

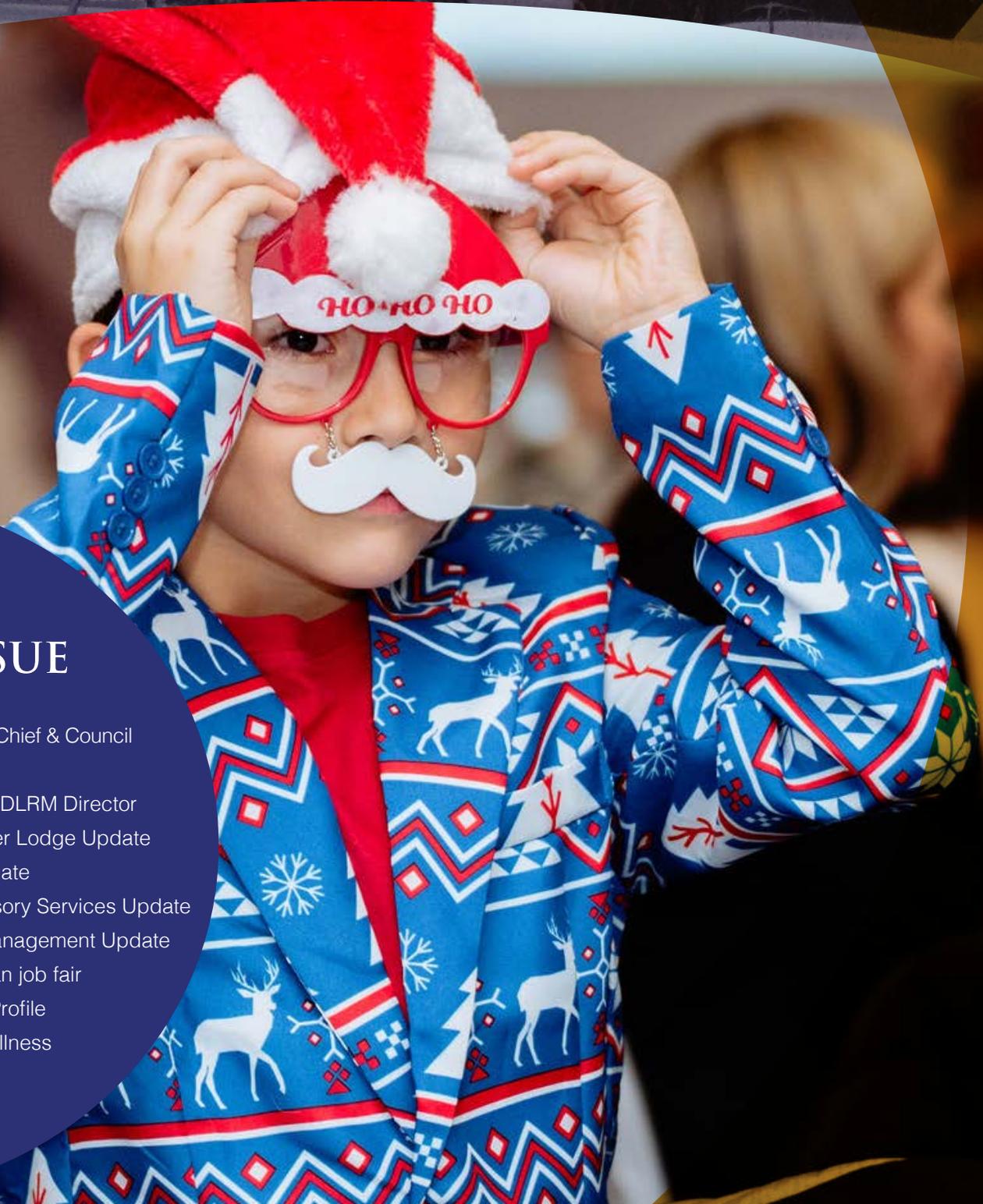


ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION

K'AI TAILÉ

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MESSAGE FROM CHIEF & COUNCIL

Edlanet'é to all ACFN Members,

A YEAR IN REVIEW: A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF AND COUNCIL

As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded of the strength, resilience, and unity that define Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN). 2024 has been a year of both challenges and triumphs, and as your Chief and Council, it is an honour to share our journey with you.

FACING CHALLENGES TOGETHER

The year began with significant challenges, as the spring wildfire in Fort McMurray forced the evacuation of several neighbourhoods, including ACFN Members. This event was a stark reminder of the growing impact of climate change on our lands. Shorter winters, warmer summers, and unpredictable weather patterns have affected our traditional ways of life and created new challenges that we must face head-on. The fire's impact was especially hard for those who lived through the 2016 wildfire, and it retraumatized many, including those who experienced the Fort Chipewyan evacuation in 2023.

Despite these challenges, we were reminded of the effectiveness of our emergency response plan. Once again, our team's preparedness ensured that our Members were safe and well-cared-for during the crisis. This response plan continues to be a cornerstone of our commitment to protect our Members during emergencies.

HONOURING OUR PAST AND CELEBRATING OUR FUTURE

While the year began with that challenge, it also brought moments of celebration and growth. Our annual Treaty Days in June were a powerful reminder of the strength of our Nation, and a chance for us all to come together and celebrate our culture and heritage. August brought the return of Dene Days, a celebration of our history, traditions, and the deep ties we share. This event continues to be a time for our Members and the wider community to gather, share stories, and enjoy the festivities.

Additionally, the Family Camp at Jackfish was another highlight, bringing our Members together to reconnect with one another and with our traditional activities. It was a reminder of the importance of maintaining our traditions, especially in times of challenge.

In the fall we were proud to participate in the Athabasca Tribal Council Cultural Festival, which welcomes thousands of residents of the region to learn, explore and embrace Indigenous cultures, traditions, history and beliefs. It was an amazing opportunity to showcase our Nation and share our deep connection to the land so many non-Indigenous people now call home.

We also celebrated the launch of the k'aitélé denesųłiné yatié ǰá erihł'is k'ayasti ha (Fort Chipewyan Denesųłiné Reader), an exciting initiative that showcases and preserves our traditional language. This project ties directly into our ongoing efforts to support language learning, ensuring that our culture is passed down to future generations. Language revitalization is a key priority in our strategic plan, and we are delighted to see so many Members joining the language classes and programs offered by ACFN.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION AND OUR YOUTH

This summer was also a time of great achievement for many of our youth, as we saw students graduate, move on to new academic challenges, and enter the workforce. We are so proud of the accomplishments of our Members and excited to continue supporting them in their educational journeys. In the fall many returned to their studies as they pursue their academic and career dreams, and as are so excited to see what's ahead for all of them!

REMEMBERING OUR ELDERS

As a Nation, we mourned the loss of several Elders this year, reminding us of the importance of cherishing and honouring them. Their knowledge and teachings continue to shape and strengthen our community, and their absence will be felt for years to come.

ONGOING COMMITMENT TO OUR NATION

As we move forward, we remain focused on improving the quality of life for every Member of our Nation. Our Council's work continues as we push forward on our strategic priorities, always working toward a brighter future for ACFN. We are committed to preserving our past, respecting our traditions, and preparing for the future.

IN CONCLUSION

We are incredibly proud of how our Nation has come together through both triumph and challenge. The past year has reminded us of our collective strength and the importance of supporting one another. We stand together, as Denesųłiné, proud and united, ready to face the future with hope and determination.

Thank you for your continued support of Chief and Council, and for the support you show one another, particularly during times of difficulty like the wildfire in May. Together, we are stronger.

Marsi cho,

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

HAVE YOU MOVED?

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

membership@acfn.com

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the families of:

Shawn Krawec – Jan/24
Gerald W. Stewart – May/24
Wynn E. H. McNeil I – May/24
Roy L'Hommecourt – June/24
Claire Cardinal – Aug./24
Rene Bruno – Aug./24
George Marcel – Sept/24
Jessie B. Larocque – Sept/24
Frank Voyageur – Nov./24
Freddie W. McDonald – Dec./24
Annie Mercredi – Dec./24

COO UPDATE

Edlanet'é,

As we close out 2024, we take this opportunity to reflect on the progress made and the continued efforts to strengthen our community. Over the past year, we have worked to enhance programs, refine policies, and allocate resources where they are needed most. Housing, education, health, and social support remain key priorities, with a strong focus on improving services and addressing challenges in a way that upholds our commitment to the well-being of members. ACFN continues to fund two Drug and Alcohol treatment beds, ensuring members have timely and culturally appropriate access to addiction support programs.

Community programs, such as daycare and Dene language initiatives, are evolving to better serve our people. A significant milestone is on the horizon, with the release of the very first ACFN Dene Dictionary set for March 31, 2025 —marking a major step in language revitalization and cultural preservation. Additionally, ACFN continues to support youth, Elders, and families through initiatives that reflect our Nation's values and traditions.

Through partnerships, advocacy, and strategic planning, we remain committed to ensuring members have access to essential services and resources that promote well-being and self-sufficiency. In the new year, the Home Renovation Grant Application will open, allowing members to apply for up to \$25,000 for home repairs. Please remember to submit your quotes with your online application. The ACFN Business Development Grant also has funding available, and we encourage new, emerging, and established businesses to apply.

ACFN is proud to have funded over 80 students through the Post-Secondary Grant this year. If you are planning to pursue post-secondary education, applications can be submitted at www.acfn.com, please ensure you meet the application deadline.

Additionally, the HAWK app has been adopted as a communication tool to keep members connected, no matter where they are. If you need assistance with the app, please reach out to info@acfn.com.

As always, we are committed to working alongside members, listening to concerns, and ensuring that our efforts align with the needs and priorities of the Nation. Your input and engagement are invaluable, and we look forward to continuing this journey together in the coming year. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to building a strong and thriving community.

Marsi cho,

Michelle Voyageur
Chief of Operations



CEO UPDATE

REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF PROGRESS AND RESILIENCE

As we reflect on the past year, I am proud to share the remarkable progress and resilience demonstrated by the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) and our dedicated teams at ACFN and DLRM. This year has been marked by both significant achievements and profound challenges, and through it all, we have remained committed to serving and supporting ACFN Members. Under the guidance and leadership of Chief and Council, we have made tremendous strides in advancing our strategic priorities. Together, we have focused on delivering consistent programs and services to ACFN Members while also addressing the urgent and ongoing impacts of climate change. From the winter road conditions to rising water levels and the increasing threat of spring and summer wildfires, we are witnessing the effects of a changing climate firsthand. This reality has strengthened our resolve to prioritize environmental sustainability and disaster preparedness as we look to the future.

One of the year's most impactful initiatives for our team has been the formation of a dedicated committee to decolonize and Indigenize our workplace. This committee reflects our ongoing commitment to fostering a workplace culture rooted in our Dene heritage and values. I extend my sincere gratitude to the team members who have volunteered to lead and support this important work. Throughout the year, we have also remained steadfast in our mission to enhance the quality of life for ACFN Members. Our efforts have included supporting education, employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities to ensure that Members can thrive while celebrating and preserving our proud Denesuline traditions. It has been inspiring to witness the achievements of our Members and to see how the Nation continues to grow and flourish.



I want to take a moment to acknowledge the challenges we faced, particularly the spring wildfire that impacted some ACFN Members in Fort McMurray. The strength and unity shown by our Nation during this time were nothing short of extraordinary. We are committed to continuing our work to safeguard our community and support those affected by these natural events.

As we look ahead to the coming year, our focus remains clear: to empower and uplift ACFN Members while preserving our cultural heritage and securing a sustainable future for generations to come. I extend my deepest appreciation to Chief and Council for their wisdom and leadership, to our Elders for their invaluable guidance, and to all ACFN Members for their participation and trust in our work. Your support and engagement fuel our dedication to serving this proud and strong Nation.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. Together, we will continue to build a thriving future for the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation.

With gratitude,
Maggie Farrington
ACFN Chief Executive Officer

MESSAGE FROM LISA TSSESAZE DIRECTOR OF DLRM



Seniae Beyosti (I'm happy to share with you)

As I reflect on the year 2024, I find it to be both memorable and challenging. It was a difficult year because we lost so many elders, including Elder Rene Bruno, who has now joined the Spirit World. He was a profound teacher, sharing wisdom about the Treaty, our language, and the rights we hold as Denesuline people. I will carry his words and teachings with me always. He often reminded us, "We never gave up this land. This is our land, and no one has any business here."

As Denesūtiné people, it is crucial for us to remember who we are and where we come from. We have a rich and deep history, and it is time we begin to share it with others.

Last year, we pushed through some vital work to protect our rights. Our various committees have worked tirelessly, producing valuable information. One such committee, the Methodology to Impact Assessments, prepared a Terms of Reference that will guide us when development proposals are made on our Traditional Lands. This work is grounded in the Dene Laws, which teach us to:

1. Be Respectful of Elders and Everything around you
2. Share what you have
3. Respect the Land
4. Take only what you need
5. Help one another
6. Sleep at night and work during the days
7. Be happy at all times

One of the most exciting moments last year was the launch of our legal cases against Alberta. Our largest claim addresses the Alberta Energy Regulator's failure to properly manage the tailings ponds on our traditional lands. We are currently awaiting Alberta's response to our claim.

In addition, last fall, we achieved a victory in our Motion to Strike. Alberta had attempted to dismiss our Consultation Policy case against the provincial government. After nearly a year of deliberation, the Alberta courts ruled in our favor. However, the Alberta government has since appealed this decision, and the hearing is set for September of this year. Please feel free to reach out to me if you'd like to learn more about these cases.

I am so proud of our DLRM Team, our Elders, our Leadership, and all of our Members for their dedication and support. I eagerly look forward to the opportunities and challenges that 2025 will bring.

Masi cho,

Lisa Tsessaze
Executive Director
ACFN DLRM

HUMAN RESOURCES

During the last quarter, we had 4 departures and hired 6 new staff, for a total of 74 current employees. Of the 74 employees, 45 (60%) are ACFN Members; and 14 are Indigenous (First Nation and Metis) for a total of 59 (79%) of an Indigenous workforce combined. In the New Year, we expect our workforce to increase from 74 to 77 employees.

In the fall, most staff participated at the Annual General Meetings and was an excellent opportunity to meet members to showcase the various programs and services. The HR team receives regular employment opportunities from the Nation's industry partners and are regularly shared on ACFN's Facebook page and the "Member's Only" section on *ACFN.com*.

The HR Team is pleased to welcome and congratulate Amber Davies, our new Human Resources Administrator.

Mahsi chogh,

R. Shirley Cardinal
Human Resources Director

HOUSING UPDATES

The Housing department had a busy fall in 2024 with lots of work taking place!

Our team continues to address work order requests for repairs on units, as well as completing renovations to upgrade units.

Maintenance work including furnaces and hot water tanks is ongoing to ensure these essential items are in good working order and to minimize any issues in the future.

The new housing shop is fully operational. This space helps to ensure our team can plan and complete housing projects in an efficient and timely manner.

We are working with Indigenous Services and CMHC to secure funding to renovate and replace units. This is an integral aspect of planning for replacement of existing units, as well as completing the renovations that are necessary over time.

We are delighted to share that 10 Home Renovation Grants and 3 Home Ownership Grants were approved! These programs support ACFN Members in purchasing or renovating their homes, contributing to their success as home owners! We are proud to offer these programs, and encourage you to visit www.acfn.com and check out the Housing department tab under Member Services to learn more.

The Housing team also grew as we hired two ACFN Members as labourers. Our team is also active in ongoing training and development, including courses such as Incident Command 1-100 and 1-200, Indigenous Awareness, First Aid, Lateral Violence, Conflict Resolution, Diversity & Exclusion, and mold/meth/radon programs. This continual learning is an important part of providing excellence in our service to Members.

We are looking forward to 2025!

Marsi Cho,
Linda Berry
Housing Director



CAPITAL PROJECTS

Capital Projects year was largely taken up with closing and finalizing projects.

The Housing Shop was completed according to plan and all permits were closed. The final Occupancy Permit was granted. This gives ACFN a secure area for material storage and provides shop access for housing projects. Having more space and access to tools and equipment, all at one location, allows Housing to maximize efficiencies.

Within the Housing Shop two bays were allocated to ACDEN to provide mechanical repair and maintenance services for small vehicles. The services are available to ACFN members as well as the community at large. Two mechanics provide the services on a rotating basis.

Two homes were completed, and tenants have moved in. The homes incorporated many energy saving features, such as 12" exterior walls (twice the standard thickness), triple pane windows, wood stove, and R-60 ceiling insulation. The foundations were built using ICF Styrofoam panels which adds insulating layer both inside and outside.

Information is being gathered on the feasibility of creating a lay down on the Lot 20 property, located next to Doghead. The plan would be to grade and gravel the area, install a fence and have it used for secure storage.

NEW TO THE TEAM



Darnell Bruno
Labourer, ACFN

Darnell was declared the successful candidate and commenced his new role as Labourer on January 6, 2025. He is a proud ACFN member and holds a Grade 12 diploma from

the Fort Chipewyan Community High School, 2024. He is a former Housing summer student, and he looks forward to serving members in his new role. Congratulations Darnell!



Drayden Bruno
Labourer, ACFN

Drayden was also declared a successful candidate and started his new role on January 6, 2025. He is an ACFN member and is an active traditional land-user; he has attended the traditional

harvest with ACFN since 2013. He has completed Grade 10, a Firearms course, an Alberta Trappers Association course, and holds a Boating Licence. Wishing you much success in your new role Drayden, and Congratulations!



Jamie Flett
Housing Receptionist, ACFN

Jamie started with the Housing Department on February 3, 2025, and is an ACFN member. She completed Grade 11 and holds an Early Childhood Educator certificate. Jamie comes to us from Mikisew Community

Services where she worked as a Receptionist; and her previous roles ranged as a Cook with Mikisew Camp; and is a former Early Childhood Educator with the Fort Chipewyan Community Daycare. Welcome to the Housing Department Jamie.

YOUTH & ELDER LODGE

EVENTS

ATC Cultural Gathering, Fort McMurray, AB: ACFN had their cultural tent setup with brand new fire pits that were donated by ACDEN. We served traditional foods throughout those 3 days along with snacks, mint tea, caribou head, ducks, moose meat, caribou bone soup, Bannock and jam daily. Nezo!

September 20th, 2024: We had 14 harvesters consisting of 4 Adults with boats, 10 youth all willing and eager to get out on the land. They were taught how to call for moose, make a fire, sharing their knowledge to youth. Youth all enjoyed their time out on the land.

Luncheon/Bingo: On the last Wednesday of every month. Elders look forward to this event as it's their chance to get out and have lunch and play bingo and visit with other elders.

October 2024: Thanksgiving Hampers were distributed to 130 ACFN members within our community. Items: Turkey, potato, onion, carrots, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, buns.

65+ Hampers from Nunee Health: The hampers have a variety of food items that include what the elders would like to eat. Elders look forward to these every month.

Sewing Programs – We have Lynne Laviolette, instructed ACFN members on how to make full beaded slippers. We had 10 participants only 6 that finished their slippers. Nezo!

November 2024: The Sewing Class with Marlene Bruno made key chains with six Elders showing interest!

Elders Bingo/Luncheon on November 25, 2024 we had elders enjoy their time with youth from ADCS come and spent some time and sang in Dene to elders during lunch hour.

Marci,
From Youth Elders Lodge (YEL)
Report by Lilly Marcel



DENE LANGUAGE INITIATIVE

The last few months of 2024 were busy for our Dene Yatié programs as we work diligently to learn, preserve, promote and showcase our traditional language! Not only is our language an integral part of our culture, but it is also one of ACFN's strategic priorities and we are proud to work towards achieving significant progress on language usage and preservation.

We participated in the Athabasca Tribal Council Cultural Festival by hosting a tent dedicated to Dene language. This was a great chance to share our language with a broad audience, including non-Indigenous people, and show how we are working to ensure the chance to speak Dene is available to all our Members.

Throughout the fall we hosted a variety of classes, including in-person classes in Fort McMurray with Janette Jones-Flett and in-person classes in Fort Chipewyan with Cecilia Adam. These classes provide the opportunity to learn and practice Dene in a supportive environment while also connecting with other learners and sharing experiences and stories.

Virtual classes over Zoom were hosted by Alice Rigney, providing another way for Members to participate in learning and practicing Dene. The virtual platform allows Members to join the class from anywhere, ensuring those who might not be able to attend in person can still learn.

In the fall, the ACFN administration team introduced mandatory Dene virtual Zoom classes for all employees. This aligns with the philosophy that we must be leaders in learning, practicing and preserving Dene culture, including the traditional language spoken by Dene people. We also invited Fort Chipewyan community members to join us as we learned and sang Dene gospel songs with Lena and Lawrence Adam, a great chance to connect and gather while having fun and learning Dene.

We have established a partnership with Athabasca Delta Community School through our Elders luncheon and their Grade 7&8 language program, which creates a cross-generational sharing of language and conversation. Work is ongoing on the Dene dictionary and we are excited to share this with Members in 2025. We have worked with Elders to ensure the dictionary captures our language in the best possible way.

In the fall we also worked on plans for cultural immersion experiences in Black Lake and we are looking forward to sharing more information on that in early 2025.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our programs! Together we can keep our language alive and vibrant for generations to come!

Dorothy Voyageur
Dene Yatié Coordinator



SOCIAL WORK AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

ADDICTION SUPPORT INITIATIVES

The Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) continues to provide comprehensive addiction support services. We collaborate with the Mark Amy Treatment Centre and other federally funded inpatient treatment centers to ensure our members have access to essential care. Additionally, we offer support through the Pastew Detox Centre and are actively working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance our partnership. Our commitment extends to aftercare programs, reinforced by our existing MOU with the Mark Amy Treatment Centre, to support sustained recovery.

CAREGIVER GRANT

The Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation is committed to strengthening the support we provide to our sick and elderly members (Care Recipients), helping them stay in their homes where they feel safe, comfortable, and connected to their community for as long as possible.

With an individualized funding model, families have more flexibility in choosing Caregivers who best meet their needs. This approach ensures that supports are tailored to each Care Recipient's unique circumstances. Caregivers can be close family members offering care outside their regular work hours, or community members who support multiple individuals. Most importantly, Care Recipients will have the ability to choose someone they know and trust.

This Policy and the Caregiver Benefit Program are here to strengthen the support available for independent living. However, they are not meant to replace the traditional responsibility we share as families and as a community—to care for our loved ones out of love and respect, not just financial support.

ATHABASCA TRIBAL COUNCIL'S STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

In response to the escalating opioid crisis, the Athabasca Tribal Council (ATC) declared a Regional State of Emergency on September 7, 2023. This decisive action has mobilized a coordinated effort to address the crisis, including harm reduction strategies such as increased access to naloxone kits, overdose prevention education, and the deployment of community crisis teams. ATC is collaborating with emergency responders, including EMS, RCMP, and Indigenous-led policing initiatives, to ensure swift intervention in critical situations. A key focus is advocating for sustainable funding from both federal and provincial governments to establish culturally appropriate healing centers, detox facilities, and treatment programs that align with the needs of our member nations: ACFN, Mikisew Cree, Fort McMurray 468, Chipewyan Prairie, and Fort McKay.

CHILD WELL-BEING INITIATIVES

ACFN actively participates in ATC's Child Well-Being Committee to address concerns about federal laws on Child and Family Services that do not align with Dene values and traditions. The committee is working to rewrite these laws to ensure they uphold and respect Dene ways, reclaiming our right to self-determined child and family services.

We are honored to have two Elders representing us on this committee. If you are an Elder living in Fort Chipewyan and wish to be part of this groundbreaking initiative, please contact Lori Stevens at Lori.stevens@acfn.com.

ACFN continues to offer Child and Family Services (CFS) prevention supports for families working with Children Services. Our culturally grounded approach fosters



intergenerational connections and addresses historical trauma, providing culturally safe spaces and recognizing the impacts of colonization. We focus on family preservation, youth engagement, mental health, and economic stability, offering support and advocacy for families navigating these challenges.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Our recent Hockey Camps held in January, February, and March were a resounding success, with numerous youth participants. We were delighted to have Mike Brodeur, a former NHL goaltender and founder of Balanc3d Goaltending, lead these camps. His expertise and mentorship have provided our young athletes with invaluable skills and inspiration.

HEALTH SUPPORT EFFORTS

We have provided grocery assistance to families in need who are faced with CFS interventions. We are collaborating with the Health Manager to develop grants and programming. We are coordinating psycho-educational assessments for youth requiring additional academic support and assisting members in navigating Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) for diabetes supplies.

EDUCATION UPDATE

The Education department is proud to report that in the final quarter of 2024, ACFN can report providing funding to 62 students as they work towards achieving their career goals! Students funded by ACFN are studying in a wide variety of areas, with everything from academic upgrading to pursuing MBAs. This truly showcases the incredible diversity of interest and skill of our Members!

If you are interested in applying for funding, we ask that you please keep the application deadlines in mind. These timelines ensure we can assess your application and process it in a timely manner:

- Fall Term (September): July 31
- Winter Term (January): November 30
- Spring/Summer Term (May to August): March 31

We also work very closely with the ACFN Employment and Training team so we can provide ACFN Members with a full set of services related to education and employment, ensuring they can succeed in both their education and their chosen career.

We also want to congratulate all ACFN students who completed their studies in 2024! This is a tremendous achievement and we are very proud to be able to support ACFN Members in reaching education goals. We encourage Members who are looking to start or continue their education journey to reach out and see how we can work together!

Rianna Flett
Education Coordinator



ACFN EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The mission of our work is to help our Members achieve their goals! 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

Through this work we support ACFN Members in reaching employment and career success. We are proud to help them on their employment journey!

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:

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



STRATEGIC ADVISORY SERVICES

BESS

The Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at all three solar farms achieved commercial operations in late-October. Each ACFN-Concord solar farm now has 15MW of additional BESS capacity. Energy generated at these sites can now be sold directly to the grid or can be used to charge the batteries, depending on several variables. This milestone is significant as ACFN is the third organization in Alberta to have BESS. Furthermore, it will provide additional revenue to ACFN over the 35-year project life while enabling the batteries to capture additional upside pricing as well as evening opportunities. BESS was made possible through a \$46M grant from Natural Resources Canada Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Program.

APL CAPACITY INITIATIVE

Alberta Powerline has been busy working on creating additional value for its stakeholders. An exciting opportunity to be launched in February is an upcoming scholarship and bursary opportunity that up to two ACFN members can benefit from. Please watch for additional information for this new opportunity. Students, good luck with your applications!

Strategic Advisory Services remains focused on recognizing value-added opportunities and stewarding them to the finish line for the benefit of membership. Given there are several of these currently being discussed, 2025 is certain to be another successful year.

Jason Shulz
E.D. Strategic Advisory Services



INDUSTRY RELATIONS

PROTECTING OUR CORE HOME

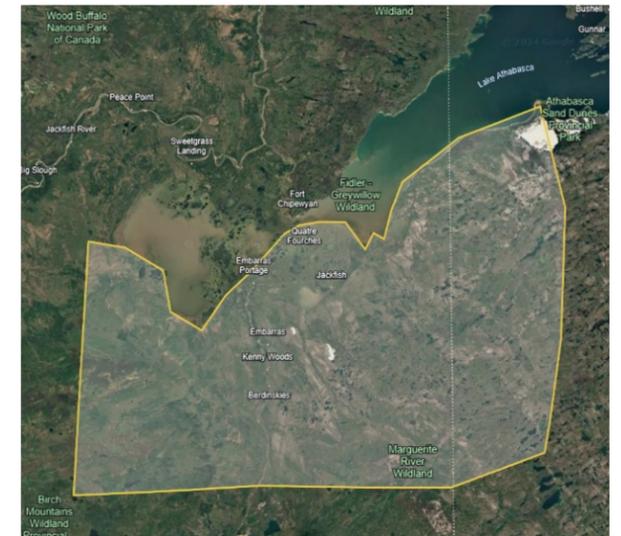
As if the oilsands were not enough to erode ACFN's Treaty rights, significant changes to mineral tenure (which determines where mineral exploration and mining development can occur) came into effect in 2024, especially in Alberta. These changes are set to erode Aboriginal rights further, negatively impacting ACFN's bare existence starting in 2025 and the foreseeable future.

Canada is a global mining powerhouse, ranks among the top five worldwide producers with an estimated \$100 billion in minerals produced in 2024, spanning over 60 minerals and metals. While ACFN is severely impacted by mineral mining in Saskatchewan (now decommissioned Beaver Lodge and Cluff Lake and soon to begin construction Fission and Nexgen), this mineral resource development went off without significant encroachment on ACFN lands in Alberta.

Unfortunately, ACFN is now faced with increasing risk from mineral mining as the Government of Alberta begins implementing the new Mineral Development Strategy. A vast mineral resource potential is located on ACFN's traditional lands, primarily in the Richards Backcountry. These minerals include lithium, Uranium, gold, and rare earth elements. Exploration for Uranium in our Maybelle River Deposit has started. We will stop at nothing to protect this land from any further industrial development and protect our inherent Treaty Rights as we take direction from our Elders. On July 8, 2010, the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Elders Council Declared: "...

As the Elders of our community, we demand that our ability to practice our constitutionally protected treaty rights and traditional uses is sustained within our Traditional Lands for future generations. We demand that our rights are protected in the LARP, and any other initiatives proposed by the governments. The lands from Firebag north, including Birch Mountain on the west side of river, must be protected. Richardson Backcountry is not to be given away – not to any government. Everything we do here, we do to protect our rights to land use, livelihood and culture

In 2024, ACFN Elders Council approved the below to be defined as The Richardson Backcountry:



The Richardson Backcountry is our home and will forever be a part of us as a Nation

DLRM is working with the community to be more empowered to protect the land from the new Alberta mineral development encroachment. We are establishing a member working group and conducting traditional land use studies.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The emergency management department is dedicated to ensuring a comprehensive and swift response to all emergency situations involving our Members and Nation, and throughout the last few months of 2024 worked towards strengthening our already robust emergency response plan.

ACFN continues to explore improved and innovative methods to approach emergency management and communication to our Members, including the use of text messaging and the new ACFN app. This work is intensified as we head into spring 2025, particularly as we watch the ongoing impact of climate change around the globe including wildfires and floods.

To foster less dependency on external organizations, we purchased sprinkler kits for cabins and air purifiers for Elders in Fort Chipewyan. This provides our Members with the opportunity to take proactive measures to protect their own well-being and property.

In January 2025 we will be providing ISC-200 training to ACFN, DLRM and K'ai Taile Market staff. The Incident Command Structure (ISC) program provides the foundation of emergency response and management, and this training will support our team in strong incident response, regardless of the nature of the crisis.

We are also looking to secure funding to provide search and rescue training for our Members. This training would allow Members to not only actively participate in search and rescue efforts in our Nation but would also enable them to join larger community search and rescue efforts as needed.

As we head into 2025, we want to assure all Members that we are ready to address any emergencies that may arise, including wildfires and floods. The evacuation of areas of Fort McMurray in spring 2024 should remind us all that the threat of climate change continues to be very real, and that we must all be prepared, both as individuals and as a Nation, to respond to emergencies. I strongly encourage you to visit our Emergency Management page on the ACFN website (www.acfn.com) to stay informed on the latest news from our team, as well as tips on how you can be prepared!

Stay safe,

Tim Flett
Manager, Emergency Management

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

During the final months of 2024, Intergovernmental Affairs focused on moving forward on the many outstanding files we have in progress with the Government of Canada. The announcement of the resignation of Justin Trudeau, the upcoming Liberal party leadership race, transition to a new Prime Minister, and eventual federal election has created a situation where we must work diligently to reach a conclusion on as many files as possible before significant changes in government potentially occur.

As an update to some of these files:

ACDEN ADDITION TO RESERVE

We anticipate this will be formally recognized in January 2025. This is a tremendous achievement following our other successful additions to reserve and we are excited to see this ATR approach finalization.

BIG DOCK

Work on this critical file is ongoing, including meeting with the relevant Government of Canada Ministers and discussing how we resolve this issue. We expect more movement on these discussions in 2025.

WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK APOLOGY

We continue to push forward on requesting an official apology for the deep damages done to ACFN, our Members, and their families, by the actions taken in Wood Buffalo National Park.

LOBBY EFFORTS

Our team travelled to Ottawa in late 2024 to engage in lobbying efforts with the federal government on behalf of ACFN. These trips are essential in ensuring our collective voice is heard and we remain on their radar as they go through a leadership transition.



We will continue to engage in this work as we move into 2025, especially as we move towards a federal election and potential change in government. Changes in government can have a tremendous impact as governmental priorities shift, so our intent is to ensure that all federal parties and leaders know that ACFN is not going away and will continue to advocate fiercely for our Members and our Nation!

Jay Telegdi
Manager, Intergovernmental Affairs

SUMMARY - BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM 2024-25

The Business Development Grant program has seen some significant success since it was established, and we are happy to report some key statistics from the year:

- Program Support: Since April 2024, the ACFN Business Development Grant Program supported 15 ACFN members in their entrepreneurial endeavors.
- Grant Funding: The KÁI TAILÉ DENESQLINE TRUST approved a total of \$400,000.00 to fund the ACFN Business Development Grant Program for the fiscal year 2024-25.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Grants Provided: A total of \$251,000.00 in grants has been provided to ACFN entrepreneurs through the Business Development Grant Program in this fiscal year. This funding has provided essential financial support for members to launch and sustain their business ventures.

- Chief and Council's Support: Chief and Council have been instrumental in ensuring a swift and efficient approval process for business grant requests. Strong commitment from ACFN leadership has been key in maintaining program's effectiveness, fostering a dynamic and growing entrepreneurial community.
- Entrepreneurs' Stories: To highlight and motivate our community, we feature inspiring stories and successful projects of entrepreneurs in our newsletters. This initiative is aimed at sharing knowledge and fostering inspiration among members.
- Website for Entrepreneurs: ACFN has launched a dedicated webpage for entrepreneurs at acfn.com/acfn-entrepreneurs. This platform allows business-minded members to connect, share ideas, and collaborate with others, creating a supportive ecosystem for emerging entrepreneurs.
- Resource Sharing: We provide access to additional external funding resources through our channels, further enhancing the support system for entrepreneurs and enabling them to pursue growth and success.
- Workshop: We collaborate with external entities to identify valuable trainings/workshops around business planning, financial literacy, and market analysis to support our entrepreneurs.

IMPACT

- ACFN continues to encourage and support its members by providing financial assistance and creating a networking platform for entrepreneurs. Our long-term goal is to build a sustainable and thriving entrepreneurial community that contributes to the economic growth of ACFN members.

Testimonial:
"I am in a competitive market and sometimes the bills can be overwhelming, this opportunity helped to pay down a large loan payment we have trying to stay competitive. This support helped us by knocking down our payment periods and giving us a sense of relief from overwhelming payments. I would encourage all members who are in business to apply for this support, it really helps if only a little it was welcomed relief. Thank you for your support it was greatly appreciated, as an aboriginal business owner it can be difficult to make ends meet it is nice to see our administration looking out for our businesses."

Alden Vogt
 Fort Smith Construction NTLtd.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

The DLRM Government Relations department was very busy towards the end of 2024! On the **Wood Buffalo National Park UNESCO file**, we collaborated with other Indigenous communities within the Park to provide feedback on Canada's State of Conservation Report that they sent to the World Heritage Committee in early December. We continue to advocate for protection of the Park, with this work becoming particularly crucial this year as the Park is on the agenda at the upcoming UNESCO World Heritage Committee Meeting in July 2025.

We are also proud to share that after a couple of years of engagement with a core group of community members that includes Elders and Youth, DLRM launched the ***K'aitélé hots'j dene erihth'is horelyú dene beba súghá xa*** (A Dene Paper that will Help Everyone) Environmental Health and Wellness Survey. To date, we have had 31 households take part in the survey, with 55 respondents. Our goal is to reach 97 households – so please set up a time to meet with the members of the Community Stewardship Committee conducting the surveys – Cecilia Adam, Alice Rigney, Dwayne Flett or Beverly Laviolette.

On a separate project, while developing a Methodology of Assessment of Impacts to Rights for ACFN, we heard loudly from community members about the importance of standing up an advisory body. Community members comprising Elders, Youth, and Land Users have been working closely with DLRM and its consultants at Reciprocity to establish the terms of reference for the ***Ni Chu Tu Kelni*** (Land and Water Keepers) for a year and a half, beginning in mid-2023. Guided by ACFN Dene Laws, values, and protocol, the group will provide recommendations to support ACFN rights and way of life. The group's primary goal is to uphold ACFN interests by working as a collaborative and positive force for the protection and enhancement of ACFN homelands and waters. Anywhere that ACFN Treaty rights and way of life are threatened by large projects and activities, the Ni Chu Tu Kelni group will be stood up to advise Chief and Council and DLRM.

We have also been working hard on submissions to the federal government on different regulatory and legislative reviews. In November 2024, we provided a submission to bill C61, the ***First Nations Clean Water Act (FNCWA)***. The areas of focus included the integration of traditional ecological knowledge in water management, a stronger framework for funding, establishing a co-governance, and decision-making that affirms ACFN's sovereignty, governance structures, and legal systems. The overarching goal is to ensure that Indigenous communities have control over the protection of their source water, particularly considering industrial impacts.

As always, the DLRM Government Relations Team welcomes hearing directly from ACFN members. Feel free to reach out and chat when you are in Fort McMurray, or if you see us around in Fort Chipewyan.



Marsi Cho, and wishing you a safe and happy 2025!

Doren Otung
Climate Change and Sustainability Coordinator

Keji Banjoko
Government Relations and Consultation Coordinator

Brian Fung
Manager, Government Relations

K'AI TAILE MARKET (KTM) UPDATE

Since its opening in August 2018, K'ai Taile Market (KTM) has been a beacon of support and service to the vibrant community of Fort Chipewyan. Driven by the vision of ACFN Leadership, KTM was created to address the pressing need for affordable, healthy foods and to empower the community with food sovereignty and security.

Under the leadership of Cathwyn Philpotts, KTM's Executive Director of Operations, the market has flourished, now employing between 15-20 people—a number that has more than doubled since the market's inception! A key focus of KTM is providing local youth with valuable early employment opportunities, allowing them to grow in a supportive and safe environment. KTM's team is also a proud reflection of the community it serves, with a full group of First Nation and Métis managers fostering talent from within. This remarkable growth is a testament to KTM's success and the unwavering support it receives from the community.

K'ai Taile Market has become a cornerstone for Fort Chipewyan, offering an incredible selection of fresh, frozen, and dry goods, all available daily for community members to purchase. Their easy-to-use online platform makes shopping even more convenient, allowing residents and caterers to place custom orders. This exceptional service and diverse selection have created a loyal customer base that continues to thrive.

KTM's commitment to the community extends far beyond just food sales. The market plays a crucial role in supporting local organizations like ACDS, Nunee, and more, and has partnered with the Wood Buffalo Food Bank to provide fresh food hampers every month. Every year, KTM contributes to the well-being of the community by supporting the distribution of over 5,000 food hampers and donating more than 12,000 bottles of water to families and community events. Despite the challenges posed by its remote northern location—accessible by air and water for most of the year—KTM continues to rise above, working tirelessly to keep prices reasonable. Rising food costs due to inflation are an ongoing challenge, but KTM remains steadfast in its mission, with the support of the Nutrition North Program, which helps offset freight costs on healthy foods.

As Cathwyn Philpotts shares, "Our success is thanks to our loyal customers and the hard-working staff who give their best every single day. We look forward to expanding our fresh food offerings and growing our capacity to warehouse more products, ensuring we can continue to keep food costs low. A heartfelt thank you to the community, the nations, our customers, and our dedicated transportation partners like McMurray Aviation, who ensure timely deliveries. And most of all, thank you to Team KTM—our success is the result of their unwavering commitment and teamwork. Together, we continue to make a real difference for Fort Chipewyan, and we couldn't be prouder of everything we've achieved."

Here's to continued growth, success, and community spirit at K'ai Taile Market!



YOUTH UPDATE

LOOKING FOR FUN? THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT IS WHERE IT'S AT!

Throughout the final months of 2024, our team planned and executed several different events and activities for ACFN youth designed to keep them engaged!

Some of these included:

Community Movie Nights: These free movie nights included showings of Freaky Friday, Ten Things I Hate About You, Hocus Pocus, The Grudge, The Grinch, and Christmas Vacation. The response to these nights has been very positive and in January we are excited to present Wicked as our Community Movie Night feature!

Halloween Events: From providing Elders in Fort Chipewyan with signs and candy to pumpkin carving contests to giving Members the chance to attend "The Dark" in Edmonton, we worked hard to ensure Halloween had something fun for everyone!

Winter Activities: Winter might seem like a long and cold season, but we are warming it up for youth with free figure skating classes in Fort Chipewyan in early 2025, as well as some cross country ski opportunities! The annual Jasper Ski Trip for youth is also taking place in February 2025.

Pride Events: Youth asked for more events focused on Pride, so we were very excited to host Drag Queen Bingo in Fort Chipewyan. This was a great collaboration with the RMWB and Arts Council Wood Buffalo. We will be looking to offer more Pride events in 2025.

Career Fair: We worked with the YMCA to plan and deliver the upcoming Career Fair in early 2025 in Fort Chipewyan.

Dene Games: We are working with other partners to offer demos and learning sessions on Dene games, including stick-pull, finger-pull, and snow snake.

Dene Language: Learning our language is so important, and we continue to work on ways to encourage youth to learn and practice Dene.

Christmas Parties: We held a Christmas party for all youth in Fort Chipewyan in early December, and supported the annual Members Christmas parties! These events are always such a special occasion as youth and other Members come together to celebrate and enjoy the season.

In 2024 we also hosted an online survey for youth to help us better understand what youth need and want us to deliver! We are excited to move into 2025 and continue to build and improve the programs, activities and events we offer as we help youth stay active, connected and engaged!

Rachel Marcel
Youth Coordinator

ELDERS ADVISORY COUNCIL

AUGUST 26TH-30TH, 2024 EAC RETREAT

The Elders Advisory Council (EAC) and Chief and Council came together to define relationships and build a stronger team in Calgary in August 2024. 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.



FORT CHIPEWYAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Therese Tuccaro Secondary School has wrapped up the first semester of the 2024/25 School Year and it has proven nothing less than busy! Scholastically, the school has registered over 130 students, successfully completed it's first semester offering Grade 8 and compiled over 650 credits: the majority of these credits being earned through core course offerings of Mathematics, Social Studies, English Language Arts and Science.

Aside from the scholastic stats above, TTSS has remained active in promoting career fairs, wellness weeks, teen nights, community learnings (such as bush camps and meat cutting) and fundraising for an end of year senior trip. Looking forward to Semester Two, TTSS is excited to offer a first time, ever, Hockey Academy option for students who are interested in progressing their skills and knowledge in the sport. Attendance and progress in their other courses will be closely watched to ensure they are maintaining performance in all aspects of their schooling. Keep up to date on daily happenings by following our Facebook social media page (which still is under our previous name): Fort Chipewyan Community High School (FCCHS)!



INAUGURAL URBAN JOB FAIR

The Edmonton Convention Centre was the venue for this on of a kind showcase of Indigenous excellence, proudly hosted by the ACFN Dene Lands and Resource Management Department. Set up of the event took place at the venue a day prior. Centerpieces of ACFN logos were placed on tables, a stage teepee was erected with an ACFN logo attached, registration tables were set up while a stage rehearsal took place with Emcee's, models and designers.

Doors opened at 8:30am, and the ACFN DLRM team was ready to welcome attendees at the registration tables. Registration included collecting email addresses, and a short survey, with questions regarding the demographics of those who were attending that day and what they hoped to accomplish by attending the job fair. (Example: age group, student and employment status, First Nation status, if seeking employment and which sector of interest.)

The event started with grand entry by the Four Winds Indigenous Market who are a group of 7 Indigenous dancers and one drummer/singer from the Treaty 6 region. (We felt it was important to also pay homage to the traditions of Treaty 6, while visiting their region.) The stage then opened with the Emcee's welcoming ACFN Elder Yvonne Hoffman to do an opening prayer in Dene, followed by a prayer song from our Denesuline Drummer. Two separate speakers panels took place throughout the day, with one focusing on the ACFN Changemaker panel. Each of the 3 speakers are ACFN Members and harbor the values of our Nation. Callie Davies-Flett held the value of Empowerment through her work as ACFN DLRM's Regulatory Advisor, fighting to protect and sustain our traditional lands. Carson Cardinal, an undergraduate of Mount Royal University, holds the value of Service as Acden's Business Development Assistant, and finally, Faith McGeough held the value of Collaboration through her work with Careers (Next Gen). Faith brought in nearly 90 First Nation's Jr High Students to participate in the Inaugural Job Fair, Marsi Cho Faith!

An incredible show of Indigenous designers, artists, models and dancers highlighted the runway at lunch. The performance was over an hour long and showcased 4 ACFN models and fashion designer Bruno Henry who just arrived from Paris Fashion Week the night before. Cotton candy, a chocolate fondue station and delicious foods were enjoyed by the nearly 400 people who came out that day. This event was one for the books and truly amazing to envision and bring to life.

These events are initiatives created with ACFN members in mind. We are here to bridge the gap, provide employment and training opportunities and to make long lasting connections between ACFN members, staff and leadership. Stay tuned for the next ACFN Dene Lands and Resource Management Job Fair announcement!



FISH CAMP & FISH HEALTH 2023 RESULTS

INTRODUCTION

Following up from the results on fish health shared at the Forum in April, we now have results on contaminants in fish from last year to report back on.

LAB RESULTS

At fish camp we collect samples for

- fish age (fish ear bone or fin ray)
- mercury (muscle tissue)
- other metal contaminants (muscle)
- organic compounds (in muscle and liver)
- genetics sample (fin clip) – ask Julie from UMontreal about this
- isotopes (muscle)

It takes a while to get the results back from the labs.

ARE THE FISH SAFE TO EAT?

Community specific limits have been developed to compare fish tissue against (not just Health Canada, Alberta or World Health Organization). Wild fish are an excellent source of protein. These limits help us understand the risk of consuming different foods and drink to our health.

CBM sampling for contaminants (mercury, metals, organics) shows **whitefish are safe to eat**.

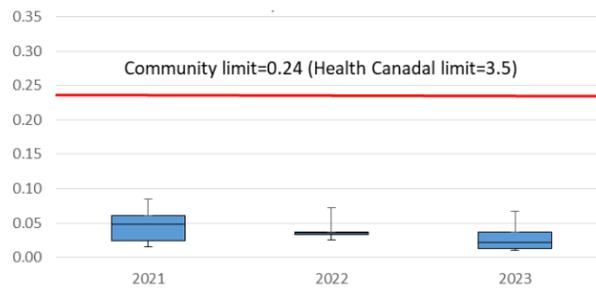
2023 data from fish camp for mercury in pickerel/walleye was compared to 2018 to 19 data. **The majority of pickerel are safe to eat. Bigger and older fish (longer than 22 inches) have accumulated more mercury over their life time and have more than younger and smaller fish.** This is expected given that they have a different diet to whitefish. **If targeting pickerel, consider changing mesh size to target smaller pickerel or eat less often.**

This year we will sample for more contaminants in pickerel. In the future we plan to expand to other harvested species.

HOW DO CONTAMINANTS IN FISH COMPARE TO WATER QUALITY?

CBM Water quality sampling has increased in the PAD since the Kearl spill. We monitor the fish to see if we can see evidence of ecosystem change since they travel all over the PAD and live for a long time.

There was **no evidence of the Kearl spill** entering the Athabasca or PAD. Arsenic is one metals that has been consistently higher over the last 3 years. However we don't see the same results in fish and levels are well below the Arsenic community limits.

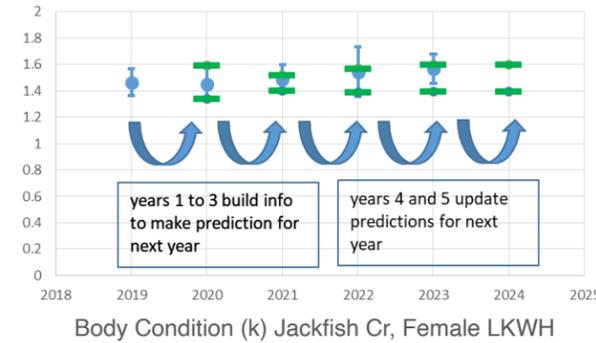


Arsenic (mg/kg wet weight) Jackfish Cr, Female LKWH

HOW DO THE RESULTS RELATE TO THE INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAM (IRMP)?

The communities, in collaboration with Parks Canada through the Action Plan have are developing a monitoring program to monitor the PAD's ecosystems. Fish health will be one of several measures related to access, wildlife quantity and quality.

We will continue to track fish health and are developing management triggers with community input. Proposed triggers have been based on 3 years of data and then updated with each additional year of information.



2019 to 21 set the triggers (green bars). In 2022 and 2023 the blue circle falls between the green bars (stable condition). Where will be in 2024?

Since whitefish are stable, we are moving on to other species but will check back in a few years. This is sneak peak, we will be discussing more at the next workshop.

Lori Cyprien
Director of Rights and Lands



ENTREPRENEUR PROFILE

MELANIE MCMASTER - NORTHERN HEAT TRANSFERS

After staying home to raise my children for ten years I felt it was time to get back to work. My father-in-law was retired from 40 years in the radiator industry and wanted to pass on his knowledge and connections. We decided to take this opportunity and start our own radiator shop. He connected us with 2 major radiator distributors, and they were both looking forward to doing business and having their products available in Northern BC. I applied for the business grant with ACFN and received the startup grant. This helped us secure a shop and get it ready to receive stock. We are teamed up with Dolphin Radiators out of Texas and working with Cancore out of Calgary, AB. We will be selling commercial and industrial radiators, Charge Air Coolers and AC Condensers.

Our services offered are performance testing, cooling system repair, installation and leak detection by our skilled technician. We are just getting our first shipment out of Texas within the next couple weeks and looking forward to opening the shop. Family is extremely important to us so our 19-year-old son will be training and going to school to be an active part of the company. Our 10-year-old daughter is homeschooled and shares an office with me and will grow up knowing how to run the family business as well. The business grant gave me the opportunity to create a way to provide for my family without having to leave them for a camp job in my water treatment field. I am thankful for all of the help from ACFN, the business grant and the workshops that have been offered.

Northern Heat Transfer Products
5410 Hartway Drive
Prince George, BC
250.640.6060
mcmaster@nhtp.ca



ELDER PROFILE

DIANE TREMBLAY ELDER PROFILE INTERVIEW

Diane was born in Lac la Biche, Alberta, but she did not grow up on the land. She moved to Fort McMurray at the age of three and spent her childhood there. While living in Fort McMurray, she occasionally traveled to Fort Chipewyan to attend the winter carnivals, and she remains highly involved in events in Fort McMurray.

During one of her trips to Fort Chipewyan, Diane was part of a group from St. John Catholic Church that attended the winter carnival. She was struck by the welcoming nature of the community, particularly by the sight of the Roman Catholic church. The angels and artwork inside the church left a lasting impression on her. On that day, she also went dog sledding. The church group had brought 70 people to the event, including a 3-week-old baby.

On her first visit to Fort Chipewyan, Diane traveled by boat and spent time watching the land, looking out for wildlife during Dene Days. On another trip, she had the opportunity to learn from an elder, who showed her various important locations. Through these trips, she gained valuable lessons from the elders and became deeply immersed in the community. One important lesson she learned was the significance of always respecting your elders.

Diane's favorite traditional food is stew and bannock. She encourages members of the ACFN to enjoy the traditional land and continue to keep the culture alive.



MEMBERS PROFILE

Congratulations to ACFN Member Darcy Sinclair for being recognized at the 2024 NWT Max Awards! Darcy was recognized for Indigenous Achievement and his extraordinary individual contributions to NWT's mining industry.

Congratulations on your achievement Shania Wood! In fall 2024 she shared this with us:

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.

YOUTH PROFILE

This year marked Reid Marcel-Wylie's second participation in the annual fish harvest, and by all accounts, the young participant has grown significantly in his role. Reid's dedication to learning and his eagerness to connect with both the land and water stood out, earning praise from the older, more experienced harvesters.

While this was only his second year, Reid demonstrated responsibility and willingness to learn the traditions passed down. According to those who have been part of the harvest for years, Reid's progress has been remarkable. His willingness to take on more tasks, ask questions, and learn from the elders clearly indicates that he is ready to play a more significant role in future harvests.

This year's harvest reminded us of the importance of passing down knowledge and fostering a deep connection with the land. Reid Marcel-Wylie was a shining example of the next generation's success.

Congratulations to ACFN Youth Elise Weibel! This is what her family shared with us:

Elise is a band member and lives off reserve. This fall she made the Fog black team volleyball club in Edmonton. Black team represents the A team. Elise worked very hard over the last two years to make this team. Elise also made the senior volleyball club team at her school when she is only in grade 7. She was chosen because she is an amazing team player and a great player. Elise had the opportunity to play in the Edmonton volleyball club because ACFN helped fund her fees to join. Thank you ACFN for helping one of our young members excel at her dream to be an Olympic volleyball player! Thank you for giving her the chance to look forward to something in life.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Over the last year, we have been working hard to strengthen the health and wellness programs for ACFN members, ensuring that support is available where it is needed most. One of the ways we've been doing this is through our monthly Forum on Addiction, which has taken place over Zoom in December, January, February, and March, with another session planned for April. These forums have provided a space for people in recovery to share their experiences, challenges, and successes. We continue to hear just how difficult it is for individuals to stay on track, and we want to remind everyone that support is available. As part of our ongoing efforts, we are planning a Sober Walk in the coming months is an opportunity for the community to come together and demonstrate that no one has to walk this path alone.

Mental health education remains a priority, and we've been using online platforms to reach as many people as possible. Recent sessions have focused on schizophrenia, helping people understand the condition and learn how to access the right resources. We are also preparing a three-part mini-series on Brain Wellness: Aging and Dementia, presented by the Alzheimer's Society, which will take place in the coming days. Providing these types of educational opportunities is just one way we are working to support overall wellness in our community.

Another initiative that has been gaining momentum is the Peer Support Program in Fort Chipewyan. Discussions have been ongoing about how best to establish a peer support group that can be a lasting resource for those in need. Building a strong support system within the community is a priority, and we are putting in the effort to make this a reality.

We also recognize that families often need support when dealing with the passing of a loved one, which is why we have introduced the Estates Management Project. This initiative is designed to help people navigate the overwhelming paperwork that comes with losing a family member. It also includes important sessions on the importance of having a Will and how to go about preparing one. These are necessary conversations that can ease the burden on families during difficult times, and we encourage everyone to stay informed and take advantage of this resource.

Exciting cancer research initiatives are also underway, with three promising projects focused on Fort Chipewyan. These studies will help us gain a better understanding of cancer in our community and how we can take meaningful steps toward prevention and treatment. As these projects progress, we look forward to sharing updates on their findings and impact.

Finally, we continue to focus on healing and truth-telling, particularly through the Holy Angels Truth and Scanning Project. We recognize the need for meaningful community events that help people process the past, find strength in the present, and build a path forward. Healing is a journey, and we remain committed to supporting our community every step of the way.

As always, we encourage everyone to reach out, get involved, and take part in the programs that are available. We are here to help, and together, we can continue to build a healthier, stronger future for all.

Claudia Simpson
Health and Wellness Manager





EVENTS

Fall 2024 has been packed with continued planning and organizing various events, our biggest being the annual AGMs and ACFN Christmas Parties ensuring smooth operations and member engagement throughout! A lot of time was spent behind the scenes coordinating logistics and managing detailed communications with the ACFN Team and the ACFN members. Several events were successfully executed, and offering support in key areas, and all inter-departmental events ran smoothly, maintaining strong member participation. Despite the busy schedule, the focus remained on creating connection and keeping members engaged and motivated. It has been a productive season filled with hard work and collaboration. We always look forward to more fun filled events and look forward to a new year with more participation from Members.

This is just a snapshot of what our team was up to this fall:

ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS VISIT TO FORT CHIPEWYAN

- Assisted with logistics including meet & greet and ACFN's Meeting with the Minister at CVCC
- Assisted with Dinner with the community & leaders and the Minister

ACFN GOLF PASSES

- ACFN purchased 100 golf passes at Vista Ridge Golf in Fort McMurray
- Passes included a round of golf, paid green fees and golf cart at a family friendly course

ACFN TRAVEL CLUB

- In the early stages of developing a club to start club in the new year
- Ideas for places of travel; Europe, Japan, New Zealand, Iceland
- Target travel date Spring/Fall 2026

ACFN CARNIVAL PASSES

- ACFN Purchased 100 Ride all day Passes for ACFN Members in Fort Smith
- This is the first time the Carnival has had a location in Fort Smith

ACFN SHOP GRAND OPENING

- Assisted with the planning and logistics for the event
- Ensured all decorations, food, cupcakes, t shirts were coordinated to help with a smooth opening for the Housing Staff

ACFN VIRTUAL FALL FAMILY CHALLENGE

- Started the 6-week Virtual Challenges
- Grand Prize: all weekly challenges completed is a trip for 4 on VIA Rail from Edmonton to Vancouver



ORANGE T-SHIRTS FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION DAY

- Assisted with organizing all sizes, sending to Fort Chipewyan before the Fort Chip Walk on the 27th CIBC Run for the Cure – TEAM ACFN
- Registered a Team for the CIBC Run for the Cure, invited all staff and open to ACFN Members to join the team
- Team raised \$5896.75 with our biggest donation coming from ACFN Member Melanie Antoine and her company APE

OILERS INDIGENOUS CELEBRATION NIGHT

- 2 tickets purchased for Oilers vs Vegas
- Indigenous Celebration Night celebrating Oilers will be recognizing and celebrating the culture, history, leadership and talent of Indigenous Peoples and communities

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- Planning and logistics for AGM for all locations Fort Chipewyan, Fort Smith, Fort McMurray, Edmonton
- New AGM Format featuring trade-show style displays so Members could engage with staff and learn more about every department

OILERS TICKETS GIVEAWAY

- Tickets given away to Members via online registration Tickets for Festival of Trees; Mommy-Son/ Daddy-Daughter Ball Tickets
- 8 tickets donated to ACFN Members from APE Maintenance, owner being an ACFN Member who are a main sponsor to this event, kindly donated to us to share with Members to attend with their kids

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH

- Efforts were made to support other departments in organizing and executing events, ensuring a seamless integration with other departments such as social, helping to align and have members participation as the whole month of November being Family Violence Prevention Month
- ACFN offices in Fort McMurray & Fort Chipewyan participated by wearing purple in support

EVENTS/YOUTH TEAM WORKING WITH YEL

- Working to align with YEL to create more monthly events for members in Fort Chipewyan

ACFN CHRISTMAS PARTIES

- Planning logistics for each location including, venue, food, decorations, transportation, travel, event, presents, door prizes SuperBowl Tickets
- Give away of 2 tickets to experience Super Bowl in New Orleans, accommodations, flights, tickets to the game

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CONTEST

- Virtual contest with categories such as decorated Christmas trees, decorated homes and outdoor Christmas lights

STAFF CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WEEK

- Staff spirit week is a fun and engaging event to foster camaraderie, boost morale, and promote positive working environments

MONTHLY GROCERY GIFT CARDS

- Monthly grocery card giveaway open to all ACFN Members over the age of 18
- 4 winners by wheel of names, each month will win a Grocery Gift card for \$250

Michelle Caroll
Manager of Events



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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kristina.deranger@acfn.com | 780.742.7163