



ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION

K'AI TAILÉ



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF & COUNCIL

Edlanete!

In this issue we are delighted to showcase ACFN Members while also capturing some of the work of the ACFN team over the 2024 summer months. You will find stories about these achievements and some of the work that still lies ahead, as well as photos that share the many moments our Nation came together to celebrate!

The summer of 2024 began with an unpleasant reminder of the impact of climate change on our land. In May, a fast-growing wildfire required four neighbourhoods in Fort McMurray to evacuate. ACFN Members were among those evacuated, and our team stepped up to ensure they were safe and cared for during this time. It was an unfortunate start to the season, and was retraumatizing to those who experienced the 2016 wildfire and the 2024 Fort Chipewyan wildfire. We cannot lose sight of the tremendous changes the environment has seen due to industrial development and global warming, and the resulting impact this has on both our communities and our way of life.

The wildfire was also a reminder of the strength of our emergency response plan, which was again successfully activated. This plan has been the backbone of our emergency response over the past several years, and has proven to be invaluable in protecting our Members when an emergency strikes.

While the summer got off to a difficult start, we also saw some incredible moments within our Nation. Treaty Days in June were once again a celebration enjoyed by everyone, with a wide array of activities and events designed to create opportunities to connect.

In August ACFN – DLRM hosted the annual Dene Days. This annual showcase of our history, culture and traditions is always an amazing time for Members and non-Members to come together to enjoy food, fun and festivities!

The Family Camp at Jackfish was another great chance for our Members to gather and connect while enjoying traditional activities.

This summer we were also excited to launch the new k'aitélé denesų́líné yatié ᓃá erihł'ís k'ayasti ha, the Fort Chipewyan Denesų́líné Reader!! This was an exciting project designed to capture and showcase our traditional language, and ties directly into the language learning opportunities the Nation provides. The Nation continues to provide classes to support ACFN Members in learning our language as we work together to keep it alive for generations to come.

This summer also saw many students finishing their studies and either graduating and entering their careers or moving from one level of education to another! We are always so deeply proud of our Members and their accomplishments as they succeed in achieving their goals!

Finally, we must acknowledge the sad passing of Elder Rene Bruno this summer. Elder Rene was a treasured resource for wisdom and guidance, and we continue to feel his loss, as well as the loss of all other ACFN Members who passed this year. Our Nation is made richer by every Member who is part of it, and we extend our condolences to all those who lost family and friends this year.

Our Council stands committed to improving quality of life for every Member of our Nation, and preserving and honouring the past while preparing for the future. Throughout the summer the entire ACFN and DLRM teams worked to move further ahead on our strategic priorities and achieve the goals that have been outlined in our strategic plan.

This work is ongoing and we are excited to have the chance to showcase it for you in this newsletter, as well as throughout the year through our monthly Letter to Members, in our Facebook group, and on our website!

Marsi cho to all Members for your support of Chief and Council and of each other, particularly during the difficult times such as the wildfire we saw in May. Together, we are strong, and we are, as always, Denesų́líné Proud!

Marsi cho,

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



CEO UPDATE

Edlanet'e!

Summer is always a time of excitement as the winter is behind us and warm weather lies ahead – but over the last few years it has also been a time of challenge as each spring and early summer we face the ever-present threat of potential wildfires and flooding.

Climate change and the impact it has on ACFN Members is an area of focus for the ACFN and DLRM teams as we are first-hand witnesses to how the changing climate has effected everything from the winter road and water levels to the severity of spring and summer forest fires.

Chief, Council and our entire administrative team are keeping the impacts of climate change on our top priority list while also addressing all the other items that have been outlined in the strategic plan. ACFN continues to grow and thrive, and our goal is to ensure that Members both now and in the future have the opportunity to be successful while also celebrating, honouring, and practicing their traditions, heritage and culture, including the chance to both learn and use Dene.

Working under the guidance of Chief and Council, our team is dedicated to improving quality of life for ACFN Members



and pursuing future sustainability for the Nation, including supporting Members in their individual education, employment and entrepreneurial goals. In this newsletter you will find summaries of some of the work being done in this regard and how seek to provide opportunities to Members to thrive and grow just as the Nation is doing!

On behalf of the team, I want to thank Chief and Council for their leadership and wisdom. I also want to thank ACFN Elders who provide so much guidance to our administrative team, and to all ACFN Members for their active participation in the events, programs and activities our team provides. It is an honour to work for ACFN Members and this proud, strong Denesuline Nation!

Marsi cho,

Maggie Farrington
ACFN Chief Executive Officer

We would like to express our sincere heart felt loss/condolences for members that passed away since the beginning of 2024 to-date (Dec. 2, 2024).

Shawn Krawec - Jan 2024
Gerald W. Stewart - May 2024
Wynn E.H. McNeil - May 2024
Roy L'Hommecourt - June 2024
Claire Cardinal - August 2024
Rene Bruno - August 2024
Jessie Larocque - September 2024
George Marcel - September 2024
Frank Voyageur - November 2024

CEO UPDATE

edlanet'é,

I hope this message finds you well and that you had an enjoyable summer. I'm pleased to share the latest updates from K'ai Tailé Department – Fort Chipewyan, showcasing our continued dedication to the growth and well-being of our Nation.

The Dene Yatié Department has successfully launched the *k'aitéle denesųliné yatié ęá erihł'is k'ayasti ha* – Denesųliné Reader K'ai Taile, which can be accessed on our website. We also have a *Dene Yatié* – ACFN Dene Language Facebook group where a word of the day is shared with our community. We are currently reviewing tools for online Dene language classes, set to begin this fall. Work continues on the K'aitailé Denesųliné Dictionary project, which now includes over 5,000 words.

In terms of land development, our team has drafted a list of potential lots for Phase 2 of the Additions to Reserve (ATR) process. This initiative will support the strategic expansion of the Nation in Fort Chipewyan. ACFN has completed the requirements for the Acden Lot, and we are now waiting for Canada to submit the final file to the Minister for approval. We are also part of the Gottfriedson v. His Majesty the King in Right of Canada Band Reparations Class Action. With substantial input from our Membership, we will

soon begin the work of developing the Nation's Culture, Language, Heritage, and Wellness Plan.

Our leadership has successfully revised and approved several key policies, including the ACFN Security Policy, Northern Living Allowance Policy, Caregiver Benefits Program, and Chaperone Guidelines. These updates demonstrate our commitment to effective governance and the well-being of our members.

Additionally, for those who have recently completed a Post-Secondary Education Program or earned a High School Diploma, ACFN offers a Program Completion Incentive. For more details, please contact us at education@acfn.com.

As we reflect on the progress made this summer, we are proud of the strides taken across several important areas. We remain committed to fostering the development, culture, and prosperity of our Nation. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to sharing more updates soon.

Thá huna (live long),
Marsi cho,

Michelle Voyageur
Chief of Operations



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1ST ELDERS ADVISORY COUNCIL AND CHIEF & COUNCIL RETREAT.

The Elders Advisory Council (EAC) and Chief and Council came together to define relationships and build a stronger team in Calgary in August 2023. The retreat empowered our Elder's Council to advise ACFN matters and provide their valuable knowledge and feedback.

The room was filled with ACFN members who wanted to connect, it was a powerful thing to have ACFN Elders,

Youth, and Leadership in one room to discuss ACFN vision and strategic plan. Throughout the three days, we defined the EAC roles and terms of reference, explored hot-button issues and looked for solutions, reviewed past videos of elders, focused on a solution-based mindset, and became grounded in the work we were doing for the present and laying the foundation for our future generations. - Callie Davies-Flett

"As a youth, connecting with our elders and collaborating on what we want our future to look like was truly empowering. This was a unique opportunity to hear from community leaders and knowledge holders. Continuing down this road, our traditional knowledge and culture will be sustained through our community's strength and resilience." - Janelle Flett

EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Welcome to our Fall 2024 newsletter! As the leaves change color, we are excited to share the latest updates and accomplishments from our housing department. This season has been particularly productive, and we are proud of the progress we've made.

1. Home Renovation Projects Completed

This year, so far, we've wrapped up several home renovation projects. Our team has been hard at work transforming spaces and building new homes.

Each project reflects our commitment to quality craftsmanship and our passion for creating spaces that our members will love for years to come.

2. New Housing Shop Completed and Moved In (*dechen ghalanai koe*)

We are delighted to announce that our new housing shop is now complete and operational! This new facility will greatly enhance our efficiency and ability to serve you better. It's equipped with the latest tools and technologies, and we're already seeing the benefits in our daily operations.

3. Two New Homes Constructed

In addition to our renovation successes and the completion of our shop, we've also been busy building two new homes from the ground up.

We're proud of these new constructions and excited for the families who will soon call them home.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the final months of the year, we're gearing up for more exciting projects and continuing to deliver top-notch service. Our team is dedicated to bringing your vision to life and making your home improvement dreams a reality.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in us. We look forward to sharing more updates and successes with you in the future.

Marsi Cho,
Linda Berry
Housing Director



MESSAGE FROM LISA TSSESSAZE DIRECTOR OF DLRM

Edglante,

As we head into the fall of 2024 we reflect on our year behind us. Did we accomplish all that we wanted? Are we ready for the winter ahead of us? These are common questions for all of us.

I invite you to reflect further as we 'Celebrate our Members'. ACFN has such a rich history! Did you know that Chief Fred Marcel was the longest running Chief for ACFN? He was interviewed for a book called *"Those Who Know, Profiles of Alberta's Native Elders"*. Dianne Meili is the author of this 1991 compilation of stories and history.

In the interview Chief Marcel shared that he was afraid of what the future held for our young people. The fear of losing the traditional lifestyle on the lands was in front of him. He would witness the trapping years gone forever. This change would affect all of us, and this fear of change was likely with all our families. It is still with us today.

Fred was Chief of ACFN for 28 years. He states during his time as Chief: *"The government promised a lot of good things. There were a lot of promises made to the Indians. There was a record of them, but they didn't come out with what they said,.. We got free school, free health care, and things like that, but even today the government is cutting back on education."*

Our reality is that the government cannot be relied on to take care of us - we need to take our future in our own hands. Today, we take care of our own. ACFN has come a long way as you will read in this edition and see the progress we have made on all levels. Here at DLRM we are proud to launch ACFN's Water Policy and we are working towards developing a Land Code with our members.

At DLRM we remember those who shared, who led, and who inspired, and those future generations who will carry on our legacy forward. Everyday we Celebrate our Members in the work that we do for you.

Masi cho



Lisa Tsessaze
Executive Director
ACFN DLRM



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

So far this fire season there has been over 5400 wildfires reported in Alberta, many near Fort Chipewyan. Thankfully, only one caused an evacuation for a just a few days when part of Fort McMurray evacuated in June. But just because there was just the one partial evacuation, that doesn't mean that the ACFN Emergency Management Department haven't been working hard.

We have been proactive in building our capacity and resiliency in the area of emergency management. We have purchased 8 cabin sprinkler kits that can be deployed in the event of wildfires. We have also started delivering air purifiers to elders' homes in Fort Chipewyan to be used on days with heavy smoke. We have trained 32 ACFN members and staff in Incident Command System 100 so that they can be mobilized in the event of an emergency. And we have started fire smarting ACFN lots around Fort Chipewyan. We are now more ready than ever to handle an emergency head on. This is what sovereignty looks like. Concerning Big Dock, we were shocked when we learned that the Transport Canada dock was contaminated with cancer causing substances, we were appalled when we learned that they hide this information from our community for 8 years. Here is how we responded.

- Put out a warning around town and on social media telling people not to swim or fish on the lake front until further testing is done.
- Conducted a Community Based Monitoring test of the water and sediment that revealed the presence of hydrocarbons.
- Contracted Stantec to do further studies that confirmed the presence of heavy metals and PAH's.
- Contracted a toxicologist to do a human health risk assessment of the 2017 report (which did not include a risk assessment that considered indigenous use) that showed there was a risk posed to human health,
- Contacted the Ministry of Transport Canada demanding the following,
 - i. repair Big Dock,
 - ii. remediate the soil,
 - iii. dredge a trench to the channel,
 - iv. install a temporary dock to use during construction,
 - v. reimburse the three Nations for any costs associated with testing the dock,
 - vi. turn over any other data that they may have been hiding from us,
 - vii. test the entire waterfront,
 - viii. provide a full accounting of how this happened, discipline those responsible and change procedures so this never happens again.

ACFN Emergency Management will not rest until we have a working dock, a remediated site, and accountability from those who endangered and lied to us.

Sincerely,

Flossie Cyprean and Mike Mercredi
Directors of Emergency Management

NEW TO THE TEAM



Susan McIsaac,
CPA, CA, CIA
Financial Controller - ACFN

Susan was declared the successful candidate for the role of Financial Controller. She joined the Finance Department on August 12, 2024, and is a proud member of the Qualipu First Nation. Susan holds both the Chartered Professional Accountant and Certified Internal Auditor designations, as well as a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of New Brunswick. She is an experienced professional, a solutions-oriented leader and a skilled communicator. Welcome to the TEAM Susan.



Candace Voyageur
Events Coordinator - ACFN

Candace rejoined TEAM ACFN on October 29, 2024, in the role of Events Coordinator. She is an ACFN member and a loving mother of 2 beautiful girls McKayla and McKinzi Cardinal. Candace previously worked with ACFN in various roles and welcome back to TEAM ACFN Candace!



Amber Davies
Human Resources Administrator - ACFN

Amber was declared the successful candidate for the Human Resources Administrator position and joined the HR Team on October 21, 2024. She is a proud ACFN member and holds a High School Diploma, Frank Spraggins High School, 2018; and a certificate in Community-Based Environmental Monitoring, Keyano College 2021. She previously worked in Fort Chipewyan as a part of DLRM's CBM team. Her favourite activity is being out on the land. Congratulations, Amber in your new role.

ACFN EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Hello ACFN members,

My name is Darrelyn Courtoreille, I am ACFN's employment and training coordinator, I recently returned to work from being on Maternity leave. As nice as it was to be away, I enjoy being back and fulfilling my position to help assist the members gain employment or any request we receive.

It is our mission to ensure the members of ACFN strive to succeed to get to their goal. The ISETS program provides:

- 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

For the Fall of 2024 ISETS has assisted 15 members in training programs, 12 members in resume support, 10 members in PPE & Safety tickets.

Important Reminder:
For any training requests please allow a 2-4-week advance period for funding

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

Darrelyn Courtoreille
Office: 780-697-3730
Cell: 780-788-0877
employment@acfn.com



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Dzi Nezu!

Claudia Simpson Who shay k'aitele o tsi si Dene yas ti si heltu horesh tah!

I'm so happy to be here as part of the ACFN team! My role is Manager of Health & Wellness and my work is delivering on ACFN's overarching strategies for Health & Well-Being for Members on and off reserve.

The work is lined out clearly as closing the gaps with and development of:

Improvement of Community Mental Health Services

- Incorporate Cultural and Land-Based Healing and Recovery Programs
- Address food issues (Food Sovereignty)
- Revise The Emergency Response Plan (Health Tab)
- Prioritize Community Safety, Crime Prevention, and Address Drug Issues in Fort Chipewyan.

Programs Support:

Since I started this summer, I coordinated the Healing Ancestral Trauma community program in September and October where we reached at least 10 families! Participants learned how to map historical ancestral trauma and how trauma is passed down from one generation to the next. The session described how trauma is far reaching into extended and new generations of families then to the broader community. More important, participants learned strategies to release "past trauma" and the importance of journeying toward personal healing. Feedback was favorable. Participants wanted to see more workshops and indicated they would prefer events to be held in the evening hours.

In early December, ACFN held the very first virtual and online recovery talks. The Forum on Addiction Recovery was delivered which included various Indigenous speakers joining online to help support people in addiction recovery or support those thinking of or trying to quit. Speakers of all ages shared stories on their personal journey with addiction



and how they embrace culture as their pillar of strength and hope. So much courage and resilience in the face of adversity was shared, showcasing how addictions can be unlearned.

The recording of the event will be posted on ACFN's platform. The next Forum on Addictions is set for Saturday, January 25, 2025. Watch for post and tune in to the ZOOM cast!

To close I'd like to let you know there are plans on bringing various health information topics sessions in the coming months! Email claudia.simpson@acfn.com with health topics you are interested in for yourself or community.

Koo tah Selo tine.
Ne bah Dzi Nezu Wali!

Claudia Simpson
Manager of Health & Wellness

THE YOUTH ELDERS LODGE

The Youth Elders Lodge has been a vibrant hub of activity, fostering connections, preserving traditions, and creating opportunities for learning and growth. Here are some of the highlights that showcase the incredible work being done:

Moosehide Tanning Workshop

A highlight of the year was the traditional moosehide tanning workshop, guided by Lena and Lawrence Adam. This hands-on, 10-day program allowed participants to learn valuable cultural practices while fostering a sense of community.

Spring Harvest Success

This year's Spring Harvest honoured our traditional practices with participation from 20 dedicated harvesters. Birds were distributed across Fort McMurray, Fort Chipewyan, and Edmonton, ensuring that our community remained connected to this meaningful tradition.

Jackfish Lake Family Camp

The Youth Elders Lodge continues to bring the community together through meaningful programs and events, including the much-anticipated Family Camp at Jackfish Lake. This camp provides a wonderful opportunity for families to connect, share stories, and participate in cultural and recreational activities in a serene natural setting. From traditional storytelling and cultural workshops to outdoor games the camp fostered unity and created lasting memories for all participants. Marci to everyone who helps make these gatherings possible!

Lac Ste. Anne Pilgrimage

The Lac Ste. Anne pilgrimage continues to be a cherished tradition for our Elders. Members who participated are happy to see their relatives and friends at this yearly event. We thank Chief and Council for the amazing BBQ, and hope to see more people next year.



Intergenerational Activities

Events like Elders Luncheons, Bingo, and Crib Tournaments continue to unite our community across generations. Knitting workshops, cultural celebrations, and fun activities like Mario Kart nights reflect our commitment to fostering connection and creativity in a supportive environment.

To our incredible staff, volunteers, and participants: Marci! Your dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm are what make the Youth Elders Lodge a beacon of cultural preservation and community connection.

Lilly Marcel
YEL Manager





DENE YATIÉ LANGUAGE PROGRAM



We continue having virtual Dene language classes on zoom with Alice Rigney and Josh Holden. In Fort McMurray in-person language classes were held with Janette Jones-Fletton on Tuesdays. The language classes will be taking a break at the end June for summer and resume in September.



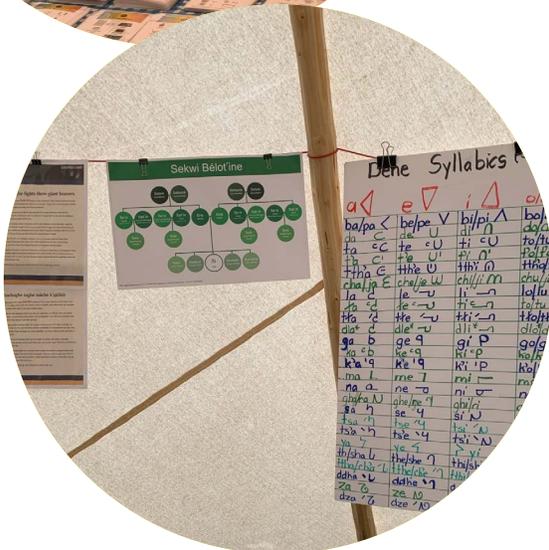
The Dene Dictionary project is ongoing with verification meetings schedule for Edmonton, Fort McMurray and Fort Chipewyan. This summer we will have a focus group to review the dene dictionary.

The Dene Language department is continuing to develop materials in K'ai tele dialect.

ACFN is honored to launch the new resource reader ***K'ai te'le' denesùhíne yatié ǵá erihfís káyastí ha.*** The reader is a great resource with 500 common words in denesùhíne for language learners.

The events we participated in this summer were Treaty Days, Family Camp at Jackfish reserve and Dene Days. We had on display the working dictionary and videos of Elders.

We are excited to continue the work of preserving and revitalizing our traditional language!



Dorothy Voyageur
Dene Yatié Coordinator



ACFN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



The ACFN Social Development team continues to provide vital support for members across many areas of their lives. This season, we've helped numerous individuals and families on their paths to healing and well-being.

We've proudly assisted members in completing treatment programs and accessing detox services. We are especially excited to announce that ACFN now has two funded treatment beds, thanks to the generous support of the K'ai Tailé Denułíné Trust, which ensures members can access timely care when needed.

Through Jordan's Principle applications and ACFN's funding programs, we've supported families in securing necessary services for their children. We've also worked closely with families navigating Children's Services, ensuring they receive appropriate educational and psycho-social assessments and care.

Home Care services remain a key part of our efforts to support the health and well-being of our members. In June, ACFN leadership introduced a new Caregiver Policy, which is instrumental in helping members who need basic assistance to remain comfortable in their homes. Please email lori.stevens@acfn.com if you need more information about this policy.

Our programming has continued to grow, offering meaningful opportunities for vulnerable youth, including a Backcountry Mountain Excursion and Water Teachings Outdoor Camp. We're also looking forward to the upcoming hockey camp, providing more chances for youth to engage and connect.

Our focus is always on fostering the well-being and resilience of our community members, and we are committed to maintaining this essential work.

Lori Stevens
Social Worker and Development Manager



EDUCATION UPDATE

As always, the Education department is full of excitement especially during the summer/ fall months because it means graduations!!! This is my favourite season in the department. This year we had a lot of new graduates within Grade 12, Post-Secondary Education and even our littlest Members that graduated into kindergarten. ACFN is extremely proud of each one of you.



ACFN is currently funding 54 post-secondary students in a variety of studies. Here are a few of the programs:

- Academic Upgrading
- MBA Indigenous Business
- Bachelor of Science
- Indigenous Social work
- Justice Studies
- Bachelor of law, Indigenous studies
- BSc Mech Engineering
- Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Indigenous business
- Child and youth care program
- BA Audio Design
- Doctoral Program
- Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice
- Business Administration
- Aboriginal Teaching Education Program
- Bachelor of arts, Dene Language
- Environmental Technology

and many more amazing programs!!!

Reminder - 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 please contact me at

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

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

We have been working hard at the international level to share ACFN's story, and to raise awareness of the challenges we face in the oilsands. We have found it an effective strategy to make representations within these international forums to provide a more holistic picture of what is happening, and to create pressure and leverage with settler governments to move files forward back in Canada. It is especially powerful when our members and Council use their voice and showcase all the good work that ACFN is doing.

Last December, we had members Callie Davies-Flett and Janelle Flett attend the Conference of Parties United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in Dubai. They were invited to participate in panel discussions and presentations, as well as an action to protest greenwashing.

Earlier this year in April, we also participated in the International Association for Impact Assessment in Dublin, where Elder Jimmy Deranger, Elder Cecilia Adam, and Councilor Mike Mercredi attended to present and advocate for the Nation.

We thank all our Elders, youth, land users, community members, and Council in the support of our work and in the advocacy for their Nation. ACFN has a strong voice, and our work is creating a lot of noise. We are being invited to conferences to share our story, and to help build connections to do our part in the protection and preservation of Mother Earth.

Marsi cho!
*DLRM Government
Relations Team*



HAVE YOU MOVED?

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

membership@acfn.com

LANDS AND RIGHTS

BOUNDARY SURVEYING – LANDS & RIGHTS

Beginning September 16th, DLRM assisted Indigenous Services Canada to complete a boundary survey at Point Brule, Poplar Point, some portions of Jackfish, and Big Point. This work is being completed as part of the Land Code project. ACFN members were contracted to provide transportation and complete the brushing portion of the surveys. This work involves brushing a two-foot line along the reserve boundaries, where land marker monument pegs will be installed in the ground. To further enhance boundary visibility, additional markers will be placed every two hundred meters in preparation for future reserve boundary signage.

The surveying will provide Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and Indigenous Services Canada with an updated inventory of reserve boundaries. Clear delineation of land ownership and usage is essential for effective land management. The signage will also inform recreational users when they are entering reserve land. These efforts are an important first step towards establishing the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation's Land Code.

Lori Cyprien
Director of Rights and Lands



Boundary Marker Point Brule 1931



Example of what a new peg looks like.

STRATEGIC ADVISORY SERVICES



Greetings. I am happy to highlight the ongoing positive momentum within Strategic Advisory Services. We continue to investigate Economic Development opportunities that will benefit the Nation long term. The ongoing pipeline, powerline and solar generation kept me busy during the spring and summer months.

The pipelines and powerline continue to operate well and deliver quarterly benefits to ACFN. Although it may be business as usual, Alberta PowerLine has been busy planning a new scholarship opportunity that will benefit youth in the communities that own a share in this. Although not officially launched, we anticipate an announcement at some point in 2025. Please stay tuned.

ACFN's three solar farms were humming with activity given the integration on the Battery Energy Storage Systems

(BESS) at each site. Although slightly behind schedule, I am happy to report that BESS achieved commercial operations in October. This is a major milestone for ACFN, as we are now the third player in the Alberta BESS market. TD Asset Management and TransAlta are the other two. It's exciting to introduce some additional competition into the quickly evolving market. BESS should prove to be an exciting initiative in the years ahead!

Discussions remain ongoing as we examine additional synergies. I anticipate additional positive updates in the future newsletters. Please feel free to reach out should you have any questions on these initiatives. Thank you.

Jason Shulz
E.D. Strategic Advisory Services

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

This September, BC Hydro began filling their Site C dam, and despite their claims that it would not have effects on water levels, the impacts are already clear. In Fort Chipewyan all you have to do is look out your front window, the bay filled in with reeds, boats sitting idle, low traffic on the Lake and rivers because of sand bars and blocked channels. This has a negative effect on the meaningful practice of our Treaty Rights, reduces the transmission of intergenerational knowledge and makes things harder from an emergency management perspective. This is true all throughout the Peace and Mackenzie River basins.

In August ACFN elders, staff and youth went to Dettah, Northwest Territories to attend the annual Dene National Assembly. We met with the leadership of the Akaitcho, Dehcho, Gwich'in, Sahtu and Tłı̨ch̨ Nations where each discussed how BC Hydro is posing challenges for their communities; winter roads closing early, creeks and fishing holes drying up, and wildfires, wildfires, wildfires.

ACFN put forward a plan to fight back. We tabled a resolution that would create a forum for each Nation to come forward and present their evidence of impacts from BC Hydro.

We will collect elders' testimony, community-based monitoring data and any scientific studies that makes our case. This will help demonstrate the steady erosion of our Treaty Rights and damage to our ecosystem. We will use this to present a united front, to signal to industry and government that we will not tolerate this abuse. We will use this knowledge when we sue BC Hydro. Now with 42 Nations and counting standing firmly beside us we will take the fight to BC Hydro to show that there is a price to pay when you mess with the Dene people. BC Hydro will learn the hard way that when it comes to the Dene you better run with us, run from us or get run over.

Jay Telegdi
*Senior Manager
Intergovernmental Affairs*



INDUSTRY RELATIONS

RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE NORTH: CAN IT? AND HOW?

Our office is doing its part to expand our knowledge and expertise in the renewable energy industry as climate change, and the Just Energy Transition move quickly. With aims to advance sustainable energy solutions through training programs, community engagement, partnerships, and capacity building. We have participated in events to learn and collaborate with other Indigenous peoples on the importance of energy security and implementation on our terms. Some of the most notable projects the DLRM explored this year include:

1. The village of Kotzebue in northwest Alaska, primarily inhabited by the Iñupiat people, has a unique energy solution. The recently completed solar farm, featuring 1,200 solar panels, is expected to generate approximately 300,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy annually. Adjacent to this, two wind turbines generate 2,500,000 kWh of energy annually. The combined efforts of wind turbines and solar energy are projected to save the community over \$1 million in fuel costs each year and have displaced 20% of the town's power. This innovative approach not only cuts down on carbon emissions but also incorporates a 5 MW battery storage system, making the community an independent power producer.



2. The city of Iqaluit is making strides in renewable energy with its research on river hydrokinetic technology. This innovative approach harnesses the high flow speeds of the Sylvia Grinnell River to produce about 75 MWh of energy annually, providing renewable power to at least 13 homes for the year.

3. Another growing technology in Canada is the nuclear microreactor. Indigenous communities (in particular, the Meadow Lake Tribal Council) in Saskatchewan are working alongside research agencies and governments to evaluate their options on whether nuclear microreactor technology could help them meet their unique edge-of-grid power needs and clean energy requirements.

As our grasp on renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency techniques grows, we strive to be able to share with members and be actively a part of an Indigenous-led Just Energy Transition. ACFN will use this expertise to expand our renewable energy portfolio to be regional leaders and provide reliable energy for our members.

Janelle Flett



CAPITAL PROJECTS

104 MacKenzie Ave. New Construction

- Unit 2 is complete and has a tenant.
- Unit 1 is complete on the upper floor. Finishing touches are being made on the basement suite.
- Final grading and driveway are complete. Top soil is being spread



Maintenance Shop

- Shop is complete and a soft opening was done.
- Gate opener is yet to be installed.
- TLC is in talks with Telus about ways to better the cell phone reception within the building.



Band Office

- Need to review what the needs are for the Administration Building. Number of offices, board rooms, lobby, storage, meeting rooms, etc.
- SEKO is presenting us with 2 different plans. One plan is for using a single lot and the second plan is for using 2 lots. Mid-October due date.





Lot 161-165 Mackenzie Ave

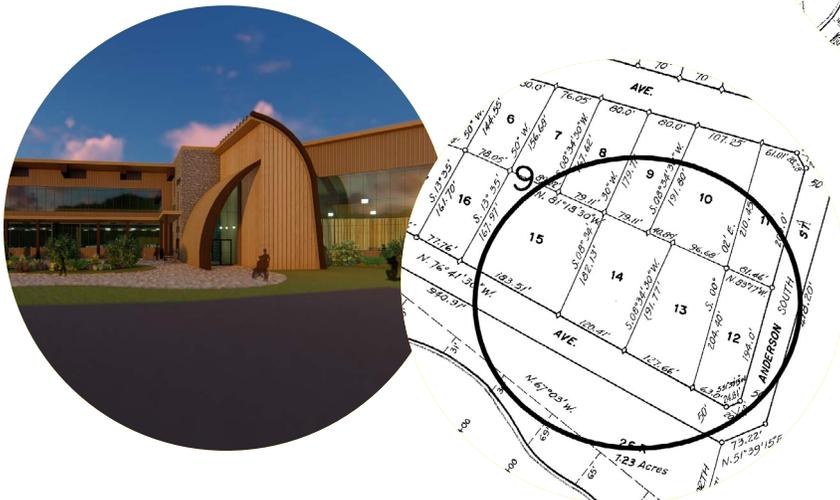
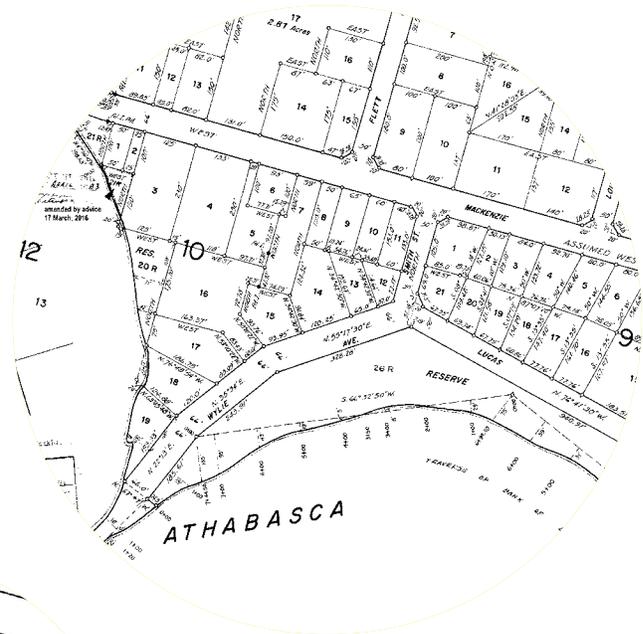
- Decision must be made on what the lots will be used for.
- Lots are zoned HC, Hamlet Commercial. This allows many commercial uses as well as Single Detached Dwelling (discretionary use approved by RMWB). Daycare is allowed as well.
- Will need to apply to have the lots Consolidated if we plan on putting one structure on both lots.

Lot 20. Possible storage area.

- Research the possibility of using Lot 20 (lot out by Doghead) for a storage and laydown area.
- Consider backfilling low areas, installing a gate, restore driveway.

Plan going forward.

- Perform a Title search for both lots.
- The lot is zoned Hamlet Residential and needs to rezone to Hamlet Commercial.
- Lots need to be consolidated, joined into one lot.
- Phase 1 environmental report needs to be submitted to ISC.
- Historical Resources Act report must be applied for.
- Asbestos test on the shop must be performed.
- Need demolition permit.
- Cleanup both lots.
- Obtain a Geotechnical Report.



ELDERS PROFILE

THE LOBSTICK: DENE SYMBOLE OF PRESENCE, HOSPITALITY AND SURVIVAL

By Edouard Trippe De Roche
Written by: Keltie Paul, MA

My dad told me the story of the lobster. My dad was born in the late eighteen hundreds.

See, in the old days when people set up camp or a trapline, one of the first things the people did was to establish their claim on the land and on the river. The Lobstick also served to protect the trapping family from evil spirits that cause sickness and bad medicine. Babies often died...my mom had 13, but only 5 became adults. Lobsticks were drummed and were given sacred energy to help babies and other family members survive while living on the land.

A drum song would be performed. Then a tall spruce on the river bank with many strong branches, seen from the river, would be selected to be the lobster. Then a man would climb the strong branches, carrying an ax. He would go up to about five feet from the top and chop off the top of the spruce, hence the name, Lobstick.

I have only seen this among Dene families living along the Athabasca River, no one else.

People on the river would see this and know of Dene family presence, would know they could get tea, bannock, wild meat and maybe wild fruit jam, along with great hospitality such as stories and trading information. They also knew who was there; Dene people. People in trouble would know there was safety if they needed to land.

We were self-sufficient. Mom made dresses and underwear from flour bags. She made packs for the dogs, dried meat like moose and geese and fish, grew gardens and packed food in the cellar for winter.



Historical Interpretation

Like the totem poles of the Northwest Coast, the Logstick played an integral role in shaping identity of Dene trapping families as well as a boundary marker for marking territory before maps, registered traplines and government regulations.

The Lobstick said "*We are Dene*" as opposed to Cree or Beaver or Metis families. The land claimed was the economic generator for the Trapping Family, which is an extended family working together to create income by trading fur pelts for essentials such as flour, sugar, tobacco, baking powder, strout, cloth and garden supplies (potato/ carrot/turnup seed). It marked the area as the economic boundary for the subsistence (fresh-eating wild harvests) and trade items that kept people on the land, living as their ancestors had lived for thousands of years.

As very visible signal of spiritual power, the sacred nature of the Lobstick protected the Dene family over their lifetimes, insuring that evil spirits knew the land was off-limits, and providing a spiritual barrier against bad medicine or ill-will. As such, it remains the powerful symbol of endurance, living off the land and the spiritual aspects of the subsistence economy, presence and a note to travelers saying "*Come rest a while*".

MEMBERS PROFILE

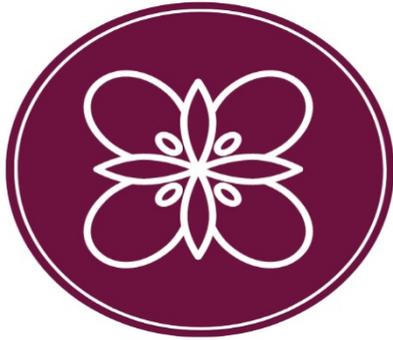


LUKE FINNEY

Luke competed in a 169 km bike race in Germany on October 12, 2024. He placed 7th out of 49 racers. He completed the race in 9 hours and 23 minutes. Luke was the only Canadian racing - not to mention the only ACFN Member!

SHANIA WOOD

I am celebrating the achievement of successfully completing my Term 1 clinical for my Dental Assisting Diploma. I have one more term to go. After completing my first term, I am now allowed to perform a list of skills in my dental office (x-rays, polish, fluoride, sealants, topical placement, oral health instruction, dental dams, etc). I just got home from spending 12 days in Calgary at my school to learn and be evaluated on hands-on skills. I passed! One more term to go until I complete my Dental Assisting Diploma.



ENTREPRENEUR PROFILE

**ALYSSA-MAE LAVIOLETTE, ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN
FIRST NATION MEMBER
DENEYOUNEN DESIGNS**

In 2019, during the height of the pandemic, I launched my small business, originally named Laviolette Designs, as a way to channel my newfound free time into something creative. I began by teaching myself to bead, starting with smaller projects like earrings, a poppy, and eventually moccasins. I was fortunate to receive teachings from the late Elder Roxanne Tootoosis of Poundmaker Cree Nation, Saskatchewan, who guided me in creating my first ribbon skirt. As I shared my creations, others became interested in purchasing them, which encouraged me to continue.



This period was particularly significant for me, as I was on a sobriety journey and sought healthy coping mechanisms. Beading and sewing allowed me to connect with like-minded individuals, helping me ground myself, express my creativity, and reconnect with my culture. This creative journey was deeply healing for me.

As my skills developed, I began hosting virtual beading and sewing workshops with ACFN, as well as teaching family and friends. I believe in the importance of passing on the knowledge I've gained so that others can carry forward these teachings. Recently, I rebranded my business as Deneyounen Designs and expanded my product line to include beaded earrings, heirloom pieces, moccasins, ribbon skirts, digital designs (such as logos, stickers, and branding materials for small businesses), and printed items like greeting cards, art prints, and tote bags. My work is deeply inspired by Dene culture and my background in graphic design and illustration, blending modern aesthetics with historical influences.

As I continue to grow and learn, I'm passionate about sharing my story of how reconnecting with culture through art can positively impact overall well-being and open new opportunities for Indigenous people. I also aim to offer guidance on starting a small business, covering key areas such as marketing, advertising, accessing grants, and business planning. The ongoing support from the nation, including business grants and opportunities for member entrepreneurs, has been instrumental in helping me expand my product offerings, acquire new skills, and pass on this knowledge through teaching and mentorship.

Mahsi Cho!
Alyssa-Mae Laviolette

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Instagram: www.instagram.com/Deneyounen.Designs



THE K'AI TAILÉ DENE DAYS

The K'ai Tailé Dene Days event was another huge success this year. Community members looked forward to the traditional food, Dene Bingo, Boat Tours, Bannock on a Stick, Storytelling, Hand Games, Dry Meat Making, Arts and Crafts, and of course the door prizes. Some feedback from ACFN members who attended the event:

"Dene days was a great place to be, and not only did I love the traditional food and hospitality, family friends, it warmed my heart to see our culture strong and alive. Marsi Cho."
Dwayne Flett (Elder).

"Coming to Dene Days will always be something special that I'm grateful to be able to attend, and its effect on me and my family is significant. It shows that we are still here, ready to live each day and enjoy the lives around us. The food, music, culture and community is something I will look forward to each year and I love that it brings each member together for a celebration. To have the privilege of seeing our community grow and express themselves is nothing short of a blessing, and I pray that we can continue this tradition each year." Lexi (Voyageur) Imhoff (Youth).

The event started with a hot breakfast and opening ceremony. Prayer was said by elder Alice Rigney, elder Raymond Cardinal sang a traditional drum song, followed by the Chief and Council Remarks. There was a presentation to honor the late elder Rene Bruno so as such the hand games will be called *"The Annual Rene Bruno Hand Games"*. Our MC for the event was our own DLRM staff.

The food at the traditional kitchen was prepared by Lily Marcel, Rose Ross and the ACFN and DLRM staff. The traditional kitchen served mint tea, fried moose meat, moose brisket and ribs, partially dried moose meat finished off over a fire, moose bones were cooked over the fire to provide marrow for people to enjoy.

Traditional food was also served at Debbie Grandjambe's Culture Camp. They served mint tea, fried bannock and jam, moose ribs and soup, smoked caribou brisket and soup, fried moose meat, fried fish, rice pudding, moose nose soup, fish flour soup, and moose bone marrow, everyone raved over the food. They also had displays of various furs, fur hats, fur mitts, stroud vest, ribbon skirt, wrap around moccasins, snowshoes, traditional medicine, and beaded jewelry.

We had traditional storytelling with ACFN member with elders Horace Adam and Alice Rigney. The hand games began after a delicious lunch, demonstrations on dry meat making, and bannock on a stick were enjoyed by everyone. Boat tours were provided for everyone to enjoy. Dinner was served and the rest of the day ended with the continuation of hand games. We are proud to say that all the drummers were from Fort Chipewyan.

The second day began with a hot breakfast, the continuation of hand games, and boat tours. ACFN artisans demonstrated bead and craft work with members. The artisans displayed their arts and crafts for members to see and purchase.

The elders and community members enjoyed Dene bingo. Community members also enjoyed making bannock on a stick, and sampling traditional food at the traditional kitchen and Culture Camp. Boat rides were offered to all community members. The day ended by enjoying delicious cupcakes made by Debbie Grandjambe, a closing ceremony, and a drum song.

Rose Ross
Community Engagement Manager





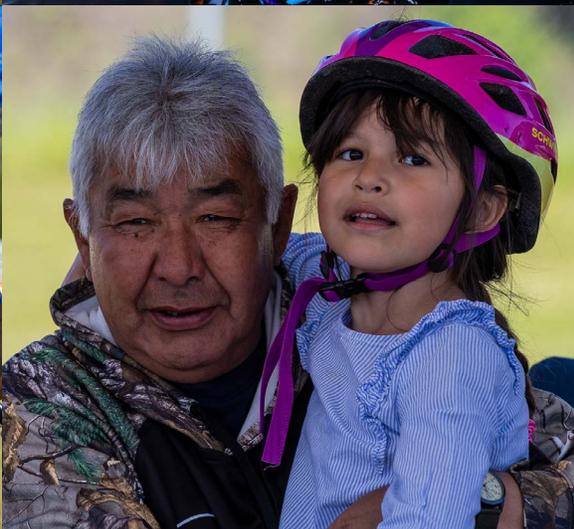
ACFN 2024 TREATY DAYS

This year marked the 125th anniversary of Chamba Nalye Dzine, and ACFN celebrated the milestone in grand style! We organized a two-day event in Fort Chip, bringing the community together for a memorable celebration.

Day one was all about the youth, featuring a variety of activities and games, including an exciting Soap Box Derby and a vibrant Neon Glow Party. The second day focused on tradition and culture, offering delicious traditional foods, hand games, a surprise performance by Rebecca Strong, and the much-anticipated 2nd Annual Lip Sync Battle, a hit with everyone. The festivities concluded with a spectacular fireworks display that lit up the town.

This event honored the 125th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 8 and celebrated 125 years of strength, survival, and resilience as the Denesuline people of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation.







BUFFALO TREATY

ACFN Lands & Rights staff accompanied our Buffalo Keepers to the signing of the Buffalo Treaty on behalf of ACFN September 22-25 in Stand Off, Alberta. Originally signed in 2014, the Buffalo Treaty is an historic international treaty signed by dozens of sovereign First Nations dedicated to cooperation, renewal, and restoration of Buffalo throughout the continent. This celebration marked the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Buffalo Treaty. This international gathering included Indigenous groups from all directions of Turtle Island and beyond including New Zealand. Supporters attending also included Parks Canada and various universities. The Buffalo Keepers were proud to represent the Nation, sign the Treaty, share our story, and meet new people who are working to protect Buffalo throughout Turtle Island. ACFN now stands with the Buffalo Treaty to take action to protect Buffalo for future generations as we uphold our Treaty Rights.

ACFN Representatives Present: Raymond Cardinal, Lori Cyprien, Paul Cyprien, Freddy Marcel, Darren Epperson, Alice Will





ACFN

DENE LANDS AND RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT (DLRM)

2025 QUARTERLY ELDERS DLRM INFORMATION SESSIONS

Q1 - March 12th



Q2 - June 4th



Q3 - September 4th



Q4 - December 3rd

Charlie Voyageur Conference Centre

For more information contact:

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