



ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION

K'AI TAILÉ



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF & COUNCIL

Edlanete!

As the winter months came to an end, we welcomed the return of spring with gratitude and optimism. The changing season reminded us of renewal and growth, both for the land and for our Nation.

This spring marked many milestones for ACFN. The Addition to Reserve of the Acden lot in Fort McMurray was completed, an achievement many years in the making. We also continued the important work toward the Treaty Annuities Settlement process, with surveys, engagement sessions, and information packages shared widely. We were grateful for the many Members who took part in these historic conversations and provided valuable guidance for our Nation's future.

Our emergency response team carefully monitored the seasonal changes, particularly in relation to flooding and wildfires. While the season passed without major emergencies, we remained prepared to act quickly should there have been any risk to our people or land.

The Skills, Employment and Training Committee also launched its series of engagements, beginning in Calgary and Edmonton. These sessions gave Members a chance to share their needs, learn about programs, and contribute ideas for supporting education, training, and employment success.

We also gathered for community celebrations, including spring activities and programs, and began preparing for Treaty Days in June. These opportunities to come together as a Nation reminded us of the strength and connection we share.



Finally, we extended our congratulations to all students as they completed another academic year. Your commitment to your studies reflects the bright future ahead for our Nation. As we now move further into the year, we remain grateful for the participation, resilience, and unity of our Members. Together, we honoured the season of spring and look forward to continuing our journey in strength and community.

Marsi cho,

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

CEO UPDATE

Edlanet'e!

As spring unfolded across the Nation, it was a season of progress, reflection, and connection.

Our team marked important milestones, including the completion of the Addition to Reserve for the Acden lot in Fort McMurray and continued steps in the Treaty Annuities Settlement process, where strong Member participation showed the importance of this work.

Our team also remained focused on readiness and resilience, carefully monitoring flooding and wildfire risks, while also launching Skills, Employment and Training engagements in Calgary and Edmonton to support Members living away from home.

In lands and resources, we advanced Indigenous-led initiatives like the Buffalo–Caribou Monitoring Program and strengthened protections for the McLellan Lake Wetland Complex. At the same time, the launch of ACFN's *Four Pillars: 5-Year Strategic Plan for Culture, Heritage, Language, and Wellness* reflected our commitment to cultural preservation and community well-being.



Across every initiative, what stood out most was collaboration and care. On behalf of our administration team, I thank all Members for your ongoing engagement and trust. Together, we are building a strong future for generations to come.

Marsi cho,

Maggie Farrington
ACFN Chief Executive Officer

ATC GOLF TOURNAMENT RECAP

We were proud to have two ACFN teams participate in this year's ATC Golf Tournament! Team 1 competed for the coveted Chiefs Cup, while both teams represented ACFN with pride and sportsmanship.

ACFN Team 1 – Chiefs Cup Competitors (All ACFN Members):

1. Parker Flett – ACFN Youth
2. Curtis Russell
3. Jason Cyprien
4. David Bruno

ACFN Team 2:

1. Hilary Flett
2. Rachel Marcel
3. Michelle Carroll
4. Ralph Gould

Team 2 made quite the impression, being voted Best Dressed by the other teams. Congratulations also to Rachel Marcel, who won Ladies Longest Putt!

Team 1 played an excellent round, finishing 8 under par (-8) in their quest for the Chiefs Cup.

It was a beautiful, hot day with temperatures reaching +33°C, but ATC did a fantastic job organizing the tournament and ensuring everyone stayed cool and well taken care of.



COO UPDATE

Edlanet'é,

The first few months of 2025 have been full of momentum in Fort Chipewyan, and I'm proud of the meaningful progress our teams have made across operations, governance, housing, wellness, and community engagement. It's been a busy and rewarding start to the year, with many important developments underway. As Chief of Operations, my priority remains with ensuring that ACFN programs and services continue to run efficiently and meet the evolving needs of our members.

In a landmark step toward justice and healing, ACFN joined 324 other First Nations in the Gottfriedson class action, seeking redress for the cultural, linguistic, and wellness harms experienced by day scholars of Indian Residential Schools. This effort led to a \$2.8 billion settlement in January 2023 and the creation of the Indigenous-governed Four Pillars Trust to support community-led healing and revitalization.

Building on this momentum, ACFN has developed and launched its own Four Pillars: 5-Year Strategic Plan for Culture, Heritage, Language, and Wellness. This comprehensive plan reflects our Nation's values and aspirations. We look forward to the positive impact it will have on the cultural and holistic well-being of our members.

What stands out most to me is the spirit of collaboration across departments and the care that guides every action. As we move into the next season, I'm grateful for all we've accomplished and optimistic about what's ahead.



Every step we take is rooted in service to our members and in building strong programs, responsive systems, and a vibrant, connected Nation.

Reminders:

If you have recently completed a post-secondary education program or earned your high school diploma, ACFN offers a Program Completion Incentive. For more information, please contact education@acfn.com.

If you have turned 21 and are eligible for the Agriculture Benefits Per Capita Distribution, please email info@acfn.com for more information on how to access these funds. Marsi cho to all who continue to contribute to the strength of our community.

Michelle Voyageur
Chief of Operations



HOUSING DEPARTMENT UPDATE



The start of 2025 has been both busy and productive for our Housing team. We've completed major renovations, rolled out grant programs, and laid the groundwork for new construction across the Nation. Whether it's keeping homes warm and safe or helping members on the path to homeownership, we're continuing to focus on care, accountability, and meeting the needs of our community.

In February, we delivered three new mobile homes! One is already in place, and we're continuing work on the pads needed for final setup of the others. We also completed significant renovations at several other housing locations.

We issued several grants under our Home Improvement Program (HIP) and Home Ownership Program (HOP). On the federal side, we secured one RRAP grant through, which was the only Alberta allocation this cycle. We've submitted an Expression of Interest for more RRAPs in 2025–26 and are waiting to hear about additional funding for mold remediation.

We're making steady progress on maintenance. Hot water tank servicing is 80% complete, and we'll be finishing that soon. We've also been replacing smoke and CO2 detectors, upgrading to LED lights, and installing motion lights to improve safety. Our broader 2024–25 maintenance plan includes servicing furnaces and HRVs, chimney and duct cleaning, and weatherproofing homes to prepare for seasonal changes.

We continue to uphold community housing standards by addressing issues such as noise complaints, illegal activity, and unauthorized occupancy. We've issued warnings and letters where needed to maintain the integrity and respect of our housing program.

Even with the ongoing challenges around funding and staffing, we're proud of the momentum we've built so far this year. From delivering new homes to tackling backlogs and supporting members through every stage of housing, we remain focused on creating safe, sustainable, and dignified living spaces for our Nation.

Marsi Cho,
Linda Berry
Housing Director



THE YOUTH ELDERS LODGE

ACFN continues to celebrate the strength and spirit of its Youth & Elders Lodge (YEL), where culture, care, and connection guide every gathering and initiative. From the heart of the community, the YEL team has worked tirelessly to bring generations together, fostering intergenerational connection through traditional activities, language preservation, and joyful moments of shared experience.

Throughout the winter and spring, Elders remained at the centre of community programming. A January celebration hosted by DLRM featured bingo, traditional food, and thoughtful gifts from partners, while monthly Elders Afternoon Bingos offered laughter, snacks, and social time for up to 25 participants per session. Food security continued to be a priority, with monthly Elders Hampers delivered to those 65 and over. In April, these deliveries were replaced by Easter Hampers provided to 131 households, filled with meats, vegetables, and supplies donated by Kai Taile. Another round of hampers, in partnership with Nunee, was scheduled for mid-May delivery to 30 Elders.

Cultural food harvesting remained a powerful expression of sovereignty and tradition. In January, seven harvesters brought in and distributed 296 whitefish to more than 130 households. A spring harvest was scheduled for May 8–12, and a poster went out inviting youth, Elders, and community members to join together on the land to learn and practice traditional harvesting skills.

ACFN's commitment to language and cultural preservation remained strong. YEL supported Dene language efforts by editing and preparing Dorothy Voyageur's Dene Dictionary manuscript. Lilly Marcel joined a delegation to Stoney Rapids, Black Lake, and Fond-du-Lac, Saskatchewan, to build connections and engage with fluent Dene speakers. Planning also began for Project N22, a summer gathering of Elders and youth at Lake Athabasca, with DLRM supporting site scouting and coordination.



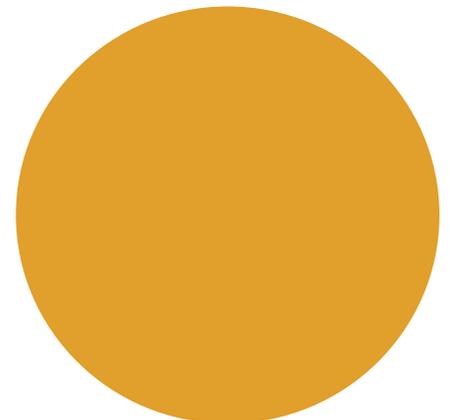
The spring season was filled with upcoming events focused on culture and care. The Spring Harvest and Mother's Day Gathering offered hands-on experiences and heartfelt celebration. Monthly Elder hampers and bingo sessions continued to provide comfort and connection, while the beloved Friday Cookouts at YEL - featuring fire tea, bannock, and traditional food - offered an ongoing chance for members to gather and share stories, weather permitting.

In exciting news, display cases were assembled at CVCC to showcase traditional and historic artifacts, and a call-out posted inviting Members to contribute treasured items for display.

As spring blossoms across the Nation, the Youth & Elders Lodge continues to embody the values of unity, respect, and service that define ACFN. Whether cooking over an open fire, speaking Dene words passed down for generations, or sharing a laugh at bingo, the YEL team is planting seeds of connection that will grow for years to come.

Nezo. It is good!

Lilly Marcel
YEL Manager





EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management has been full steam ahead this year, and I'm proud to share some of the incredible progress we've made to keep our Nation safe and prepared. From securing major grants to investing in training and equipment, the past few months have been focused on building real capacity for emergency response and community resilience.

Thanks to several successful funding applications, our department is now better equipped than ever. An ISC grant allowed us to purchase 10 new fire pumps and a 16-foot enclosed trailer to house and transport critical gear. With a grant from the Canadian Red Cross, we launched a fire smarting program in May, hiring four ACFN members to clear brush and reduce wildfire risk around Fort Chipewyan. That work is continuing thanks to funding through Alberta FireSmart and CRC. And through a separate Red Cross proposal, we were able to purchase emergency-use drones with high-tech camera capabilities - our first drone arrived in April.

We now have two top-tier drones available to support emergency response, search and rescue, and community safety. To use them legally, operators need certification through Transport Canada so both Paul Cyprien and I completed the required drone training course and passed the online exam in Edmonton. We're licensed and ready to fly!

Equipment is just one part of the equation - training and people are just as important. Over the past quarter, 15 employees earned their ICS I-200 certification in Fort McMurray, and I completed the ICS I-300 course in Edmonton in March. I also had the opportunity to attend the Treaty 8 Emergency Management meeting, where First Nations are continuing to push back on top-down federal emergency planning and advocate for more community-led approaches.

From new tools and boots on the ground to training, certifications, and strategy, Emergency Management at ACFN is stronger than ever. I'm incredibly proud of our team and the work we're doing and I'm looking forward to building even more capacity as we prepare for whatever future seasons may bring.

Sincerely,

Tim Flett
Emergency Management Lead, ACFN



NEW TO THE TEAM



Jade Davies
Social Support Clerk, ACFN

Jade joined ACFN as the Social Support Clerk on February 24, 2025. Born and raised in Fort McMurray, Jade holds fond memories of visiting Fort Chipewyan and spending time

with her grandmother Ruth during her childhood. She shares, *“I’m here to learn, grow, and absorb as much knowledge as possible, with the ultimate goal of becoming a Social Worker.”*

With over 10 years of experience in the retail sector—progressing from part-time cashier to manager—Jade is now eager to take on a role that allows her to contribute more directly to the community. She is excited to be part of the ACFN team and looks forward to connecting with community members and making a meaningful impact. Congratulations and welcome to TEAM ACFN, Jade! We’re excited to work alongside you.



Frank Tuccaro
Electrician/Maintenance Lead - ACFN

Frank joined the Housing Department as the new Electrician/Maintenance Lead on February 12, 2025. He has held a Journeyman Electrician Certificate since 2017; and brings

over 14 years of experience to the role. A proud member of the Mikisew Cree First Nation, Frank values honesty and respect in both his work and community. Welcome to the TEAM, Frank.



Mattea Flett
ISET Coordinator - ACFN

Mattea was transferred to her new role as Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Coordinator on June 6, 2025.. Mattea holds a Grade 12 Diploma, and is an ACFN member.

Mattea enjoys spending time with family and friends.. Congratulations Mattea!

Ralph Gould



Health and Safety Advisor - ACFN

Congratulations to Ralph Gould, who was appointed on March 18, 2025, as the Health and Safety Advisor, a newly created role in the Human Resources Department. Ralph holds a Journeyman Carpentry Certificate and is responsible to ensure a

safe working environment by implementing and maintaining health and safety programs to providing workplace safety-related training and ensuring compliance with occupational health and safety regulations. A proud member of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, Ralph enjoys hunting in his spare time and is known to have a sweet tooth!



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.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Greetings,

Over the first few months of 2025, we have remained deeply committed to supporting the physical, emotional, and cultural well-being of our members. This work has taken many forms—from healing circles and research initiatives to direct support for individuals and families navigating crisis, care, and connection.

Cultural healing continues to be at the heart of our approach. Under the *Healing Fort Chip* banner, weekly healing circles and workshops have been ongoing through the Holy Angels Truth (HATS) Project. We have submitted a funding extension request to continue this vital work through September. Our new *Estates Awareness Program* has also launched, offering one-on-one sessions, informative posters, and upcoming workshops to guide members through wills, guardianship, and long-term planning.

One of our key priorities this year is developing peer-led support systems. In partnership with ATC and CMHA, we are working to establish peer support teams in Fort Chipewyan. We are also hosting virtual addiction and recovery forums that incorporate cultural storytelling, shared experience, and collective healing. Our partnership with the Alzheimer Society has expanded to provide brain health education specifically tailored for our community.

For us, health is not limited to clinical treatment or emergency response. It is about building a compassionate, culturally grounded system of care that grows stronger through every conversation, connection, and act of service. Through our efforts, we remain guided by our values and our sacred responsibility to care for one another—with trust, dignity, and love.

Claudia Simpson
Health and Wellness Manager



Darnell Bruno
Labourer, ACFN

We're pleased to welcome Darnell to the Housing Department team! He was declared the successful candidate and commenced his new role as Labourer on January

6, 2025. Darnell is a proud ACFN member and a 2024 graduate of Fort Chipewyan Community High School, where he earned his Grade 12 diploma. He previously worked with the Housing Department as a summer student and is excited to return in a full-time capacity serving members in his new role. Congratulations Darnell!



Drayden Bruno
Labourer, ACFN

Please join us in welcoming Drayden to the Housing Department team! He was also declared a successful candidate and began his new role as a Labourer on January 6, 2025.

A proud ACFN member and active traditional land-user, Drayden has participated in the ACFN traditional harvest since 2013. He has completed Grade 10, and holds certifications including a Firearms Course, an Alberta Trappers Association course, and a Boating Licence. Congratulations, Drayden! We wish you great success in your new role and look forward to the contributions you'll bring to the team.

ACFN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The Social Development team has remained deeply committed to supporting members with compassion, professionalism, and cultural understanding. From income support and employment readiness to elder care and family services, the department continues to provide essential services that respond to the needs of the community.

Under the leadership of Pauline White, the Nation's Social Assistance program offered critical supports over the past two months.. Three members were assisted in securing safety tickets through Employment, Training, and Transition Supports (ETTS) funding, while the day labour program provided temporary employment to one member for three weeks, funded through Social Development's training budget. The department continues to collaborate closely with ISETS and the Education Department to help members prepare for the labour market, including offering computer access for job readiness.

The Social Work and Development team continued to provide a wide range of support to children, families, and Elders in the community. This included intervention and



prevention services, help with legal and adoption matters, and assistance for youth transitioning out of care. A family of a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman (MMIW) was connected to therapeutic resources, and Elders received support with taxes and Service Canada paperwork. Members facing health challenges—including brain injuries, addiction, or recent hospital discharges—were also guided through care and recovery services. The team is working toward a formal partnership with Pastew Detox Centre, while referrals to treatment centres such as Mark Amy and Bonnyville remain ongoing.

Several challenges and opportunities remain. Access to Jordan's Principle is still limited for off-reserve members, and ACFN continues to advocate for equitable access.

The Social Development team continues to embody ACFN's values of service, connection, and strength—responding with care whether supporting a child in crisis, an elder in need of groceries, or a community member working to gain employment. These programs reflect the Nation's deep commitment to building a future rooted in dignity, support, and cultural integrity.

Lori Stevens
Social Worker and Development Manager





ACFN INTRODUCES NEW MOBILE APP

We are excited to announce the launch of a new mobile app for ACFN Members!

ACFN has worked with Hawk Solutions, which was created by Nautsa mawt Tribal Council, a non-profit society supporting ten Coast Salish Nations, and a technology provider specializing in secure, customized solutions, to customize and app for ACFN Members. *This app has been designed by First Nations for First Nations!*

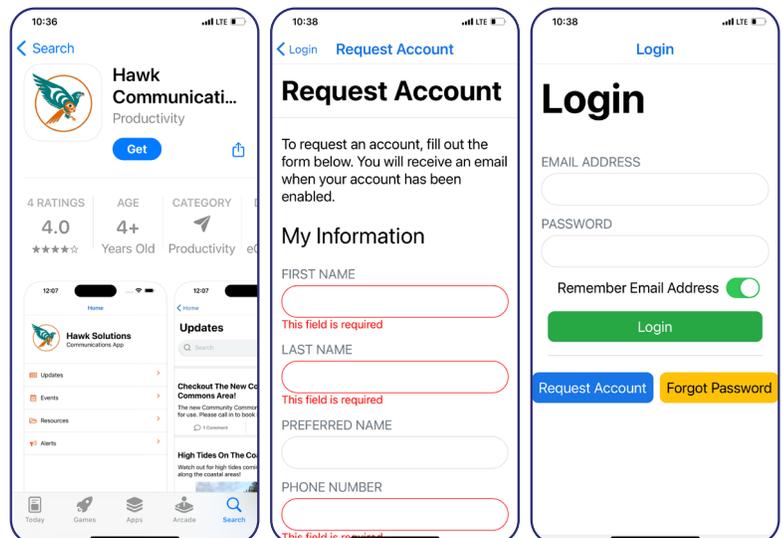


The new app provides easy access to information on resources, events, updates and alerts for Members, as well as an emergency management function that can be quickly deployed in emergency situations.

Below you will find the steps to download the app and connect with ACFN in an entirely new way!

HOW TO INSTALL ACFN MOBILE APP

1. Install the Hawk Communications app from your **Google Play Store (Android)** or **App Store (Apple)**.
2. Launch the app and choose your permission settings. You will then be directed to the login page. Click the **Request Account** button.
3. You will be directed to a page to fill out your basic personal information. Fill out all required fields and under **My Account Request** select "**Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation**". Click **Submit**.
4. After your account request has been approved by the admin, you will receive an email notification that your account has been approved. Click the link in the email to activate your account. Make sure to check your spam and junk folders for an email from "**noreply@einsight.net**"
5. Start exploring the app!



Save the Date!

ACFN DLRM

Career Fair

**November 26th, 2025
11am - 5pm**

**Mamawi
Community Hall,
Fort Chipewyan**

***Food,
Door Prizes
and Speakers Panels***





HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

The ACFN and DLRM Human Resources team continued to support the Nation's growth in Spring 2025 through strategic hiring, career development, and employee wellness. This work reflects the Nation's ongoing investment in its most valuable resource - its people.

As of May 2025, ACFN and DLRM employed a total of 72 employees. Of these, 60% were ACFN members and 79% identified as Indigenous, demonstrating a strong commitment to building careers from within the Nation and supporting long-term employment opportunities for members.

Key progress was made in recruitment and staffing. Earlier this year, all employees on the Housing team were successfully transitioned from temporary status to permanent roles, ensuring greater stability and continuity in this critical area of job security.

The summer student program was another highlight, with ten positions filled and funding for the program secured through Indigenous Services Canada and Employment and Canada Summer Jobs via Social Development Canada.

ACFN remained committed to ongoing training and professional development. Upcoming training includes Dene Cultural Awareness, Trauma and Grief Support, and Customer Service. Staff in both Fort Chipewyan and Fort McMurray, completed De-escalation (Verbal Judo), and First Aid training. All staff will also be scheduled to complete mandatory training on harassment and violence prevention.

The Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) Committee maintained monthly activities focused on inspections, reporting, and ongoing safety improvements. Ralph Gould, the new Health and Safety Advisor, led efforts on policy planning and internal training to strengthen workplace wellbeing.

From summer students to senior leaders, every member of the ACFN team plays a part in realizing the Nation's vision for a thriving self-determined future. With renewed attention to cultural values, recognition, safety, and strategic growth, the Human Resources team is helping build a workplace that reflects the best of the Nation—a place where community and purpose come together.

R. Shirley Cardinal
Human Resources Director

ACFN EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Hello ACFN members,

The Nation continues to support members in building strong futures through the work of the Employment and Training Department. Focused on career development, training access, and direct support, the Nation is helping members gain the tools, confidence, and opportunities they need to succeed in today's workforce.

Through one-on-one coaching, members receive assistance with resumes, cover letters, job applications, and safety tickets. Living allowances are provided to eligible students enrolled in training, and ongoing collaboration with the Social Development and Education teams ensures wraparound support. The Nation also continues to build relationships with industry partners and participates in career events to connect members with opportunities and explore potential job placements.

Over the spring months, Members have been supported in completing a range of training and certification programs, including auto service technician, early learning and child care, addictions and community services work, Class 5 driver training, and other specialized courses such as eyelash extension and barbering. Support for safety tickets and PPE remains available as needed.

Youth programming is also a key area of focus. Planning is underway to prepare youth for summer employment, with support in place for resume development and access to training. Employment and Training continues to work closely with youth and HR teams to ensure summer students are well-prepared and supported throughout their placements.



To better serve off-reserve members, the Nation launched Pop-Up Hubs to deliver employment and education services in locations such as Calgary, with further outreach planned. These hubs provide tailored, in-person support for members living in urban areas.

Policy updates are also underway to improve accountability and clarity for funded students. This includes the introduction of standardized check-in protocols, grading requirements, and procedures for academic warnings or funding suspension. New templates are being developed to streamline support letters and verification processes.

From resume writing and job search help to tuition support and certification training, the Employment and Training Department continues to open doors for ACFN members of all ages. The Nation remains committed to walking alongside each member as they pursue meaningful careers, skill-building opportunities, and long-term success.

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

EDUCATION UPDATE

This spring has been a busy and inspiring time in the ACFN Education Department. As the Education Coordinator, I've had the honour of supporting nearly 60 incredible students as they pursue post-secondary education across the country. From funding requests to academic check-ins, every day brings a reminder of just how driven and resilient our students are.

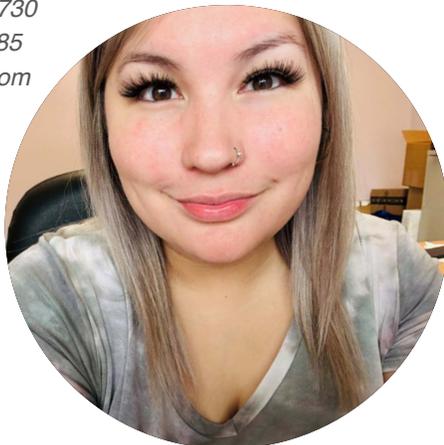
As of April 2025, we're directly supporting 44 ACFN students through the Nation's Education Department, while another 14 receive top-up support through ATC.

We've also had great reasons to celebrate, like one of our students receiving a Post-Secondary Completion Incentive recently, and I couldn't be prouder. It's rewarding to recognize hard work, and I'm excited to expand that recognition across all programs in the future.

I am proud to be participating in the SET – Skills, Education and Training – hubs being held in 2025. In June and July our team will be in Calgary and Edmonton, with hubs coming soon to other locations so we can serve our Members in their own communities.

Every student on our list is more than a number - they're future nurses, teachers, tradespeople, lawyers, and leaders. My goal is to walk alongside each of them with care, accountability, and deep pride in the paths they're forging. I'm excited about what's ahead, and I'll continue doing everything I can to make sure they feel supported every step of the way.

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



CAPITAL PROJECTS

It's been a busy and productive start to 2025 for our Facilities and Project Management team as we continue working behind the scenes to make sure the Nation's spaces are safe, functional, and ready to serve both our members and our staff.

One of the highlights early this year was the completion and occupancy of two new housing units at 104 MacKenzie Avenue. Both tenants have officially moved in, and we're now in the final stages of closing out the permits to receive full occupancy.

As part of the ongoing work with the ACFN Health and Safety Committee, I oversaw and assisted in the resolution of several worksite-related concerns. I also assisted with the coordination of the procurement and delivery of materials for various departments, working closely with McMurray Aviation and Fort Chipewyan logistics to make sure everything arrived where it needed to be.

At the Fort Chipewyan Mechanic Shop, we went with a proposal to swap out one of the lifts. We're also working through the leasing logistics related to Acden's use of the shop space, with a draft lease agreement and operating area floor plan already in place.

Drainage and remediation projects have also taken up a fair share of our attention. These issues tend to worsen in the spring as the snow begins to melt, and work is underway to address them as they arise.

Whether it's resolving safety concerns, managing logistics across multiple active sites, or overseeing large-scale projects, I'm proud to play my part in helping ensure the Nation's facilities serve our Members today—and stand strong for the future.

Ralph Gould
Health and Safety Advisor

STRATEGIC ADVISORY SERVICES

The Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) Strategic Advisory Services team has continued its focused efforts in 2025 to build long-term revenue, strengthen partnerships, and identify bold economic opportunities that will benefit the Nation for generations to come. This work reflects ACFN's commitment to economic sovereignty and sustainable growth through a diverse portfolio of initiatives.

Clean energy continues to be a strong area of leadership. ACFN now holds 50% ownership in Project Mirissa and the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), which has demonstrated strong operations and financial performance.

ACFN is also actively evaluating new clean energy opportunities. We have been invited to explore an additional BESS Project—a solar-plus-storage development—with a 75% cost offset through a SREPs grant.

ACFN has been invited to explore an additional power generation opportunity at no cost. The Canada Infrastructure Bank has expressed interest in funding feasibility work on a large run-of-river hydro initiative near Grande Prairie.



The Nation is nearing the finalization of a new partnership to raise capital for infrastructure projects through ACFN Industry Investments. Legal and tax due diligence is complete, and approval from the Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization (CIRO) is finalized. A national communications strategy is currently being developed and recruitment has begun to staff key positions.

Efforts to support local entrepreneurship are underway in partnership with Community Futures, with a focus on bringing small business development support to Fort Chipewyan.

ACFN continues to chart a bold, strategic course—one that blends long-term sustainability with immediate benefits for members. From clean energy ownership to smart investment diversification and entrepreneurial growth, the Nation is building an economic future that reflects its values, vision, and unwavering determination.

Jason Shulz
E.D. Strategic Advisory Services

HAVE YOU MOVED?

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

membership@acfn.com

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation continues to advance its priorities across multiple critical areas through the work of the Intergovernmental Affairs team. From defending Treaty rights and advocating for environmental protection to supporting emergency response and pursuing justice for Indigenous women and families, the Nation has remained focused, responsive, and grounded in the protection of its lands, people, and future.

Ongoing concerns regarding Big Dock and Big Point have prompted formal action. ACFN has drafted a letter to Minister Anand outlining unresolved issues with the Big Dock working group. If progress is not made, the letter will be sent directly. Risk assessments are in the planning stage with Clear Site Solutions. At Big Point, no unauthorized new builds have occurred. A cabin was completed under an existing agreement, and ACFN leadership and local Métis representatives have agreed to meet to begin discussions under a Memorandum of Understanding.

Work continues to hold governments and corporations accountable for past and ongoing harms. ACFN is anticipating a response from the federal government regarding long-standing environmental concerns and is preparing legal updates on key files. Efforts are also underway to push for stronger accountability measures related to industry impacts, ensuring these issues are not overlooked or delayed.

In the area of healing and recovery, ACFN participated in a land-based healing meeting hosted by MLA Tany Yao. ACFN emphasized that true healing must also involve environmental restoration, calling for addiction supports that are tied to land protection.

The Nation's work in response to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S) has expanded through participation in the new Missing, Murdered, and Exploited Indigenous Persons (MMEIP) Taskforce. Coordinated by ATC and BEHR Consulting, the taskforce was activated on March 3 when an ACFN member was reported missing. ACFN played an



active role in coordinating search efforts, issuing social media alerts, working with RCMP, and offering emotional and spiritual support to the family. The individual was thankfully located within hours.

ACFN is also advocating for legislative changes to improve municipal voting rights for off-reserve members. The Nation is working with the Alberta NDP to push for updates to the Local Authorities Election Act that better reflect Indigenous citizenship and participation in municipal governance.

Whether advocating in courtrooms, coordinating emergency efforts, or engaging with provincial and federal leaders, ACFN's Intergovernmental Affairs team continues to act with urgency, integrity, and resolve. Much of this work happens behind the scenes - but its impact is felt in every step the Nation takes to protect its people, its rights, and its future.

Jay Telegdi
Senior Manager
Intergovernmental Affairs



EVENTS

The first few months of 2025 have been full of meaningful work and momentum. From planning Treaty Days to organizing Red Dress Pin nights, I've been proud to help lead and support programs that connect our members, honour our traditions, and create joyful moments in the community.

Our Easter programming was a highlight - delivering hampers to Elders and families across Fort Chipewyan, hosting a cupcake decorating station at the Community Easter Party, and making sure Elders could participate with kits delivered right to them. Over 300 cupcakes

were shared, and the joy was felt by all. One of the most powerful evenings was the Red Dress Beaded Pin Night, where Elder Beverly Tourangeau led us in crafting pins while sharing heartfelt stories of remembrance and the importance of honouring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

Food security remains a concern for many members, so we've continued with our monthly grocery gift card draws. We're making sure the process stays fair, supportive, and accountable.

We also started Treaty Days planning early this year. Our team worked closely on booking vendors, organizing logistics, and building out cultural programming. We shared the draft schedule and thanks to the feedback we received



from the community, we made some great additions, especially when it came to family activities, traditional food, and cultural showcases. With strategic guidance from Rosanna Cyprien, we ensured that Treaty Days reflected the values of our Nation and the vision of our Four Pillars approach.

One of the most exciting developments has been integrating the Events team with the Youth and Elders Lodge and Youth Services. After Easter, we officially moved into our shared space at YEL. It was a big step toward building a more unified, intergenerational approach to our programming. We now operate under a shared Four Pillars Work Plan and budget, which has made a big difference in how we collaborate, align culturally, and deliver programming.

To support even more cultural programming, we submitted several Kai Taile Trust applications—ranging from youth leadership and wellness to participation in the ATC Cultural Gathering and the 2025 Lac St. Anne Pilgrimage. We've also been gathering feedback from M embers, both in-person and online, to understand their priorities around culture, heritage, language, and wellness.

As I look ahead to Treaty Days and beyond, I'm excited about what's taking shape. From feasts and beading nights to stronger operational systems and a truly collaborative spirit, our work continues to be rooted in connection—with each other, with our culture, and with our shared purpose.

Michelle Carroll
Events Manager

YOUTH UPDATE

The Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Youth Program has continued to thrive through the winter and spring of 2025, offering youth meaningful experiences rooted in culture, creativity, and community. The program has focused on creating opportunities that help young people learn, lead, and grow.

One of the standout moments this year was the Jasper Ski Trip in January. Youth participants enjoyed the thrill of skiing, explored the stars at the Jasper Planetarium, and shared memorable time together in the mountains. We managed all logistics - from travel and waivers to rentals and chaperones - and were especially grateful for the Events Team's support.

Local recreational programming also created important moments for connection and celebration. The figure skating program wrapped up in early April, with each participant receiving gifts from ACFN and Auntie Within Reach, and a pizza and wings party provided by the RMWB. In April, a Community Volleyball Tournament brought together four teams, with our team supporting the event as both referee and scorekeeper.

Creative and collaborative programs continued to flourish. Youth participated in a Colour Me Mine ceramic workshop that offered a warm, hands-on experience complete with food and chili. Monthly movie nights remained a popular staple, with films such as Wild Robot and Hop enjoyed through partnerships with YMCA and RMWB. At the Helping Hands Wellness Fair, youth contributed a display highlighting the health benefits of physical activity, and ACFN provided lawn games to encourage active fun at the event.

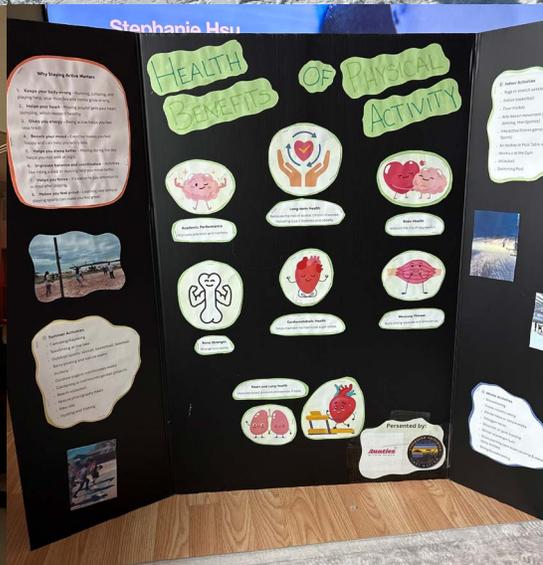
Cultural and wellness initiatives remained a strong focus. Planning was well underway for a Moon Time Course to support ACFN teen girls in Fort McMurray, with venue and flights booked for May 2, and support provided by Michelle Carroll. In addition, the program explored trauma-informed training for youth workers through a meeting with the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services (AASAS), with the goal of bringing this resource to Fort Chipewyan. Youth were also invited to participate in the Red Dress Walk by creating handmade posters in honour of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, with art supplies provided and an invitation extended to Chief and Council to attend.

The spirit of intergenerational care remained central to youth programming. We supported Elders Bingo as a caller and helped distribute Easter hampers to ACFN households. Leftover cupcakes from the Easter Community Party were delivered to the Elders Care Home, an act that captured the warmth and thoughtfulness of the youth's involvement.

The program also created space for developing life skills. In partnership with the YMCA, our team led a baking session where young women learned to make chocolate chip cookies and clean up afterward. Youth also participated in a job fair prep session where they were introduced to the basics of event planning, including how to build mock work plans and sign up volunteers.

As the season moves forward, the ACFN Youth Program continues to shape experiences that go far beyond recreation. Through movie nights, cultural teachings, skill-building, and community leadership, the Nation is creating pathways for young people to build confidence, celebrate identity, and prepare for the future with strength and purpose.

Rachel Marcel



MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR OF DLRM



Edganate’

Greetings ACFN! I have an important announcement for you. I’ve been serving our First Nation for over 20 years. We have worked hard to build our Nation and always looked after the protection of our Treaty and Aboriginal Rights. DLRM will continue to do this and we will continue to involve you the best way we can. Your voice matters in our work. Always ask questions about the files and always reach out to DLRM regarding your lands and waters.

I have made a difficult but important decision that will benefit ACFN. I have decided to pursue law studies. I have been accepted into the University of Alberta Law Program. This is a three-year degree followed by one year of articling with a law firm. My plan is to return serving ACFN in a manner that leads our current and future legal claims. My last day of serving ACFN is August 1, 2025. I will miss the community, my colleagues and most importantly our beautiful North.

Spring 2025 has been a time of purpose, growth, and strong connections - both within our Nation and beyond. At the Dene Lands and Resource Management, everything we do is rooted in our responsibility to protect ACFN’s land, culture, and people. Whether we’re navigating complex regulatory processes or gathering stories from the land, our focus remains clear: these lands and waters are not just resources - they are who we are.

We’ve also continued to hold industry accountable. We submitted a formal Statement of Concern regarding Syncrude’s proposed Aurora North expansion and are pushing for increased consultation funding to ensure our people are properly represented. We’re keeping a close eye on CNRL’s regulatory activities and preparing to issue a formal Notice of Dispute. After more than two decades of delay, ACFN has formally approved the Terms of Reference for the McLellan Lake Wetland Complex - something that should have happened long ago - to strengthen our role in protecting this important ecosystem.

One of the most powerful moments this quarter was our Buffalo - Caribou camp near Ronald Lake. Despite the bitter cold, we gathered on the land with scientists to observe the health of the herds and share Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Our Guardian crew continued patrols and monitoring across places like Brander Lake and N22, ensuring these sacred spaces remain protected.

Within the community, important conversations continue. We hosted an emergency Elders Council meeting focused on the annuity file, and our open houses with industry continue to give Members a space to learn, ask questions, and raise concerns. We’re also planning education and employment hubs in Calgary and Edmonton this spring so that members living off-reserve can stay connected and supported.

We’ve also called for members, especially youth to join the Ni Cho Tu Kelni (Land and Water Keepers group and our Climate Change Working Group. These voices are essential as we shape what the future looks like for our Nation.

As we move forward in 2025, the path ahead is both challenging and full of opportunity. From global advocacy to local monitoring and community engagement, I’m proud of the work we’re doing - and even prouder of the strength and knowledge our Nation continues to bring to every table. Together, we’ll keep protecting the land, asserting our rights, and walking forward for the generations still to come.

Masi cho,

Lisa Tsessaze
Executive Director
ACFN DLRM



DLRM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Spring 2025 has been a season of meaningful connection and forward momentum for the Community Engagement team at the DLRM. Rooted in relationships, our work continues to reflect a deep commitment to listening, learning, and leading alongside community members.

In March, the Elders Advisory Council gathered with DLRM and Chief and Council for a focused meeting on the Council's evolving role. Conversations centred around their vision, governance, strategic planning, and budget needs. Chief and Council also presented on the annuity payments file, marking an important step toward greater collaboration and transparency. The following day, the Elders Quarterly Meeting welcomed a broader group of Elders to hear updates on DLRM's research and initiatives. These gatherings remain central to mutual learning and respect.

In February, the Syncrude Reclamation Engagement Focus Group resumed its work with a two-day tour exploring topics such as water, soil, berries, vegetation, and wildlife habitats in reclaimed areas. The group also participated in a painting activity, using creativity to express their visions for future reclamation. The next tour is tentatively planned for June 10–11.

Cultural celebration was also in full swing at a January gathering held at the CVCC. With the theme "Celebrating Indigenous Harvesting," Elders welcomed the new year with music, food, and laughter - a joyful reminder of the strength found in tradition and community.

Looking ahead, preparations for the 2025 Dene Days are well underway and we are excited to welcome everyone to this much-anticipated annual event.

From Elder meetings and reclamation tours to cultural celebrations and major event planning, the work of the Community Engagement team continues to be shaped by the voices and presence of the Nation. Every initiative reflects a shared commitment to walk forward together - grounded in culture, guided by connection.

INDUSTRY RELATIONS

As stewards of the land and protectors of the Nation's rights, ACFN/DLRM continues to assert its voice across the regulatory, environmental, and industrial landscape. The work in 2025 has been marked by bold advocacy, strategic legal action, and a commitment to holding industry and government accountable.

The ongoing relationship with industry continues to be a test of ACFN's strength and resolve. We are working diligently to ensure that our Nation is heard and respected, and through our advocacy we believe we will achieve the progress needed to attain this goal.

ACFN's regulatory work continues to expand beyond Alberta. In March, the team met with BC Hydro to discuss the downstream impacts of hydro operations and the role of community-based monitoring. DLRM is preparing to submit supporting scientific data and engage other Indigenous communities to strengthen regional efforts. Progress is also being made on the Pathways Alliance consultation agreement and TLU sharing deal, which are now moving through legal review. These agreements promise future collaboration grounded in mutual respect.

The uranium file continues to grow in both scope and importance. The Community Working Group, established through the CNSC/ACFN Terms of Reference, held its latest meeting in March and will reconvene in June. The Province of Saskatchewan remains engaged with ACFN on several exploration projects, and an Indigenous-informed exploration protocol has been finalized. ACFN leadership continues to provide oversight and guidance in negotiations.

Two major Nation-led initiatives are reinforcing ACFN's self-determination in regulatory spaces. The Unforeseen Events Protocol, developed to guide responses to both planned and unexpected incidents, has been approved by leadership and is entering the training phase for DLRM staff. A new Regulatory Procedure Manual is also in development, which will formalize the processes and principles ACFN uses to uphold Dene laws, Treaty rights, and traditional uses. This will provide a strong foundation for future enforcement, negotiations, and education.

Every hearing, meeting, and regulatory submission represents more than just paperwork - they are acts of resistance, responsibility, and renewal. ACFN's regulatory work is about asserting sovereignty, protecting the land, and securing a future that honours the past while building strength for the generations still to come. The Nation continues to stand firm in its purpose and united in its principles.

LANDS AND RIGHTS

From the windswept snow of the muskrat camp to critical steps in land governance, DLRM's Rights and Lands team spent the spring of 2025 hard at work ensuring that the Nation's lands, waters, and way of life remain protected and thriving. This spring update reflects the strength of that work - on the ground, in the community, and at the planning table.

The Community-Based Monitoring team launched into the new year with determination, kicking off fieldwork in January and continuing through March. Guardians successfully completed water, snow, ice, and muskrat sampling despite deep snow, bitter cold, and the usual northern logistics. Their efforts not only supported essential monitoring but also helped lead the annual Nipiy Tu Knowledge Forum in Fort Chipewyan. Guardians also took part in the muskrat camp, which reported lower counts this year due to environmental conditions, but reinforced the continued importance of traditional observation and seasonal knowledge. A videographer joined both the Ronald Lake Bison Herd and Caribou winter camps to document the integration of Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science in action, with a short video expected to be released later this spring.

The wellbeing of the Ronald Lake Bison Herd remains a top priority. ACFN worked closely with Parks Canada this winter to keep the herd safely separated from the Delta bison using respectful deterrents and helicopter surveillance. At the same time, work continues on the Indigenous Caribou Stewardship Plan. Despite ongoing delays in engagement from industry, finalizing restoration standards, protocols, and planning documents remains a key priority for the year.

In the area of governance, ACFN continues to advance the development of its Land Code. Regular committee meetings and engagement sessions in Fort Chipewyan have created space for dialogue and visioning. While the Land Use Plan is temporarily paused until the Land Code is complete, this foundational work will create stronger pathways for self-determination in the years ahead.



ACFN's Traditional Knowledge website continues to grow as a valuable digital platform for place-based learning. Tourism research is underway, with a briefing note in development to explore opportunities in the northeast. At the same time, the Nipiy Tu Research Knowledge Centre is taking shape. A transitional Board of Directors is now in place and meeting regularly to guide the project toward full governance and long-term sustainability.

Looking ahead, the coming months promise to be busy ones. The Rights and Lands team continues to walk forward with purpose—protecting and uplifting the Dene way of life, one step at a time.

Lori Cyprien
Director of Rights and Lands





GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

The first few months of 2025 were busy and important ones for Government Relations at ACFN/DLRM. As political dynamics shift at both the federal and provincial levels, we remain focused on ensuring our Nation's rights are upheld, our lands and waters are protected, and our voice is heard at every table, from regional meetings to global summits.

Water remains one of the most pressing areas of our advocacy. Our Lands and Resources team has been directly involved in shaping how tailings are monitored and managed, and we've submitted a first draft of a bilateral consultation agreement to Environment and Climate Change Canada. We're now waiting for their feedback so we can continue to move the process forward. At the same time, work is ongoing to develop our Water Policy Implementation Plan. Through internal meetings and collaboration with experts, we're embedding Dene knowledge and values into every step of the strategy.

On climate and conservation, we continue to hold governments accountable, especially when it comes to caribou and buffalo. Progress on Canada's Section 11 Agreement for caribou protection remains stalled, but we are not backing down. For the Ronald Lake Buffalo Herd, we've supported active monitoring and the development of a draft management plan that will be finalized in the coming months. This herd is culturally vital to our people, and we're doing everything we can to safeguard and replenish it.

Globally, we are preparing to attend COP 30 in Brazil, even though accreditation remains uncertain and access for Indigenous Nations has been increasingly limited. We're working with our partners to make this happen. Meanwhile, our advocacy around Wood Buffalo National Park continues. With the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting that took place in Paris, we were there to challenge Canada's overly optimistic narrative, and ensured the 2026 Reactive Monitoring Mission will move ahead without delay.

In addition, our Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan (C-CARP) project has commenced, and an open house will be hosted in Fort Chipewyan on August 13th, 2025. Similarly, after Dene Days, we will be in the community to engage with some members to better understand and frame a research project to better understand how climate change impacts our food system and sovereignty.

Health and risk assessment is another key focus. We are wrapping up the Community Wellness Survey, *K'ai Taile Dene erihth'is horelya Dene beba sugha xa* ('A Dene Paper that will Help Everyone'). This is part of the Indigenous Environmental Health Risk Assessment project that has been active for over four years. In August 2024, the long-awaited 10-year health study was promised funding from the Federal government; we continue working to secure said funding and to establish governance structures needed to ensure this research reflects and respects our lived realities.

We've also continued to push forward on regional land management. Alberta's response to our concerns around the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan was inadequate, and we're taking further action through more direct channels. We've also called for stronger ACFN representation across the Oil Sands Monitoring Program and made it clear that transparency and bilateral engagement must be prioritized.

At the regional level, we continue to work and build our partnership with the RMWB. We hosted a leadership meeting in February and are preparing for the Decolonizing Land and Water Summit taking place September 16-17 at the Metis Crossing. This will be a major moment for our Nation. Find more information on the upcoming Summit here: <https://acfn.com/decolonizing-land-and-water-summit/>.

Across all these efforts, our mission is the same - to lead with purpose, protect with power, and open pathways for our people today and for the generations yet to come. We're proud of the work our team is doing and grateful to our members for continuing to walk this path with us.

Your GR Team,
Doren – *Climate Change and Sustainability Coordinator*
Keji – *Government Relations and Consultation Coordinator*
Brian – *Manager, Government Relations*

DLRM - SETS

Spring 2025 has been a season of meaningful connection and forward momentum for the Community Engagement team at the DLRM. Rooted in relationships, our work continues to reflect a deep commitment to listening, learning, and leading alongside community members.

In March, the Elders Advisory Council gathered with DLRM and Chief and Council for a focused meeting on the Council's evolving role. Conversations centred around their vision, governance, strategic planning, and budget needs. Chief and Council also presented on the annuity payments file, marking an important step toward greater collaboration and transparency. The following day, the Elders Quarterly Meeting welcomed a broader group of Elders to hear updates on DLRM's research and initiatives. These gatherings remain central to mutual learning and respect.

In February, the Syncrude Reclamation Engagement Focus Group resumed its work with a two-day tour exploring topics such as water, soil, berries, vegetation, and wildlife habitats in reclaimed areas. The group also participated in a painting activity, using creativity to express their visions for future reclamation. The next tour is tentatively planned for June 10–11.

Cultural celebration was also in full swing at a January gathering held at the CVCC. With the theme "Celebrating Indigenous Harvesting," Elders welcomed the new year with music, food, and laughter - a joyful reminder of the strength found in tradition and community.

Looking ahead, preparations for the 2025 Dene Days are well underway and we are excited to welcome everyone to this much-anticipated annual event.

From Elder meetings and reclamation tours to cultural celebrations and major event planning, the work of the Community Engagement team continues to be shaped by the voices and presence of the Nation. Every initiative reflects a shared commitment to walk forward together - grounded in culture, guided by connection.

Marsi Cho
Kristi Deranger and the SETS team

CELEBRATING OUR ELDERS

Jerry Adam

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

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

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



Patricia Lepine

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



Alice Rigney

Alice was born in a tent by the Big Dock in Fort Chipewyan. She attended Holy Angels Residential School, Grandin College in Fort Smith, NT, and went to school in Edmonton. Alice worked as a Social Worker and in the community school teaching Dene. Alice enjoys sharing her culture by teaching the Dene language to community members. She loves gardening and living on the land.



Scott Flett

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



Edward Flett

Edward Flett was born in Fort McMurray and was raised at Point Brule. He attended day school in Fort Chipewyan. He spent much of his younger years on N22 with his family hunting, trapping, fishing, and picking berries. He worked as an operator in the Uranium Mine for 23 years and was an operator until he retired in 2005. He likes to read, loves seeing his nieces and nephews, and visiting Cluff Lake.



Grace Elm

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



Irene Adam

Irene was born in Gold Fields, Saskatchewan in 1950. Irene attended school in Gold Fields for a year and then the Holy Angels residential school in Fort Chipewyan for 6 years. Irene worked a seasonal job as a cook, with Alberta Forestry for over 30 years. Irene enjoys camping, making dry meat, dry fish and playing bingo.



Cora Voyageur

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

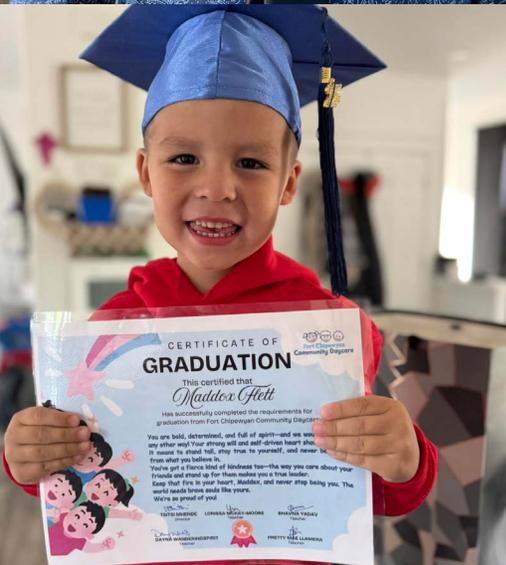


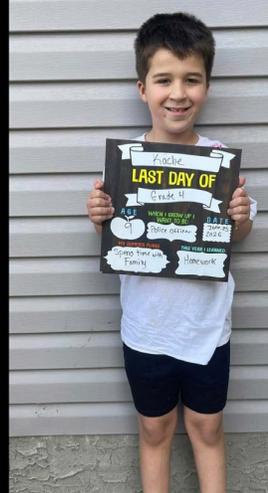
Bernadette Voyageur

Bernadette was born in Uranium City, SK in 1952 to Isadore Voyageur and Colombe Marcel. She was 1 of 18 children. Her nick name is "baby girl". Bernadette attended the Holy Angels Residential School. She is an amazing cook and is famous for her pies. She has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Her and Papa Joe have been together for 33 years. She loves to joke, laugh, dance, and play bingo.



CELEBRATING OUR YOUTH





CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



CONGRATULATIONS,
GRADUATES!

Class of
2025

**RUSTY
WOODWARD**



CONGRATULATIONS,
GRADUATES!

Class of
2025

**TREY
CURRIE**



CONGRATULATIONS,
GRADUATES!

Class of
2025

**FAITH
DERANGER**



CONGRATULATIONS,
GRADUATES!

Class of
2025

**JEANNETTE
LARCHE**



CONGRATULATIONS,
GRADUATES!

Class of
2025

**KAYLA
LINES**



CONGRATULATIONS,
GRADUATES!

Class of
2025

**ANAKIN
GILL**



MEET THE 2024 CLIMATE BREAKTHROUGH AWARDEES



HONOURING ONE OF OUR OWN: ERIEL TCHEKWIE DERANGER

Honouring One of Our Own: Eriel Tchekwie Deranger Recognized with International Climate Breakthrough Award

The Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) is proud to recognize and celebrate the incredible achievements of Eriel Tchekwie Deranger, a member of our Nation and a trailblazer in the global movement for Indigenous rights and climate justice.

Eriel has long been a powerful voice for our people, our lands, and our future. As a Dēnesųliné woman from Treaty 8 territory, her work has always been rooted in the lived experience and strength of our Nation. Through decades of tireless advocacy, Eriel has challenged governments and industry on environmental destruction, elevated Indigenous leadership in climate policy, and helped build a powerful global platform for Indigenous knowledge and solutions. As the Executive Director and co-founder of **Indigenous Climate Action**, Eriel leads Canada's only Indigenous-led climate justice organization. Her leadership has created pathways for Indigenous communities to take back power - restoring governance, reclaiming responsibility for land and water, and designing climate strategies that reflect our values, systems, and sovereignty.

Eriel's extraordinary vision was recognized on the world stage with the prestigious **Climate Breakthrough Award**, a global honour given to leaders who are shaping bold, transformative approaches to the climate crisis. With this award, she will be advancing a groundbreaking initiative to create a decentralized Indigenous-led climate action network that will support communities across Turtle Island in designing and implementing their own climate solutions—on their terms, with their knowledge at the centre.

We are incredibly proud to call Eriel one of our own. Her voice continues to carry the strength of our ancestors, the power of our community, and the hope of future generations. ACFN congratulates Eriel Tchekwie Deranger on this well-deserved recognition and stands beside her as she continues to lead with courage, clarity, and uncompromising commitment to justice.

COUNCILLOR CYPREAN MEDAL

Honouring Dedication: ACFN Councillor Flossie Cyprean Receives the Order of Military Merit

In a moment of pride and celebration, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) Councillor Flossie Cyprean has been awarded one of Canada's highest military distinctions- the Order of Military Merit Medal - for her exceptional service as a Canadian Ranger. This prestigious honour was presented in a formal ceremony in Ottawa by the Governor General of Canada, Mary Simon, the first Indigenous person to hold this esteemed position.

Councillor Cyprean's remarkable journey as a Canadian Ranger began 33 years ago, when the program first took root. Since then, she has remained a steadfast figure in the service, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to her community, her culture, and her country. Her dedication over more than three decades is a powerful reflection of her leadership and resilience.

The Canadian Rangers, a vital part of the Canadian Army Reserve, serve in some of the most remote, isolated, and coastal regions of Canada. Lightly equipped but highly self-sufficient, these devoted individuals provide crucial support to national security and public safety operations across the country. Always ready to serve, Rangers respond to emergencies, participate in training, and support domestic operations, helping to safeguard both people and places in Canada's vast landscapes. With over 5,000 members speaking 26 different languages and dialects, the Rangers are a living embodiment of Canada's diversity and unity.

Established in 1972, the Order of Military Merit honours members of the Canadian Armed Forces who display distinctive merit and service beyond the call of duty. To be recognized with this medal is to be counted among Canada's most dedicated and selfless individuals. For Councillor Cyprean, this recognition is not only a personal achievement but a moment of pride for her Nation and Indigenous Peoples across the country.





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:

rose.ross@acfn.com | 780.799.3693

kristina.deranger@acfn.com | 780.742.7163