

Community Newsletter

**Fort William
First Nation**

December, 2025



ANEMKI WAJIW

Welcome to our December Newsletter!

As winter settles in across Fort William First Nation, this month's newsletter brings a mix of holiday activities, community programs, and important updates to help you stay informed through the busy season. Inside, you'll find details on family events, upcoming workshops, our annual Children's Christmas Party, and reminders about office holiday closures. We're also excited to share introductions from our new CEO and our new Lands & Governance Manager, along with the latest job opportunities and helpful winter home maintenance tips.

Whether you're looking for ways to get involved or simply keeping up with community news, we hope this edition brings warmth, connection, and a little holiday spirit to your home.

*Why was the snowman looking through the carrots?
He was picking his nose.*

In this newsletter you can expect:

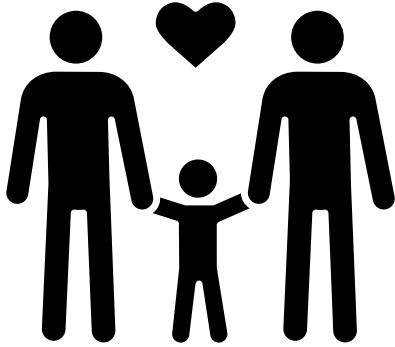
Community
Events

Leadership
Messages

Job Postings

Homeowner
Reminders

Community Events



Family Program

When: Monday, December 1st, starts at 4:30pm

Where: Community Centre

Details: All members welcome, dinner will be provided.

Grief & Loss Workshop

When: December 2nd, 3rd & 4th from 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Where: Superior Inn (555 Arthur St. W)

Details: Dinner served from 5:00pm - 6:00pm. There is a max number of 15 participants. Please email dmoses@biidaaban.com or juliebannon@fwfn.com or call 807-229-3592 ext.662 to register.



Children's Christmas Party

When: Saturday, December 6th from 12:00pm - 3:00pm

Where: Community Centre

Details: There will be food & refreshments, Santa pictures, tree decorating, Dottie the Clown, crafts & more! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Attendance draw at 3:00pm.

FWFN Members aged 0-17yrs will receive *one gift card per child*. Parent/Legal Guardian must be in attendance to sign the gift cards, 3rd party pick-ups or notes will not be accepted.

Volunteers needed, please email youthworker@fwfn.com if interested.





Family Movie Night

When: Monday, December 15th at 5:00pm

Where: Cineplex

Details: Come by the Cineplex Theatre and join us to watch Zootopia 2. All members welcome, popcorn and drink will be included.

Good Food Box

Boxes contain a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables. \$24.00 payable to accountsreceivable@fwfn.com or by cash at the band office reception, 2nd floor Orion Building.

Orders due by December 8th, 2025 at noon. Pick up December 17th after 3:00pm at the Health Centre.

Please note: All Fort William First Nation offices will be closed for the holidays from December 22nd, 2025 - January 2nd, 2026. Our offices will return to regular hours, January 5th, 2026.

Department Showcase

When: Saturday, January 24th, 2026 from 10:00am - 2:00pm

Where: Community Centre

Details: Community members can explore the many programs, services, and supports offered across all FWFN departments. Members will have the opportunity to meet staff, learn about available resources, pick up department materials, and ask questions to better understand what each team provides for our community.

We are also working on making the showcase accessible online so all members — on and off reserve — can participate. Stay tuned for more details!

Message from the New CEO - Jeremiah Windego

Aanii Fort William First Nation Members,

My name is **Jeremiah Windego**, and I am honoured to introduce myself as the new **Chief Executive Officer for Fort William First Nation**, a role I began in October. I come from **Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation**, and I am truly grateful for the warm welcome I've already received from community members, staff, and leadership.



Throughout my career, I've been fortunate to work alongside many First Nation communities across the north. I began as a **Band Manager** in my home community at 23, where I served for six years. Before that, I worked as a **Project Manager**, helping to build a water treatment plant, a new subdivision, and many homes for our members. I have held most every job growing up, housing manager, OW worker, Director of Finance, and project manager for a large steel company in Kansas City. Most recently, I spent five years in **economic development with Naicatchewenin First Nation**, helping to grow their development corporation from near bankruptcy into the community's largest employer. Later, I worked in the **Kenora area** as the **Acting Executive Director for Anishinaabe Abinoojii Family Services**, where I learned a great deal about prevention and protection programs.

I look forward to bringing my experience to Fort William First Nation and, more importantly, to **learning from all of you**—the members, staff, and leadership who make this community strong. My **top priority** as CEO will be to improve communication so that we can share the many good things already happening and ensure that your voices guide the work we do together.

As we approach the holiday season, I want to wish everyone a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**. May this time bring warmth, laughter, and connection with family and friends. I look forward to meeting many of you at upcoming community gatherings or through scheduled visits in my office.

Miigwetch,

Jeremiah Windego — Chief Executive Officer of Fort William First Nation

Introduction – Lands & Governance Manager

Boozhoo,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is **Esther Pervais**, and I am honoured to introduce myself in my new role as **Lands & Governance Manager** with Fort William First Nation.



I am a proud member of Fort William First Nation and have lived in our community for most of my life.

My journey has also taken me to Alberta and British Columbia, where I pursued my post-secondary education and gained valuable experiences that continue to guide my work today.

My Ojibwe spirit name is Mushkiki-bebezhigooganzhii-ikwe – Medicine Horse Woman. This name grounds me in my purpose and reminds me of the strength, healing, and responsibility I carry in serving our Nation. With over 26 years of experience working in finance, housing, and lands administration within FWFN, I bring a deep understanding of our community's needs and aspirations. I am passionate about supporting our Nation's growth, protecting our lands, and advancing self-governance rooted in our values and traditions.

In this new role, I look forward to working collaboratively with leadership, staff, and community members to support responsible land stewardship and governance practices that reflect who we are as Anishinaabe people.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, ideas, or concerns. I am here to listen, support, and work alongside you.

Miigwetch for your continued trust and support.

In unity and respect,

Esther Pervais – Lands & Governance Manager of Fort William First Nation

Job Opportunities

Consultation Liaison Officer

Employment Type: Full-time, 1-year contract, January 2026 start

Closing Date: Sunday, December 7th, 2025 at 11:59pm

Fort William First Nation is seeking a Consultation/Liaison Officer to support the government-mandated Duty to Consult and facilitate community consultation services. This role focuses on coordination, relationship-building, and providing strategic support between FWFN, government partners, industry proponents, and the community.

Governance Coordinator

Employment Type: Full-time, Permanent, January 2026 start

Closing Date: Sunday, December 7th, 2025 at 11:59pm

The Governance Coordinator will lead the development and implementation of Fort William First Nation's key governance initiatives, including the Membership Law, Election Act, and Governing Constitution. This role focuses on project planning, community engagement, and supporting Leadership and Membership through transparent, culturally grounded governance processes.

Bingo Workers

Employment Type: Part-time

Closing Date: Open until filled

Fort William First Nation is seeking Bingo Workers to help create a friendly and efficient environment at the Bingo Hall. This role involves assisting guests, handling cash and paper sales, verifying games, and ensuring a smooth and enjoyable experience for all players.

Bus Drivers

Employment Type: Part-time, permanent

Closing Date: Open until filled

Fort William First Nation is seeking Bus Drivers to safely transport students between home, school, and community excursions. This role focuses on ensuring the safety and well-being of children during daily routes and while boarding or exiting the bus.

Relief Receptionist(s)

Employment Type: On-call/casual

Closing Date: Open until filled

The Relief Receptionist provides front-line administrative support across multiple FWFN departments, greeting visitors, managing calls, and assisting with clerical duties. This flexible role covers reception at the Orion Building, Health Centre, and Social Services as needed, with training provided.

Rink Attendants

Employment Type: Part-time

Closing Date: Open until filled

Fort William First Nation is hiring Rink Attendants to help maintain our arena by operating the Zamboni, cleaning the facility, and performing light maintenance. This position plays an important role in keeping the rink safe and enjoyable for all community members.

For more information on **job and catering opportunities** please visit the employment page on our website at www.fwfn.com/employment/.

Home Maintenance Reminder for FWFN Homeowners

As the colder months settle in, it's a great time to take care of a few important home maintenance tasks to keep your home safe, warm, and running efficiently:

Change Your Furnace Filter

A clean filter helps your furnace work better, improves air quality, and can lower your heating costs. Aim to replace your filter every 1–3 months during the winter season.

Clean & Inspect Wood Stoves and Chimneys

If you use a wood stove, ensure the firebox, chimney, and flue are cleaned and checked for buildup. This helps prevent chimney fires and allows your stove to heat your home more efficiently.

Check Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Test your alarms, replace batteries if needed, and make sure detectors are placed properly — especially if you're using wood heat.

Clear Vents & Air Intakes

Make sure exterior vents, dryer vents, and furnace intakes are free of snow, leaves, and debris.

Taking a few minutes to complete these simple steps can help protect your home and your family throughout the winter season.

Stay safe and stay warm! ❄️🏠

Attention: there will be no newsletter for January.

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