

# Kwanlin Dän Ch'a



Kwanlin People of Whitehorse, How are you?



## Rehearsing Workshops

A group of KDFN youth called the **V2K Warriors** (V2K=Violence to Kindness) will be offering three one-day workshops on **Lateral Violence** for youth in June and July. Rehearsing the workshop at the Potlatch House are (left-right): Teagyn Vallevand, Kuduat Shorty Henryu (back), Isabel Walker (front), Jordan Vallevand, Marlon "Riel" Scarff

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# Message from Chief Doris Bill

*Chief Bill and Chief Sidney at the April Intergovernmental Forum.*



Spring is a time of rejuvenation and hope. It is a promising time to think about wellness and summer work activity planned.

In this newsletter you'll read about your government's work on Health and Education activities. You'll also read about a National Wellness Knowledge Gathering Kwanlin Dün was invited to host – at this gathering KDFN highlighted its success with the land-based wellness programming at Jackson Lake and the work we are doing on the community's Crisis and Emergency Response Plan. It is inspiring to hear national recognition on our initiatives.

We are proud to highlight two very accomplished citizens – Katelyn Dawson, who is the first Kwanlin Dün woman to receive Red Seal certification in carpentry and Gary Baillie, who received the Caring Canadian medal from the Governor General of Canada. We are so very proud of you both!

We've also reached a major milestone in the establishment of Kusawa Park – the steering committee has provided a recommended management plan. Thank you to the Lands and Resources department for its work and guidance on the committee. Council is pleased with the recommended management plan. The proposed plan will support the re-integration of First Nation people and culture in an area where we have gathered for millennia.

Citizens looking for employment should consider the work that will be available during both the construction and operation of the new Whistle Bend Continuing Care Facility being built on KDFN traditional territory. The Kenàdän Kù (House of Learning) can assist with training and resumé writing. Major renovations for the Nàkwät'à Kù Potlatch House are also scheduled for this summer.

So much has happened in the just the last few short months that it is even harder to summarise what your government has been doing over the last two years! To remind us all, we will soon be producing a document – a report card, for citizens to see for themselves.

Finally, I would like to remind all citizens that you are welcome to observe Council meetings. You are also welcome to make presentations to Council. We ask only that you notify the Council Office of your issue before the meeting so administration may prepare.

**Back row:** Danny Creswell (CTFN), Simon Mervyn Sr. (FN of NND), Stan Njootli (VGFN), Elaine Taylor (Deputy Premier), Eric Fairclough (LSCFN), Kristina Kane (TKC), Math'ieya Alatini (KFN), Carl Sidney (TTC), Doris Bill (KDFN), Steve Smith (CAFN), Kevin McGinty (SFN)



**Front row:** Premier Darrell Pasloski, CYFN Grand Chief Ruth Massie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett and Elder Chuck Hume

## Intergovernmental Forum Back on Track

The Intergovernmental Forum (IGF) is a meeting of all Yukon Self-governing First Nations, the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister, the Yukon Premier and the Grand Chief of the Council of Yukon First Nations to

discuss Final Agreement and Self-government Implementation issues. April 8th, was the first meeting with the new federal minister and the first IGF in many years. Canada has committed to re-instating twice-annual meetings.



# Sweeney Scurvey's Book of Powerful Poems

His friends in residential school thought Sweeney Scurvey would grow up to be a millionaire for all the incredible song-poems he wrote. He never did get rich, but he kept writing poetry. And we can all thank him for it. In his recent book of poems *A Glimpse of Peace*, Sweeney shares the best of his writing over several decades.

Sweeney has faced many challenges — residential school traumas, alcoholism, homelessness, tragic personal losses — but it's from rock bottom that he could see his way out, his "glimpse of peace."

With clear, powerful language, Sweeney writes both personal and fictional stories of people's struggles — many of whom blaze their trail out of the darkness. "My writing is spiritual, and my writings are about these journeys," says Sweeney in the book's preface.

He also writes about a time past. Before the highway, before residential school. In his poem, "Disturbing the Peace," he describes life in his family's peaceful camp and how instantly life changed with the highway coming through. "Soon trucks and cars and busses, Disturbed the once serene camp... Life as we knew it was no more."

Many people may already be familiar with Sweeney's poems and writing. He has contributed a hundred pieces to the Whitehorse Star, Yukon News, and Dannzha Magazine, and the Vancouver United Church Newsletter some of which appear in this collection. Several poems were published in the Yukon College newsletter, where he completed a diploma in Social Work.

Though he says writing poems helped with his own healing journey, he hopes his words reach others, too. His advice to young people today, "Don't turn to the bottle or drugs. Don't be exactly like your old man or old woman."



**Hey!**

**Haven't we suffered enough already?  
So why are we continuing the abuse?  
Why do we keep blaming everyone else?  
And why do we continue to sing the blues?  
Why do we spread lies about one another?  
Why do we keep putting each other down?  
Why do we keep fighting each other?  
Let's smarten up! Stop acting like clowns!**

**Life is too short  
To waste our time  
Let's make it work  
We still have time.**

*Everyone should pick up a copy of these inspiring, empowering poems. They are available at the KDFN administrative office front desk - (867) 633-7800, or by contacting Sweeney Scurvey at (867) 332-0070.*

## Save the Date!

**The KDFN Summer General Assembly (G.A.) is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, June 16, Friday, June 17 and Saturday, June 18.**

The Summer G.A. will be on the land at Jackson Lake. There will be a community

barbecue on Thursday evening and the business meetings will be on Friday and Saturday.

Watch for more information on the agenda and transportation at [www.kwanlindun.com](http://www.kwanlindun.com) and on the Kwanlin Dün facebook page.

We look forward to gathering with you on the land.

*For more information call (867) 633-7800*



## Huge Step Made in the Creation of Kusawa Park

The creation of Kusawa Park — a treaty obligation — is a big step closer. The Kusawa Park Steering Committee, with representatives from Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Government of Yukon, has completed its recommended management plan. The recommended plan now goes forward to each government for comment, modification and formal approval.

John Meikle, Senior Lands & Resources Planner with KDFN. “A major part of the Kusawa Park Plan Steering Committee’s work is done. The steering committee has been working on the plan since 2009 and now we have presented a solid plan to our respective governments.”

“This recommended plan supports the spirit of the Final Agreements,” said Dave Sembsmoen, Director of Lands and Resources. “It is another example of how First Nation governments can collaborate with the Yukon government and move forward as equal partners to co-manage our resources.”

*Above: Rose Creek  
Aug 2014*

*Below: Upper Trout  
Lake Aug 2014*

*(Photos: John Meikle)*

“This is a very important milestone,” said



**“It is another example of how First Nation governments can collaborate with the Yukon government and move forward as equal partners to co-manage our resources.”**





The Steering Committee aimed to address conservation goals, support visitor activities, and preserve and enhance First Nations heritage, values and interests.

The committee worked hard to ensure that the management plan rejuvenate the sense of homeland that has been lost to many First Nations as others made demands on the land. This plan re-integrates First Nations into an area where their roots and history are extremely deep.

KDFN direction on the plan was confirmed during a visit to Rose Lake last July as part of the KDFN Land Visioning process. Elders and community members shared ideas — many of which are reflected in the draft plan. For example, the plan

recommends the revival of ancient traditional trails like the Tlingit Trail. It also describes the use of First Nations place names and signage and the re-establishment of cultural camps. The plan also stresses that ATV access must be managed and sensitive areas protected.

Once Kusawa Park is official, First Nations will also play a role in its management. There will be a management committee established made up of representatives from the three First Nations and the Yukon government.

Kusawa was always an area where First Nations gathered. This plan supports all three First Nations getting back to doing what they always did.

**Top Left:** William Smith at Rose Lake, July 2015.

**Top Right:** Aerial view of Takhini River, July 2011.

(Photos: John Meikle)

For more information, contact John Meikle (867)-633-7859 [john.meikle@kdfn.net](mailto:john.meikle@kdfn.net)



**Rose Lake Camp:**  
L-R John Meikle, William Smith, Irma Scarff, Rudy Huebschwerlen, Dustin Huebschwerlen and Wayne Jim  
(photo: Geoff Cowie)



# KDFN Youth Turning Lateral Violence into Lateral Kindness

**Below:** Learning how to do the Blanket Exercise at the Potlatch House. The exercise was lead by staff of the Yukon Government's Respectful Workplace Office.

**Bottom:** Shooting lateral violence scenarios on the iPad. L-R: Isabel Walker, Aurora Hardy, Les Walker, Jordan Vallevand, Marlon "Riel" Scarff

A group of KDFN youth will be offering three one-day workshops on Lateral Violence for youth in June and July — with more dates in the works. They call themselves the V2K Warriors (V2K = Violence to Kindness) and they hope to help put an end to the destructive practice that is rampant in KDFN and First Nations communities across Canada.

The first step, they say, is raising awareness. "For a long time people haven't known about lateral violence," says Teagyn Vallevand, one of the youth facilitators. "Now people are aware that it's a real thing. That awareness is half the battle. Then change can happen."

Lateral violence is not physical aggression nor is it simply bullying. It happens when a marginalized group turns on itself to act out their rage, anger and frustration. It is the result of colonization, oppression, inter-generational

trauma and discrimination. Lateral Violence includes gossip, shaming, blaming, putting down others, and family feuds. Some examples of its effects include stress, ill-health, low self-esteem, and dysfunctional families and workplaces.

"Lateral violence happens to everyone in the community," says Vallevand. "Now they can put a name to what has happened to them."

People in the community have already started learning about Lateral Violence. In 2013 and 2014, KDFN hosted a series of workshops about lateral violence in the workplace and the community. Workshops were geared specifically for either KDFN staff, Council or community members. The Government of KDFN has a lateral violence zero-tolerance policy in its workplace and when dealing with clients. Chief and Council also signed a statement committing to zero-tolerance of lateral violence.

"After the workshops, everyone said this is great, and now we have to do something on this with the youth," says Thomas Shepherd, a social worker and consultant. Social Innovation Consulting (Shepherd and Marilyn Jensen) and a Kwanlin Dün First Nation project support team (Caroline Sturko, Les Walker and others) recruited youth leaders from the community.

Since early January, they have met every two weeks. First, they underwent training to learn about lateral violence, how it has impacted their lives and how they can personally overcome it. "First thing is awareness and it takes effort to recognize we have a problem," says Jensen. "Then you can start to identify and interrupt instances of lateral violence."

Next, they worked on the development of their own workshop. They developed their own agenda and tirelessly practiced the exercises and presentations. They also produced their own videos for use in both the workshops and by the KDFN community. The group is working on having the videos



distributed to other Yukon First Nation communities and Yukon schools this Spring. They also hope to lead workshops with the grade 7 class at Elijah Smith Elementary and with students in local high schools.

The full-day workshops will be lively and interactive. There will be videos, presentations, talking circles, games, symbolic exercises — and lots of yummy food. A powerful one is the “Blanket Exercise” where the history of colonization is felt and understood at a deep level.



Vallevand and the other youth facilitators hope there's a good turnout. She reminds people that it will be a hugely positive experience. “The goal is not to have it like ‘Oh, lateral violence is a bad thing and you're all bad people.’ No way. This is what it is. And this is how we're going to give the power back to the people.”

Currently, workshops for youth (13-25 years) are scheduled for June 4 (9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) and July 9 at the Nàkwät'à Kù Potlatch House with more dates still to be confirmed.



*For more information please contact  
Caroline Sturko,  
Human Resource  
Consultant,  
633-7862  
caroline.sturko@kdfn.net*

*Far left: Team  
building at Jackson  
Lake Camp with Elder  
Norman Adamson.  
L-R: Marlon “Riel”  
Scarff, Isabel Walker,  
Aurora Hardy, Pat  
Joe, Arlow Walker*

*Left: Rehearsing  
the workshop at the  
Potlatch House. L-R:  
Teagyn Vallevand,  
Marlon “Riel” Scarff,  
Kuduat Shorty Henyu*

## A Message on Lateral Violence

As a Nation, we came together to ask: What is Lateral Violence? How can we stop it?

We learned that it is violence that is directed at the people around us, instead of at our true adversaries. It includes many things: gossip, put downs, backstabbing, bullying, undermining, blaming, shaming.

We learned that Lateral Violence is a pattern of behaviour that comes from our experience of racism and oppression. It is not who we are. It is a way of surviving that we have learned, and it can be unlearned. It is not our fate.

We agreed that we all have the power to stop Lateral Violence. When we see or hear it, we will step in (as long as we feel safe). We will speak up and out about it, and we will not sweep cases under the rug. When a case comes forward, we will respond through a safe and fair process. We will listen to all parties with love and understanding.

We will replace Lateral Violence with Lateral



Kindness. When someone does something good, we will say something about it. We will lift each other up, compliment each other, and give each other support. By doing this we will give our children the future they deserve.

The good news is that we have already seen a lot of progress. We have witnessed many positive changes in the way our citizens treat each other, and we are very proud of this.





*Above Left: Dr. Lee Brown*



*Above Right: Teams preparing presentations on crisis management*

*(Photos: Alistair Maitland)*

## Building on Wellness - Indigenous Groups Meet to Share Knowledge on Mental Wellness

Kwanlin Dün First Nation was invited to host a three-day “national knowledge exchange” on mental wellness in March. Dubbed the “Bringing Our Voices Together in Wellness Gathering,” it gathered people who work to promote mental-wellness. Delegates representing indigenous groups from across Canada travelled to the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre to share what they know with Yukon and Northern B.C. First Nations.

Over 200 people were in attendance, plus many more from our community who were welcome to drop-in.

As hosts, the KDFN Wellness Team was given the opportunity to showcase their

strengths and successes in this field. They were also provided volumes of inspiring new information. In the end, the KDFN community will see enhanced services and programs. “A great deal of knowledge flowed between the 10 Mental Wellness Teams in attendance,” said Jeanie Dendys, Director of Justice at KDFN, and a presenter at the gathering. “Delegates from the Yukon were engaged and enthusiastic.”

The gathering opened with the lighting of a sacred fire at the Cultural Centre that burned continuously during the gathering. The Jackson Lake Wellness Team provided ceremonial support — songs, ceremony and prayers were shared as people visited the fire.



*Lighting of the sacred fire at the opening of the workshop*

*(Photo: Alistair Maitland)*



The first day of the gathering showcased KDFN's recent work around the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework. They shared their Crisis and Emergency Response Plan – endorsed by Council and to be further reviewed – and other community safety and security plans. KDFN was one of five projects funded across Canada to demonstrate how the Framework can be used to guide community work related to mental wellness.

The gathering focused on information exchange and relationship building. “People were able to share knowledge about promising traditional and mainstream approaches,” says Dendys. “Culture, values and teachings of the First Nation and Inuit communities form the base for most teams – and then mainstream therapies are added.” It’s this unique combination that offers the programs, services and supports that best help people with mental health and addiction related problems.

Dr. Lee Brown talked about how to create emotional competency. He encouraged us to become aware of how our thoughts influence our emotions. He also showed us how to teach our children skills to manage their emotional experiences and relationships.

Delegates also visited the Jackson Lake Wellness Camp. “Tours to Jackson Lake were very popular with visitors and they were very impressed with the KDFN land-



**“A great deal of knowledge flowed between the 10 Mental Wellness Teams in attendance.”**

based location,” says Dendys.

The Elders Panel was held on the last day of the gathering. People enjoyed the stories, life experience and humour shared by Judy Gingell, Sam Johnston and Agnes Mills.

Organizers thank financial and in-kind sponsors: Health Canada, Yukon Government, CYFN and the Thunderbird Partnership Gathering. “The Wellness Gathering was a hit,” says Dendys. “People are still buzzing from everything that was learned and shared.”

*For more information, contact Jeanie Dendys, Director, Department of Justice (867) 633-7850*

**Bottom Left:** At the sacred fire

**Bottom Right:** Elders Barbara Fred and Dianne Smith working on a presentation to the gathering.

*(Photos: Alistair Maitland)*



# Health Services - Frequently Asked Questions

*Staff at Natsheki Kü (Health Centre) hear many questions from citizens who receive service. We know that if a few people are asking, many more are also wondering.*

*We hope some of these answers help.*

## **Q. Why can't I switch from the family doctor I have to one of the doctors at Natsheki Kü?**

Natsheki Kü has doctor services three days a week and we have a waitlist. The centre provides physician services to community members who do not have a family physician.

Citizens who already have a doctor at another clinic need to remain there. Even if you haven't been to your doctor in a very long time, if you were a once a client you can likely still go back to see them.

Our waitlist is prioritised by need. Unfortunately, citizens who have a physician at another clinic are not a priority for doctor services at the health centre.

## **Q. Why do I have to wait to see the nurse when the person before me has just finished and left?**

We see community members for a wide variety of reasons. No matter why someone sees a nurse, there is a minimum amount of work that needs to be done after the client leaves.

Nurses have a legal obligation to chart their visits with a client, and to enter some minimal information into our database.

Some visits generate a large amount of follow-up if letters must be written, phone calls made (to pharmacies, agencies or other physicians), additional appointments booked, material gathered for a client, application forms completed, etc. A client may be with the nurse for three minutes and generate 20 minutes of follow-up care for the nurse.

We know it can be frustrating to wait, but we want to provide each client with the best care possible. We appreciate your patience.

## **Q. I want to see a counsellor. What do I do?**

You can call or drop by Natsheki Kü and ask to speak to the intake counsellor. The intake counsellor will make an appointment

with you or they may have time that day to talk about the kind of support or help you're looking for.

## **Q. Who can see a counsellor?**

Adults, children, youth, families and couples all are welcome to meet with a counsellor. People from all communities in the Yukon are welcome.

## **Q. What do I talk about when I see a counsellor?**

You can talk with a counsellor about anything!

Often people talk about how they want to make their life different or better. Sometimes people want to slow down on drinking or drugs, or they want help with their relationship with their kids or their partner. Sometimes people talk about the stress, anxiety or depression they are feeling. Other times people want help with grief and loss.

Some of the counsellors use art or play therapy, or other ways of working if talking is hard for you.

## **Q. I don't want people to know what I talk about. Is counselling confidential?**

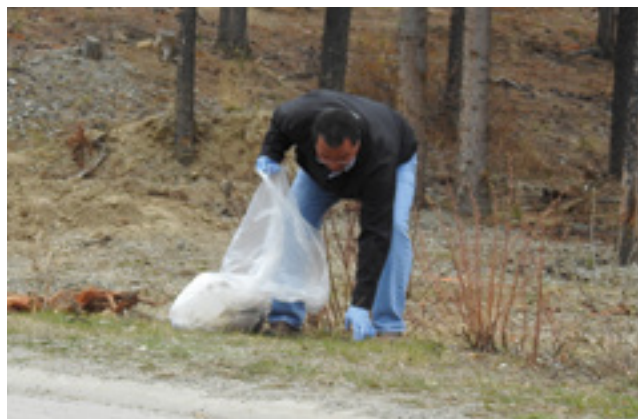
Yes, counselling is confidential. You can tell people that you are coming to counselling but we won't! Your counsellor will answer any questions you have about confidentiality. It is important to us that your privacy is respected.

## **Q. Why do I have to book a ride 24 hours in advance for an appointment?**

Natsheki Kü employs a full-time driver to provide transportation to community members. We are very pleased to be able to provide this service to citizens.

Our driver is a busy person. We had 27,000 client contacts last year! Their schedule fills up quickly, usually days and weeks in advance – and, at times, the unexpected happens. We appreciate as much advance notice as possible to serve you best.





## Community Clean-Up

The May community clean-up was a success. It is good to each do our part to get rid of the garbage the winter winds blow in.

Kwanlin Dün lands within the City of Whitehorse are currently subject to city

by-laws. This means that citizens (including tenants) are responsible for keeping their yards free from hazards that may affect the health and safety of children, Elders, youth and adults. KDFN's tenancy agreement requires tenants to remove vehicles that are not insured or registered.

**Above:** Chief Bill and Vincent Smarch, Director of Community Services, doing their part.

## Moving Further into the Digital World – eHealth Progress

The Yukon government's eHealth Project, in partnership with Canada Health Infoway, is working closely with KDFN to enhance electronic health care at the Kwanlin Dün Health Centre. First up is delivery of a new service that will allow KDFN nursing staff to electronically order, track and view laboratory results. This new service, which is expected to improve patient care and safety, is scheduled to arrive at the clinic this spring! This will mean better

connection for medical staff and quicker, safer service for you.

There's more on the way later this year including a new Drug Information System that will give service providers an instant, up-to-date and accurate view of a patient's medication history.

Stay tuned for more details on these exciting developments.



Learn more about eHealth in Yukon by visiting [www.hss.gov.yk.ca/ehealth](http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/ehealth) or contact the KDFN Health Centre at (867) 668-7289 or [health.reception@kdfn.net](mailto:health.reception@kdfn.net)

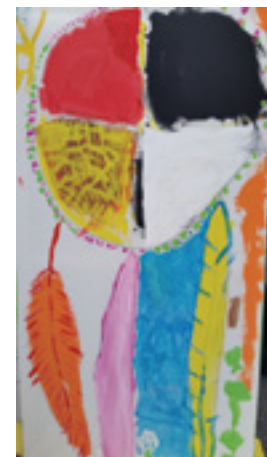
## Attawapiskat - We Care!

Students of the KDFN After School Program painted this canvas in support of the youth of the Attawapiskat First Nation and its suicide crisis.

The artists, aged 6 to 8, were: Natalie Thompson, Alaya Jeffrey, Chanel Sutherland-Brackenbury and Novak

Calbery. The youth empathise with the nation which is approximately the same size as Kwanlin Dün. They chose the medicine wheel because it represents health and healing.

The canvas has now been mailed to the Ontario First Nation.





*Hank Henry (L), Floyd Charlie (R) during the April Technical Tree Falling and Cutting (Chainsaw) course.*



*Students enrolled in the April Technical Tree Falling and Cutting (Chainsaw) course. Back L-R: Abigail Gordon, Tyler Tom Tom, Frank Charlie Jr, Steve Morberg (Instructor), Dustyn Shorty, Jeremiah Gordon, Philip Asp, Justin Charlie. Front L-R: Floyd Charlie, Chris Dawson, Jim Kathrein (Instructor), Hank Henry*



*Employers speaking with potential employees at the Spring into Work Recruitment Fair.*

## Kenàdän Kù Update (House of Learning)

April was “Employment Readiness” Month at Kenàdän Kù. A series of eight courses were offered to help KDFN citizens gain skills for employment. These included First Aid, Food Safe, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information Systems (WHMIS), Fall Protection, Confined Space Entrant and Standby Person, Technical Tree Falling and Cutting, Transportation of Dangerous Goods, and H2S Alive.

The KDFN Job Coach also offered workshops on developing resumés and cover letters. The coach also held mock job interviews to help citizens improve their skills, reduce anxiety and bring out their best during that first formal meeting with prospective employers.

Our “Spring into Work” recruitment event on April 15, was a great success. It brought employers together with citizens looking for employment. Over 65 citizens attended and we’ve heard citizens have been hired as a result!

If you are ready for education or employment but aren’t sure of your best fit in school or the workplace, Kenàdän Kù offers career counseling and personal support to help you figure out career, education and employment directions. We can help you create an action plan for your future, and support you along the way.

Remember the deadline to apply for post-secondary funding for the Fall 2016 semester is June 15th. Make an appointment with staff at the House of Learning to set goals and plan your course load for school this Fall. Applications are available at [www.kwanlindun.com](http://www.kwanlindun.com). Applications received after June 15th will not be considered for this semester, so please don’t hesitate.

For further information contact Kenàdän Kù at (867) 633-8422 or email [education.reception@kdfn.net](mailto:education.reception@kdfn.net)





## Got a Clog? We Might be Able to Help!

In mid-January, eight students completed a basic three-day plumbing course offered through Kenàdän Kù (House of Learning) at Yukon College with instructor Dan Scobie.

The students came with a great learning attitude and each day was fully attended. Dan kept things flowing with his humour and extensive knowledge on the subject.

"The hands-on experience after learning the basics of the material is how I learn easily, and not zone off or fall asleep," said one student.

The students made Brewster ('Dan') loops out of copper and PVC piping and learned how to take apart, and put back together, common household fixtures like toilets, sinks and taps. Soldering was a highlight for many - for some students this was a new experience.

This is certainly a class recommended for every householder - "Great experience and useful for home," was another student's comment. "It was all fun and interesting."

**Top Left:** Henry Johnson, Raven Capot-Blanc, Priscilla Smith, Justin Charlie, Billy Scarff, Abigail Gordon, George Dawson, Warren Edzerza & the Instructor Dan Scobie.

**Top Right:** Abigail Gordon framed by her PVC piping

## Employment Opportunities - Whistle Bend Continuing Care Facility Opening in 2018

The new continuing care facility is situated on the traditional territory of KDFN. During both the construction phase and when the facility is in operation in 2018, there will be jobs at the facility for qualified KDFN citizens.

PCL International is constructing the facility. KDFN will notify citizens of the application process when we receive requests for recruits. Citizens are welcome to leave their resumés at Kenàdän Kù and those who need assistance with their resumés or to build their skills should contact the Kenàdän Kù (House of Learning). A new Employment Officer will be hired soon to better serve clients.

Once in operation, there will be health-related positions such as nurses, social workers, dieticians and therapists. There will also be non-health related positions such as cooks, custodial and

maintenance workers, receptionists and security staff.

An agreement is in place for qualified citizens to work at the facility and a preferential hire policy will be in place for entry-level non-healthcare and attendant positions.

Now is the time to consider training and upgrading!

*Kenàdän Kù can assist you to get the training you need. Contact Kenàdän Kù at (867) 633-8422 or [education.reception@kdfn.net](mailto:education.reception@kdfn.net).*

**Below:** Architectural drawing of the facility – exterior view



# Katelyn Dawson Receives her Red Seal in Carpentry!

*For information on employment training opportunities contact KDFN House of Learning at 633-8422 or email education.reception@kdfn.net*

When Katelyn Dawson signed up for the carpentry program at Yukon College, she didn't realize how much her life would change. Over six years, she's had to juggle coursework, apprenticeships, exams, plus raising her now three-year-old son.

This May, Katelyn passed her final exams earning her the highest level of certification in carpentry: the Red Seal. And she's the first Kwanlin Dün woman to do so.

"It was full time all the time," she says. "I really had to manage my time. Being a mom and going to school and working is not easy but it did teach me discipline. I had a purpose: To go to work not just for me but for my son."

After graduating from high school seven years ago, Katelyn Dawson decided to sign up for an introductory Women in Trades and Technology course at Yukon College that exposed her to a wide array of trades. But she chose carpentry. It's in her blood. Her dad, Howard MacIntosh, is also a Red Seal carpenter.

After being accepted into the pre-employment

program for carpentry she immediately got a job with Canyon City Construction Ltd. "I remember that day. It was scary. It was intimidating being the only female on the crew," she says. "But they are good to me. Some of the older ones are more old-fashioned but the younger ones don't think anything about it."

She's been working with Canyon City ever since, only taking leaves to complete college coursework, and for her pregnancy and maternity leave. She says she's really proud of the work they do, and feels like she's a solid contributor to the team. "It's changed a quite a lot since I started working," she says. "Attitudes towards women have changed. Women have to prove themselves in this field - they have to prove that they can do the work too and push themselves through the daily challenges."

After completing her first year apprenticeship, she knew she wanted to keep going. Carpentry students need to complete four years of apprenticeships and coursework, plus exams in order to make it to the Red Seal level. Katelyn says the Red Seal exam was tough, with 100 questions to answer. Now she's back with Canyon City, and will be able to take on jobs with more responsibility and autonomy.

Looking back, she's so glad she stuck with it and encourages other women to enter the trades. "Break those boundaries!" she says. "Women can do traditional male jobs too."

**"Being a mom and going to school and working is not easy but it did teach me discipline. I had a purpose: To go to work not just for me but for my son."**

*Katelyn Dawson and her son Riley*





# Governor General Honours Gary Bailie for Kwanlin Koyotes

Kwanlin Dün's very own cross country ski coach and trail keeper has been recognized nationally for his efforts running the Kwanlin Koyotes ski club over the last 17 years. On March 4, Governor General David Johnston hung a medal around Gary Bailie's neck: the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award. It's handed out every year to Canadians who have made a significant, sustained and unpaid contribution to their community. That's Gary Bailie: His program encourages KDFN youth to reconnect with the land, learn teamwork and healthy living habits – as well as master ski technique. They meet once or twice a week at the ski hut. We caught up with Gary for a chat about what this award means to him:

**Kwanlin Dan Ch'a:** Congratulations Gary! It's almost 17 years of running the Kwanlin Koyotes ski program. What got you started?

**Gary Bailie:** I started it for my daughter and her friends. To get them connected to bush skills, survival and safety. And teach healthy nutrition and hydration. I wanted to have something land-based, something that gets you outside every day.

**KDC:** Why is it so important to get outside everyday?

**GB:** There's a nature deficit disorder. We need to get out on the land every day. And cross-country skiing is a natural sport for First Nations people. It takes us out into the bush, and down the trail. Now with assimilation, we need to maintain a balance, maintain contact with the bush.

**KDC:** There was a time when the majority of skiers on Canada's National Nordic Ski Team were First Nations. You yourself were a high-level competitor. How does Kwanlin Koyotes address that?

**GB:** We've got a poster in the hut of all the First Nations ski champions. We tell our kids their story. We say, "The story's still in progress. And guess what? You're in it."



*Gary Bailie receiving the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award.*

**KDC:** Do the kids like it?

**GB:** We keep it fun. Lots of little games. Kids naturally like to explore. In the summer, they help me brush and clear the trails. I ask them to name them. Sundog, Foxy, Shorty. And even if you don't like skiing, if you're into hockey or volleyball, it's perfect cross training. You'll have stamina in the 3rd period when everyone else is tired.

**KDC:** Are people sticking with it?

**GB:** Lots are still skiing now as adults. Some don't. I've seen people drop out and come back to it later. But it's not just about the skiing. It's about finding your way, taking care of yourself, making good choices. Even if they do it for just a year, the seed is planted. Sometimes it takes years for the seed to grow and blossom.

**KDC:** What makes you do all this?

**GB:** Love. I love my granddaughter so much. I love my daughter so much. Not what she does. But it's love that heals.

# First Nations Gather for Successful Information Management Symposium

*For more information, contact Carolyn Harris, Information and Records Management Administrator, at (867) 633-7800 or [carolyn.harris@kdfn.net](mailto:carolyn.harris@kdfn.net)*

The Kwanlin Dün government produces hundreds of records each day, and increasingly more in our electronic age.

Records and information management underlies everything governments do – we work with information every day, we document what we do and why we do it, we build the framework of our governments through legislative, policy and procedural documents and we rely on past records to make better decisions for the future.

All governments, especially First Nation governments, understand that to provide good policies, programs and services to citizens, a strong records management system that protects the privacy of citizens, is crucial.

It was only a few years ago, in 2013, that Kwanlin Dün concretely acted on its need to implement a viable records management system and build capacity within its staff. As a government small in number but broad in scope, KDFN needed to develop a system based on standards and best practices that was efficient, effective and nimble. And we knew we were not

alone - all Yukon First Nation governments faced similar challenges. We knew we needed First Nation government partners.

KDFN was pleased when Teslin Tlingit Council answered its call for partners to work together on a records management training project with funding through the Training Policy Committee.

On April 29, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Teslin Tlingit Council hosted the first ever First Nations Records and Information Management Symposium in the Yukon! Over a hundred people attended, representing all 11 self-governing Yukon First Nations, two First Nations from northern B.C., local organizations, and the Yukon government.

The symposium offered an opportunity to learn about information governance, electronic records management systems, access to information and protection of privacy. A roundtable discussion gave delegates the opportunity to ask lots of questions and talk about First Nation governments' needs and challenges. After a day of stimulating presentations and connection with colleagues, everyone came away with a better understanding of strategies for managing the information First Nation governments depend on daily to serve citizens.

We are proud of Kwanlin Dün's powerhouse Information management team of two – Melissa O'Brien and Carolyn Harris – for organising the symposium and implementing KDFN's records and information management system.

**Right:** Symposium organisers: Melissa O'Brien (KDFN), Wes Wirth (TTC), Corinne Marian Sheldon (TTC), Rick Scramstad (TTC), and Carolyn Harris (KDFN)

**Below:** Symposium delegates at work.

(Photos: Alistair Maitland)





# A Letter from the Citizen Registrar

## Dear KDFN citizens,

Being a citizen of Kwanlin Dūn brings benefits, rights and responsibilities. To receive these benefits you must be enrolled, and to keep you informed of your rights we need accurate contact information to reach you. Since I have been in the Citizenship Registrar position, December 2015, I have been faced with two major challenges where we need your assistance.

First, there are a high number of eligible new enrollments that have not submitted their beneficiary or citizen applications to the Citizenship Committee. These members are mainly, but not exclusively, children that have been born around or after April 1, 2005.

Your child is not automatically enrolled as a KDFN beneficiary/citizen when they are registered as KDFN status members. Enrollment is a separate application process that involves submitting an application to the Citizenship Registrar and then it being reviewed by the Citizenship Committee.

At this time, the Citizenship Committee is only reviewing new enrollments, and transfers will not be reviewed until the Citizenship Act has gone through the legislative process and passed by Council. Watch for community notices on this issue. If you are uncertain about your, or your

children's, beneficiary/citizenship status please contact me in person, by phone or by email.

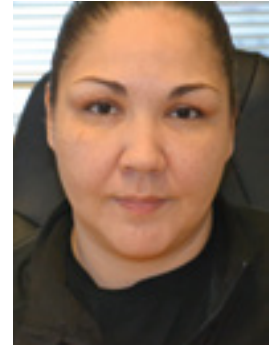
Second, my office is receiving many returned letters addressed to citizens, this means that these individuals have not provided the Registrar's Office with their change of address. Currently, for confidentiality and privacy reasons, the Registrar may not obtain contact information from third parties. Citizens must notify the Registrar's Office directly with new contact information.

Elections are coming in 2017, and if a citizen wants a mailed ballot we need your current address.

It is the responsibility of each KDFN member to keep their addresses current with the Citizenship Registrar's office. Please keep this in mind the next time you move. If you have family or friends outside the Yukon, please remind them that we need their current addresses too.

We do not want anyone missing out on opportunities to be involved in KDFN initiatives, events and activities.

With appreciation,  
Amanda Calbery



*For more info,  
contact Amanda  
Calbery at  
Ph: (867) 633-7843  
Fax: (867) 633-6601  
email: amanda.  
calbery@kdfn.net or  
citizenship@kdfn.net*

## Welcome Jordan Holway!



*Jordan is joining the Human Resources unit for the summer. He is a Kwanlin Dūn citizen and he is here to apply what he is learning at Camosun College, Victoria, B.C., in the Business Administration Program. Jordan's focus is on human resource management so this summer should provide good experience.*

# Dusk'a Head Start and Family Learning Centre

*There are always new learning experiences at Dusk'a Head Start and Family Learning Centre. Late this winter the students (right) heard stories from Irma Scarff as part of the Cache Your Story – Waterfront Heritage project.*

*The children celebrated local and international events and the new life of their quail chicks.*



*Right: Dusk'a celebrates Chinese New Year.*

*Far right: Dusk'a quail chicks hatched.*



*RCMP Officer, Jordan Booth visits with the children at Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre... We hope he's colouring inside the lines!*





# Shedding More Light on KDFN Housing

We are often asked how decisions are made on work done on Kwanlin Dün rental houses. Maintenance, major repairs, renovations and energy retrofits to Kwanlin Dün houses are done in a fair, logical and transparent way.

Emergency repairs are a priority. Major repairs, renovations and energy retrofits are based on where the funding is coming from and the funding program's specific criteria. KDFN rental revenue is low, and funds are not available from this source for major renovations.

The Government of Kwanlin Dün charges low rent on its houses to ensure they are affordable for citizens. Your rent goes towards the cost of maintaining rental units, however the reduced rent does not cover all the costs of maintaining a house and it does not cover the cost of major renovations. When rent is not paid at all, there is even less money just to do the normal wear & tear repairs and maintenance.

In 2015, Community Services and the Department of Finance completed an assessment of the KDFN housing stock. The majority of KDFN's houses are no longer under mortgage which means KDFN no longer has access to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) reserve fund for major repairs and renovations.

It is important that for the approximately 60 houses still under mortgage KDFN first accesses the CMHC reserve funds for major repairs and renovations, before the houses come off mortgage. Every year, houses come



**Left:** J. Walker Construction Co.

For more information, contact Community Services at (867) 633-7833

off mortgage and these houses are a priority so that the government maximises the funds available from CMHC.

For the majority of houses which are off mortgage, KDFN may apply annually to CMHC for funding, however this funding is limited and not guaranteed. This CMHC funding is shared with all Yukon First Nations.

Funding is also available through the Yukon government Gas Tax fund. This funding must be used to increase the energy efficiency of KDFN assets. This source of funding is limited and its use is restricted. KDFN used this money in 2015 to retrofit nine homes for tenants who have no rental arrears.

## New Sign and Speed Limit Reminder



*A beautiful new sign and another to remind drivers that the speed limit throughout the McIntyre Subdivision is now 30Km per hour!*

# Saving You Money Through Modern Telecommunications

The Government of Kwanlin Dün is transitioning to a new phone system. This will save the government over \$70,000 a year. What this means to you is that each KDFN department's main number will remain the same, but each staff member will have an extension number. This is similar to the current telephone system in place at the House of Learning and the Health Centre.

Each department's main number will remain the same. To reach the following departments dial the numbers on the right.

You can now reach all KDFN staff through the nine central numbers listed on the right! And each individual staff member's extension number will be listed on the Kwanlin Dün telephone directory on our website – [www.kwanlindun.com](http://www.kwanlindun.com).

All existing mobile numbers remain the same.

We continue to work toward improved service to citizens while governing within our means. If you have any difficulties or questions please call 633-7800.



*Above: Donna Holcomb, Main Administration Building Receptionist, training on the new phone system.*

**KDFN Main Administration: 633-7800**

**Health Department (Nats Ekhi Ku Healing House): 668-7289**

**Education Department (Kenàdän Kù House of Learning): 633-8422**

**Dusk'a Head Start and Family Learning Centre: 393-3775**

**Child Development Centre (at Dusk'a): 633-7820**

**Community Services Department: 633-7833**

**Justice Department: 633-7850**

**Jackson Lake Wellness Team: 633-2629**

**Lands and Resources Department: 633-7866**

## RETURN ADDRESS:

### Kwanlin Dün First Nation

[www.kwanlindun.com](http://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](mailto:reception@kdfn.net)



## DESTINATION Address: