

Kwanlin Dän Ch'a



Kwanlin People of Whitehorse, How are you?



The Big Latch-on Event

This year's Big Latch On Event had over 50 people in attendance, including Elder Billie Giroux pictured here. Mothers attended from KDFN's Healthy Babies, Healthy Generations program and from women's groups with Skookum Jim Friendship Centre, the La Leche League and the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre.

Full story on **PAGE 12**

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2** Message from Chief
- 3** Referendum on Constitutional Change
- 6** Dugout Canoe
- 8** Blue Feather Music Fest
- 10** Mental Wellness Summit
- 12** Healthy Babies, Healthy Generations
- 18** House of Learning Calendar 2016/2017

Message From Chief Doris Bill



Fall is a busy time for Kwanlin Dün citizens and families – harvesting berries, hunting, fishing, getting back to school and preparing for winter.

Council recognizes and is grateful for the commitment citizens make at this time of year to attend government meetings. Your personal involvement in your nation's affairs is important. Your direction makes us stronger.

Over the last few months, the government has continued to work on improving community safety, increasing opportunities for homeownership and ensuring Yukon's voice is heard in the national inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

In May, we announced funding from the Government of Yukon for a KDFN Community Safety Liaison Officer pilot program. Work is underway to hire and train Kwanlin Dün officers. In July, the Yukon government announced changes to its Land Titles Act that will assist Kwanlin Dün, and other Yukon First Nations, to unlock the potential of our settlement lands while maintaining Aboriginal rights and title forever. As we work on the administrative process for a land registry, we have also established a Market Housing program to support

citizens to invest in homeownership.

On November 9, citizens will be asked to vote in a referendum. This will give citizens greater control over our most important law – the Constitution. The Constitutional Review Committee has been talking to citizens over the past year. Citizens asked to be more involved as the keepers, or owners, of the Constitution. The committee has therefore recommended that future changes to the Constitution be moved from a referendum process to a General Assembly process where changes to our supreme law can be more fully debated and decided on. There is more information about this – and other matters, at www.kwanlindun.com. Referendum workers will also meet with citizens individually to answer questions and this also will be on the agenda at the next General Assembly.

The 2016 Annual General Assembly will be on Saturday, October 29 at Nàkwät'á Kù. The General Assembly is a branch of government unique to First Nation governments. We are in fact leaders in democracy and Council appreciates the respectful and constructive comments, questions and advice citizens provide to us at our General Assembly. We look forward to seeing you and hearing from you.

Photo: Chief Bill, Yukon Premier and Minister of Justice announced both \$1.4 million over three years for KDFN Community Safety Liaison Officer pilot program and amendments to the Yukon Land Titles Act.

L-R: Minister Brad Cathers, Chief Doris Bill and Premier Darrell Pasloski



Referendum on Constitutional Change

November 2016

Making citizens the keepers of the Constitution

On November 9, 2016, citizens of Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) will vote in a referendum to decide on a fundamental change to their Constitution. The Constitution is KDFN's supreme law; the referendum is on a proposed way to make future changes to the Constitution.

In 2010, citizens asked for a constitutional review. In 2014, the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) was established and in June 2016 it presented its final report at the Special Summer General Assembly. (The final CRC report and more information on the referendum question are available at www.kwanlindun.com.)

Over the past year, citizens told the CRC that they want to be more involved as the “keepers” or owners of their Constitution. The November referendum question reflects what the CRC heard from citizens. Citizens want more direct control of the Constitution through the General Assembly. If the proposed change is made, citizens will be able to use this important Branch of the Government (the General Assembly) to decide on future amendments to the Constitution.

Currently, the referendum process is the only way the KDFN Constitution can be amended. This can be a difficult and expensive process to use. As the CRC found, citizens want a process that is more inclusive and informed. That is why the November 2016 Referendum proposes moving this responsibility to a Branch of Government you already are familiar with, the General Assembly.

The CRC heard that you want to be more informed about changes to the Constitution that may be considered in the future. Therefore, if the Referendum passes, a permanent Constitutional Committee would be created to assist citizens in

discussions on possible future constitutional amendments. The General Assembly will determine the four citizens who will be appointed by Council to make up this important committee. To ensure continuity, the committee members will be appointed for five-year terms.

Why five years? Because the proposed changes to the Constitution through this referendum will also create a five-year cycle for constitutional amendments. In other words, in the future, constitutional amendments will only be brought to the General Assembly normally once at the end of a five-year period. This will allow time for constitutional issues to be identified, work to be done on solutions and engagement with citizens before the General Assembly is asked to put changes in place. As your supreme law, changes to the Constitution should be taken with great seriousness. A five-year period to give careful consideration is appropriate given how important this law is to your government and all citizens.

The Constitution is the most important law for Kwanlin Dün where the rights of citizens and their government are concerned. Therefore, changes to the Constitution need to reflect serious consideration by as many citizens as possible. To reflect this important need, the proposed amending formula will require high thresholds of eligible citizens to vote in favour for changes to pass.

Leading up to the referendum, information has been sent directly to citizens. This includes the Notice of Referendum with the question you are being asked to vote on. It also explains how to vote on Referendum Day and in an advance poll. In addition, there will be outreach workers meeting as many citizens as possible to explain what the proposed constitutional amendment means and to answer your questions.

Also, a fact sheet and a podcast are available on the KDFN website.

DO NOT HESITATE to call if you would like to arrange a time for a meeting to discuss this important work of your Government.

*Contact Kirk Cameron, Advisor,
(867) 667-7315 or
kirk@kirkcameron.ca*



New Youth Programs Off to a Great Start

For information on Jackson Lake Wellness programs, contact Colleen Geddes (867) 633-2629 or colleen.geddes@kdfn.net

Kwanlin Dün First Nation launched two successful new youth programs over the summer. “We are excited to be offering new programming to better support our youth,” said Colleen Geddes, Jackson Lake Wellness Team Coordinator. “But we aren’t starting from scratch or re-inventing the wheel, we are building on and coordinating with existing recreation programs within KDFN and other Whitehorse agencies to make them more relevant to our youth.”

Both programs are led by the Jackson Lake Wellness Team. The first is geared toward Whitehorse-based youth involved with the criminal justice system or at risk of becoming involved. Wellness team

member Les Walker, organized trips for families out on the land at beaver camps and day programs for youth at Jackson Lake. “Seeing our youth connect with Elders, their culture and the land is inspiring and satisfying,” said Walker. “They had an amazing time, having lots of fun in a safe environment.”

The program works closely with other agencies that serve youth to deliver joint programming. Individual support is also offered to encourage positive choices and assist in solving problems and reducing risks.

Living Life for Men is the second program and it is focused on providing support and assistance to young men aged 18 to 29. It provides links to the men’s circle and offers outreach to young men. A land-based men’s camp was held at Jackson Lake recently and more activities will be announced soon. “KDFN is building on its success with its men’s group to reach our young men who are seeking support,” said Geddes.

Additional trips were also organized with a broader group of KDFN youth to this summer’s Moosehide Gathering, and to the Shäna Dáeyi Käy: Youth on Our Country – a youth wellness gathering at Kathleen Lake.

Photos top & below:
Youth at Moosehide





Vulnerable People at Risk Initiative - Working to Eliminate Homelessness

"Homelessness cannot be resolved simply by providing a home. Root causes that created the situation also need to be addressed," says Jack Bogaard, member at large, for the Vulnerable People at Risk Initiative.

"It's more than having four walls. It's more than addictions, mental health or just being down on one's luck," says Jack Bogaard. "How people came to be in these situations is their story to tell and trust me each person does have a story. I know because I have been there."

Jack emphasizes that society cannot turn a blind eye; we must show compassion. He reminds us that the problem doesn't just happen in Yukon - it happens too much, all across the country.

"More often than not, people have lost their sense of belonging or have been faced with a lack of social supports. We now have an opportunity to make a difference and show we are indeed a community that cares," says Bogaard.

In the spring of 2016, the Vulnerable People at Risk Initiative saw three levels of government – Kwanlin Dün First Nation, City of Whitehorse and the Government of Yukon – partner to develop a comprehensive plan to end homelessness, here in Yukon. Since then, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council has also joined the project.



"How people came to be in these situations is their story to tell and trust me each person does have a story. I know because I have been there."

– Jack Bogaard

This project was born out of the intergovernmental work being done by KDFN and the City of Whitehorse and was widely supported by community partners at a forum in the spring of 2015. Many of the community partners who attended the forum have come to the table to provide input and help guide the process.

The work on the comprehensive action plan has begun and is expected to be completed early in 2017.

Above: The Vulnerable People at Risk steering committee includes representatives from KDFN, Yukon Anti-poverty Coalition, City of Whitehorse, Yukon government and individuals with lived experience.

Left:
Jack Bogaard



Digging Deep in a Dugout Canoe

Above: Elder William Carlick, organizer of the Healing Canoe journey from Whitehorse to Moosehide July 20th to July 28, 2016

*Photo credit
www.alistairmaitland.com*

Nine men participated in a historic and healing journey this summer. They paddled a dugout canoe — a magnificent hand-carved art piece usually housed in the KDFN Cultural Centre — down the Yukon River from Whitehorse to Moosehide.

For the group, it wasn't just about the outdoor adventure of paddling nine days and over 700 km down a popular river — it was a healing journey. "The ancestors have been asking for us to come back down the river," says Elder William Carlick, trip organizer, observing that a dugout canoe hasn't made this journey since before the gold rush. "The land is such a powerful way for us to heal individually and as a community when there is so much that we are up against, on so many levels."

Participants came to the trip with their own struggles to overcome. Some were grieving the loss of loved ones, some were battling addictions. Whatever the issue, everyone came to the trip for the same reason: to connect with the land, with the ancestors and to heal.

"The canoe is a living entity we call 'Grandmother,'" says Carlick. "It's a conduit between this world and the spirit world."

It started over seven years ago when a team of 19 young First Nation carvers participated in a healing carving retreat. Under the guidance of Tlingit master carver Wayne Price, the young men spent over a month together on an island carving the canoe without any communications, drugs or alcohol. It was a powerful experience.

Carlick knew the canoe was designed for a higher purpose. It was time to get it out of the display and onto the water. "This canoe was built for healing," he says. "There are a lot of canoes going down the Yukon River, but this one is different."

It was a long process securing funding, but Carlick persevered and in the end, made his vision a reality. With financial and in-kind contributions from KDFN, the Independent, and many other private businesses and individuals, he raised the funds to pay for food, supplies, plus gas for the support boats that he and Frank Turner would be driving.

Finding participants had its challenges too. Initially, Carlick hoped some of the original carvers would join the trip but none were available. In the end, Facebook and word of mouth helped attract the nine individuals — mostly First Nations — to join the journey.



It was a beautiful trip and although it rained almost the entire time, the group felt that the ancestors brought on the precipitation as part of their prescription for healing. “We sang and drummed at different locations. It’s been too long since the ancestral land has heard drumming and singing,” says Carlick. “It brought tears to peoples’ eyes to see this come to be. To see something that had meaning and purpose that they could attach themselves to culturally and spiritually.”

The energy generated from the journey and the group was amazing. “They never gave up. And there were some difficult circumstances both physically and mentally,” says Carlick. With one extra paddler, individuals would take turns riding in Carlick’s motorboat — a chance, he says, for people to open up to him and talk.

Cruising at 17.5 km/hr, the dugout landed right on schedule on the opening day of the Moosehide Gathering. A crowd including the Hän Dancers welcomed them from the shore with drumming and singing as the exhausted but exhilarated paddlers clambered out of the canoe. Participants were invited to dance with the group and later invited to talk about the journey. “We were part of the event. Not just spectators,” says Carlick. “Emotionally it was all good. Everybody was so happy. It was such a great way to finish the trip.”

The journey was such a success on so many levels, Carlick is hoping to do it again next year — but this time with more canoes. “I can see four canoes next year,” Carlick says with a wink.

Above: Paddlers faced eight days of almost steady rain.

Bottom-left: Paddlers received a warm welcome when they arrived at Moosehide.

Bottom-right: The canoe handled beautifully on the river.

All photos credit: www.alistairmaitland.com



Big Moves for Blue Feather Music Festival

For more info visit bluefeathermusic.ca

It's an exciting year for the Blue Feather Music Festival. It's moving, it's re-connecting — and it's shaking.

In its 16th year, this ever popular substance-free, youth-friendly music show will be held at the KDFN Cultural Centre for the first time. "Its roots are with Kwanlin Dün," says festival organizer Gary Bailie. "And so it's great to bring the festival down to the river."

Bailie anticipates higher numbers of people attending the festival due to its new downtown location. "It will be more accessible," he says. "And plus we'll have room to dance." The Yukon Arts Centre hosted the festival for the first 15 years and although it has been a superb venue, there is no dancing room in the theatre.

The 2016 theme is *Wonder World*. For two days, November 4 and 5, you can rekindle your sense of wonder and open the door to the magical world of creativity. The message – reflected in this year's poster artwork, is seeing the world through the eyes of a child; realizing all the creative possibilities out there.

The line-up this year is impressive, too. Rock legend and social activist Buffy Sainte-Marie will be headlining. She's been to the Yukon on different occasions,



including her jaw dropping performance at the Blue Feather show in 2014. This time she's offering a special message to youth to inspire them to rise up against oppression.

Sass Jordan will also be belting out her iconic rock ballads. "Her performances move people to tears," says Bailie.

Classic Canadian metal band Killer Dwarfs will headline too. Old acquaintances from Bailie's touring days as a lighting technician, he's glad to see them make it up to the Yukon. "They may be heavy metal but their songs are all positive," he says. "Like 'Stand Tall' and 'Keep the Spirit Alive'."

And that's what Blue Feather's all about. Bailie created the festival 16 years ago to honour his deceased wife and her passion for helping youth. The whole point of the festival is to stay positive and keep the spirit alive.

Photo: Buffy Sainte-Marie and Chief Doris Bill taken in the early 1980s. As a young reporter, Chief Bill interviewed Sainte-Marie for her first field interview for CFWE Radio in Edmonton, Alberta.



Elders on Joe Mountain

Through the support of the KDFN Lands and Resources Department, a mineral exploration company gathered important information from Elders and staff about the cultural significance of the area around a proposed work site on Joe Mountain. A group made up of Kwanlin Dün First Nation Elders, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC) and KDFN staff plus an archeologist, flew up to the proposed exploration camp together in late June. This information gathering is a requirement of the Yukon Environmental Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) and the Yukon government "decision document" – as detailed in the section on the Development Assessment Process (DAP) of Chapter 12 of the Kwanlin Dün Final Agreement.

The proposed site is 30 km northeast of Whitehorse, just west of Joe Mountain. The project footprint is 2km² in an unnamed tributary of the M'Clintock River. It lies within the traditional territories of both KDFN and TKC.

As part of the YESAB requirement, the company - Strategic Metals Ltd., completed a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment. The assessment draws on Elders' knowledge of traditional use and searches for archaeological evidence through digging test pits. KDFN Elders present were Louie Smith, Ann Smith and Charlie Burns. Councillor Sean Smith was there and KDFN staff involved were GIS specialist Richard Vladars, and Land Planner John Meikle.

Ann Smith provided context on how



Photo above: (L-R) Charlie Burns, Louie Smith, Ann Smith on Joe Mountain.



Left: Ann Smith.

For more information, contact John Meikle (867)-633-7859 or john.meikle@kdfn.net

First Nation people used the area based on her experience travelling there with her parents. She described routes, camp locations and activities such as hunting and gathering medicines. KDFN is currently mapping this and other information gathered, including trails. The archeological work did not observe any physical resources.

If the company pursues exploration work as described in their proposal, the input from Elders will be important to KDFN in formulating a response through YESAB.

Salmon Harvesting – a family affair



McGundy family 2016 salmon harvest at Atsua Ku – Grandma's camp.
Left: Carol Shorty and Dorothy Sam.

Photo: Dr. Bill Mussell of the Sto:lo First Nation in B.C.

Photo credit: mattjacques.com



Mental Wellness Summit a Huge Success

A two-day summit on mental wellness brought together over 200 people to the Kwanlin Dün First Nation Cultural Centre this June. The event, Forward Together: Yukon Mental Wellness Summit, was co-hosted by KDFN, Yukon Government and Council of Yukon First Nations. The summit provided an opportunity to come together to build a common vision and stronger relationships among governments and helping agencies. One Elder was quoted as saying: "If there is one thing that we should be united on it is the wellness of our people."

One of the highlights was the Blanket Exercise led by KDFN's own V2K (Violence to Kindness) and Our Voices groups. This very powerful exercise provided an experience for participants to feel and understand the impacts of colonialism. V2K is a group of young people with a vision of kinder communities and improved understanding.

Dr. Bill Mussell of the Sto:lo First Nation in B.C. spoke as a First Nation community member and national leader in mental wellness. "You need to have confidence in yourself to have confidence in the work you do for your clients, community

and life," said Mussell during his presentation. He talked about historical and Indigenous perspectives in mental wellness and spoke personally to all participants. "Understanding yourself allows you to find space in the world," Mussell said. "We need to listen in ways to get to the music behind the words."

Elizabeth Manley, an internationally recognized figure skater from Ottawa and two-time Olympian, shared her journey with the audience. She was truly inspirational in telling her story of her mental health challenges and the resilience she needed to go on with life. Manley encouraged people in the Yukon to continue to address stigma and build responsive services that help people where they are and when they need the help.

With such a large and diverse group of people in attendance, participants engaged in many good discussions and provided valuable ideas for moving the Yukon Mental Wellness Strategy into action. The summit was evaluated as very successful and participants called for more gatherings in future.

Photo bottom-left: Our Voices and V2K youth facilitated the "Blanket Exercise".

Photo bottom-right: Participants learn about the impact of colonialism through the "Blanket Exercise."



Employee Safety is Important Business for Government

Kwanlin Dün First Nation is a leader in protecting its workers from injury and illness in the workplace.

The safety of employees, including the many Kwanlin Dün First Nation citizens that are part of the government staff, is paramount to government operations.

In August of 2016, KDFN was issued a Certificate of Recognition (COR) from the Northern Safety Network Yukon for achievement in safety excellence. COR is a nationally recognized program, developed by the Worker's Compensation Boards of different provinces and territories across Canada. Kwanlin Dün First Nation is the first First Nation government in Canada to achieve this status.

Over the past five years, KDFN has developed a safety program that exceeds legislative requirements. This program includes an extensive safety manual that contains many policies and procedures to protect its workers. KDFN ensures that staff has the proper training and equipment to do their work safely. The safety program was reviewed and approved Council in February of 2015.

Canadian legislative requirements state that all companies, institutions and governments: municipal, provincial, territorial and First Nation, must have a program that protects their workers from injury or illness. In the early days of self-government, Canada gave



KDFN latitude on the timing of the creation of its safety program. Over the last five years, KDFN has worked diligently to develop and implement a safety program that protects its employees, especially those doing dangerous work such as construction work with the Department of Community Services.

Kwanlin Dün is now able to share this knowledge with other First Nation governments in Yukon who are required to establish their own safety programs. This is a landmark achievement for the Government of Kwanlin Dün and we are proud of what we have accomplished as leaders in workplace safety.

Photo: Chief Bill with KDFN Occupational Health and Safety Specialist, Jeremy Jones

Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre Presents:
OUR PAST IS OUR INSPIRATION
CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS, TRADITIONAL INFLUENCE
Curated and works by: Dr. Ukjese van Kampen
Other Featured Artists: Frances Oles, Jackie Olson, Dennis Shorty, Doug Smarch Jr.
GALLERY OPENING:
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2016 AT 5:30PM



Exhibit Starts: September 21st, 2016 through to December 16th, 2016

An exhibition of current Yukon First Nations Artists who find inspiration in the ancient past of the Yukon



Art Exhibit: Our Past is Our Inspiration

An exhibition of current Yukon First Nations artists who find inspiration in the ancient past of the Yukon.

Curated and works by: Dr. Ukjese van Kampen

Other featured artists: Frances Oles, Jackie Olson, Dennis Short, Dough Smarch Jr.

Exhibit started: September 21, 2016 and runs through to December 16, 2016 at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.



Above photos:
*Mothers and babies
at HBHG activities.*

Parents Benefit from Bigger, Better Program

The maternal, paternal, and child program at the Kwanlin Dün Health Centre, also known as Healthy Babies, Healthy Generations (HBHG) is growing. Since its inception in 1999, it has seen its number of participants grow from a just few to over 30. The program staff now consists of a registered nurse and a support worker who work hard to bring this excellent program to young families in the community.

“We are excited to expand in many areas,” says Kathryn Laloge, Registered Nurse with the HBHG program.

“This year there is a strong focus on increasing access to Elders for parents and young children. Other program goals this year are to further develop traditional prenatal teaching classes and to find creative ways to connect more with children ages 18 months to 5 years to support their health and development. We are also developing more resources for new fathers.”

HBHG serves expecting parents and families with children up to age 5. The program provides prenatal clinic visits and classes (either one-on-one or in groups). After your baby is born, they offer home and clinic visits, breastfeeding support, immunizations and health checks until age 5. The program sees a variety of families, both Kwanlin Dün and non-Kwanlin Dün, with a programming focus on KDFN parents and children.

Twice a month, they hold a popular health-teaching lunch. Meeting at the Dusk’a Head Start Family Learning Centre or the Health Centre, lunch is served, and a new topic is presented, either by one of the staff or a guest speaker. “Topics we have covered in the past are: self-care, dental hygiene, infant massage, and time management,” says Laloge. They meet every second Tuesday at Dusk’a from 12-2 and every fourth Thursday at the Health Centre from 12-2.

Another popular program is the monthly community kitchen. Renee Roy, the HBHG Support Worker holds this educational get-together the last Friday of every month covering topics like canning, nutritional one-pot meals on a budget and healthy kid-friendly snacks. “Throughout the year we also hold recreational events like a BBQ and family swim at the hot springs,” says Roy. “For the last two consecutive years we’ve hosted the Big Latch On... a very popular international breastfeeding event.”

This year, HBHG staff are inviting more and more Elders to their community kitchen, HBHG lunches and on-the-land outings. They host a Halloween and Christmas party jointly attended by both the HBHG participants and Elders. Young families with Elders recently attended a fish camp, medicine harvesting and berry picking outings.

At the fish camp the group caught a salmon in Marsh Lake! “Elder Billie Giroux attended the Big Latch On event and Elder Annie Smith attended the self-care luncheon,” says Laloge. “The knowledge they share on the topics is invaluable.”

Another area they are excited to expand is father involvement. “We are in the early stages of helping the community develop a fathering group,” says Roy. “Fathers play such an important role in family health and we want to celebrate them.”

Staff at HBHG are working hard to develop and improve their programs. “If you are a mother, father, or soon-to-be, come down and see us for more information on our fun and exciting program offerings,” says Roy.



For more information contact Kathryn Laloge or Renee Roy at (867) 335-4477 or (867) 334-3128; email: kathryn.laloge@kdfn.net or renee.roy@kdfn.net



Dusk'a 2016 Carrot Festival

The Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre is home to one of Yukon's most progressive and creative Aboriginal head start programs. A goal of Dusk'a is that its graduates are well prepared and eager to learn when they leave the centre and move on to kindergarten in the Yukon school system. The ratio of staff to children is optimal and the strong programming

is based on Southern Tutchone culture and language instruction. Annually the centre receives an in-depth inspection and regularly, the centre is subject to ad hoc inspections. The Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre consistently receives high marks on its inspections; for the past four years its inspection results have been exceptionally high.

Photos Above:
Dusk'a 2016 Carrot Festival and harvest.

Waterfront Heritage Book off to a Great Start

**Community meeting
on the project
October 19
at Nàkwät'à Kù**

Despite work schedules, long summer days, a bumper season for berries, mushrooms, rabbit and traditional medicines, the Kwanlin Dün community came out in droves to fill out the Waterfront Heritage survey this past summer. The opinion survey asked Kwanlin Dün members about what activities, events, places or people should be included in the Waterfront Heritage book. There will be no one author; the book will be written in the words of Kwanlin Dün citizens themselves.

Creation of the book means the Waterfront Heritage Project has moved into the production phase. "Every day we wake up and we know we have a book to write," says Rae Mombourquette, Community Liaison and Production Coordinator for the Kwanlin Dün Waterfront Heritage Project. "We keep pushing towards that goal against timelines, budgets, and the busy schedules of our community."

The survey also asked citizens to draw pictures of their definitions of heritage, culture and community. The largely urban Kwanlin Dün community demonstrated a strong connection to our lands.

"The most surprising, and encouraging part was the number of young men who came out to the meetings," says Mombourquette, pointing to some of the



community artwork. "I thought at first they came for the free pizza, but they stayed, completed the surveys and drew remarkable images depicting fish camps, hunting parties, and time spent with Elders. It was really inspiring."

The book is scheduled to be published and ready for distribution by December 2017. The book development team has selected and engaged mostly KDFN authors, illustrators and a team of people who will read the book as it's written and brainstorm ideas on how to tell the Kwanlin Dün history.

**A presentation on the book
brainstorm sessions, survey results
and survey winners will be discussed
in full on October 19th from 5-7 pm at
Nàkwät'à Kù.**

*For more information
please call Rae
Mombourquette @
633-7800 ext. 120;
waterfront.heritage@
kdfn.net*

Photos: Community
sketches drawn at
meetings.





Photo: Steven Shorty, team CAP, at the start of the race.

Carlick and Shorty take on the River Quest

This summer, KDFN citizens Melissa Carlick and Steven Shorty paddled one of the world's toughest paddling races: the Yukon River Quest. Leaving Whitehorse on June 29, a record 93 teams participated in the 715 km race to Dawson City.

Carlick recalls the months of training. In winter, her seven-person team (Team Ts'ávit) would meet for 7 a.m. practices. When the ice broke, they canoed stretches of open river. Led by paddling Olympian Jim Boyde, she says the team was strong — but not just physically. “We so diligently prepared for this physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually,” she says.

For Carlick, it was more than just a paddling race. In 2011, she completed her master's thesis looking at the healing effect of journeying in a dugout cedar canoe created by Yukon First Nation carvers. She can draw parallels between this and her River Quest experience.

The start was impressive: Team Ts'ávit passed other boats on both sides securing a spot at the front of the pack.

Big Salmon to Carmacks was challenging. “I was exhausted and the river seemed to never end,” she says. As they arrived, she was energized to see supporters on the shore drumming them in.

At Five Finger Rapids, her father William Carlick was on the shore drumming and singing. “It really revved us up,” she says.

The Carmacks-to-Dawson section was her favourite. “Being far away from any road was

so healing,” she says. “The high rock walls, the mountains, the animals showing us they are there. It was spiritual.”

Coming in to Dawson, pumped up by the sound of their supporters' drumming, they finished with an excellent time of 49:12. They won second in their Class and 9th overall. Carlick says she fell in love with the race and will do it again.

Steven Shorty paddled in the River Quest for a second time — and on short notice, called in as a replacement the day before the race. He was on Team CAP, made up of mostly Yukon First Nations paddlers. With a time of 53:43, they improved on last year's time and won first in their class.

Well done Steven and Melissa!

Below, L-R: Judith Kuster, Melissa Carlick and Steven Shorty at the start of the race at Rotary Peace Park, Whitehorse. Elder Judith Kuster provided the blessing to all paddlers for a safe journey.



Kwanlin Dün Department of Education

Frequently Asked Questions

Staff at the Department of Education hear many questions from citizens. We know that if a few people are asking, many more are also wondering.

We hope some of these answers help.

How do I access post-secondary education?

If you are a Kwanlin Dün citizen you may be eligible to apply for funding for post-secondary education under the KDFN post-secondary policy. Take a look at the policy on our website and make an appointment to talk with Roxane Johnnie, the post-secondary program coordinator. **The deadline to apply for funding for January studies is November 15, 2016.**

What if I want to go to college or university but I don't know what I want to take?

At the House of Learning, we offer career counselling. Career counselling can help you to identify what your unique gifts are and how to focus them into a career direction. We can then help you plan a path to get there.

What programming is offered at the House of Learning?

We offer programming aimed to increase employability for KDFN citizens. Keep an eye on the KDFN newsletter, website and Facebook page for upcoming courses. You can also connect with Faith Whiting (Adult Educator) at any time by calling the House of Learning at (867) 633-8422.

What if I want to take a course that is not offered through the House of Learning, like First Aid?

Courses like First Aid will be offered at the House of Learning during our Employment Readiness Boot Camp in April 2017. If you can't wait that long and the course you are interested in will directly increase your employability, you may be eligible for ALFA (Aboriginal Labour Force Alliance) funding. ALFA is a work-related fund used to assist KDFN citizens in accessing funding for work gear, training and in some cases, wage subsidy. This funding is administered through Roxane Johnnie at the House of Learning. ALFA requires that you attend and complete a course once you are registered. If you fail to do so, you will be required to pay the entire cost of the course back to ALFA before accessing further funding.

Is there tutoring help available for me or my child?

Yes! We offer tutoring for adults (all year long) and school-aged children (during the school year) – subject to availability. Please contact Department of Education staff if you'd like to further your learning in any way.

If I have concerns about my child at school, who do I talk to?

Our Community Education Liaison Coordinators (CELC) Cynthia James (at Elijah Smith School) and Evelyn Troy (at Porter Creek/FH Collins Secondary schools) act as support for students and parents in the school system. They are there to work closely with families and children to increase student success.





Left: Life-long teacher and learner, Elder Louie Smith, regularly stops in to Kenädän Ku to teach and learn.

Is there help for me if I'm looking for employment?

Yes! We have an Employment Support Facilitator who can help you identify and address your barriers to employment – whether that means more training, help with a resume or job search, etc. We use a case-management system for education and employment. This means we start from where you are at, figure out where you want to be, create an action plan, and support you along the way.

What if I want to apprentice in the trades?

Come and see us to create an action plan and get support to reach any educational or employment goals you may have – including the trades.

What is the Department of Education doing about literacy in the community?

We offer tutoring for school-aged children and youth to address gaps in learning. Our CELCs work closely to link children and youth with tutoring support. **The Yukon Literacy Coalition will offer a literacy program for children in Grades 3,4 & 5 at**

the House of Learning on Wednesdays from 3:30 – 5:00 starting October 12th, 2016.

Kwanlin Dün also employs a certified teacher to support adult learning. Our Adult Educator is available either to work 1-on-1 with you to increase your literacy skills or to connect you with programming in the Whitehorse community that can help you reach your goals. Learning is a lifelong process and it's never too late to focus on literacy.

What is the Department of Education doing to engage citizens in learning about traditional cultural values and language?

Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre offers traditional language and cultural programming for children. Kwanlin Dün Department of Education also funds cultural activities at Elijah Smith Elementary and Porter Creek Secondary schools such as cultural camps, Elders teas, year-end feasts, dream catcher workshops, etc.

There will be programming available for adults at the House of Learning this year too, including a sewing circle, language lessons, a history course and heritage workshops.

For more information, contact Kenädän Ku at (867) 633-8422 or education.reception@kdfn.net

Upcoming Courses at Kenädän Ku - House of Learning 2016/17

Programming at Kenädän Ku is funded through Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Yukon Government Advanced Education and the Aboriginal Labour Force Alliance (ALFA), and is intended to build and strengthen employment skills.

All courses are offered at Kenädän Ku. Participants must be unemployed and not collecting employment insurance. Registration is required and available on a first come, first served basis. Unless otherwise noted programs are also available to other Yukon First Nation citizens at the cost listed with 75% of all seats reserved for KDFN citizens (up to two weeks prior to the course).

Anyone registered in a course must give five business days' notice of cancellation for a refund. KDFN citizens who fail to do so may be required to pay the full cost of the course back to KDFN before accessing any future programming.

To register for courses please contact Faith Whiting at the House of Learning **867-633-8422 ext. 507** or faith.whiting@kdfn.net

Essential Skills: A Focus on Computer Skills

Nov 14-25

Mon-Fri
9:00am-3:00pm

*Yukon Learn
course*

Digital Skills for the Work World (2 weeks)

This is a two-week program that will assist you in gaining introductory computer skills (no experience necessary). Topics covered include; computer basics, internet and email use, using Windows 7, introduction to MS Word, resume and cover letter building and job searching. This course is a pre-requisite to MS Word Level 1 and MS Excel Level 1 courses offered in January.

Cost: \$850 per person (funding is available for unemployed KDFN citizens)

Jan 23 & 24

Mon & Tues
9:00am-4:30pm

*Yukon College
course*

Microsoft Word Level 1 (2 days)

You will learn how to create and edit spreadsheets for business reports such as budgets or cash flow reports. Focus is placed on ensuring the basic skills are learned and can be applied to reports, including creating and editing simple formulas to handle common types of calculations.

Cost: \$250 per person (funding is available for unemployed KDFN citizens)

Jan 26 & 27

Thurs & Fri
9:00am-4:30pm

*Yukon College
course*

Microsoft Excel Level 1 (2 days)

You will learn how to work with documents such as letters, forms, and newsletters. The user will gain fundamental concepts and skills, building on this foundation as they continue to increase their productivity to apply creative features and enhance various documents.

Cost: \$250 per person (funding is available for unemployed KDFN citizens)

Jan 17 & 18

Tues & Wed
8:30am-12:30pm

TD Bank course

Money Matters (2 days)

Do you want to learn more about how to manage your money wisely? This workshop covers the basics of banking, how to budget your money, information on credit and borrowing and ways you can save. Money Matters is an introductory financial literacy program that was developed in 2011 and has reached more than 5,000 adult learners in Canada.

No cost

Personal and Career Exploration

Oct 19 & 20

Wed & Thurs
9:00am-3:00pm

*Spring session (dates
to be announced)*

Personality Dimensions (2 days)

Personality Dimensions is a 2-day workshop that presents a tool for participants to learn more about themselves and their preferences. This tool can help participants discover more about their communication styles, interpersonal relationships, skills, interests, and potential careers or fields of education suited to them.

Cost: \$250 per person (funding is available for unemployed KDFN citizens)



You must take **Digital Skills for the Work World** before both the **MS Word and MS Excel Level 1** courses (or demonstrate equivalent computer skill).

Are you thinking of post-secondary school but not sure which program to take?

Have you had a few jobs but none of them felt like the right thing for you?

Career Focusing™ (2 days)

In the Career Focusing™ program, facilitators will help you learn exactly what work is a good fit for you. You will develop the tools to look forward and figure out where you are going (to work that fits) and map backwards from there to identify the best ways to prepare/qualify to get there (learning options or skill development activities that fit). You will learn how to set a plan and put it into action.

Cost: \$250 per person (funding is available for unemployed KDFN citizens)

**Career Focusing™ is also available by individual appointment at the House of Learning.*

Info Session – Working for the Federal Government

Representatives of the Federal Public Service will be at the House of Learning to discuss the federal recruitment process. Come and find out how to navigate their process and get your foot in the door (especially if you are a post-secondary student).

No cost

Strength through Culture

Sewing Circle

Participants will focus on building a traditional skill set by learning to sew a potlatch vest. Southern Tutchone language lessons will be built into the circle learning. Come and strengthen your traditional skills and work on wellness through cultural learning.



Open to both men and women - must be unemployed and a KDFN citizen. No cost.

YFN 101: Yukon First Nations History Course

This 1-day course is intended for anyone interested in learning more about Yukon First Nations and Self-Government. Develop a broader understanding and appreciation for the key moments in Yukon First Nations' distant and recent past. The day includes interactive activities, discussions and presentations by staff in the First Nations Initiative department at Yukon College. The instructors incorporate historical timelines, facts, personal stories, and activities for an engaging look at history and recent developments.

Cost: \$250 per person (funding available for unemployed KDFN citizens)

Yukon Archives Heritage Project

This is a chance to learn how to use the Yukon Archives to research your family/community history. Kwanlin Dün elders will be available on the second day of the project to offer historical context to research.

Open **only** to unemployed Kwanlin Dün citizens. No cost.

Look for these courses coming in 2017

Yukon Women in Trades and Technology (YWITT)

Have you ever considered a trade? Want to pick up some power tools and spend time working on a project? YWITT is offering the chance for KDFN mother/daughter teams (or auntie/niece teams) to attend this one-day workshop at the Yukonstruct workshop downtown.

Open **only** to unemployed Kwanlin Dün women. No cost.

Tutorials for Class 7 Driver's Licensing

These tutorial sessions are intended to help participants gain the information and confidence to pass the test to obtain a Learner's License. We will cover the details of the Yukon Graduated License program, learn the rules of the road and traffic signs.

No cost.

Employment Readiness Boot Camp

During the months of April & May 2017, the following courses will be offered; Standard First Aid, Food Safe Level 1, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information Systems (WHMIS), Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG), H2S Alive, Fall Protection, Confined Spaces and Chainsaw Safety.

Oct 26 & 27
Wed & Thurs
9:00am–4:00pm

*Spring session
(dates to be
announced)*

Oct 28
Friday
9:00am–Noon

Oct 18 – Nov 22
Tuesdays
9:00am–3:00pm

Feb 2017
*(dates to be
announced)*
*Yukon College
course*

Feb 2017
*(dates to be
announced)*

Feb/March 2017
*(dates to be
announced)*

March 2017
*(dates to be
announced)*

April & May 2017
*(dates to be
announced)*

**Thank you to KDFN's summer students!
Best wishes in your 2016-17 academic year.**



L-R: Antonio Johnson, Daynika Jim, Chris Vance, Dustyn Shorty and Wass Migwans. Missing from photo: Sean Dawson, Cynthia Taylor, Jeremiah McClusky and Calvin Scurvey.

Top: Amber Rose Shorty and Jordan Holway. **Bottom:** Jasmine Bill.

RETURN ADDRESS:

Kwanlin Dün First Nation

www.kwanlindun.com

 Find us on Facebook!

35 McIntyre Drive
Whitehorse Yukon Canada
Y1A 5A5

Phone: 867-633-7800

Fax: 867-668-5057

reception@kdfn.net



DESTINATION Address: