

# Kwanlin Dän Ch'a

“Kwanlin people of Whitehorse, how are you?”



Mark Rutledge, an Anishinaabe dancer from the Wolf Clan of Little Grand Rapids First Nation, moved to the Yukon last year. He danced for KDFN community members last October at the General Assembly's Friday dinner.



## Open for business!

The **Citizenship Registrar Office** is open for business.

If you have any questions or need help, please drop by our office at the 2nd trailer behind the main administrative building, call Lily at 633-7865, or email [lsembsmoen@kwanlindun.com](mailto:lsembsmoen@kwanlindun.com).

## KDFN General Assembly

There will be a summer GA on July 20-22 (NEW DATES) at Jackson Lake. Look for posters or visit the website for details.

## New Song & Dance Group

A Kwanlin Dün traditional song and dance group has been started! Its first public performance will be at the Grand Opening of the Cultural Centre.

## Pertussis Immunizations

Pertusis (Whooping Cough) is still present in Yukon. Protect your family - get vaccinated. Call or visit the Health Centre (668-7289).

## Sharing our Traditions: The Sacred Fire

A large crowd gathered behind the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre for the ceremonial lighting of a Sacred Fire on Sunday, March 4th.

This was the first time a Sacred Fire was organized as part of the Arctic Winter Games.

The fire was kept burning all week, offering people a place to rejuvenate spiritually. It also provided an opportunity to share and build a greater understanding of First Nation culture among all participants and visitors.

“As aboriginal people, an important part of who we are is our spiritual side. The fire invited that element into the

Games, to come and to share together,” said Johnny Brass, one of the fire

keepers. “And lots of unbelievable sharing went on.”

Each morning, drummers from NWT came to smudge, pray and drum. Athletes, coaches, family members and other visitors from different countries and cultures came by to learn about the significance of the fire, to make an offering of tobacco, to share stories, to say a prayer or just to spend time in reflection.

Two firekeepers, Johnny Brass and Phil Gatensby tended the fire all week. They stayed in a wall tent on the site and always had food and coffee to offer to visitors. Many community members also brought stews and other food which the fire keepers were very grateful for.

On Saturday, March 10th, another ceremony was held as the fire was allowed to burn out. There is already talk of a Sacred Fire being part of future Games.



# Chief and Council Message



## Inspiring People

Last November, two people were awarded the **Community Role Model Award** as part of National Aboriginal Addictions Awareness Week (NAAAW).

Sarah McIntosh (*in photo*) inspired many when she stopped drinking and worked hard to gain custody of her granddaughter.

Henry Taylor has also been a role model as he has been sober for about a year and has been successfully employed.

At the NAAAW community dinner, **Healthy Lifestyle Awards** were also given out to a number of community members who have been living sober. Congratulations to: Jolene Smarch, Chantal O'Brien, Debra MacIntosh, George Scurvey, Nancy Porter, Emma Shorty, Elsie Shorty, Denise Peter and Jason Charlie.

It has been just over a year since we were elected and time has flown by! We have been on a learning curve to better understand our programs and services, agreements and the opportunities and challenges facing our Nation.

Over the year we have been directing our efforts towards implementing our agreements, building relationships with other governments, consulting with our citizens and building our internal systems.

As part of our work on implementing our agreements and building relationships with other governments we signed a new nine-year Financial Transfer Agreement that will finance community programs and services. We are also continuing to work on the development of our *Lands Act*, and to explore options with the Yukon government for the development of some of our Settlement Land for residential purposes.

We just met with other governments as part of the Yukon Forum. During this meeting a working group was set up to explore how our governments can work together on land-based healing.

One of our most important priorities has been to consult with our citizens so you can guide us in making decisions about the programs and services we deliver, and about the kind of community and government we want to build.

For example, last October we hosted a community meeting on housing which over 70 people attended. And in February of this year we held budget consultation meetings over five nights to provide citizens with the opportunity to learn about where our funding comes

from and how we spend it, and to provide us with ideas for future changes.

Additionally, we held our 2011 General Assembly over three separate meetings in October, February and March where departments reported on their activities, citizens shared their ideas and concerns, and 20 draft resolutions were presented to Council. We will be holding a summer GA on July 20-22, 2012 (NEW DATES) to provide another opportunity to share information and get guidance from citizens. It will be at Jackson Lake.

A significant amount of our time has also gone into strengthening our internal government capacity and systems. For example, in January we participated in a First Nations governance and leadership training course to help us better understand our roles and responsibilities as leaders. We have also reorganized our governance secretariat, now called the Executive Council Office, and are working to improve our policies, communications and records management systems. Also in January, we started a strategic planning process to help us focus on our goals and more effectively serve our citizens. We will be sharing this plan with citizens once it is ready.

We are proud of the work we have done so far, and of our dedicated staff who make it all happen. However, what has been most rewarding for us is seeing our citizens succeed. This newsletter celebrates the successes of some of our members who are excelling in their training and education, working to better themselves, and striving to gain more rewarding employment. We applaud their accomplishments!



Many community members attended a meeting on housing last October to talk about the challenges KDFN's housing program faces and the future of housing in the community.

## Talking about Housing: Challenges & Future Directions

Last October, about 70 people came out to a community meeting on KDFN housing. The First Nation hosted the meeting so that people could learn about the current challenges and future outlook for housing and provide input into KDFN's housing program.

One of the challenges that was discussed was the issue of tenants paying rent. Currently, there is approximately \$1.2 million in unpaid rent.

Additionally, the Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation (CMHC) has withheld large amounts of funding to KDFN because we have not been able to provide them with income verifications from all of our tenants. When tenants don't provide the required information to KDFN on their income, then CMHC won't provide KDFN with the full amount of funding it is eligible to receive.

Without the money from rent and from the CMHC, it is very difficult for the Housing Office to hire staff, pay for materials and maintain the equipment that is needed to run an effective housing program. In other words, KDFN is struggling to keep its houses in shape.

The issue of home ownership was also discussed at the meeting. The First Nation will be reviewing and

updating its housing policy to include home ownership options, including how mortgages, maintenance, taxes and insurance will be handled.

At the meeting, everyone was given a housing survey with questions on how to handle rental arrears, whether people would like to own their own homes and other topics.

Input from these surveys will help guide the work of the Housing Office to help KDFN ensure the program reflects the desires of community members.

There were many positive responses from people who attended the meeting. Some said they better understood the challenges the Housing Office faces in running a good program. They can see how collecting rent and income information from tenants leads to increased funds for the Housing Office, which in turn allows KDFN to better maintain homes for everyone.

*Please help KDFN get the funding we need to maintain our homes! Drop off a copy of your T4 or tax return statement to the Housing Office at 77 McClelland Road. Call 633-7847 if you have any questions.*



Ryan Kolak (*centre left photo*) and Trevor Dawson (*centre right photo*) received certificates in November after completing a 12-week Heavy Equipment Operator program. The certificates were presented by Sheila Sergy, Executive Director of Northern Safety Network Yukon and Pat Tymchatyn, Lead Instructor. *Photos: Yukon Mine Training Association*

## Ready to Roll!

Two KDFN citizens, Ryan Kolak and Trevor Dawson, are ready to make a good living after successfully completing a 12-week Heavy Equipment Operator training program.

Last year's in-depth program combined time in the classroom and in the field to train students how to operate heavy equipment.

Students had the opportunity to log many hours on different pieces of equipment including backhoes, excavators, and bulldozers.

They were put through real-life exercises relevant to work in road-building, construction, oil and gas, and mining. The students learned specific tasks such as sloping, cutting grade, rigging and slinging.

The program also emphasized safety issues and the students received certification for Transportation of Dangerous Goods, First Aid, H2S Alive and WHMIS. Additionally, the course helped graduates learn how to effectively highlight their many skills and abilities in their resumes.

The extensive course was offered by Northern Safety Network in partnership with High Velocity Equipment Training and the Yukon Mine Training Association. KDFN's Department of Education paid the tuition for the two men and additional funding for steel toed boots.

Congratulations Ryan and Trevor!



Okanagan College dean for trades and apprenticeship John Haller is expecting that many graduates from the school, like welding student Alex McDougall of Whitehorse, Yukon, will be perfect candidates to secure one of many jobs associated with a government contract to build new ships in Vancouver.

## So many job options!

Employment options for welders are numerous these days. Work is booming in Fort McMurray's oil patch, and mining activities have taken off in the North. Last October, the federal government issued contracts for building several non-combat vessels on the West Coast. Seaspan Marine is expected to create about 4,000 jobs.

"I'm pretty ecstatic," said Kwanlin Dün citizen Alex McDougall in the Okanagan's *Daily Courier* last fall. "There will be lots of opportunities for young people to get a good career going."

Alex started the welding program at Okanagan College last August with funding from KDFN's Aboriginal Labour Force Alliance program.



Photo: Monique Fry

KDFN citizen, Chris Fry, poses in front of an energy-efficient and culturally relevant home built by his Solar Decathlon team as part of an international competition. The team placed 10th overall.

## Masters in their fields!

Last year, two KDFN citizens completed their Master's programs.

In June, Joseph Fred received his master's degree in Business Administration.

Aaron Mullin completed his master's degree in Science in December.

Both students were supported financially by KDFN during their studies.

Congratulations Joseph and Aaron!

## Shine on!

The Solar Decathlon, hosted in the US, challenges student teams from around the world to design, construct and operate energy-efficient solar-powered homes.

In 2011, Canada's only team in the competition included Kwanlin Dün citizen, Chris Fry (*pictured above*). Chris has been pursuing his masters of science in Sustainable Energy Development at the University of Calgary with support from KDFN.

The vision of the Calgary-based decathlon team that Chris belonged to was to create a culturally relevant, net-zero home that addressed First Nation housing needs. The solar home they developed was designed in collaboration with the Treaty 7 First Nations of Southern Alberta.

In their report, the jury for the international competition wrote: "The attention to cultural and spiritual sensitivity exhibited in this home helps to ensure its comfort and livability. The space serves not only the individual occupants but also lifts the community."

"We wanted to share Canadian First Nations culture internationally and we did that," Chris said. "We created an efficient home that is affordable and raises awareness of the effectiveness of renewable energy. We definitely achieved our objectives."

The Calgary team came in 10th overall. You can tour the home at [www.solardecathlon.ca](http://www.solardecathlon.ca).

Great work Chris!



Congratulations to the successful House of Learning College Prep students from last term: Kristine Smarch, Millie Gage, Rachel McLeod, Dawn Calvert and Stephanie Stewart. *Missing: Priscilla Smith, Marie Webb and Alicia Vance.*



The late Howard MacIntosh Sr. (Big Mac) and his daughter Kristine Smarch both completed the Introductory Algebra course at the House of Learning in the fall semester.

## Breathe into Spring



As spring comes, sometimes there is a lot of excitement and happy anticipation of warmer weather. Other times things might feel not so positive.

For those times when you feel stressed out, worried, afraid, angry or overwhelmed...breathe your way through it!

### Try this:

Breathe in through your nose as you slowly count: 1, 2, 3.

When you breathe in through your nose, breathe into your belly. The way to know you are breathing into your belly is that, as you breathe in, your belly will lift. Your shoulders and chest will be still, and your belly will rise.

After breathing in, pause, and then breathe out through your mouth. As you breathe out your belly will fall.

Breathing slowly in this deep way - in through the nose, down into the belly, and out through the mouth - helps the body to relax. It often calms the mind and emotions too, and helps us to regain our balance.

After 5 or 10 breaths, usually you will feel more settled and grounded.

And for those times when breathing isn't quite enough, KDFN Counselling Services (located in the Health Centre) is here to help.

We have four counsellors providing services to children, youth, adults, couples, families, and elders. Counselling is free and confidential.

Come by during Health Centre hours for a cup of tea or call 668-7289 for an appointment. You can come in by yourself, or bring a family member or a friend. You could also ask one of the other Health Centre staff to introduce you to a counsellor.

## Judicial Council

The Judicial Council, set up under KDFN's constitution, protects the rights of Kwanlin Dün citizens. The Council can deal with a citizen's challenge of a decision of Chief and Council or another branch of KDFN's government. It can deal with concerns about how the *Citizenship Code* or the *Elections and Referendum Code* are applied.

For information on the Council's work, contact Sandi Gleason at 335-6726 or [kdfnjudicialcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:kdfnjudicialcouncil@gmail.com).



Youth night, organized as part of National Aboriginal Addictions Awareness Week (NAAAW) last November, was a popular event! KDFN staff and volunteers from Bringing Youth Towards Equality (BYTE) provided a range of activities and prizes! Thanks to everyone who helped out and participated.

# Dusk'a Naming Ceremony

Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre staff hosted a naming ceremony for the Centre in early December.

Although the Centre has been using the name Dusk'a for many years there had not yet been a ceremony to honour the person the Centre had been named after. The name Dusk'a was chosen for the Learning Centre in memory of the late respected elder Emma Burns.

Emma Burns was of Southern Tutchone descent and a member of the Crow Clan. Born in 1920 in the Whitehorse area, Emma lived off the land, hunting and fishing.

She and her husband raised three girls and five boys. Emma was a dedicated mother and grandmother. She was very knowledgeable when it came to her traditional lifestyle, which she passed on to her children and grandchildren.

Emma spent a lot of time with the children who attended the program at the Learning Centre. In recognition of her commitment, the Learning Centre was named Dusk'a, the traditional name given to Emma Burns.

It was wonderful to have most of Emma's children at the naming ceremony to represent their mother and be a part of the celebration to honour her. The children of the Centre danced for the guests and gifts were provided to the family.



## Focusing on Marsh Lake

There have been two "Focus Teas" in the past months with Kwanlin Dün citizens and Elders who have interests in the Marsh Lake area. At the events, participants were asked questions about their ties to Marsh Lake and their vision for the area.

People spoke of memories in 'Hungry Man Town' as the Marsh Lake area used to be known. They shared important information about their traditional use in the area.

These events are part of the information gathering stage for the Marsh Lake Local Area Plan. The planning process

began in the summer of 2011 and is currently in Phase 4, the Plan Development Phase.

Since last June a diversity of technical information about the Marsh Lake local area has been collected. This includes information on population, ecology and land use. The technical information and other public input is currently being mapped.

*For more information or to provide input, please contact Dave Sembsmoen (633-7814 ~ [dsembsmoen@kwanlindun.com](mailto:dsembsmoen@kwanlindun.com)) or Lester Wilson (633-7859 ~ [lwilson@kwanlindun.com](mailto:lwilson@kwanlindun.com)). Or visit [www.planmarshlake.ca](http://www.planmarshlake.ca) for upcoming meetings and information about the process.*

# Back to the River

## KWANLIN DÜN CULTURAL CENTRE

# GRAND OPENING



## NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

### THURSDAY • JUNE • 21 • 2012

KWANLIN DÜN CULTURAL CENTRE

**10:00 AM**

**Drumming Procession starts at Rotary Park**

**10:30 AM**

**Grand Opening Ceremony & Kwanlin Dün Dancers**

**12:00 PM**

**Bannock Bake Off**

*hosted by Aboriginal Affairs Canada*

**Salmon and Bannock Tent**

*sponsored by Northwestel*

**1:00 PM**

**Main Stage Performances**

*Enjoy an incredible afternoon of traditional and contemporary music from across the North!*

**Featuring Performances by:**

Ben Charlie  
Dennis Allen  
Kevin Barr  
Jerry Alfred  
Mathew Nuqingaq  
Boyd Benjamin

Diyet  
Dehcho Drummers  
Kaska Dena Drummers  
Dakhka Khwaan Dancers  
Miracle Drummers & Dancers

**1:00-**

**6:00 PM**

**Kids Craft Tent and Activities**

**Artisan Tent**

**Storytelling, Face Painting & More! At Whitehorse Public Library presented by Yukon Public Libraries**



Canadian  
Heritage

Patrimoine  
canadien



Yukon Métis Nation



Affaires autochtones et  
Développement du Nord Canada

Aboriginal Affairs and  
Northern Development Canada



Yukon  
Community Services  
Services aux collectivités

**SPECIAL GUESTS**

**MIKE GOUCHIE**  
**KINNIE STARR**

WWW.KWANLINDUNCULTURALCENTRE.COM

WWW.ADAKAFESTIVAL.CA

# *Come Celebrate Our Community, Our Culture, Our Centre!*

## **Ceremonial Lighting of the Sacred Fire**

All Kwanlin Dün people are invited to gather the evening before the Grand Opening to honour and appreciate the importance of the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre to our people.

We will be lighting a sacred fire to celebrate the significance of our people returning "Back to the River."

WHEN: June 20th at 5:00 pm

WHERE: At the Sacred fire pit at the Cultural Centre.

INFO: Call 633.8402

## **Kwanlin Dün: Be Loud and Proud!**

Be part of the landmark procession of Kwanlin Dün as our youth lead the way to reclaim the waterfront in our "Back to the River" celebration of the opening of our spiritual home, the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre!

Everyone is welcome to join Kwanlin Dün youth, traditional drummers and dancers in a drumming procession along the Trans Canada Trail toward the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, where the Opening Ceremonies will start. Please join us for this celebration for the Kwanlin Dün people!

WHEN: June 21st at 10:00 am

WHERE: At Rotary Peace Park

## **Calling all Ambassadors of Kwanlin Dün!**

A LITTLE time can help A LOT when you volunteer!

Volunteers are needed on June 21st to support the Grand Opening of the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre and National Aboriginal Day celebrations.

Why not volunteer and play proud host on this great day?

INFO: Call 667-7698 or sign up the KDFN Administration office.

## **Assistance for Elders to join the procession**

Special arrangements are available to Elders who wish to be part of the procession and Grand Opening Ceremony.

We will be offering different options for Elders to be part of the procession.

Rides to and from the celebrations are also available and special seating for Kwanlin Dün Elders will be available at the Grand Opening Ceremony.

INFO: Please contact Millie Sam at 633-7887 for more information.

## **Kwanlin Dün artists & crafts people needed**

Tables are available (free of charge) for Kwanlin Dün artists and crafts people who want to sell their items at the Grand Opening of the Cultural Centre / National Aboriginal Day on June 21st.

INFO: Call Katie Johnson at 332-5283 by June 18th to book a table.

## **Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre Grand Opening Thursday, June 21st 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM**

[www.kwanlindunculturalcentre.com](http://www.kwanlindunculturalcentre.com)



## Play on!

The Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre was alive with drum music and cheering in early March as Kwanlin Dün First Nation hosted the Dene Games competition for the Whitehorse 2012 Arctic Winter Games.

At the Opening Ceremonies, Acting Chief Ray Sydney welcomed athletes from across the North. Over five days, the Centre saw a lot of action as athletes competed indoors in the Hand Games, Stick Pull and Finger Pull events.



Nearby at Shipyards Park, athletes also competed in the Snowsnake and Pole Push events.

Thanks to KDFN citizen and co-Chair for the Dene Games, Shirley Dawson, for working hard to bring the Games to the new Centre.

## Doll Donation

Kwanlin Dün First Nation commissioned Annie Smith and her daughter-in-law Lena White to make a traditional doll.

The beautiful doll was then presented at KDFN's Cultural Night to Jennifer Allen, curator of the "Sewing our Traditions: Dolls of Canada's North" exhibit. The doll will now be displayed with dozens of others from across Canada's North.



## Arts and Crafts Sale

During the Arctic Winter Games, KDFN organized an arts and crafts sale at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. Many different First Nation artisans had the opportunity to show and sell their wares to local and international visitors.





## Celebrating our Culture: KDFN Cultural Night

There was much excitement and pride on the evening of March 7th as people poured into the Longhouse at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre for KDFN's first major event at the new centre.

As Elder Judy Gingell said to a delighted crowd, "When I first saw this room, I thought it was so big! Now I see it isn't nearly big enough!"

The line-up for the evening was packed as well. The Masters of Ceremonies for the evening, Sharon Shorty and Duane Gastant' Aucoin, had people cheering and laughing almost as much as Grandma Susie and Grandpa Charlie who appeared later in the evening.

Chief Rick O'Brien and Councillor Ray Sydney welcomed people to the traditional home of the Kwanlin Dün people along the banks of the Yukon River. "Being here tonight, celebrating our culture

with people from so many different communities and countries, is a dream come true," said Chief O'Brien. He also acknowledged past KDFN Chief Mike Smith and his contribution to the creation of our new cultural home. He also thanked the many people who worked so hard to put on the celebration.

Premier Pasloski also spoke about KDFN's important presence along the waterfront and its contribution to the larger community of Whitehorse.

The guests were entertained with music from Rising Sun, Jerry Alfred and his band, Dennis Allen and Sarah MacDougall. The Dakhká Khwáan Dancers drummed and danced their way into the hall and, to the beat of the Decho Drummers, led people in a large and winding round dance, bringing this special evening to a close.



# Congratulations to all of our Graduates & Students

Congratulations to all of our graduates, students and participants in KDFN training courses! If we have missed anyone, we sincerely apologize. We applaud and honour everyone who is working on advancing their skills and knowledge. Learn on!

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Taylor Vallevand-Vance Sarah Thibodeau  
Kristine Carlick-Shorty Sheilah Sutherland  
Derek Gordon Bernadette Richard  
Phyllistine Hager

## UNIVERSITY & COLLEGE GRADUATES

Joseph Fred (Masters Business Administration)  
Ukjese Van Kampen (PhD American Indigenous Studies)  
Haily Bill (Practical Nursing)  
David Gill-William (Masters Criminal & Social Justice)  
William Alex McDougall (Level C Welding)

## STUDENTS CURRENTLY STUDYING AT UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE

Jason Charlie Kynan McIntyre  
Pricilla Dawson Cody Robbins  
Mika Fox Geri Rothwell  
Christopher Fry Jason Shorty  
Kristina Gaudry Norma Shorty  
Nita Kelly Gaudry Peter Spice  
Geraldine Harris James Williams  
June Jules Kayla Williams  
Emily McDougall Tiana Williams  
Luke McDougall Dennis Calbery  
Kaiden McIntyre Melissa O'Brien

## COLLEGE PREPARATION PROGRAM AT HOUSE OF LEARNING (2011-12)

Stephanie Stewart Henry Taylor  
Kristine Smarch Elly Shorty  
Roxane Johnnie Marie Webb  
Priscilla Smith Alicia Vance  
Millie Gage

## COLLEGE PREPARATION PROGRAM AT YUKON COLLEGE (2011-12)

Jessica Bien Sarina Sydney  
Hilda Dawson Gerilee Taylor  
Kim Johnnie

## SKILLS & TRADES EXPLORATION PROGRAM 2012

Renaldo Menzi Brad Bill\*  
Merlin Charlie Winston Charlie-Smarch  
Cory Shorty\* Dan Shorty  
Darcey Carlick Nathan Dawson  
Joseph Allison \*Had perfect attendance!



KDFN's new traditional dance group performed together for the first time at the KDFN Graduation Night in May. The dance group will be performing again at the Grand Opening of the Cultural Centre on June 21st.



Elder Annie Smith worked with students in the Native Language class at Elijah Smith School to make moccasins for the Dusk'a Dancers who will be performing in Juneau in June. The session was supported by KDFN.

## PARTICIPANTS IN TRAINING OR WORKSHOPS

Caleb Ayles	Edith Dawson	Larry Moen	Justin Smith	Karen McLeod
Francis Ellis	Hilda Dawson	Rae Mombourquette	Lisa Ann Smith	John Patrick
Pricilla Smith	Katelyn Dawson	Melissa O'Brien	Philip Smith	Jacqueline Shorty
Denise Boss	Krista Marie Dawson	Steven Porter	Sean Smith	Steven Shorty
Billi Jo Alexis	Loretta Dawson	Marion Fayant	Sharon Smith	Tyrell Sidney
Dorothy Alexis	Mary Dawson	Kenneth Quock	Tyler Smith	Kevin Smith
Joy Allison	Nathan Dawson	Linda Quock	Vince Smith	Rosie Smith
Joey Allison	Sean Dawson	William Richard	William G. Smith	Allen Taylor
MaryJane Allison	Sarah MacIntosh	Adrian Ryder	Patrick Sterriah	Henry Taylor
Stacey Bailie	Millie Gage	Kory Sawrenko	Stephanie Stewart	Marie Webb
Tina Bailie	Jeanine George	Billy Gill Scarff	David Taylor	Ron Webb
Edith Baker	John Gordon	Irma Scarff	Gerilee Taylor	Ted Huebshwerlen
Gary Bailie	Delores Grant	John Scarff	Taylor Vallevand-Vance	Juanita Ellis
Leroy Bien	Clarence Haryett	Doreen Scurvey	Alicia Vance	John Lavalee
Roxane Johnnie	Hank Henry	Eddie Scurvey	Ricky Vance	David Haryett
Bobby Bill	Dennis Jackson	George Scurvey	Viola Papaquash	Crystel Edzerza
Brad Bill	Dean Jim	Lisa Scurvey	Brandon Webb-Wilson	Dylan Alexis
David Bill	James Johnnie	Dave Sembsmoen	Les Wilson	Dustin Shorty
May Bill	Roxanne Bien	Ralph Sembsmoen	Shirley Allison	Ron MacIntosh
Sharon Bill	Heather Johnson	Cory Shorty	Winston Boss	Donald Shorty
Russell Burns	Henry J. Johnson	Dan Shorty	Whitney Boss	Benita Allison
Darcey Carlick	Shilo Johnson	Elsie Shorty	Dennis Calbery	Tyler Tom Tom
Tashina Carlick	Steven Kocsis	Kevin Shorty	Darrin Dawson	Kerry MacIntosh
Sandi Porter	Ryan Kolak	Sasha Sidney	Darrell Charlie	Annie Remple
Frank Charlie	Henry Kolasch	Buck Smarch	James Dawson	Carol M.Shorty
Justin Charlie	Byron Kudwat	Gabriel Smarch	Trevor Dawson	Kelsey Jim
Merlin Charlie	David Lebarge	Jolene Smarch	Warren Edzerza	Billy Dean Callahan-
Winston Charlie-Smarch	Debra MacIntosh	Sidney Smarch	Donna Hager	Smith
Ben Chief	Nadine MacIntosh	Betsy Smith	Linda Huebschwerlen	Dorothy Mitander-
Charles Chief	Mike MacIntosh	Brian Smith	Brian MacIntosh	Graham
Daniel Cletheroe	David Malcolm	Georgina Smith	Renaldo Menzi	
Darlene Smith	Malinda Dawson	John Smith	David Moroz	



Marion Fayant and Dorothy Alexis got their hands dirty helping to get the community garden ready for growing. The gardens provide a great place to hang out, and to grow and harvest the freshest food in the community!



Graduates of the 2012 Skills & Trades Exploration Program: Dan Scobie (Instructor), Kevin Kohl (Yukon College), Merlin Charlie, Joseph Allison, Brad Bill, Winston Charlie Smarch, Cory Shorty, Darcey Carlick, Dan Shorty and Marie Davies (KDFN staff). Missing: Renaldo Menzi.

# Wrongful Dismissal Case: E. Smarch vs. KDFN

*Last November, Canadian Labour Code Adjudicator, James E. Dorsey, Q.C., heard a wrongful dismissal complaint filed by Ms. Elaine Smarch against KDFN.*

*Ms. Smarch was dismissed from her job at KDFN as a Social Assistance Intake Assistant on February 21, 2011. In March, Ms. Smarch exercised her right to file a wrongful dismissal complaint under the Canada Labour Code.*

*The adjudicator wrote to Kwanlin Dün four times (July to September). The last letter set the hearing date (Nov. 14,*

*2011). Ms. Smarch was present, but no one from Kwanlin Dün attended the hearing due to administrative oversight. Therefore, the adjudicator only heard one side of this story. He found in favour of Ms. Smarch.*

*The adjudicator ordered KDFN to publish a summary of his decision in its newsletter and make the full decision available on its website. The summary is below, on the left. We have also provided our position on the right.*

## Summary of Adjudicator's Decision

Ms. Smarch told the hearing that in early February she had an emergency cost of \$608.58 for filling her personal fuel tank. She said she had spoken "to responsible persons in the Kwanlin Dün First Nation administration about the possibility of having the fuel cost paid by the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and deducted from her pay."

Ms. Smarch received a letter of dismissal on February 21, 2011 from KDFN stating that the cost for the fuel was charged to the Kwanlin Dün First Nation without prior authorization.

In the end, however, the adjudicator heard that KDFN was not charged for the fuel as a Purchase Order had not been authorized. Ms. Smarch paid the fuel bill herself by credit card on May 5, 2011.

The adjudicator, based on the "uncontradicted information and evidence from Ms. Smarch," found that KDFN had no cause to dismiss Ms. Smarch and that she was unjustly dismissed.

He ordered KDFN pay her lost salary and benefits of \$13,309.80, plus interest. He also directed KDFN to include a summary of the decision in its newsletter and on its website.

KDFN was not able to appeal this decision and paid Ms. Smarch the amount owing in December 2011.

*To read the complete text of the decision visit [www.kwanlindun.com](http://www.kwanlindun.com).*

## KDFN's Position

KDFN acknowledges and accepts responsibility for not attending the *Canada Labour Code* hearing on November 14, 2011.

This regrettable mistake meant that the adjudicator had to make his decision without the benefit of the full set of facts.

The law must be honoured and it has been. KDFN has made the payment of the ordered back-pay to Ms. Smarch, and is publishing the adjudicator's decision in the Kwanlin Dün newsletter and on the KDFN website.

Although it would seem reasonable to also publish KDFN's reasons for releasing Ms. Smarch, this would serve no positive purpose.

However, KDFN maintains its own view that the dismissal was appropriate under the circumstances.





## General Assembly 2011

KDFN's General Assembly (GA) occurred over three separate meetings in October 2011 and February and March 2012.

At the GA, there was a lot of good discussion. Council and departments provided updates on their activities and Council listened to a range of concerns from citizens.

At the last session, however, there were not enough people present to vote on proposed resolutions. But Chief and Council will be considering the intent of each resolution that was brought forward in their ongoing meetings.

There are also plans in the works for a summer General Assembly on July 20-22 at Jackson Lake. (NEW DATES) Stay tuned for more details!

## Protecting confidentiality

From time to time staff at Natsekhi Ku (the Health Centre) get calls from well meaning family and friends who want to discuss health issues of other community members or to find out if a client has come in to get help.

We understand it can be frustrating when you are told we can't release any information to you.

We truly appreciate your concern for people you care about. We know sometimes people have already shared details with you about their health conditions or concerns. But we can't share information with you unless the client has given us written permission to do so. The Health Centre staff take confidentiality very seriously.

### Protecting your health information: it's the law

Registered nurses, clinical counselors and licensed practical nurses are required *by law* to keep client information confidential. There are laws that say who has access to a person's health information and what can be shared with others without getting the client's permission first.

Everyone has the right to confidentiality at the Health Centre. We want everyone who accesses our services to feel confident that their information is being protected and kept safe.

### Giving written permission

Unless we have specific written permission to share your health information with another person, agency or organization, we will not be able to answer questions regarding your health or share any knowledge we may have of your situation.

If you feel you would benefit by allowing a community member or agency to access some of your information, please come visit a nurse at the health centre to talk about it and sign a release of information form.

### Confidentiality is about respect

We would like to thank everyone for their patience with this issue. Please remember when we say we can't discuss an issue about someone else's health, it's not about you, it's about respecting the other individual.



# Recreating Youth!

## Bowling & Brainstorming!

On January 5th, youth from the Kwanlin Dün community gathered for a great night of bowling, pizza and brainstorming ideas for the recreation program over the next year. Many different ideas were proposed and it

was great to hear from youth about what they want.

## Mobile Youth Centre

Many of the ideas that youth came up with were included in KDFN's new "Mobile Youth Centre"!

The program ran for the month of March with 10 youth participating in different activities on Thursdays and Saturdays (except over spring break). Activities included snowshoeing, ice fishing, sliding, a movie night and, of course, skiing and snowboarding at Mt. Sima!

Everyone had a ton of fun and we are hoping to start the project again once the snow melts so keep an eye out!

## Spring Break Camp

Spring break was a busy time for the Recreation Program. We had over 40 youth, aged 6-12, signed up for the camp!

The first week was spent touring around the Arctic Winter Games activities and the second week was packed full of outside fun!

We had a wilderness survival day, went ice fishing and rabbit snaring at Jackson Lake, spent a day out at Takhini Hotsprings and had Aboriginal Sports Circle staff come up to teach Arctic Sports! Lots of time was also spent tobogganing and we were all impressed by the snowboarding skills on Daredevil Hill behind the Kwanlin Koyote cabin!

Thanks to all the staff, including our Junior Youth Leaders who participated, as well as the Kwanlin Koyote Ski Club for allowing us to use the cabin.

*The Recreation Program would like to know what recreation activities YOU want to see for ALL AGES! Please contact Courtney at 334-6738 or courtney.quinn@kwanlindun.com if you have any questions or suggestions.*

## Register your kids for summer camps!

We will be holding summer camps from June 25 to August 3 for children ages 6-12.

The camps will be full of many cultural and fun activities. Parents are encouraged to come out and participate in the camps!

Drop by the Health Centre to get registration packages.



## Frozen Pasts!

Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Government of Yukon co-hosted the Frozen Pasts 3rd International Glacial Archaeology Symposium June 3-8. It was held at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.

The Symposium provided researchers, land and resource managers, and local communities with a forum to exchange

information, ideas, methods and innovations around glacial archaeology.

More information can be found at [www.frozenpasts.com](http://www.frozenpasts.com).


## Secrets of the Ice

An exciting exhibit of artifacts from Yukon ice patches within Kwanlin Dün's traditional territory will be opening on June 21st at the Cultural Centre.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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