

October, 2025



Welcome to our October Newsletter!

The crisp air and falling leaves mark the arrival of another busy season here in Fort William First Nation! This month, our newsletter features community updates, job postings, training and catering opportunities, along with a special recognition to Food Banks Canada for their incredible generosity.

We're also sharing information about the Nokiiwin Tribal Council's Restorative Justice Program and a sneak peek at the upcoming Layer by Layer Exhibition, set to launch October 21st at the Thunder Bay Museum.

Stay tuned for upcoming Halloween fun, fall programming, and important initiatives happening across the community. We hope this edition keeps you informed and connected as we head deeper into the season.

Stay spooky, stay cozy — and don't forget to rake in the good vibes!

In this newsletter you can expect:

Community Events

Recognizing Food Banks Canada

Layer by Layer Exhibit at Thunder Bay Museum

Nokiiwin on Restorative Justice

Job & Catering Opportunities

Community Events



E-Waste Collection Drive

Dates: Wednesday, October 1st

Where: Youth Centre Parking Lot

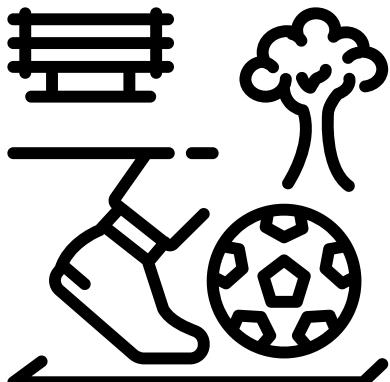
What to Recycle: Computers, printers, mobile devices, cables, etc.

Free Skate

When: Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in October from 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Where: Arena, Rink #2

Details: No pucks or sticks, must have helmets and skates.



17+ Rec Night

When: Every Wednesday in October from 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Where: FWFN Gymnasium

Details: For any concerns or questions, please contact Kalem via email at kalemgoodchild@fwfn.com

Wake the Warrior Pre-Employment Bootcamp

When: Monday, October 6th from 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Where: Community Centre

Details: Drop-in or register by contacting Lauren via email at LaurenWaller@fwfn.com or call 807-622-6791 Ext. 310., to secure your seat!



Family Centre Parents & Tots Program

When: Wednesday, October 15th from 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Where: Community Centre

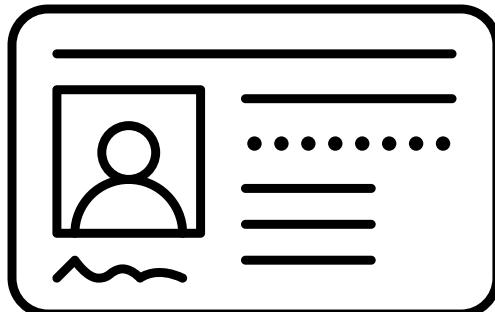
Details: There will be lunch, activities for children and gift cards for attendance. For families with children aged 0-6.

ID Clinic

When: Thursday, October 16th from 10:00am - 4:30pm

Where: Community Centre

Details: Birth certificate applications are free for FWFN band members. By appointment only, to register, please contact Julie via email at JulieBannon@fwfn.com or call 807-622-8802.



55+ Program

When: Thursday, October 16th, doors open at 12:00pm

Where: Community Centre, Side B

Details: Come join us for an afternoon of lunch and bingo!

Family Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest

When: Thursday, October 23rd from 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Where: FWFN Gymnasium

Details: Bring your family, pick a pumpkin, and carve it. Judging will take place at 9:00pm. Please register via email at Drewpelletier@fwfn.com.





Family Centre Pumpkin Giveaway

When: October 23rd & October 24th
from 12:00pm - 4:00pm

Where: Family Centre, 109 Mission Rd.

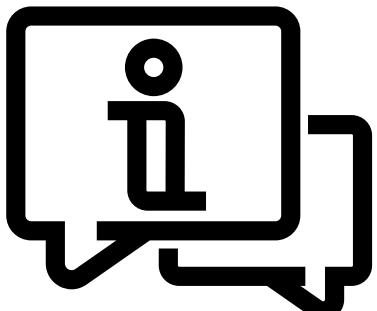
Details: Pumpkin giveaway for families with children ages 0-6 years.

Youth Halloween Party

When: Friday, October 24th from
6:00pm - 8:00pm

Where: FWFN Gymnasium

Details: There will be food, a DJ, photobooth and door prizes. Must be in attendance to win. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult.



Jordan's Principle Information Session

When: Sunday, October 25th from
11:00am - 3:00pm

Where: Community Centre

Details: Lunch will be provided, please register with Julie via email at juliebannon@fwfn.com or call 807-622-8802 ext. 274.

Standard First Aid & CPR/AED Level C Training

When: October 25th & October 26th
from 9:00am - 5:00pm

Where: FWFN Cultural Room

Details: 12 spots available. To register, please contact Lauren or Carley at 807-622-6791.





Fire Arms Course

When: Sunday, October 26th starts at 9:00am

Where: FWFN Resource Room

Details: Limited spots available, must be 12 years or older. Please call Lauren or Carley at 807-622-6791 to register.

Family Ice Skating

When: Sunday, October 26th from 2:45pm - 4:15pm

Where: Arena, Rink #2

Details: Food, music, drinks. No pucks or sticks, must have skates & helmets.



Youth Centre

Halloween Pit Stop

When: Friday, October 31st from 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Where: Youth Centre, 107 Mission Rd.

Details: Join us for hot chocolate, hot dogs & treats.

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 October 6th, 2025 at noon. Pick up October 15th after 3:00pm at the Health Centre.

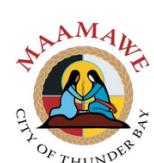
Lakehead University is Hosting a Hide-Tanning Gathering

When: Saturday, October 4th & Sunday, October 5th from 10:00am - 4:00pm

Location: Outside and behind the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law Pacific Building

Details: Work with local Hide-Tanners Shelby Gagnon, Jean Marshall and Larissa Speak. This is a waste free event, please bring your feast kit. Everyone is welcome.

For information, questions and/or bus tickets, please contact leigh.potvin@lakeheadu.ca.



Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada



Indigenous Initiatives



Recognizing Food Banks Canada

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Food Banks Canada for their generous donation of \$20,000 to support our community food bank. This incredible contribution is helping us provide essential food items and nutritious meals to individuals and families in need right here in our community.

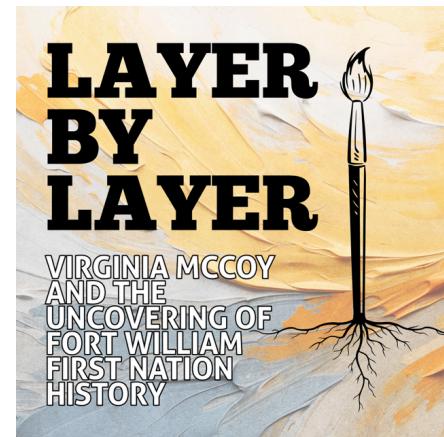
Thanks to their support, we are also able to expand our reach and improve our services for those experiencing food insecurity. Food Banks Canada's generosity is truly making a difference, and we are proud to recognize them as a valued partner in supporting the well-being of our members.

The Social Services Department

Layer by Layer: Virginia McCoy and the Uncovering of Fort William First Nation

Layer by Layer: Virginia McCoy and the Uncovering of Fort William First Nation History is a new exhibit opening at The Thunder Bay Museum that explores Indigenous identity, family legacy, and colonial impact through visual storytelling. It features the work of artist Virginia McCoy (1948-2022), whose art was inspired by her deep familial ties to Fort William First Nation, alongside historical research tracing key events in the community's past.

The exhibit highlights critical moments of colonial disruption, including the 1849 establishment of the Fort William Mission, the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850, and the devastating 1905 land expropriation for railway development that geographically and spiritually divided the community. These historical milestones are examined through the lens of the McCoy family's experiences.



Virginia's ancestors, James McKay and Theodosie Pekkanakang, witnessed early missionary presence and treaty negotiations. At the same time, their sons, Moses and Alexander McCoy, played key leadership roles during a period of increasing colonial restrictions, including alcohol bans, the Indian Act, and increased governance over hunting rights.

A central theme of the exhibit is enfranchisement, a colonial policy that stripped Indigenous peoples of their legal status. Virginia's grandfather, Aloysius McCoy, was enfranchised in 1925 and forced to uproot his family from the reserve in hopes of a better life, and ultimately never regained his status. In the 1990s, following amendments to the Indian Act, Virginia was able to reclaim her own status, a deeply meaningful moment in her life and work.

Virginia's art represents a reclamation of identity, confronting themes of assimilation, loss and resilience. Her most notable exhibition, *Becoming White*, explored her family's journey through cultural erasure and re-identification, with select pieces featured in this show. This exhibit, *Layer by Layer*, presents a rich, layered narrative of cultural identity and survival of one family within the broader community of Fort William First Nation. The Thunder Bay Museum is excited to welcome visitors to view the exhibit later in October 2025, which will be available until early 2026.

Fort William First Nation's Restorative Justice Program: *The Magic of the Circle*

A new Restorative Justice Coordinator will soon be appointed through the Nokiiwin Tribal Council, serving Fort William First Nation. This signals a return to traditional Restorative Circles for community members facing eligible criminal charges that may be diverted from the court system.

These circles are guided by tradition, beginning with a smudge and prayer, followed by the Seven Sacred Teachings. Participants speak using a talking stick or feather, ensuring respectful listening and no cross-talk. The process concludes with a healing plan and ceremonial elements like medicine ashes to be placed on the land and a hugging circle, reinforcing a good path forward.

Unlike the court system, Restorative Circles are confidential and non-judgmental, led by neutral facilitators and focused on accountability, healing, and community connection. Upon successful completion of a healing plan, the participant's charges may be withdrawn.

The Fort William First Nation Restorative Justice Program, in partnership with Nokiiwin Tribal Council, will be hosting information sessions and accepting referrals for criminal diversion.

 To learn more or find out if your matter can be referred to Restorative Justice, please contact:

Nokiiwin Tribal Council
Tel: 807-474-4230

 Stay tuned for the upcoming announcement of the new Restorative Justice Coordinator for Fort William First Nation!

Job Opportunities

Accounting Manager

Employment Type: Full-time, permanent

Closing Date: October 5th, 2025 by 11:59pm

Fort William First Nation is seeking a skilled and detail-oriented Accounting Manager to oversee daily operations of the Finance Department and ensure accurate and timely financial processes. This leadership role supports financial reporting, supervises the finance team, and helps shape internal policies and controls.

Human Resources Coordinator

Employment Type: Full-time, permanent

Closing Date: October 5th, 2025 by 11:59pm

Fort William First Nation is hiring a Human Resources Coordinator to support daily HR operations including recruitment, training, employee relations, and compliance. This dynamic role helps ensure staff activities are well-coordinated and aligned with workplace policies and programs.

Youth Worker

Employment Type: Full-time, permanent

Closing Date: October 5th, 2025 by 11:59pm

Fort William First Nation is hiring a Youth Worker to help run evening programs and activities at the Youth Centre. This role focuses on creating a safe, supportive, and engaging space for youth while coordinating daily operations, program planning, and youth outreach.

Youth Worker - Right to Play

Employment Type: Full-time, permanent

Closing Date: October 5th, 2025 by 11:59pm

Fort William First Nation is seeking a Youth Worker to help run evening programs at the Youth Centre and support the delivery of Right to Play's Promoting Life-skills in Aboriginal Youth (PLAY) initiative. This role is ideal for someone passionate about creating a safe, fun, and supportive environment where youth feel empowered, connected, and engaged.

Catering Opportunities

We currently have four catering contract opportunities:

Event: IPAC Annual Mentorship Gathering

Event Date: Saturday, June 6th, 2026

Deadline: 4:00pm on October 3rd, 2025

IPAC is currently inviting Quotation Submissions from Members of the Fort William First Nation Community to supply all necessary materials, labour, and equipment needed to provide catering services with delivery. For approximately 225 people.

Event: Firearms Course

Event Date: Sunday, October 26th, 2025

Deadline: 12:00pm on Friday, October 10th, 2025

Fort William First Nation is currently inviting its members to submit quotations to provide all the necessary materials, labour and equipment to provide catering services for our Firearms Course. For approximately 15 people.

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

Catering Opportunities Continued

Event: CPR/First Aid Course

Event Date: Saturday, October 25th and Sunday, October 26th, 2025

Deadline: 12:00pm on Friday, October 10th, 2025

Fort William First Nation is currently inviting its members to submit quotations to provide all the necessary materials, labour and equipment to provide catering services for our CPR/First Aid Course. For approximately 15 people.

Event: Health Centre Event

Event Date: Saturday, October 25th, 2025

Deadline: 3:00pm on Monday, October 13th, 2025

Fort William First Nation Health Centre is currently inviting its members to submit quotations to provide all the necessary materials, labour and equipment to provide catering services for an event taking place on Saturday, October 25th and will approximately cater to 75 people.

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

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Want your business featured in our monthly newsletter?

If you're a Fort William First Nation Band Member and own a business, send your business info and an advertisement poster to Kaija at KaijaMacKay@fwfn.com. Let's showcase and support community entrepreneurs!

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To subscribe via email, please contact KaijaMacKay@fwfn.com