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Who We Are

CONTINUING TO BUILD OUR FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

HONESTY, INTEGRITY & PROFESSIONALISM

Our Vision
To be the first Métis Territory in Alberta settled by land claims.

Our Mission
To represent the Métis Nation and be the role model for self-government in Northeastern Alberta.

Our Guiding Principles
We believe in the National definition of Métis.
We believe in continuing to build our foundation for future generations.
We believe in fairness and respect for all people.
We believe in the need to work in unity and harmony.
We believe in Métis participation in building our Nation.
We believe in encouraging and assisting Métis people to achieve their goals.
We believe in honesty, integrity and professionalism.
We believe we will achieve self-government and
We believe in our Métis rights as recognized and affirmed in Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution.

(Above) Photos captured of McMurray Métis grounds during winter
President’s Report

I am honoured to deliver this written report for the whole Board of Directors, and it gives me great pleasure to reveal, once again that 2019 – 2020 was another extraordinary year for McMurray Métis.

Our goal as a Board is to protect the Métis culture and way of life for our members and to promote our rich history to the Wood Buffalo community at large. We achieved this goal over the past year with the biggest and best events in our history.

On June 21, 2019, we held our first ever, First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Festival on our Métis Grounds in Gregoire. In years past we’ve always held Métis Festival in May and there was always debate in Fort McMurray regarding who would organize the National Indigenous Peoples Day event on the Summer Solstice. The FNMI Festival was a very large event with over 2000 people including over 1100 students from the local school districts.

On, August 21, 2019 was our Infinity Golf Tournament, we raised a whopping $165,000. The event was a sell out and must attend for industry friends, business partners and local golfers. All proceeds went to our McMurray Métis Bursary Program, which provides grants for students of the McMurray Métis attending post-secondary education.

During Métis Week in November, Wanderin’ Wally, amazing re-enacting of Louis Riel was performed at local schools and on November 15, 2019 we hosted over 350 students and VIP guests to our Louis Riel Day event with presentations, speeches, educational activities and a learning to jig session from Métis Bev.

On December 5th, we held our Elders’ Christmas Celebration with over 650 guests. Due to the popularity of the event the number of guests keeps climbing each year and we really reached capacity this past year.

The Mark of the Métis - Video Edition with interviews from our Métis Elders was also released at our Elders’ Christmas Celebration and is available to everyone on our website.

From April 1, 2019 until March 31, 2020 we also hosted or participated in other smaller events like Indigenous Awareness days at Keyano College; Monthly Membership Meetings; Elders Teas; Indigenous Family Feasts and Alberta Cultural Days for local High School students, just to name a few.

Sadly, our events will be much different in 2020 and beyond due to the global pandemic from COVID 19. Gatherings in recent months haven’t occurred but we are optimistic that in the very near future we will all be uniting to showcase our Métis pride once again.

HIY HIY

Gail Gallupe
President

Chief Executive Officer’s Report

As the Chief Executive Officer of McMurray Métis, I am pleased to report that the state of the finances, agreements with Industry, relationships with governments and our youth involvement have never been stronger.

The numbers tell the true story and over 2019 – 2020 we had another clean audit and with over, $7.8 million in revenue, the highest number in our 33-year history. The strong financial position in which we find McMurray Métis is in due part to two things.

Firstly, strong leadership with well thought out discussion and decisions by our board of directors, including past directors, who have always had our membership’s future in mind and have saved and invested monies for important projects.

Secondly our very competent staff and consultants have melded into a topnotch and experienced Team, who have negotiated historic agreements with the largest oilands operators in the region, except for one. This will be one of our top priorities for 2020.

Due to our close working relationship with the United Conservative Government of Premier Jason Kenney and with the support of Minister Prasad Panda, Minister Rick Wilson and our wonderful MLA’s Laila Goodridge and Tany Yao, in January of 2020 we received provincial endorsement for our $16.5 million Investing in Canada Infrastructure grant.

There is no project closer to our hearts than the Métis Cultural Centre and we have over $5.5 million of our own money for the project sitting in the bank. I am pleased to report that we are very close to a ground-breaking ceremony for the Métis Cultural Centre.

We’ve also been negotiating with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Council, under the leadership of our good friend Mayor Don Scott, in the spirit of reconciliation for what happened at Moccasin Flats. I know that a land transfer to build the Métis Cultural Centre on MacDonald Island is the right thing to do and that the Mayor and Council have supported the project unanimously.

In November 2019, we announced AlumaSafway Infinity Joint Venture, a partnership between AlumaSafway and the Infinity Métis Corp supporting the local Métis community. This partnership agreement creates the largest Indigenous scaffolding, insulation and coatings provider in Canada. I’m extremely pleased with this agreement and the benefits it provides for the members of the McMurray Métis.

Our future is our youth and that is why it’s so important to have the next generation of leaders involved with McMurray Métis. Employing Métis and First Nations youth is the first step in our education process. Our Summer Student Program had 33 participants in 2019. For over two months, the students, learned about their culture and history, attended our meetings and gatherings and earned a wage for their hard work on our grounds or around town helping our Elders with their yard work. But, the most important thing for our students is graduating from high school and in 2019 that number was a record high of 152 Indigenous grads.

The McMurray Métis train has a full head of steam and is heading in the right direction with the future looking very bright! It is a true testament of the resiliency and dedication of our 600 plus members!

Bill Loutitt
Chief Executive Officer
Our Events & Projects

Elders Christmas Celebration
On December 5, 2019, McMurray Métis celebrated our 16th Annual Elders' Christmas Celebration. This year we hosted 650 guests including McMurray Métis members, community members, industry partners, regional leadership, etc. Each year we honour two elders from our community who have gone above and beyond at sharing their traditional knowledge and participating in community activities. Our Elders of the year for 2019 were Dolores Romanchuk and Lorrie Gallagher. This year we also recognized the late Elder Annie Auger. Tantoo Cardinal, who was born and raised in Anzac and is now a very successful actress joined in our celebrations as our special guest speaker.
Elders Paint Night
On September 27, 2019 we hosted Elders at our office for a paint night. Treasure Cooper guided our participants through their art projects, creating unique pieces to take home with them.

FNMI (First Nation, Métis & Inuit) Festival 2019
The FNMI Festival, standing for First Nation, Métis and Inuit, was the first of its kind in our community, held on National Indigenous Peoples Day. Hosted on our grounds, the free family event saw thousands in attendance throughout the day including students from various schools around the region. There was plenty of activities for attendees of all ages including bouncy castles, free BBQ, live entertainment, potato sack races and the like. The ice cream trucks were on location to provide a delicious and refreshing dessert option. Live entertainment included musicians such as The Nicely Put Together Band, Black Eyes Creez and Abby Goertzen & Friends, as well as a fashion show, jigging performances, and traditional Dene drumming. Over 20 vendors were in attendance to showcase their products and services including Big Brothers Big Sisters of Wood Buffalo, the Wood Buffalo Regional Library, to name a few. All in all, the first FNMI Festival was a huge success!

Infinity Métis Golf Tournament 2019
The 19th annual McMurray Métis Infinity golf tournament was a great success. We had a full house of 144 golfers; including Elders, summer students, members, partners and friends. A shout out to all the sponsors and donors who made this year’s event a huge success as we raised a record $165,500.00 for our Métis student’s post-secondary education fund.

Louis Riel Commemoration
On Friday, November 15, we hosted a presentation and celebration of Métis culture held at Shell Place to recognize and remember Métis leader Louis Riel. We hosted 350 students and VIP guests. Louis Riel Day is officially recognized on November 16, the day of his death in 1885 at the age of 41. Striving to preserve Métis rights and culture and deny the Canadian sphere of influence over his homelands and people, Riel led two rebellions against the government of Canada, the first resistance known widely as the Red River Rebellion of 1869–1870. Celebrations included presentations on the significance of the Métis sash, an informal lesson to learn the three basic dance steps of the traditional Red River Jig and an educational scavenger hunt through the timeline of Louis Riel, all before a hot lunch of traditional stew and bannock.

Mark of the Métis Video Edition
In the summer of 2019, we began the Mark of the Métis Video Edition Project. Interviews were conducted with Elders in hopes of connecting with a younger audience and transferring knowledge for future generations. Melanie Walsh and Maddilyn Hite filmed and interview 31 Elders for the video project. The videos are now part of our virtual museum on our website.

Monthly Membership Meetings
Membership meetings are held each month, bringing community McMurray Métis members together to learn about important information, updates and events. Throughout 2019-2020, we were happy to have many special guests and sponsors for our meetings. In December we combined our monthly meeting with our Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and had 50 children attend.

Teacher’s Land Based Learning Education Events
On September 27, 2019 we, along with the Athabasca Tribal Council, hosted 75 teachers from Father Patrick Mercredi Community High School for an Indigenous Land-Based Learning event. Teachers learnt fish scale art and beading. For lunch, the teachers enjoyed a fish fry, stew and bannock on a stick around the fire.

(Above Left to Right) Jiggers performing, students participating in craft, volunteers, Nicely Put Together Band performing on stage

(Above) Tree Lighting Ceremony

(Above Left to Right) Elder Elsie Cardinal being interviewed, Elder Anne Michalko being interviewed by Melanie Walsh

(Above Left to Right) Elder Elsie Cardinal being interviewed, Elder Anne Michalko being interviewed by Melanie Walsh

(Above Left to Right) Elder Elsie Cardinal being interviewed, Elder Anne Michalko being interviewed by Melanie Walsh

(Above Left to Right) Elder Elsie Cardinal being interviewed, Elder Anne Michalko being interviewed by Melanie Walsh

(Above) Teachers making ‘bannock on a stick’
Our Programs

Beading Network
The beading network is held every first and third Tuesday of the month and everyone is welcome. It is a free event for members and $10 for non-members. It is a workshop style where you can learn how to bead various crafts including pins, medicine pouches, moccasins and jewellery.

Cree Chat
Cree Chat is held every Wednesday. Our Elders and members get together to visit and learn the language. Our staff often pop in to get words translated from English to Cree to use in their different projects. Staff member Bryan Fayant got help from the Elders for his Metis village presentation and printed out Cree words for kids to see and learn them.

Elders Tea
Our Elders are invited for tea every second Thursday of each month where they get together with staff to have a meal and enjoy an activity together. They have made dream catchers, mini headdress keychains, holiday wreaths, built birdhouses and played many games of bingo, cards and crib. In December, special guest Author Wayne Arthurson attended and read his book: Fall From Grace. With each new month, comes a new activity for our Elders’ Tea. It is a great and important opportunity to treat our Elders and create memories with one another.

Community Events & Collaborations

Athabasca Tribal Council’s Cultural Festival
We were pleased to be a part of the Cultural Festival with our friends from the Athabasca Tribal Council. McMurray Métis hosted a Trappers tent and craft tent for kids and youth.

Canada Day Bannock & Pancake Breakfast
On July 1, 2019, our staff had a chilly but great Canada Day celebration with our friends at Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo & Fort McMurray Heritage Society. Staff cooked bannock and served community members. There was also a jigging performance included in the showcase.

Catholic and Public School Events, Indigenous Family Feasts and TCOA
McMurray Métis has held many events in collaboration with the Fort McMurray Catholic School District and Fort McMurray Public School District including Indigenous Family Feasts and working in classrooms to teach Students more about Métis culture. In May, we gathered at Father Mercredi High School and were entertained by comedian Howie Miller and celebrated Indigenous Awareness Week at Ecole McTavish. In September, we attended the fall family feast at Father Mercredi. In October, Holy Trinity High School held an Indigenous Family Feast for the first time.

The 21st annual Traditional Celebration of Achievement (TCOA) honours First Nation, Métis and Inuit High School graduates. Each student crossed the stage in a traditional ceremony where they received the sacred Eagle feather, along with sweet grass which represents a symbol of cleansing and a clear vision for the future tied together with ribbons representing the four directions of life and an abalone shell. McMurray Métis Board Member Trudie-Ann Plamondon facilitates the event. With Canada in a period of reconciliation with its Indigenous people, events like these are important for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo to have as they uphold the traditional Treaty 8 values.

(Above) McMurray Métis members and friends meeting in the office throughout the year to work on their beading skills and projects

(Above) McMurray Métis hosting guests at the Athabasca Tribal Council’s Cultural Festival

(Above) McMurray Métis members and friends meeting at the Legion and the office to have translated discussions

(Above) Elders & staff gathering once a month to reconnect, enjoy a meal and participate in a craft/ activity
MNA Membership Drives
Throughout the year, our office hosted the Métis Nation of Alberta who traveled North to assist community members in obtaining a membership. Between 2019-2020, they visited Fort McMurray five times.

Multicultural Expo 2020
In the early months of 2020, McMurray Métis participated in the Multicultural Expo by hosting a table with Indigenous beadng projects, and membership information.

Orange Shirt Day
September 30, 2019 was Orange Shirt Day. Staff gathered to remember the residential school system that impacted so many of our Métis families and our First Nations and Inuit cousins.

Sisters in Spirit Vigil/ Red Dress Project
On October 4, 2019 our staff gathered at the Centre of Hope to stand in solidarity with the Native Women’s Association of Canada and honour the lives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2 Spirit while supporting their families in the search for justice.

Teepee Raising at Keyano College
On September 6, 2019, our community members; Gary, Remi and Billy helped our friends at Keyano College erect their Teepee.

Indigenous Awareness Days
We participated in Indigenous Awareness Days at Keyano College on April 4, 2019. Our booth showcased Métis culture, history, and local programming.

Métis Week
During Métis Week, Wanderin’ Wally and representatives from the McMurray Métis visited nine Catholic and Public Schools in Fort McMurray. Wanderin’ Wally reenacted the Louis Riel Trial for students.

MNA Elders & Youth Gathering
On February 8, 2020, McMurray Métis representatives attended the Métis Nation of Alberta Elders and Youth Gathering in Edmonton. McMurray Métis hosted an information table at the gathering.

Dedication Ceremony of Leo McDonald
On October 5, 2019 our CEO Bill Loutitt and fellow staff and Elders attended the Dedication Ceremony for Private Leo MacDonald. He was a Métis man born in Fort McMurray, served in Korea in 1952-1953 with the Royal Highlanders of Canada, an infantry regiment nicknamed ‘the Black Watch’.

Highway Cleanup
On Saturday, May 11, 2019 we teamed up with the Government of Alberta, Alberta Transportation to clean up the highway between Beacon Hill Drive and the Fort McMurray Airport.

Human Rights Day
On December 10, 2019, Bill Loutitt and Lorrie Gallagher represented McMurray Métis at the Human Rights Day Conference. They were in the panel that answered questions throughout the day of discussions.

Métis Week Activities
(Above) Dedication Ceremony of Leo McDonald
(Above) Human Rights Day
(Above) Metis Week Activities
(Above) Indigenous Awareness Days
(Above) Multicultural Expo 2020
(Above) Orange Shirt Day
(Above) Sisters in Spirit Vigil/ Red Dress Project
(Above) Teepee Raising at Keyano College

(Above) 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT
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Disaster Recovery & Emergency Preparedness

Mental Health Wellness

McMurray Métis have teamed up with Alberta Health Services to secure a mental health (therapy & counselling) worker that specializes in services for Indigenous communities and is readily available to all 600 plus McMurray Métis members.

McMurray Métis and the University of Alberta School of Public Health held a two-day Indigenous Mental Health Forum during the summer of 2019. Bringing multiple communities together, including health providers from all sectors, open invitation to Indigenous groups, and service agencies. Estimated 40 participants attended to discuss the challenges and opportunities in addressing mental health among Indigenous communities. The evolution of the research shows the path of development of services in the community, to create a community-based Indigenous mental health system.

Rebuild & Resiliency

The build of our Métis Cultural Centre is of great importance to disaster recovery because McMurray Métis have several projects that strengthen its ability to bounce back, which lies in our cultural identity. Landscape studies are ongoing as we prepare for the build of our Métis Cultural Centre, and various future projects for development on our properties.

The development of Community, Cultural and Family Services will proceed in 2020, as we work to create a variety of services available for all ages. The process to secure funding for these services is underway. McMurray Métis are conducting a Labour Force Study to examine the current issues and successes within Métis employment.

McMurray Métis have been preparing for future disasters. In late 2019, 6 members received Incident Command System training, and nine members attended a two-day training session with Emergency Social Services. The training will assist McMurray Métis in the process of our Local becoming registered reception centres. The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo worked with McMurray Métis to develop a specific Community Emergency Management Plan which has informed the production of the Community Emergency Guide for McMurray Métis members, families and the Community Emergency Management Plan. McMurray Métis provide leadership to other Métis groups across Alberta in emergency response including with the Métis Nation of Alberta, sharing experience around disaster recovery and planning.
Environmental Monitoring & Stewardship

The McMurray Métis are members of the Oil Sands Monitoring (OSM) Program. We have been conducting studies through the OSM Program since the program was created. McMurray Métis is represented on the Terrestrial Biological Committee and on the Community Based Environmental Monitoring Committee. The program administration is led primarily by Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP).

The Freshwater Clam Study, the Plant and Vegetation Contaminant study, and the Berry Contaminant study were all funded through the OSM program in 2019/2020.

Freshwater Clam Study

With Harvey Sykes as the project lead, McMurray Métis partnered with AEP, Willow Springs Strategic Solutions, and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to continue the third year of our study of the freshwater clams.

This past summer, the clam team visited existing sampling sites and searched for new clam bed locations. A delayed funding announcement, coupled with very high-water levels, meant that the team did not get out “on the water” in time to identify and sample as many clams as last year. Nevertheless, we did find clams at some of our existing sites on the Clearwater River and Narrow Lake.

Analysis of Clam Tissue

To better understand the health of the clams, and the rivers, testing is currently in progress by a neutral third party. We are also testing clam tissue, sediment, and water samples from our reference point, Narrow Lake. Indigenous knowledge and environmental stewardship are at the heart of our clam monitoring efforts.

- The team presented at Father Mercredi High School and at two academic conferences.
- We completed a membership information booklet about the project.
- Media interviews were conducted with our project lead, Harvey Sykes.
- All final reports and research findings will be shared and validated with membership, when available.

Overall, we are encouraged by this year’s progress. A new proposal for additional funding was submitted to the OSM program in Feb 2020. We are currently waiting for a response.

Plant and Vegetation Monitoring Study

Our harvesters and land users had noticed a change in the abundance and availability of culturally important wetlands plants around Fort McMurray. Working side-by-side, McMurray Métis Elders, researchers, and sustainability department staff developed a plan to create more accessible plant populations. Our approach was simple, the McMurray Métis would monitor the growth and habitat requirements of planted plants and develop community-based monitoring indicators of plant health and accessibility.

Land Activity – Spring Planting

In Spring 2019 young blueberry, chokecherry, mint, and ratroot were brought to Fort McMurray from the Smoky Lake greenhouse. Plant seeds were sourced in the Fort McMurray Area.

Elders, Summer Students, staff and researchers spent two days planting near the McMurray Métis office and on a member's trapline. An offering to the Creator and Mother Earth was made by McMurray Métis members and Elders using tobacco at a ceremony.

Sadly, in 2019 the Oil Sands Monitoring Program cancelled the funding for this project. We have not given up on this Project. We hope that the plants from this project will continue to grow and become established and available for community harvesting on our property. In the meantime, the McMurray Métis Sustainability Department will care for these valued plants.
Wildlife Camera Monitoring on McMurray Métis Traplines

In 2019-2020, we completed our second year of the Wildlife Camera Monitoring Program with our Trappers, staff, InnoTech and Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute. The funding we received from Environment and Climate Change Canada’s Indigenous Fund for Community-Based Monitoring in the Oil Sands Region covered our second year of activities.

We had a workshop in September at the McMurray Métis boardroom with some of the Trappers, InnoTech and Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute to review how setting up the camera stations and getting into the field worked out for everyone. We were lucky to have one of the SD cards from Frank Lacaille’s trapline because Frank had rescued the camera from a bear. Apparently, bears like to perform in front of the camera (and then eat it!). Based on the feedback from staff and the Trappers, we decided to create a field safety protocol to ensure that everyone going out to the traplines is well equipped and safe.

In November, Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute and InnoTech returned to the McMurray Métis boardroom to provide a refresher on camera maintenance and replacing the SD cards and batteries to prepare everyone for going out to the traplines over the winter to switch out the SD cards. Once the refresher was finished, the group talked about what type of data to include in a project summary report for the end of the year. Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute also provided training to the Trappers and staff on uploading and tagging the photos from the SD cards using the WildTrax system.

The Trappers braved the freezing temperatures in December and January to go to their trap lines and pick up the SD cards. Once the cards were back in the office, several staff worked diligently tagging animals and uploading the camera data into WildTrax.

Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute analyzed the photos to create a summary report of the first year of camera data. Unfortunately, our third workshop in March 2020 was cancelled to avoid any potential risks of exposure to COVID-19. The plan was to review the draft report and work together to create maps for including in the report showing the results of the camera data for the individual traplines and the overall study area. We will do this workshop once it is safe to meet together again.

We received the third year of funding from ECCC and will be meeting together in Fall 2020 to plan the field work to switch out the SD cards again and to review the results of the project so far.

Thank you to all the Trappers and staff for being part of the camera monitoring program.

Firearms Safety Course

Around twenty-five McMurray Métis members participated in a one and a half day training session related to firearms safety and proper use. The course was administered by Larry Fisk, an expert in firearms safety and an accredited instructor.

Funding for member participation in the workshop was provided by McMurray Métis. All participating members completed the training successfully. Graduates of the program now enjoy the privileges associated with a non-restricted firearms license.

Congratulations to our new wildlife harvesters.

Community Led Berry Contamination Study

This Berry Contamination Study is a multi-year community-based monitoring project that builds upon work initiated by Fort McKay First Nation (FMFN) with support from the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association (WBEA) since 2011. Our Elders have been taking part in this project since 2017. The project is administered on behalf of the participating communities by the WBEA. In late fall of 2019 members of the McMurray Métis participated in a one day planning workshop and three days on the land harvesting berries.

Project Objective

The objective of the project is to monitor changes in berry health and quality on culturally significant berry patches due to oil sands development. Neighboring communities saw value in the Project and expressed interest in expanding to their own territories. There are now five Indigenous communities in the Athabasca region (Fort McKay First Nation, Fort McKay Métis Community Association, Fort McMurray First Nation, McMurray Métis and Conklin Métis) participating in the Project.
Ronald Lake Bison Herd

Quite possibly one of the last free-roaming herds in Canada, our community recognizes the importance of the Ronald Lake Bison Herd. Alberta Environment and Parks engaged with all Indigenous communities in the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan - Northern Area via a multi stakeholder forum focused on the bison herd. The purpose of the group is to develop an Indigenous Knowledge Research Process for the Ronald Lake Bison Herd.

Phase 2 of this ongoing project was completed in 2018. Phase 3 was underway however all community engagement has been postponed due to the Covid 19 pandemic. We hope this important work will continue soon.

In 2019, this project was funded by Teck Resources. However, now that TECK has withdrawn its Frontier Mine Application the project will be funded by Alberta Environment and Parks. We were assured of this in the winter of 2020 by both Minister of AEP, Minister Jason Nixon as well as the Minister of Indigenous Relations, Minister Rick Wilson.

Wildland Parks

Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) held year long community member and technical engagement with all Indigenous communities in the Lower Athabasca Planning Region to determine the views and opinions of interested communities on the six new Parks.

The McMurray Métis participated in the multi-stakeholder Indigenous working group. The group co-developed the terms of reference for the cooperative management and governance structure of the new Parks.

Though no specific plans have been formulated, McMurray Métis will be fully involved in the work of the cooperative management board for the management of the new wildland parks for the foreseeable future.
Government Relations

Local Government

We’ve always had a good working relationship with the Administration of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo especially with Indigenous Relations and Legislative Affairs. The Moccasin Flats report released in September of 2018, did produce some tension between McMurray Métis and Mayor Don Scott and all of Council. However, we are pleased to report that our joint meetings between the Mayor and Council and our CEO and Board of Directors has produced a positive working relationship.

We’ve been working with Indigenous Relations on getting a bus stop at our Métis Local, we are pleased to report that the Number 8 Bus – Beacon Hill coming twice daily to our offices in the morning and again in the afternoon.

Provincial Government

On April 16, 2019 the United Conservative Party was elected to a majority government in Alberta. Since that time, we’ve worked hard to cement a good working relationship with Premier Jason Kenney and his team.

In July 2019, Vice President Peter Hansen traveled to Edmonton for the K-Day breakfast. He had an opportunity to meet and chat with Premier Kenney. Also, at that same event was Infrastructure Minister Prasad Panda, who is responsible for our Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program grant for our Métis Cultural Centre.

In September, we had the opportunity to welcome Minister Panda to our Métis Local, along with our MLA Laila Goodridge. At that meeting we were able to present the delegation from Edmonton with an overview of McMurray Métis history and our plans for the Métis Cultural Centre.

In August, we had our first of a series of meetings with the new Indigenous Affairs Minister Rick Wilson. Showing Minister Wilson around our grounds and introducing him to our Summer Students was a true delight. Most of our major files are with Minister Wilson, including Métis Creditable Assertion, Indigenous monitoring and the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation.

In late March 2020, we had our first engagement with Alberta Environment and Parks Minister Jason Nixon. Our discussion points were around Oilsands Monitoring Program - Community Based Monitoring (including our Freshwater Clam Study), Co-management of new wildlife parks and the Ronald Lake Bison Herd. We also invited Minister Nixon to travel to Fort McMurray for a visit, once the COVID 19 pandemic settles down for a trip up the Clearwater River so see Métis Spaces.

Federal Government

Due to the federal election on October 21, 2019 our dealing with the government in Ottawa has been limited. Our Member of Parliament, David Yurdiga attended one of our events, the 2019 FNMI Festival.

In late March 2020, we had our first engagement with Alberta Environment and Parks Minister Jason Nixon. Our discussion points were around Oilsands Monitoring Program - Community Based Monitoring (including our Freshwater Clam Study), Co-management of new wildlife parks and the Ronald Lake Bison Herd. We also invited Minister Nixon to travel to Fort McMurray for a visit, once the COVID 19 pandemic settles down for a trip up the Clearwater River so see Métis Spaces.
Industry Relations, Consultation & Regulatory Engagement

The McMurray Métis’s Sustainability Department interacts with all industry and government stakeholders in the oil sands region Alberta. We monitor regulatory affairs and carry out consultation on behalf of all McMurray Métis members in the oil sands region. In so doing, we are in constant ongoing dialogue with the Alberta Energy Regulator, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy and Utilities Commission, Alberta Indigenous Relations, Energy Alberta, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Indigenous Services Canada, Health Canada and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.

Industry Relations

We have relationships with the following industry stakeholders:

- ATCO
- Athabasca Oil Sands Limited
- Canadian Natural (CNRL)
- Cenovus
- Conoco Phillips
- Enbridge
- Harvest
- Imperial Oil Limited
- Husky
- Jacos
- MEG Energy
- Suncor
- Syncrude
- Teck Energy
- Trans Canada
- Petro China Canada

The Sustainability Department is active in the following areas:

- Business Development and Industry Relations
- Community Based Monitoring and Reclamation
- Community Engagement and Consultation
- Cultural Retention and Promotion
- Government Relations and Communications
- Multi-stakeholder Committee Participation
- Skills Training and Development
- Technical Reviews
- Traditional Land Use Studies

Last year the McMurray Métis hosted, or participated in, over 200 community consultation and engagement sessions including community meetings, advisory group meetings, ground truthing, land-based learning workshops, tailings forums, regulatory reviews, traditional land use studies, cultural studies, monitoring and reclamation working groups.

Suncor Energy Ltd.

One of our most active Industry Partners in the 2019-2020 fiscal year was Suncor.

Leadership Meeting

In September, Elders and leaders of McMurray Métis and Suncor traveled on the Clearwater River to the intersection of the Christina and Clearwater rivers for discussions and leadership engagement. McMurray Métis members shared stories and knowledge of the rivers. After a brief stop over at the Christina River Camp Site, the groups returned to our office for a fish fry and further discussions.

Agreement Discussions

In 2019, Suncor and the McMurray Métis entered into a negotiation on matters related to impacts from their operations in the traditional territory of McMurray Métis. Among other things, the discussions have centered around how the McMurray Métis will engage with Suncor for the foreseeable future in the following areas:

- Consultation and community engagement
- Community investment
- Equity ownership stake
- Business and contracting
- Skills training and employment

Suncor has many development plans for the oil sands region including the extension of its base mine operations into the west side of the Athabasca River.

Not all aspects of our preliminary arrangement with Suncor have been finalized. We are continuing to discuss and finalize our agreement discussions with Suncor and hope to have a final arrangement soon.

Base Mine Extension Project

The Base Mine Extension (BMX) project will involve open pit mining of bitumen reserves to the south of Syncrude’s operations at Mildred Lake and west of Suncor’s existing base mine operations. The BMX project will:

- Be a truck and shovel project that, if approved, will extend mining operations at Suncor’s Base Plant site to replace resource for current production.
- Involve the construction of a new primary extraction facility utilizing hot water extraction technology and an external tailing area.

Anticipated to produce 225 thousand barrels of bitumen per day, the BMX project will have an estimated 25-year operational life. Production is slated to begin in 2030, with end of mine life in 2055, not including reclamation.

These applications will be explored through a mutually agreeable consultation process with Suncor and through crown consultation with the Governments of Canada and Alberta.

As one of the largest producers in the Region, Suncor has a large stockpile of oil sands process (OSP) effected water. Over the past few years, Suncor has been searching for new ways to treat and safely release OSP into the receiving environment (i.e. the Athabasca River). McMurray Métis has been engaged with Suncor on these matters since 2017.

This past year, Suncor did engage with all Indigenous Communities in the Region to test the viability of the demonstration pit lake research project and the constructed wetland treatment project as a treatment option for OSP.
Demonstration Pit Lake

One of the most important discussion topics with Suncor is their Demonstration Pit Lake (DPL) project. Suncor invited McMurray Métis to join an Indigenous Engagement Committee (IEC) to participate in the 15-year research and monitoring project to learn about:

- The permanent aquatic storage system (PASS) tailings treatment technology;
- And to understand the research results that will help the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) decide about allowing Suncor to build an end pit lake in the future.

Suncor built a DPL research project at Base Plant in 2017-2018 to support research and monitoring on the PASS fluid tailings treatment technology Suncor is using to treat fluid tailings at Base Plant. The DPL site is a smaller version of the end pit lake that Suncor would like to build on the east side of the Athabasca River in the Millennium Mine Lease when the mining operations are completed. Our community is engaged in a two-part program.

Part 1: Demonstration Pit Lake - 2018-19

McMurray Métis members attended a three-day workshop at the Stonebridge Inn and participated in a tour of the DPL facility to discuss Suncor’s research and monitoring program for the Lake. McMurray Métis provided recommendations to Suncor related to:

- Designing future lakes to look more natural;
- Monitoring use of the DPL by birds and animals;
- Including youth in the research and monitoring program;
- Including community members in planting of the reclamation area around the lake; and,
- Conducting visits to the site throughout the year to do monitoring:
  - to assess the seasonal progress of reclamation surrounding the lake;
  - and to understand the changes occurring in the lake as it develops over time.

In August 2018, some McMurray Métis members joined members from other Indigenous communities to plant aquatic plants in the shallow water sloping into the demonstration pit lake.

Part 2: Constructed Wetland Treatment System – 2019/2020

Another part of the DPL project is to test the DPL water quality.

Treated water outputs from the DPL and the end pit lake Suncor proposes to build using the same tailings treatment technology would eventually be released into the Athabasca River.

A Constructed Wetland Treatment (CWTS): DPL water is flow through the nearby CWTS.

- The CWTS is designed to improve water quality coming out of the future end pit.
- The water will flow out of the DPL into a constructed treatment wetland and be tested once it has reached the end of the treatment wetland.

Community Engagement: In 2019, McMurray Métis members attended a three-day workshop at the Quality Inn to hear about Suncor’s research and monitoring program for the CWTS. The workshop also included a tour of Base Plant that stopped at:

- The demonstration pit lake;
- The Nikanotee Fen reclamation research project; and the,
- Wapisiw Lookout (Pond 1) reclamation area.

During the workshop, McMurray Métis members expressed their concerns related to water release into the Athabasca River from the both the DPL and the future end pit lake.

McMurray Métis continues to participate in the IEC. We are currently negotiating with Suncor in relation to “when and how” research and monitoring projects will be developed to address the recommendations the community members provided through the workshops in 2018 and, again in 2019.

Canadian Natural Resources

The McMurray Métis is participating in several regulatory reviews related to Canadian Natural Resources (CNRL) operations in the oil sands. Last year CNRL filed, or continue to pursue, the following regulatory applications:

- North pit extension at Horizon;
- Horizon South Integrated Applications;
- Jackfish SAGD So2 Amendment Applications.

CNRL hosted community tours at the Albian and Horizon sites. Tailings forums for both Horizon and Albian were held in Fort McMurray. Members of the sustainability department staff and our technical consultants participated in two two-days tailings forms in Fort McMurray. Feedback was provided to CNRL related to the communities concerns around water quality management, contamination from tailings, and impacts to wildlife that may contact process effected water.

Communities at the events also expressed their concerns about the form and format for the annual tailing’s forums.

Jaces

Indigenous advisory group meetings occur each quarter. McMurray Métis has two representative members on the committee.
Syncrude

Regular meetings of the environment and consultation committee occurred throughout the year.

Community Advisory Group meetings were held on four separate occasions.

The reclamation and environmental focus group met on four separate occasions.

Tailings forums and community meetings about tailings treatments were held on three separate occasions. McMurray Métis Elders and land users expressed their concerns around Syncrude’s approach to tailings management as well as their lack of a cohesive tailings management plan.

Husky

A new four-year extension to our existing memorandum of understand with Husky was signed in 2019. It provides for core consultation and community investment funding. As per the MOU, a joint advisory group has been struck and meetings occurred in 2019/2020. McMurray Métis members sustainability department meet with Husky on two separate occasions to discuss the Sunrise Project as well as business and contracting opportunities.

Husky attended a membership meeting and provided an overview of its Sunrise operations in late summer 2019.

Members of our leadership team have also met with representatives from Husky about sponsorship opportunities related to the McMurray Métis Cultural Center.

Finally, we are in the process of finalizing our 2020/2021 workplan with Husky. We are happy to report that Husky has agreed to partner with the McMurray Métis on our annual Aqua Days event. Preliminary discussions are ongoing with two participant schools and we are looking forward to scheduling this event for the Fall of 2020.

Imperial Oil Ltd.

The McMurray Métis was, and remains, engaged with Imperial regularly through the year. Through the process and procedures outline in our community agreement the McMurray Métis engaged in consultation, environmental stewardship, as well as commercial and contracting opportunities with representatives of Imperial. Through the year several committee and community engagement meeting occurred.

The Environmental and Consultation committee meet on four separate occasions. Items discussed on an ongoing basis were as follows:

- End of life mine closer planning, operations, reclamation and monitoring, tailings management, wildlife management and implementation of the agreement.

Our members participated in four Community Advisory Group meetings and several meetings of the Reclamation Planning Group (RPG). Both engagement forums contributed to the design, site blessing and naming of Lake Tourangeau. Also, RPG work was incorporated by EcoCanda in BHEAR course content.

We continue to work with Imperial to develop business opportunities for the Community. In 2020, IMC representatives plan on meeting with several IoL representatives to develop business and labor force development opportunities.
Infinity Métis Corporation is continuing to strengthen its reputation within the Fort McMurray region while supporting McMurray Métis in achieving a great future. With the support of the leadership team, Infinity Métis Corporation's business team has been able to continually strive to support the community.

Continual engagement with the various departments within McMurray Métis allows Infinity Métis Corporation the ability to increase knowledge, develop relationships and engage in successful opportunities. This collaboration allows for transparency in all aspects of the business and opens the door to an increased possibility of success, not only for Infinity Métis Corporation but the McMurray Métis as well.

Our Board of Directors routinely meet with the Infinity Métis Corporation team to discuss operations, potential business opportunities and new visions set forth by the McMurray Métis. By a collaborative effort it has been possible to achieve valuable partnerships with reputable companies within the region. The Directors of Infinity Métis Corporation have continually worked with the McMurray Métis to ensure that the vision of the community is aligned with various business opportunities. The knowledge of these leaders has allowed Infinity Métis Corporation to vastly expand over this past year.

With hard work over this past year, Infinity Métis Corporation has been able to finalize and implement BrandSafway Infinity, Midlite Infinity and Paragon Infinity into our ever-growing group of companies including Thompson Infinity, TNT Infinity, NorCan Infinity and Infinity Research Services.

BrandSafway Infinity is our first partner in which we have landed work outside of the Fort McMurray region. This has brought a whole new level of opportunity for our community and members. BrandSafway Infinity has offered huge support for McMurray Métis events including the donation of scaffold solutions for our FNMI Festival. Working collaboratively with BrandSafway Infinity over the last year has helped to grow the IMC resume and will ultimately bring employment and benefit opportunities for the community.

Paragon Infinity has been a partner in which we have been able to support our youth interested in a career in the environmental field. In collaboration with Keyano, Paragon Infinity had the opportunity to onboard an environmental monitoring students for a work term at the Imperial Oil facility. This was a first step in showing the community that this partner is committed to building on the knowledge of our youth.

Midlite Infinity has successfully been completing powerline maintenance scopes of work at the Imperial Oil facility north of Fort McMurray. This opportunity has proven to be a success in that we have taken previously subcontracted scopes of work and been given the opportunity as Midlite Infinity to have direct contracts with Imperial Oil.

Thompson Infinity has been continually supplying heavy civil earthworks scopes on various sites within the region. The Thompson Infinity team has had a huge success in being involved with the Mildred Lake Expansion project for Syncrude. This project was the first for Thompson Infinity with Syncrude and we are working together to develop a strategic plan to ensure more of these scopes of work can be completed.

NorCan Infinity has successfully completed another year at Syncrude for the Electrical and Instrumentation Maintenance contract that we hold. NorCan Infinity continues to work collectively with BrandSafway Infinity to bring added value and benefit in this contract, resulting in increased opportunity and benefit for the community.

TNT Infinity has had a successful year in completing projects with PetroChina. These scopes of work were the first big opportunity for TNT Infinity. Continual involvement and collaboration has been a key success in building relationships with industry and clients.

Infinity Métis Corporation has proven to be a growing success over the last year. We are continuing to build our suite of services through our partnerships that will be a benefit to any client in the region. With this improved resume comes the opportunity for apprenticeships for our youth, employment for our skilled members, and ability for us to expand further into our region.

Infinity Métis Corporation continues to be engaged with local, regional and national business associations including Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association, Circle for Aboriginal Relations and Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business. In working with these organizations we are able to diversify opportunities for all of our companies and increase value within our operations.

Building on strength, experience and integrity is what Infinity Métis Corporation is continually committed to achieving not only for the business, but for the McMurray Métis community.
The 2019 Summer Student Program, started on July 2, 2019, 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 Field Level Risk Assessment (FLRA) 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.

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 for their continued support.

“Summer Student Program”

“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 love this program, I honestly do - it has definitely changed my life for the better.”
- Waylen McNeill, 2019 Summer Student

“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 Huppie, Summer Student Coordinator

“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, and I really enjoyed seeing some of my family here.”
- Clifford Loutitt Flett, 2019 Summer Student

(Above) Minister Wilson visits with summer students

(Above) The students had a presentation by Métis Bev about Métis history and empowerment

(Above) A visit from Tany Yao, MLA for Fort McMurray – Wood Buffalo

(Above) Students cutting wood for Elders and trappers

(Above) Students had the opportunity to create and showcase art work on the McMurray Métis picnic tables and seating benches

(Above) Students infront of Teepee
# 9 Week Summer Student Project Completion Timeline

Over the nine weeks, the Summer Students 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.

## Elder’s Support Projects
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, 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.

## Métis Cultural Learning
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.

## 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 AM to 1:30 PM, six students throughout the nine weeks assisted in the soup kitchen and with 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.

## 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 desk. 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 Elders’ 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.
McMurray Métis is governed under the bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta by an elected Local Council. McMurray Métis is accountable to the membership and its mandate is to pursue the advancement of the Métis people of Fort McMurray and northeastern Alberta.

**Governance**

*Cindy Bourque-Punko, Treasurer*
Cindy was born in Fort Smith to a family of 11 children. Her family has lived in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo for generations. She has been a member of the McMurray Métis since moving to Fort McMurray in 1990. When she was a child, Cindy’s family lived at Embarras Portage along the Athabasca River, where her father worked for Swanson’s Lumber Company. Cindy has canoed the Athabasca River from Fort McMurray to Fort Chipewyan several times with her family and takes great pride in retracing the path of her ancestors. Cindy and her husband, Alcide, and their four children are harvesters and trappers. They have four grandchildren.

**Gail Gallupe, President**
Gail was born in Calgary and raised in the Peace River district on her family’s homestead. Gail became involved with the Métis Nation of Alberta in the 1990s and has remained an active volunteer. She has two daughters and four grandchildren and is a proud great-grandmother. Gail is an accomplished secretary and has worked as an Educational Assistant for 14 years. Her Métis heritage dates back to the 1700s on her mother’s side. Gail’s mother, Bertha Clark-Jones, was a treasured mentor and a distinguished Métis leader and Second World War Royal Canadian Air Force Veteran. She founded the Voice of Alberta’s Native Women Association and later the Native Women’s Association of Canada. She advocated vigorously on behalf of Aboriginal Veterans and education, building a legacy Gail strives to continue today.

**Gary Boostrom, Director**
Gary was born in Lac La Biche. He has made Fort McMurray his home for the past 53 years and raised three sons in the town. He worked in the oil patch with the International Iron Workers Local #720. He also started a small construction renovation business in 2016. His objective is to secure contracts with local Indigenous companies. His hobbies include weight-training, gardening, fishing, and woodworking. He comes from a long line of Boostroms who migrated to make their home in Fort McMurray.
Leonard Hansen, Director
Leonard was born in Fort McMurray and has lived there all his life. Last year he retired from Syncrude Canada after 33 years. He is an active Trapper in the Moose Lake area, and is also a hunter and fisherman. He has a related business called Running Bear Wilderness Adventures. He has a diverse background in Environment and Safety, Oil Industry producers Petro-Canada, Suncor and Syncrude utilized her skills to lead and manage their environmental, health and safety departments, including leading and managing Suncor’s audit and investigation team. Being a strong Métis leader, Kelly has proven to be a very successful Industry leader with 35 years of experience in Environment, Health and Safety including being an Indigenous leader for the community and region. She volunteers endless hours to her community with a focused passion on her heritage and culture.

Peter Hansen, Vice President
Peter was born in Fort Chipewyan, Alberta, and is most proud of his Métis Heritage. He moved with his family in the late 1950s to (Waterways) Fort McMurray and attended Peter Pond High School. He and his wife, Judy, have been married for 44 years, and together they raised two children. Peter retired from Syncrude in June 2019 after 31 years of service. He owns and operates a trapline in the Birch Mountains. Peter has volunteered in many capacities, including the Yukon Quest which is a 1,000-mile dog team race from Whitehorse to Fairbanks, Alaska. He represents the McMurray Métis with his involvement in many areas including the development of the future Cultural Center. He also sits on the board of the Infinity Métis Corporation. Peter looks forward to achieving future goals and objectives with McMurray Métis.

Kelly Myers, Director
Kelly was born and raised in Fort McMurray. Kelly and her husband, Shawn, have four children and four grandchildren which are sixth generation to be born in the region who continue to live and develop deep roots within this community. Upon graduation, Kelly began working in corporate banking, developing a range of skills that allowed her to work with local business creating a strong focus on community investment and developing professional relationships that have continued today. As a strong Métis woman, Kelly developed a passion for the environment at an early age. Educating herself with Indigenous/Traditional Land Cultures she pursued a career in environment within the Oil sands industry. As her career developed and grew, she coupled her environmental passion with Safety Management. Having a diverse background in Environment and Safety, Oil Industry producers Petro-Canada, Suncor and Syncrude utilized her skills to lead and manage their environmental, health and safety departments, including leading and managing Suncor’s audit and investigation team. Being a strong Métis leader, Kelly has proven to be a very successful Industry leader with 35 years of experience in Environment, Health and Safety including being an Indigenous leader for the community and region. She volunteers endless hours to her community with a focused passion on her heritage and culture.

Trudie-Ann Plamondon, Secretary
Trudie-Ann was born in Fort McMurray and raised in Fort Chipewyan. She has become a passionate advocate of educational programs for Métis youth, supporting Métis Elders and the environment. She has worked as the Indigenous Liaison, FNMI and or the Indigenous Liaison at Father Mercredi High School in Fort McMurray for the past 15 years, a time that has seen a dramatic rise in our Indigenous graduation rates in the Wood Buffalo. She is the mother of five young adults and six grandchildren.
McMurray Métis Staff

Bev Milne, Office Manager
Bev was born in Selkirk, Manitoba. Bev is a proud First Nation Member of the Peguis Band. Bev’s family moved to Edmonton when she was of elementary age. Bev her husband Todd (of 23 years) and two children Zachary and Meagan moved to Fort McMurray 14 years ago. Proud to call Fort McMurray home, as they have met so many great people they now consider family and friends. They have been blessed to welcome two grandchildren to their family Hunter and Remington. She looks forward to what the future holds for McMurray Métis, and sharing many years of success with staff, members and partners.

Bill Loutitt, Chief Executive Officer
In addition to his role with McMurray Métis, Bill was past President of the Nistawoyou Friendship Center and former president of Métis Nation of Alberta, Region One, where he was elected Treasurer of the Métis Nation of Alberta. He has also served as the Métis representative on the Athabasca Watershed Council. Bill also served on the Board of Directors of the Cumulative Environmental Management Association. Bill worked for 26 years at Trans Canada Pipelines as an Electrical Instrumentation and Controls Technician for 15 years as an underground miner in Yellowknife, Whitehorse, and Uranium City and at several other mines in northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. In the recent years, Bill has been appointed by the provincial government to serve as the Métis representative on the Oil Sands Advisory Group.

Brittany Martin, Community Coordinator
Brittany was born and raised in Fort McMurray and has made it her home ever since. She was previously working in the yard, helping build the Elders Cabin, using power tools or simply running errands for parts. Being raised by Métis parents; she takes pride in working for the McMurray Métis and learning more about her ancestry and culture. Helping her dad on his trapline, camping and fishing (anything to do with the outdoors) are just a few of her interests.

Bryan Fayant, Disaster & Recovery Strategist
Bryan is originally from the Fishing Lake Métis Settlement. He was raised Métis by his Mushoom/grandfather John McLean. He received his Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Calgary, through Blue Quills College and University of Alberta. He spent years in the alcohol and drug field, social services, economic development, the political arena, community development and environmental policymaking. Today he works as the Wildfire Disaster Strategist, with strong emphasis focusing on Recovery and Emergency Preparedness. Lately he has been called upon by his family and the community to begin taking a more active role as an Elder in training.

Corey Hobbs, Communications and Government Relations Director
Corey was born and raised in Newfoundland and Labrador and has lived for many years in Ottawa. He has long been active politically nationally. Before joining the McMurray Métis, Corey worked as Director of Parliamentary Affairs for Employment and Social Development Canada, and before that was Director of Communications for the Cumulative Environmental Management Association in Fort McMurray. Corey has a daughter, and enjoys cheering on the Toronto Blue Jays.

David Holgrem, Utility Operator
David was born in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. He was raised by his grandparents in Uranium City and Fort McMurray. David grew up as a Hunter and Trapper, an avid outdoorsman. After graduating High School in Fort McMurray he went on to pursue further education and training, completing his schooling as a Heavy Duty Mechanic. His favourite part of working at McMurray Métis is helping people and building relationships.

Emily Hansen, Summer Student Office Lead
Emily is the Summer Student Office Lead for the McMurray Métis. Born in Edmonton and raised in Fort McMurray, she graduated from High School in June of 2018. In September of 2020, she is going for her Bachelor of Education at Keyano College.
Heather Hagerman, Special Events Advisor
Heather was born and raised in Fort McMurray and has four brothers and wonderful parents. She has two daughters who inspire her to build toward a future where she achieves her goals as a Mother. She graduated with a high school diploma and studied social work at Keyano College in Fort McMurray. As a Métis woman, she is proud of her job and enjoys learning her culture, and delights in being a part of the Métis Local’s efforts to make strides toward a better future for the Métis people. In 2019, Heather was awarded ‘Your McMurray Magazine’s Top 50 Under 50’.

Janine Bruggeling, Senior Communications Advisor
Janine Bruggeling has been living in Fort McMurray since 2014, and has enjoyed calling this city her home. She currently works as McMurray Metis’ Senior Communications Advisor. She has been apart of the staff at Local 1935 for just over a year, she enjoys building relationships and learning more about the heritage and culture of the Métis in the region. She enjoys hosting events for all community members to enjoy, adding to the rich history that is here in the region.

Kelsie Francis C.E.T., Chief Operating Officer
Kelsie is a dynamic individual with vast experience in Project Management, Process and Operations focused around Oil Sands Facilities. Kelsie holds a Master of Engineering Project Management Degree which has helped to complement and expand on her Chemical Engineering Technology, 4th Class Power Engineering and Bachelor of Technology Management Degree. Together with Kelsie’s educational background and experience in the region, she brings a unique outlook and value to any task put in front of her. A long term resident of Fort McMurray, Kelsie enjoys exploring all that the region has to offer and the never ending opportunities to engage with the community.

Kyle Boostrom, Communications Assistant
Kyle Boostrom has a Cree, Swedish and Scottish heritage and was born in Fort McMurray. He grew up in the northern bosom of British Columbia’s Okanagan Valley. When Kyle isn’t glued to a computer screen gaming or writing fiction, he spends his time golfing, skiing, hiking, and trying not to be the worst singer in Canada. He has a long-standing dream of one day living beside Kalamalka Lake and raising a family there just like his late Grandfather did after World War II.

Laura Singer, Event Advisor/ Project Coordinator
Laura Singer joined the staff of the McMurray Metis as our receptionist in the winter of 2019, later to move into the new position of Event Advisor/ Project Coordinator. Laura was born and raised in Fort McMurray, her Mother is Linda Mae Shemko and father is Lorrie Gallagher. From 2007 to 2018 Laura owned and operated a successful business in Fort McMurray, The Final Touch. She moved to Kelowna, British Columbia for 1.5 years but missed all her family and friends in Wood Buffalo and made the decision to move home. Laura is a member of the McMurray Metis and looks forward to learning more about her heritage and also getting more active in the Metis community.

Laura Waniandy, Former Office Manager
Laura is a proud Métis Nation member born in Bonnyville and raised in Edmonton and Fort McMurray. She comes from a large family of five sisters and four brothers and has two children of her own. She completed a business management program at Keyano College and began working as a career counselor for the Métis Nation of Alberta Employment Centre in Fort McMurray. After five years, she moved to Edmonton and continued working as a career counselor with Rupertsland Training to Employment Centre. In 2013, Laura moved back to Fort McMurray and she has been office manager for McMurray Métis for the last six years, retiring in the spring of 2019.

Katalin Loutitt, Disaster & Recovery Assistant
Katalin Loutitt was born in Edmonton, Alberta but has called Fort McMurray home since 1997. She has previously worked as a summer student for the McMurray Métis alongside Bryan Fayant in Disaster Recovery, and is passionate about helping others and breaking the stigma on mental health. Working for the McMurray Métis has expanded Katalin’s awareness on the importance of a strong community, that which she is honoured to be apart of. In her spare time, Katalin enjoys painting, listening to music, dancing, or just spending time with her dog.
Madilyn Hite, Multimedia Producer
Madilyn was born in Cold Lake Alberta and raised in Edmonton. She has completed 2 years at Loyalist College in the Interactive Media and Development: Film and TV Production course. This is her second Summer working with McMurray Métis as the Multimedia Producer. She helped film the Mark of the Metis interviews last year and created the Louis Riel Day and 2019 Summer Student videos. This summer she hopes to gain more experience in the Audio-Visual field, making her third and final year in college a breeze.

Michelle Bailey, Consultant Coordinator
Michelle was born in Fort McMurray and has lived there her entire life. Her parents have lived in Fort McMurray since the early 80s. She graduated from the University of Alberta and received a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in anthropology and human geography. Her studies in anthropology gave her the opportunity to explore the diversity of modern societies as well as their deep history through the archaeological record, while her major in human geography has given her the knowledge she will need to better understand the relationships between human societies and the built and natural environment.

Nancy Francis, Administration/Reception
Nancy has been a residence of the Fort McMurray community since 1978. She moved to Fort McMurray as a teenager and is proud to continue to call it home as an Elder. Throughout her working career, she has owned businesses, including 28 horses on her 14 acre ranch. Nancy has 10+ years of oilsands work experience from site administration contractor, to management and safety positions. She has also worked as the cultural and youth coordinator for the Friendship Centre. Over the years, she has continued to work on growing her skill set and furthering her passion for investing in the wellbeing of people. Nancy is excited to be working with our team and staff at McMurray Métis, she looks forward to all the great things happening.

Lynette Whelan, Controller
After 14 years working as an Accounting Technician with a Newfoundland and Labrador CA firm, Lynette, and her husband Wayne moved to Fort McMurray with their two dogs (Will & Grace) in November 2007. She worked with the Cumulative Environmental Management Association as a Financial Administrator until CEMA ceased operations in April of 2016. Lynette used this “down time” to return to her home province to “project manage” the building of their dream home. With her “house project” completed, she ventured back to Fort McMurray and accepted a position of Financial Administrator with the McMurray Metis. Lynette and Wayne love to stroll the trails around Fort McMurray, RVing around the province and travelling back to the “Rock” to spend time with family and friends.

Ron Sturgess, Sr. Chief Operating Officer
A long term resident of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Ron calls Anzac, Alberta home. Engaged in regional business for more than 25 years, including OilSands developments, as an entrepreneur and small business owner. A graduate of business from NAIT and the University of Alberta Faculty Extension, Ron prides himself on the experience gained in the region. Attending the Banff Centre, enrolled in the Indigenous Leadership Program gives Ron added value to his role as Chief Operating Officer of Infinity Métis Corp, the economic development entity on behalf of the Métis Nation of Alberta, McMurray Métis Local 1935. A trapper and longtime land user, Ron stewards to the land and is engaged with youth, sport and community.

Russell Cardinal, Utility Operator
Russell Cardinal worked as the Utility Operator for the McMurray Métis. He was born in Fort McMurray, Alberta. Russell enjoys heavy equipment and likes to pan for gold.

Russell Noseworthy, Director Regulatory Affairs
Russell is a seasoned consultation and stakeholder relations professional with over 15 years of on the job experience. He has worked in a leadership capacity for most of his career. Russell has extensive experience conducting engagement and consultation in Northeastern Alberta, having previously served as Manager, Industry Relations for the Mikisew Cree First Nation. He works with all industry partners and Indigenous communities in the Region on a wide variety of issues related to Industry development and its impact(s) on McMurray Métis. Over the course of his career, Russell has worked with almost all departments of the Government of Canada as a research and consultation advisor. On the provincial side in Alberta, he has extensive experience with the departments of Indigenous Relations, Alberta Environment and Parks and the Alberta Utilities Commission. A native of Newfoundland, Russell has an undergraduate degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland, where he studied political science, history and business. In his spare time Russell enjoys being out on the land hunting and fishing with his father and son.
Ryan Graham B. Mgt., IMC Finance Lead
Ryan is an experienced business professional with a Bachelor’s Degree in Management focused in Accounting from The University of Lethbridge. Born and raised in Fort McMurray Ryan spends the Fall and Winter on the land hunting, trapping and snowmobiling. During the Summer months, Ryan spends his time working at his family farm or at his favourite lakes to hangout at the beach or fish. If not on the land or at the farm he is taking in local events around the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

Sheryl Huppie, Summer Student Coordinator
Sheryl has 25 years of Oil Sands experience with Health and Safety, Welding Inspection and Project Management. Raised on the Kikino Métis Settlement, until she moved to Fort McMurray. She has three daughters, is semi retired and has loved creating the Summer Student Programs for the past three years with McMurray Métis. Sheryl loves to garden and help people get healthy.

Sierra Collins, IMC Project Coordinator
Born and raised in Fort McMurray from a family that prided themselves on hard work and differentiating themselves both personally and professionally. Attaining her Business Administration Diploma, Health and Safety Administrator Certificate, Human Resource Management Certificate were some of the major milestones within her educational career. She has wide-ranging experience in business operations from payroll, human resources, accounts payable and receivable, project coordinating, safety maintenance and auditing, and customer relations, to name a few. She grew up spending the majority of her free time outdoors, so that transitioned into her adult life. Spending most of her time doing things she loves such as camping, hiking, kayaking, fishing, dirt biking, snowboarding and a variety of other sports.
## Financial Statements

### METIS NATION OF ALBERTA ASSOCIATION FORT MCMURRAY
**LOCAL COUNCIL 1935**

**Statement of Financial Position**
March 31, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$ 5,158,440</td>
<td>$ 2,243,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted cash (Note 3)</td>
<td>80,386</td>
<td>83,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term investment (Note 4)</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>321,174</td>
<td>347,075</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>40,612</td>
<td>4,150</td>
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<tr>
<td>TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 5)</td>
<td>5,532,722</td>
<td>2,701,976</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTWORKS</td>
<td>1,197,767</td>
<td>1,200,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LONG-TERM INVESTMENT (Note 6)</td>
<td>5,280</td>
<td>3,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADVANCES TO RELATED PARTY (Note 7)</td>
<td>643,074</td>
<td>196,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14,161</td>
<td>9,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 7,303,004</td>
<td>$ 4,114,416</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 8)</td>
<td>$ 324,601</td>
<td>$ 114,601</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred contributions (Note 9)</td>
<td>3,853,472</td>
<td>1,411,048</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4,178,073</td>
<td>1,525,649</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 10)</td>
<td>41,737</td>
<td>59,625</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4,219,810</td>
<td>1,585,274</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET ASSETS</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>2,011,884</td>
<td>1,384,527</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invested in tangible capital assets</td>
<td>1,161,310</td>
<td>1,144,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,173,194</td>
<td>2,529,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 7,303,004</td>
<td>$ 4,114,416</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**COVID-19 (Note 11)**

### METIS NATION OF ALBERTA ASSOCIATION FORT MCMURRAY
**LOCAL COUNCIL 1935**

**Statement of Operations**
Year Ended March 31, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REVENUES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General operations</td>
<td>$ 3,938,900</td>
<td>$ 3,478,137</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casino</td>
<td>32,907</td>
<td>28,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>10,504</td>
<td>7,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bingo</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,992,991</td>
<td>3,512,562</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| EXPENSES |            |            |
| Salaries and benefits | 1,483,916 | 1,278,910 |
| Projects | 939,726 | 789,247 |
| Administration | 356,047 | 609,565 |
| Events | 332,003 | 247,683 |
| Business | 107,870 | 96,115 |
| Rent | 92,210 | 100,546 |
| Regulatory | 88,024 | 111,926 |
| Amortization | 76,943 | 64,078 |
| Community investment | 73,383 | 57,343 |
| Casino | 22,216 | 16,917 |
| Repairs and maintenance | 3,221 | 2,218 |
| Bad debts | - | 12,025 |
| Bingo | - | 72 |
|                                      | 3,785,789 | 3,376,185 |

| EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS | 196,222 | 136,377 |

| OTHER INCOME |            |            |
| Income (loss) from subsidiary | 443,099 | (40,752) |
| Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets | 4,351 | |
|                                      | 447,450 | (40,752) |

| EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES | $ 444,062 | $ 95,625 |

See notes to financial statements