



Letter to Members – May/June 2024

FROM ACFN CHIEF AND COUNCIL

To say May was eventful would be an understatement! This season started once again with a crisis that required us to activate our emergency plan and our team got to work quickly as the MWF-017 wildfire began to threaten areas of Fort McMurray. The evacuation of Beacon Hill, Abasand, Prairie Creek and Grayling Terrace impacted some of our Members living in those locations, so we rapidly deployed support to ensure they were well-equipped to deal with the evolving situation.

Fortunately, the wildfire was brought under control quickly and the evacuees were able to return home, but the experience was a powerful reminder of both the wildfire that threatened Fort Chipewyan last year and of course the 2016 wildfire in Fort McMurray. We have seen the impacts of climate change, including a shortened winter season with milder temperatures and reduced precipitation as well as increased temperatures during the spring and summer months. The truth is that wildfire will likely be a significant part of our experience in the future, and so we are continuing to build and strengthen our already robust emergency response.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in fighting the wildfire outside Fort McMurray. We know it takes a huge effort to control a fire of this magnitude, and we are deeply appreciative of all those who put themselves forward to ensure the safety of others. As always, we also encourage all Members to stay informed about wildfire activity in their area. The best ways to do this are through the Government of Alberta wildfire site: <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-wildfire>, the RMWB site: <https://www.rmwb.ca/en/fire-and-emergency-services/alerts.aspx> and our own website at www.acfn.com/emergency-management

Despite the threat of wildfire, our team continues to also deliver the events, programs and activities our Members value and enjoy.

From June 2-7, we celebrate our amazing seniors with Seniors Week and a variety of activities at the Youth and Elders Lodge!



Coming up after that is ACFN Treaty Days on June 13 and 14. As always these days will be filled with opportunities for fun while connecting with family and friends, and we are looking forward to seeing you there!

On June 19 and 20 we are hosting an overnight traditional medicine and water care camp in Anzac for off-reserve youth. This will be a great cultural opportunity for youth and a chance to build some new friendships and connections, For more information you can contact Lori Stevens at lori.stevens@acfn.com

A little later this summer we will see the return of K'ai Taile Dene Days, and we are very excited as this event is always an opportunity for learning while still having fun!

Looking back, we want to thank all those who participated in the 2024 Spring Harvest! We had several youth participate and it was great to see their interest in learning our traditional ways and sharing in our knowledge.

We also want to acknowledge that we are now approaching the end of the school year, with many post-secondary students having already finished their programs for the year and students in high school and elementary school getting ready to welcome their summer break! We want to wish all students well no matter where they are in their education journey. We are so proud of your achievements, and we know some of you will graduate this year and move on to next steps, whether that is employment or further education. As your Chief and Council we want to congratulate you on your success and recognize all your hard work!

Finally, we want to wish you all a wonderful summer as we head towards those incredible sunny days and beautiful nights. We are honoured to serve you and we look forward to seeing you this season at some of our events!

Marsi cho,
Chief Allan Adam
Councillor Flossie Cyprean
Councillor Hazel Mercredi

Councillor Mike Mercredi
Councillor Teri Villebrun

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