

Beloved Métis elder Elsie Yanik dies at 99 years old



By [Cullen Bird](#), Today staff
Sunday, November 27, 2016 5:30:42 MST PM



Local Métis elder, Elsie Yanik, smiles for the camera while enjoying live music at Fort McMurray's Métis Festival at Jubilee Plaza, July 25, 2016. Olivia Condon/ Fort McMurray Today Postmedia Network

On the last night of her life, beloved Métis elder Elsie Yanik lived with the same energy and joy she was renowned for.

The 99-year-old ate apple pie and tapped her feet to the music while having dinner at Nanaimo's MGM restaurant with her new friend Kathleen Kornelson, the caretaker and owner of Harbour View Manor seniors' residence in Ladysmith, B.C. where Elsie was staying. She enjoyed the dinner so much they stayed three hours.

But shortly after returning to the residence, Elsie did not feel well and was taken to Nanaimo Regional General Hospital by ambulance. She died without pain in her hospital bed at 2:40 a.m. MT., Nov. 27.

"It's not a sad occasion, I'm so happy she passed so peacefully," Elsie's daughter Marylan Yanik, 76, said.

Elsie had plans to go to church on Sunday, then get her hair done. She was planning to travel to Fort McMurray to attend the Métis elders' Christmas party on Dec. 15

"She was enjoying life, and was looking forward to living more of it," Marylan said.

Tributes have poured in for Elsie, a respected spiritual presence in Wood Buffalo and the Northwest Territories who has been celebrated for her commitment to education and community.

Elsie was an icon not just to Métis community but to everyone, said McMurray Métis president Gail Gallupe.

"She just gave with her heart and soul," she said. "She loved people, and I'm going to miss her a lot."

Yanik returned to Fort McMurray in July following the fire, but worried about her many friends who were suffering following the disaster. During the summer she was frequently taken to the hospital for high blood pressure, before she finally left in late September to stay with her family in B.C.

Elsie is survived by her daughters Pat, Marylan, Lillian, Mary-Margaret, her son Lorne and foster son Tony Evans. Her daughter Dolores died five years ago. Elsie also has 13 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Over the years Yanik has volunteered for the Catholic Women's League, served for a decade with the Young Offenders Board and worked with the Nunee Health Authority in Fort Chipewyan.

Yanik often led prayer services at the Fort McMurray Catholic schools, and at Métis community events.

In April this year the Fort McMurray Catholic School District (FMCSD) announced the new school being built in Parsons Creek will be called the Elsie Yanik Catholic School. The school was originally planned to open in September 2017, and no new date has been announced.

After her mother died when Elsie was eight, Elsie was sent to the Fort Resolution Indian Residential School, in Fort Resolution, N.W.T. The school was run by the Grey Nuns, a group of religious communities of women who often provided health care and social services where they were established.

"It was very very hard at times being taken from home into a place where there was so much discipline," Yanik told the Today in an April interview. "But you know, discipline is good. Discipline never hurt me."

She later worked at a hospital with the nuns in Fort Smith, wanting to be a nurse but lacking the education.

"Education is so important," Elsie said. "Because we never had that opportunity in the early twenties when I went to school."

However, she did graduate from the "university of life," she said.

Yanik eventually went to live in Fort Chipewyan with her husband Lawrence Yanik, where she raised her family and lived for more than 40 years.

She was ordained as a Roman Catholic lay minister and served the community for more than a decade at a time when Fort Chipewyan had no priest.

Elsie said she wished that everyone she has met or knows live life to the fullest.

"We're all on a different bus heading on the highway of life," Yanik said. "At the end of the road, there's only one Creator waiting for us."

"I guess I'll leave this world believing in the things I believe now."

cbird@postmedia.com

<http://www.fortmcmurraytoday.com/2016/11/27/beloved-metis-elder-elsie-yanik-dies-at-99-years-old>

Elsie Yanik (Lifetime Achievement)

Lifetime Achievement (2015)

"Make a difference. Create a better world by being kind. Kindness is enduring. Kindness is contagious. Kindness makes everyone feel good."

Elsie received an honorary Law Degree from the University of Alberta in April 2014. She has spent most of her long life spreading kindness, preserving Indigenous heritage and promoting health and education in her community. She began work as a nurse's aide at 17 and has spent 80 years spreading kindness as a minister, mentor and volunteer. Her community commitment has included terms as president of the board of Voice of Native Women of Alberta, 10 years of service with the Young Offenders Board, and work with the Nuneen Health Authority in Fort Chipewyan. Her efforts have earned her a blessing from Pope John Paul II, a Governor General's Commemorative Medal, and the duty of Olympic torch-bearer for the 2010 Winter Games. At 97, she still works with Keyano College as an elder and occasionally teaches classes at the Golden Years' Society. She has received numerous honours from her community.



<http://inspire.ca/laureate/elsie-yanik-2/>



Give gifts of kindness, Métis elder encourages grads

Honorary degree recipient Elsie Yanik shares story of human generosity that has inspired her for 89 years.

By Bev Betkowski on June 11, 2014

Elder Elsie Yanik receives her honorary doctor of laws degree during convocation ceremonies June 11. (Photo: Richard Siemens)

(Edmonton) A sack full of Christmas gifts delivered to a home in 1925 came wrapped in a message of human kindness that still remains with Métis elder Elsie Yanik.

At the time, Yanik was eight years old, caring for her younger siblings in their home in Fort Fitzgerald, Alta., and coping as best she could without the guidance of her sick mother, who had been taken to Edmonton for treatment, never to return.

Christmas was looking bleak that year, even with the help of neighbours who provided firewood and food to Yanik and her siblings. “It became apparent to all of us that Santa Claus had forgotten us.”

But the long-ago generosity of a local man, Syd Porter, left a feeling that warmed her heart once again, Yanik said as she received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University of Alberta June 11.

“(Syd) left us after I had told him that Santa Claus had forgotten about us. He returned a few hours later with a gunny sack full of gifts. He told us that Santa Claus had misplaced them.

“The way I felt then, 89 years ago, is how I feel today,” Yanik told an audience of graduates from the Faculty of Education.

Welcomed to her degree ceremony with an honour song sung to the beat of a drum by Lyle Tootoosis of Poundmaker, Sask., Yanik, 96, then shared a story from her childhood that has influenced her ever since.

“Kindness makes everyone feel good,” she said. “The person who gives kindness feels as good as the person receiving kindness. When we witness kindness it makes us feel very good. We all need to feel good as often as we can.”

Yanik has spent most of her long life spreading that belief through her own work, preserving Aboriginal heritage and promoting health and education in her community, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

Since beginning work as a nurse’s aide in Fort Smith at age 17, she’s spent 80 years spreading her own kindness as a minister, mentor and volunteer. Her community commitment has included terms as president of the Voice of Native Women of Alberta Board, 10 years of service with the Young Offenders Board and work with the Nunee Health Authority in Fort Chipewyan.

Yanik’s tireless efforts have earned her a blessing from Pope John Paul II, a Governor General’s Commemorative Medal and the duty of Olympic torch-bearer as it passed through her community for the 2010 Winter Games.

Sharing her words of wisdom with grads, Yanik paid quiet homage to her friend Porter, a purser on a Hudson Bay Company steamer on the Slave River, a man who lived alone in a small cabin in the community, and “a true gentleman in every respect.” Whenever a need arose in the community, he was there to help, Yanik said.

“He did not wait to hear about it, he actively sought out opportunities to help. He was there for all of the children of Fort Fitzgerald, and probably anyone along the steamboat route of the river.”

Porter continued to serve as Santa for the community, including Yanik’s own children after she married, until he died in the 1950s. She remembers him fondly today as her mentor.

“He was my professor. Certainly not the only one, but probably the most important one. I am here today because he taught me the importance of kindness.”

Yanik expressed gratitude to the U of A for its own act of kindness in giving her an honorary degree, noting that in her long life, she thought she'd come close to paying back the generosity she has received, "but after what you have done here, I will have to live another 100 years before I can settle that account. Thank you very much."

Yanik celebrates 99 years

A birthday tribute to an iconic woman of our region

By Frances Jean, Connect Contributor



Community ambassador Elsie Yanik with Frances Jean at the Northern Lights Regional Hospital on September 25. Yanik was amongst family and friends to celebrate her 99th birthday. Supplied photo

One of McMurray's most remarkable citizens turned 99 on September 25. Elsie Yanik, a much-revered Métis elder, is loved by all who know her.

Yanik was born in Fort Fitzgerald, one of ten children. Her mother died when she was just eight years old, and her father who was a cook for the NWMP was unable to care

for the younger children. They were sent by barge to the Grey Nuns Convent in Fort Resolution. In an interview in 2001, Yanik praised the nuns for their kindness, their strict discipline and the education she received.

At 17, Yanik left the convent and did a two-year nurses' aide program at Fort Smith. At a Christmas midnight mass in Fort Fitzgerald, she met Lawrence Yanik and they were married when she completed her training.

Their honeymoon was on a trap line, and they settled in Fort Fitzgerald for a time. A move to Fort Chipewyan with the Alberta Forest Service was soon followed by Lawrence starting Noralta Air Charters.

They built a beautiful home overlooking Lake Athabasca and when at 82, Yanik gave up her driving license, she walked the two miles to town each day. When the priest left Fort Chip, Yanik performed weddings and conducted funerals. She served on the Advisory Board to Vic Henning, the Northeastern Commissioner and volunteered with the Young Offenders program.

After a triple-bypass, Yanik made the move to Fort McMurray, keeping busy with her sewing and crafts. As an active role with the Métis Association, she is a regular attendee at the Golden Year's Society. She carried the Olympic torch a few years ago and many times says grace, in Cree and English, for important community dinners.

Fort McMurray has been blessed to enjoy Elsie Yanik's wisdom and kindness for the past years. On her 99th birthday, she was as cheerful and happy as always. I'm so glad she is my friend.

<http://www.fortmacconnect.ca/2016/09/yanik-celebrates-99-years/>

Elsie Yanik

Elsie Yanik was a woman of passion, love, and faith. She valued education and was a constant presence within our school community. Her love of children, enthusiasm for learning, and quick wit will not be forgotten in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and within the Fort McMurray Catholic Schools family.

It was on April 18th, 2016 when the Fort McMurray Catholic Board of Education announced our school under construction in Parsons Creek will be named Elsie Yanik Catholic School. It was an absolute pleasure to bestow this honour. One week later Elsie Yanik had the opportunity to see the construction site in Parsons Creek where her school was being built. The pride in her smile was evident to all.

Fort McMurray Catholic School Board Chair Paula Galenzoski, “It was a privilege to be part of the decision to name our newest school Elsie Yanik Catholic School. Her lifelong dedication to education, her faith, and her community is a testament to her incredible spirit, and to open a school in the Fort McMurray Catholic Schools family in her name will be an honour.”

Superintendent George McGuigan says Elsie Yanik was the perfect choice for the name of our newest school under construction in Parsons Creek, “Elsie Yanik exemplifies what we do at Fort McMurray Catholic Schools. She exudes our core values. She values Persons, she values Community, she values Responsibility, she values Learning. We know she will be watching over her school.”

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Elsie Yanik. She will be greatly missed in our community and schools.

<http://fmcschools.ca/news/elsie-yanik>

Indspire honours Northern elder's life's work

📅 In **Northerners** 📅 November 5, 2014 ✍️ **Dali Carmichael** 👤 350 Views 💬 0 comments



At 97, Fort McMurray resident Elsie Yanik has dedicated most of her life to helping others, be it through mentoring youth, providing spiritual guidance as a minister, preserving her Aboriginal heritage or helping others to lead healthy lifestyles as an advocate for wellness.

For these reasons and more, a panel of judges from Indspire, which claims to be the largest contributor to Aboriginal education in the country, decided to honour her with the 2015 Lifetime Achievement award.

At a reception hosted by the Honourable Andrew Scheer, Speaker of the House of Commons on Oct. 28, Yanik and her fellow winners from across the country were recognized for their accomplishments with eagle feathers.

This is only the most recent of Yanik's accolades.

"She's had many, many awards," said daughter Marylan Yanik, who resides in Fort Smith.

"She's done a lot of work with the church because she was a priest, but she doesn't do that anymore. I can't even think of all the awards, but she has many."

In April of this year, Yanik was bestowed an honorary Law Degree from the University of Alberta. In the lead-up to the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, she was chosen to carry the Olympic Torch through her community.

Her efforts have been recognized with a blessing from Pope John Paul II and a Governor General's Commemorative medal.

Eight decades of community service

After moving to Fort Chipewyan as a young adult, Yanik continued to take on roles as a community leader. She took turns serving as the president of the board for Voice of Native Women of Alberta, as well as a 10-year term working with the Young Offenders Board.

She has also worked for the Nunee Health Authority in Fort Chip, helping others to focus on improving their wellness using a holistic approach.

Even in her experienced age, Yanik is active in her community.

"In Fort McMurray, they call her out all the time," Marylan said. "She does opening prayers for just about everybody there, the mayor, whenever any dignitaries come to town – she's there for all that."

Indspire is a national NGO that focuses on helping Aboriginal students achieve their goals by providing educational and mental support. For 22 years, the organization has sought to reward the highest achieving Aboriginal people in the country, awarding individuals with "discipline, drive and determination."

Every year, a jury made up of former winners chooses outstanding individuals from hundreds of nominations, settling on 10 career achievement award recipients, three youth award recipients (First Nation, Inuit and Métis) and one lifetime achievement recipient. While the winners were recognized at last week's reception, the official Indspire award ceremony won't be held until Feb. 27, 2015 at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium in Calgary, Alta.

<https://norj.ca/tag/elsie-yanik/>

<http://indspire.ca/laureate/elsie-yanik-2/>

Elsie Yanik's Lesson of Kindness

11/29/2016

2 COMMENTS



This weekend we lost one of the pillars of our community, Métis Elder Elsie Yanik. Mrs. Yanik touched many, but there is one particular story that has stayed with me, and I think it will be the one that helps our community recover from the trauma of last summer.

She told me this story a few times, and in a few different ways; She shared it as part of her 2014 University of Alberta Convocation Address where you can still find it in print and as a video (go to June 11, 2014 and fast forward to about the 32 minute mark). She did a much better job telling it, but I will do my best to honour her story as I share it today.

Elsie was a beautiful and inspiring Elder who has accomplished so much in her long life. She has explained to me many times that those many accomplishments are all grounded in a simple lesson she learned as a child – the importance of always being kind.

The lesson came to her in 1925 when she was 7 years old in Fort Fitzgerald. Her mother had been ill for almost a year and her father was away cooking on the steamboats. Elsie was the oldest child at home, and her bed-ridden mother needed to teach her daughter to look after the family. In that year Elsie learned how to bead and sew, how to make bannock and stew, how to look after her younger siblings. In the fall, Elsie turned 8 and her older brothers returned home from the boats and decided they needed to take their mother to Edmonton for medical treatment, sadly this would be the last time Elsie saw her mother.

Elsie explained that everything was fine until Christmas, when it seemed Santa Claus had forgotten the family. When Syd Porter checked in, he discovered a crying 8-year-old girl trying to do her best for her family.

Syd was a solitary man who lived in a little cabin in Fort Fitz. A WWI volunteer, he had seen unimaginable scenes, though he never talked about his past to those in town. Instead he did what he could to be kind and help those in need.

After Elsie told Syd that Santa had forgotten her and her family. Syd left, returning a couple hours later with a gunnysack full of gifts. He explained to the young girl that Santa had not forgotten the family, but had simply misplaced the gifts.

Elsie explains: “You see, kindness is enduring. Kindness makes everyone feel good. The person who gives kindness feels just as good as the person receiving kindness. When we witness kindness, it makes us feel good. We were not the only children that Syd Porter cared for. Syd’s old gunnysack full of gifts was repeated countless times. Whenever the need arose he was there. He did not wait to hear about it, he actively sought out opportunities to help.”

These last few months I come back to this story often. I now know how Elsie felt as a child. Doing all she could to care for her family, but barely being able to care for herself. As I’ve sat searching for answers after May 3, it is the kindness of our community that has helped me through the more difficult times - 88,000 Syd Porters actively searching for opportunities to help and 88,000 Elsie Yaniks overwhelmed by individual acts of kindness.

So now, as days stretch to months, and our community's patience and understanding are pushed to new limits, please remember Elsie's lesson and be kind, our community needs it.

<http://www.willowspringsss.com/blog/elsie-yaniks-lesson-of-kindness>

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2016

Remembering Elsie Yanik

Elsie Yanik had enjoyed a lovely meal the night before she passed, spending several hours visiting at the care home she was staying at on Vancouver Island. After getting back to her room she didn't feel well, an ambulance was called and she was taken to the hospital where she passed away peacefully in her sleep. She was 99.



A photo of Elsie is the very first picture you see in my "Wild Colour Portraits" exhibition, a beautiful moment of that day in June 2014 when she came over to see the mural I had painted of her on the wall of Birdsong Studio - back at that time I called it "my shop".



We sat together on a bench I had cobbled together from a piece of lumber I had salvaged from the shore of the Athabasca River looking at her portrait and talking about life. That was a significant day for her for an additional reason; it was the anniversary of the passing of her husband.

Heather and I visited Elsie a number of times during those early months of my unexpected foray into art. We brought her a copy of the photo sitting in front of the mural, kindly framed by Florence at Points North Gallery.



We went over to tell her the story of Justin Trudeau's visit. And we went over several

more times for Heather to give her reiki treatments. Elsie loved company and she loved to laugh.



I had met Elsie many times over the years, often at large community events where she often shared the opening prayers. At one Keyano College function, I escorted her to the stage so she could share her wisdom and serenity with the gathering. Her voice was always soothing and soul-stirring. She had a way of elevating an experience with her presence and her words.

She allowed me to borrow her prayer books - she had two binders full of them - so that I could add some of them to her mural. Several are scribed right into the large painting viewable in the alley way between Hill and Demers Drives.

I painted Elsie a second time on December 22, 2014 on the wall of the Salvation Army mat program space, in the basement at their downtown community centre. It was a very special day, capped off by staff members of the United Way and Salvation Army adding their words to the finished portrait I called Faith, Hope and Love. Many months later, my friend Kate - who eventually befriended Elsie - brought her down to sign, too.

I last saw Elsie sitting in a wheelchair in the parking lot at the hospital. She was getting some sun, accompanied by her son Lorne, who she often talked about. Her eyes were failing her in the final years of her life, but her spirit and warmth remained intact right to the very end. We had a small chat and I was able to give her a hug before saying

goodbye.

Elsie has passed on after a remarkable and gentle life, filled with love, compassion and faith. Like several of my elders who had gone before, I think that Elsie will always be close by and will continue to bless my life.

POSTED BY RUSSELL THOMAS AT 5:58 AM 

<http://www.middleagebulge.com/2016/11/remembering-elsie-yanik.html>



<https://twitter.com/rvthomas67/status/547177236072132608>

Elsie Yanik #2, 72" x 54", acrylic on the wall
[@SalvArmyYMM](#). [#abculture](#) [#ymmarts](#) [#ymm](#)



[McMurray Métis](#)

November 27 at 5:11pm ·

We were deeply saddened to learn respected fourth-generation Métis Elder, Elsie Yanik, passed peacefully in her sleep late last night in her 100th year. Elsie Yanik was known for her determined work to preserve and promote Métis heritage and to teach the lessons of kindness throughout the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Beginning her community service as a nurse's

aide in Fort Smith at age 17, Mrs. Yanik spent decades serving the community as a minister, mentor and volunteer. She acted as president of the Voice of Alberta Native Women board, served as a member of the Young Offenders Board for ten years, and provided advice Nunee Health Authority in Fort Chipewyan. Mrs. Yanik was also extremely proud of her Métis heritage and continued many traditions she learned from her mother at a very young age. She was an expert sewer and beader and made many beautiful pairs of moccasins, mukluks, parkas, and blankets for family and friends. In recent years, Mrs. Yanik's lifetime achievements were variously recognized. She received a Governor General's Commemorative Medal, the Stars of Alberta Volunteer Award, an honorary diploma from Keyano College, an Esquao Award, a blessing from Pope John Paul II, and was chosen to bear the Olympic torch when it passed through the region on the way to the 2010 Winter Games. One of her last achievements was receiving an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Alberta in 2014; in her Convocation Address, Mrs. Yanik asked the graduates to go out and "Make a difference. Create a better world by being kind." This simple life lesson, "To be kind," will be one of Mrs. Yanik's most important and lasting legacies.

The McMurray Métis Board and Staff extend sincerest condolences to Mrs. Yanik's many family and friends. We will share information regarding funeral arrangements as we are made aware.



<http://mcmurraymetis.org/>



“Along with our Annual Métis Festival, which is focused on bringing Métis culture to our youth, and our Annual Infinity Golf Tournament, which raises the money we need to ensure a proper education is accessible to the Métis people of Fort McMurray, the Elders Christmas celebration is a chance to celebrate the successes of our community made possible by our Elders,” said McMurray Métis President James ‘Dickie’ Dragon in his remarks at the Elder’s celebration.

With almost 400 Métis Elders, First Nations Elders, and Fort McMurray seniors in attendance from across the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo all who came had an enjoyable evening of good food and wonderful entertainment with friends. As it does every year, the McMurray Métis were pleased to welcome Aboriginal Elders and local seniors from Rotary House, Araubasca House, Legion Manor, the Long Term Care facility at the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre, as well as members of the Golden Years Society and the Nistawayou Friendship Centre. Also in attendance were Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras, Fort Chipewyan Métis President Fred ‘Jumbo’ Fraser, and Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Councilor Jane Stroud. The 2013 Elder of the Year award was presented to Métis Local 1935 Member Almer Waniandy. Past recipients include Sylvia Hodgson and Kay Loutitt in 2012, Violet Hansen in 2011, Joe Hamelin and Elsie Yanick in 2010, and James ‘Dickie’ Dragon in 2009.

In a letter written by Fort McMurray—Conklin MLA Don Scott, which was read by Métis Local 1935 Vice-President Bill Loutitt, he said, “This evening is a celebration of the Aboriginal Elders of Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo. They are our mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers; our fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers. There is no group in our society that should be held in higher esteem for their decades of contributions to the families they raised and the communities they have built for all of us...and to all the Elders in attendance this evening I would like to offer a personal thank-you. Without you we would not have the wonderful community we have today.”

Founded in 1987, the McMurray Métis are a part of the Métis Nation of Alberta and its mission is to pursue the advancement of the Métis people of Fort McMurray and Northeastern Alberta. For more information please visit www.McMurrayMetis.org.

<https://mcmurraymetis.wordpress.com/2013/11/04/mcmurray-metis-celebrate-elders-and-seniors-at-its-10th-annual-elders-christmas-gathering/>

Funeral Information

High Mass scheduled for Elsie Yanik

Fort McMurray, AB, Canada / MIX 103.7

[Jaryn Vecchio](#) December 05, 2016 05:26 pm

The public will have a chance to send their condolences to the family of beloved elder, Elsie Yanik.

At ninety-nine years old, Yanik passed away in her sleep back on November 27. Many have since come forward telling stories of how they knew Yanik and how she will be remembered in the community.

“Throughout her life she was known as a pillar of the community, continuing to give her compassion and wisdom to all, regardless of their background,” said Gail Gallupe, McMurray Métis President. “For me, Elsie was a mentor and I already miss her heartwarming stories, her precious company, and her great sense of humor.”

Her family is holding a high mass next Tuesday, December 12, at Saint Paul’s Church, 484 Signal Road.

The public is welcomed and encouraged to attend. For those in attendance, they can stick around after the mass and join the family in a lunch at the Church.

“I feel very passionately that she is now an angel and a loving guide to those left to mourn her,” said Gallupe.



YANIK, Elsie - The family of Elsie Yanik regret to announce the passing of their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, November 27, 2016, at the age of 99. Elsie resided at a loving care home in Ladysmith, B.C. She was very content and died peacefully. She leaves to mourn her daughters, Patricia (Bob), Marylan, Lilian (Leo) Bunny (Jaak) and son Lorn and their families. All of whom she loved dearly. She is now reunited with her late husband, Lawrence and daughter Dolores who predeceased her, and will greet her with open arms. To celebrate Elsie's life, there will be a mass at St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, Fort McMurray, December 12, 2016, at 2:00 PM. Elsie spent the last 18 happy and fulfilling years of her life as a member of the Fort McMurray community. December 13, 2016 11:00 AM there will be a service at the Roman Catholic Church in Fort Chipewyan. Fort Chipewyan was home to Elsie, Lawrence and family for 30 years. That same afternoon (December 13) there will be a mass at the Fort Smith Cathedral, at 3:00 PM. Fort Smith is where the Yanik family resided during the early years of their life. Elsie and her children were born in Fort Smith, NWT. Her ashes will be interred with her husband at the Fort Chipewyan cemetery at a later date. In appreciation for her many years of involvement and dedication to Catholic Women's League, contributions to the Fort McMurray CWL would be greatly appreciated.

Elsie Yanik

YANIK, Elsie - The family of Elsie Yanik regret to announce the passing of their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, November 27, 2016, at the age of 99. Elsie resided at a loving care home in Ladysmith, B.C. She was very content and died peacefully. She leaves to mourn her daughters, Patricia (Bob), Marylan, Lilian (Leo) Bunny (Jaak) and son Lorn and their families. All of whom she loved dearly. She is now reunited with her late husband, Lawrence and daughter Dolores who predeceased her, and will greet her with open arms. To celebrate Elsie's life, there will be a mass at St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, Fort McMurray, December 12, 2016, at 2:00 PM. Elsie spent the last 18 happy and fulfilling years of her life as a member of the Fort McMurray community. December 13, 2016 11:00 AM there will be a service at the Roman Catholic Church in Fort Chipewyan. Fort Chipewyan was home to Elsie, Lawrence and family for 30 years. That same afternoon (December 13) there will be a mass at the Fort Smith Cathedral, at 3:00 PM. Fort Smith is where the Yanik family resided during the early years of their life. Elsie and her children were born in Fort Smith, NWT. Her ashes will be interred with her husband at the Fort Chipewyan cemetery at a later date. In appreciation for her many years of involvement and dedication to Catholic Women's League, contributions to the Fort McMurray CWL would be greatly appreciated. 13123630

<http://www.yourlifemoments.ca/sitepages/obituary.asp?old=990014>

Our CWL (Fort McMurray CWL) is preparing the meal and we will have the Honor Guard for our dear Elsie. If anyone is coming up for please let them know they are welcome to join us. We are all still in disbelief about Elsie. She was so strong and such a beautiful lady. We loved listening to all her stories. She was such an kind and loving lady. We will miss her dearly.
Pat Fulford