

Fall 2026 Community newsletter

Closing responsibly, closing with care

End of production

On August 14, 2026, production flow was safely shut in at the Norman Wells operation. This moment marks a significant milestone for both Imperial and the Sahtu region – the close of an important chapter, one shaped by generations of employees, community members, partners and families. In the next phases of deactivation, decommissioning, Interim Care and Maintenance (IC&M), through closure planning, our commitment to the community remains strong. We will continue to keep communities informed, engaged, and involved along the way.

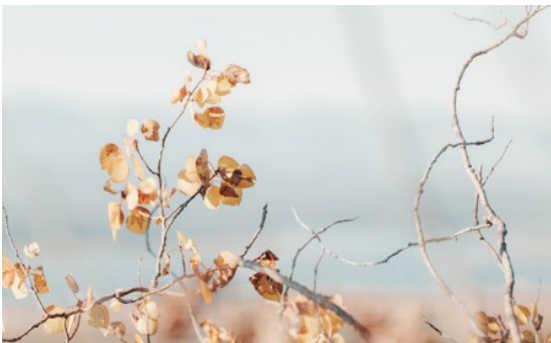
To everyone who has been part of the Norman Wells story thus far, **thank you**. Your contributions, relationships, and support have shaped its history and will remain an important part of its journey.

Imperial employees are joined by MLA McNeely and Mayor Pope to turn off the final pumpjack.



Conversations across the Sahtu

Members of the Imperial project team recently spent time in Sahtu communities to share updates and listen to feedback on our [Interim Care & Maintenance](#) plans, which will guide key activities during the period between the end of production and implementation of the final closure plan. We heard clearly that maintaining open communication, protecting the land and water, and respecting traditional land use remain top priorities. These conversations continue to guide our work.



Key themes:

- End of production announcement timing
- Contracting, training, and employment opportunities
- Information on current work activities (e.g., decommissioning, well suspension, early-stage abandonment)
- Interim Care & Maintenance phase
- Environmental monitoring and reporting
- Fuel supply and power transition
- Future ownership of Imperial homes and assets
- Feedback on the engagement process

We are committed to continuing this dialogue and ensuring that community input helps guide Interim Care and Maintenance and closure planning wherever possible.

We appreciated the opportunity to:

- Meet with local leadership and community members
- Participate in discussions about Interim Care and Maintenance

Stay connected

As we continue engagement on Interim Care & Maintenance, meetings are being planned throughout the Fall of 2026. Follow us on [Facebook](#) for the latest information and engagement opportunities.

To learn more about the Interim Care & Maintenance presentations in your community, check out the [interactive map](#) on our website.

Fall on the land

As the leaves turn and cooler weather returns to the Sahtu, fall is a time for being on the land, preparing for the months ahead, and sharing good food with family and friends. Fish has long been an important part of life in Northern communities, whether enjoyed fresh, fried, dried or smoked. Across the NWT, community gatherings continue to feature foods such as whitefish and bannock with wild berry jam.



Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program



AEMP community sessions

In September, AEMP community sessions brought together Elders, youth and community members in Tulita, Norman Wells and Fort Good Hope to learn about fish health in the Mackenzie River.

The sessions explored an important question: *What can fish tell us about the health of the water and surrounding environment?*

Through shared learning and conversation, participants explored the important connection between healthy fish, healthy water and community well-being.

For students, the sessions offered a hands-on opportunity to learn more about fish and their local environment. For Elders and community members, they provided a space to share knowledge built through generations of living, learning, and harvesting on the land and water.

These sessions demonstrate the value in connecting conventional science and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge.



Esther's Fish Fry Recipe

A huge thank you to Norman Wells locals, Esther Charney and her husband Henry, for frying the delicious fish at the Commemorative Event on September 12.

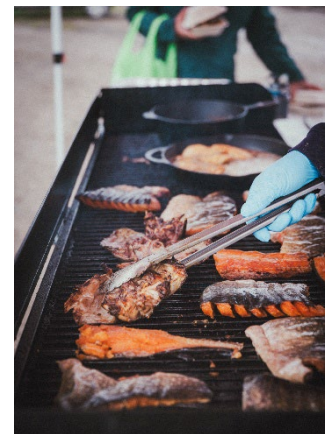
Esther's favourite way to prepare fish is:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup cornmeal
- 1 teaspoon of Back Eddy's seasoning
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup vegetable or canola oil

Pat your preferred fish dry, dip each piece in whisked egg, then coat completely in the dry seasoning mix. Fry in cast-iron pan over medium-high for 4-5 minutes per side, then transfer to paper towel to absorb excess oil. Enjoy!

Esther's best "tip" is using Back Eddy's seasoning instead of regular salt.

Her favorite memory ties to this recipe is sharing this meal with her family, whether prepared inside or outside on the open fire, but she prefers to cook it on open fire.



Stay connected

We welcome your questions, feedback and conversations.
normanwellscommunity@esso.ca.

We'll continue to share community updates through our [website](#) and newsletters.

Meet our new Community Liaison Officers!

Applications are still open for Community Liaison positions in Deline, Fort Good Hope, and Colville Lake. [Apply here!](#)



Lee-Ann McPherson

Born and raised in Tulita, Lee-Ann has deep roots in the Sahtu and a passion for working with and for her community. She brings knowledge from her government and community experience to her new role, along with a strong belief that positive relationships begin with trust and respect. Lee-Ann is also a dedicated mother, community volunteer, hand games supporter and avid fisher. She is looking forward to connecting with communities across the Sahtu and contributing to a safe and positive future for the region.

Candace Maxwell

Originally from Fort Good Hope and a proud Sahtu beneficiary, Candace has called Norman Wells home since 2014. She brings years of government experience and strong relationships across the Sahtu. Candace is passionate about ensuring community voices are heard and believes trust is built through mutual respect, collaboration and active listening. Outside of work, you're likely to find her cooking, baking, doing a puzzle, and spending time with her two beloved Yorkies, Nishka and Taz.



Commemorative BBQ



Loretta Wiley hosting a fish scale art workshop

On September 12, 2026, community members, employees, partners and local leaders gathered to recognize 106 years of shared history. With great food, speeches, Sahtu Dene drumming, Metis fiddling and jigging, and traditional Indigenous art workshops, the day recognized the many people and relationships that have shaped the Norman Wells story.

It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces, share stories and spend time together. The event was a reminder that while our operations are changing, the relationships built over generations remain an important part of our connection to Norman Wells.

We appreciate everyone who joined us and helped make the day so special.



Drumming performance by Fort Good Hope Drummers

Emergency spill response drill and site tour

At the end of July, Imperial was pleased to host community members and Elders for a two-day site tour, providing an opportunity to see operations firsthand. Participants witnessed an emergency spill response exercise and a mainland site tour. Most importantly, the visit created a space for open dialogue, questions and shared learning. We appreciated the opportunity to hear community perspectives and continue building strong relationships.



Thank you!

We recognize community members for their time, openness, and ongoing dialogue.

As we move through the next phase, we remain committed to working together to ensure the land is cared for responsibly— now and for future generations.