

RETURNING HOME



Returning home guide

***Updated June 21**

The wildfire situation has improved and you will be returning home this week. The evacuation order will be lifted Thursday morning, which is when community members can begin their safe return. This can happen by boat or air.

Here's some information to help you to prepare:

Returning by air

There are flights scheduled over a few days beginning on Thursday, with multiple flights each day. Community members that need additional support when travelling will be provided with special transportation and assistance once most people have returned.

Representatives from the Nations will let you know the day your flight is scheduled and when you can begin the check-in process at your hotel.

If you choose not to travel home on your designated day, you will be responsible for arranging your own transportation and accommodation. Hotels, per-diems, and flights will not be provided beyond your designated travel day.

On the day of your assigned flight

Go to your hotel lobby at your designated time to begin the check-in process for your flight. You will be given a coloured wristband and staff will help you with your luggage. A bus will take you and your personal luggage to the airport.

You must check-in at the hotel and have a coloured wristband to get on your flight home. You cannot check-in at the airport, and must arrive by assigned shuttle.

Personal vehicles in Fort McMurray should be left at your usual storage location before Thursday, June 22. Your Nation can assist with taxi vouchers, if needed.

There will be a shuttle available from the Fort Chipewyan Airport to the Archie Simpson Arena for anyone who needs a ride to town. Staff and community members will be at the Archie Simpson Arena to greet you, provide more information and give you a Welcome Home package.

More information will be available at your hotel information desk.

Community members not staying in hotels

If you are in private accommodation and require a flight back to Fort Chipewyan, your Nation will contact you. Once you are assigned to a flight, you will be asked to check-in at the Quality Inn Hotel, with your baggage (50lbs), cargo (100lbs), and pet(s.) If you are uncertain, or do not receive a call, please contact your Nation or Pulse at 780-743-7000.

Luggage (review the separate Luggage Guide)

Boxes and tape are available at your hotel to help you pack. Everyone can bring a small carry-on and up to 50 pounds of checked luggage. You are also allowed to pack up to 100 pounds of “cargo” at no cost. Strollers and car seats are allowed on flights and are not included in the luggage limits.

Staff will be at your hotel on your designated travel day to help you with your bags and boxes. Your cargo boxes will be flown to Fort Chipewyan. Cargo boxes will be transported to the Archie Simpson Arena for pick-up.

If your additional cargo does not fit in the boxes, or is over 100 pounds, you must arrange your own freight transportation and will be responsible for all related costs. Please refer to the luggage guide for more information.

Firearms, ammunition, dangerous goods and illicit drugs are strictly prohibited on flights. In addition, community leadership has made it clear that nobody should be bringing alcohol or cannabis back to Fort Chipewyan. Staff will be handling all luggage and cargo with all standard airport and airline rules and regulations in place.

Returning your pets (review the separate pet guide)

If your pet is **less than 20 pounds**, they may travel with you on the plane. Your pet must be in an airline-approved pet carrier that fits under the seat. Carriers will be provided.

If your pet is **more than 20 pounds**, they will travel **separately** to Fort Chipewyan. If your pet is not traveling with you, please complete a kennel card and give it to a support staff member at your hotel. You can also contact Pulse to submit a kennel card.

More detailed information about reuniting with your pet is in the pet guide.

Returning by boat

You can start returning by boat on Thursday, June 22. It is strongly recommended that everyone returning by boat leaves on Thursday as the river will be patrolled until 7 p.m. and free gas will be available only that day.

On Thursday, June 22, you must go to the gas station located right in Fort McKay (not the Petro-Canada on Highway 63) between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to check-in and receive your 40 gallons of free gas.

For those without a ride, there will be a shuttle leaving the Quality Inn at 9 a.m. in Fort McMurray to take you to Fort McKay. Transportation from the gas station to your boat will also be provided. You must take this shuttle if you do not have your own transportation to Fort McKay.

Before leaving, make sure you have plenty of fuel, food and water for the journey and safety equipment such as life vests for all passengers. You are required by law to have a lifejacket or PFD (Personal Flotation Device) on board for each person.

Anyone returning by boat can also ship two cargo boxes (max 50 lbs each) back to Fort Chipewyan at no cost. These cargo boxes will be available for pick up at the Quality Inn beginning Tuesday, June 20. You must drop your packed cargo box off at the Quality Inn on Thursday, June 22 from 8:30am -4pm. If you have any questions, please contact the RMWB Pulse team at 780-743-7000.