

McMurray Métis

Summer Student Program

2019



MCMURRAY
MÉTIS

Table of Contents

Letter from Chief Executive Officer.....	1
Introduction & Overview.....	2
Acknowledgements.....	2
9 Week Project Completion Timeline.....	3-4
Summer Student Feedback & Program Thoughts.....	5-6
Program Photos.....	7-10
Note from Summer Student Coordinator.....	11
Closing Thoughts.....	11
Quotes.....	12





Letter from Chief Executive Officer

On behalf of the McMurray Métis, I am pleased to release this report recapping our 2019 summer students' program. This past summer has been filled with many joys and we are thankful and grateful for all of the success. We hosted a total of thirty-four students for a total of nine weeks. This report highlights the accomplishments of all the students who participated in this year's program.

The students were excited for a full nine weeks of learning new skills and building their resumes for future employment opportunities. The McMurray Métis summer student program's success opens up doors of possibility for further expansion over the years to come.

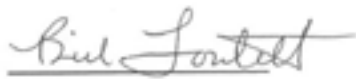
We believe that youth are our future, and we need to continue to impart skills and knowledge in order to see them thrive. At the same time ensuring that we create an atmosphere that makes each of them feel welcome and comfortable.

Without a doubt, the summer student program continues to be a highlight each year at the Metis Local!

Thank you for taking the time to read the stories and hear firsthand about the students' experiences.

Looking forward to 2020's summer student program!

Sincerely,



Bill Louttit
Chief Executive Officer
McMurray Metis Local 1935



A visit from Tany Yao, MLA for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo

Introduction & Overview

The 2019 summer student program, started on July 2, 2019. Here at the McMurray Métis Local 1935, we had the pleasure of having a total of thirty four students enroll and complete the program. Of the thirty four students, twenty were Métis, eleven First Nation and three Non- Indigenous. These students spent the months of July and August helping the Métis Local start and accomplish many projects and goals including various practical training sessions and hands on work assignments on our land and within the community. All of the projects this summer led with the goal to create a strong work ethic and teach the students to always have an attitude of gratitude.

The students kicked off the program by attending a two-day safety orientation where they reviewed all of the projects planned for the summer, studied the principles of health and safety, learned correct protocols for using all tools that would be needed over the coming months, and completed FLRA (Field Level Risk Assessment) training. This two-day orientation also allowed for First Aid Training to take place for those that still required the education. Orientation was an opportunity for McMurray Métis staff to engage with the summer students; allowing working connections to be built. After these two days of preparation within the classroom, all students were ready to get their assignments and begin the work towards set goals.

Acknowledgements

The McMurray Métis summer student program would not be possible without many sponsors and donors throughout the summer. A big thank you to all who supported this program!



9 Week Project Completion Timeline

Over the nine weeks, the summer students program completed projects throughout the community. Many small and large projects were completed. Thank you to all of the students who contributed and dedicated themselves to finishing these tasks to the best of their abilities.

1 Goal Setting & Group Discussion

Every morning the students attended a 'Safety Toolbox Talk' where they discussed any concerns, questions, daily tasks, weather conditions, and the safety topic of the day.

This was followed by a twenty minute stretching session.

At the start of the Summer Program, students wrote down daily, weekly, and monthly goals that they would like to achieve for the summer. These are some of the goals the students wanted to achieve:

- Be more prepared for work by creating a morning routine.
- Take pride in the task you complete.
- Be helpful with co-workers by empowering each other.

Métis Cultural Learning

3

Our students had many opportunities to learn more about the Métis culture. Some of those opportunities included:

- **Learning to make bannock.** The summer student coordinator taught the student how to make oven bannock for the Suncor Fish Fry Event.
- **Jigging lessons.** The students spent a day with Métis Bev learning empowerment skills, the history of the Métis people and dancing and jigging lessons.
- **Elders teachings.** Elders were involved throughout the summer, teaching the students about being resilient and proud of their own history.

2 Elder's Support Projects

Here at the McMurray Métis, the Elders are a pivotal representation of the culture and the organization. This summer, it was ensured that the summer students spent time with Elders to support and help them where possible.

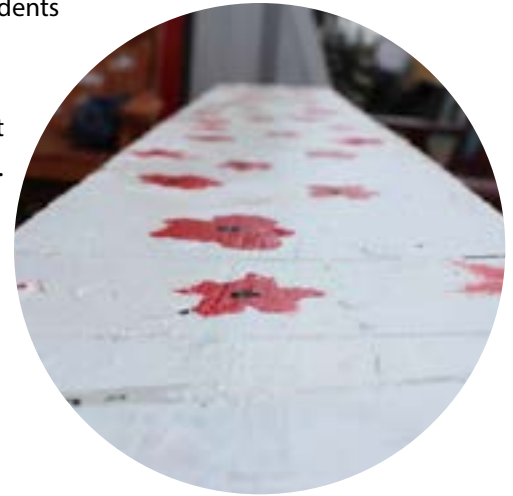
- **Build, stain and plant Elders' flower beds.** The students built, stained and planted the Elders above ground flower, fruit, and vegetable gardens the first week in July. They maintained and harvested the fruit and vegetables throughout the summer for the Elders.
- **Plant and maintain Elders' garden.** There were six students that took care of the vegetable and flower gardens and yard maintenance all summer. They had three harvests of vegetables for the Elders.
- **Planting with the Elders.** Four students assisted the Elders in planting rat root, blueberries, peppermint and high bush cranberries. They were also taught the importance and medicinal purpose for the plant. This project was completed at the end of July.
- **Yard assistance for Elders.** Helped any Elders that required assistance with garbage removal, fence repair, painting and grass cutting.
- **Cut wood for our Elders and trappers.** Throughout the program four students cut wood for Elders and trappers.
- **Pick and make Elders' garden boxes full of fresh vegetables.** Two students picked fresh veggies for the Elders as they became ready for harvesting.
- **The students also had the opportunity to assist the Elders** with a fish fry, canoe trip down the Clearwater river, and planting eighty blueberry plants.



5 Community Outreach Projects

The students were very active throughout the community this Summer. They were happy and eager to assist any individuals and organizations that asked for support. Some of the tasks they completed included:

- **Peel and stain teepee poles for Suncor Canada.** Four students took on one of the last projects with peeling, sanding and staining teepee poles for Suncor. This project took seven days and was completed the third week in August.
- **Community help at the Golden Years Society.** For the full nine weeks, every Wednesday two students assisted the Elders with small tasks and cut the grass.
- **Community help at the Legion.** For nine weeks, every Thursday the students assisted them by cutting the grass along with other small tasks. The students also removed an old deck and replaced it with a new deck.
- **Help with soup kitchen and lunch making at the Salvation Army.** Three days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., six students throughout the nine weeks assisted in the soup kitchen and with various small jobs.
- **Help trappers with dunnage removal from the 2016 wildfire.** Four students assisted the trappers that required help removing burnt trees as a result of the 2016 wildfire.



4 Métis Local Projects

The summer students spent time over the Summer completing projects on the Métis grounds. Some of the projects included:

- **Front office deck stained and painted.** The first project was sanding and staining the front deck. Later, the students had the idea to draw and paint the infinity signs on the deck railing.
- **Peel and stain logs for yard.** The peeling and staining of the logs in the yard was an ongoing project throughout the summer. It taught the students patience as it was a very slow process.
- **Sand and stain the Elders cabin.** The students started the restoration of the Elder's cabin in August. It took approximately two weeks to complete.
- **Paint creative artwork on picnic table and benches from last years program.** The students created beautiful murals on the benches and picnic tables. This project took all summer. The teaching behind this project was to open your imagination and creativity, be free to express yourself through art.
- **Assisted in the Annual Infinity Golf Tournament.** Four students assisted in the preparing for the tournament by making centerpieces, gift bags, and players arrivals.

Career Presentations

The summer students had career presentations from many local organizations and businesses throughout the nine weeks.

Presentations were by:

- Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo: Emergency Services
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Careers Next Generation (Environmental tech and resume writing)
- Sustainable Resources Development (Bear awareness training)
- Sustainable Resources Development (Fire fighters and officer career presentation)
- Office Staff Careers in Disaster Recovery, Social work, and Welding Inspection
- First Aid & CPR Training

6

Summer Student Feedback & Program Thoughts

At the end of the summer program, each student was asked to complete a survey which asked specific questions about their experiences throughout the program. This program would not be successful without the feedback of the students. On the following pages, key questions and answers were pulled from the survey to gain further understanding of the 2019 program as well as direct quotes and thoughts from the students themselves.

Question: What did you learn from the program this summer?

"I learnt new administration skills that I previously was unaware of"
- *Cindy Louttit-Flett*

"This summer brought me out more as a person, helped me learn how to speak up more"
- *Melanie Huppe*

"I learnt the value of hard work and the satisfaction of finishing hard work"
- *Zackary Noseworthy*

"Life and communication skills, and time management"
- *Darian Delaney*

"I learnt many valuable career aspects and many new skill sets"
- *Kaitlin Jani*

"I learnt how to work with different personalities and in large groups"
- *Ben Graham*

"I learnt First Aid skills as well as how to sand a deck - these were new skills for me"
- *Maya Fisher*

"I learnt about future jobs that I could do"
- *Reese Stanley*

Question: What are your thoughts about the safety training you recieved?

"These trainings helped for future opportunities"
- *Cindy Louttit-Flett*

"The safety training allowed us to work in a safe environment"
- *Reese Stanley*

"The safety training was very helpful and will help me for jobs that I will take on in the future"
- *Zackary Noseworthy*

Question: What are the most memorable experiences you had this summer?

"Learning new things and meeting new people"
- Emily Hansen

"Planting with the Elders and making new friends"
- Sierra Deschamps

"The canoe trip on the clearwater river"
- Cindy Louttit-Flett

"All of the filming done for events, especially the golf tournament and Elder interviews"
- Madilyn Hite

"Painting and gardening were my highlights"
- Maya Fisher

"Meeting new people, making strong relationships and helping out throughout the community"
- Devon McCray

Question: What did you learn from the career presentations?

"I learnt about different opportunities in the work force and different career paths and what different jobs require"
- Ben Graham

"That there is a broad variety of great career options"
- Darian Delaney

Question: Is there anything you would like to see added to next years program?

"Would like to work with Elders more"
- Sierra Deschamps

"More cultural activities and ceremony"
- Lucas Punko

"More volunteer work throughout the community"
- Devon McCray

"More fishing and time on the water"
- Darian Delaney

Summer Student Program Photos



First harvest picked by summer students for our Elders, Lorraine and Gail.



Cindy and Kaitlin, helping the Métis Local run the monthly membership meeting.



Billie and Sierra berry and tree planting.



Logan, Christopher and Jake, cutting wood for Elders and trappers.



Christopher preparing logs for stain.



Kaitlin making stands for the Métis Local.



Zachary painting the locals' front deck.



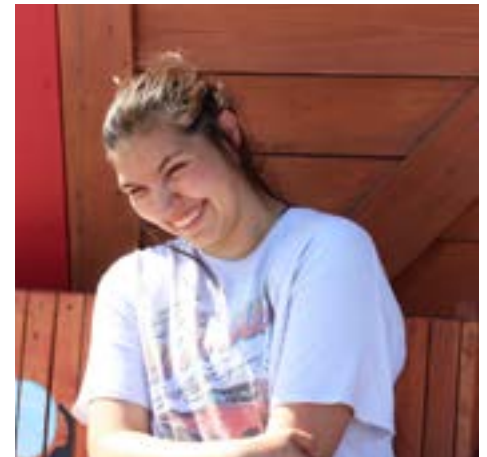
Kreedon sanding the Elder's cabin.



Summer students had the opportunity to create and showcase art work on the McMurray Métis picnic tables and seating benches.



Two students pictured above (*top left photo*) are Maddison and Isabella.



Summer students posing for the camera.
Students named from left to right: Brenden, Kreedon, Maddison and Billie.

Summer Student Program Photos Continued



Morning meetings with summer students and McMurray Métis staff. Ready to plan the day!



Summer student Madilyn interviewing Elder Elsie for the 'Mark of the Métis' video project.



Students had the opportunity to take part in a canoe trip. Pictured here are students out on canoes down by the Snye.



Students removed an old deck and built and stained new deck at the Legion.



Cindy and Kaitlin, welcoming in guests as assistant admins this summer.



Flower beds made and maintained by students for Elders.

The RCMP made a visit to the Métis Local to provide the summer students with a career presentation.



The students had a presentation by Métis Bev about Métis history and empowerment.



Summer, students and McMurray Métis staff were pleased to welcome Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations. Minister Wilson traveled up to Fort McMurray for a visit, and stopped by the Métis Local to share stories and encouragement with all of the students.

Note from Summer Student Coordinator

2019 Summer Student Program Participants,

As yet another Summer comes to an end, here at McMurray Métis we say goodbye to thirty four students that we came to know and love here at the Métis Local. We are grateful to each student who was a part of the program. Thank you for the long days and many hours that you have invested in the Métis Local and our extended community.

I hope that everyone of you are successful in all your adventures. Stay humble and never forget the memories you made here when life gets you down. Remember to choose your choices wisely and with good intentions, be grateful, thankful and love in all that you do.

When in doubt, always have an attitude of gratitude and be positive towards the outcome of your life!

Sheryl Huppe

McMurray Métis Summer Student Coordinator

"Whether you think you can, or you can't - you're right."
- Henry Ford

Closing Thoughts

The McMurray Métis had a busy summer full of projects, events and fundraisers. The success of this past summer would not have been possible if it weren't for our summer student program. Each student contributed to the success of the nine-week program.

The McMurray Métis summer student program's success opens up doors of possibility for further expansion over the years to come.

Thank you to all organizations, businesses and individuals who came in to do career presentations for the students.

Thank you to all individuals who came in to do special cultural and traditional presentations and teachings for the students. This stood out as a highlight for many students who attended!

Thank you to all McMurray Métis staff and members for all support throughout the nine-week program.

Thank you to the McMurray Métis Board of Directors for your individual and group support and assistance.

The success of this program was only made possible due to the many involved, special thanks to you all.

Looking forward to what the summer of 2020 brings!

Quotes

“Our fundamental goal for the program is to instill a healthy work ethic through a variety of projects and presentations to our students. With our students the key is learning to have an attitude of gratitude.”

- Sheryl Huppe, Summer Student Coordinator

“I love this program, I honestly do— it has definitely changed my life for the better.”

- Waylen McNeill, 2019 Summer Student

“The career presentations are good. It’s a good thing that they come in and share some knowledge with us.”

- Ben Graham, 2019 Summer Student

“I’ve gotten more experience on everything. I have been going up the river, worked on equipment that I didn’t know how to operate before and now I am trained on it, worked with people I hadn’t seen in half a year. I really enjoyed seeing some of my family here.”

- Clifford Loutitt- Flett, 2019 Summer Student



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McMurray Métis
441 Sakitawaw Trail
Fort McMurray, Alberta
T9H 4P3

Phone: 780 743 2659

Fax: 780 743 2654