



2023 | COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM SYMPOSIUM & AWARDS



NORTHERN
blooms

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

REGISTRATION PACKAGE



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF **WOOD BUFFALO**

Rich in Indigenous history and cultural diversity, Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo is home to residents from all over the world. From new graduates to seasoned professionals, from adventure seekers to those seeking to raise their family, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) is a dynamic place to work, live and play.

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is located in the heart of Canada's energy future. At more than 66,300 square kilometres, the RMWB is the largest municipality in Canada and is one of the most culturally diverse destinations in the nation.

We acknowledge that the land on which we live, learn, work and play is Treaty 8 Territory, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dene, and the unceded territory of the Métis.



WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 27

Pre-Conference Social Activity - The Alley Bowling and Pizza

7:00PM - 9:00PM

Settle in at your hotel, then join in the fun at The Alley for bowling and the best pizza in town. The social activity includes shoe rentals, a two-hour lane booking, pizza and soft drinks.

Minimum number of registrants required.

-  The Alley YMM
-  Additional \$40
-  Max 40






THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 28

Pre-Conference Option: Guided Boat Tour on the Historic Athabasca River

8:00AM - 2:30PM

Join Elder Leonard Hansen Sr. from Fort McMurray, Knowledge Keeper Dennis Shott from Fort McKay and Councillor Kendrick Cardinal from Fort Chipewyan on an amazing, guided boat tour down the historic Athabasca River. Listen to stories about the region's history, natural resources, plants, and wildlife. Sign up for this adventure of a lifetime! This pre-conference tour includes a bus trip to Fort McKay, a scenic boat tour down the river, concluding with a delicious catered lunch.

Minimum number of registrants required.

-  Athabasca River
-  Additional \$200
-  Max 15



FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION - \$600/PERSON | [CLICK TO REGISTER >](#)

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Pre-Conference Option: Land-Based Holistic Experience at McMurray Métis

9:30AM - 3:00PM

Join in for an informative and activity filled Land-Based Holistic Experience at McMurray Métis Local 1935. This pre-conference option includes transportation to McMurray Métis, a circle of language, exploration of the grounds, an Indigenous games experience, and a traditional lunch including bison burgers, bannock and salads from the garden. Registrants can also choose to partake in a variety of cultural workshops, including a cooking class, beading, fish scale art and finger weaving.

 McMurray Métis Local 1935

 Additional \$75

 Max 80

Minimum number of registrants required.

Please select one workshop option during registration



Workshop 1

Pemmican and Bannock Cooking Class

Try your hand at making pemmican, a traditional dried-meat snack, along with bannock - a tasty bread-like pantry staple.



Workshop 2

Métis Beaded Flower

Create your very own Métis beaded flower, the perfect souvenir from your pre-conference experience.



Workshop 3

Fish Scale Art

Fish scale art is a traditional land-based arts practice. Participants will use dried and dyed fish scales to create a unique take-home visual craft.



Workshop 4

Finger Weaving Sash

The Métis sash is a vibrant piece of cloth, once used as a symbol of power and status, and is still proudly worn by Métis people to this day. Make your own mini Métis sash at the finger weaving workshop.

4:00PM - 6:00PM

Registration and Information

Hop on the bus to Shell Place! Visit the registration table to check-in and to receive your delegate badge.

 Shell Place - Upstairs Concourse



FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION - \$600/PERSON | [CLICK TO REGISTER >](#)

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Shell Place and MacDonald Island Park Guided Tour

Please indicate if you will be attending the Shell Place and MacDonald Island Park Guided Tour.

5:00PM - 6:00PM

Once registered, delegates will be provided with a guided tour of MacDonald Island Park; Canada's largest community recreation, leisure and social centre. The facility walking tour will showcase the LEED certified building, highlight the main venue for the 2023 Communities in Bloom Symposium and Awards, and conclude at the entrance to the Welcome Reception.

 Shell Place - Upstairs Concourse

6:00PM - 8:00PM

Welcome Reception

Welcome to Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo! Please join us for an evening of networking, mingling and appetizers.

 MacDonald Island Park - Miskanaw Ballroom

FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 29

8:00AM - 1:00PM

Registration and Information

Hop on the bus to Shell Place! Visit the registration table to check-in and to receive your delegate badge.

 Shell Place - Upstairs Concourse

8:00AM - 8:15AM

Welcome and Elder Blessing

Rise and shine! The morning starts off with an Elder blessing, land acknowledgement and opening remarks.

 Shell Place Ballroom

8:15AM - 9:00AM

Breakfast Buffet

 Shell Place Ballroom

OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

9:00AM - 10:15AM

Braiding our Worlds Together

Building on the principles of reconciliation, Braiding Our Worlds Together seeks to deepen our understanding of Indigenous ways of being and knowing the journey to restore right relations. Through a combination of truth and storytelling, guests are encouraged to look within themselves to ask what does "Growing Great Places Together" mean when we open ourselves up to building strong relationships with the land and the original stewards?

 Shell Place Ballroom



Jes Croucher
Owner,
Pawâmiw Creative



FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION - \$600/PERSON | [CLICK TO REGISTER >](#)

www.communitiesinbloom.ca/symposium-awards/

10:15AM - 10:30AM

Refreshment Break

Shell Place - Delegate Café

10:30AM - 11:30AM

Concurrent Sessions:

Please select one session option during registration



Session 1

Jes Croucher
Owner, ᑭᑭᑦᑎᑦ
Pawâmiw Creative

ᑭᑭᑦᑎᑦ kiyânaw: Exploring Reclamation and Reconciliation Through Storytelling

ᑭᑭᑦᑎᑦ kiyânaw: Exploring Reclamation & Reconciliation Through Storytelling is an introductory program to understanding Indigenous ways of being & knowing and how we can challenge our worldviews to create equitable communities and organizations. This session is suited for anyone who wishes to begin their cultural reclamation or reconciliation journeys including those in government, education, social profit, and entrepreneurship.

In the spirit of ᑭᑭᑦᑎᑦ kiyânaw, meaning yours, mine & ours, we explore what it means to collectively envision a future for the betterment of all people.

Shell Place - Legacy Dodge Field Diamond Suites A & B



Session 2

Pat Flett
Knowledge Keeper

Medicine Plant Walk

Join Knowledge Keeper Pat Flett for a medicine plant walk on the grounds of MacDonald Island Park. Learn about the edible qualities, medicinal values and traditional usage of various plants.

Shell Place - Legacy Dodge Field Diamond Suite C



Session 3

Dean MacKenzie
Vice President - Environment
Acden Vertex Resource Group Ltd.

Sweet Success: Building Thriving Communities through Honey Bee Habitats

Dr. Dean MacKenzie welcomes you to an enlightening session on the pivotal role of honey bees within our ecosystems, emphasizing the importance of creating and nurturing habitats that support their growth and flourishing. This formal discourse will delve into the intricate dynamics between honey bees, their environments, and the human communities they interface with, highlighting why these diligent insects are indispensable to our ecological networks and how we can strategically design spaces that promote their wellbeing.

Shell Place - Legacy Dodge Field Diamond Suites D & E

Central to this presentation is the examination of the "Bee My Friend" initiative, an episode featured in Telus TV's Growing Concerns series. This collaborative endeavour, brought to fruition by Acden Vertex and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN), successfully introduced a thriving bee community in the remote northern community of Fort Chipewyan.

Dr. Mackenzie will elaborate on the processes, challenges, and outcomes of the "Bee My Friend" initiative, demonstrating the remarkable potential that lies at the intersection of industry collaboration, indigenous wisdom, and environmental stewardship.

In "Sweet Success," attendees will understand the integral role of honey bees in sustaining biodiversity and receive insightful guidance on creating and maintaining habitats that support these invaluable pollinators. In addition, this session serves as an invitation to view your community through a fresh perspective that values and promotes the wellbeing of these essential creatures.



FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION - \$600/PERSON | [CLICK TO REGISTER >](#)

www.communitiesinbloom.ca/symposium-awards/

11:30AM - 12:30PM

Lunch Buffet

 Shell Place Ballroom

12:30PM - 4:30PM

Technical Tours

Refreshments will be provided mid-tour



Tour 1: FireSmart Trail and Forest Bathing

Located within the Boreal Forest, the 135-km maintained trail system known as Birchwood Trails creates endless opportunities for everyone to enjoy the outdoors right in Fort McMurray. This technical tour will feature a stop at the FireSmart Trail where delegates will be guided on a walking tour and learn about fire prevention and FireSmart plants and building materials. In addition, delegates can participate in a Forest Bathing session which explores techniques of connecting the mind and body to nature. Unwind and re-connect during a guided, leisurely walk in the trails.

 Birchwood Trails



Tour 2: Acden Environment

Acden Environment is the largest provider of waste management, recycling and landfill services with over 25 years of experience servicing Northern Alberta's Oil Sands. Owned by the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Acden is now one of Canada's largest Indigenous corporations. On this technical tour, delegates will visit the Acden Corporate Headquarter's Gold LEED certified building located in Fort McMurray's Taiganova Eco-Industrial Park. This energy efficient development embodies the sustainable beliefs and goals of Acden.

 Acden Environment

4:30PM - 6:00PM

Break



FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION - \$600/PERSON | [CLICK TO REGISTER >](#)

www.communitiesinbloom.ca/symposium-awards/



Community Showcase Dinner and Awards

6:00PM - 10:00PM

Welcome to the Fort McMurray Golf Club!

A picturesque location for the 2023 Community Showcase and announcement of the Outstanding Achievement Award winners. The event will also feature Charlottetown, PEI, host of the 2024 National Communities in Bloom Symposium and Awards.



Fort McMurray Golf Club - Bouchier Room

À LA CARTE OPTION:

Community Showcase Dinner and Awards - \$100

SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 30

8:00AM - 1:00PM

Registration and Information

Hop on the bus to Shell Place! Visit the registration table to check-in and to receive your delegate badge.



Shell Place - Upstairs Concourse

8:00AM - 8:15AM

Welcome and Elder Blessing

Rise and shine! The morning starts off with an Elder blessing, land acknowledgement and opening remarks.



Shell Place - Ballroom

8:15AM - 9:00AM

Breakfast Buffet



Shell Place - Ballroom

9:00AM - 10:00AM

Concurrent Sessions:

Please select one session option during registration



Session 1

Crystal Cardwardine
Horticulture Technician,
Regional Municipality
of Wood Buffalo

Fire Recovery from a Horticulture Perspective

In 2016, Fort McMurray endured one of Canada's largest natural disasters, also known as 'The Beast'. This session will provide a personal, in-depth look at one person's adventures inside the wildfire. Crystal's humour and engaging spirit will be sure to make this session enjoyable for everyone in the room. Join her for this informal, intimate and entertaining session.



Shell Place - Legacy Dodge Field Diamond Suite A



FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION - \$600/PERSON | [CLICK TO REGISTER >](#)

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Session
2

Chris Ratzlaff
Renown Aurora
Chaser

Chasing the Elusive

Chris will be tracking and providing daily and evening WhatsApp notifications for viewing the Northern Lights from September 27 to October 1. Please note that notifications may be sent in the very late evenings. To receive notifications, please download WhatsApp to your mobile.

In this presentation, Chris Ratzlaff shares his passion for chasing the aurora and building communities around this awe-inspiring natural phenomenon. Drawing on his years of experience as a storm and aurora chaser, Chris takes his audience on a thrilling journey through the Canadian wilderness, sharing his insights and tips for capturing the beauty and power of the Northern Lights.

But this presentation isn't just about chasing the aurora. Chris also talks about the importance of community and how his work with the Alberta Aurora Chasers has helped to build a strong and supportive community of aurora enthusiasts. He shares his strategies for growing communities, fostering collaboration, and creating opportunities for education and outreach.

Throughout the presentation, Chris emphasizes the importance of conservation and responsible tourism, urging his audience to appreciate and protect the natural world. With stunning visuals and engaging storytelling, this presentation is sure to inspire and captivate audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Whether you're a seasoned aurora chaser or simply curious about the Northern Lights, Chris' presentation offers a unique and unforgettable perspective on one of nature's most captivating phenomena.

Viewing the Northern Lights are not guaranteed.



Shell Place -
Legacy Dodge
Field Diamond
Suite C



Session
3

Janis Borgen
Horticulture Technician,
Regional Municipality
of Wood Buffalo

Gardening for the Senses and Nature Based Soap Making Workshop

Gardening for the senses is about getting in touch with just that; our five senses. Join Janis in exploring the impact that gardening has on the five senses. Let's wake them all up and gain all that we can from our time in nature.

Continue in the fun with Helen Meyer for a soap making workshop. Following the Gardening for the Senses session, participants will have the opportunity to make their own soap using the melt and pour method with natural products and additives. Learn what to grow in your garden to add beautiful colours and scents and learn the basics of blending essential oils to create beautiful, nature-based soap.



Helen Meyer
Owner, NaturEscape
Forest Therapy



Shell Place -
Legacy Dodge
Field Diamond
Suites D & E

10:00AM - 10:15AM

Refreshment Break



Shell Place -
Delegate Café



FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION - \$600/PERSON | [CLICK TO REGISTER >](#)

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CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

10:15AM - 11:30AM



Dean MacKenzie
Vice President,
Environment - Acden
Vertex Resource
Group Ltd.

Reviving Landscapes: Restarting Native Plant Communities Through Innovation

Join Dr. Dean Mackenzie as he dives into the ground breaking process of 'Restart' - a novel restoration method designed to re-establish Native Plant communities. Dr. Mackenzie's expertise, refined over two decades in environmental management and reclamation, illuminates the intricate mechanisms of 'Restart' and its potential in reviving the "Earth's Living Skin," underscoring the sentiment that "Nature is the World's Largest Nursery."

In this engaging talk, Dr. Mackenzie will unveil the science behind 'Restart,' shedding light on the innovative strategies that have made successful restoration and reclamation projects possible. Drawing from his extensive experience in industries such as coal mining, oil sands mining, pea harvesting, agriculture, forestry and oil and gas, he will demonstrate the adaptability of these techniques beyond the Northern regions, proving their relevance and applicability to diverse landscapes.

In "Reviving Landscapes," expect a union of scientific rigor, practical knowledge, and a deep passion for restoring our natural landscapes. Dr. MacKenzie will share insights on improving soil quality and streamlining the certification process for industry and government, demonstrating the cost-effectiveness and environmental benefits of the 'Restart' approach.

Come prepared to be inspired, leaving with a renewed vision for land restoration, ready to apply innovative, sustainable strategies in your region, and contribute to the future of land management.

 Shell Place - Ballroom

11:30AM - 12:30PM

Lunch Buffet

 Shell Place - Ballroom

12:30PM - 4:30PM

Technical Tours

Refreshments will be provided mid-tour

Please select one tour option during registration



Tour 1: Fort McMurray Heritage Society

Take a step back in time with guided tours at the Fort McMurray Heritage Village and the Fort McMurray Heritage Shipyard. Both locations feature a collection of historic buildings, machinery and artifacts. Delegates will be able to walk through history and explore the stories of those who came before.

 Heritage Village and Heritage Shipyard



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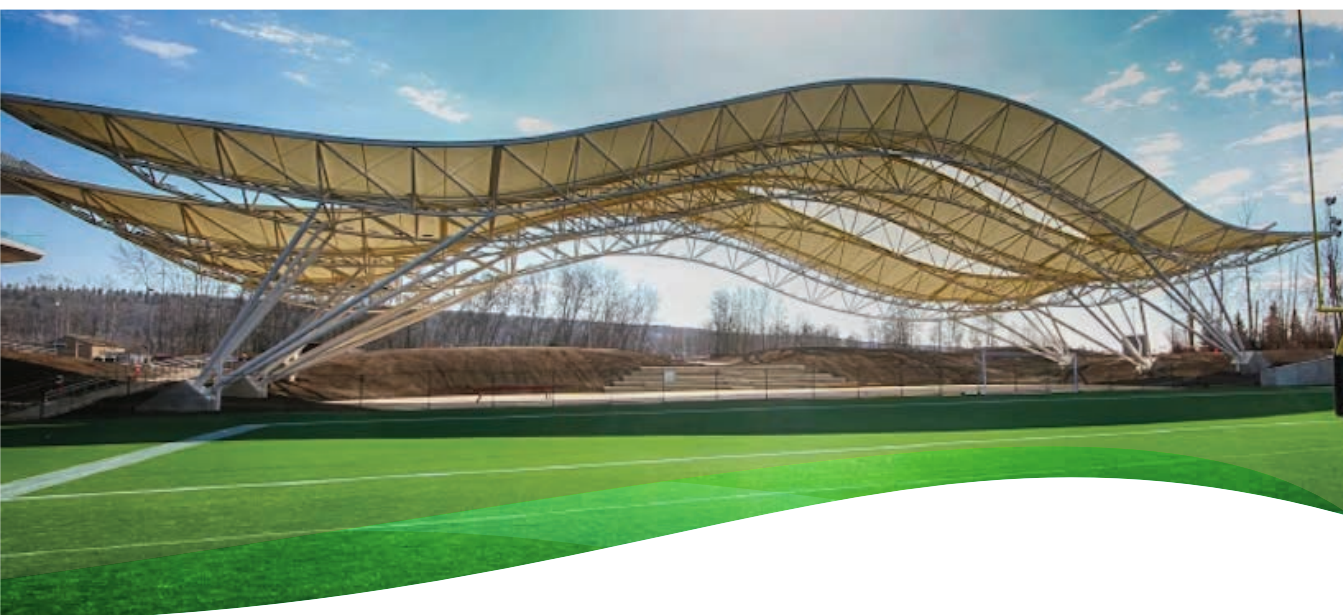
Tour 2: Oil Sands Experience

Visit the Oil Sands Discovery Centre in Fort McMurray and experience the history, science and technology of the oil sands. The technical tour concludes with a road trip to the Syncrude Giants of Mining Exhibit and the Wood Bison Viewpoint and bison sanctuary, located on protected reclaimed land.

 Oil Sands Discovery Centre, Giants of Mining and Wood Bison Viewpoint

4:30PM - 6:00PM

Break



Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony

6:00PM - 10:00PM

The Communities in Bloom planning committee welcomes you to Treaty 8 Territory, ancestral and traditional land of the Cree, Dene and Métis People. Please join us at Shell Place for the annual Communities in Bloom gala dinner and awards ceremony.

 Shell Place Ballroom

À LA CARTE OPTION:
Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony - \$150

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NORTHERN

SEPT. 27 - OCT. 1, 2023

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM
SYMPOSIUM & AWARDS






FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION - \$600/PERSON | [CLICK TO REGISTER >](#)

www.communitiesinbloom.ca/symposium-awards/



SUNDAY | OCTOBER 1

8:00AM - 1:00PM	Registration and Information Hop on the bus to Shell Place for the last day of the 2023 Communities in Bloom Symposium!	 Shell Place - Upstairs Concourse
8:00AM - 8:15AM	Welcome and Elder Blessing Rise and shine! The morning starts off with an Elder blessing, land acknowledgement and opening remarks.	 Shell Place - Ballroom
8:15AM - 9:00AM	Breakfast Buffet	 Shell Place - Ballroom
9:00AM - 10:00AM	International Presentations Take a trip around the world with presentations from the International delegates.	 Shell Place - Ballroom
10:00AM - 11:00AM	FuseSocial Volunteer Engagement Cycle: In 2022, community members completed over 9,000 volunteer hours across the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Volunteer managers have experienced improved success by integrating the volunteer engagement cycle into their volunteer programs. Through eight stages detailing recruitment to evaluation, and everything in between - the volunteer engagement cycle outlines a framework that helps to ensure your organization's volunteer programs are effective, efficient, and impactful.	 Shell Place - Ballroom
11:00AM - 12:00PM	Delegate Townhall, moderated by FuseSocial Have a question of volunteer engagement, recruitment and recognition for your community? FuseSocial will be moderating the Delegate Townhall on the topic of volunteers.	 Shell Place - Ballroom
12:00PM - 1:00PM	Lunch Buffet To go option available	 Shell Place - Ballroom



Cindy Tucker
Capacity Building Coordinator



FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION - \$600/PERSON | [CLICK TO REGISTER >](#)

www.communitiesinbloom.ca/symposium-awards/

Registration deadline: September 17th, 2023



Enjoy comfortable guest rooms along with free takeaway breakfast*, wifi and underground parking. Baymont by Wyndham Fort McMurray is situated in the downtown core, near restaurants, cafes and shops, and just 15 kilometres from the Fort McMurray International Airport (YMM). This contemporary and newly renovated hotel features two-bedroom suites, equipped with kitchenettes and seating areas.

NOTE Hot breakfast will be provided September 29 to October 1 at the conference venue

Booking Information:

Contact: Arcie Hilario, Front Office Manager
 Email: frontoffice@baymontfortmac.com
 Phone: 1-780-747-7878 (Dial 0), 1-800-337-0550

Online booking code: [CGLSC1](#)
 Direct call-in booking code: [Communities in Bloom](#)
 Booking rate is valid from September 24 to October 2, 2023
 Booking deadline: September 14, 2023

Two Bedroom Standard Suites:

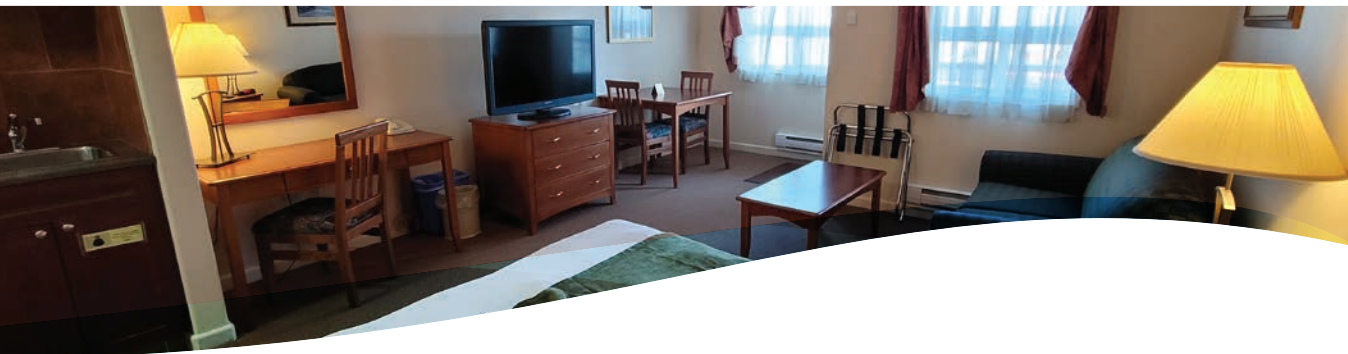
\$119.00 CAD per night based on double occupancy.
 Subject to 5% GST and 4% Tourism Levy.



8530 Franklin Avenue
 Fort McMurray
 AB T9H 2J3

Check in time: 3:00PM
 Check out time: 11:00AM

[CLICK TO BOOK](#)



Enjoy comfortable guest rooms, wifi and underground parking. Clearwater Suite Hotel is situated in the downtown core, near restaurants, cafes and shops, and just 17 kilometres from the Fort McMurray International Airport (YMM). This conveniently located hotel features all-suite accommodations, equipped with kitchenettes and in-room washer and dryer.

NOTE Hot breakfast will be provided September 29 to October 1 at the conference venue

Booking Information:

Contact: Jo Navao, Front Office Manager
 Email: info@clearwaterfortmcmurray.com
 Phone: 1-780-799-7676, 1-877-799-7676

Online booking code: [CBSARMWB2023](#)
 Direct call-in booking code: [Communities in Bloom Symposium and Awards](#)
 Booking rate is valid from September 24 to October 2, 2023
 Booking deadline: September 17, 2023

Available Suites: (based on double occupancy, subject to 5% GST and 4% Tourism Levy)

Studio Suite	\$129.00 CAD per night
Double Queen Suite	\$129.00 CAD per night
King Suite	\$129.00 CAD per night



4 Hainault Street,
 Fort McMurray AB
 T9H 1R7

Check in time: 3:00PM
 Check out time: 11:00AM

[CLICK TO BOOK](#)

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 SEPT. 27 - OCT. 1, 2023
 COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM
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2023 COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM SYMPOSIUM & AWARDS



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