

Kwanlin Dän Ch'a

"Kwanlin people of Whitehorse, how are you?"



Elijah Smith School dancers entertained people at the 2010 General Assembly. Photo: Rae Mombourquette




Keeping you updated!

KDFN has been working on strengthening its communications. Our newsletter is just one tool we have been improving.

We have also been updating and making changes to our website.

If you are online, visit www.kwanlindun.com to see our latest postings, new photos, upcoming events, newsletters and the changes to the site as they happen!

 And we're on **Facebook!** If you are too, search "Kwanlin Dun First Nation" and click "Like".

It's a great way to keep updated on upcoming events, important announcements, new postings on the website, election info and more!

See you online!

Election Dates

There will be an election for a new Chief & Council in March 2011.

Crystal Trudeau has been appointed as Chief Electoral Officer. She will run the election.

Here are some important dates to pay attention to!

Jan. 25 - Nominations open

Feb. 14 - Ballots mailed to people outside. Fax voting begins.

Feb. 21 - Nominations close. List posted next day.

Feb. 23 - Draft Voters List posted (*Check to make sure you are on it!*)

Feb. 25 - Ballots mailed to Yukon voters.

March 9 - Final Voters List posted.

March 16 - Main Voting Day!
(7am to 9pm)

For more info call 633-7800 or check www.kwanlindun.com.

Chief & Council Message

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a relaxing holiday season.

As we head into 2011, things will be very busy at KDFN. We will be seeing a lot of changes.

A new election will be held on March 16th and we encourage all citizens to get out and vote for their new leadership. As a self-governing First Nation it is very important that our citizens participate in elections and other votes. It is one way of helping guide our First Nation's future directions.

We will also see a lot of progress on some very important issues. Our government is working hard at developing three new laws on money, land and child welfare. We will also be updating our Constitution.

And we will be involving citizens in these important discussions through community consultations and citizen committees. To help with our outreach we are strengthening our communications tools.

We would like to thank everyone for their support in the last three years. *Shāw Nithän.*





General Assembly 2010

KDFN kicked off its 2010 GA with a dinner on the Friday night.

On Saturday morning, the leaders, citizens and staff got down to business. Chief Mike Smith and Richard Nerysoo co-chaired the meeting. They made sure there was quorum for all decisions and resolutions at the GA.

Over the two days of business, people heard reports from four departments: Justice; Economic Development; Education; and Heritage, Lands & Resources. The departments all presented their three-year work plans and spoke about the goals they would be focusing on in the next few years.

Resolutions

On Sunday, six resolutions were passed by KDFN's citizens.

The first of these instructed the Department of Justice to set up a working board to direct the ongoing development of the Jackson Lake Land-based Healing Project.

The second resolution called for a committee to be set up to review KDFN's Constitution.

Concerns with access to information and the transparency of Council decisions was the focus of the third resolution. This resolution called for: a clear definition of "reasonable access to information" as stated in the Constitution; access to Council decisions and resolutions; and improved communications links between KDFN and its citizens.

The fourth resolution approved the setting up of a Land Use Working Group to assist KDFN with the development of the new *Lands Act*.

The last two resolutions both dealt with housing. One called on KDFN to look at creating programs to help its Beneficiaries relocate their own homes, or have the option of building their own homes, on Settlement Lands.

The other focused on home ownership. It directed KDFN to begin the process to transfer all available housing units to its Beneficiaries as soon as possible.

Minutes and resolutions from the 2010 GA are on our website: www.kwanlindun.com/general_assembly



Elders, youth, community members and staff of KDFN participated in KDFN's General Assembly, November 5-7, 2010.



On November 8th, KDFN hosted a meeting with the Yukon's Child & Youth Advocate Office to become more informed and to allow for community members to raise their concerns. Andy Nieman (*at the microphone*) is the Yukon's first Child & Youth Advocate. His office is independent of the Yukon government. His job is to make sure that young people who are receiving government services are treated fairly and have their voices heard.

Child Welfare

As many know, last October KDFN banned Government of Yukon social workers from coming onto our Settlement Lands.

This ban was in response to the Yukon government's repeated apprehension of our children with little or no consultation with KDFN.

On November 8th, KDFN hosted a meeting with the Yukon's Child & Youth Advocate Office as a way of becoming more informed about child welfare laws and rights. It was also a chance for members of the community to raise concerns about child welfare issues.

Chief Smith has also been meeting with the Deputy Minister of the Yukon's Health and Social Services about developing a protocol that would guide how Social Services will work with KDFN. We want to develop this protocol early in 2011 so we can make

interim arrangements that will allow social workers to work cooperatively with KDFN in the best interests of our children.

KDFN's goal, however, is to develop a longer-term collaborative model of care that will cover a range of programs. KDFN will also be working hard to create its own laws on child welfare as soon as possible.

In January, we will host a community workshop on the *Yukon's Child and Family Services Act*. The workshop will allow us to continue the dialogue on this important issue and provide community members with an opportunity to have input on our future directions.

For information on when this meeting is happening, please check KDFN's website, our Facebook page or call Justice at 633-7850.

Administration of Justice funding received

KDFN has received the first round of funding to start looking at how best to take over responsibility for the administration of justice.

One area that falls under the category of "administration of justice" is correctional services like probation and victim services. Administration of justice can also cover things like policing, fines and

courts. As a First Nation creates its own laws, it needs to have its own enforcement tools.

To help us to determine KDFN's priorities and approach to taking over and administering different areas of justice, we will be doing a lot of research and community consultation in the coming months.

Welcoming Home Potlatch

On **Wednesday, Jan. 12th at 6pm at Nàkwät'à Kù** there will be a celebration of the returning home of Keyanna Sydney, daughter of Honey Starr Sydney.

Keyanna was previously in the permanent care of Family and Children Services. The event also celebrates the hard work and dedication of Honey Starr in her pursuit to reunite her family. Everyone is welcome. Info: 633-7850.

UyidYnji Tl'äku (*I let it go now*) Booklet & CD Released



In November, Kwanlin Dun released the booklet *UyidYnji Tl'äku (I let it go now)* and a CD of keynote presentations made at the very successful healing gathering and celebration potlatch hosted by KDFN one year ago. The gathering and potlatch commemorated the demolition of Yukon Hall.

Judy Gingell (*pictured above*) was a member of the *UyidYnji Tl'äku* Steering Committee and MC for the event. She was one of the speakers who presented the booklet and CD to the media and community members on November 15th. Jesse Dawson and Jeanie Dendys also spoke at the release event.

The booklet contains excerpts of all of the presentations made at that gathering. The CD has the full keynote speeches from last year's gathering. The keynote speakers were Andy Nieman, Chief Robert Joseph, and Terri Brown.

The booklet also contains Andy's poem called "I let it go now," photos of the celebration potlatch and words from some of the participants about what they learned at the event (*see the "What I learned" box*).

Copies of the booklet and CD have been sent to other First Nations to distribute to people who attended the event. It is hoped these materials will continue to help people on their healing journey.

If you would like a copy of the booklet or CD, please contact Darlene Smith at KDFN Justice. Call 633-7850 or email dsmith@kwanlindun.com.

Sacred Fire

This past fall, there were many difficult losses in the Kwanlin Dun community and many people were struggling with their grief, pain and sadness.

In response, KDFN staff and community members came together to organize a sacred fire to help people heal using our traditional approaches.

On the morning of November 17th, the sacred fire was lit in the baseball field across from KDFN's administration building. Firekeepers tended the fire for four days and four nights.

Several dozen people came by, both day and night, to share their stories and their prayers of wellness for themselves, others and the community. Many made an offering of tobacco to the fire. One day, a class from Elijah Smith School visited to learn about the cultural and spiritual role of sacred fires.

Each day, KDFN hosted a lunch at Nàkwät'à Kù. There were also circles for people to share what they were experiencing and feeling. Additionally, there were crafts and other activities going on as part of National Aboriginal Addictions Awareness Week. There was a strong sense of the community coming together.

Although the fire was put out after four days, discussions have continued about ways of doing more culturally-based teachings and healings for our community.

We would like to thank everyone who came to attend the fire and who made an offering for the wellness of our community.

If anyone would like to share ideas or comments on the event, please feel free to call KDFN Justice at 633-7850.

Taking care of our staff

KDFN understands the need for policies and practices that ensure the safety of its staff, not just because it is required by law, but because it is about caring for the wellbeing of staff.

At the entrance of every KDFN building, a Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) policy statement is posted. It outlines our leaders' commitment to pursuing a healthy and safe workplace.

KDFN is a member of the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety and has its own OH&S Committee. The committee, which has been meeting regularly since March 2010, helps address health and safety matters in KDFN, ensuring that we are meeting the requirements of the Canada Labour Code. The committee has developed the Incident/Accident Reporting Process, assisted in the development of the initial OH&S Policy, and helped with the recruitment of an OH&S Specialist.

Earlier in 2010, the Specialist assisted in setting up some of the basic OH&S systems for KDFN. They developed the initial OH&S Policy, worked on safety awareness for our field workers, arranged for Spill Kits and eye wash stations for accidents, ensured First Aid coverage for buildings.

A new Specialist OH&S will start work in January to carry on this important work, completing and implementing all 15 parts of the OH&S program and monitoring systems. Elements of this program include putting into place complete safe work procedures for all job types, and setting up auditing and inspection requirements.

Training has been provided to staff where relevant. OH&S Training programs include: Food Safe; First Aid; WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System); Traffic Control Person Training; Leadership & Safety Excellence; and OH&S Committee Member Training.



Members of the Occupational Health & Safety Committee are (left to right): Kelsey Jim, Peter Turner, Milli Gage, Billi-Jo Alexis, Darlene Smith, Marie Martin, and Dave Sembsmoen. Missing: Therese Lindsay, Casper Edzerza and Ray Webb.

Investment Governance follow-up

As follow-up to the successful referendum vote on the Investment Governance Policy, KDFN is setting up a Financial Trust Working Group. The working group will develop the policies and rules for managing KDFN's Investment Trust (*deadline for applying is January 14th*).

The working group will consider our investment goals, how to control risks, how to ensure our investments are well managed, and how to hold the people who will eventually manage the Trust, the Trustees, accountable.

The working group will also develop a consultation process to get citizen input into the development of the Trust. We will be hiring a Trust Adviser to provide technical expertise to the Working Group.

At the same time our lawyers are starting work on the new *Investment Governance Act*. It is expected that the process of setting up the Trust and the Act will take several months as there is a lot of technical work to do. We need to ensure that our compensation funds and other assets begin generating wealth for the First Nation and that they are fully protected for future generations.

For more information, contact Martin Crill in Economic Development: 633-7879 or martincrill@kwanlindun.com.

Tell the Tax Man if you live on KDFN lands!

We know no one likes paying taxes. But they help a government provide programs and services to people. They contribute to the community.

A portion of the income taxes paid to the government by anyone who lives on KDFN Settlement Lands should be going to KDFN.

All income taxes used to go to the federal and Yukon governments. But since 2006 Kwanlin Dun has had a tax sharing agreement with these other two governments. This means if you live on our lands, Government should be giving KDFN a portion of the taxes you have paid or will pay.


It doesn't matter if people are KDFN citizens or even if they are First Nations people. Anyone who

lives on our lands should note this on any of the income tax returns they have done since 2006.

This doesn't mean you will be paying more taxes. It just means KDFN will receive some of what you pay because you live on our lands.

If you have been a resident on KDFN lands but haven't been noting that on your income tax returns since 2006, it's not too late. You can fill out a form so that KDFN can get its share. More of your tax dollars can go to the community.

If you need help understanding the residency requirements or amending your taxes since 2006, please contact Heather Profeit at 633-7800 or profeit@kwanlindun.com.



T1 GENERAL 2009
Income Tax and Benefit Return

Complete all the sections that apply to you in order to benefit from amounts to which you are entitled. **YT 1**

Identification

Attach your personal label here. Correct any wrong information. If you are not attaching a label, print your name and address below.

First name and initial: _____
Last name: _____
Mailing address: Apt No - Street No Street name _____
PO Box _____ RR _____
City _____ Prov./Terr. _____ Postal code _____

Information about you

Enter your social insurance number (SIN) if it is not on the label, or if you are not attaching a label: _____
Year _____ Month _____ Day _____
Enter your date of birth: _____
Your language of correspondence: English French
Votre langue de correspondance: _____

Tick the box that applies to your marital status on December 31, 2009: (see the "Marital status" section in the guide)

1 Married 2 Living common-law 3 Widowed
4 Divorced 5 Separated 6 Single

Information about your spouse or common-law partner (if you ticked box 1 or 2 above) (see the guide for more information)

Enter his or her SIN if it is not on the label, or if you are not attaching a label: _____

Residency information for tax administration agreements (see Form YT432 for details)

Did you reside on the Settlement Land of a Self-Governing Yukon First Nation on December 31, 2009? Yes 1 No 2

Name of Self-Governing First Nation: **Kwanlin Dun First Nation** Identification Number: **11004**

Residency information for tax administration agreements (see Form YT432 for details)

Did you reside on the Settlement Land of a Self-Governing Yukon First Nation on December 31, 2009? Yes 1 No 2

Name of Self-Governing First Nation: **Kwanlin Dun First Nation** Identification Number: **11004**

Elections Canada (see the Elections Canada page in the tax guide for details or visit www.elections.ca)

A) Are you a Canadian citizen? Yes 1 No 2
Answer the following question only if you are a Canadian citizen.

B) As a Canadian citizen, do you authorize the Canada Revenue Agency to give your name, address, date of birth, and citizenship to Elections Canada for the National Register of Electors? Yes 1 No 2
Your authorization is valid until you file your next return. Your information will only be used for purposes permitted under the Canada Elections Act which includes sharing the information with provincial/territorial election agencies, Members of Parliament and registered political parties, as well as candidates at election time.

Goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) credit application
See the guide for details.

Are you applying for the GST/HST credit? Yes 1 No 2

Do not use this area: 172 _____ 171 _____

If you have been a resident on our Settlement Lands (at the end of the tax year), make it clear on your tax forms!

On the first page of the general T1 tax form, check the "YES" box in the "Residency information" section. Then write in "Kwanlin Dun First Nation" and the number assigned to KDFN which is "11004". (This image is from the 2009 forms - it will be similar for 2010 forms).

You will also need to fill out Form YT-432 to provide a few more details (it is only one page).

Judicial Council Open House

The Judicial Council helps resolve disputes between the KDFN and its citizens. Current Judicial Council members are Judy Gingell (Chair), Doris Bill, Barbara Fred and Sean Smith. Judith Kuster will soon be sworn in as the fifth member.

The Judicial Council is hosting an **Open House on January 19th from 7-9 pm at Nàkwät'à Kų.** Come see our new logo by Mark Preston and learn about the review process. There will be door prizes, snacks & refreshments.

For info on the open house or the Council's work, contact Sandi Gleason, Judicial Administrator, at 335-6726 or kdfnjudicialcouncil@gmail.com.



Dancing and Crafting the Week Away!

Last November, staff from KDFN Health kept people busy with a full week of activities as part of National Aboriginal Addictions Awareness Week (NAAAW)! There was a family and youth dance, craft activities and a poster contest. Children made rattles and others made mini button blanket works, Christmas stockings, dream catchers and canvas paintings. About 50-60 people turned out each night.

The final awards dinner, which had to be postponed, will be held on **Saturday, January 15th from 2-6 pm at Nàkwät'à Kų.** There will be entertainment, a bannock making contest and awards for the poster contest winners and for community members who are starting or continuing on their path of wellness.

For information on the dinner call Health at 668-7289.





Jordan Fred (left) learned about firearm safety this past fall from Master Instructor, Dave Sterner (right). Jordan, age 12, was one of 29 people who signed up for and successfully completed the Firearms Safety workshops offered at KDFN's House of Learning. Another 44 people received their Boat Operator Accredited Training this summer.

Cultural centre taking shape!

The long awaited Cultural Centre is taking shape; the roof is up and windows are going in!

As one stands in the grand hallways or tall Long House it is easy to get caught up in the energy and buzz happening all around you.

From the Long House one observes the chilly Yukon River and the snow draped clay cliffs on the opposite shore. Chickadees hop from one willow to another, shouting out their welcoming song; the land that our center sits on is home, our home.

The Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre proudly signifies our return to the Yukon River, once recognized as our life force: We harvested salmon out of these waters, we walked trails following the banks, and we transported ourselves and our families on the river.

The Tagish Kwan called this River Tahgàh Chō and all who are working on this project are very excited for our return “Back to the River” and the great potential this centre holds for our community.

The Kwanlin Dün Cultural Center Steering Committee has been working with KDFN's Economic Development department to create a centre that is rich in our culture, while searching for ways to make the centre financially self-sufficient.

The revenue generated from space rentals/leases, catering, and retail will be funneled back to the community by way of cultural programming and education.

We hope to revitalize our languages and art forms, and create a centre that is first and foremost a place for our people to gather and to learn.

The Cultural Centre's Steering Committee is made up of staff from Economic Development and the following Kwanlin Dün members: Gary Bailie, Rae Mombourquette, Marilyn O'Brien, Rick O'Brien, Ann Smith, Alicia Vance and Bill Webber.

Economic Development will be hosting an information session in the New Year and looks forward to community input. A logo competition for the cultural centre is also being planned.

For more information please contact Rae Mombourquette at 633-7881 or rae.m@kwanlindun.com.

Updating our Citizen Registry

KDFN is updating its citizenship list in preparation for the election in March. Shirley Bien has been appointed as our Registrar of Citizenship.

Shirley is also revising applications for citizenship and new enrolment. Once approved, new applications for KDFN citizenship can be considered by the Citizenship Committee.

People who need a Certificate of Indian Status card or a J-Treaty letter should set up an appointment with Shirley to go through your information.

For more information, and to ensure your information is up-to-date, contact Shirley at 633-7885 or shirley.bien@kwanlindun.com. Or drop by her office in the second set of trailers behind the main Administration Building.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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