



**FORT MCKAY**  
FIRST NATION

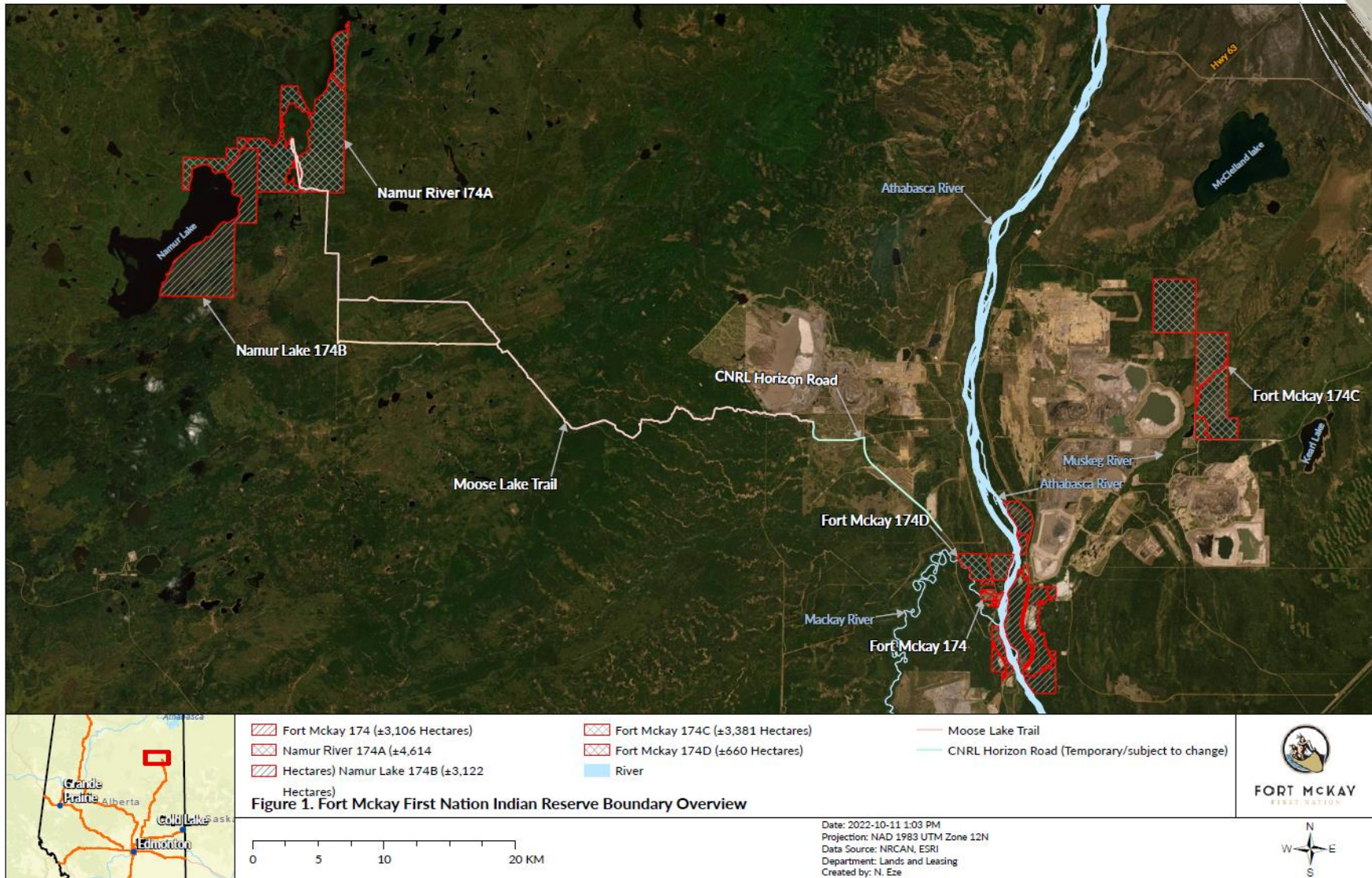
# **Fort McKay First Nation Land Code Community Perspectives**

Presented by:

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Fort McKay First Nation**

# Fort McKay First Nation

Population: On-reserve 428; Off reserve 553



# Land Code History

- Became a signatory in 2007 and began working on the draft land code
- Parked in 2008 – during the time when environmental issues were uncertain (old FA version) & resources were not adequate
- Fort McKay re-engaged in the land code development process in late 2018
- Began the environmental site assessment process in FY 2019/2020
- Merged the land code work that was previously completed with the new/updated model land code.
- Also applied for and received legacy funding to address a lack of community surveys

Then...March 2020

# Land Code Committee

- In December 2020 we started recruiting the Land Code Committee and 13 FMFN members were appointed in February of that year.
  - Elders
  - Youth
  - Business owners
  - Cultural/traditional knowledge holders
  - 2 members of Chief and Council
  - On/off reserve Members
- Terms of reference included assisting the team with membership engagement





# Land Code Committee Meetings

- All meetings had to be held virtually on MS Teams and everyone was on a different learning curve
- Created a Land Code Language sub-committee to assist with integrating Cree and Dene into the Land Code Preamble
- Benefits to having virtual committee meetings:
  - Better attendance by members
  - Ability to have members living off-reserve fully participate
  - Access to the Resource Center staff for every meeting



## Pre-posting Member Engagement

- Initial Membership Engagement was more 'hands-off'
- Started holding in-person events in June 2022 with a goal to create brand recognition

# OneFeather online voting



Fort McKay First Nation

## Welcome

Sign up for OneFeather

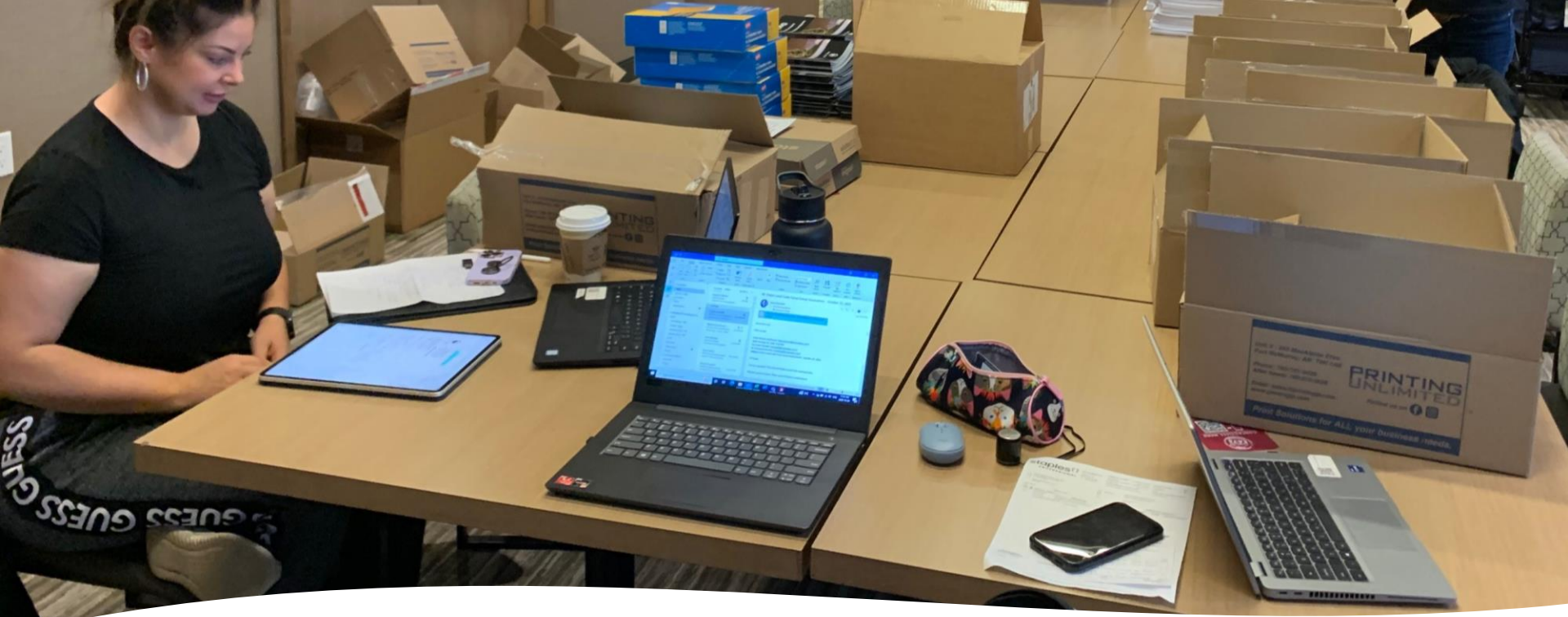
DUE to a death in community - this voting event has been extended until Jan 2023.

Click the red "Vote with OneFeather" button to get started - you will be guided through to online voting process.

### Fort McKay First Nation Contact Info

Nation Website	<a href="https://www.fortmckay.com/">https://www.fortmckay.com/</a>
Phone	(780) 828-4220
Fax	(780) 828-4393
Address	PO BOX 5360, FORT MCMURRAY, Alberta, Canada, T9H 3G4
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/fortmckayfirstnation">https://www.facebook.com/fortmckayfirstnation</a>

### Voting Events



Land Code  
Vote  
packages and  
posting day

- Full information packages delivered to every member, both on and off-reserve – hard copy and email
- Launch events in the community
- Radio announcements & full-page article in the local newsletter - Red River Current
- Website updated with 'Vote Here' button and full package



# Information sessions

- Continued with online information sessions & lots of one-on-one discussions with members.
- Supported family dinners for LCC members
- Fort McKay and Edmonton sessions
- Hired a film-maker who is a FMFN Band Member to create a series of short informational YouTube videos about the land code.
- Hosted a panel discussion featuring other land code First Nations





# Advance Poll and Vote Day

We followed the standard procedure included in FMFN's Election Code for in-person voting

- 1 day of advance voting in Fort McKay
- Official voting day – poll stations in Fort McKay, Fort McMurray and Edmonton

# Vote Results

**FORT MCKAY FIRST NATION**  
Official Count Declaration – Ratification Vote

Fort McKay, AB

11 January 2023

This document declares and confirms the Official Ballot Count of ALL Ballots properly recorded for the Fort McKay First Nation 2022 Land Code Ratification Vote immediately following the close of Regular Polls.

<b>Question: Do you approve the Fort McKay First Nation Land Code dated for reference October 7, 2022, and the Individual Agreement with His Majesty the King in right of Canada, dated September 15, 2022?</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>TOTAL BALLOTS CAST</b>	237
<b>TOTAL</b>	
<b>SPOILED/REJECTED BALLOTS</b>	0
<b>INDIVIDUAL BALLOT COUNTS</b>	
<b>YES</b>	203
<b>NO</b>	34
A minimum of 25% of Eligible Voters cast a ballot in the Ratification Vote and a majority (50% +1) of the participating Eligible Voters voted "YES" meaning that Fort McKay First Nation will manage its own reserve lands under the Fort McKay First Nation Land Code.	

SIGNED AND DECLARED,

  
RATIFICATION OFFICER  
250-384-8200 (ph) / 250-384-5416 (fx)



**OneFeather**

# Lessons Learned

- Ensure your CRP has a clear process for postponing or adding additional vote days
- OneFeather voting was essential for getting enough votes to meet our threshold of 25% min participation
- Ensure a clear/transparent process for selecting Land Code Committee members
- Involve the Verifier in the vote day – unexpected things come up and it is good to have the Verifier on-site to make quick judgement calls and/or make process notes for the final report.
- Engage members in lots of different ways – one-on-one conversations, family meetings, videos, social media (youth especially)
- Pick 3-5 main points to keep repeating, use simple terms and listen to the rumors or misinformation so you can adjust your messaging



**CELEBRATION TIME!**

# QUESTIONS ?

