

Łuéchogh Túé

# Newsletter

February 2026

# A PLAN FOR THE AGES

**BUILDING ON OUR PAST, PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE:  
CLFNS RELEASES 2025–2028 STRATEGIC PLAN**

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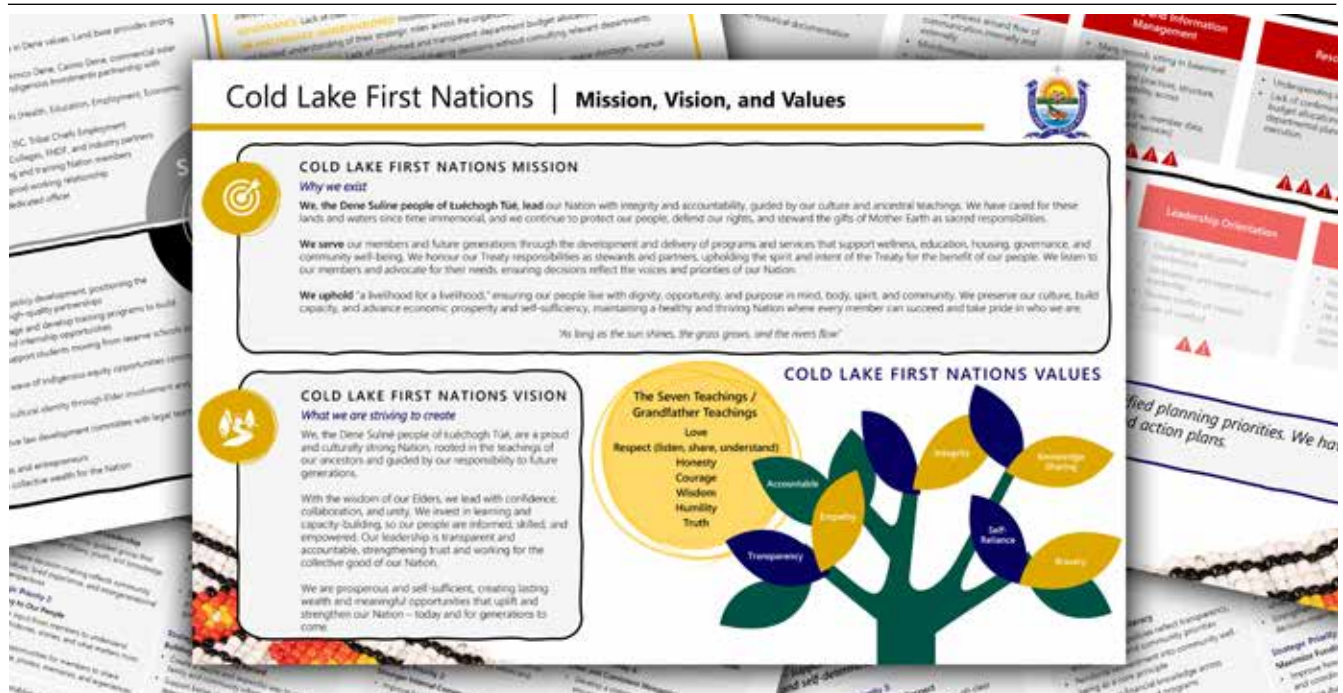
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#### **Community Support**

- Strong Minds, Strong  
Foundations

# Walking Forward Together

Cold Lake First Nations shares its 2025–2028 Strategic Plan outlining priorities, values, and direction for the next three years.



~ Excerpt from the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan.

At Cold Lake First Nations, we are proud to share our 2025–2028 Strategic Plan—a guiding document that reflects who we are as the Denesūliné people of Łuéchogh Túé, what we value, and where we are going together as a Nation over the next three years.

This Strategic Plan is rooted in our Dene teachings, guided by the wisdom of our Elders, and shaped by the voices of our leadership and community. It sets a clear and intentional direction for how we strengthen unity, improve communication, build accountable systems,

and steward our resources responsibly—while creating meaningful opportunities for our people today and for generations yet to come.

## **Grounded in Culture, Guided by Community**

Our Nation has cared for these lands and waters since time immemorial. This plan reflects that responsibility. It was developed through leadership planning sessions and community input, ensuring it speaks to both our current realities and our long-term vision for self-determination, prosperity, and well-being.

At its core, this Strategic Plan is about alignment—making sure our leadership, administration, programs, and services are working together with purpose, clarity, and accountability, always grounded in our cultural values and Treaty responsibilities.

## **Our Key Areas of Focus**

Over the next three years, our work will be guided by several key priorities that were identified through planning and reflection:

## **Strengthening Governance and Leadership**

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## Walking Forward Together (cont)

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We are committed to clear roles, strong leadership practices, and transparent decision-making. This includes building trust, reducing political interference in operations, and ensuring leadership and administration work together respectfully and effectively for the collective good of the Nation.

### **Improving Clear and Consistent Communication**

Communication was identified as one of our biggest challenges—and one of our greatest opportunities. We are strengthening how information is shared internally and with community members so updates are timely, accurate, and accessible. This includes regular newsletters, improved use of digital tools, clearer processes, and more opportunities for community engagement.

### **Preserving Our Stories, Language, and Knowledge**

Our history, language, and lived experiences are sacred. This plan prioritizes recording and protecting Elders' stories, cultural teachings, language, and land-based knowledge—while

ensuring they are respected, securely stored, and accessible to future generations in culturally appropriate ways.

### **Building Strong Systems and Internal Capacity**

We are investing in stronger systems for records and information management, human resources, and financial stewardship. These systems support accountability, reduce duplication, protect member data, and help our staff do their work more effectively while building capacity from within our Nation.

### **Supporting Long-Term Prosperity and Community Well-Being**

From economic development and education to wellness, housing, and community safety, this plan ensures our investments align with the priorities of our people. It supports sustainable growth, diversification, and responsible financial management—always with the goal of improving quality of life for our members.

### **A Living Document, Guided by Our People**

Our 2025–2028 Strategic Plan is a living document. It will guide our decisions, support transparency, and help ensure our programs, services, and investments reflect the voices, values, and priorities of our Nation. As we move forward, we will continue to share updates on progress, listen to feedback, and adjust our actions as needed.

Most importantly, this plan reminds us that we move forward together—with unity, purpose, and responsibility to our people, our lands, and future generations. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed their time, knowledge, and leadership to this work. Your voices helped shape a path forward that honours our past while building a strong future.

Together, we continue the work—as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow.

Read the complete Strategic Plan at [clfns.com](http://clfns.com).

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## CLFNS Introduces Yonathede LP & Etthen Energy

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On January 15, Cold Lake First Nations (CLFNS) hosted a community Open House at Hotel Dene. The purpose of this event was to give members a clear and open opportunity to learn about CLFNS businesses, ask questions, and share their thoughts directly with community leaders.

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~ CLFNS Community members gather at Hotel Dene for the Etthen Energy and Yonathede Open House.

Community members were invited to join us for an evening of learning, conversation, and connection. The Open House focused on two CLFN-owned organizations—Yonathede LP and Etthen Energy—which are working to support long-term economic development for our Nation. Many members attended to better understand how these organizations work and how they benefit the community.

### What Is Yonathede LP?

Yonathede LP is the governance body that oversees Cold Lake

First Nations' businesses and investments. Its main role is to ensure CLFNS businesses are managed responsibly and in line with the Nation's investment policy and economic development goals.

Yonathede reviews and evaluates new business partnerships and investment opportunities before decisions are made. This process helps protect the Nation's resources and ensures that investments are made carefully and for long-term benefit.

Yonathede also provides

clear direction and oversight to the limited partnerships it owns. This includes setting expectations, approving budgets, reviewing financial reports, and ensuring proper auditing and governance practices are followed.

Risk management is another key responsibility. The Yonathede Board works to identify and assess risks to CLFNS businesses and to the Nation as a whole. When risks are identified, the Board puts measures in place to reduce them, including strong reporting and governance

## CLFNS Introduces Yonathede LP & Etthen Energy (Cont.)

standards.

The Yonathede name and visual identity reflect CLFNS culture, values, and vision for the future. Rooted in Denesųłiné heritage and designed for today's business environment, this identity helps ensure Yonathede is recognized clearly and respectfully in all business settings.



~ Chief Kelsey Jacko makes opening remarks at the Etthen Energy and Yonathede Open House.

### Understanding Etthen Energy

Etthen Energy is a company wholly owned by Cold Lake First Nations. Its vision is to be a leading First Nations owner and operator in resource development in Western Canada.

The goal of Etthen Energy is to create long-term value for the CLFNS community in a responsible and sustainable way. This means maintaining care and control over resource development while protecting the land and supporting future generations.

Through Etthen Energy, CLFNS is working to create new

business and employment opportunities for members. The company also supports economic sovereignty by allowing the Nation to take an active role in development and ownership, rather than relying entirely on outside companies.

### Etthen Energy Community Advisory Committee

As part of its commitment to transparency and community involvement, Etthen Energy has been establishing a Community Advisory Committee. This Committee is intended to provide community perspectives, cultural knowledge, and guidance on responsible land stewardship.

The application period for

the Etthen Energy Community Advisory Committee has now closed. Etthen Energy appreciates the interest shown by community members and will be reviewing applications as the Committee is formed.

By hosting events like this Open House and sharing information openly, Cold Lake First Nations continues to strengthen community understanding of its businesses and economic initiatives. Through strong governance, responsible development, and community engagement, we are working together to build a stable and sustainable economic future for current and future generations.

## Summer Internship Program Now Accepting Applications

**Cold Lake First Nations is now accepting applications for the 2026 Summer Internship Program running through May to August.**

Cold Lake First Nations is pleased to announce that applications are now open for the 2026 CLFN Summer Internship Program. This program is designed to support CLFN post-secondary students and graduating students by offering paid, hands-on work experience within various departments across the Nation.

The Summer Internship Program provides students with the opportunity to gain real-world experience while learning how Cold Lake First Nations operates from the inside. Interns work alongside experienced staff, develop professional skills, and build a stronger understanding of Nation governance, administration, and community services.

For the summer of 2026, Cold Lake First Nations will be hiring five interns to work in a range of areas, including Education, Administration, Health and Wellness, Employment and Training, and other departments as needed. These placements are designed to reflect students'



*~ A summer internship at CLFNS provides interns with practical insight into Indigenous governance and administrative operations.*

interests and areas of study whenever possible, while also supporting the Nation's operational needs.

Some current CLFN staff members began their careers through this very program. Most notably, the Nation's current Communications Coordinator first joined Cold Lake First Nations as a summer intern and has since transitioned into a full-time role. Stories like this reflect the purpose of the program—to build capacity within the Nation, create clear career pathways, and invest in future leaders.

The 2026 Summer Internship Program is open to CLFN members

who are currently enrolled in post-secondary studies or who will be graduating in 2026. Positions offer a competitive wage ranging from \$25 to \$30 per hour, with a work term running from May 4 to August 21, 2026. The application deadline is April 1, 2026.

Interested students can apply online by visiting [clfns.com](http://clfns.com). Students and families are encouraged to share this opportunity and consider applying. The CLFN Summer Internship Program offers more than just summer employment—it is a meaningful opportunity to learn, grow, and contribute to the future of Cold Lake First Nations.

## Celebrating Carol Marten's Retirement

Earlier this month, we gathered at the CLFNS Administration Building to celebrate Carol Marten and honour her retirement after twelve years of dedicated service at the front desk.

For over a decade, Carol was often the first point of contact for community members, staff, and visitors—welcoming everyone with professionalism, kindness, and care. Her steady presence and commitment helped keep the Administration office running smoothly and made many people feel supported and welcome.

Community members and staff came



*~ Carol Marten retires from CLFNS after nearly a decade of serving the Nation.*

together to share stories, enjoy Indian tacos, and wish Carol well as she begins this next chapter. We thank Carol for her years of hard

work and service to Cold Lake First Nations and send our best wishes for a happy, healthy, and well-deserved retirement.

## Denesųliné Language Classes Now Offered Weekly

We're pleased to share that weekly Denesųliné language classes, taught by Elder Tom Piché, are now being offered at two community locations.

These classes provide a welcoming and supportive space for community members of all ages to learn, practice, and strengthen our language together. Whether you are just beginning your language journey or looking to build on what you already know, everyone is encouraged to attend.

Language is at the heart of who we are. By coming together to learn Denesųliné, we are not only preserving words, but also carrying forward our stories, teachings, and cultural identity for future generations. These weekly gatherings are an opportunity to connect with one another, learn directly from an Elder, and take meaningful steps toward language revitalization in our Nation.

Classes take place on Tuesdays from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at the Youth Center

and Wednesdays from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at the English Bay Center, beginning February 2, 2026.

All community members are encouraged to participate and be part of this important work. Please help spread the word—we look forward to learning, sharing, and strengthening our language together as a community.

# Social Development Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	Intake	Intake	No Intake Staff Orientation	No Intake Staff Orientation	No Intake File Review	
8	Intake	Intake	Intake E-Bay Center 9-12	No Intake Barrier Monthly Sign Up Cake Decorating Workshop- Administration Building-Eagle Tail 12 to 4:30	No Intake File Review Belt Making Workshop-Hotel Dene-9 to 4	
15	No Intake STAT Holiday	No Intake Mental Health Workshop LeGoff-Hotel Dene-9 to 4 Social Development Conference	No Intake Mental Health Workshop LeGoff-Hotel Dene-9 to 4 Social Development Conference	No Intake Mental Health Workshop LeGoff-Hotel Dene-9 to 4 Social Development Conference	No Intake File Review	
22	Intake Mental Health Workshop E-Bay- E-Bay Community Centre-9 to 4 Pyrography Workshop- Administration Building- Eagle Tail 12 to 4:30	Intake Mental Health Workshop E-Bay- E-Bay Community Centre-9 to 4	Cheque Day No Intake Mental Health Workshop E-Bay- E-Bay Community Centre-9 to 4	Intake Home Visits	No Intake File Review	

# Youth Centre Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Movie Night	2 Tie-Dye Night & Tutoring	3-5 <b>Staff Orientation</b> (Closed)			6 Board Games	7 Drop-In
8 Swimming 4:00-5:30pm Sewing 1-4pm	9 Craft Night	10 Zumba Night 6-7PM & Tutoring	11 Wellness Night (Youth Counselling) Gym Night	12 Valentines Day Card Making	13 Forever Young Conference Valentines Day Cookie Baking	14 Valentines Day Scavenger Hunt
15 Drop-In Sewing 1-4pm	16 Family Day (Closed)	17 Family Day Party & Tutoring	18 Wellness Night (Youth Counselling) Nintendo Night	19 Drumming 6:00-8:00pm	20 Food Fundraiser (Bannock Burger Combo) 1-4PM & Gym Night	21 Babysitting Course & Youth and Police Hockey Game
22 Ice Fishing Sewing 1-4PM	23 Finger Painting	24 Zumba Night 6-7M	25 Wellness Night (Youth Counselling) Tubing at Papa Johns 5-6PM	26 Drumming 6:00-8:00pm	27 Swimming 6:00-8:00pm	28 Rabbit Snaring

Youth 12 and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian

# BABYSITTING COURSE

HOSTED BY: DENE GODHE ALA  
AND ST JOHN AMBULANCE

DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2026  
TIME: 9AM - 4PM  
AGES: 11+

- 1 • INFANT & CHILD CARE BASICS
- 2 • SAFETY & SUPERVISION SKILLS
- 3 • FIRST AID BASICS
- 4 • HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE BABYSITTER

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!  
CALL 780-594-7111 TO SIGN UP



**St. John Ambulance**

**SAVING LIVES**  
at work, home and play

BUILD CONFIDENCE • LEARN RESPONSIBILITY  
• BECOME A TRUSTED BABYSITTER!



Regain Our Language for Our Children:  
NO BOUNDARIES, NO BORDERS

# DENESŪLINÉ LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION CONFERENCE

March 18-20, 2026

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Hosted by the Cold Lake First Nations  
Denesŷin  Language and Culture Department

Cold Lake  
Agricultural Society  
4608 38 Ave  
Cold Lake, AB  
T9M 1K6

For more  
information contact:  
Judy Nest 780-207-5044, judy.nest@clfns.com  
Lance Byhette 780-573-0786, lance.byhette@clfns.com

Limited seating  
-register early!



# FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 12:



## SENIOR PRIORITY HOURS



10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

SENIORS PRIORITY ACCESS

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM



FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.

### WHY THIS CHANGE?

To better support our seniors.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

## DIABETES SOCIAL

26TH FEB

OPEN TO  
ANYONE WITH  
DIABETES AND  
CAREGIVERS

# Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects \$2,000 Scholarship For Indigenous Students



The Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects (ICCE) is a not-for-profit Indigenous-led organization. Its goal is to create networks and share knowledge to support Inuit, First Nation and Métis communities in culturally relevant cumulative effects (CE) assessment, monitoring, and management. This effort aims to enhance Indigenous well-being and decision-making.

We are pleased to offer a scholarship for Inuit, First Nation and Métis students who are enrolled in Post-Secondary Education in relation to Cumulative Effects.

## ELIGIBILITY

### Scholarship open to ALL INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

- Must be Indigenous person (First Nation, Inuit or Metis)
- Enrolled in Post Secondary education
- Reside in Canada
- Working on Indigenous Cumulative Effects related studies (eg. Guardians programming training, environmental studies, Indigenous studies, land use planning, GIS, Geography, Anthropology, technical training, land based community work, etc.)

## HOW TO APPLY:

- Please prepare a 300-500 word statement explaining your understanding of Inuit, First Nation and Métis approaches to cumulative effects.
- A self-identification statement.
- Enrollment confirmation to be confirmed upon receipt of successful award notification.
- Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis prior to February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026.



[SCAN QR  
CODE OR  
CLICK HERE](#)



Indigenous Centre for  
Cumulative Effects



# We want to Hear from YOU!

Cold Lake First Nations is planning a new Museum, Archives, & Cultural Centre.

Scan the QR Code

Survey takes between 5 to 10 mins



# Strong Minds, Strong Foundations


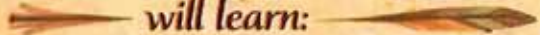
Understanding Mental Health & Emotional Wellness




Mental health affects every part of our lives – our work, relationships, families, and community roles.

“**Strong Minds, Strong Foundations**” is a culturally respectful, trauma-aware workshop designed to support First Nations adults in understanding mental health, managing stress, and building emotional wellness.

Participants gain practical tools they can use immediately at home, at work, and in the community.

 *During this 3-day workshop, participants will learn:* 

- ✓ What mental health really means in daily life
- ✓ How stress affects the mind, body, emotions, and spirit
- ✓ Identifying personal stress triggers and warning signs
- ✓ Coping with anxiety, burnout, and daily pressures
- ✓ Grounding techniques and emotional regulation skills
- ✓ Building a mental wellness plan and seeking support
- ✓ Reducing stigma and fostering cultural understanding

  
**WHY FUNDERS SUPPORT THIS WORKSHOP:**

- ✓ Promotes Mental Wellness
- ✓ Builds Life Skills for Employment
- ✓ Encourages Accountability
- ✓ Reduces Barriers to Success

DATE: February 17-19, 2020

TIME: 9-4

LOCATION: Hotel Dene



**NC CONSULTING SOLUTIONS**  
INSPIRING TODAY FOR TOMORROW'S SUCCESS

# Strong Minds, Strong Foundations



Understanding Mental Health & Emotional Wellness




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- ✓ Builds Life Skills for Employment
- ✓ Encourages Accountability
- ✓ Reduces Barriers to Success

DATE: February 23 - 25

TIME: 9-4

LOCATION: E-Boy Community Centre



**NC CONSULTING SOLUTIONS**  
INSPIRING TODAY FOR TOMORROW'S SUCCESS

# Emergency Contact List

**POLICE EMERGENCY CALL 911**

**HEALTH LINK  
DIAL 811**

**Cold Lake R.C.M.P.**  
24 Hours 780-594-3301  
Office Hours 780-594-3302

**Victims Services**  
Dave Zimmerman 780-594-3302 ext.3

**Emergency Medical Services**  
911

**Cold Lake Healthcare Centre**  
780-639-3322

**Bonnyville Health Centre**  
780-826-3311

**CLFN Emergency Management**  
780-594-7184

**CLFN Health Centre**  
780-594-2473

**Dene Wellness**  
780-594-1471

**FCSS**  
780-594-7186

**Youth Center**  
780-594-7111

**Le Goff School**  
780-594-3733

**Social Development**  
780-594-6723

**Public Works**  
780-594-1073

**Dangerous Goods**  
24 Hours 1-800-272-9600

**Poison Centre 24 Hours**  
1-800-332-1414

**CANADA SUICIDE PREVENTION**  
988

**Power Outages Atco Electric**  
1-800-668-5506

**Gas Emergencies Northeast Gas**  
780-826-4002

**Alberta One-Call**  
1-800-242-3447

**Petro Canada Station**  
780-594-1661