

May, 2025



Welcome to our May Newsletter!

Spring has finally started to feel like, well... spring! With the sunshine returning and the snow behind us (hopefully for good), our community is blooming with new events, programs, and opportunities to connect.

In this edition, you'll find important updates including a Save the Date for our 2025 Graduation Dinner, upcoming workshops, Band Member recognitions, and details on the Casino Rama Education Awards.

Spring joke of the month:

*Why was the gardener so excited for Spring?
Because he was ready to turnip the beet!*

In this newsletter you can expect:

Community Events

Education Awards

Band Member Recognition

Job & Catering Opportunities

FWFN Business Advertisement

Community Events



School Age Fun Day

When: May 2nd, from 10:00am-2:00pm

Where: Family Centre

(4-6 year olds)

Sugar Bush Walk

When: May 3rd, starting at 12:00pm

Where: Anemki Wajiw Tollgate

Please dress for the weather.



Red Dress Walk

When: May 5th, from 4:30pm-6:30pm

Where: Youth Centre

There will be light snacks & refreshments!

Family Centre Drop-In Programs

Play & Learn

When: Every Monday in May from 10:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-3:00pm

Arts & Crafts

When: Every Tuesday in May from 10:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-3:00pm

Circle Time (Music/Storybook)

When: Wednesdays, May 7, 14, 28 from 10:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-3:00pm

Sensory Play

When: Every Thursday in May from 10:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-3:00pm





6th Annual Hide Camp

When: May 7-11, 2025, from 9:00am - 4:00pm

Where: Chippewa Park

Contact: Hailey via email at haileymaclaurin@fwfn.com or call 807-622-6791

Need a bank account?

When: May 10th, from 10:00am-4:00pm

Where: Community Centre

It is required that you have a bank account for the RST Annuity Payment. Swing by the community centre and pick a bank to open your very own account!



Parents & Tots Program

When: May 21st, from 10:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-3:00pm

Where: Community Centre

Honour Gathering

When: May 24th, from 1:00pm-5:00pm

Where: 90 Anemki Drive

In memory of 215 children Kamloops Indian Residential School & all IRS survivor thrivers



First Aid CPR

When: May 24th and 25th, from 9:00am-5:00pm

Contact: Lauren via email at LaurenWaller@fwfn.com or call 807-622-6791 Ext. 310 to register.



Know Your Home Workshop

When: May 31st, from 11:00am-4:00pm

Where: Community Centre

Contact: Marienne via email at marienneandersson@fwfn.com or call 807-623-9543 Ext. 609 to register.

Deadline to register is May 9th

Traditional Belt Making

When: May 31st and June 1st

Contact: Hailey via email at haileymaclaurin@fwfn.com or call 807-622-6791 for more information and to register.



Bingo Events

½ Price Night

When: May 6th, 2025

All main books will be half price.

Whacky Wednesdays

When: Every Wednesday in May

Special books are half price!

Mother's Day Event

When: May 11th, 2025

Celebrating MOM with draws for designer purses and gift cards!

Draw Night

When: May 20th, 2025

\$1000 in Mountain Bingo gift cards will be given away!

Education Awards

Honouring the Graduates of 2025

We are proud to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of our FWFN graduates—Grade 8, Grade 12, and Post-Secondary students—who have worked hard to reach this exciting milestone. Your perseverance, dedication, and commitment to learning are inspiring to our entire community.

Don't forget to **Save the Date** for the **FWFN Graduation Dinner** on **July 25th from 6:00–8:00 PM**. Graduates and one guest are invited to attend. Registration is required by June 27th, 2025.

To register, please email one of the following:

- postsecondary@fwfn.com
- myra@fwfn.com
- education@fwfn.com

Post-Secondary and Grade 12 graduates must submit a copy of their diploma.

Casino Rama Funds Education Awards

In addition to our annual recognition, Fort William First Nation offers Casino Rama Education Awards to further celebrate student achievement. These awards are separate from the FWFN Graduation Awards and focus on academic excellence.

- Open to all Highschool and Post-Secondary FWFN Members graduating in 2024/2025
- Awards go to the top three academic averages in each category
- **Application deadline: July 31st, 2025**

Applications will be available on the **Membership Portal, Hawk App**, or for **pickup at the FWFN Administrative office**.

Band Member Recognition



Helen is a proud Kwe from Fort William First Nation, showcasing her passion for the land through her birch bark art and sugar bush work. Her meaningful creations from wigwas reflect her vision and dedication.

Cindy Bannon nominated her niece, Helen Pelletier, for her community work, expressing pride in her accomplishments.

Claudia Legarde is an original Band Member of FWFN, an elder, and a lifelong advocate for justice and healing. With over 26 years of service as a Criminal/Family Court Worker, she has supported Indigenous people through the justice system, founded key community organizations, and advocated restorative justice. Claudia's dedication continues to uplift and empower those who need it most.

Nominated by her sister, Monica LeGarde.



Savannah Upton, an original FWFN Band Member from the Piska family, is a dedicated mother of four, graduate of Confederation College's Community Advocacy program, and entrepreneur of Yellowbird. She works at the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre, supporting Indigenous people in the Indigenous Peoples Court. Savannah is deeply committed to restorative justice and proudly represents FWFN by uplifting others and breaking cycles through compassion and advocacy.

Nominated by Claudia LeGarde.

Nominate a Band Member!

Do you know someone who deserves recognition for their contributions to the community?

To nominate a Band Member, please provide:

- A brief description of who they are, what they are being recognized for, and why you are nominating them.
- A photo of the nominee or a photo showcasing their contribution to the community.

All nominations must be submitted via email to KaijaMacKay@fwfn.com.

Job & Catering Opportunities

Youth Worker

Employment Type: Full-time, permanent

Closing Date: Sunday, May 4, 2025, at 11:59pm

The Youth Worker will support and monitor evening programs at the FWFN Youth Centre and in the community, while also helping to plan and deliver engaging, youth-focused activities in partnership with the PLAY program.

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



Scan the QR code to view more information and apply today!

Catering Opportunities

We currently have two catering contract opportunities:

Event: 6th Annual Hide Camp

Deadline: May 1, 2025 at 3:00pm

Event: Honoring the Children

Deadline: May 9, 2025 at 3:30pm

Please visit our website, under [Employment](#), to view more information on these catering opportunities.

FWFN Business Directory

We are proud to support and showcase the amazing businesses within our community!

Want Your Business Featured?

If your business would like to be included in our on & off reserve business listings, please send the following information via email to KaijaMacKay@fwfn.com:

- Business Name & Owner's Name
- A brief description of what your business offers
- Contact Information (phone, email, website, or social media)
- A photo (if available)

Let's celebrate and support the entrepreneurs within our community!

FORT WILLIAM FIRST NATION	807-623-9543
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To subscribe via email, please contact KaijaMacKay@fwfn.com