# 2018/2019 ANNUAL REPORT

PIBAL COUNCIL

THABASCA



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# MISSION, VISION, VALUES

# Mission:

Athabasca Tribal Council serves our Nations by providing relevant and innovative programs and services that enrich the well-being, health, and prosperity of our people. We are committed to ensuring the protection of our Inherent rights, our Treaty Rights, and our Traditional Territories. While respecting the autonomy of each Nation, our strength is our unity.

### Vision:

Athabasca Tribal Council, in collaboration with our Nations, honours our Treaty and supports a thriving, healthy, and self-reliant future for Cree and Dene people.

### Values:

Collaboration, Respect, Integrity, Service, Unity, Innovation, Excellence

# WELCOME, TAWOW, SINI'E DANIYA N'ID'A

### Message from the Board

To our respected elders, community members, and partners,

In 2018, Athabasca Tribal Council celebrated 30 years of serving our Nations. We have been working diligently to ensure we are growing, adapting, and continuing to improve the way we support our community members.

Working with our CEO Karla Buffalo, ATC's vision has continued to become more defined, with a strong emphasis on identifying the needs of our Nations, and meeting them. As the Board of Directors, it is an honour to help establish the long-term goals and objectives that are helping to achieve the overall vision.

It has been an exciting time, with a lot of great successes to build upon. We look towards 2020 with anticipation and gratitude.

In closing, we would like to say a special thank you to the staff of ATC who serve our members every day with passion and dedication. We are grateful for all you do.

Hiy hiy. Marsi cho.

Chief Allan Adam President of Board of Directors, Chief - Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation

#### **Board of Directors**

(in photo above from left to right)

Chief Allan Adam - Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Chief Vern Janvier - Chipewyan Prairie First Nation Chief Mel Grandjamb - Fort McKay First Nation Chief Ron Kreutzer - Fort McMurray First Nation 468 Chief Archie Waquan - Mikisew Cree First Nation (*Absent*)



Karla Buffalo CEO Athabasca Tribal Council

### Message from the CEO

Tân'si, Edlánat'e members, friends, and funders,

2018/2019 marked my first two full-years as CEO of Athabasca Tribal Council. It has been a time of setting a vision for how we want to serve our First Nations, and for executing this vision, delivering relevant, innovative programs, and services for our members.

It has been an exciting time as we've celebrated some wonderful events and increased programing that has been well received within the communities.

As in years past, serving our members has been our greatest achievement. We are proud to deliver services benefiting our communities including Health, Education Culture & Language, Employment & Training, and Child & Family Services. A special thank you to all of our staff who are committed to serving with excellence, including our Finance and Administration teams who support all of the departments who carry out this work.

Thank you to our Board who offers strong governance and support to ATC. Their role in establishing long-term goals and objectives, and overseeing the direction of our organization is truly valued.

I am grateful to all members and partners who have supported us as we serve our Nations. We are looking forward to all that 2020 will bring as we continue to connect programs and services with our communities.

Marsi cho. Hiy hiy.

Karla Buffalo CEO Athabasca Tribal Council

# 2018-2019 YEARS IN REVIEW



#### February 2018:

To support Indian Residential School survivors and cultural revitalization, ATC hosted free moose hide tufting, porcupine quill and fish scale workshops facilitated by Nancy Hagar where snacks and refreshments were provided.

#### June 2018 & 2019:

ATC supported Indigenous People's Day events with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis. The grand entry, story time, and performances made wonderful memories.

#### June 2018:

ATC assisted in the financing of solar panel installation at Chipewyan Prairie First Nation.

#### August 2018 & 2019:

ATC supports Teddy Bear Fairs in each community. They are a fun health and wellness event for children birth to six years, held in each home First Nation communities. They provide health information, screening, and referrals to appropriate health services and programs.

#### August 2018 & 2019:

In 2018, ATC kicked off an annual event to prepare children returning to school. As the goal of increasing youth confidence, Athabasca Tribal Council hosted free drop-in back to school haircuts in the communities ATC serves. This service was offered again in 2019.

#### September 2018 & 2019:

ATC began observing Orange Shirt Day in 2018, a day to recognize the harm done to generations of children in residential schools. It is an affirmation of our commitment to ensure every child matters. Orange Shirt Day also recognizes our commitment to reconciliation, antiracism, and anti-bullying in general. In 2019, Community members were invited to join us at our main office for stew & bannock, cookie decorating, and the preparation of a heart garden.

#### September 2018:

ATC launched a new Dene language app, and updated the Cree language app that had first been launched in 2016. Our education department and community Elder Pat Mercredi collaborated on this first-of-its-kind cultural language app in Dene which has over 400 written and spoken translations of words and phrases in aspects of life like food, household, time, directions, kinship, and many other categories. Both the Dene and Cree language apps are unique because they are in our local dialect from the First Nations in the Wood Buffalo region.

#### October 2018:

ATC hosted an IRS Survivors Men's Craft Event. Community members came together to create traditional beaver mitts. Keeping cultural and traditional art forms alive is both important for the community and healing for those who attended.

#### November 2018:

The results of "Rebuilding Resilient Indigenous Communities -Assessing the Indigenous Impacts of the Horse River Wildfire" were released. This was a major collaborative research project between Athabasca Tribal Council, Athabasca River Métis, and Nistawoyou Association Friendship Centre. This project was the first Indigenouscontrolled disaster study to bring together First Nations and Métis from an entire region. It included 10 focus groups, 40 interviews, and a survey with more than 600 responses. The purpose of the study was to ensure that Indigenous impacts, concerns, and recommendations are heard by governments, and to provide foundation for improved collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments in disaster management. You can view the video at atcfn.ca/research.

# 2018-2019 YEARS IN REVIEW CONTINUED...



#### January 2019:

The Athabasca Tribal Council Health & Wellness Conference was hosted at the Quality Inn Hotel & Conference Centre, and was focused on building resilience in our First Nation communities. Keynote speakers, workshops, cultural presentations, and activities were a part of the three-day conference on topics that stem from the four areas of the medicine wheel: physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual. Some of the topics included culture and language revitalization, preventative health programming, traditional medicines, parenting, youth engagement, and emergency planning.

#### March 2019:

Athabasca Tribal Council presented a Language & Land-Based Learning Education Conference where attendees explored local First Nation language and land-based learning strategies. Hosted at the Quality Inn Hotel & Conference Centre, keynote speakers included Kendal Netmaker, Janice Makokis, and Art Napoleon. Some agenda items included Cree Language Teaching, Land-Based Learning, Fish Scale Art, Birch Bark Tapping, Teepee Raising, Local Dene: Immersion & Comparison, Dreamcatcher Making, Traditional Games, Powwow Dancing, Traditional Preparation of Dry Meat, and more!

#### February - March 2019:

Athabasca Tribal Council hosted a Community Volunteer Income Tax Program in the communities for qualifying individuals who were seeking help with their taxes. Volunteers assisted Elders and community members in Janvier, Fort McMurray 468, and Fort Chipewyan communities.

#### June 2019:

ATC hosted a youth gathering and hand game tournament with teams from Fort Chipewyan, Fort McKay, Janvier, and Treaty 8 Youth Council.

#### September 2019:

The Athabasca Tribal Council Golf Classic was hosted at Miskanaw Golf Course, and held in conjunction with the Oil Sands Trade Show. This partnership between ATC and EventWorx provided an exciting opportunity to raise funds for ATC's Post-Secondary Student Support Program. Participants enjoyed 18 holes of golf, a power cart, on-thecourse BBQ lunch, a banquet dinner, and lots of great prizes!



#### September 2019:

The inaugural ATC Cultural Festival presented by Syncrude was a three-day event hosted at Snye Point Park. More than 5,000 attendees took in the three-day festival that showcased, celebrated, and fostered the development of Northern Alberta's diverse and distinctive Indigenous arts and culture. It included workshops, demonstrations, and live musical performances on the River's Edge Mainstage presented by CNRL. As well, there was traditional dancing, drumming, hand games, a gift shop featuring items crafted by Indigenous artists, and a Community Feast presented by Imperial Oil. As well, ATCO Gas, Summit GM, and Dene North Site Services provided free lunch for attendees over the course of the Festival.

#### September/October 2019:

Athabasca Tribal Council hosted Traditional Birthing Sharing Circles in three communities, inviting community members to share about traditional birthing practices, rituals, ceremonies, prenatal care, and postnatal care. The goal was to learn about Indigenous maternity experiences in our communities, and to hear about what ATC can do to support mothers in our region, including support for prenatal care and doula training.

#### October 2019 - February 2020:

An 18-week Employment Preparation training course was offered by ATC in collaboration with Alberta Labour and Service Canada. It included six weeks of pre-GED training, GED certification, career planning, and employability skills. The course was open to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students who were at least 18 years old.

#### October 2019:

Open Houses were hosted in each of the communities for the first time, as a response to community wishes to have more engagement with ATC. Kids' activities, traditional crafts, and a meal were all a part of these open house-style gatherings. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect on an individual level with those ATC serve, helping us understand their needs better, which ultimately contributes to how ATC will deliver programs and services in the future.

### EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LANGUAGE SUPPORTING EDUCATION THROUGH PROGRESSIVE ENGAGEMENT, CULTURAL AND LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION

The vision of our Education, Culture and Language department is to contribute to quality lifelong education, and achieve learning success; while staying connected to culture, language and communities. Lifelong education, to the ECL department, refers to going above and beyond the ordinary pursuits of the western education system, and teaching traditional ways of life, language, and spirituality in communities.

Key goals for our department, including;

- Developing and promoting effective communication among ATC First Nations and relevant organizations
- > Facilitating and researching the development of ATC First Nations education programs
- Supporting students' education through the boarding home program and post-secondary education support program
- Supporting Indian Residential School survivors and their descendants, as well as family members who have lost loved ones to violence against women and children.

#### Youth Development

Celebrating the success of youth is earmarked each year with the Traditional Celebration of Achievement event that recognizes graduates from all of the communities in the Athabasca Tribal Council area. This event is held in collaboration with the school divisions, First Nations, and Métis organizations. In this fiscal year, Athabasca Tribal Council was also able to provide targeted programming for youth, including a Dene drumming program and providing Trauma Education and Awareness Session in the Northland Schools for K-12 classes.

#### **High School Boarding Home Program**

The purpose of this program is to provide homes and support to students from Chipewyan Prairie First Nation and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation who are interested in attending high school, outside of their home community.

The boarding home family provides room and board to a high school student. The goal is to have the student integrate with the family while being provided with residential accommodation and academic/personal support in a safe and supportive environment while the student pursues his/her high school education. In 2018/2019, the Athabasca Tribal Council Boarding Home program had sixteen students throughout the academic year in Fort McMurray or Edmonton schools.

#### **Post-Secondary Education Program**

The objective of the Post-Secondary Student Support Program is to provide financial support to ATC Treaty/Status students, encouraging them to gain access to post-secondary education, graduate with the skills, and competencies needed to pursue individual careers. Ultimately, this contributes to the advancement of First Nations self-governance and economic self-reliance. In 2018/2019, the Athabasca Tribal Council provided post-secondary education support for 58 students.

#### **Enhancing Local Education**

Athabasca Tribal Council receives funding from the federal government's New Path's program to offer enhance local eduction services to First Nation run schools. Successes from this service area was the support for Dene High principal and teachers to attend the National Indigenous Youth Empowerment and Education Conference, the Education and Land Based Learning Conference, and support in review agreements with Northland School Division.

#### Land & Language Based Learning

In 2018, the Education staff worked with translators to complete translations of Cree & Dene Hymn Books. With the intention of learning about what other education resources the Athabasca Tribal Council could provide, the theme of the March 2019 Education conference was Land & Language Based Learning with a focus on connecting curriculum, cultural practices and locally based traditional teachers. The conference had a total of 228 participants, including community members, students and teachers from all three school divisions, and post-secondary institutions. There were 23 workshops, which included hands-on learning opportunities of how to fillet fish, prepare traditional meat, and scrape a moose hide, as well as updates on the Indigenous competency level needed for all teachers in Alberta and local language teachers sharing teaching methodologies.

#### ATC Cree and ATC Dene Apps

In an effort to preserve Indigenous languages, encourage youth—and anyone with a smartphone—to learn, ATC is working hard to develop innovative, fun, and interactive apps for both the Cree and Dene languages within our First Nation member communities. ATC worked closely with local Elders to develop language apps for both Cree and Dene languages.

The *ATC Cree* app and the *ATC Dene* app are available to download for free through your Google or Apple app store. Each app has over 400 words, with a growing list,

that will help those interested to learn the language. ATC is encouraged by the opportunity to engage our youth, and others, through technology.

#### Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program

The Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program provides mental health, emotional, and cultural support services to eligible former Indian Residential School students, and their families throughout all phases of the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement. The program also provided a number of community activities such as the annual Orange T-Shirt event, and cultural activities for IRS survivors, and family members.

#### Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Support Services

The 2018 Stolen Sisters Vigil and March saw the highest attendance since its inception. RCMP attend and spoke passionately about strengthening their efforts, acknowledging their mistakes, and expressing sympathy for failing in the past. Community members were vocal in their search of justice. Throughout the year, Athabasca Tribal Council offers health and cultural support services to survivors, family members, and others affected including outreach services, referrals to partners, and workshops.

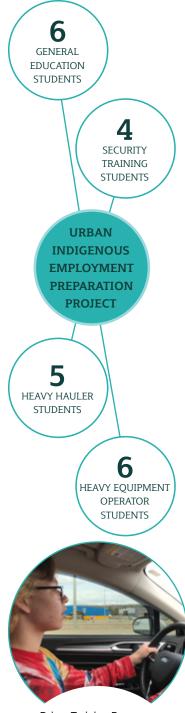
#### **Climate Change Education**

The Alberta Indigenous Climate Capacity Program (AICCP) is a grant program that provided ATC funding for climate change education sessions. The goals of the sessions is to combat the effects of climate change, specifically reducing greenhouse gas emissions in First Nation housing.

ATC is hoping to work with schools and youth centers on activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. ATC is focused on encouraging youth engagement to encourage future employment in a green economy.

# **EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

CONTRIBUTING TO GROWTH FOR INDIVIDUALS, COMPANIES, AND OUR COMMUNITIES



Driver Training Program Class 5 in-car lesson after receiving Class 7 training

The Employment and Training department provides support for ATC members seeking employment and/or training, based out of our Fort McMurray office. ATC also supports the Employment and Training sub-offices located within each of the First Nations.

The Employment and Training Department is funded in part by the Government of Canada under a program called Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS). Other key partners include Alberta Labour and Indigenous Relations. The goal of the ASETS program is to increase Indigenous participation in the Canadian labour market, ensuring First Nation, Métis, and Inuit people are engaged in sustainable, meaningful employment.

ATC allocates funding to First Nations, which supports the costs of programs, services, and other activities undertaken by each Nation. ASETS Coordinators are responsible for enhancing the development, implementation of training, and employment opportunities for clientele. Coordinators are eager to support, assist, counsel, and provide information for people within their community who are planning their careers, seeking employment, and training.

The clientele who are eligible to apply for assistance under the program includes all First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples residing on or off-reserve, or in an urban community and catchment area.

ATC also offered a two week Basic Computer Training course where students learn Microsoft Office, Internet navigation skills, resume writing, on-line job application skills, and more. In addition, ATC offered access to computers, printing, faxing, copying, job board, and on-line application support at each office for clients to take advantage of. In the future, funding will be provided for personal protective equipment (PPE), and safety tickets in conjunction with an employment offer letter.

Continuously building relationships with external stakeholders to increase Indigenous participation in the local labour market is another important part of the work ATC does. Industry, small business, and Government of Alberta are integral to the development of our annual plan and delivery of programming.

#### **Driver Training Program**

Obtaining a Learners License (Class 7) and Driver License (Class 5) is the first steps towards clients in becoming self-sufficient in obtaining employment. The goal of the Driver Training Program is to support every high school youth in obtaining their license by the time they graduate school. Lack of a drivers license is one of the biggest barriers to employment across the country for most First Nation communities.

Every three months, Class 7 Learners License training is offered to the high school students and community members in each community. Training includes two days of theory, and the written exam.

Class 5 Drivers License training is offered to any indigenous person who resides in the Wood Buffalo Region. The training includes two hours of in-car lessons followed by the road test.

The independence and freedom achieved by successful students drives a sense of confidence that follows them into employment opportunities.

#### Greater Aboriginal Participation Partnership (GAPP)

ATC partnered with Ledcor, CEDA, Suncor, Service Canada, Rupertsland Institute (RLI), and Alberta Labour to combine resource to facilitate and advance Indigenous workforce participation in the region. ATC developed training opportunities to support demand for Indigenous employees in the Wood Buffalo Region. Guiding principles for the

partnership include:

- Meet requirements for Alberta Labour's Indigenous Training to Employment Partnership Program
- Create training opportunities for Indigenous people in labour occupations that are in demand
- Ensure skills can be transferred or enhanced with further training to sustain employment
- Identify opportunities that will increase the participation of Indigenous youth
- Provide customized training programs for community needs including pre-requisites for employment

#### Urban Indigenous Employment Preparation Project

General Education Development (GED) is an important part of developing a successful career in any field. ATC offers upskilling programs that embrace career, life management, and employability skills, cultural activities, educational prerequisites for occupational training, safety, and occupational goal-specific training for employment. Specific areas of training completed by students this year included security training, heavy hauler training, and heavy equipment operator training.

#### First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI)

The FNICCI is a Federally funded program with the goal to create 6,000 childcare spaces on First Nations reserves and in the Territories based on a government commitment from 1993. The intent is to provide culturally appropriate, affordable, quality childcare services comparable to what is available to other Canadian children. ATC was able to assist in facilitating funds from FNICCI to support child care operations:

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Urban Indigenous Employment Preparation Project General Education Development

# HEALTH

PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES

246 COMMUNITY MEMBERS RECEIVED EDUCATION ON FASD AS OF MARCH 2019

> 31 COMMUNITY MEMBERS TRAINED ON HOW TO USE A NALOXONE KIT

124 NALOXONE KITS DISTRIBUTED

> Opioid Emergency Response Opioid Education & Awareness Presentation and Training

248 ATC COORDINATED ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS



The ATC Health department is committed to establishing partnerships and connections between our membership, and health services. ATC works with Municipal, Provincial, and Federal partners to access services for our communities. ATC strives to promote health awareness and health prevention, as well as promote training and support services in the area of health. ATC staff develop and implement innovative strategies of serving members in the area of personal health, as well as contributing to healthy communities, and ATC ensures accountability of resources by continued use and improvement of standards and practices.

Our current areas of focus are:

#### Northern Alberta Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

ATC is working collaboratively with the FASD Network to provide FASD Education and Awareness to the First Nations communities through community engagement at education sessions and presentation in the communities. ATC also provided one-on-one confidential conversations and sessions with community members to provide them with better support of their concerns. When needed ATC provides referrals to the Notheast Alberta FASD Network for assessments.

#### **Opioid Emergency Response**

ATC is a Naloxone Distribution Center and has received funding from the Government of Alberta to hire a project coordinator to coordinate opioid crisis response strategy activities for our First Nations communities. Some of the activities include community engagement, education, distribution, training for naloxone kits, training for front line service providers, and setting up distribution centers for the naloxone kits. Individuals or organizations interested in a presentation or naloxine training can contact our Opioid Education and Awareness Facilitator at ATC.

#### **Hospital Liaison**

This is a position that is located at the Northern Lights Hospital and is co-funded with Alberta Health Services. The distance to travel for many community members can add additional stress to a hospital stay, unforeseen issues often arise where the Liaison can assist the community member through the process or situation. The Liaison maintains a Giving Closet at the hospital to assist community members in need of toiletries or clothing. Assistance with the discharge process and transportation needs alleviates much of the stress this process can cause. The Liaison also hosts a Culture Club once a week for Indigenous Continuing Care residents. The success of this position has allowed ATC to look for additional ways of utilize this role to meet even more of the needs of our Indigenous clients in the health care system.

#### **Medical Transportation**

Medical Transportation staff work with clients to ensure that travel, accommodations, and meals are taken care of when clients travel for medical reasons. ATC is always improving our services and a new medical transportation system will be rolled out in October of 2019

that will be a more user friendly experience for community members. The purchase of a new handi-van will give ATC the ability to transport clients that are in wheelchairs more effectively.

#### Community Health Programming and Home Care for CPFN

ATC is working with Alberta Health Services to provide these services to the community. The Public Health nurse from AHS goes to the Janvier community three days per week providing communicable disease control and prevention, TB prevention and control, they offer a sexually transmitted infection program, maternal child health care, and immunizations. Home Care from AHS has a Home Care Nurse and a Health Care Aide (HCA) visiting the community, and they provide home care services to community members who have chronic and acute illnesses to help them maintain optimal health, wellbeing, and independence in their own homes. The HCA provides personal care services as required.

#### Health and Wellness Conference

Brainstorming with elders, health directors, key community members, and Athabasca Tribal Council staff, created an outline for the 2019 Health & Wellness Conference based on the traditional medicine wheel. Each keynote and workshop speaker focused on physical, intellectual, emotional, or spiritual. The three-day conference took place in January of 2019.

Cultural arts and crafts as well as various workshops were a part of each day of the conference, with many guest speakers, and artisans leading the sessions. The conference had four keynote speakers addressing: The Importance of Unity from an Indigenous Perspective, Health Service Inequities, Cultural Safety, and The Value of Healing.

During the conference, ATC partnered with the Red Cross to identify the psychosocial, physical, and mental health needs and gaps post-wildfire. The information is being used to identify opportunities to improve and enhance services.

The main themes that came out of the conference included: preventative health measures in communities, bringing back traditional medicine to our communities, culture & language preservation, discussion of health & wellness services that are needed in our communities, and Emergency Response Plans (ERP) needing to be engaged within our communities.

#### **Supporting Events**

Supporting health related events in the communities is something ATC has alway taken pride in.

Health Fairs, Healing Camps, Cultural events, Sekweha Family Splash Day, and Teddy Bear Fairs are just some of the events where ATC promoted it's health care programs.

The Teddy Bear Fairs are a fun health and wellness event for children ages birth to six-years. The event provides health information, screening, and referrals to appropriate health services and programs. Events were held in Janvier, Gregoire Lake, Fort Chipewyan, and Fort McKay and were attended by 146 children in total and 110 caregivers.



# CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

WORKING WITH FAMILIES & CULTURES



The ATC Child and Family Services (CFS) works with communities to support the safety and well-being of First Nations children. ATC CFS provides support to families ordinarily residing on-reserve.

This ATC program supports the delivery of culturally appropriate prevention and protection services for First Nations children and families, in accordance with the legislation and standards of Alberta.

Child and Family Services staff supports an environment where family strengths are recognized, and where all children and youth are respected, and valued. Our mission is to ensure the safety, and well-being of children and youth, by working together with families, and communities to develop nurturing, safe environments for children, youth, and individuals.

### Increasing Community and Prevention Programming

ATC is focused on delivering programming that maintains connections to our communities, and to our Cree and Dene cultures. ATC has been providing more direct in-community programming including back to school haircuts, traditional parenting courses, and engaging communities about health, wellness, and education in conferences.

In addition, ATC has been engaging in ceremony to request Elder guidance in the programming, and service delivery at ATC. ATC has received community feedback that this approach will guide the further development of our services and would encourage further elder involvement. ATC has also worked with staff to offer topics of the 7 traditional teachings, impacts of colonization on programming, and the encouragement to build ceremony into our programs.

In response to reformations to the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) program in 2016, ATC CFS's objective is to strengthen the safety and well-being of First Nations children and their families ordinarily residing onreserve by funding culturally-appropriate prevention, and protection services with the child's best interest in mind. ATC is enhancing our prevention-based programming with the intention of reducing the number of children going into care through community-based, culturally-relevant prevention programming. ATC has worked with the First Nation communities, and is advocating for a substantial increase in community programs and services.

As a result, ATC will be opening sub-offices in the communities of Fort Chipewyan, Fort McMurray First Nation 468, and Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation. These offices will focus on the delivery of prevention programming and will have an ATC staff employed to deliver the services (ATC Prevention Coordinator). In addition, ATC will be hiring a supervisor in Fort McMurray to oversee the programming in each community.

Some of the programs ATC is working on implementing include:

- Community Wellness Programming such as land-based learning activities, language programs, and more.
- Adult and Parent Prevention Programming such as community-based adult life skill, traditional family parenting classes, grief and loss workshops, and more.
- Youth Prevention Programming such as Back to School Haircut events, car seat clinics, and more.
- Family Wellness Programming such as Kokum's Kitchen/House program, Mother's Day, Father's Day events, Family Dinner & Activity Nights, Community Christmas event, and more.

#### Prevention and Crisis Emergency Intervention Support

ATC CFS will work through family conferencing, community administration, and inter-agency groups to identify a safety plan for families that require prevention programming.

ATC prevention programming supports may include financial support to families or individuals that can maintain care of child(ren) in-home or community while parents seek support prior to any child intervention.

## **Working Together**

In order to best serve our clients, ATC recognizes the need to increase the working relationship between our community and Band Administration. Strong working relationships with all stakeholders is vital to ATC's continued excellence. These stakeholders include community workers from all our five-member nations, Northeast Region 9 office, RCMP, Fort McMurray community groups, First Nation administration, and community organizations. ATC CFS strives to develop and maintain strong working relations with all our stakeholders.

#### **Building Local Resources**

ATC would like to expand local resources to increase emergency placement and kinship care in community, and is actively working on recruitment.

In 2016 the boarding home burned down in the Horse River Wildfire. ATC has had a University of Calgary practicum student update the resource manual to begin the process of purchasing a facility to operate a local group home. ATC would like to increase our local resources to keep children in our community, and region.

#### **Connecting Families and Culture**

ATC is committed to supporting families as they are the base of stronger communities, creating a vibrant culture we all share in.

ATC CFS practices family conferencing when there is a child at risk of coming into care. The family conference process allows families to be involved in the decisions that affect the family, and to suggest alternatives in addressing issues and placements.

Each year ATC hosts an annual Christmas Party for any families and children receiving support. It is an opportunity to bring together children in care, along with their extended families, to celebrate the Christmas season.

# **ATC CULTURAL FESTIVAL 2019**

#### PRESENTED BY SYNCRUDE

The 2019 ATC Cultural Festival presented by Syncrude, was a huge success in Wood Buffalo, with attendance over five thousand over the three-days.

The first-ever Indigenous arts and culture festival was hosted at Snye Point Park, and included workshops and demonstrations, live musical performances on the River's Edge Mainstage presented by CNRL.

It was so exciting seeing so many people, gathering together to celebrate the beautiful arts and culture and traditional cultural practices of our region's Dene, Cree and Métis people

Some of the highlights of the Festival included traditional dancing, drumming, hand games, a gift shop featuring items crafted by Indigenous artists, and a Community Feast presented by Imperial Oil.

Through events like this festival, ATC is creating stronger partnerships with the local business community who are eager to support efforts in sharing our culture with the region.



# **OPERATIONS & FINANCES**

The Operations team provides service to all departments; ensuring employees are well resourced and supported to do their work. This team makes sure the organization is running smoothly to meet the needs of clients and external stakeholders.

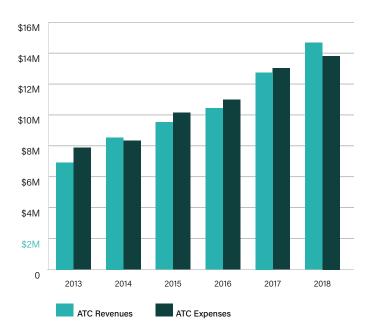
The ATC Finance department is responsible for accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, banking, investments, preparation of the annual budget, monthly financial reports, annual financial statements and working with external auditors.

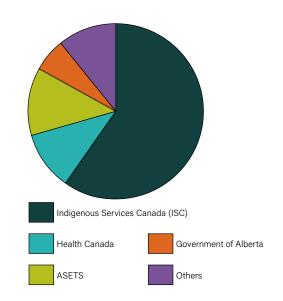
### ATC Revenues and Expenses

ATC has been strongly advocating to ensure departments are resourced to deliver essential services to our First Nation communities. Historically, there were areas of underfunding from federal departments which has resulted in insufficient funding. As a result of advocacy, this pattern is changing. On February 1, 2019 there was a Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling which was released which have had positive implications for our Tribal Council, the families we serve, and other Indigenous organizations. The Department of Indigenous Services is working with the Assembly of First Nation, the First Nations Child, Family Caring Society, the National Advisory Committee on First Nations Child, Family Services Program Reform, Tribal Councils, and others to change how First Nations Child and Family Services agencies are funded. As a result, ATC has worked to recover historical funding deficiencies and has been successful in reimbursement dating back to 2016. Moving forward, ATC will be working to ensure we are sufficiently resourced to deliver Child Family Services with a strong focus on prevention programming in communities. ATC is committed to advocating for increase of funding in the full range of services to the First Nations we serve.

### 2018 Funding Facts:

Almost 85% of the funding comes from Federal Government. 15% percent funding comes from other sources including Alberta Government.





Edmonton Medical Transportation (after hours & weekends): 1-800-514-7106 **Child & Family Services** On Call: 587-645-3437 Crisis Unit: 1-800-638-0715

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ocrude

Main Office 9206 McCormick Drive Fort McMurray, Alberta Canada T9H 1C7 Phone: (780) 791-6538

PIBAL COUNCIL

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Website: atcfn.ca