

# Kwanlin Dän Ch'a

KWANLIN PEOPLE OF WHITEHORSE, HOW ARE YOU?

WINTER 2021



Left to right, back:  
Rose Wilson, Jackie Shorty.

Front: Bruce Wilson, Norma Shorty,  
Gertie Tom, Sharon Shorty.



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## Dānch'ea. Welcome to the Winter 2021 Kwanlin Dän Ch'a newsletter!



On behalf of KDFN Council, I hope everyone had a safe and joyous holiday season. Even though gatherings might have been different this year — smaller, online, or not as close as we're used to — we hope that everyone had the chance to rest, reflect, and enjoy the holidays.

We're welcoming in a new year, and the challenges of this past year have taught us many valuable lessons:

- Our actions impact those around us.
- We must appreciate the small things.
- It's important to reach out to loved ones.
- Face obstacles one day at a time.

We're still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to express gratitude and pride for all the hard work that our citizens have done to keep our community safe. We have all had to make many adjustments and sacrifices.

There will be more changes coming this year, for KDFN information visit [kwanlindun.com](http://kwanlindun.com), and for the most up-to-date COVID-19 information, visit [yukon.ca/covid-19-information](http://yukon.ca/covid-19-information).

Despite the hardships, we've seen many exciting things happen over the past year. For example, in December we launched Kwanlin Dün's book *Dă kwändur ghày ghakwadindur Our Stories in Our Words*.

Many hours of hard work went into the development of this book and it truly has been a community effort. This book is a part of our agreements. Our leaders wanted to preserve our heritage, protect our language, and document our history. All citizens will receive a copy, make sure you check out the full story.

It is okay to need help in these tough times, Natsékhi Kù Health Centre offers free confidential counselling to all citizens. Please call (867) 668-7289 for more information about the support available.

Stay safe and healthy everyone. Remember, you are not alone.

## Chief Bill championed a resolution to end discrimination in the Assembly of First Nations



*We need to lead by example, and set examples. That is who we are in the Yukon: We are paving the way for the young leaders who are coming after us."*

Chief Doris Bill

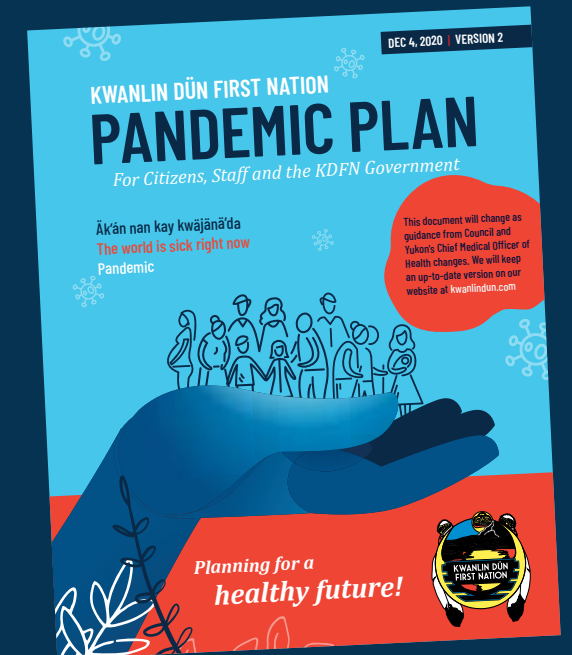
In December 2020, Chief Doris Bill championed a resolution to investigate and end sexual orientation and gender-based discrimination within the Assembly of First Nations.

The resolution is "to end sexual orientation and gender-based discrimination and all other forms of violence, including sexualized violence, lateral-violence and bullying in the organization."

Khelsilem, an elected councillor for the Squamish Nation in B.C., moved the resolution and Bill seconded it at the AFN general assembly.

The resolution passed and the investigation will go forward.

Bill said she sees the resolution as "a chance for the AFN to show that it's a leader in the fight against organizational discrimination."



## Kwanlin Dün's Pandemic Plan

KDFN's Pandemic Plan outlines how the government will respond during a pandemic.

This document will change as guidance from KDFN Council and Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health changes.

You can find the most up-to-date plan on our website at

**[kwanlindun.com](http://kwanlindun.com)**



# Do you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine? We have answers!

Yukon will have enough doses of the Moderna vaccine to immunize 75% of adults. Here's what you need to know:

## How do you get the vaccine?

You must make an appointment to get vaccinated. You can book your appointment:

- Online at [yukon.ca/this-is-our-shot](https://yukon.ca/this-is-our-shot)
- By calling 1-877-374-0425

Vaccines will be available to every adult in Whitehorse after February 10.

## How does the vaccine work?

- It works by teaching our bodies to make antibodies for the COVID-19 virus. These antibodies help us fight the infection if the real virus does enter our body in the future.
- Specifically, it uses mRNA to instruct our cells to make a response to the "spike protein" that is found on COVID-19. mRNA technology has been used in vaccine development for more than 20 years. mRNA does not affect our own genetic DNA.
- The COVID-19 virus is not in the vaccine, so the vaccine cannot give you COVID-19.

## How is the vaccine given?

- The vaccine is given by an injection into the muscle of the arm.
- You need to get 2 doses about 28 days apart.

## How has the vaccine been developed and tested?

- Many scientists all over the world worked together to create this vaccine.
- Health Canada has approved the vaccine based on rigorous tests. They have made sure the Moderna vaccine is as safe, and as well tested as any other vaccine currently used.
- Thousands of people who took the vaccine in trials were monitored for at least two months after for possible side effects.
- Health Canada will continue to review all the available safety data as it becomes available.

## Why should you get the vaccine?

- In order for the vaccine to work we need the majority of Yukoners – at least 75 percent – to take it. This is called "herd immunity".
- So, by taking the vaccine you are not only protecting yourself, you're also protecting your family and your community.

*This information is from staff at the Natsékhi Kų Health Centre, Health Canada, and the Government of Yukon. If you have more questions about the vaccine you can call Natsékhi Kų at (867) 668-7289.*

## What are the possible side effects of taking the Moderna vaccine?

Studies show side effects are generally mild. These side effects could include one or more of the following:

- pain, redness or swelling where the needle was given
- tiredness
- headache
- muscle pain
- joint pain
- nausea / vomiting
- chills
- fever
- enlarged lymph nodes (swollen glands) in the underarm

All of these symptoms are normal after any vaccine, and they are part of the body's normal response in building immunity.

Allergic reactions can rarely occur after receiving a vaccine. Symptoms of an allergic reaction include hives (bumps on the skin that are often very itchy), swelling of your face, tongue or throat, or difficulty breathing.

Clinic staff are prepared to manage an allergic reaction should it occur. This reaction would happen within minutes of getting a vaccine, which is why you are always asked to wait 15 minutes after any vaccine.

## Who should NOT get the vaccine?

- People with any symptoms that could be due to COVID-19 should not go out to get vaccinated because they could spread the infection to others.
- People under 18.
- People who are allergic to polyethylene glycol (PEG)
- People who have had any other vaccine in the previous 14 days

If you are unsure whether you should get the vaccine, talk to your healthcare provider.

## What do you do after you get your vaccine?

- You must continue to follow the Safe Six + 1 until the Chief Medical Officer of Health advises otherwise.
- Do not receive any other vaccines until you have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccines and at least 28 days have passed after you receive your second dose.
- Keep your Moderna Vaccine record in a safe place to be able to refer to it when needed for your second dose.

# Kwanlin Dün's five priorities under the *Lands Act*

Kwanlin Dün's new *Lands Act* came into force last fall. The Act gives us authority to manage, protect and enforce laws on Settlement Land. It allows KDFN to make land available to meet the residential and other lands needs of beneficiaries and citizens on Settlement Lands. KDFN's Heritage, Lands and Resource (HLR) Department is working on five priorities this year.



## 1 HISTORICAL SUBMISSIONS

Following guidance from Council, our priority is to process historical submission applications.

HLR is working with beneficiaries and citizens to process their residential or traditional use applications.

Kwanlin Dün has more than 350 historical submissions recorded and is processing them in chronological order based on when the submission was first made.

## 2 PORTER CREEK LAND LOTTERY

Kwanlin Dün is planning a land lottery for residential lots in Porter Creek later this spring.

A lottery offers parcels of land through a raffle. As laid out in our *Lands Act*, Kwanlin Dün will hold a lottery for beneficiaries and citizens, before opening it to the general public.

More details about the lottery will be released once the plan is finalized.

## 3 RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2020, Kwanlin Dün completed its Community Lands Plan, a framework to guide the sustainable development of Settlement Land within or near Whitehorse.

During community engagement, beneficiaries and citizens identified how community land parcels should be developed to help generate revenue for Kwanlin Dün.

Based on the Community Lands Plan, Kwanlin Dün and Chu Niikwän have started work on a future residential development in the Range Road area.

## 4 PROTECTING SETTLEMENT LAND

The Lands Act allows Kwanlin Dün to protect Settlement Land. It gives us the authority to ensure everyone using Settlement Land respects and follows the rules, from hikers at Fish Lake to lease and allocation holders.

Kwanlin Dün is able to protect against:

- unauthorized uses;
- environmental damage;
- trespassing;
- pollution; and
- littering.

Our Land Stewards are actively monitoring land use, while the HLR department continues to clean up dump sites, block access and install signs in problem areas.

## 5 LAND PLANNING

Land use plans guide how Settlement Land will be developed. They are created through community engagement. Plans decide which parcels will be used for residential, recreational or commercial use.

Kwanlin Dün currently has two land use plans under the *Lands Act*, the KDFN Traditional Territory Land Vision and Community Lands Plan.

The HLR department is working on new land use plans for the Fish Lake and Marsh Lake areas, and will begin community engagement later this year. Find out more about these plans on pages 14 and 15.







# Sign up now: Land-Based Family Camps at Jackson Lake

This camp is designed to give you and your family the opportunity to spend time together out on the land. KDFN staff will be there to facilitate activities and make sure that we all have a safe, fun relaxing time. Childcare is not provided.

> JACKSON LAKE IS A SUBSTANCE-FREE CAMP.

Due to COVID-19, registration numbers will be limited, so sign up early.

Here are the dates for upcoming camps:

- April 16 – 18 Deadline to register: March 26
- July 16 – 18 Deadline to register: June 25
- November 5 – 7 Deadline to register: October 22

Find the registration form at [kwanlindun.com](http://kwanlindun.com)  
For more information phone (867) 668-7289 ext. 220.

### WHAT WE PROVIDE

- Healthy meals and snacks throughout your time at camp
- Staff and Elders to lead activities
- Safety orientation and on-site first-aid attendant
- Transportation as required
- Bedding and heated cabins (two twin beds)
- Wash house facility with laundry
- Overnight security

### WHAT YOU PROVIDE

- Bring good warm outdoor clothes for winter/early spring time camps for all your family members
- Bring good shoes for hiking, swimming suits, etc. for summer camps
- Games and activities for children
- Personal toiletries and medications
- You are responsible for your children 100% of the time

## Justice through Healing

A new pilot program aims to help lay a foundation for our government, our community and the justice system to work together to get better outcomes for KDFN citizens.

Racism and discrimination have deep roots in the structure of Canada’s justice system, and that means it’s not always a just system. It has created inequalities in how our citizens are treated; how they’re processed through the system; and in their outcomes.

That’s why KDFN is pleased to receive funding through Canada’s Anti-Racism Strategy to help present our pilot project called Justice through Healing.

We will create one new position within our First Nation to help our Citizens break through systemic barriers, access culturally relevant services, and reconcile past and present injustices.

For more information on this program, contact Justice Director Gary Rusnak at [gary.rusnak@kdfn.net](mailto:gary.rusnak@kdfn.net) or 867-633-7800 ext. 603.



*With support from Heritage Canada, the Kwanlin Dün First Nation will help our citizens confront discrimination, break down barriers, and access our traditional services to create a culturally relevant pathway through the justice system. This pilot project, Justice through Healing, is one step on our journey toward reconciliation and equity for our Citizens.”*

**Kwanlin Dün First Nation  
Chief Doris Bill**

## Yukon Territorial Court resumes in-person hearings

On January 11, 2021 the Territorial Court announced that it had resumed in-person hearings, as long as they are able to take place safely.

Physical distancing measures will be taken, and the court “will continue to assess the feasibility of hearing matters partially in person and partially by phone or video on a case-by-case basis”.

COVID-19 safety measures will be in place, such as physical distancing seating and a mask requirement.

# Kwanlin Dün's book

## *Dă kwändur ghày ghakwadîndur*

### *Our Stories in Our Words*

## launched in December

The publication of KDFN's heritage book marks a major milestone for our nation. The book features the voices of Elders, community members, and youth. It was created for future generations to take pride in Kwanlin Dün's history.

*Dă kwändur ghày ghakwadîndur Our Stories in Our Words* has been a long time in the making. It comes after years of extensive research, community consultations, interviews, and data collection. It has truly been a community effort.

The book amplifies Kwanlin Dün voices and expresses the unique story of life on this land. It summarizes KDFN history from creation stories and long ago people, through to the changing landscape of Kwanlin and land claim negotiations, and onto the voices of today's youth.

KDFN leaders fought for the creation of this book during the self-government negotiations. It was written into the KDFN Final Agreement that the KDFN Waterfront Heritage Working Group would oversee the book's preparation. *Our Stories in Our Words* builds on the work that has already been done to create a record of KDFN history through the words of Elders and community members.

The timing of the book's release is significant as 2020 marked Kwanlin Dün's 15th anniversary of self-government. Although we could not gather to celebrate the publication of this book together, this is a historic moment for KDFN. At the book launch in December, Chief Doris Bill said: "We must tell these stories so KDFN citizens and all people know how we came to be the vibrant Nation we are today."

The book combines oral histories, stories in Southern Tutchone, and features eye-opening images of Kwanlin Dün people and historical events. The publication will be an enduring resource for future generations to take pride in the past.

Everyone has something to learn when they read this book, whether exploring stories about the land, discovering something new about your family, reading the language, or learning more about current initiatives.

The sections of the book are symbolic of Kwanlin Dün history. Through the guidance of Elders, it was decided the book would be presented in a season round. This approach reflects the strong connection to the land that Kwanlin Dün people have had for many generations.

The sections of *Dă kwändur ghày ghakwadîndur* are:

1. Adaalâl Kwàch'e Kwaday (It is spring time long ago)
2. Imè Kwàch'e (It is summer time): 10,000+ Years Before the Present-1870s
3. Nùchū Kwàch'e (It is fall time): 1880s-1939
4. Yúk'e Kwàch'e (It is winter time): 1940-1973
5. Adàkq (Light dawning over the mountains): 1974-2005
6. Shakaat (A hunting and gathering trip in late summer): 2006-2020

Each citizen over the age of 16 will receive a copy of the book. In December, there was a drive-through pick up event where citizens could get their book. For those that were unable to pick it up, a copy will be mailed to you. The books are also available for purchase through the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, Mac's Fireweed Books, and other retailers.

## Stay safe, keep others safe

Even though Yukoners are starting to get vaccinated for COVID-19, it's more important than ever that we continue to follow the Safe 6 + 1.

And, if you know someone is breaking the rules and putting our community in danger, you need to report them. They are breaking a Civil Emergency Measures Act (CEMA) Order.

### Examples of breaking CEMA Orders may include:

- failure to self-isolate for 14 days when required;
- failure to travel through Yukon within 24 hours;
- having a social gathering of more than 10 people inside; or
- having a social gathering of more than 50 people outside.

## How do you report?

Phone 877-374-0425 or go to the website [yukon.ca/cema-report](https://yukon.ca/cema-report)





# Land planning in KDFN Traditional Territory

KDFN is involved in different planning processes that will guide how areas of our Traditional Territory are managed, developed and protected. We need your input to help guide these local and regional area plans.

“

We have to find a way to work together. It's not about power or control or getting what you want, it's about how we are going to live, walk and co-exist together – animal, plant form and human.”

- Elder Margaret McKay, KDFN, HWW Elder Advisory Committee Member



”

Elders have always said that water is as important as land, if not more important. Land is defined by the watershed.”

- Elder Mark Wedge, C/TFN, HWW Elder Advisory Committee Member

## Regional Planning

Regional plans help KDFN manage and protect the land, water and resources in our Traditional Territory.

Currently, KDFN is getting ready for regional planning through a new initiative called How We Walk with the Land and Water (HWW).

HWW will help us prepare to make big planning decisions about the future of the Southern Lakes region. This year, we're gathering knowledge from citizens and Elders on things like traditional values and current land usage. We are planning public engagement sessions for the spring and summer to bring people together to tell us what's important.

The HWW initiative will be done in partnership with Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. Together, we'll co-create a strong First Nation vision for the Southern Lakes region.

Nän ye chu ye ts'adnäl (Southern Tutchone)  
How We Walk with the Land and Water (English)  
Aat ăx yaa hás na.át Aani ăa Héen (Lingit)

### WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO WALK WITH US

EMAIL US: [communications.hww@gmail.com](mailto:communications.hww@gmail.com)

GET INVOLVED: Help share knowledge of our Traditional Territory by posting your stories and photos to our Facebook Group. Join by searching "How We Walk with Land and Water" on Facebook

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.howwewalk.org](http://www.howwewalk.org)



ABOVE

Margaret MacKay and Mark Wedge are members of the Elders Advisory Committee. This still was taken during the shooting of the HWW video outside the C/TFN Learning Centre. You can see the full video at [www.howwewalk.org](http://www.howwewalk.org)





**This year, we are developing community plans for Marsh Lake and Fish Lake. They will answer questions like:**

- What lands should be protected for heritage and wildlife?
- What areas would be good for KDFN residential and traditional uses?
- What about general assembly sites, culture camps and campgrounds?
- How can we help manage other activities in our Traditional Territory, like residential, agricultural, recreational and resource development?

**We need your help to create the Marsh Lake and Fish Lake plans. You are the community experts!**

< John Patrick, Rosie Smith and Hank Henry sorting a fishnet at KDFN Fish Camp on Fish Lake. GBP/KDFN

## Local Area & Community Planning

KDFN manages lands in rural communities with local area planning. These plans guide how our communities can grow and develop while protecting the land and water.

### Marsh Lake Plan

- The Marsh Lake area has been home to our people for a very long time.
- Many KDFN Elders were born and raised near places like the M'Clintock River, Michie Creek, Army Beach, Grayling Creek, and the sloughs near the Marsh Lake dam.
- More than 30% of KDFN's Settlement Lands are in the Marsh Lake plan. It's the first Yukon community plan where a First Nation is the largest landholder.
- A plan for Marsh Lake was drafted in 2016. KDFN is working with Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Yukon government to update and approve a plan by fall 2021.
- The Marsh Lake plan will help a new generation return to their roots and reconnect with the land and waters at Marsh Lake.

A summary of the Marsh Lake plan is on our website ([kwanlindun.com](http://kwanlindun.com)) and at the Heritage Lands and Resources office (309 Strickland St., Suite 301. If you have traditional ties to the Marsh Lake area, we want to hear from you.

### Łu Zil Män Fish Lake Plan

- In Southern Tutchone, Fish Lake is called Łu Zil Män (sounds like Sloo Zill Mun) after the round whitefish that spawn there in the fall.
- Kwanlin Dün families have gathered at Fish Lake for thousands of years. Fishing and hunting camps at the north end of the lake are 5000 to 8000 years old. Ancient campsites around Bonneville are even older.
- We are looking for KDFN Citizens to join a committee to help develop the Fish Lake plan. Names will be collected until mid-February and then brought to Council for a final decision.
- The plan will take two years to finish (spring 2021-2023).

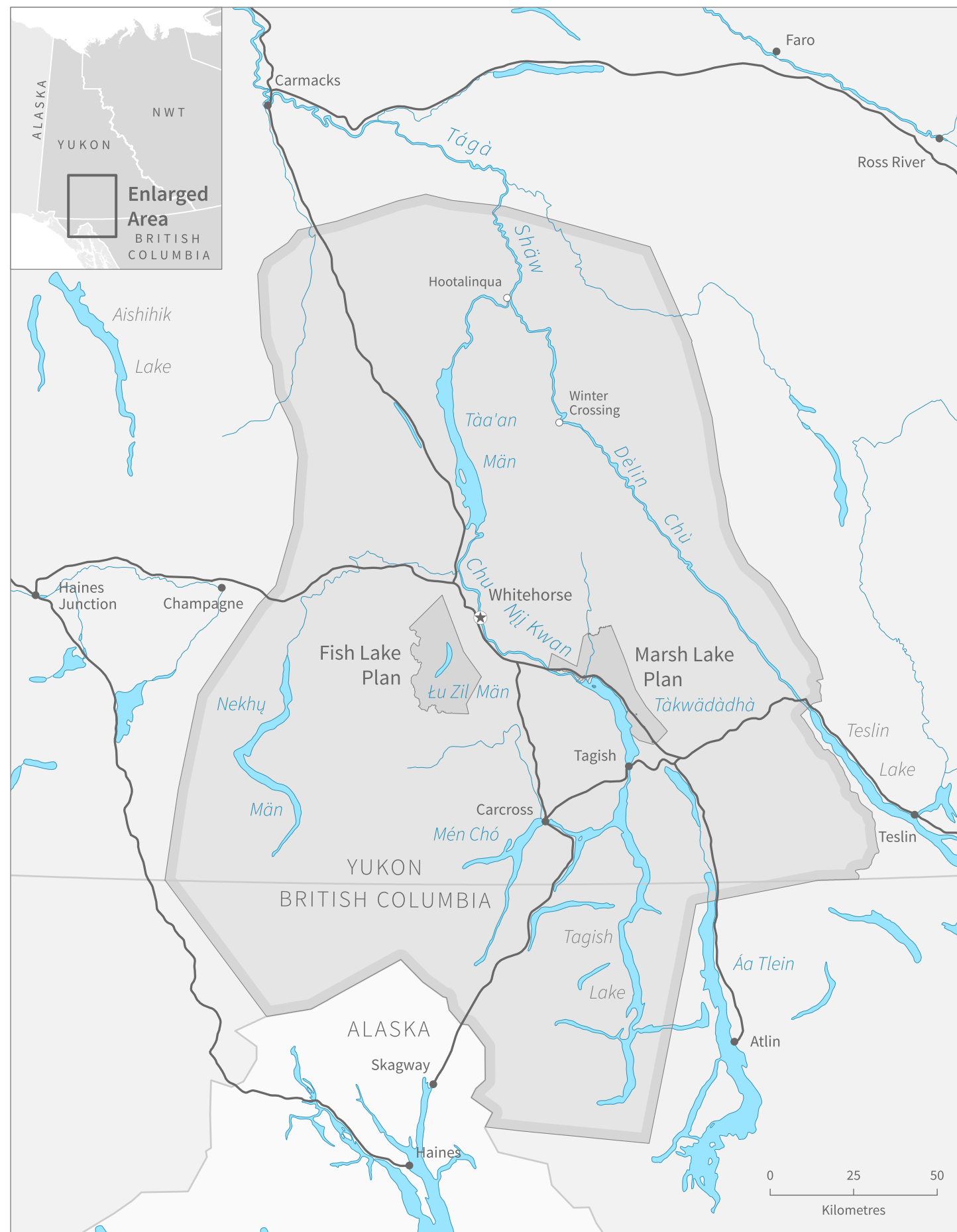
Look for community planning updates on the KDFN website and Facebook page.

Contact us to find out how to get involved  
[roy.neilson@kdfn.net](mailto:roy.neilson@kdfn.net) | (867) 633-7800, ext 119

Irma Scarff, May Bill, Jacine Fox, Ray Sidney and others at KDFN Fish Camp on Marsh Lake. GBP/KDFN







## Fall moose hunt brought people together for land-based learning

**KDFN youth gained valuable skills on a 3-day moose hunt and land-based learning experience on KDFN Traditional Territory in September 2020. The activity also helped create bonds between youth and Elders, as well as with the RCMP.**

The hunt was planned and carried out by KDFN RCMP members in partnership with staff from KDFN Justice, Recreation, Lands and Community Safety Officers.

Out on the land Elder Russel Burns, an avid hunter and trapper, provided participants with a valuable presentation on trapping and different aspects of traditional cultural training. Burns showed participants a part of his trap line, traps and sets. He has spent time, hunted and trapped on this land for decades.

Burns also gave event participants an opportunity to harvest a bull moose. He demonstrated how to properly dress the animal in a traditional method that has been used for hundreds of years.

Once field dressed, parts of the moose were set aside and the youth later delivered them to Elders in the community. Consistent with KDFN values, the rest of the meat was shared with the KDFN community.

The event was a success and it provided local youth with land-based learning and cultural knowledge. It has been proven that involvement in cultural activities and being able to identify with traditional knowledge supports connection to community for our youth.

< This map shows the Southern Lakes Region displaying the How We Walk with the Land and Water initiative area, and the Fish Lake and Marsh Lake Plan boundaries.



# KWANLIN DÜN BENEFICIARIES AND CITIZENS:

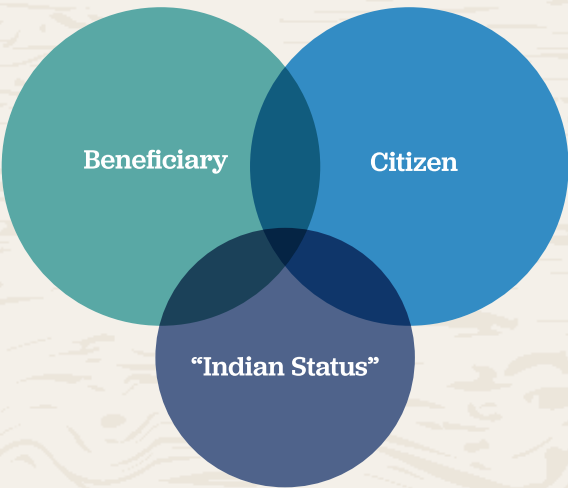
## What's the difference?

A person can be connected to Kwanlin Dün First Nation in three ways.

They can:

- 1 be a **BENEFICIARY** of KDFN;
- 2 be a **CITIZEN** of KDFN; or
- 3 have **"INDIAN STATUS"** with the Government of Canada, associated with KDFN.

Each is a legal status that protects a different set of rights.



A person can hold one or more legal status. They can be a Beneficiary or Citizen of KDFN, or both. They could also have "Indian Status" and be a Beneficiary or Citizen of KDFN, or just have "Indian Status".



### 1 BENEFICIARY

Anyone enrolled as a **Beneficiary** of *The KDFN Final Agreement*, either before the agreement was signed in 2005, or after through the KDFN Citizenship Committee.

Rights flow from *The KDFN Final Agreement* and *Constitution of KDFN*, and protect:

- > Aboriginal rights;
- > harvesting rights; and
- > settlement land rights.

Beneficiaries also approve:

- > Beneficiary policies;
- > how money in Kwanlin Dün's Trust is used or invested; and
- > amendments to *The KDFN Final Agreement*.

### 2 CITIZEN

Anyone who was on the Kwanlin Dün Band List as of April 1, 2005, or has registered since then as a **Citizen**.

Rights flow from the *Constitution of KDFN* and allow Citizens to participate in political activities, including:

- > vote or hold a seat on Council, or KDFN board or committee;
- > attend and vote at General Assemblies; and
- > express views on public issues, including feedback on draft laws for KDFN.

### 3 "INDIAN STATUS" (STATUS)

Anyone who has **"Indian Status"** with the Government of Canada.

Rights flow from the *Indian Act* and allow people to access services and programs funded by the Government of Canada.



## Game ON!

There are many games you can play while physically distancing outdoors. Here, youth play "Lynx and Hare" in the forest behind McIntyre.

## Keep your citizenship information up to date!

If you have had a change of address or have new contact information, please contact the **Citizenship Registrar at (867) 633-7800, ext. 131, or [citizenship@kdfn.net](mailto:citizenship@kdfn.net)**

Being a citizen of Kwanlin Dün brings benefits, rights and responsibilities.

To get these benefits you must be enrolled, and to keep you informed of your rights we need accurate contact information to reach you.

It's your responsibility to keep your address and contact information current with the Citizenship Registrar's Office. And you must notify them directly with new contact information. For confidentiality and privacy reasons, the Registrar cannot obtain contact information from other people.

### Not sure if you're a Beneficiary or Citizen?

Contact Kwanlin Dün's Citizenship Registrar by phone: 867-633-7800 ext. 131 or email: [citizenship@kdfn.net](mailto:citizenship@kdfn.net)



# Gertie Tom inducted into the Order of Yukon

KDFN Elder Gertie Tom was inducted into the Order of Yukon on the first day of 2021. Over her long life she has made many contributions to the community, including passing on her knowledge of the Northern Tutchone language. Writer Alexander Gatensby asked Tom about her life and this recent honour.

**Alexander Gatensby:** How did you originally get involved with language work?

**Gertie Tom:** I was born in 1927, and it was '77 when I started with language. My mother taught me how to speak the language, so I kept the language. Then somebody I guess from Fort Selkirk told John [Ritter] that I was the only one who spoke the language. Then John got me, and I started to work with him. We worked together for 40 years.

It was really going good you know. We'd teach the kids and we'd teach the adults that want to teach in school. In the spring and fall time we would update them on what they wanted to know.

I did my best with whatever I knew. I worked with John, and I taught John how to speak the language, and in turn he taught me how to read and write the language. And that's how it worked.

**AG:** Do you still work with people to teach language?

**GT:** I just help people, that's what I do.

I also wrote the book about the Big Salmon area. This is what I knew... or what I remembered. I didn't take what people told me. I used my own... like, we'd go up hunting... and drying meat and stuff like that. Then I made the story about it.

After I did that in English I had to translate that back into Native Language. So my book is in both English and Native Language.

I used to work with CBC, like a disk jockey... I had to translate what people said, like requests for music, and send it out to people.

In '54 I trained as a community health worker. That again I had to use my own language to do it, because, the First Nations, the Elders don't understand English, so I had to translate what they say to the people, what doctors say or nurses. That's what I do.

They'd give out the pills too. Then I'd translate what time you're supposed to take them and what you're supposed to do. Things like that. That's why they chose me for the Order of Yukon.

**AG:** Can you tell me about your experience being inducted into the Order of Yukon?

**GT:** I never realized they were gonna do it, but I did my best, like, work with the people. That's what I do.

You work with the people, you have to be sociable to people. They respect you. That's how I worked with people in the day. I'd teach them when we'd have a workshop, and that's what they'd do. I'd let them... ask questions, you know, if they want to know more. That's what I did.

I was kind-of surprised, y'know. The Order of Yukon... They chose me.

**AG:** How did it feel to be recognized for your work?

**GT:** I feel okay. I feel really good, you know. Like me coming from the bush and I did this. This means that anybody can do this, what I can do. If you make up your mind on what you wanted to do. That's the thing you know. That's it.

**AG:** Why is it important to pass down traditional languages?

**GT:** Well, we lost the language because of residential school. They did punishment if they talked their own language. That's what happened.

I can tell you about the kids that don't speak their language. You need the parents to talk the language too. And when they come home from school, they have to talk to the kids in not the English language. Maybe that way they might pick it up again.

**AG:** Can you tell me about your sewing?

**GT:** Yeah, I spend time on sewing. I taught them in school too - how to sew, and the kids, they know how to sew, some of them.

Even today, the First Nations come to me, and I help them. I don't have to get paid, I just tell them what to do. That's my nature.



# Building a career in conservation for the future

Kayla Williams, a young KDFN citizen, is pursuing a career in Conservation Services in BC. Writer Aurora Hardy caught up with Kayla to find out what she’s been up to.

“ I hope to be able to encourage more people to aid in conserving the environment as my grandmother has done for me. I hope younger people will attend university and college to promote environmental conservation. If we all can take care of the land together, then it will continue to take care of us.”

- Kayla Williams



**Aurora Hardy: What was your inspiration to pursue a career in Conservation Services?**

**Kayla Williams:** The Conservation Officer Services allows for many different opportunities to work towards conserving for the future. I have been lucky enough to work in a couple different areas in this department to gain experience in outreach and education, enforcement, and by working alongside biologists that work towards the same goal.

My parents, Rolly and Colleen, and my brothers, James and David, have been my biggest supporters. They’ve supported and encouraged me through my education and career. They told me to never give up on my passion and continue to work towards my goals. My community has supported me through my academic career and I am very proud to be from the Kwanlin Dün First Nation.

My grandmother is Violet Lebarge Storer, and anyone that had the pleasure of knowing her knows she cares passionately about the environment. I spent a lot of time with her and that passion for conserving the environment transferred to me. I have always wanted to make her proud by pursuing a career in conserving our environment and wildlife for future generations.

**AH: Tell me about your university experience?**

**KW:** I completed my Bachelor of Science and a Major in Zoology from UBC in 2015. I was able to attend a wide range of courses that relate to the environment, animals, and people. This helped me gain a well rounded knowledge of how we can co-exist with the land.

**AH: Tell me about your placement in Cranbrook?**

**KW:** Working out of Cranbrook has given me a wide range of areas to connect with as there are offices throughout BC. The area is full of wildlife and I have been able to experience so many diverse activities that involve so many different species. I have been very lucky to be able to live in a place that has so many outdoor activities living among the forest and the mountains.

**AH: What are your plans for the future? Where does your career take you from here?**

**KW:** I have been working steadily in different positions that give me many diverse experiences when it comes to wildlife human interaction. I hope to continue and strive to work towards mitigating any risks to wildlife while working alongside organizations to aid in co-existing on our land together. I am currently working towards a full time career that will help me achieve my goals.

I hope to be able to encourage more people to aid in conserving the environment as my grandmother has done for me. I hope younger people will attend university and college to promote environmental conservation. If we all can take care of the land together, then it will continue to take care of us.

# Consider your neighbours!

It is good to go out and engage in recreational activities over the winter months.

What is not fun though, is when these activities disrupt others in our community.

Many citizens and their pets have been woken up by loud noises in the night, caused by fireworks being set off, and snowmobiles flying by at high speeds in the late hours of the night.

Please keep the following in mind when you decide to take part in these activities:

- It is illegal to set off fireworks within city limits,
- Loud noises disrupt people and their pets while they try to sleep. People need to rest at night so they can make it to work and school in the morning,
- The speed limit in the McIntyre subdivision is 30km/hr. This applies to snowmobiles and any other recreational vehicle as well. Going over this limit at any time of day puts everybody in danger’s way.

We all want our neighbours to be safe and healthy, so please stay away from loud activities during the night. And please, follow all vehicle safety guidelines.





*Education shows us the importance of hard work, helps us grow, and enables us to shape a better world. I hope that my journey inspires others to further their education. As I am 41 years old, I know that post-secondary is not only for younger students and it's never too late to start."*

- Roxanne Dobbs

## On my journey to becoming a nurse

Roxanne Dobbs is a KDFN citizen that pursued her goal of becoming a nurse. She took upgrading courses at Georgian College to earn the certification required for the nursing program.

### Here's her story in her own words:

School took a lot of dedication. It has been one of the most challenging times in my life but also the most rewarding. The classes were intense; the clinicals required attention to detail; and the instructors were methodical, but I am grateful for the foundation of knowledge and skills. It gave me the confidence to continue in the nursing profession.

I appreciate everyone that has supported my journey to becoming a nurse. I would not be where I am in my education and career path without the Kwanlin Dün Post Secondary Education Program and Ontario Student Assistance Program, which allowed me the time to focus on my studies instead of worrying about education expenses.

There are standards in nursing that are maintained through lifelong education and yearly Quality Assurance Programs. Nurses ensure that healthcare professionals practise in a safe, competent, and ethical way. My training in nursing has opened many doors for future job opportunities such as in hospital or research settings, travel to communities, administrative roles, or training.

Education shows us the importance of hard work, helps us grow, and enables us to shape a better world. I hope that my journey inspires others to further their education. As I am 41 years old, I know that post-secondary is not only for younger students and it's never too late to start. We only regret the chances we didn't take, which leaves me with one question: Why are you still waiting?

## Laptops for students Kindergarten to Grade 12

Due to the growing need for computers at home, the Government of Yukon and Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) have partnered to purchase laptop computers for Yukon students in Kindergarten to Grade 12.



### Have you registered your child for a free laptop computer?

To be eligible to receive a laptop, the student must be:

- enrolled as a Citizen with the Kwanlin Dün First Nation Citizenship Office by October 1, 2020; and
- attending a Yukon school in any grade from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

### How to get a laptop

- Drop the form (found at [kwanlindun.com/education/](http://kwanlindun.com/education/)) off at Kenädän Kų - The House of Learning using our secure mail box, or email it to [reception@kdfn.net](mailto:reception@kdfn.net).
- Once the computers have been delivered, you will be contacted by phone or email to arrange an appointment for pick up.
- Laptops will only be available for pick up at Kenädän Kų - The House of Learning. We are hoping for late January 2021, but that is dependent on delivery schedules. We cannot deliver or mail out.
- To pick up the laptop you must be the student or the parent (guardian) of the student.

## KDFN Post-Secondary Education Program

The Financial Assistance Deadline for the Spring/Summer Semester is

For more information visit [www.kwanlindun.com/education](http://www.kwanlindun.com/education) or email [post.secondary@kdfn.net](mailto:post.secondary@kdfn.net)

**MONDAY  
MARCH 15,  
2021**







# Southern Lakes caribou recovery is slow but steady

Herd growth is slow, but encouraging as Southern Lakes First Nations continue to ask their citizens to not hunt caribou until a plan is in place.

CARIBOU = *Mezi*  
..... in Southern Tutchone

Please report caribou harvesting and mortalities to our Operations Department by calling (867) 336-3316 or emailing [operations@kdfn.net](mailto:operations@kdfn.net)

Kwanlin Dün continues to work with our partners to guide the recovery of the Southern Lakes caribou herds. The herds continue to grow slowly. Surveys this past fall showed slightly lower than normal calf numbers in the Ibex and Laberge areas, but calf numbers have been high enough to support herd growth over the last several years.

Ground-based monitoring efforts as well as satellite collars continue to monitor caribou use of the land, and how this is impacted by human activities and development. We are also working to investigate the impacts of human recreation activities on caribou and the relationship between wolves and the caribou herds. Meanwhile, work continues on a plan to coordinate the future efforts of the caribou recovery program partners.

Although recovery efforts are working, these herds are still vulnerable. All First Nation governments in the Southern Lakes are continuing to ask their citizens for support, and not hunt Southern Lakes Caribou until a plan is in place.

This moratorium was implemented by our Elders with support from the Yukon Government in the 1990s and have been key to caribou population recovery so far.



# KDFN is working to revive Chinook salmon populations

KDFN and partners continue work on repopulating salmon stocks in Wolf Creek, Michie Creek and the Ibex River.

In late August, 2020, personnel from KDFN and Environmental Dynamics Inc. teamed up to plant approximately 2,000 Chinook salmon eggs in Wolf and Michie creeks, as well as 1,000 eggs in the Ibex River. Crews planted the eggs in artificial redds – spawning nests – created in the river. Once the eggs were in the river, additional rocks were placed on top of the egg planting media to protect the eggs.

On October 22, 2020 crews returned to the Ibex River planting sites to document egg development and move some planted eggs to deeper water to



avoid the risk of winter dewatering. One planting media was removed and the eggs were found to be just reaching the eyed eggs stage.

The dead eggs were removed and 70 eggs were planted back into the Ibex River in deeper water. Due to the fragile state of the eggs before completely reaching the eyed stage, it was decided to leave the remaining eggs where they were.

Then on November 9, 2020, crews returned to Wolf Creek to document egg development in relation to water temperatures. They encountered much more ice than they'd anticipated, but hard work by Troy Friday and Bruce Wilson allowed the crew to get the work done.

One planting media was pulled and the planted eggs were found to have reached the eyed egg stage. The dead eggs and sediment were removed, and 29 live eggs were planted back into Wolf Creek.

Due to the logistical challenges and costs with accessing Michie Creek, a monitoring trip is planned for early spring.



# Meet your Land Stewards

KDFN’s team of dedicated stewards and working to be the “eyes and ears” of our Traditional Territory. They use Indigenous knowledge and practices blended with western science to monitor and care for our lands and waters.

**Land Stewards have many roles and responsibilities in our community. Here are a few things we do:**

- patrol for illegal activities;
- conduct fish studies in rivers and streams;
- conduct wildlife surveys;
- bring together youth and Elders on the land; and
- educate back country users.

We also sit on multiple working groups, such as the Southern Lakes Caribou Steering Committee, the Southern Lakes Community Based Salmon Planning Group and the Yukon Bear Working Group.

To better monitor our Traditional Territory, we have established working partnerships with our neighbouring First Nations, Yukon Natural Resource Officers, Yukon Conservation Officers, WildWise, and Yukon government, Department of Environment.

Our primary goal is to achieve voluntary compliance by using education and outreach. We collect data to inform our leaders and citizens, other governments, and companies who manage natural resources.

If you have questions or wish to know more about our operations, contact Brandy Mayes at (867) 336-3316 or by email: [brandy.mayes@kdfn.net](mailto:brandy.mayes@kdfn.net)



**Troy Friday,**  
Land Steward Officer Trainee

I am of the Crow Clan and grandson of June Bruton. I grew up on our rural lands west of Whitehorse where I still reside today. I am an avid outdoorsman and enjoy spending as much time as possible on the land with my young family. I am excited to work towards preserving and protecting our lands for future generations.



**Davy Sembsmoen,**  
Senior Land Steward Officer

I am Tahltan and a beneficiary and citizen of Kwanlin Dün First Nation. My parents are Eileen and John Sembsmoen. I belong to the Wolf Clan.

I enjoy serving the people of KDFN, both administratively and operationally. I am driven to protect our resources and being the Senior Land Steward Officer allows me to do that on behalf of KDFN.



**Brandy Mayes,**  
Operations Manager

I am a proud descendant of the Tagish Kwan people and beneficiary of KDFN. My great-grandparents are Julia Joe from Tagish and Johnny Joe from Hutchi. My great-great grandmother is Seke, the Eldest daughter of the great Chief Jackie of Marsh Lake. I belong to the Dakh’laweidí Clan, the Killer Whale and Wolf Clan Crest, The Clan Crest assures me that I am part of the land and part of the water. As a beneficiary of KDFN, my culture is who I am and where I come from. I enjoy everything outdoors including, fishing, snowmobiling, skiing, and hiking.

As Manager of Operations for Heritage, Lands and Resources, it’s not only my job but my responsibility as a Yukon First Nations person to respect all earth’s creations. Our Elders fought hard to get back our land and it’s our responsibility to show our respect by practicing good stewardship and to protect and conserve the lands resources for future generations. Implementing our Final Agreements and our citizens’ Lands Vision is key in our decisions and how we conduct our work.



**Bruce Wilson,**  
Land Steward Officer

I am Northern Tutchone of the Crow Clan and I am a Kwanlin Dün citizen. My First Nation name is É’t’iyáte, which comes from the name of my great uncle on my mother’s side, Elizabeth Wilson nee Shorty.

I have been with Kwanlin Dün’s Lands department for 2.5 years and have come to realize that land stewardship is so much more than I ever imagined it would be. I have developed a greater appreciation for the beauty and value of our Settlement Lands, and I look forward to serving the citizens of Kwanlin Dün to the best of my ability.



**Cheyenne Bradley,**  
Land Steward Officer Trainee

I am a beneficiary and citizen of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation. I am part of the Ághats’èa - Wolf Clan. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Northern Environmental and Conservation Science. I am interested in being a Land Steward because I want to help to protect and preserve the environment and wildlife in and around my Traditional Territory. My favourite place to be is outdoors, whether I am camping, going for a walk, or snowmobiling.

“  
The ultimate sovereignty – the ultimate self-determination – is to live in a way that is consistent with our own cultural values. These things bring purpose. When we take care of the air, land and water, we fulfil the promise we made to the creator.”

– Brandy Mayes, Operations Manager

These signs were designed and developed collaboratively by KDFN, Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Respect for Fish and WildWise Yukon with support from the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund. They will be placed at popular fishing locations, and where swans migrate throughout the Traditional Territories of KDFN and C/TFN.

## RESPECT FOR FISH

Fish or Xáat (Lingít) or Łı́ge (Tagish) or Łu (Southern Tutchone)

Catch & Release  
Catch & Release  
Catch & Release

Not again...

Hungry! Hungry! Hungry!

Stop killing fish with your Smartphone

Fish need respect so they can reproduce for future generations. Give fish a break while spawning.

Fish need water to breathe. If you are required to release fish, keep it in the water.

Catch and release can stress and even kill fish if not done correctly. If required to release a fish as a conservation practice or to comply with the fishing regulations follow best practices:

- Keep fish in the water
- Use single barbless hooks and
- Reduce your handling time.

Honouring First Nations' Principles of SHARE, CARE & RESPECT:  
Take only what you need  
Care for the animals, land and water  
Respect all living things and their habitats

Yukon Fish & Wildlife Enhancement Fund

wild WISE YUKON

Visit WildWise for more info.  
wildwise.ca  
info@wildwise.ca

## BEARS FISH HERE TOO.

If a bear is present, leave the area.

Please be mindful and share the river. Fish during the day and leave the river to the bears at night.

Clean up after yourself so bears can focus on fishing. Discard your bones and fish scraps back to the water.

Keep coolers and garbage in a locked vehicle.

Carry bear spray on your person at all times and know how to use it.

We are super busy right now fueling up for our trip to the nesting grounds!

**DO NOT DISTURB**

**SWANS AT WORK**

Swans – dägäy (Southern Tutchone) or gúkl' (Lingít) or dagëy (Tagish) – have made their journey through our territory for thousands of years. The swans that you see here are on their way to their breeding grounds. Let's do our part to welcome them back by giving them a safe place to rest and fuel up.

This lake has patches of shallow water that allow swans to reach much needed food at the bottom of the lake. There are not many places like this that offer both food and shelter along the way.

Honouring First Nations' Principles of SHARE, CARE & RESPECT:  
Share the water  
Care for the animals, land and water  
Respect all living things and their habitats

Kwanlin Dün First Nation

Yukon Fish & Wildlife Enhancement Fund

wild WISE YUKON

### Show respect:

Please refrain from using non-motorized and motorized watercraft in April or when swans are present. Be patient and give the swans a peaceful time on the lake. They will be on their way soon enough.

## Building the McIntyre Community

Over the past year there has been a flurry of new construction on McIntyre Drive. Here are some updates on our community's new buildings.

### Community Hub:

Construction on KDFN's new Community Hub Building continues on schedule with plans to be occupied in summer 2021. This new hub will reflect the land, culture and people of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation.

Our enduring ties to the Yukon River are reflected in the building's design. When viewed from above the shape of the building looks like a leaping salmon. The Government of Canada, the Government of Yukon and the Kwanlin Dün First Nation have all made important contributions to build this new facility.

### Multipurpose Building:

The newly built Multipurpose Building is now being used as workspace for KDFN Recreation and Justice staff. We put out a survey on next steps and future uses for the building in December 2020. We are currently reviewing the survey results and we look forward to opening the facility to public use once it is safe to gather.

## A message about bullying

By Elder in Residence Dianne Smith

In our First Nation way, we do not bully any person. We are taught to be careful of how we talk to people, friends, and family. The words we use can hurt others.

Elders teachings say that we need to be careful of how we treat or talk to people because we do not know their life story. When in a group, we cannot hurt others or playmates, we are not to touch, laugh, make hurtful remarks. The words we use can stay within their hearts and this can stay within one's self and affect how they think of themselves. The only way to get over the hurtful words is to say sorry.

Traditional Law: We need to be careful when we are with other people. We are not allowed to say hurtful words, or make fun of them, or say hurtful remarks. When we laugh, use hurtful words, or we hit someone, that person gets hurt real bad. The family needs to hold a potlatch and ask for forgiveness.

There is much bullying and mobbing in school, the workplace, communities, and at home.

It is the responsibility of the head of the family in the homes to talk to the ones that are bullying others, because by law this can come back to the caretakers. The head of family could be charged or be asked to repair the damage of a property that is caused by a person, child, or family member. This can become very serious.

If you're being bullied and need someone to talk to, phone Bullying Canada at 1(877)352-4497.





# Nlà k'anintsäl uts'ā yè

Southern Tutchone

## Wash your hands with soap



Council of Yukon  
First Nations

### RETURN ADDRESS:

**Kwanlin Dün First Nation**

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

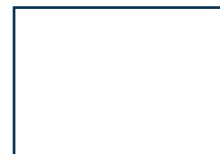
 Find us on Facebook!

35 McIntyre Drive  
Whitehorse, YT Canada  
Y1A 5A5

Phone: 867.633.7800

Fax: 867.668.5057

[communications@kdfn.net](mailto:communications@kdfn.net)



### DESTINATION ADDRESS