



ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION

K'AI TAILÉ



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Message from Chief & Council
- 3 CEO Update
- 6 Message from DLRM Director
- 7 Emergency Management Update
- 8 New to Team
- 12 Community Engagement Update
- 18 Intergovernmental Affairs
- 20 Industry Relations
- 24 Elder Profile
- 26 Seniors Showcase
- 29 Events

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF & COUNCIL

Edlanete to all ACFN Members,

2024 has already been as we dove into another year of serving Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation as your Chief and Council!

The year has already seen some challenges, such as the spring wildfire that impacted some ACFN Members when it required the evacuation of four neighbourhoods in Fort McMurray. 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 spring and summer our emergency response team has been prepared and ready to respond to any wildfire crisis, and we continue to monitor the wildfire situation.

This is our new shared reality; we have seen the impact on everything from wildfires to the winter road. As a Nation we will continue to fight to do everything we can to lessen these impacts and to preserve our traditional way of life and protect our lands from those that threaten them.

In this newsletter, you will read about some of the work our team has done on that front, as well as updates from other areas of the Nation. We also celebrate our Members in our Seniors Showcase and share some photos from the first few months of this year! You will also find information on some upcoming events and activities and have the opportunity to learn a bit more about some of our ongoing initiatives and projects.

We are proud and honoured to serve ACFN Members and our Nation; we are inspired by the strength and courage of our Members, especially during challenges such as the wildfire we experienced in the spring. Our Members always come together to support each other, and we are truly blessed to be part of a community and Nation where we know we can count on each other to be there during both the good times and the bad.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, and we look forward to seeing you in 2024 as we continue to gather and connect as ACFN!

Marsi cho,

Chief Allan Adam
Councillor Flossie Cyprean
Councillor Hazel Mercredi
Councillor Mike Mercredi
Councillor Teri Villebrun

CEO UPDATE

Edlanet'e!

The ACFN and DLRM teams are excited to share this newsletter with you as it captures some of the achievements and updates from the team for January to April of this year. In this edition you will find important information on some of the work accomplished so far this year, as well as an update on the wildfire that impacted some ACFN Members in Fort McMurray this spring. You will also find details on some upcoming events and activities that you can enjoy in the rest of 2024!

On behalf of the team, I want to thank Chief and Council for their guidance and leadership. As we embarked on another year we have worked closely with Chief and Council on developing our strategic priorities and goals for the year, as well as ensuring the consistent provision of services and programs for ACFN Members.

I also want to thank the entire team for their work as we carry out the direction of Chief and Council. This year we also formed a committee dedicated to decolonizing and Indigenizing our workplace, and I want to thank all the team members who have volunteered to serve on this committee.



As you read this newsletter, I hope you have the chance to celebrate the outstanding achievements of ACFN Members, as well as reflect on some of the challenges we have faced, such as the spring wildfire.

Thank you as always for your support as the ACFN and DLRM team work together to serve Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation!

Marsi cho,

Maggie Farrington
ACFN Chief Executive Officer

POEM

First Light

Cathwyn Philpotts
3rd Place Overall

I hear you on the raven song;
The eagle fly, the owl gone.
I hear you on the wind rushed grass;
The lonely cry of loon still lasts.
I hear you in the cedar quake;
the lap of water, the cranes wake.
I hear you in the light of moon;
the shadow fall of stars still loom.
I hear you in the fall of rain;
the rush of wind, the depth of lake.
I hear you in the dark of night,
And always will at first light.
I hear you on beckoned Dawn,
The tendrils of forever gone.

HUMAN RESOURCES

During the last quarter, the Nation had four (4) departures and hired six (6) new employees for a total of eighty-one (81) employees. Of the 81 employees, 48 (62%) are ACFN members, combined with other Indigenous/First Nation and Metis staff, we employ 63 (78%) of an Indigenous workforce in total.

We anticipate filling one (1) vacant Electrician role and one (1) new Financial Controller position, including ten summer students by the end of June. This will bring our anticipated workforce to ninety-three (93). These new positions and opportunities for growth are a testament to our commitment to providing meaningful employment and fostering a thriving community.

Youth member employment and education are long-held priorities with ACFN and leadership. Education is foundational to breaking employment barriers, from minimum wage to earning a living wage. For students, we wish you much success in finding a summer job so you can gain valuable skills and some revenue over the summer months. Towards that, for the Nation's annual 2024 summer student campaign, we have added a whole week of various training to kick off their orientation, broaden their learning & development, and equip them with tools to succeed with a foundation to build on further.

Should you require assistance with resume and cover letter preparation, including job referrals with ACFN's Industry Partners, please reach out to HR@acfn.com; Kristi Deranger, Employment Liaison Coordinator at kristina.deranger@acfn.com, or Mattea Flett, ISET Coordinator at employment@acfn.com. Our team receives regular job/career opportunities and shares them on ACFN's Facebook page and the Member's Only section on ACFN.com.



As we welcome new team members, we are thrilled to introduce Heather Sorge, our new Human Resources Advisor. We are ACFN members and we are excited to work together to support our Nation's growth and success.

We wish you all a "Chamba Nálye Dziné!"

Marsi chogh,

R. Shirley Cardinal
Human Resources Director

HOUSING AND MAINTENANCE UPDATES

As spring blooms around us, it's time to refresh and renew not just our surroundings but also our living spaces. Spring cleaning isn't just for your personal space – it's for our community too!

In this edition of our newsletter, we bring you exciting updates on maintenance, renovations, and the grand opening of our new housing shop.

Maintenance Initiatives: Ensuring the upkeep of ACFN units remains a top priority. Our dedicated maintenance team has been hard at work addressing furnaces, hot water tank and HRV maintenance. At the same time installing motion sensor lights, fire extinguishers, energy efficient thermostats and LED lights.

Introducing Our New Maintenance Shop: We're delighted to announce the opening of our new maintenance shop! This state-of-the-art facility is equipped with the latest tools and resources to support our maintenance team in their daily operations. From equipment storage to workspace for repairs, this new addition will streamline our maintenance processes, allowing us to serve you better and more effectively.



This past year 13 Home Renovation Grants and 3 Home Ownership Grants were awarded to ACFN members.

The new playground at the Cluster Homes will open this spring for the children to enjoy.

Marsi Cho,
Linda Berry
Housing Director



HAVE YOU MOVED?

**Please remember
to update your
address with ACFN's
Membership Registrar.**

membership@acfn.com

MESSAGE FROM LISA TSSESSAZE DIRECTOR OF DLRM

Edglante,

Se ne Beyosti

Hello, how are you? I'm happy to share some updates with you. I am also grateful that we have had a beautiful spring and summer once again. In May, we did get a scare in Fort McMurray with a large fire just 4.5 km away from our homes. During the evacuation in Edmonton a hotel employee said *"gee a lot keeps happening up there to you all"*. I agreed and told her it was karma. Mother Nature is fighting back and cleaning the lands in her own way. Fort McMurray and north of here is the origin of all the destruction on our traditional lands. We need to always be respectful to our lands and continue loving our Mother Earth.

At DLRM we work hard to not only hold Industry and governments accountable but ACFN too. We have officially released our own ACFN Water Policy - *"With Water, We Live"*. This policy outlines what ACFN Members need to practice our Rights on the lands. We have shared this with all levels of government and many industries in our region. This policy defines our Dene values, our principles and most importantly the amount of water necessary to practice our rights as well as the quality of the water we need for safe consumption.

In the works now is our ACFN Land Code. Developing a land code will assist us in better managing our reserve lands. It will help us ensure that our growth on our reserve lands allows for the protection of certain areas and the development of others. The steps we take today allow us to exercise Self Governance and Self Determination and starts to address the impact of the colonial Indian act.

Our Denesuline Nation has been on these lands for thousands of years and we plan to be here for thousands of years to come!

Lisa Tsessaze
Executive Director
ACFN DLRM



ACFN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

ACFN Emergency Management has already had a busy summer. In mid May, over 120 ACFN members had to evacuate from parts of Fort McMurray due to wildfire. ACFN was able to have staff on hand at three evacuation centers in Lac La Biche, Cold Lake and Edmonton within the hour. Together we were able to make sure that all of our members were settled safely and were accessing services.

What some may not know is that the day before the Fort McMurray evacuation there was a fire just 2kms of the Fort Chipewyan Airport. Although the fire was controlled within hours, it was a good drill for not only us, but all emergency response teams in Fort Chipewyan. Within two hours of the fire being detected we convened a meeting of the Mikisew, Fort Chip Metis, Alberta Forestry, RMWB fire department, RMWB emergency social services and the RCMP. Rest assured, when needed this group assembled quickly to deal with the threat.

ACFN is aware of the low water that is plaguing western Canada right now and we are working hard to address it. This included working with Transport Canada and Department of Fisheries and Oceans to dredge the Big Dock, working with industry to curtail their water intake and working with BC hydro to release more water. We are well aware of the importance of Big dock to our community's emergency management plans, but also to practicing our Treaty rights. We will not stop until the dock is dredged.

We also want to announce the exciting return of Tim Flett, who is joining ACFN as the Manager of Emergency Management. His role will be to better prepare the nation to face all threats we may face. This will include running training opportunities for staff and community members, so that we are better able to respond in times of crisis.

ACFN emergency management department will continue to grow and deepen our ability to protect our members. With another hot dry summer anticipated this year, ACFN is better positioned to handle the threat than ever before.

Sincerely,

Flossie Cyprean and Mike Mercredi
Directors of Emergency Management

NEW TO THE TEAM



Dara Mahowich
Land-Use Planner - DLRM

Dara commenced as the new Land-Use Planner on May 3, 2024, and is a proud Beaver Lake Cree Nation member. She holds a Natural Resources Technology Diploma, Portage

College, 2024, and an Honours in Business Administration Certificate, Portage College, 2021. In her spare time, she enjoys being out on the land, painting, and making jewelry. Congratulations, Dara, and welcome to TEAM DLRM.



Claudia Simpson
Manager, Health and Wellness - ACFN

Claudia joined ACFN on May 21, 2024, as the new Manager of Health and Wellness. She's a Denesúliné hélę, born and raised in Fort Chipewyan, (K'ai Tailé)

by her grandparents. Claudia credits her grandparents for her fluent understanding of the beautiful Dene language. Claudia believes that language provides a sense of belonging that connects individuals to their roots.

After leaving Fort Chipewyan, Claudia earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1999. Throughout her nursing career, she has collaborated with health stakeholders at local, provincial, and federal levels. Claudia brings a unique perspective to healthcare, integrating both Indigenous and Western worldviews. She is dedicated to identifying and advocating for community needs that emphasize cultural awareness and safety, particularly in the context of reconciliation. Welcome to the TEAM Claudia.



Nellie (Janelle) Vandenbrink
CO-OP Environment Project Coordinator - DLRM

Nellie joined TEAM DLRM on May 13, 2024, for a four-month COOP work term as Environment Project Coordinator. She anticipates graduating in 2025 with a Master

of Environmental Assessment from Concordia University. Nellie is a settler born and raised in Treaty 7; she has a sentimental connection to the region and an awareness of the destructive environmental impacts of resource extraction and the systemic inequities faced by Indigenous communities throughout Alberta. Welcome to the TEAM DLRM, and we wish you all the best during your work term and upcoming graduation!



Timothy George Flett
Manager, Emergency Management - ACFN

Tim joined TEAM ACFN on May 15, 2024, as the successful candidate for the Manger, Emergency Management position. He is an ACFN

member and brings a wealth of experience in emergency management to mine rescue. He is certified with the Alberta Mine Safety Association, has 25 years with the Fort Chipewyan Fire Department; he is a former Emergency Medical Responder registered with the Alberta College of Paramedics and is a retired First Aid instructor with St. John Ambulance. He is certified with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency, Incident Command System 100 and 200. Tim is a husband to Leanne, a father of four and has two grand-children, and resides in the beautiful hamlet of Fort Chipewyan. Congratulations, Tim, and a warm welcome to the TEAM ACFN!



Heather Sorge
Human Resources Advisor - ACFN

Heather was declared the successful candidate for the Human Resources Advisor role and joined TEAM ACFN on May 13, 2024. She is an ACFN member and a loving mother of

one child. Heather comes to us from Cougar Fuels, where she was employed as a Human Resources Generalist for the past four years and previously was with Bouchier for three years in their HR department. She holds an Office Administration Certificate from Keyano College in 2015. In her spare time, Heather practices jiu jitsu and has a blue belt. Wishing you much success in your new role, Heather, and welcome to the TEAM.

NEW!

ACFN Business Development Grant Policy

The ACFN Business Development Grant Policy was created for members to expand their business and carve a path towards unparalleled growth and lasting prosperity. The financial infusion will empower the small to medium-sized businesses from all sectors of the economy to chase their dreams of expansion and seize the ever-elusive competitive advantage.

Grant Overview:

Grant is available to the below business types:

- Startup Businesses - *Early-stage businesses that have recently launched or are new.*
- Emerging Businesses - *Businesses that have shown promising growth and are expanding.*
- Established Businesses - *Well-established businesses with a proven track record of success.*

Grant Amount and Limit*:

Business Category	Grant Amount Range
Startup Businesses	\$5,000 - \$10,000
Emerging Businesses	\$10,000 - \$20,000
Established Businesses	\$15,000 - \$25,000

*Maximum \$25,000.00 grant is allowed per member in their lifetime.

Eligibility Requirements:

In order to be eligible, you must:

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Own a registered business or be ready to register a business when applying for the Grant.
- Agree to comply with all terms and conditions outlined in the ACFN Business Grant policy.

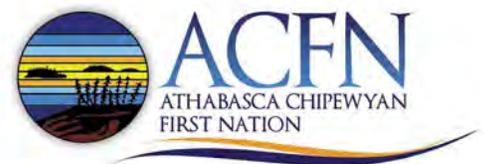
Application Process:

Fill out Form 1, titled "Application for Business Development Grant," as outlined in the ACFN Business Development Grant Policy and submit it online (*Review the ACFN Business Development Grant Policy for more details*).

Contact Info:

Aman Chauhan
ACFN
Box 366
Fort Chipewyan, AB, T0P 1B0

Email: aman.chauhan@acfn.com
Tel: 780.598.1775
Fax: 780.697.3500



ACFN EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Hello ACFN members,

My name is Mattea Flett, I'm ACFN's temporary Employment and Training coordinator. I started this position in November 2023, during the past few months I have learned a lot about my role and the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISETS) department.

A quick review of what the ACFN Employment office has to offer:

- Resume writing
- Job search
- Job referrals
- Job interview preparations
- Arrange appointments for training courses.
- Funding for training programs, personal protective equipment, and safety tickets with an employment offer letter
- Access to a laptop, printing, faxing

From the beginning of the year, ISETS department assisted 24 members in various programs:

- Barbering
- Safety tickets
- Nail technician
- PPE
- Heavy Equipment Operating
- Safe Food Handling certificate
- Class 1 & Class 5 drivers
- Early learning childcare

Any many more amazing programs.

Important Reminder:

Training requests- apply 6 weeks in advance.

Educational /Technical training - apply 4 months in advance.

ACFN members requiring assistance from the ISETS program can contact me at

Mattea Flett
Office: 780-697-3730
Cell: 780-788-0877
employment@acfn.com

ACDEN UPDATE

In a groundbreaking partnership, Acden has joined forces with Rain Cage Carbon Inc., a leader in carbon capture and reuse technology, to form Acden + Rain Cage. This collaboration is set to revolutionize decarbonization and renewable power generation in the North, driving environmental sustainability and economic growth hand in hand.

At Acden + Rain Cage, we are committed to leveraging cutting-edge technology to serve communities and the environment. Our partnership, majority-owned by the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, embodies our shared commitment to innovation and stewardship.

Our inaugural project, Carbon Farm 1, located in Fort McMurray, Alberta, will utilize Rain Cage Carbon's EDEN™ System to produce Advanced Carbon for renewable power generation and battery storage. The long-term profits will benefit investors and the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, fostering economic opportunities and job creation in the region.



ACFN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The ACFN Social Development team remains committed to providing critical support in healing, wellness, and fostering community resilience. Below are the key updates and services delivered this quarter:

Our team continues to help members seeking addiction treatment services. Several members have completed detox and treatment programs, and we are actively working with agencies to streamline application processes and reduce wait times.

We continue to work closely with families to navigate the complexities of Children's Services, attending advisory meetings to advocate for the best interests of our members. Additionally, we are actively supporting the development of ACFN-specific legislation and policies regarding youth in care, emphasizing prevention and intervention services to ensure culturally aligned care.

The Social Development team continues to offer dedicated support to families caring for elders. In collaboration with Nunee Health Authority, we have increased access to medical assessments for members, ensuring they receive timely and appropriate care. Additionally, we are partnering with Alberta Health Services (AHS) Indigenous connectors to simplify healthcare navigation and improve support for elder care and medical services within the community. ACFN also maintains a strong relationship with ATC's Northern Lights Hospital Liaison Worker to further enhance these services.



Additional Services and Initiatives:

This quarter, we also provided the following services:

- Support for families through Jordan's Principle, ensuring access to critical services for children.
- Coordination of housing assistance for members both on and off reserve, addressing immediate needs and exploring long-term housing solutions.
- Assistance in obtaining identification, completing income tax, and preparing wills.
- Continued delivery of mental health and wellness programs

If you or someone you know needs mental health or addiction support here are a few references: Alberta Health Services Mental Health Help Line is a 24-hour, 7 days a week, 365 days a year 1-877-303-2642 (Toll free) or Alberta Addiction Health Line 1-866-332-2322 (toll-free).

We remain deeply committed to the well-being and resilience of our members and will continue to explore and deliver new initiatives to enhance the range of services and supports offered across the community.

Lori Stevens
Social Worker and Development Manager

EDUCATION UPDATE



ACFN is currently funding 29 post-secondary students in all different studies from - Health and Physical Education, Master of Business Administration, Bachelor of Psychology, Foundation in Entertainment Arts, Indigenous Business Leadership, Bachelor of Arts in Criminology, Bachelor of law- indigenous studies, Film Production, Academic Upgrading, Bachelor of Arts- Dene Language, Master of Education Degree, Culinary Arts, Environmental Technology, Addictions & Community Health and many more amazing programs.

3 ACFN apprentices: Heavy Equipment Technician, 2nd year Electrician and Heavy Duty Mechanic Total of 32 ACFN members being funded through the Post-Secondary Education Department as of Spring 2024 term.

ACFN Education Incentives:

High School Completion – don't forget to send in a copy of your high school diploma to receive a high school completion incentive of \$1,000.00

High School Continuing Education Incentive – If you have recently graduated from High School and are immediately continuing into post-secondary studies, please inform the Education Coordinator to receive this one-time incentive of \$1,000.00

Post-Secondary Completion incentive – If you have recently graduated from a post-secondary program, please inform the Education Coordinator to receive this one-time incentive.

A VERY important reminder – All new applications must be in on or before the deadlines:
March 31st for Spring/ Summer term.
July 30th for Fall term
November 30th for Winter term
Reminder: ensure to apply with ATC Education first.

For more information on anything education related- can contact me at:

Rianna Flett
(Office) 780.697.3730
(Cell) 780.370.7585
education@acfn.com

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS UPDATE

Advisory Committees Update

Advisory committees engage with industry. Industry with advisory committees include CNRL, Cenovus, Imperial, Suncor, and Syncrude. Advisory committee members are informed of industry's project updates, project expansions, and reclamation plans. The intent of the committees is to make industry accountable for impacts that are created by constant development. Advisory committee members are essential in this process, their voice is recorded and can be useful to ACFN in negotiations and in a legal capacity.

In order to be a member of an advisory committee, you should have some knowledge of the treaty, of the land,

and to be vocal. A letter of interest is required. The letter should include reasons why you want to be a member of a committee.

We are currently looking for youth participants, ages 18 to 29 as well as the adult category, ages 30 to 54. We are not looking for elder participants at this time.

In ending, many members of the committee are asking about meetings. The companies are not requesting advisory committee meetings as frequently. Once they contact us, we will notify the committee members. Syncrude, Imperial, and CNRL have requested meetings this year. Suncor and Cenovus have not.

Join
OUR TEAM
AND HELP AT

ACFN DLRM
URBAN
JOB FAIR
& CONFERENCE

We are looking for 4-6 members in the region to help with registration and be support staff.

October 16th, 2024
9:00AM-6:00PM

Edmonton Convention Centre | Hall D
9797 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton Alberta

Contact kristina.deranger@acfn.com for more information about this opportunity.



ACFN
DENE LANDS AND RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT (DLRM)

SAVE THE DATE

ACFN DLRM
URBAN
JOB FAIR
& CONFERENCE



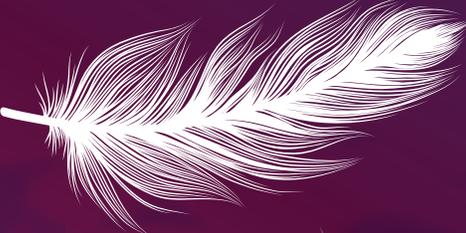
October 16th, 2024 | 10am–5pm
Edmonton Convention Centre | Hall D
9797 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton Alberta



ACFN
DENE LANDS AND RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT (DLRM)

For questions or to register please contact Kristi at kristina.deranger@acfn.com

ACFN DLRM URBAN JOB FAIR & CONFERENCE



Welcome to ACFN Dene Lands and Resource Management's Inaugural Urban Job Fair!

Agenda

- 10:00am Grand Entry – Performances from Indigenous Dancers, Drummers and Singers
- 10:30am Opening Remarks and Designates
- 11:00am Changemakers Business Panel
- 12:00pm Indigenous Fashion Show and Lunch
- 1:30pm Entrepreneurial Panel
- 2:30pm Knowledge Keeper speech
- 3:00pm Keynote Speaker

Over 40 exhibitors and multiple vendors!

This is a free event open to the public. (Email registration upon entry)
To register a booth please contact kristina.deranger@acfn.com (a booth fee applies)

October 16th, 2024 | 10am–5pm
Edmonton Convention Centre | Hall D
9797 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton AB



ACFN
DENE LANDS AND RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT (DLRM)



ACFN DLRM URBAN JOB FAIR & CONFERENCE

Looking for ACFN Members who would like to be part of the Job Fair

Models
Designers
Dancers
Drummers
Photographers
Artisans

Vendors
Exhibitors
Entrepreneurs
Youth Speakers
Post Secondary Student-
Guest Speakers

October 16th, 2024 | 10am-5pm
Edmonton Convention Centre | Hall D
9797 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton Alberta



For questions or to register please contact Kristi at kristina.deranger@acfn.com

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Maintenance Shop

The Occupancy Permit has been issued and Housing has now moved into its new shop and offices. The shop will be used for mechanical repair, carpentry, electrical and plumbing. The lean to roof at the back gives sheltered storage, protection from rain, sun and snow. The large yard provides lay down for building materials, equipment and storage containers.



104 MacKenzie Ave. New Construction

Unit 2 has been moved into by the new tenant. Unit 1 is nearing completion. The basement has some finishing drywall mudding to complete. The upper floor has some minor finishing such as tiling. The final grade is complete, with the gravel driveway and parking in progress.

Band Office

Reviewing what the needs are for the Administration Building. Number of offices, board rooms, lobby, storage, meeting rooms, art and historic display, etc. What are the future needs that require space and what is the amount we need to plan for. Pre-planning will give us a building that will serve our needs into the future.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

2024 has been a wild ride for ACFN so far with pressing issues on all sides. When it comes to protecting your Treaty rights, ACFN has many irons in the fire including a lawsuit against the Alberta Energy Regulator, and ongoing dispute with Imperial oil, a heated dispute with BC Hydro and a struggle with Transport Canada. And what do all of these have in common? Well for one, ACFN's department of Intergovernmental Affairs have been on the front line of each fight.

At an open house in Fort Chipewyan in February ACFN served the Alberta Energy Regulator with court papers announcing a lawsuit for their role in the cover up of Imperial's 2023 tailings spill. The regulator treats all Indigenous nations poorly and as such we have had several Nations come forward to act as interveners in our case. Assaults on Treaty rights anywhere is an assault on Treaty rights everywhere, and Nations across Alberta recognize this. We are grateful to the Nations from Treaty 8 and Assembly of Treaty Chiefs Alberta that have stepped forward to stand with us against this corrupt regulator.

Despite Imperials duplicitous and negligent behavior being well documented, they still refuse to take any responsibility for Alberta's largest tailings spill in history. In response ACFN submitted a resolution to Imperial's annual shareholders meeting requesting that they accurately account for the clean-up and mitigation of their tailings ponds, something they have thus far refused to do. With the help of many environmental investment organizations and shareholder proxy agencies we were able to get 19% of the vote, causing the stock to drop over \$2.5 billion over the next few days. While we may not have won the vote this time, the message is clear, messing with ACFN will cost you.

All across Western Canada through the Peace River Watershed and all the way up to the Beaufort Sea, Indigenous communities are struggling with the problem of low water. In addition to Mega Drought, BC Hydro has been holding water back to fill the reservoir of their new "Site C" dam causing low water in every direction. In April, ACFN staff visited Indigenous communities all throughout the



watershed to document the problem of low water, this included dry rivers in BC, winter roads closing early across Northern Alberta and damage to infrastructure across the arctic. Along the way we met with community leaders to get them to join our fight against BC Hydro, and they have answered the call. Dene, Cree, Metis, Tłı̨chǫ and Inuvialuit Nations have expressed support for our fight to protect water levels and Treaty rights. We hope that this agreement can be solidified at the Dene National Convention in Fort Good Hope this summer, then BC Hydro will be facing a united front of Indigenous Nations who will stand against their corporate greed.

Closer to home, the fight continues with Transport Canada, the owners of Big Dock. For the past decade Transport Canada has refused to live up to their obligation to dredge and maintain the dock in proper working order. This has resulted in a dry and dilapidated dock that is hindering our Nation's ability to practice our Treaty rights and complicated our emergency management plans. We are fighting hard to get them to deliver on their responsibility, and coordinating with our neighbours is a key component of that. We hope that this will be solved quickly, as we turn up the pressure on them to follow through.

ACFN has always been a leader among Nations when it comes to protecting our lands, culture and rights. Recently, this has increasingly involved leaning on other Nations across Turtle Island for support to jointly pressure governments and industry. ACFN members can rest assured that they don't just have the force of the Kai' Taile government behind them, but also dozens of Nations across Alberta and beyond.

Jay Telegdi
Senior Manager Intergovernmental Affairs

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

ACFN ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

For many years, ACFN has been doing amazing work and research to protect ACFN Members' Aboriginal and Treaty Rights. The resulting studies/reports range across many different themes and topics, from monitoring, to water quality/quantity, to wildlife (caribou, buffalo, fish, muskrat etc...) to cultural protection, to the Wood Buffalo National Park and many more. This work would not be possible without the knowledge and guidance of our Elders, Youth, and community members; we are grateful and thank you for continuing to work with us to protect your homeland.

So how do we use all this work? We use it in many situations and contexts with our dealings with industry and settler government domestically, but ACFN is also now in a position to start advancing and advocating at the international stage. Alberta and especially Canada are very sensitive in these international forums, because they know they will not be able to spin the truth without ACFN being there to tell the real story. We have learned that these international forums have been an effective place to showcase and tell ACFN's story, to get movement on files, and also to build relationships with others that can support us, and that we can support.

Between April 24-27, ACFN sent a delegation to the 43rd annual conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA24) at the Convention Centre Dublin, in Dublin, Ireland. The delegation included a Councillor, two Elders, and administrative staff. The IAIA is the impact assessment professionals' forum, gathering over 800 people from 80 Nations each year at its annual meetings. This year, the theme of the meeting was "Impact Assessment for a Just Transformation". IAIA24 was a place where experts, decision-makers, industry, and professionals of different visions could connect, share, and leverage expertise and relationships.

At the IAIA conference, ACFN was proud to present on several files and on-going projects:



- IEHRA – *Indigenous Environmental Health Risk Assessment*
- FCWTDAT – *Fort Chipewyan Water Treatment Data Analytical Tool*
- WQCIU – *Water Quality Criteria for Indigenous Use*

The conference was a huge success, and the work of ACFN was recognized by many other organizations and groups. We made strong connections that we are exploring to further ACFN's voice and presence. ACFN will continue to push in all spaces, including international ones, to ensure that everything we hear and gather from our Members is used to advance the Nation's priorities. As always, please feel free to reach out to anyone from our team if you have any questions, or want more information.

Marsi cho!
DLRM Government Relations Team



INDUSTRY RELATIONS

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and ACFN
The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) is the nuclear energy and material regulator committed to protecting health, safety, security, and the environment in Canada's implementation of nuclear energy and technology. As part of the engagement process, CNSC and ACFN DLRM have entered into a one-year draft Terms of Reference (TOR) with the primary purpose of supporting collaboration, addressing issues related to CNSC-regulated facilities and activities of interest within ACFN's Traditional Territories.

Through this draft of the terms of reference, ACFN DLRM is committed to addressing issues and concerns regarding nuclear regulatory framework processes, uranium mining, waste disposal, and emerging technologies. Under the Terms of Reference, ACFN and CNSC will co-develop an annual work plan and implement it yearly. Also, a working group that meets quarterly with input from a focus group will be created soon; the focus group will consist of ACFN members who are interested in serving in this capacity.

In 2023, the CNSC funded a traditional land use study in northern Saskatchewan surrounding proposed, licensed, and legacy uranium mine sites. The purpose of these studies is for the CNSC to understand the traditional land use activities of ACFN members to support regulatory processes, policy formulation, and decision-making. Although the traditional land use studies were a CNSC-sponsored activity, they are also helpful in guiding ACFN DLRM in understanding and responding to the province of Saskatchewan's consultation request.

Some of the projects and facilities under regulatory review are listed below:

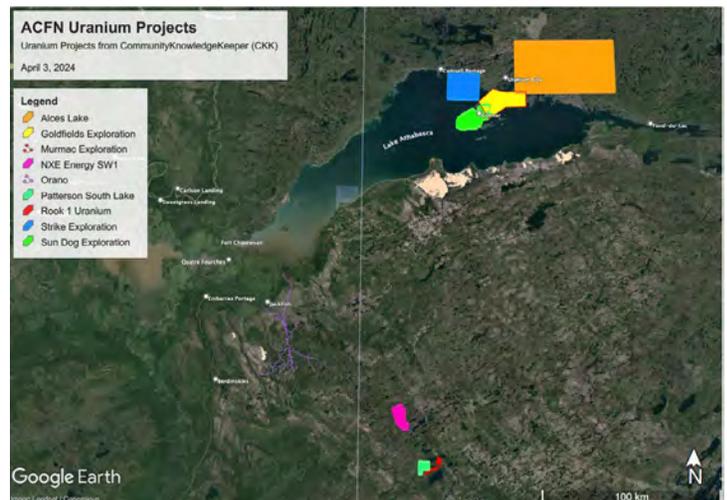
Closed and Decommissioned Operations:

- Beaverlodge Properties
- Lorado
- Gunnar
- Cluff Lake

Proposed Projects:

- NexGen Rook I Mine
- Fission Patterson Lake South Mine
- Potential Small Modular Reactor projects in ACFN territory
- Uranium exploration activities

Considering the rapid growth in the nuclear sector in Canada, ACFN DLRM sees the importance of collaborating with the CNSC to be better positioned in the future for energy transition. In the spirit of collaborating in good faith, the CNSC is proposing to host a community information session in Fort Chipewyan on September 5th, 2024. Look for more information on the ACFN DLRM Facebook page and bulletin boards over the summer.



PAYMENTS TO MINORS

ACFN AGRICULTURAL BENEFITS SETTLEMENT TRUST



On June 23, 2017 ACFN Members accepted the distribution of the settlement funds as set out in the ACFN Agricultural Benefits Settlement Trust. If you were an ACFN member under the age of 18 years old on June 23, 2017, then your \$10,000 was placed into a minor's trust account within the Trust.

The trustee will pay the minor's PCD payment along with an inflation adjustment, and an investment adjustment at the rate of two percent (2%) compounded annually for each fiscal year after 2017 upon the minor meeting the following eligibility requirements:

- reaching the age of 18 and have a Grade 12 education or its equivalency;
- completing a Grade 12 education, or its equivalency, or are enrolled in an apprenticeship or other postsecondary program at any time during the ages of 18,19, or 20 years; or
- reaching the age of 21 years.

In order to receive their PCD payment, ACFN members between the ages of 18-20 must submit a copy of their High School Diploma, a VOID cheque in their name, and a copy of the front and back of their identification. Alternatively, they can provide proof of Grade 12 equivalent (i.e., GED) or enrollment in an apprenticeship or other post-secondary program, along with the mentioned supporting documentation.

Once the member reaches the age of 21, the member can receive their PCD payment without providing proof of education. Once a person is eligible and submits the paperwork it can take up to two months to receive the payment.

For more information, email info@acfn.com

LANDS AND RIGHTS

The year started off with excitement! The community-based monitors started their winter field campaign and completed water quality and quantity samples, collected snow samples and participated in muskrat camp. ACFN guardians continued to patrol the Richardson Backcountry, and we are happy to report that there was little activity in the Richardson Backcountry over the winter months.

The Ronald Lake Buffalo Herd continues to be a priority for the Nation. A group of buffalo keepers have joined the research team to guide the western science activities to help further protect this very important herd. They meet both on and off the land to discuss the work and ensure that Indigenous Knowledge remains the priority of the project.

I am happy to report that an emergency cabin has been built at Poplar Point. This cabin is open to anyone that travels the Athabasca River who may need to find emergency shelter.

Work on establishing ACFN's Land Code has started, and we will be planning community information sessions and a social media campaign to keep all Members up to date on the progress and gather information and input.

You may have noticed that the Nipiy Tu Research and Knowledge Centers (NTRKC) mobile lab has arrived in the community. We are excited to begin the installation of equipment inside to have it functioning for all Peach Athabasca Delta (PAD) Research. NTRKC has also hosted their first research forum. This forum brought western scientists and local Indigenous Knowledge holders together to discuss the work currently being done on the PAD and to voice the concerns of the community. This is a great reminder to the western scientist on the importance of the work they do!

Lori Cyprien
Director of Rights and Lands



STRATEGIC ADVISORY SERVICES

As we continue to build strong, sustainable partnerships for Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, I am pleased to share that we have added a new section on the ACFN website dedicated to showcasing our business partners. On visiting this page, you will find links to our current business partners and the opportunity to learn more about what they do and how this benefits ACFN. Currently, these partners include Concord Green Energy, ProStar Energy, and Precise Downhole Solutions.

We look forward to adding more partners to this list in the future as we pursue new opportunities and explore the potential that exists for new partnerships. You can find the new page at www.acfn.com/acfn-partnerships

Jason Shulz



RECIPE

3 INGREDIENT STRAWBERRY YOGURT BITES

This frozen yogurt bites are a healthy snack alternative. Giving you the fuel you need to get you through the day. Easy to make with three simple ingredients.

INGREDIENTS

Yogurt Cups

- ½ cup granola, more for topping
- 1 cup yogurt of choice
- ½ cup fresh strawberries, hulled and diced

Topping

- ¾ cup fresh strawberries, sliced or chopped
- ¼ cup granola, smaller pieces work better

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Line a 12-cup muffin pan with muffin liners or use a 12-cup silicone baking pan.
2. Sprinkle about 2 teaspoons of granola into the bottom of each cup. Set aside.
3. In a medium bowl, add in yogurt and strawberries. Using a pastry cutter or fork, mash fruits into yogurt, until mostly mixed in, with just a few chunks remaining. Using a rubber spatula or wooden spoon, stir and fold until well mixed.
4. Spoon 2 tablespoons of the strawberry yogurt mixture into each cup, making sure to create an even layer. Tap the pan to smooth out each layer.
5. Press about 1 tablespoon of strawberries or 1 strawberry slice into the tops of each cup. Sprinkle granola over the strawberries, about 1 teaspoon.
6. Place pan into freezer and chill until firm, about 2-4 hours.
7. Pop out each frozen yogurt bite, thaw for a few minutes, then enjoy.

ELDERS PROFILE

MARVIN L'HOMMECOURT

Marvin is a traditional trapper and active land user. He spends most of his time out on his families trapline sounded by the oil sands. Marvin has seen numerous changes to our lands over the years and witnesses the direct impacts from development.

Active land use keeps Marvin fit, feeling strong and young. The trapline was handed down to him from his late mother Annie L'Hommecourt. Marvin's family has well over 100 years of traditional land use along his trapline and in this region.

Marvin worked on the industry sites for well over 30 years. He was a heavy equipment operator. During his time there he also participated in several public hearings for ACFN. As an active land user surrounded by development Marvin knows first hand what the changes are and how it affects his traditional use. Marvin regularly collects furs and harvests food from the lands surrounding him. He has seen changes to the berries and the muskeg river that flowed next to him.

In my culture, we go hunting,' L'Hommecourt wrote. *"I eat what I kill and live off it, that's the spirituality."* Quoted in *"The Patch, The People, Pipelines, and Politics of the Oil Sands"*; published in 2017. He also states *'Its is very important for me to be able to go hunt in that area. If I don't do it, I'll go crazy. Its good to be on the land, that where the spirit is."* Finally he states *"My grandfather would turn over in his grave if he knew they were developing around Poplar Point. My grandfather would want his kids and grandkids to follow in his footsteps. That's what our culture is all about."* Marvin was also featured in a resent book called *'Free the Land, How we can fight poverty and Climate Chaos* by Audrea Lim, 2024.

Marvin took this picture from his phone while out on the lands. It shows the versatility of our lands. It's a pack of wolves with development surrounding them, you can even see the heavy haulers. This represents us Denesuline. We stick together. We love one another.





ACFN

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation

LAND CODE

What is a Land Code?

A **Land Code** is the basic land law the First Nation develops and approves to govern its reserve lands. First Nations often establish a **Land Code Development Committee**, made up of community members, to develop a land code to reflect their unique laws, priorities, and traditions.

All eligible members, on and off-reserve, can vote on the First Nation's Land Code. Nothing is finalized without community approval.

Benefits of a Land Code

- Recognition of a First Nation's right to manage its lands and resources
- Replacement of the 44 lands management sections of the *Indian Act* with ACFNs own land laws.
- Community control over First Nation land management and development
- Inclusion of on and off-reserve members in important decisions
- Increased transparency and accountability to members in all land matters
- Enhanced ability of the First Nation to protect its environment
- Ability to create a local dispute resolution process (and more)



**OVER 119 LAND CODES
RATIFIED ACROSS CANADA**

For further information on other First Nations operating under a Land Code across Canada, please visit www.labrc.com

SENIORS SHOWCASE

Jerry Adam

Jerry, born in Uranium City, Saskatchewan, was raised in Old Fort and attended the Holy Angels Residential School. He completed grade 12 at Peter Pond Junior/Senior High School.

Jerry enjoys hunting, boating, and fishing, including setting nets.

He has worked on oil sands sites as a laborer, surveyor's helper, and surveyor.



Rene Bruno

Rene August Bruno was born in Jackfish on February 21, 1934. Rene attended Holy Angels Residential School. He speaks fluent Denesōliné, Cree and English. He was a Band Councillor from 1996 to 2003. He married Mary Mercredi and had 7 children. He has many grandchildren and one great great granddaughter. Rene enjoys traditional food, living out on the land, boat rides, and teaching his grandchildren how to trap.



Archie Cyprien

Archie was born at Point Brule to Edward and Celine Cyprien. He attended Holy Angels Residential School. He continued his education in Fort Smith, Grouard, St. Paul, Edmonton, and obtained a Welding trade. Archie served as an ACFN Councillor and Chief for several years. Now retired, he spends his time with family and friends hunting and camping. He loves passing on traditional values to his 4 children and 5 grandchildren.



Grace Elm

Grace Elm (née McDonald) was born in 1942 to Eliza (née Boucher) and Eddie McDonald, whose trap line was at Birch River. She lived on Monument Hill for about 10 years, attended Holy Angels Residential School until she was 14 and was sent to Edmonton to finish high school. Grace was married and moved to the states in 1962. She has three children. Her beloved husband, Lloyd, passed away in 2019. Grace currently lives in western New York.



Peggy Laviolette

Peggy Laviolette is the daughter of Emma (nee Voyageur) and Frank Laviolette. She has 3 children and many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Peggy moved to Fort McMurray 42 years ago. She attended Keyano College and obtained a Business Administration Certificate and Bachelor of Arts. She has been a negotiator for ACFN for the past 11 years and continues to work at Acden Environment.



Scott Flett

Scott was born in Fort McMurray at the St. Gabriel Hospital in 1954. He went to Holy Angels residential school in Fort Chipewyan. He attended Grandin College in Fort Smith for a year and then went to Edmonton to continue his education. Scott worked as water monitoring technologist from 1972 to 2012 in Fort Chipewyan. He was an ACFN Councillor for 1 term. Scott enjoys trapping in the winter and boating in the summer. He also enjoys hunting.



Patricia Lepine

Patricia was born in Jackfish Lake. She attended Holy Angels Residential School for 10 years. She studied Business Administration and ran her own business. Patricia has been working for ACFN for over 29 years in various roles, she is currently the Band Administrator, and was a Band Councillor for 6 1/2 years. Patricia enjoys reading, playing the occasional bingo, and being a mother, grandmother, and great grandmother.



John Mercredi

John Edmund Mercredi was born in Fort Chipewyan. After attending residential school, he moved to Stoney Rapids and became a Special Constable with the RCMP. He served 2 terms as an ACFN Councillor and helped to build many homes for ACFN members displaced by flooding. He has been married to his wife Annie Mercredi for a long time. Today he is retired and happily living on Sesame Street in Fort Chipewyan.



Cora Voyageur

Dr. Cora Voyageur is a Full Professor of Sociology at the University of Calgary and teaches a variety of Criminology and Indigenous courses. She was faculty lead of the Indigenous Women in Leadership program at the Banff Centre for 16 years. She has published 9 books (three as audiobooks) and more than 60 academics articles/book chapters. Cora was the oldest of five children with two brothers and two sisters. Sadly, she lost her brother, Junior, to cancer in 2020. She is the proud grandmother of five grandchildren. She is also a residential school survivor.



STAFF FEATURES



meet MICHELLE

Michelle Voyageur, an ACFN member, holds the position of Chief of Operations, overseeing the daily functions of programs and services within the K'ai Tailé Department.

She plays a pivotal role in ensuring ACFN's strategic plan is implemented.

www.acfn.com info@acfn.com



meet LORI

Lori Cyprien is the Director of Land & Rights at DLRM. Her team uses both traditional and Western science to ensure the Nation's resources and lands are protected and developed.

She is a proud ACFN member and scientist who values progress and inherent rights!

www.acfn.com info@acfn.com



meet LILLY

Lilly Marcel manages the Uncle Fred's Youth & Elders Lodge. She delivers innovative and traditional programming to help members propel Dene traditions and values.

She is a proud ACFN member and a Dene language speaker.

www.acfn.com info@acfn.com





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ACFN

DENE LANDS AND RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT (DLRM)

2024 QUARTERLY ELDERS DLRM INFORMATION SESSIONS

Q1 - March 13th



Q2 - June 5th



Q3 - September 11th



Q4 - December 4th

Charlie Voyageur Conference Centre

For more information contact:

rose.ross@acfn.com | 780.799.3693

kristina.deranger@acfn.com | 780.742.7163