lunch included.
Mon	Jan 12	Mat Pilates Classes, Fitness Centre, 5:30pm - 6:30pm 16+	Instructor Helen Killorn. Contact Stefany 780-714-7095.
Every Tues	Jan 13 to Jan 27	Dene Online Classes, 6:00pm - 7:30pm, Instructor Janette Flett-Jones.	Register through Audrey at culture@fortmckay.com
Tues	Jan 13	Sports Evenings at Elsie Fabian School, Volleyball 6:30pm - 8:00pm.	Access through gym door. Text 780-215-3259.
Every Wed	Jan 14 to Jan 28	Cree Online Classes, 6:00pm - 8:00pm, Instructor Edith Orr.	Register through Audrey at culture@fortmckay.com
Wed	Jan 14	Mat Pilates Classes, Fitness Centre, 5:30pm - 6:30pm 16+	Instructor Helen Killorn. Contact Stefany 780-714-7095.
Thurs	Jan 15	Sports Evenings at Elsie Fabian School, Basketball 6:30pm - 8:00pm.	Access through gym door. Text 780-215-3259.
Fri & Sat	Jan 16 to Jan 17	Traditional Moss Bag teachings, Fort McKay Elders Centre.	8:30am - 4:30pm. Call Margaret 780-881-4825.
Sat	Jan 17	Fort McKay Wellness Centre Skiing/ Snowboarding Program	Ages 9-16. Call 780-828-4312 for more information. 9:00am - 5:00pm.
Tues	Jan 20	Sports Evenings at Elsie Fabian School, Volleyball 6:30pm - 8:00pm.	Access through gym door. Text 780-215-3259.
Thurs	Jan 22	Sports Evenings at Elsie Fabian School, Basketball 6:30pm - 8:00pm.	Access through gym door. Text 780-215-3259.
Tues	Jan 27	Sports Evenings at Elsie Fabian School, Volleyball 6:30pm - 8:00pm.	Access through gym door. Text 780-215-3259.
Thurs	Jan 29	Sports Evenings at Elsie Fabian School, Basketball 6:30pm - 8:00pm.	Access through gym door. Text 780-215-3259.
Sat	Jan 31	Fort McKay Wellness Centre Skiing/ Snowboarding Program	Ages 9-16. Call 780-828-4312 for more information. 9:00am - 5:00pm.