

Harrison and Anouk Dickie are being honoured with the Harry Allen "Samay Thia" Memorial Leadership Award for their outstanding leadership in supporting youth hockey.

Congrats to the Fort Nelson Gongshow Team on their 2026 C division championship in the Yukon Native Hockey Tournament in Whitehorse.



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FORT NELSON HISTORY SERIES: All the Ways We Got Here by Maggie Squires Part 3. First Peoples: A Pre Step



Before writing about First Peoples, I need to situate my perspective, explain the limits of my understanding, and acknowledge First Nations voices in telling their history.

I acknowledge that I am a descendant of European settlers. A white person, I grew up in a segregated American state in an upper-middle-class family with mixed views on race. My circumstances provided many privileges that I did not and still don't fully grasp. "To know 'White Privilege' you must be non-white," said a Black poet and academic sharing a ferry ride from Salt Spring Island to Victoria.

As a young adult, I spent seven summers in Inuvik, Northwest Territory, studying lakes in the Mackenzie Delta. Inuvik—a town of about 3,000 that is 65% Indigenous—is located at the end of the Dempster Highway (completed in 1979) and at the edge of the vast maze of channels and tens of thousands of lakes that comprise the Delta. Many Inuvik residents maintain cabins along river channels for fishing and hunting. The government created Inuvik for the inhabitants of Aklavik, an older settlement out on the Delta susceptible to spring flooding. Despite this, roughly 500 people—almost all of them Indigenous—still reside in Aklavik.

Like myself, most summer researchers were white. When assistants were hired, they were from local First Nations. Among those assistants, I sensed a bond with the land that I, as a settler descendant, do not possess.

Finally, as you read, keep in mind that the upcoming narratives about First Peoples are drawn from the writings of archaeologists, ethnographers, historians, and anthropologists—mostly non-Indigenous—complemented by land-use memories gathered by descendants of some of the First Peoples to live in the Dehcho watershed. This distinction is important: the lens of outside observers—even experts—is different from direct Indigenous oral histories. Mixing academic records and land-use memories of descendants helps but it's still necessary to be mindful of who is holding the pen here.

MUSKWA MUSINGS with Casey Gairdner

The Person we once Knew

We all once knew a person who saw every day as a fresh adventure, treating the world like a map of endless possibility. There was electricity in their presence, a wonder that met every experience as if it were their first. You could see it in their eyes, it was an energy capable of brightening even the darkest spaces.



We also knew that person when the shadows grew long. We watched as unimaginable loss turned their world upside down. The sparkle vanished. Their vibrant stride became a heavy, reluctant plod. They weathered the disappearance of joy, that inner light became nothing more than a flickering spark. Even while the world around them felt as though it were on fire.

Then, something shifted.

That person decided they deserved to live again. They decided the darkness would no longer dictate their sight, even when their spirit felt brittle and their nervous system screamed that recovery was impossible. Facing a perceived cold world head on, anxiety in one hand and a relentless hunger for life in the other, they pushed through the fear. Slowly, the darkness ceased to be their main focus.

With every personal challenge met, the light returned. They began to practice grace, allowing joy to settle in without the anchor of guilt. Laughter found its way back when they refused to let the heaviness of the past outweigh the miracle of the present. They finally understood that it is never too late to be whole, to celebrate the storms navigated and the memories carried. They remembered the version of themselves that once held the world in their hand and realized that one day, it would be there again.

We all knew a person who wouldn't give up on the promise of a better tomorrow, whether today, tomorrow, or years away. We all knew that person once. And that person is you. Keep hope for a better tomorrow. Until next week.

Casey Gairdner "The Muskwa Muser" Muskwamuser@gmail.com

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Weekly Events Calendar

PLEASE SCAN QR CODE FOR ACCESS TO ALL MONTHLY EVENTS

Monday, April 6th - Easter Monday

Grief Support Group - 6:30PM - 5012 52 Ave West
Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00PM-9:00PM - United Church
Free Easter Swim - 12:00PM-8:00PM - Rec Centre

Tuesday, April 7th

Homeschool Hangout - 9:30AM-11:00AM - F.N. Public Library
Soup & Bannock - 12:00PM-1:00PM - Friendship Centre
Easter TV Bingo - 7:00PM-8:00PM - Friendship Centre

Wednesday, April 8th

Drop-in Playgroup - 9:00AM-11:00AM - Middle of the Track
Tech Support for Seniors - 4:30PM-5:30PM - City Furniture
Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00PM-9:00PM - 5012 52 Ave West
Rotary Meeting - 12:00PM - The Fort Lounge

Thursday, April 9th

The Track Social - 10:00AM - Rec Centre - Middle of the track

Friday, April 10th

Narcotics Anonymous - 7:00PM - Friendship Centre

Saturday, April 11th

Fort Nelson Farmers Market - 9:00AM to 3:00PM - Elks Hall
Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00PM-9:00PM - 5012 52 Ave West

Sunday, April 12th

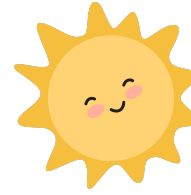
Weekly AA Meeting - 7:00PM - 5012 52 Ave West



Weekly Groaner

Why did the sun go to school?

TO GET A LITTLE BRIGHTER.



Upcoming Events

April 25th
 Celebrating Environmental Stewardship

NORTHERN ROCKIES REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
 Opportunities & Notices

Career Opportunities
northernrockies.ca/careers

Job Posting No. 2026.01
Casual Positions
 Closes: Dec 31, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

For current career opportunities visit
www.northernrockies.ca/careers

Bidding Opportunities
northernrockies.ca/bids

ITT-2026-09
NRRA Runway 04 SSALR High Intensity Approach Light Rehab
 Closes: April 16, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

For current bidding opportunities visit
www.northernrockies.bidsandtenders.ca

Advisories, Notices & Hearings
northernrockies.ca/notices

FNFN/NRRM Community Forest Alternate Director Recruitment Opportunity
 Opportunity will remain open until filled

NRRM.ca/AltDirectorCFCorp

NOTE: This advertisement contains the most current postings as of the newsletter publication date.
 Visit www.NorthernRockies.ca

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FOR MORE INFO

CONTACT:

DLEGG@SD81.BC.CA

Amber LLOYD - Artist Spotlight Series



In Fort Nelson, Dene artist Amber Lloyd stitches more than just moosehide—she stitches story, energy, and generations of knowledge into every piece.

Working under RAW North Crafts, Amber creates moccasins, mukluks, and other handmade works rooted in family teachings and lived experience. Her process is slow and intentional. Each stitch is guided by a belief she's carried since childhood: what you bring to your work—your energy, your mindset—becomes part of it.

Amber's journey began early, selling handmade pieces as a child and learning by watching the skilled hands around her. Today, that same tradition continues as her own children grow up observing her work—carrying knowledge forward in the same quiet, respectful way.

Building her business wasn't easy. With no formal training or funding, Amber worked long days, faced rejection, and learned everything from scratch. Now, her work reaches across Canada and around the world—while remaining deeply connected to the North.

But for Amber, success isn't just about growth. It's about meaning. Her pieces are made to be worn, used, and lived in—gathering stories with every step. Amber Lloyd is one of many artists shaping the creative spirit of the Northern Rockies.

Don't miss the full story in video, podcast and full article—explore Amber's work and discover more northern artists featured at northernrockiesartscouncil.ca



Fort Nelson Bears - Sponsors Thank You

The Fort Nelson Bears would like to sincerely thank all of our sponsors and supporters for your contributions to our team and our success at the 2026 Yukon Native Hockey Tournament. Your investment in our youth goes far beyond the game. It helps build confidence, discipline, and pride in representing our community. Your support helped make this experience possible for our players and families, and played a direct role in our teams bringing home U15 Gold, U18 Silver, and U13 Bronze.



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Submitted by Harrison Dickie

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Tribal Trails

44 years ago, Tribal Trails was launched, with the intension of supporting Indigenous individuals to forge connection and support within their communities.

Tribal Trails works to bring real hope and real life, to real people. Through TV programs and interviews, we highlight the personal stories and journeys of Indigenous individuals who found freedom in their lives.

Pierre Gregoire is with Crossing the Bridge and volunteers his time in Fort Nelson with volunteers taking calls from viewers.

We are also visible in areas like Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Watson Lake, and Toad River where Pierre provides visits and displays, literature and booklets.

Tribal Trails would like to invite community members to a Dinner and Presentation taking place on May 1st at the Fort Nelson Friendship Society Main Hall, 5:00PM-8:00PM. The event is free to attend (donations welcome) and will feature Elder John Greeyes speaking about his experiences, and the topics of faith and racism.

To RSVP, or for more information, contact 250 775 0452.

Submitted by Pierre Gregoire

