

# Community Newsletter



**Fort William  
First Nation**



May, 2026



WINTER - ANEMKI WAJIW

## Welcome to our May Newsletter!

As we move further into spring, Fort William First Nation continues to stay active with a variety of community events, programs, and opportunities for members of all ages. From upcoming gatherings and recreational activities to important community notices and services.

This month's newsletter highlights events such as the **Red Dress Walk, From the Ground Up**, and the **Honour Gathering**, along with ongoing programs and activities taking place throughout the community. You'll also find updates from our departments and current job opportunities.

We hope this edition keeps you connected, informed, and engaged as we head into a busy and exciting season.

*Spring is in the air... along with a little bit of snow, apparently*

### In this newsletter you can expect:

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Events

Save the Dates

Activities,  
Programs &  
Services

Community  
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# Community Events

## Spring Bazaar

**When:** Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, doors open at 11:00am

**Where:** Community Centre

**Details:** There will be lunch, a penny auction, and fun for the entire family. All FWFN Members welcome.



## Family Centre: Drop-In Program

**When:** Every Monday to Thursday from 10:00am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 3:00pm

**Excluding:** Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

## Family Program

**When:** Every Monday (excluding May 18<sup>th</sup>) starting at 4:30pm

**Where:** Community Centre

**Details:** All Members welcome. Dinner will be provided.

## Red Dress Walk

**When:** Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:30pm - 6:30pm

**Where:** Starting at the Youth Centre

**Details:** A Community walk in honour of Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls & Two-Spirit. There will be light snacks and refreshments.



## Free Skate

**When:** Every Tuesday to Friday from 3:00pm - 5:00pm

**Where:** Arena - Rink #1

**Details:** May 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> will run from 3:00pm - 4:30pm.  
Excluding May 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>.



## 17+ Rec Night

**When:** Every Wednesday from 6:00pm - 9:00pm

**Where:** The last Wednesday will be an outing.

## Fitness program

**When:** Every Thursday from 5:00pm - 6:00pm

**Where:** Weight Room

**Details:** Running every Thursday, starting May 7<sup>th</sup> and ending June 7<sup>th</sup>. A trainer will be on-site. Must be 16+ to attend.



## Youth Rec Night

**When:** Every Friday from 6:00pm - 8:30pm

**Where:** Youth Centre

## Family Centre: Parents & Tots Program

**When:** Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm - 2:00pm

**Where:** Community Centre

**Details:** Please join us for lunch. There will be activities for the children, resources, draws, and gift cards for attendance.



*Please be aware that events and details may be subject to change.*

## Feathers of Hope: Land-Based Cultural Education

**When:** Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

**Details:** Community camping gathering and focus group on the Wings of Justice, hosted by SOIL. FWFN Members aged 13–14 are encouraged to attend. Limited to 25 spots. Please email [koral.hamilton@feathersofhope.ca](mailto:koral.hamilton@feathersofhope.ca) to register.



## Family Skate

**When:** Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm - 5:30pm

**Where:** Arena - Rink #1

## 55+ Program

**When:** Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:00pm

**Where:** Community Centre

**Details:** There will be a Community Health Nurse, light lunch, and bingo.



## Honour Gathering

**When:** Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00pm - 5:00pm

**Where:** 90 Anemki Drive

**Details:** Community Members are invited to gather in honour of Residential School Survivors and Children who never made it home.



*Please be aware that events and details may be subject to change.*

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## From the Ground Up

**When:** Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am - 3:00pm

**Where:** Community Centre

**Details:** Housing community event with lunch, refreshments, interactive activities, vendors, and prizes.

## Mountain Bingo Events

### Half Price Night

**When:** Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

**Details:** All main books are half price.

### Whacky Wednesdays

**When:** Every Wednesday in May

**Details:** All special books are half price.

### Celebrating MOM

**When:** Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

**Details:** Celebrate all the amazing moms with several FREE draws for designer purses.

### Draw Night

**When:** Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Details:** 3 draws of \$200 in gift certificates.

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## Save the Dates

### FWFN Spring Hide Camp

**When:** June 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

**Where:** Chippewa Park

**Details:** For more information, please call 807-622-6791.

### FWFN Annual Summer Pow Wow

**When:** July 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Where:** Anemki Wajiw

### Nokiiwin Unity Gathering

**When:** August 12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Where:** Anemki Wajiw

*Please be aware that events and details may be subject to change.*

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## Activities, Programs & Services

### FWFN 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fishing Challenge

**When:** May 4<sup>th</sup> - June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

FWFN Recreation presents the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fishing Challenge! Submit a photo of your biggest catch beside a measuring tape for a chance to win.

**Age Categories:**

- 0-12 yrs
- 13-17 yrs
- 18-49 yrs
- 50+ yrs

**Details:** All entries must be submitted by June 12<sup>th</sup>. Winners will be announced Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> on the Youth & Social Development Facebook page. To register, submit photos, or request a fishing rod, please email [drewpelletier@fwfn.com](mailto:drewpelletier@fwfn.com).

### May's Good Food Box

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

**Orders are due by May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at noon.** Pick up May 20<sup>th</sup> after 3:00pm at the Health Centre.

### Smoking Cessation Program

The FWFN Health Centre & Thunder Bay Wellness Centre are offering a Smoking Cessation Program for Band Members.

- Limited spaces available
- Must be a FWFN Band Member

For more information, please call 807-622-8802.

### Bed Protector Program (Ontario Works)

Ontario Works, in collaboration with Leon's, are offering up to 2 bed protectors (queen, double, twin, twin XL) per household. It is first come, first serve. Please call Marge Simpson, Social Programs Coordinator, at 807-622-6791 ext. 317 for more information.

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## Community Notices

### Waste Collection Bins Notice

Waste collection bins will be available from **May 4<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026** at the weigh scales off Squaw Bay Road. Gates will be open daily from **12:00pm - 8:00pm**, and bins will be monitored.

**Accepted items include:** mattresses, couches, chairs, tables, and similar bulk items.

**Not accepted:** appliances, propane tanks, electronics, paint, batteries, concrete, dirt, and regular household waste.

Regular garbage pickup will continue as usual. Members are encouraged to continue using that service for household waste.

We kindly encourage those who are able to assist Elders with spring cleanup and waste drop-off.

**For Band Members only.** For more information, please email [EnvironmentalOfficer@fwfn.com](mailto:EnvironmentalOfficer@fwfn.com) or call 807-623-9543 ext. 605.

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### Finance Update: Youth Recreation Program

We are excited to share that the Bingo Balls Program has been updated and is now called the Youth Recreation Program.

This program continues to support our children and youth in participating in recreational, educational, and cultural activities.

What's new:

- The program now runs on a fiscal year (April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>)
- Funding is up to \$1,000 per child/youth per year
- There are updated eligibility requirements and guidelines
- A new application form is now required for all submissions

Applications can be submitted throughout the year, and multiple activities can be claimed up to the yearly limit.

For full details, eligibility, and the new application form, please visit the FWFN website or contact the Finance Department at [accountspayable@fwfn.com](mailto:accountspayable@fwfn.com).

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## Community Safety Reminder

With warmer weather approaching, children will be spending more time outdoors. We remind all Community Members to drive with caution, slow down in residential areas, and watch for children near roads.

Please ensure children are supervised around puddles, flooded areas, and rivers.

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## Staff Updates

### Economic Development Department



Fort William First Nation is pleased to welcome **Jeff Robert** as the new Director of Economic Development.

Jeff is a Member of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek and has longstanding family ties within Fort William First Nation. He brings over 20 years of experience in leadership and corporate administration across the private sector, non-profits, and First Nation organizations. His work has focused on strategic planning, financial stewardship, and organizational growth.

Most recently, Jeff served as the Human Resources Manager for Chi Mino Ozhitoowin. His career also includes roles with Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services, Nokiiwin Tribal Council, and Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek, with experience in senior management, operations, and governance.

Jeff recently completed his Executive MBA in April 2026 and looks forward to working with Leadership and Chief and Council to move forward in a good way and support shared goals for the community.

Beyond his professional life, he has enjoyed giving back to the community. For many years he was involved with Elks Minor Hockey and, more recently, he has supported the Westgate Curling Team.

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## Education Department

We would like to congratulate **Brittany Anness** on her new role as Manager of Education. Over the past 12 years, Brittany has been an invaluable member of the team, bringing dedication, experience, and a strong commitment to supporting students and families within the community. Her leadership and knowledge will continue to strengthen the department and the services it provides.

We also congratulate **Shyra Bannon** on becoming the new Education Coordinator. Shyra has been a valued member of the team as Education Assistant, where she consistently demonstrated reliability, strong work ethic, and a genuine dedication to supporting students. Her experience and the relationships she has built within the community will be a great asset in her new role.

The Education Department remains committed to supporting students at all levels, from early learning through post-secondary, and continues to work toward creating opportunities that promote growth, learning, and success for Community Members.

## Job Opportunities

### Band Representative

**Employment Type:** Full-time, 6-month contract

**Closing Date:** Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:59pm

Fort William First Nation is hiring a Band Representative to support Members by advocating on their behalf and assisting with communication between departments and external organizations. This role works closely with individuals and families to ensure concerns are addressed, services are accessible, and community needs are effectively represented. The successful candidate will demonstrate strong communication skills, professionalism, and a commitment to supporting Community Members.

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## Family Support Worker

**Employment Type:** 1-year contract

**Closing Date:** Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:59pm

Fort William First Nation is hiring a Family Support Worker to provide support services to families and help strengthen overall well-being through guidance, resources, and programming. This role involves working directly with families to promote healthy home environments, connect individuals with services, and support positive outcomes for children and caregivers. The ideal candidate will be compassionate, organized, and committed to supporting families in the community.

## Employment & Training Worker

**Employment Type:** Full-time, permanent

**Closing Date:** Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm

Fort William First Nation is hiring an Employment & Training Worker to assist members in accessing employment and training opportunities. This role provides guidance, resources, and support to help individuals build skills, pursue education, and connect with employment pathways. The successful candidate will work closely with Community Members to identify goals, remove barriers, and support long-term success.

For more information on **job opportunities** please visit the employment page on our website at [www.fwfn.com/employment/](http://www.fwfn.com/employment/).

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## Education Assistant

**Employment Type:** Full-time, permanent

**Closing Date:** Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm

Fort William First Nation is hiring an Education Assistant to support the Education Department with administrative tasks, student communication, and program coordination. This role assists with maintaining student records, supporting post-secondary students, and ensuring the smooth delivery of education services. The ideal candidate will be organized, detail-oriented, and passionate about supporting student success.

## Cultural Worker

**Employment Type:** Full-time, permanent

**Closing Date:** Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm

Fort William First Nation is hiring a Cultural Worker to support the development and delivery of cultural programming and activities within the community. This role helps preserve and promote traditions, language, and cultural knowledge through events, workshops, and community engagement. The successful candidate will be passionate about culture, community involvement, and creating learning opportunities.

For more information on **job opportunities** please visit the employment page on our website at [www.fwfn.com/employment/](http://www.fwfn.com/employment/).

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