

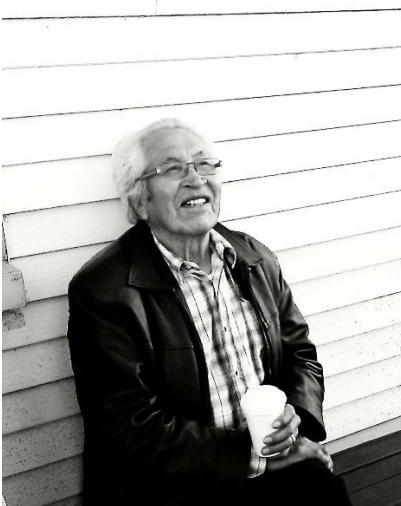


Letter to Members – August/September 2024

FROM ACFN CHIEF AND COUNCIL

It is hard to believe it is already the end of the season and a change in weather is right around the corner. The long, hot days of summer are beginning to give way to shorter and cooler days, and there is no doubt that fall is coming soon.

As we begin this letter, we do so with sad and heavy hearts as we reflect on the passing of Elder Rene Bruno. We extend our sincere condolences to all his family and friends; and while we know Elder Bruno has gone to walk with the Creator we still mourn his absence in our lives.



The passing of an Elder like Elder Bruno is not just a sad loss for those who loved him, but for the community and Nation that benefited from his wisdom, guidance and leadership. He held a wealth of traditional knowledge and language, history, and understanding, and we are fortunate that he was generous in sharing it. We all have personal memories and relationships with Elder Bruno, but more than that he was a pillar of our Nation, and an integral link between the past and the future. We feel his loss deeply and will always remember all he contributed to Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation.



As the seasons begin to change, we are seeing some cooler temperatures and increased precipitation. This is promising given that much of the summer has been spent experiencing significant smoke conditions and/or fire bans due to extreme wildfire risk. As we unfortunately witnessed in Jasper in July, wildfire remains a tremendous threat in the boreal forest and climate change has increased this threat considerably. Shorter winters with less snow, longer summers with increased heat and lack of rain, and the general warming of the climate has had noticeable impacts on our traditional lands, and we must continue to acknowledge and prepare for this.

This summer our emergency response team has been prepared and ready to respond to any wildfire crisis, and we continue to monitor the wildfire situation as we head into the fall.

In August we were delighted to celebrate ACFN DLRM Dene Days in Fort Chipewyan. These two days are a showcase of our traditions and culture, and a chance to gather and connect as a Nation. We loved seeing so many of you there enjoying the event!

As we head towards the start of another school year, we also want to wish all students beginning or returning to their studies a successful year! We are proud of you wherever you are in your education journey.

Finally, we hope all ACFN Members enjoy the remaining days of warm weather, and spend it safely with friends and family having fun! We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events and programs, and as always thank you for your support and kindness. We are honoured to serve our Nation and Members!

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

Councillor Mike Mercredi
Councillor Teri Villebrun

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