



2019-2020

# FORT NELSON FIRST NATION

## Annual Report

FOR AS LONG AS THE SUN SHINES, THE GRASS GROWS, AND THE RIVER FLOWS

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**Council. Term 2020-2022**

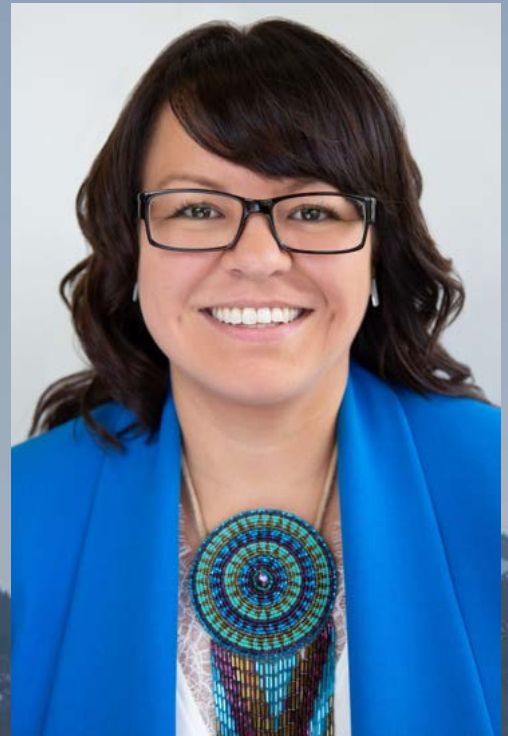
**Cynthia Burke, Lycrecia Adin, Patricia Capot-Blanc, Harvey Behn, Sharleen Gale, Aaron Dendys, Roberta Dendys**





# LETTER FROM OUR CHIEF

Our Nation has undergone many remarkable accomplishments that we all can be proud of as we continue on our journey towards self-reliance. We look forward to continuing this work to create paths of prosperity for our Nation, our members and those that live among us in our territory. We have come to understand that working together is the best way to ensure our community is successful in anything we wish to pursue as a people. We cannot achieve success if we choose to pursue our goals independently. We are stronger together and understand no investment is as vital to our future success as the investment we make in our community. It is our peoples' resiliency, vision and commit-



ment that make it possible for us to find the answers to tomorrow challenges. This past year the pandemic has created challenges we could not have seen coming, but we are proud of the way our community has come together and we are focused on our economic recovery. We are proud to continue to work together to make the Fort Nelson First Nation a leader among First Nations and a fantastic place to live, work, prosper and enjoy the many benefits our territory has to offer. As Leaders, we continue to value the feedback of our members and continue to make every effort to achieve the goals set out in "Reaching for Our Vision" and the FNFN Strategic Plan. We remain focused on building capacity and improving the lives of our members by supporting social and economic development, education, training and employment opportunities, while continuing to ensure that our environment and way of life remain protected. The Council and the Deh Tai Board of Directors remain committed to ensuring our community and our members see real benefits from the economic activity taking place within our territory, while also broadening our influence and decision-making regarding the things we want protected for our future generations. We must move forward together in order to leave behind a legacy that we can be proud of.

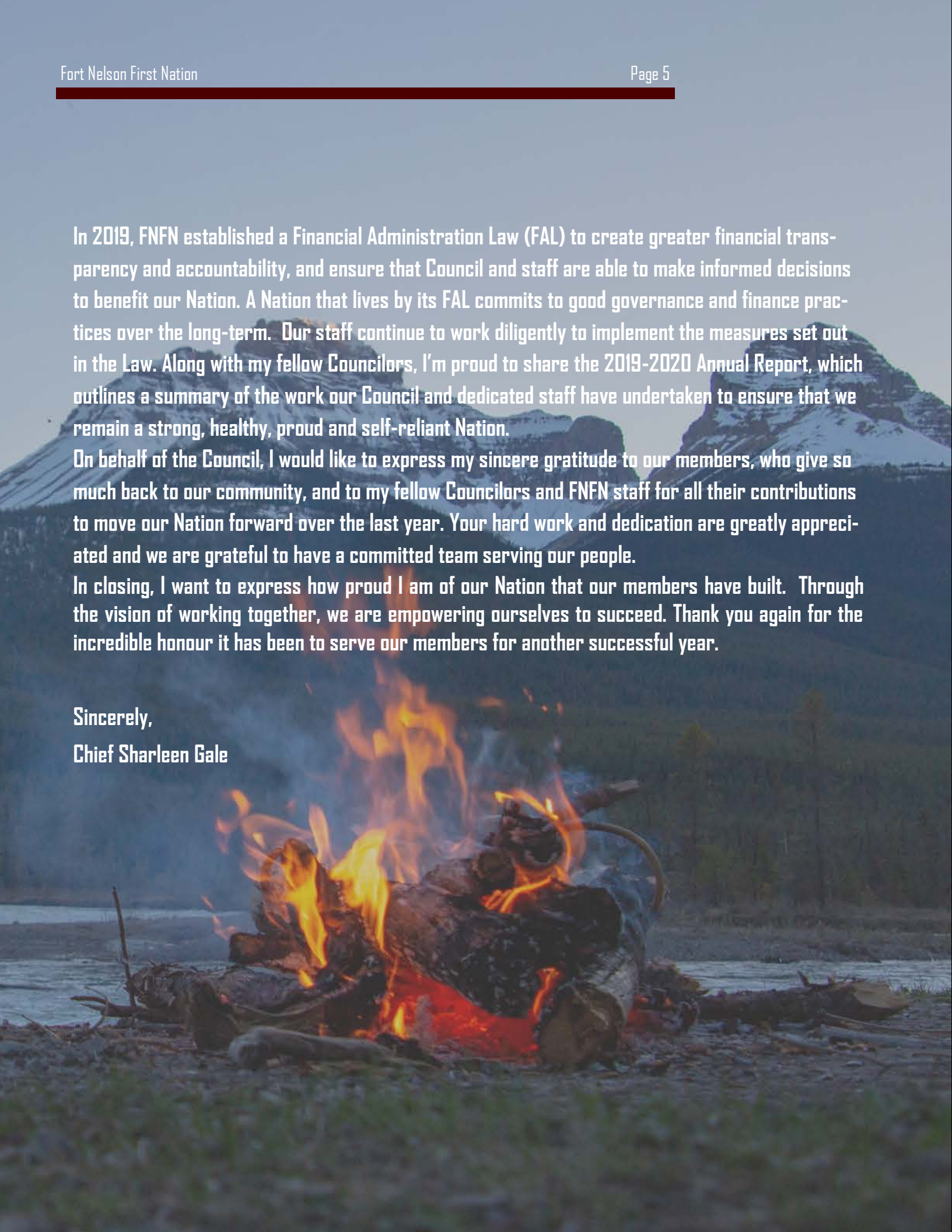
In 2019, FNFN established a Financial Administration Law (FAL) to create greater financial transparency and accountability, and ensure that Council and staff are able to make informed decisions to benefit our Nation. A Nation that lives by its FAL commits to good governance and finance practices over the long-term. Our staff continue to work diligently to implement the measures set out in the Law. Along with my fellow Councilors, I'm proud to share the 2019-2020 Annual Report, which outlines a summary of the work our Council and dedicated staff have undertaken to ensure that we remain a strong, healthy, proud and self-reliant Nation.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our members, who give so much back to our community, and to my fellow Councilors and FNFN staff for all their contributions to move our Nation forward over the last year. Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated and we are grateful to have a committed team serving our people.

In closing, I want to express how proud I am of our Nation that our members have built. Through the vision of working together, we are empowering ourselves to succeed. Thank you again for the incredible honour it has been to serve our members for another successful year.

Sincerely,

Chief Sharleen Gale





# LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to our first Annual Report that is a requirement under our new Financial Administration Law which was signed by our Council in 2019.

What a year! 2020 was a year that a lot of us do not want to remember as memorable but it was a year when our Nation came together to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. Community is at the heart of everything we do within the FNFN organization. It centers us as we live through the outbreak of the coronavirus, economic disruptions as well as the uncertainty of what might come next. Though we cannot be confident of what the future holds, we can be clear and resolved in our mission to lead positive systemic changes that strengthens us. That's a testament to the commitment and compassion of our leadership, membership and staff. We've had to adjust our processes and make some hard decisions on how we do business. We've asked more from our staff than ever. But the result of all that effort is undeniable.

The question, is where do we go from here?

Our Nation has spent the better part of the last fiscal laying out a new Comprehensive Community Plan aka Reaching for our Vision as well as a Strategic Plan in order to answer that question. The answer is this: Its time to move from merely filling the gaps and reacting to issues and addressing our root causes of need within our community itself. This will involve a shift in thinking and the way we do business in all of our departments.



We tend to look at the things at the macro level and are always in reactive mode but now with these new planning tools, we will be able to focus on the priorities identified by our members during the community engagement meetings held last year and focus on specific goals and methods to accomplish them.

This new way of thinking and doing business is embodied in our vision for the community we serve, as a place in which all members are healthy and safe.

We know that vision is attainable – if we work together.

We are looking forward to much more in 2021. As we continue on our journey to a stronger community, we are honored that you, our members, have allowed us to continue to serve you.

Respectively,

Liz Logan

Executive Director



The final copies of the RFOV are currently being printed and will be available for distribution to our members within the next few months.



# HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES

THE HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PROVIDES A WIDE RANGE OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES. OUR GOAL IS TO ;

**ELDER'S SERVICES:** Coordinate and Provide high quality services through effective health and community services programs specifically designed to meet the needs of the elders. Liaises with the Home Care Services and other departments to develop, promote, and participate in social and recreational activities for Elders based on elder capabilities.

*Key Deliverables:* Plans, develops, and directs on-going program activities. Coordinates with clients and families, providing on-going support. Determines appropriate program activity for elders. Interacts with and seeks continued support from other FNFN Departments. Conducts studies and prepares reports, as needed. Assists in developing elder assessments

Advocate on behalf of the elders.

*Programs Offered:* Meals on Wheels, Elders Socials, Bingos, Camping Trips/Outings, Assist with Elder's Assessments, Assist with Elder's personal administration, Arts and Crafts, Story-Telling, Medical Escort if necessary, Foot Care, Heart Pacers Program, Food Skills for Families, Canning Workshop, Elder Appreciation and Acknowledgements

**RECREATION:** Coordinate and implement culturally relevant recreation programs designed to promote holistic community health and wellness for members of all ages.

*Key Deliverables:* Implement recreation programs that are developmentally appropriate and culturally relevant. Research and access outside resources and programs. Develop and deliver quarterly programs with staff scheduling. Create program calendars, updates and postings for approval by supervisor

Supervise children to ensure their safety at all times participation in all programming. Prepare healthy snacks for program participants.

*Programs and Services Offered:* After School Programming; Gym Nights; Youth Drop In, Youth and Adults Sports such as Hockey, Soccer, Basketball, Baseball, Volleyball; Implement the Right to Play program (helps youth workers to design, launch, facilitate and measure the impacts of dynamic outcome-based programming for children and youth), Organize Youth Leadership Training, Establish a Youth Committee, Organize Youth Trips, fund Extra Curricular Activities, Arts and Crafts, Assist with Annual Events and celebrate monthly events/holidays.

**PATIENT TRAVEL:** Administers the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program. Responsible for communicating information to community members on other programs offered within the Health Department. Ensures the confidentiality of privileged information, adheres to policies and procedures, and works with other staff to form a positive and supportive team atmosphere.

*Key Deliverables:* Administers the patient travel portfolio. Support the Community Health Nurse (CHN) by making appointments and following up with Community Members. Maintain patient files under the guidance of the CHN, with regard to all health information and records. Support all health initiatives as necessary, including the promotion of programs and intermittent campaigns. Assists the Health Department in the implementation of education, promotion and prevention programs and services. Receive phone calls and respond to inquiries about NIHB, baby clinics and other applicable health programs and information. Assist clients in completing Medical Services Branch forms and submitting applications.

**INJURY PREVENTION — Community Health Promotion and Injury & Illness Prevention:** Development or supports of programs to assist members to create supportive environments and prevent injuries by participating in active lifestyles that promote health and well-being. To provide educational information and resources on health and wellness that addresses active lifestyles, proper diet, and up-to-date health checks.

*Key Deliverables:* Ensure that all community members who have been released from hospital have sufficient aftercare and support. Conducts Health screening programs such as, vision, hearing and blood pressure. Collaborates with other front line staff in community crises, providing first aid and other support as necessary. Contact community members in the case of emergencies, chronic illness, contagious disease outbreaks, and immunization updates. Disseminate health promotion, education and prevention information to the community through a variety of means. This includes: home visits, small group workshops, school presentations and the setting up of displays at community events. Arrange case conferences/family meetings as they relate to Health issues Develop preventative health programs that may increase the life expectancy. Provide Mobile Treatments such as mammograms, for early detections

*Programs and Services:* Development of a community gym, Extra-curricular activities, On going informational sessions and programs are combined with other departmental activities. Meals on Wheels, Community Kitchen, Elders Luncheons and Socials



**CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE (COHI):**

COHI is an early childhood tooth decay prevention program for children aged 0-7, their parents and caregivers and pregnant women. The Dental Hygienist and COHI Aide obtain authorization from families to enroll children in COHI.

*Key Deliverables:* Strive to improve, and ultimately maintain the oral health of First Nations. Reduce and prevent oral disease through prevention, education and oral health promotion. Increase access to oral health care. Prevention and promotion activities at the community level include awareness campaigns and presentations to target sites and groups such as Aboriginal Head Start locations, daycares, preschools, and other community groups.

*Programs and Services:* Annual Screening, fluoride varnish application, sealants and temporary fillings, give one-on-one oral health education to children and adults and provide community health promotion.

**COMMUNITY PRENATAL PLANNING:** The goal of the Prenatal Nutrition Program is to improve the health of mothers and their infants by providing adequate supports and information to the families so babies have the best chance to be healthy at birth and throughout their lives.

*Key Deliverables:* Support the improvement of maternal and infant nutritional health. Activities fall under three core elements which include: nutrition screening, education and counselling; maternal nourishment; and, breastfeeding promotion, education and support. Implement support services which include: screening and assessment of pregnant women and new parents to assess family needs; reproductive and preconception health promotion; as well as home visiting by nurses and community-based workers to provide follow up, referrals and case management as required. Enable home visiting to offer education and support to pregnant women and families with infants with respect to parenting skills and knowledge, healthy child development, positive lifestyle changes, preconception health, improved maternal reproductive health, and access to social supports.

*Programs and Services:* Bumps and Babes is a program that allows families to come together and share information, get resources on healthy lifestyles, baby nursing and nurturing, parenting skills, child development skills, and address any child health issues. The Welcome Babies program offers gift baskets to newly born as a welcome to earth acknowledgment and celebration.

**ABORIGINAL DIABETES INITIATIVE:** The Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (ADI) is to help improve the health status of First Nations, communities through actions aimed at reducing the prevalence (rate) and incidence (reported new cases) of diabetes and its risk factors.

*Key Deliverables:* Provide either one-on-one or group information

sessions and training on Diabetes. Provide regular monitoring. Provides healthy cooking programs. Provide resources and resource materials to clients

*Programs and Services:* Community Kitchen, Food Skills for Families, Keto Information Sessions, Canning Workshops, Health Checks, Diabetes information sessions at Springfest, health Fair and Healing Picnics. Mobile Diabetes Clinic, Footcare

**HOME SUPPORT:** The Home Support Workers provides increased supports for Elders and persons with functional limitations (because of age, health problems or disability) in our Community: provides home services, and transportation to and from appointments, services and events - to assist individuals to maintain their independence, to maximize their level of functioning and to live in conditions that are safe and healthy.

*Key Deliverables:* Provide local transportation for medical appointments, shopping, banking, social events and other errands as requested by clients, in accordance with FNFN policies; Perform household chores including: cleaning, laundry, and other services as needed; Visit with the clients, to ensure their needs are being met, physically, emotionally, spiritually and mentally. Report back to Supervisor with any safety concerns or needs of the client plus household repairs and maintenance requests; Prepare, cook and deliver Meals on Wheels on a weekly basis; Assists Community Health Nurse with client assessments and prioritization of needs.

*Programs and Services:* Meals on Wheels, Elders Social, Elder Trip, Healing Picnic, Language Bingo, Elders Luncheons, Community Kitchen, Medical Escort as needed

**HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE:** The Home Care Aide provides and coordinates individualized care and resources to elders, functionally disabled, and others so that they may continue to live in their homes and within the Nation. Home Care Aides provide personalized care for clients by assisting with activities of daily living (ADLs), ensuring safety and comfort, maintaining hygiene and treating all clients with respect and compassion.

*Key Deliverables:* Performs delegated tasks as assigned by Community Health Nurse (i.e.: wound care management, catheter management, medication administration, prescribed exercise and mobilization routines, etc). Provides personal care to clients, including all aspects of activities of daily living such as assisting with dressing and undressing, bathing, care of skin and hair, assisting with toileting needs, feeding, transfers and other tasks as assigned. Advocate on behalf of the elders and persons with disabilities. Assists Community Health Nurse with client assessments and prioritization of needs. Assists Community Health Nurse with educational workshops as required.

*Programs and Services:* Meals on Wheels, Elders Social, Healing Picnic, Language Bingo, Elders Luncheons, Community Kitchen,



# HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES

## REACHING FOR OUR VISION PRIORITIES:

### FIVE MAIN GOALS FOR SUPPORTING ELDERS NEEDS

- Increase Priority of elders' programs, supports and services
- Develop structures to learn from elders' experiences
- Increase physical and emotional supports for elders
- Prepare and plan for elders' housing needs
- Build and elders' complex

### EIGHT MAIN GOALS TO ADDRESS HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Utilize new wellness centre to engage community
- Improve access for western, traditional and alternative health supports
- Support members in developing and implementing their wellness plans
- Schedule specialists and publicize their visits
- Increase mental health support
- Provide patient travel information and support for families
- Improve prenatal and delivery options for families
- Address the over-prescribing of pharmaceutical drugs

### ELEVEN MAIN GOALS TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY HEALING

- Further community's use of traditional healing approaches
- Residential School healing and understanding
- Promote families' use of their own family support circles
- Provide aftercare plan for those returning from treatment
- Develop a "Back-to-the-Land" treatment program
- Support members in accessing recovery services
- Enhance the counselling team's community connections
- Hire and/or utilize an Aboriginal Counsellor
- Address the most sensitive issues in the community
- Use community approach to stand up to drug dealers and bootleggers.
- Provide joint services from wellness and justice departments.



## FAMILY SUPPORT:

The main priority is to prevent parents from having their children put in care of the Ministry of Children and Families (MCFD). Provide services to families in need through group work and one-to-one interactions; the Family Support Worker will work with families referred by the Ministry of Children and Families and from within the community.

### *Key Deliverables:*

- Engage families and their family's members in activities that promote healthy development and strengthen community and family relationships.
- Play a role in supporting families to make wise choices related to parenting, budgeting and engaging in culturally relevant activities.
- Respond to families in crisis, in cooperation with Ministry of Children and Families and Fort Nelson First Nation Family Services.
- With input from families and involved service providers, develop and implement a plan for support services to families in need.
- Advocate and support the involvement of parents and families in community programs.
- Provide support and guidance to children and families in their dealings with other agencies and service providers in a way that promotes independence and self-reliance.
- Provide opportunities for group work and the building of support networks in the form of Women's Night, Men's Night, parenting groups, discussion groups etc.
- Design and facilitate interactive parent and child activities.

### *Programs Offered:*

Women's Group, Family Friendly Meals, Circle of Security Workshops, Healing Picnic, Family Swim, Language Bingo, Community Kitchen, Bedtime Stories, Family Day, Language Program, Culture Day, Foster Parent Workshops, Parenting Program, Respectful Relations,

## CHILD AND YOUTH CARE:

The main priority is Child Safety and to prevent children from going into care of the Ministry of Children and Families (MCFD). Provide services and individual supports for children referred by the Ministry for Children and Family Development and from within the community. The Child and Youth Care Worker will engage children and their family members in activities that promote healthy development and strengthen community and family relationships. The Child and Youth Care worker will also play a role in supporting children and youth to make wise choices related to mood altering substances using culturally relevant activities.

### *Key Deliverables:*

- Develop specific goal oriented activities based on the referral from the Ministry for Children and Families.
- Meet with children and Youth on a regular basis, engaging in a wide variety of community-based activities that promote social and emotional development.
- Design and implement programs based on the child's specific needs, such as self-esteem, anger management and other relevant areas.
- Provide school assistance and transportation assistance as needed.
- Works closely and collaboratively with other staff in the Family Services Department and the Ministry for Children and Families to coordinate programs and services for the greatest benefit to the children and Youth.
- Plan, prepare, and implement daily activities (indoor/outdoor) as they relate to care.
- Conduct and supervise the completion of pre and post assessments for children.
- Develop and facilitate child development instruction for parents.
- Design and facilitate interactive parent and child activities.

### *Programs Offered:*

Floor Hockey, Family Swim, One-one child/youth outreach, Community Kitchen, Youth Nights, Healing Picnic



# HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES

## REACHING FOR OUR VISION PRIORITIES:

### YOUTH SUPPORT:

Provide individual and group programs and services with the purpose of developing life skills and personal well-being for the youth within the community. Undertake the planning, development and implementation of support services. Facilitating access to specialized home and community based support and prevention services and developing programs that promote healthy lifestyles and relationships for youth are both vital duties for this role.

#### *Key Deliverables:*

- Administration of the Aboriginal Innovations Services (ASI) Funding which provides supports and resources on the prevention of children in care of the Ministry of Children and Families (MCFD)
- Plan, develop, implement, coordinate and evaluate the delivery of support services to youth.
- Provide specialized home and community-based support and prevention programs and services.
- Organize a Youth Council that will assist in the planning, organizing and implementation of programs that are developmentally appropriate and culturally relevant.
- Assist in the coordination of community development and educational services and employment planning.
- Respect and protect the rights of clients, including but not limited to their right to independence, autonomy, and self-determination; their right to choose and practice individual values, beliefs, religion, and culture; their right to privacy and dignity; and their right to live free from retaliation, discrimination, and abuse.
- Develop ties with the parents and families to promote greater parental involvement and volunteerism in youth programs.
- Promote and encourage each individual to maintain an optimum level of health, well-being and self-esteem.

#### *Programs Offered:*

Healing Picnic, Floor Hockey, Women's Group, Men's Group, Family Friendly Meal, Family Swim, Language Bingo, One-one youth outreach, Group outreach, Community Kitchen, Camping trips, Canoe trips, Youth Nights, Dad's & Me program, Youth Educational Field Trips funding.

### EMPLOYMENT & INCOME :

Build community and individual self-reliance, and building a bridge between social development and employment. From providing employment counseling and referrals, to maintaining daily employment assistance services, to supporting community members in attaining temporary social assistance by following INAC social development policy.

#### *Key Deliverables:*

- Basic Needs: minimal funding for unemployed or disabled members which assists with Shelter, utilities, basic living costs.
- Child Out of Parental Home: Funds children who are living with relatives, on reserve.
- Community Volunteer Supplement: To provide a community volunteer supplement for clothing, transportation and other expenses required for a recipients participation in a community volunteer placement.
- Special Needs: Provide one-time assistance for members who face emergency needs that prevent imminent danger to their physical health or immediate protection of a child.
- School Start Up: to assist children for schooling expenses
- Work Clothes and Transportation: assists with essential work clothes and local transportation for work force entry for clients currently on assistance and who had obtained employment.
- Institutional Care: provides funding for members who are living in a long term care facility.
- Work Opportunity Program: Enhance the independence and employability by transferring the income assistance allowance to employment projects.

#### *Programs Offered:*

Work Opportunities Program, Resume Writing, Job Search, EI Filing, Tax Filing, Wills and Estates, Summer Student Work Opportunities



## COMMUNITY WELLNESS & COUNSELLING SERVICES:

Coordinate the development and implementation of counselling services programs designed to promote holistic health and community wellness. Support community members through relationship building advocacy work, and by providing psycho-educational assessments and therapeutic counselling sessions.

### *Key Deliverables:*

- Provide individual and group counselling
- Provide project-based wellness activities in collaboration with other departments (i.e.: community-based treatment programs, support groups, etc.).
- Maintain current knowledge of new approaches and initiatives in all relevant areas, ensuring the department's capacity to respond appropriately to community clinical needs.
- Assume a lead role in the growth and advancement of peer counselling and other services that promote building capacity and self-reliance, with the goal of developing and supporting a community-based network of wellness services and programs.
- Implement and facilitate a broad range of prevention, education, and treatment services, and programs in the areas of substance abuse and addictions.
- Take a leadership role in the development and implementation of aftercare programs that support clients' needs and efforts to maintain a healthy lifestyle when returning from treatment.

### *Programs Offered:*

Healing Picnic, PATH circles, Morning Check In, Women's Afternoon Group, Sober Times, Womens Group, Mens Group, Healing on the Land, Community Kitchen, Individual & Family Outreach, Rehabilitation Funding Dads in Gear, Stop Smoking Program, Self-Empowerment Workshops

## REACHING FOR OUR VISION PRIORITIES:

### COMMUNITY WELLNESS

Implement a coordinated approach to culture and language  
 Increase the use and programming at Old Fort  
 Residential School Healing and Understanding  
 Further community's use of traditional healing approaches  
 Promote families' use of their own family support circles  
 Provide aftercare plan for those returning from treatment  
 Develop a "Back-to-the-Land" treatment program  
 Support members in accessing recovery services  
 Enhance the counselling team's community connections  
 Hire and/or utilize an Aboriginal Counsellor  
 Address the most sensitive issues in the community  
 Use community approach to stand up to drug dealers and bootleggers  
 Provide joint services from wellness and justice departments

### YOUTH

Strengthen our youths' voice through a Youth Council  
 Increase opportunities for our youth leaders  
 Increase youth education and job opportunities  
 Additional cultural activities for youth  
 Maximize youth involvement in sport and physical activity  
 Increase community supports for youth



# HEAD START

## PROGRAMS HELD

Family Splash – weekly family swim.

Mini Moccasins – group for families with young children. Lunch and activities such as; sensory bags, song books, baking. Family, Friendly Meals – families cook dinner together as a whole. Food and recipes provided weekly.

Little Chiefs – group for children 2-4 years old to develop social skills. Running three times a week,, snacks provided.

Bumps&Babes – a group for expecting/new parents to enjoy lunch while socializing weekly. This program is collaborated with the nurse so we offer checkups, education etc.

Women's Night – twice a month Head Start would plan activities for women 16+ to enjoy together. This included; paint nights, spa days, cooking, games.

*All Head Start program stopped March 13<sup>th</sup> due to Covid-19.*

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# EYELI SECHEA DRUM GROUP





# DEHZONA DAY CARE

Dehzona Day Care services have been greatly impacted by COVID-19 and resulting closure of March 15<sup>th</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>, provincial orders, and resulting policies and protocols, and is ready to increase enrolment numbers.

Throughout closure and to date Dehzona has maintained its staffing level with the following Early Childhood Educator certifications:

- 1 Early Childhood Educator, Special Needs Educator, Infant/Toddler Educator
- 2 Early Childhood Educator, Infant/Toddler Educator
- 1 Early Childhood Educator Assistant
- 1 Early Childhood Educator program student
- 1 Food Service Worker 1

Staff also hold a variety of certificates and training such as Food Safe, First Aid, FASD, ASD.

During closure, staff maintained contact with enrolled children through outreach activities to enrolled children throughout daycare closure of March 15 – July 31, 2020. Activities included lunch and snack deliveries with hands-on activity kits and online contact including toddler yoga sessions. Dehzona obtained provincial Temporary Emergency Funding for the months of April through August.. A successful application was made for emergency funding through BC Aboriginal Child Care Society to help support outreach activities during the 4 month closure and 1 month operation under Temporary Emergency Funding. Throughout closure staff participated in a variety of training and education opportunities toward obtaining or maintaining certifications and pursuing training specific to children's needs.

Day care re-opened August 4, 2020 under the provincial Temporary Emergency Funding agreement with 1 ECE, 1 ECEA, and our Food Service Worker to serve enrolled children and Essential Services Workers childcare needs. All staff returned for full operation with regular enrollments in September, with 5 Lynx room (36 months to school age) and 3 Duck room (to 36 months of age) enrolments.

Dehzona is transitioning all current Duck room children to the Lynx room within 3 months and is bringing in new enrollments beginning in December.

Aboriginal Infant Development Program update:

Playgroup age 0-4: October start date- roughly 7 families have attended (multiple times)

Client one on ones: 5 families

(Supervised visits, ASQ's, developmental activities) Daycare support: books, crafts, play with kids.



# EDUCATION

The Chalo Independent School Society (CIS) is a registered Society under the Province of BC's Society Act and is responsible for the governance functions of Chalo School.

The Community Education Authority (the CEA) is elected by FNFN members under staggered four year terms, and acts under delegated authority of the FNFN Council as defined under the FNFN Education Law. The CEA is responsible for the governance functions of all other aspects of Education policy for FNFN.

Our current CEA/CIS members are: Corrine Diamond-C , Chrystal Fincaryk , Bonita Behn, Santana Behn and Roberta Michel.

For further information on the founding and purpose of the Chalo School and the role CEA members play in its governance, review the Chalo Independent School Society Policy 1020 - Community Education Authority Governance Policy.

The policy is available on line at the school site or from the school during normal operating hours.

During the 2019/20 school year, the CEA has reviewed and revised all existing policies and developed new ones. These policies have been compiled into a policy manual for easy reference for department employees. They are also available on line for community members.

## Chalo School (K4- gr12)

Our school provides a comprehensive education plan that includes indigenous language and culture learning. The school strives to provide our high school students the courses they need to pursue a full range of educational and occupational opportunities after they graduate.

This year and moving forward, we aim to:

- Increase opportunities for language and culture learning. (This includes a first time offer of high school credits for a Dene Language course.)
- Increase involvement of community members in this work
- In conjunction with the FNFN Lands Department, we planned and hosted culture camps during the 2019/20 school year and plan to continue these camps in the future.

As an Independent School, we are required to develop formal goals that will improve our operations. Our current school goals are:

- a) Improve all aspects of our library,
- b) Increase community involvement in our school

Renovations are planned for our library and these will happen soon, probably in August. Increasing community involvement in our school is an ongoing goal.



## We belong to several associations:

### **- First Nations Education Steering Committee**

**Mandate:** To facilitate discussion about education matters affecting First Nations in BC by disseminating information and soliciting input from First Nations. The primary goal is to promote and support the provision of quality education to First Nations learners in BC. FNEESC works at the provincial level to provide services in the areas of research, communications, information dissemination, advocacy, program administration and networking.

### **- First Nations Schools Association**

**Mission:** The First Nations Schools Association will collaborate with First Nation schools to create nurturing environments that develop learners' pride and competence in their First Nations language and heritage and will equip them to realize their full potential, within self-governing First Nations communities.

### **- Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association**

**Mission:** Our mission is to support quality post-secondary educational institutes that leverage Indigenous language, culture and knowledge to create adaptable, competent, skilled citizens who are able to contribute to local, provincial, and national advancement. The Indigenous Adult & Higher Learning Association (IAHLA) was created to support and represent Aboriginal-controlled adult and post-secondary education institutes in British Columbia.

### **Education Department Staff**

Education Director: Ray Irwin  
Education Coordinator: Karleigh Kotchea  
Clerk to the CEA: Rhonda Kotchea  
Admin Assistant to the Education

### **Chalo School Staff**

Principal: Gary Zuko  
Vice-Principal: Kevin Xu  
Teachers: Roberta Badine, Jeanie Kenneway, Carol Ramirez, Kathy Schultz, Rosetta Zuko, Ashton Janvier, Seth Attrill, Ryan MacArthur, Jacky Riggs, Elsie Duntra, Florence Michel, Raymond Needlay

Preschool Assistant: Hilda Woodland  
Student Services Coordinator: Kevin Xu  
Personal Aides: Lisa Hogg, Nadine Rawcliffe  
Educational Assistants: Myrna Courtorielle, Stephanie Parson, Christina Childs, April Michel, and Anna Zegnal  
Front Office Assistant: Hayley Hannah  
Admin Assistant, school: Kayla Helget



# JUSTICE

## OBJECTIVES:

- To assist Indigenous people in assuming greater responsibility for the administration of justice in their communities.
- Establishing culturally aligned programs to divert offenders from the mainstream justice system, and to prevent future criminal acts by offering meaningful services to youth, and community members.
- To contribute to a decrease in the rate of victimization, crime and incarceration among Indigenous people in communities with community-led justice programs funded by the Indigenous Justice Program.

- Court assistance
- Bail and probation secondary supervision support
- Pre-charge diversion
- Alternative Measures
- Restorative Justice
- Prevention services (traditional and mainstream options)
- Victim support





**APRIL:** Our application for the "Giving Voice" Project for the Minister's Advisory Council for Indigenous Women was successful and we received \$10,000 for our project to be held in Sept.

**JUNE:** Hosted a Legal Services Workshop June 5/6 at the Woodlands Hotel

-Hosted the Community Corrections CORE program, Respectful Relationships June 10-14

-Provided a free community movie at the Phoenix Theatre for National Indigenous People's Day on June 21st

-Sara attended the BC Justice Council Conference on June 24th in Prince George

-Sara attended the Indigenous Justice Program BC Regional Gathering June 25-27 in Prince George where the FNFN Justice Program was recognized for 10 years of service

**JULY:** Hosted the Community Corrections CORE program, Thinking Leads 2 Change July 8-12

**AUG:** Organized and ran events at the Annual Celebration; Ax Throw, Archery, Target Shooting; Cross Cut

**SEPT:** Sara started an online Gladue Writers Course that will run to November

-Hosted the Women's Wellness Weekend "Healing Through Traditional Art" Sept 21-22



Orange Shirt Day  
walk with Chalo  
school. Sept 30th

**OCT:** Sara attended Cultural Perspectives Training in Victoria Oct 6-10

-Sara and Maryann attended Peace Circle Training Fundamentals in Vancouver Oct 17-20

**NOV:** We held an Addictions Awareness Poster Contest for National Addictions Awareness Week and posters were displayed at Chalo gym during the community dinner

-Sara successfully completed the Gladue Report Writing course by Indigenous Perspectives Society

**DEC:** Hosted a free community Christmas movie at the Phoenix Theatre Dec 21st

**FEB:** Sara attended a one week intensive workshop on FASD in Prince George Feb 11-15

-Coordinated and partially funded the Women's Weekend Retreat at Stone Mountain Safaris Feb 21-23

- Hosted the Community Corrections CORE program, Substance Abuse Management Feb 24-27

**MAR:** FNFN office closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic started on March 13th

-Our proposal for the Fort Nelson First Nation Community Engagement Project was chosen to be a recipient of the Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Crime Remediation Grant Program in the amount of \$30,000. Due to COVID-19, this project was postponed until April 2021 – March 2022



# LANDS & RESOURCES

The FNFN Lands Department serves Fort Nelson First Nation by protecting and asserting our rights and responsibilities to our land for the future of our nation. Our goal is to inform FNFN community members about activities on the land and to influence land use in our territory for the benefit of the entire FNFN community. We are responsible for ensuring the interests of the Fort Nelson First Nation are represented with regard to all matters of Lands and Natural Resources. The Lands Department supports Chief and Council and all members of the community to ensure that Treaty Rights are respected, protected and able to be exercised by all community members. In 2019, the Lands Department mandate was expanded to include land-based cultural programs and services.

## LAND MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

- Creating and implementing land stewardship and management plans
- Conducting environmental monitoring
- Conducting land-based research including cultural use of resources, land use, wildlife, vegetation
- Providing GIS spatial analysis and environmental data management
- Reviewing and analyzing environmental policy and legislation
- Ensuring safety of staff and compliance with health/safety policies
- Processing and responding to industry permit applications
- Participating in territory wide land management processes with government and industry
- Planning, designing, implementing, and monitoring of land reclamation and restoration activities

## LAND-BASED CULTURAL REVITALIZATION OPERATIONS

- Developing and implementing language and land-based cultural revitalization programming
- Providing on-the-land cultural opportunities (e.g. harvesting program, Snake River/SYD cabin)
- Providing land-based cultural events (e.g., camps & workshops for hunting, tanning, trapping etc)
- Administering land-based culture programs (e.g. harvester program, bead, fur and hide program)



## HIGHLIGHTS 2019-2020:

### FNNF LAND GUARDIANS PROGRAM

In 2018, FNNF received funding from Environment Canada to transition the field monitoring program to a Land Guardians program. In 2019, the Land Guardians Program began to shift focus from training only in scientific monitoring to include more FNNF cultural knowledge and values. FNNF Land Guardians are increasingly focused on learning and engaging Indigenous knowledge in monitoring activities, supporting and providing land-based cultural activities, and protecting FNNF land-based cultural values and treaty rights. As we build our capacity to engage the community in land-based monitoring, research and cultural activities through the Land Guardians program, the program will become central to the operations of the FNNF Lands Department and the knowledge gained will be used in forming policy and guiding land management decisions.

### BILATERAL CARIBOU RECOVERY PLANNING AND STEERING COMMITTEE

Since 2009, FNNF has been engaged in boreal caribou recovery planning by responding to federal and provincial recovery plans and developing our own. In 2017, FNNF released the *Medzih Action Plan* to set out FNNF's plan for boreal caribou habitat and population recovery in the territory. This plan informs FNNF land use planning initiatives, including forestry revitalization plans. In 2018, FNNF and BC struck a bilateral Boreal Caribou Recovery Technical Group to further caribou recovery and forest revitalization planning. In 2019, FNNF joined the BC Caribou Recovery Steering Committee along with the NRRM. Despite the success of FNNF's engagement in provincial. Funding for FNNF involvement in the Technical Group and the Steering Committee ran out in March 2020.

### HABITAT RESTORATION AND RECLAMATION PILOT PROJECTS

Since 2018, FNNF has been engaged in piloting caribou habitat restoration and orphan well reclamation techniques. Funded by the Oil and Gas Commission, Natural Resources Canada, and Environment Canada, these pilot projects are designed to test innovative techniques for land restoration and reclamation in areas identified as important to caribou and FNNF cultural values and using native plant species and local labour to raise the standard of land reclamation practices in the territory.

### SENSE OF PLACE: INDIGENOUS LAW CAMP

Working with Lands staff, Guardians and community members, we explored Dene and Cree traditional stories as a basis for environmental management and decision-making. We compiled Dene and Cree stories into a 54-page "Living Laws Casebook" and co-hosted a 2-day community workshop and a 2-day youth camp on-the-land with the Indigenous Law Research Unit (ILRU) from the University of Victoria. We presented the casebook, shared stories, and explored ways the stories can help us relate to the land, make good decisions about the land, and work through environmental and community governance challenges. For the youth camp we workshopped a graphic novel about Cree law that was developed by the ILRU, discussed a Dene story and explored ways to draw teachings out of stories to help us make good decisions in life. A video was created and posted on the Lands facebook page.

### ADULT DENE LANGUAGE CLASSES

In 2019, the Lands Department began offering land-based culture programs, including adult language classes. From September to December 2019 we held a 10-week language class for adults in the community. Based on the success of this pilot project, we accessed further funding to host more classes in 2020-2021. These classes resumed in collaboration with Chalo School in October 2020.



# LANDS & RESOURCES

## 2019-2020 PRIORITIES AND PROJECTS:

### Land and Resources Management

Negotiate government-to-government reconciliation agreement with BC that includes joint land use planning, water monitoring, geothermal project development, wildlife management and resource revenue sharing. Funded by MIRR, 2019-2020 = \$30,000.

BCOGC consultation: Provincial land use permits referrals processing, policy analysis and engagement in provincial land management initiatives. BCOGC funding = \$350,000.

Industry engagement and tenure-based land management: Partner with industry to manage tenure areas in line with Industry needs and FNFN values and priorities, including water monitoring and wildlife helicopter surveys. Chevron = \$55,000 and Harvest Energy = \$100,000.

Orphan well reclamation (Year 1): Engage with the BCOGC to pilot orphan well reclamation planning, prioritizing and implementation. BC OGRIS funding = \$175,000.

Caribou habitat restoration (Year 1): 3-year pilot project to assess methods for restoring caribou habitat fragmented by oil and gas activity (i.e., seismic lines). BC OGRIS funding = \$75,000; HCTF funding = \$258,000.

Caribou collaring (Year 1): 3-year project to GPS collar and track caribou herds in the territory that are known to FNFN land users but not known or tracked in provincial databases. NRCAN funding = \$50,000.

BC caribou protection planning (Year 2): Engage with BC in bilateral caribou protection and recovery planning and BC-NRRM-FNFN steering committee on BC caribou recovery. \$100,000.

Treaty 8 Groundwork project (Year 1): 3-year Indigenous law revitalization project with the University of Victoria and the Treaty 8 Tribal Association. Project is focused on how BC Treaty 8 nations traditionally managed land use, access and jurisdiction among nations.

Guardian program development (Year 1): 3-year pilot project to transition the FNFN field monitor and the OGC Aboriginal Liaison program into an FNFN Land Guardian program grounded in FNFN priorities, values and laws. Four full-time Land Guardians hired in January 2021. ECCC funding = \$142,000; Chevron = \$25,000; BCOGC = \$150,000.

Environmental and archaeological monitoring: Leverage ongoing industry and academic requests for environmental and archaeological monitoring assistance toward building capacity for Guardian program. \$100,000

Tervita Environmental Fund: Funding for Treaty 8 nations to carry out environmental monitoring in their territory according to the needs and capacity of each community. No funds were expended this fiscal and have been rolled into 2020-2021. Tervita funding = \$180,000.

Land-based Healing project (Year 1): In 2019, the Lands Department began offering land-based culture programs beginning with a 2-year project to pilot land-based healing initiatives. 2019-2020 years' activities included a successful men's hunting camp and a week-long language camp at Snake River/SYD cabin for Chalo students. In February we hosted a Women's health retreat at Stone Mountain. We also provided funds for families to self-isolate on the land in March. First Nations Health Authority funding 2019/2020 = \$42,000.



**Land-based Cultural Support:** We provide ongoing support and opportunities for FNFN members to engage in on-the-land and land-based cultural activities, including Harvester, Crafter and Gardening Support and on-the-land culture camps and workshops. 2019-2020 funding came from the FNFN Health Department (\$50,000), FNFN band funds (\$130,000), and Harvest Energy (\$20,000). Since 2015, the FNFN has invested approximately \$1 million in getting FNFN members back on the land and engaging in traditional activities through the Harvester and Crafter support program.

**Men's Drum Group:** In January 2020, we began a weekly drum group for men and boys to get together, have some food and learn and share drum songs, protocols and teachings. We held 8 practices January 5<sup>th</sup> – March 8<sup>th</sup>. During these practices we had local Dene Drummers Jeffery Salopree and Angus Dickie share many blessings and responsibilities of carrying a drum. We also had a visit from Dene Drummer and 2019 Fort Nelson Hand games Champion, Fabian Chonkolay from Chateh Alberta. He shared how the drum helped him throughout his life and grounded him, allowing him to become the best version of his true self. The group was also visited by Gordon Pastion, a Dene Song keeper from Chateh Alberta. His stories of the drum's healing power and the protocols for hand games and drum dances will be invaluable to our people as we begin reclaiming our drum traditions and knowledge. This group is funded by the United Church Residential School Healing Fund (\$15,000).

**Adult Language Classes (Year 1):** This year we established an adult language learning classes and began developing curriculum and resource materials through the First Peoples Culture Council *Silent Speakers* program. This has helped FNFN start the important work of revitalizing our language. Each week for 10 weeks, we had between 5 - 13 participants with various levels of Dene language skills. A lot of speakers had caught on to some of the words from memory when they'd hear words they used to hear at home. Many speakers who spoke Dene before residential school really caught on quickly and by the end of the class they were shouting out the answers in class and were very comfortable in the group setting. Based on the success of this pilot project, we accessed further funding to host more classes in 2020-2021. These classes resumed in collaboration with Chalo School in October 2020. FPCC 2019-2020 funding = \$25,000.

**First Voices On-Line Language Archive (Year 1):** This was the first year of a 2 year project to record and upload Dene k'e words, phrases, stories and song to an online First Voices language archive. The first year was one of growth and learning for our team and the community. We have secured funding for Year 2. FPCC 2019-2020 funding = \$78,000.

**Dene and Cree Law Revitalization:** In 2019, FNFN teamed up with the Treaty 8 Tribal Association and the Indigenous Law Research Unit for a 3-year project to recover Indigenous land laws across Treaty 8. The research team will review publically available Dene, Cree, Dunne-za, Saulteau and Kaska Dena resources to recover and analyze traditional laws related to land use and access, including laws that apply between nations. The research team will provide a legal analysis and summary to each community, along with a graphic novel for use in teaching and sharing the project outcomes. FPCC funding = \$25,000.

**Language Sharing and Community Visits:** In February 2020, the Lands culture team traveled to various communities who have successful language programs throughout the province, engage with the people on the ground, and with the leaders who were instrumental in revitalizing their language. The team looked at the innovative ways Language teams are getting youth involved in learning the language and spoke to the people on the ground to get some insight on how we can be more effective in the classroom here in Fort Nelson. Over 10 days, the team visited Doig River, Williams Lake (Ti'etinqox Radio Station), Stylx House Language Learning Centre, Kamloops Language Nest, and Chief Atahm School. FPCC = \$15,000



# CAPITAL WORKS

PROJECTS OR INITIATIVES COMPLETED IN THE 2019-2020 FISCAL.

**Service and Inspection** done on all facilities HVAC systems

**Update Remote control of HVAC** access on 2 facility buildings

**Held 3 (Quarterly) Custodian** meetings, 8 Employees

**442 Inspections**

**Chalo School Reno's** as per ACRS 2

**Summer Student** program successful

**Community Forest Committee** member

**JOHS** Chair

**Filled the Water/sewer** position

Big plans to put on huge showing for **Northern lights fest** - cancelled March 13(opening day)

**Spring lift station maintenance** ran long and cost an extra 70,000 do to a high number of wipes, old exhausted pumps. We now have spares and have improved pubic awareness, and am recommending 3 cleanings per year to reduce costs and breakdowns.

**Coordinated the checkpoints** average 175 people through per 24 hour shift ran for just under 3 months cost of approx. \$170,000

**7 summer students** this season 68,000 in funding almost completely used (unable to hire trainers due to COVID-19)

**Reapplied for Lagoon operations** permit and it was granted (old one was out of date)

**Lagoon discharge** this season - 67230 cubes of waste down from last year by 12,600 cubes due to repairs and reduced infiltration.

**Lands new cabin** on the snake river (our only large community project due to COVID-19)

**New Stop signs** -\$3500



**Filled the Roads position**

**New plow truck** unit 263

**One major water line break** - 43,000\$ (do to corrosion)

**One major sewer break-** 35,000\$ (do to poor install)

**248 Service requests** completed as per CW and PW coordinators

**Emergency Preparedness Training sessions with NRRM** Emergency route planning, Emergency response plan update, 6 EMBC/ JIBC Emergency courses. 2 Proposals submitted and approved.

**FNHA- Water source protection** awareness proposal submitted and approved.

**Completion of On reserve fuel treatment** 14 treated on Sikanni road that consisted of Tree spacing of conifer, pruning of conifer to 3m, removal of ground forest fuels i.e. dead trees, small new conifer etc., pile and burn debris this will lessen the interface wildfire vulnerability, and allow for quicker access for suppression. 6 Employees Submit new proposals for 2020-21

**Community Resiliency** Proposal Submitted and approved for the Wildfire prescription update on 200 Ha on reserve, Home Ignition Zone assessments and fuel treatment 6 Employees. Submit new proposals for 2020-21

**Recycle Program-Earth Day** we have completed the build of recycle sheds in Jan 2019 June 2019-We are in the process of producing Shed recycle signs and instructions Late June 2019-We will have the sheds placed in a more appropriate location ie. School and Arbour area July 2019-During our Community meeting and in our Newsletter we will also post instructions in how to use recycle sheds we will monitor monthly on the amounts of waste they receive and also effectiveness of the recycling. Plan to utilize the various departments to engage the members in recycling. 1 Contractor

**Recycle program- Zero Waste** proposal submitted and approved, Gather Recycle champions from the community; provide recycle equipment and training, set up recycle bins in community. 1 Contractor

**Army Dump Reclamation** proposal approved; RFP completed and awarded for Project lead and remedial of army dump sites on reserve.

**Land Use Plan-** proposal approved and RFP for tender awarded. These plans can help First Nation communities foster healthy and sustainable communities by protecting their environment, cultural, heritage and sacred sites, preserving existing community infrastructure, promoting land, water and environmental stewardship, managing land tenure activities, facilitating economic development, and guiding long-term infrastructure planning.



# HOUSING

PROJECTS OR INITIATIVES COMPLETED IN THE 2019-2020 FISCAL.

**Property Management of 37 Elders and 52 CMHC and FNFN Rental units.**

**Constructed:** 6 new Houses CMHC funding support

**Renovated:** 10 Elders Homes with major work done on reroofing, Furnaces, bathroom and kitchens, and Flooring or Ramps.

**25 move in and out Inspections**

**250 Service requests** completed for the rentals and Elders

**Housing Governance; Drafted** revision on the Housing Policy for Council review and feedback. Developed 8 brochures for the Housing Department on different aspect of the department ie: pet policy, move in or out procedure.

**ECAP; coordinated** with Fortis and BC Hydro on Energy Conservation and savings. 100 applications completed and 60 homes received at no cost new light LED blubs, Thermostats, weather stripping, 9 new refrigerators, and 5 new Furnaces. This is an ongoing program.



## 10 ELDERS HOMES RENOVATED

Major renovations were done on 10 Elders owned homes with some had Roofs done with Fiberglass Shingle that have limited Lifetime warranty, Furnace and Hotwater tanks replaced, bathroom and kitchen countertops and vinyl laminate flooring. All renovation were done by nation members. Funding support from ISC and FNFN.



## FORT NELSON FIRST NATION HOUSING CONSTRUCTION BUILT BY MEMBERS 2019-2020



### **2 ELDERS / MOBILITY HOMES**

Build to accommodate Elders needs as they age and mobility concerns arise. 2 bedroom, 1080 sq ft



### **2 DUPLEX—FAMILY HOMES**

3 bedroom, laundry on main floor, 2 bathrooms, side by side Duplex for going families.



# ANNUAL CELEBRATION / 110 TREATY COMMEMORATION

HOSTED BY: W'AH W'EE NA YAH CULTURAL SOCIETY  
2020 REPORT, AUG 14–AUG 16

## Overview

Annual Celebration was as successful as it could be, Due to a Death in the Community. We did however, have it for 2 days instead of 3. We shut every event down on Saturday Aug 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. out of respect to the Family.

### Friday's event consisted of:

Registration

Opening Ceremonies

Moose Camp

Scavenger Hunt (was to be continued until Sunday, but this got cancelled.)

COVID-19 signs were put up around the Community

### Saturday's event consisted of:

Community Breakfast (COVID-19 style- Pick up and go)

Moose camp – at snake River. A moose was donated but was used out at Snake River, as they were having a gathering the same weekend as us. Everyone was welcomed to go out there for Moose camp on the Sierra Road.

Youth & Children's activities

Drum Dance / Tea Dance (We had to cut it short as we found out at 6:00 p.m.)

Community Supper – Fort Cooked and Health & Wellness served it through the window. Pick up and go.

Coffee was served the whole time in the Arbor. We got Tim Hortons coffee. No coffee was made. There were always 2 servers there at a time. Gloves & Masks were worn the whole time.

Treaty 8 Centennial 110 T-shirts were given out to the Community. We still had a few that were left over, so we now have them to give away at the Band office. No charge is necessary.

### Sunday

Shut down. Due to Death in the Community



It was a Challenge to try and keep it at a Capacity of 50 people for the event due to the Health Order

We had one person at a time Register and take a seat, watch the Drummers for a little bit and do a smudge and they would get up and leave. Then another person would come through our Arbor and do the same thing. It did work out, but again, it was a Challenge.

### Theme

The Theme was to try and not let COVID-19 win. Council still wanted this event to go ahead, even though it was a Challenge for all of us who put on the event. Still lots to learn from doing a COVID-19 Event.

The Major objectives were:

- To try to pull off this event with out a Hitch. Some things were successful and some weren't. Learning curb for sure.
- Very little money was spent on this year's event.

Food: We had a Breakfast and a Supper on the Saturday Aug 15<sup>th</sup>. Both were a success. We abided by the COVID-19 Rules. Both were Pick up and go. We had someone stand outside and give it to people through a Vehicle drive through. There was actually food left over from breakfast, but it got given to the Health & Wellness dept. They used it for the Elders Breakfast/ Lunch.

Breakfast Menu was: Eggs, Bacon, Pancakes, & Fruit.

Supper Menu was: Roast & Mashed potatoes, vegetable and buns & Dessert (Every dish was wrapped and dished out through the Health & Wellnesses window. Great success there)

Challenges were: we ran out of food that was provided by the Fort Hotel. So, the health dept had to order Pizza in order to cover off the food that we ran out on.

Security: Overall security was a success. No issues arisen. All of the community were very cooperative.

Signage: Capital Works did a great job with all the Signage for the COVID 19 Protocols.

Main Contact person was: Heather Gairdner

Second Contact person was: Betty Lou Gushue

Community Members and Members of the Fort Nelson Area to this event.

It was a Drug & Alcohol-free event.



# ANNUAL CELEBRATION / 110 TREATY COMMEMORATION

HOSTED BY: W'AH W'EE NA YAH CULTURAL SOCIETY  
AUG 14-AUG 16, 2020









# FINANCE

The Finance department's mission is to provide routine financial statements to the Chief and Council and operating departments, ensure policies and procedures are complied with, and ensure funding and expenditures are safeguarded.

## The Finance Department oversees:

- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Budgeting Process
- Financial Admin Law (FAL) Financial Compliance
- Fund Accounting
- GST Reporting
- Monthly Bank Reconciliation
- Payroll
- Yearly Audit Process
- Yearly Property Taxation

## Reporting:

The Finance Department provides monthly financial information to Chief and Council as well as department directors that will assist and support best practice decision-making. These reports include income statements, the balance sheet, and funding tracking reports.

## Updating Processes

The finance department has been working towards moving processes forward in regards to technologies and computerized options. Finance has set up and implemented

- Online banking for customer/member payment (ie rent, daycare fees, or other amounts owed to the nation)
- EFT vendor payments (payments being made to members or business by the nation through electronic funds transfer rather than by cheque)

## Item's in Progress

Continues work toward the implementation of the Financial Administration Law (FAL), which was adopted in January 2019

Finance department reorganization

Create policies and procedures required for the financial administration law, in collaboration with the administration department

Learning new software options available to create better reporting for finance and the nation, (ie: sage upgrade to have cloud access and other reporting modules and print boss for electronic paystubs and other form options.)



To the members of Fort Nelson First Nation:

The accompanying consolidated financial statements of Fort Nelson First Nation are the responsibility of management and have been approved the Chief and Council.

Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the accompanying consolidated financial statements, including responsibly for significant accounting judgements and estimates in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. This responsibility includes selecting appropriate accounting principles and methods, and making decisions affecting the measurements of transactions in which objective judgment is required,

In discharging its responsibilities for the integrity and fairness of the consolidated financial statements, management designs and maintains the necessary accounting systems and related internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are authorized, assets are safeguarded and financial records are properly maintained to provide reliable information for the preparation of consolidated financial statements.

The Fort Nelson First Nation Council is responsible for overseeing management in the performance of its financial reporting responsibilities, and for approving the consolidated financial statements. The council fulfils these responsibilities by reviewing the financial information prepared by management and discussing relevant matters with management and external auditors. The Council is also responsible for recommending the appointment of the First Nation's external auditors.

MNP LLP is appointed by the Council on behalf of the Members to audit the consolidated financial statements and report directly to them; their report follows. The external auditors have full and free access to, and meet periodically and separately with, both the Council and management to discuss their audit findings.

Angela O'Shaughnessy

Director of Finance



# FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

## Fort Nelson First Nation Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2020

	2020	2019 Restated Note 19
<b>Financial assets</b>		
Cash resources (Note 4)	4,713,673	6,032,208
Portfolio investments (Note 5)	10,408,190	12,066,565
Portfolio investments held in trust (Note 6)	9,255,053	8,627,179
Funds held in trust (Note 7)	16,227,332	16,688,872
Accounts receivable (Note 8)	2,196,737	1,534,921
Inventory	34,888	45,265
Investments in First Nation business entities (Note 9)	4,979,917	6,870,251
Investment in First Nation business partnership (Note 9)	24,051	14,406
<b>Total of financial assets</b>	<b>47,839,841</b>	<b>51,879,667</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accruals (Note 10)	2,618,822	3,116,792
Deferred revenue (Note 11)	1,660,552	1,076,284
Mortgage advance (Note 12)	708,491	327,877
Promissory notes payable (Note 13)	212,358	212,358
Long-term debt (Note 14)	2,496,108	2,557,208
<b>Total of liabilities</b>	<b>7,696,331</b>	<b>7,290,519</b>
<b>Net financial assets</b>	<b>40,143,510</b>	<b>44,589,148</b>
<b>Contingent liabilities (Note 15)</b>		
<b>Significant event (Note 16)</b>		
<b>Non-financial assets</b>		
Tangible capital assets (Note 17) (Schedule 1)	25,881,305	26,744,355
Prepaid expenses	46,032	49,081
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>	<b>25,927,337</b>	<b>26,793,436</b>
<b>Accumulated surplus (Note 18)</b>	<b>66,070,847</b>	<b>71,382,584</b>
<b>Accumulated surplus is comprised of:</b>		
Accumulated surplus (Note 18)	67,789,061	71,804,392
Accumulated remeasurement losses	(1,718,214)	(421,808)
	<b>66,070,847</b>	<b>71,382,584</b>



## Fort Nelson First Nation Consolidated Statement of Operations

*For the year ended March 31, 2020*

	<i>Schedules</i>	<i>2020 Budget</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019 Restated Note 19</i>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Indigenous Services Canada		3,881,588	4,534,222	4,687,721
First Nations Health Authority		1,091,988	1,178,397	1,335,055
Province of British Columbia		1,359,713	1,791,345	1,651,190
Government of Canada		372,130	758,481	739,585
First Nations Education Steering Committee		411,491	441,397	583,358
North East Native Advancing Agency		132,000	154,171	157,978
BC First Nation Gaming Revenue Sharing LP		-	539,312	-
Rental income		265,716	236,947	225,578
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation		133,860	120,856	240,233
Trust distributions		-	403,503	339,139
Interest income		383,068	305,498	416,589
Income from portfolio investments		964,484	538,333	1,077,122
Other revenue		3,283,200	5,040,604	3,729,321
Loss from investments in First Nation business entities		-	(2,767,197)	(2,808,484)
Income from investment in First Nation business partnership		-	9,645	10,198
		<b>12,279,238</b>	<b>13,285,514</b>	<b>12,384,583</b>
<b>Program expenses</b>				
Administration	3	2,225,083	2,691,819	2,323,321
Capital	4	1,615,886	2,325,184	1,976,027
Child Development	5	519,627	762,980	709,880
Economic Development	6	46,200	42,259	26,408
Education	7	4,458,554	3,838,913	4,331,885
Health	8	1,160,040	1,485,639	1,256,217
Housing	9	700,001	731,391	693,993
Lands Resources	10	1,089,576	1,658,125	2,566,221
Other Investments	11	248,950	2,438,714	2,257,175
Social Services	12	751,877	1,325,821	1,306,139
		<b>12,815,794</b>	<b>17,300,845</b>	<b>17,447,266</b>
<b>Deficit</b>		<b>(536,556)</b>	<b>(4,015,331)</b>	<b>(5,062,683)</b>

THE COMPLETE 2019-2020 AUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SCHEDULE OF REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES CAN BE FOUND AT:

[https://fnp-ppn.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FederalFundingMain.aspx?BAND\\_NUMBER=543&lang=eng](https://fnp-ppn.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FederalFundingMain.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=543&lang=eng)





Approved by Chief and Council Feb 2, 2021