

# Kwanlin Dän Ch'a

KWANLIN PEOPLE OF WHITEHORSE, HOW ARE YOU?

FALL 2022



Find out more about basketball camp on pages 34 and 35.



## INSIDE

- |                                                      |                                                                     |                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>8</b> 'All you gotta do is care'<br>– Gary Bailie | <b>18</b> Portraits from Elder Appreciation<br>and Celebration Week | <b>38</b> RCMP members at KDFN    |
| <b>10</b> Q and A with artist<br>Kora Empy           | <b>18</b> KDFN Fun Day!                                             | <b>40</b> Heritage update         |
| <b>12</b> Anne Spice, PhD                            | <b>20</b> Youth Rec's summer snapshots                              | <b>48</b> Salmon stories          |
|                                                      | <b>22</b> Dusk'a Grads                                              | <b>58</b> Hunting rights Q & A    |
|                                                      |                                                                     | <b>62</b> What's up down at KDCC? |

# Who you gonna call?

## For emergencies always call..... 911

KDFN Community Safety Officers  
(If there's no answer, leave a message):  
**867-332-9551**

KDFN Tips Line (anonymously report  
community concerns):  
**867-456-TIPS (8477)**  
Messages are checked daily.

RCMP in Whitehorse (non-emergency):  
**867-667-5555**

Whitehorse Fire Department  
(non-emergency): **867-668-2462**

## Mental Wellness Supports

KDFN's Natsékhi Kù Health Centre:  
**867-668-7289**

Yukon Mental Wellness Services:  
**867-456-3838**

The Canadian Mental Health  
Association, Yukon Division:  
**867-668-6429**

National Indian Residential School  
Crisis Line: **1-866-925-4419**

Hope for Wellness National Crisis Line:  
**1-855-242-3310**

Looking for a phone number? Go to: [kwanlindun.com/find-a-phone-number/](https://kwanlindun.com/find-a-phone-number/)

KDFN Main Reception: **867-633-7800**

Community Services: **867-633-7833, ext. 401**

Education and Social Development: **867-633-8422**

Heritage, Lands, and Resources: **867-633-7800, ext. 128**

Natsékhi Kù Health Centre: **867-668-7289**

Justice: **867-633-7800 ext. 601**

Youth Recreation: **867-332-3060**

KDFN Council (comments and concerns): **867-336-0106**

## Substance Use Support and Harm Reduction

KDFN's Natsékhi Kù Health Centre: **867-668-7289**

The Whitehorse Outreach Van runs every night from 5:30 p.m.  
to 9:30 p.m. (Naloxone kits and other supplies): **867-334-1647**

KDFN Community Safety Officers (Naloxone kits): **867-332-9551**

Yukon's Supervised Consumption Site at **6189 – 6th Avenue**.  
Open weekdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wellness Together Canada: If someone you care about is in  
distress, speak with a counsellor at **1-866-585-0445**

National Overdose Response Service (NORS): Call while you're  
using if you have to use alone: **1-888-688-NORS (6677)**

Hope for Wellness National Crisis Line: **1-855-242-3310**

## Child and Family Supports

Child & Family Liaison after hours on-call line: **867-332-2414**

Yukon Government Social Workers – 24/7: **867-667-3002**

Child & Family Liaison: **867-332-2414**

## COVID-19 Info and Services

KDFN COVID-19 Info Line (weekdays 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.):  
**867-335-5051**

Yukon's Health Information Line (anytime): **811**

## Animal Control

City of Whitehorse Bylaw Officers: **867-667-2111**



CUT OUT THIS PAGE AND KEEP ON YOUR FRIDGE FOR QUICK REFERENCE.

# A Message from the Chief...

Welcome to the KDFN Fall newsletter. The nights are getting longer and the air is getting cooler. It's a time for reflecting on the past year and planning for the year ahead.

We're gearing up for the General Assembly, and we're looking forward to connecting with Citizens and continuing to move the government forward in a good way.

Now that we're learning how to live with COVID-19 and managing the risks to our community, we are happy to be opening up our buildings and dropping some of the COVID safe requirements. We know that the future remains unpredictable and our health and safety teams will keep assessing the risk of transmission in our workplaces and at programs and events.

I would like to thank everybody who joined us for KDFN Fun Day in July! These types of gatherings are important for us to come together as a community.

The nurses at Natsékhi Kù Health Centre have been working hard to hold vaccine clinics, and make sure the vaccines and boosters are available to KDFN Citizens and their families.

Vaccination remains our best protection against getting severely ill or dying from COVID-19.

As we move into winter in the Yukon, I ask you to check in on your family and friends. Make sure your loved ones feel loved. Just a little effort can go a long way when it comes to mental wellness. If you struggle with mental health, there are resources available to you. Don't be afraid to reach out for help.

Chief Doris Bill



“

*As we move into winter in the Yukon, I ask you to check in on your family and friends. Make sure your loved ones feel loved. Just a little effort can go a long way when it comes to mental wellness.”*

Chief Doris Bill





# SHOUT OUTS!

## 20 years of service

SHOUT OUT to Karee Vallevand who received a 20-year Long Service Award from the Government of Canada. In January 2001, Karee started out at the RCMP "M" Division HQ (Yukon) in Administration & Personnel as the Administrative Assistant on a 3-month term. Karee reached the milestone of 20 years of public service in January 2021.

Over the years Karee has worked various jobs like Commanding Officer's Executive Assistant and Air Services Coordinator. Working for the public service has opened many doors for Karee within their community, the north and Canada. It has provided them the opportunity to develop skills for future career opportunities.

In January 2022, Karee took a one-year leave of absence from the RCMP to pursue career development opportunities with KDFN as the Community Engagement Planner with the Heritage, Lands & Resources Department.

## A friendly face at the KDCC

Shout out to Henry Taylor, Client Services Team Supervisor at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.

Henry has been working at KDCC since it opened its doors in 2012, and he was acknowledged with a long-service award in July.

Shāw nít'hän, gùnát'ch'ish, mähsí'cho, thank you Henry for your hard work and dedication!



## Let's celebrate success!

Do you know a KDFN Citizen, Beneficiary, or employee who deserves a shout out? Let us know! Email [communications@kdfn.net](mailto:communications@kdfn.net) or call 867-334-2012.

Please make sure to tell the person, as we'll need their permission to publish a story.



## Celebrating KDFN Elders

Shout out to everyone who helped make Elder Appreciation and Celebration Week happen in July. KDFN staff and volunteers come together to provide five days of activities for Elders, including foot and nail care, homemade lunches and bannock, drop-in sewing, card games, music, massages, portraits, and more!

We hold our hands up to everyone who made the week a huge success!

See more portraits from the week on pages 18 and 19.



## Vision and action on climate change

Shout out to Jessi-John Whalen and the Yukon First Nations Climate Action Fellowship. Jessi-John represents KDFN as a part of the fellowship. The group is made up of 14 young people from all over the Yukon and Northern British Columbia.

The fellowship recently released a Draft Summary Reconnection Vision and Action Plan. The final plan will be released in 2023 to mark the 50th anniversary of 'Together Today for our Children Tomorrow' and the two-year anniversary of the Yukon First Nation Climate Action Gathering.







## Academic excellence

Shout out to KDFN finance clerk Derek Hardy for his recent academic achievements.

In the spring, Derek Hardy graduated from Yukon University at the top of his class with a diploma in Business Administration. He made the honour roll and received a Governor General's Academic Medal.

Derek explained that after noticing signs of arthritis, he switched career paths from carpentry to business admin.

"I knew that I couldn't keep working in construction, so I decided to go back to school while I can still use my mind," says Derek. "I chose business admin and I just went for it."

Derek plans to use his newfound knowledge in his job as a finance clerk at KDFN, and to tutor future business admin students both in the Yukon and virtually with his home community in Ontario.



## Attendance excellence!!

KDFN supported and encouraged students with attendance through Every Student, Every Day from the Victoria Gold Student Engagement Society.

We provided attendance rewards throughout the 2021-2022 school year and had some final draws.

Way to go Jasmine Lloyd, Tijuan Petrovic, Kennedy Smith, and Ashley Johnny!!

## Community garden in bloom

Throughout the summer, Natsékhi Kù staff put time and effort into growing produce in the community garden, such as tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, kale, spinach and lettuce.

The fresh veg is being used in meals delivered to Elders and home care clients.



# What's going on in the Yukon and beyond?

## Federal Indian Day School Class Action Settlement claim extension

Those who need more time to file a claim for the Federal Indian Day School Class Action Settlement, can apply for an extension until January 13, 2023. An extension request form is available at [indiandayschools.com](http://indiandayschools.com). If you would like the form emailed or mailed to you, phone 1(844)-539-3815 or email [dayschools@gowlingwlg.com](mailto:dayschools@gowlingwlg.com). For questions or support, phone 1(888)-221-2898.

The class action seeks compensation for the damages and abuses suffered by all Indian Day School students who were forced to attend Indian Day Schools and were excluded from the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

## Indigenous women and children's shelter to be built in the Yukon

The Government of Yukon has transferred a piece of land in Whitehorse to the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) at the price of \$1, to build the territory's first Indigenous-led shelter.

The Indigenous women and children's shelter will be at 10 Eldorado Drive in Whistle Bend and will have 15 apartments with a total of 32 beds. It will also have high and lower barrier areas to safely meet the needs of those who need more support.

CYFN will lead the construction and operation of the shelter. They're working with Yukon First Nations and other women's shelters to make sure the new shelter meets the needs of the community, as well as culturally appropriate supports and programs.

## Yukon Native Language Centre is hosting a language conference

Registration is now open for the Yukon Native Language Centre's language conference on October 4 and 5 at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.

Learn about current Yukon First Nation language initiatives and network with language champions.

For more info and to register, head over to [ynlc.ca](http://ynlc.ca).

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A HEALTHY KDFN CITIZEN?

### Have your say on Canada's new Indigenous health legislation

Canada is working with provinces, territories, and First Nations across the country to create new health legislation.

KDFN will be submitting feedback on improving access to high-quality, culturally relevant health services.

### Tell us what you think this new legislation should consider and include:

In person at community events; By filling in a short survey; or Through a video contest (age 30 and under).

Visit [kwanlindun.com/engagement](http://kwanlindun.com/engagement) and watch for more announcements coming up!





# 'All you gotta do is care'

This summer Gary Bailie retired from KDFN after 22 years on the job. He leaves a legacy of work on major building projects, boundless energy, and contagious enthusiasm. BY: *River Gatensby*

Gary Bailie has been a familiar face at KDFN for more than two decades. Outside of his job, he's also well known in the Yukon for his work with youth and his advocacy for mental wellness.

Gary started working at KDFN as Capital Projects Manager in 1999. Since then, he's contributed to a wide variety of projects, building roads, houses and playgrounds, and leading KDFN's FireSmart team. Through it all, helping to construct the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre was a career highlight.

"I couldn't top that—re-establishing our presence by the Yukon River as we move on our healing trail to reclaim our identity... I think that was pretty instrumental," he says. "And we did it on schedule and on budget."

Gary is a team-oriented individual. When talking about the projects he has worked on, he always makes sure to credit the hard work of his team.

"The highlight for me is just working in the community and working with our people," says Gary. "Working at KDFN has been an honour. I've learned a lot and I've worked with many great people."

Over his time at KDFN, Gary has seen a lot of change.

"I got to see the First Nation progress, and I'm really happy to have been a part of making that happen," he says. "Right now, it's the best I've ever seen it ... our community is cleaner and safer."

One of Gary's biggest additions to the community is a personal project—the Kwanlin Koyotes youth ski program. He spends many hours during the winter grooming trails and encouraging others to come out skiing.

"I feel like it's the one gift I've given to the community," he says.

He sees it as his daughter's legacy, because she inspired him to take the project on.

What's up next for Gary? He'll continue his work with youth and the community as a cross-country ski coach and advocate for sport and mental wellness. He'll also continue managing the Blue Feather Music Festival. He still plans to take on some work as a contractor, while carving out more time to spend on the land and with his granddaughter.

Regarding his retirement, Gary had this to say: "Working at KDFN has been an honour. I've learned a lot. I've worked with many great people. I've made a lot of friends and a lot of connections. I'm just really grateful for all of that."

And finally, he wanted to share the philosophy that keeps him going: "All you gotta do is care."



# Q&A with art student Kora Empey

Kora Empey is a KDFN Citizen studying photography at OCAD U (Ontario College of Art & Design University). This summer, River Gatensby got the chance to ask her some questions about her education and her art.

**Q: Can you tell me a bit about yourself?**

**A:** My name is Kora Empey, she/her, from Calgary, Alberta. I am a KDFN Citizen.

**Q: What kind of art do you make?**

**A:** Photography and mixed media

**Q: Can you tell me about your education journey?**

**A:** I have a BBA (Bachelor of Business Administration) in marketing from Mount Royal University. I interned with a New York fashion designer. After doing social media for start-ups, I realised I had more of a vision than just creating ads for people to consume and buy products. I decided to pursue photography and created a portfolio to get into OCAD U in Toronto.

I wanted to learn more about myself, my heritage, and my family. I wanted to create things that resonate with others, not just push them to consume products in a world where we are bombarded by advertisements.

I hope to find new ways to connect to the world and the communities around me through art.

**Q: Where did the inspiration for your piece, Real Indian come from?**

**A:** "Real Indian" was created in response to the recent amendments to the *Indian Act*, which sought to remove sex-based inequalities that disadvantaged Indigenous women. These revisions granted me along with thousands of other Canadians, their certificate of Indian status. At age 20 I became a "Real Indian" in the eyes of the government.

The text is made using thermal sensitive pigments that invite the viewer to touch the words and watch them disappear beneath their hands.

Real Indian reflects upon the voices and identities that have been erased throughout history due to the *Indian Act* and the historic giving and taking of status by the Canadian government.

**Q: Where do you go next?**

**A:** I have one year left to get my Bachelor of Fine Arts at OCAD U and work on my thesis. I plan on applying to artist residencies to expand my reach and share my stories with others around the world. I hope to make some commercial work in the coming months.

Find out more about Kora's work at [www.koraempey.com](http://www.koraempey.com).

Are you thinking about post-secondary education? Apply for support through KDFN's Post-Secondary Education Program! Learn more at [www.kwanlindun.com/education/post-secondary-students](http://www.kwanlindun.com/education/post-secondary-students)

*Photos courtesy of the artist.*

## KDFN Council increases support for post-secondary studies

Building skills and capacity through education is essential for the future of our First Nation. Responding to feedback and the rising cost of living, KDFN Council approved an updated Post-Secondary Program Policy on June 2, 2022.

Under this new policy, you can receive support for up to 12 fiscal years. The amount of financial support and living allowance you can receive have also increased. The exact numbers depend on your specific situation.

**DEADLINE:**  
**Apply at least 4 weeks  
before your program starts**

For more information on applying, contact:

Mark Smith,  
KDFN's Post-Secondary Coordinator

[post.secondary@kdfn.net](mailto:post.secondary@kdfn.net)



# KDFN Citizen Anne Spice is a tattoo artist, a professor, and now, she has her PhD

Anne hopes to bring Indigenous knowledge to the forefront of education.

BY: *Dylan MacNeil*

KDFN Citizen Dr. Anne Spice's post-secondary education journey has been a long one. Now, she has a PhD in Anthropology from City University New York Graduate Center to show for it.

Anne previously received her undergrad and masters. Her PhD was nearly a decade of work – starting in 2013. She says her passion for education kept her going.

"Honestly, I can't really remember what spurred me to do it in the first place but I've always loved school," says Anne.

While working on her PhD, Anne wrote the 200-page dissertation, "Everything to Lose: Extraction, Racism and Survival on Wet'suwet'en Land."

"It's about resistance to resource extraction and Indigenous land defence and the work Wet'suwet'en people have been doing for generations to protect their territories and what they come up against when it comes to industry, government, and these multiple incursions on their territory," says Anne.

"It's a big piece of work," she adds.

Anne says Indigenous knowledge is underrepresented in the education system. It was only when she started her PhD that she found classes taught by Indigenous professors and from Indigenous perspectives.

According to Anne, the lack of Indigenous views is especially apparent in anthropology, the study of human cultures and societies.

"I didn't have a lot of models for how to do research from an Indigenous perspective," she says.

"Anthropology doesn't have a very good history when it comes to Indigenous people. There's a lot of parachuting into communities and extracting a bunch of stories and knowledge and then never coming back, or using that knowledge to actually harm the people.

"It's a difficult discipline to try and work within as an Indigenous person but I had some powerful mentors who were doing the work and people I was able to learn from and then I kind of just did my own thing," Anne continues.

Anne grew up in Southern Alberta and likes to spend summers in the Yukon. She currently lives in Ontario, where she works as an Assistant Professor of Indigenous Knowledges in the Geography and Environmental Studies Department at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU).

She teaches a number of courses, including a geography class she built from scratch about colonial infrastructure in North America.

"We look at highways and pipelines and dams and all of the different ways that colonialism and colonial governance can impact people through the built environment," says Anne.

She hopes to help bring Indigenous knowledge to the forefront of education.

"I want it to be easier for Indigenous students to get the support that they need, which also means supporting different kinds of research, which I think in a lot of ways and for a long time, have been seen as less legitimate or less scientific. Telling stories from Indigenous perspectives and really viewing that as powerful research and meaningful research is really important," says Anne.

"If I can be there to provide some guidance for people who are going through it or give pep talks to people who are struggling, I think that is definitely my goal," adds Anne.

As for Indigenous students just setting foot on the path to higher education, Anne says they need to be appreciated.

"They have a powerful voice and powerful stories, and they deserve to be respected. They should seek out people who will respect their own journey," she says.

"Don't give up," she encourages.

When she's not spending time researching and teaching, Anne does traditional hand-poked tattoos. Her work is inspired by Tlingit basketry and geometric patterns and she's most drawn to simple line work, cuffs, armbands, hand, and face tattoos.

This past summer, Anne spent a few weeks tattooing as part of the annual Shakaat Artist Residency hosted by the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.

Now that she's officially a doctor, Anne has her sights set on turning her dissertation into a book and this fall, she'll pilot a class at TMU called "An Indigenous Guide to the Apocalypse."

"It will be looking at Indigenous survival stories and responses to colonialism, but then also the current moment we are in with climate change and how we can respond as a community and as a collective to adapt and continue to survive," says Anne.



*Dr. Anne Spice attends her graduation from City University New York Graduate Center with her parents Dr. Ron Spice and Rev. Lee LeBarge Spice.*

Are you thinking about post-secondary education? Apply for support through KDFN's Post-Secondary Education Program! Learn more at [www.kwanlindun.com/education/post-secondary-students](http://www.kwanlindun.com/education/post-secondary-students)

# DOC TALK .....

Dr. Anke Rhein from KDFN's Natsékhi Kù Health Centre advises on how keeping those vaccinations up to date can help you and your family stay healthy.

We are seeing the first golden leaves, slowly the cranberries are getting ripe, and in time, the first snow will cover the ground and winter will bring with it another flu season.

Protect you and your loved ones by getting the flu vaccination this fall!

Every year Natsékhi Kù Health Centre offers the flu vaccine to everyone over six months old. Watch out for our Vaccination Clinics!



## WHAT CAN WE DO TO KEEP HEALTHY THROUGH FLU SEASON?

Vaccines are a very important way to keep yourself safe from some diseases. But also, the more people who are vaccinated, the less likely a disease is able to spread. Therefore, a community with lots of vaccinated members will generally be healthier than a community with only few vaccinated people.

When getting a vaccination, you receive an inactive part of the illness-causing agent (e.g. virus or bacteria). It does not cause the disease but stimulates your immune system to protect you against it in the future.

You'll probably feel this immune response following the vaccination in the form of feeling tired, having a headache or a sore arm for 24 to 48 hours.

## WHAT IS THE FLU?

The flu is a respiratory disease that spreads in the winter. It can cause severe breathing problems and may turn into pneumonia. Each year 5,700 to 8,500 Canadians die from the flu.

The flu is caused by the influenza virus. Each year the virus changes a little bit to escape immunity from previous infections and to enter and infect human cells again. Therefore, we need a new vaccine every year to target these changes. If we vaccinate people in the fall, they will develop immunity against the influenza virus over a few weeks which will protect them from severe illness during the winter.

*Dr. Anke Rhein is shown hiking near the Dempster Highway this summer. Their love of being outdoors and enjoying Yukon's wonderful nature is what brought them to the Yukon.*

## WHO IS MOST AT RISK FOR THE FLU?

- Elders
- Children under 5
- Pregnant women
- Indigenous people
- Residents of care facilities and shelters
- Adults and children with the chronic health conditions like:
  - Asthma
  - Diabetes
  - Cancer
  - Kidney disease
  - Anemia
  - Morbid obesity

Although COVID-19 and the flu have the same symptoms—cough, fever, runny nose, feeling tired, muscle aches, and headache— they are two different illnesses caused by completely different viruses. Therefore they require two different vaccinations!

## COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

- The COVID-19 vaccine does not protect you from the flu.
- The COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.
- The flu vaccine cannot make you sick with the flu.

## HAVE YOU HEARD OF SHINGLES AND HOW PAINFUL IT COULD BE?

The good news is if you are 65 years or older, there is a vaccination available for you this fall.

The shingles vaccine, called Shingrix®, is recommended for adults 50 years of age and older. The vaccine is given as two doses, at least two to six months apart. You should wait at least 1 year before getting Shingrix® if you have had shingles. You should not get the vaccine if you currently have shingles disease.

Currently in the Yukon, Shingrix® is free for everyone 65 years or older. Every Elder in our community should get the benefit of the shingles vaccination this fall!

## THE TETANUS VACCINATION IS RECOMMENDED EVERY 10 YEARS – WHEN DID YOU GET YOUR LAST SHOT?

Tetanus is a nerve disorder characterised by muscle spasms that are caused by a toxin-producing bacteria, which is found in the soil. Have you heard of "lockjaw"?

It's one of the main symptoms of tetanus. It's intense, painful spasms of the cheek muscles, and causes an inability to open the mouth.

You could get tetanus through open wounds and since the bacteria cannot be eliminated from the environment. Immunisation and proper treatment of wounds and traumatic injuries are crucial for tetanus prevention. Although rare, tetanus remains a threat to all unvaccinated people.

There is also Pneumovax23 that everyone over 65 is eligible for. This vaccination prevents severe Pneumococcal infections (eg, pneumonia, sepsis, meningitis) which are associated with high mortality in older adults.

Shăw nít'hăn, gùnáłchîsh, mähsí'cho, and thank you to Andrea Oldridge, RN, for her contributions and input to this topic.

Remember to wash your hands often and stay home if you are sick.



# KDFN'S HEALTH OUTREACH SERVICES: How and where to access harm reduction supplies and support in Whitehorse

## Whitehorse Outreach Van

The van runs daily from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
Call or text 867-334-1647.

The Outreach Van is a mobile community outreach program aimed at meeting the health, safety and social needs of street-involved youth and adults. It's for people who cannot, or choose not to access other health services.

### The Outreach Van provides:

- Safer injection kit, pipe kit, and snorting kit programs;
- Safe injection equipment and safer crack kits;
- Condoms;
- Needle disposal and pick up;
- Naloxone kits and overdose prevention education;
- On-site wound management;
- Drug checking;
- Harm reduction education;
- Winter clothing, including socks, toques and mitts;
- Snacks and warm beverages;
- Hygiene supplies;
- Nursing services; and
- Supportive listening in a non-judgement environment.

Outreach Van nurses are employed by KDFN. They educate clients on topics such as wound management, sexual health, vein care, and infection prevention.

They also advocate to doctors and other medical professionals for appropriate services on behalf of van clients. They focus on providing health care, support, and programming, and advocate for equal health care services for street-involved and inadequately housed people.

The van is run by KDFN, the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Society of Yukon, and Blood Ties Four Directions Centre.



## SAFE DISPOSAL

There is a yellow community needle drop box behind 24 O'Brien Road.

## THE DOWNTOWN OUTREACH CLINIC

Located at the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter. Open Wednesdays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

At this clinic, a variety of services are offered including foot care, sexually transmitted infection testing, adult immunizations, and referrals to other agencies.

The clinic is run by the KDFN Health and the Government of Yukon Home Care Program.

## SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SITE

Located at 6189 6th Avenue. Open Monday to Friday from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Supervised Consumption Site is a safe and confidential space for people to consume their drugs by injection, snorting, swallowing or smoking.

### The site has friendly and non-judgmental staff that can:

- respond in the event of an overdose;
- provide some health care services;
- Provide referrals;
- Supportive listening; and
- other support as needed.

### The site also offers:

- Naloxone and harm reduction kits;
- Education on harm reduction and overdose prevention;
- Drug checking services;
- Computer access;
- Snacks and warm drinks; and
- a telephone available to people accessing our services.

# OVERDOSE PREVENTION

### If you choose to use drugs:

- start with a small amount;
- don't use alone;
- keep a phone with you; and
- keep a naloxone kit available.

### Know the signs of an overdose.

#### The signs are:

- They can't be woken up or not moving;
- They're choking, coughing, gurgling, or snoring; or
- Their lips and nails are pale, grey, or blue or turning these colours.

If you think someone might be overdosing, remember to follow the acronym **SAVE ME**:

- S** STIMULATE. Unresponsive? Call 9-1-1
- A** AIRWAY. Keep their airway open and clear
- V** VENTILATE. 1 breath every 5 seconds
- E** EVALUATE. Keep looking for changes
- M** MUSCULAR INJECTION. 1 mL of naloxone
- E** EVALUATE. Is a 2nd dose needed?

Naloxone kits and training are available at the Health Centre from 9 a.m. to 11:45 and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays, on the outreach van.

For more information, visit [knowyoursource.ca](https://www.knowyoursource.ca) or stop by the Health Centre.





# KDFN General Assembly 2022

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29 & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

PARTICIPATE:

- in person at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre; or
- online through Zoom



Find out more at [www.kwanlindun.com/GA2022](http://www.kwanlindun.com/GA2022)

## Elder Appreciation and Celebration Week at KDFN!







# KDFN Fun Day!

Shāw níthān, gùnálchîsh, mähsí'cho, and thank you to everyone who came out for KDFN Fun Day in August.

It was a day full of activities, music, food and more for the KDFN community, Citizens, Beneficiaries and employees.

Everyone was treated to homemade meals, games for the whole family, and music by Gustin Adjun and Bria Rose & the Thorns.

It was great to see the community come together after two years of the pandemic!







## Reconnecting the Broken Salmon Trail

As part of the KDFN Fun Day, the KDFN hosted a salmon giveaway and information session on the Southern Lakes community-based salmon Plan, "Reconnecting the Broken Salmon Trail".

We hosted salmon trivia and a survey for a chance to win prizes. There was a colouring contest, a bouncy castle, face painting, and many other activities for youth

The RCMP and KDFN Justice Department cooked burgers and hotdogs and the KDFN cooks made a wonderful traditional lunch of salmon chowder, caribou soup with all the fixings for all to enjoy.

We would like to thank all the staff, cooks, security, and citizens for this wonderful day. We couldn't have done this without you. Shāw nithān, gūnāłchish, māhs'icho, and thank you.







**Känlì k'è nàkwäts'äye.**

**We have fun!**

This past spring and summer, Youth Rec paddled, snorkelled, and went to Moosehide Gathering!







KDFN Youth Recreation is celebrating the many wonderful experiences we've had with youth and community this season!

Youth enjoyed programs such as making their own graduation vest and shawls, learning how to snorkel, making drums, and going to the Moosehide Gathering!

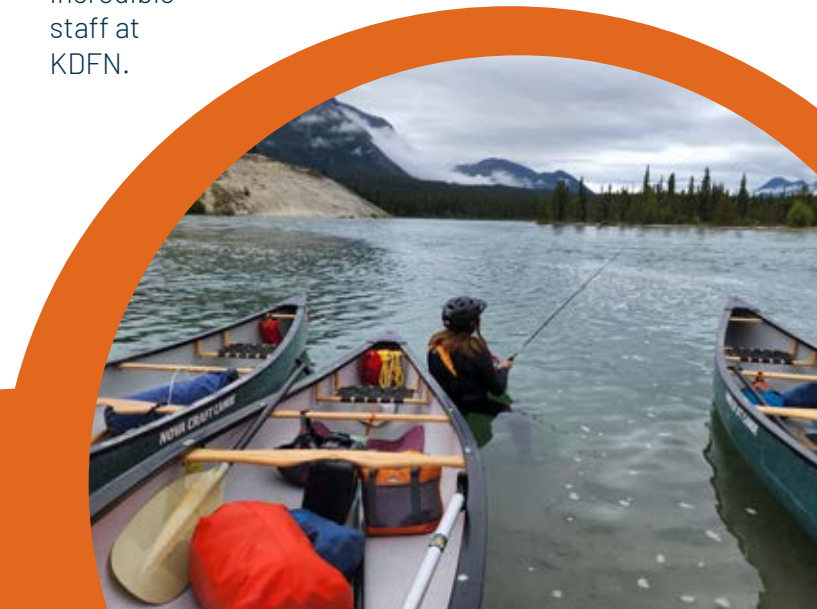
We were excited to launch several new camps this spring and summer such as: Intro to Moving Water Paddling Camp, Snorkel Camp, attending Moosehide Gathering, Basketball Camp, and returning to past favourites such as S.T.E.M. Camp (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

In partnership with KDFN Education, Recreation began it's first graduation vest and shawl program with great success and many colourful, creative designs.

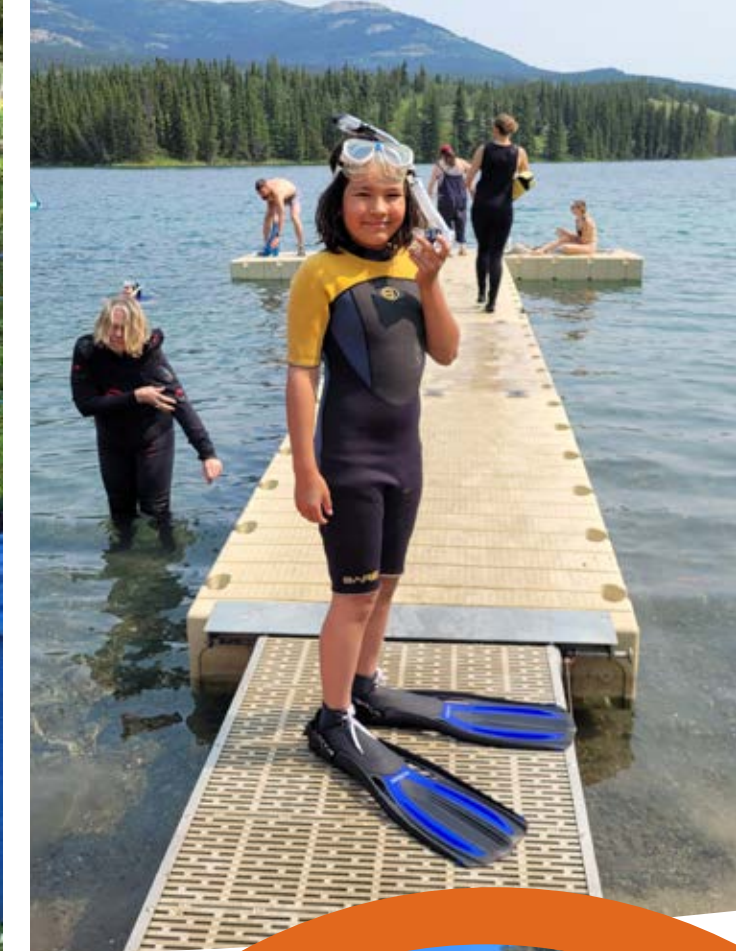
We enjoyed day trips to Carcross and Long Ago People's Place, made skateboards (and learned

some tricks!), made traditional drums, took swimming lessons, went rock climbing, canoeing, learned bicycle maintenance, hair styling and aesthetics and visited the salmon sonar site, to name a few!

We'd like to send a special *shāw nítān*, *gūnáłchish*, *māhsí'cho*, and thank you to all of our staff and partners who made these experiences possible: the RCMP, Yukon Canoe and Kayak Club, Yukon University, Skills Canada, The Yukon Youth Conservation Corps, Youth Achievement Center, Yukon Scuba, The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Youth Centre, and all of the incredible staff at KDFN.











# What is Rec up to this fall?

Join us for after school fun and games at the Multipurpose Building (MPB), Tuesday through Friday from 3:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. for youth ages 6-12, and from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. for youth ages 13+.

We look forward to resuming swimming lessons for youth ages 6 to 10, and for the start of a new music program on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the MPB.

## QUESTIONS?

We'd love to hear from you!  
Give us a call at 867-332-3060.







## Congratulations Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre grads of 2022

The Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre class of 2022 are now off to kindergarten. Tears of joy rolled down the cheeks of proud parents as kids dawned their regalia for the graduation ceremony in June.

Congratulations to the class of 2022! You are our future decision makers and community leaders. We wish you nothing but the best as you continue your education journey.



The Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre class of 2022.

OPPOSITE PAGE – TOP ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:  
Zariyah Joe, Leelah Godbout, Markus Charlie-Smarch.

BOTTOM ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:  
Tatiana Jackson-Macintosh, Laela Thompson,  
Jack Johnny, Gary Koe-Dawson. Not pictured:  
Landyn Bill, Syleff Fox, Tsalazra Fox, Hudson  
MacIntosh-Smarch, Quinn Sawrenko.

The kids had a blast taking photos of each other with the communications department camera.







# A story about a dream, friendship, and basketball

## KDFN hosts first basketball camp

In 2021, long-time friends Katelyn Dawson and Claire Abbot came up with an idea to start a basketball program at KDFN, something that had never been done before.

The idea was to create a basketball camp to promote a healthy lifestyles and a positive environment in team sports for KDFN youth. Through this, they could create an environment that encourages learning, growth, respect, and helps you step outside of your comfort zone.

They were thousands of kilometers apart, with Katelyn living in Whitehorse, and Claire living in the UK. Despite their distance, they got to work and over the course of a year they were able to turn their dream into a reality.

Part of their journey was to create a logo for their basketball uniforms. They worked with Terrence Cory Shorty to make this happen.

This is how they described the new logo:

*"The basketball design features abstract Tlingit art. The traditional colours of red, black, and white are used in Tlingit art worldwide. According to the Southern Tutchone language, "Kwanlin" means "running water through canyons". The basketball has a slight tilt that gives it a more dynamic feel as if it is rolling just as water would flow. When the basketball design was complete, it almost looked like a salmon egg. To us, this seemed like a very fitting choice since we were starting a new journey just as a salmon egg would one day become a strong fish swimming through the water."*

The camp ended in August with a big celebration.







# Researching KDFN traditional laws

At the first workshop, KDFN Citizens came together to use Indigenous stories and values to work through real-life problems and bring forward KDFN Indigenous laws.



KDFN and the Indigenous Laws Research Unit of the University of Victoria, held its first Indigenous Laws Workshop at KDCC on July 25, 26 and 27th, 2022.

The workshop was the first step in a multi-year process to bring forward KDFN traditional laws related to justice. The group spent the days learning a legal-analysis method for working with Indigenous stories to work through real-life problems together, and to look at values held by a particular Indigenous community.

The workshop was well attended. Those that took the time to participate did incredible work engaging with the stories and sharing their perspectives and opinions. We all left feeling inspired and ready to move forward with the project.

Keep a look out for future workshops or opportunities to work with KDFN on a more personal basis (i.e., in the home, on the land, with families) in the future!

Special thanks to Doronn Fox and Elders Shirley Adamson and Roger Ellis for keeping the fire and sharing their wisdom and wonderful company.

For more information on this project, contact:

Erin Linklater, Manager of Restorative Justice & Community Safety

867-633-7800, ext 602 | [erin.linklater@kdfn.net](mailto:erin.linklater@kdfn.net)



# Meet the Members!

KDFN's RCMP team and Justice team work closely together to support community safety and connections.



There are three RCMP members stationed in the KDFN community. The members have offices in the new Kashgêk' building. They are available to provide support and assistance to KDFN citizens.

The KDFN RCMP team works with Community Safety Officers to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the community. They also work closely with our Justice team to provide restorative justice alternatives to Citizens and engage in recreational and on-the-land opportunities with KDFN youth and community. This includes moose hunts, basketball camps, STEM camps, skiing and sledding, canoeing, community bingo, and barbeques!

## Cst. Rimanelli

My name is Marcello Rimanelli. I was born in Montreal, Quebec and have lived most of my life in Terrebonne, Quebec (20km North of Montreal). I'm a third generation Italian/Canadian. My grandparents immigrated to Canada from Italy in the 1960s. I grew up in a variety of different cultures and ethnicities, which is one of the reasons I chose to live and work in Whitehorse.

I've been living in Whitehorse for two years now, and I've been working as a police officer with KDFN for more than a year. I've been a police officer for the RCMP for five years. Before being a police officer, I was in the supply chain/analytics sector for about two years.

## Cpl. Lightfoot

My name is Adam Lightfoot and I am so proud to be the Corporal and team leader on the KDFN RCMP team. I have been with the RCMP for 15 years and started my career at the Whitehorse Detachment before serving in Ross River, Watson Lake, and on the Federal Investigations Unit. I'm also a member of the Explosive Disposal Team, you may remember when I brought the bomb truck up to KDFN for the day. You may also know me from flipping burgers at the Elders Celebration lunch or at KDFN Fun Day, or coaching hockey across the territory.

I grew up in Nova Scotia, but consider the Yukon my home. I enjoy hunting, hockey, fishing and have a wife and two boys that you occasionally will see with me at KDFN events. I am so proud to be included in the KDFN community.

## Cst. Gregorash

My name is Erin Gregorash and I am KDFN's newest RCMP officer. I've been with the RCMP for 9 years, working in Watson Lake, Old Crow, Kugaaruk (Nunavut), and Whitehorse.

I was born in British Columbia but consider Yukon my home. I enjoy anything outdoors, especially hiking and camping. In the winter time I love to drink tea and sew. I'm looking forward to finding new beading friends! My favourite pastime is coaching girls volleyball and I hope to find some enthusiastic KDFN athletes to continue this!

Contact the KDFN RCMP team at 867-633-7800, ext 601.





## Meet KDFN's Heritage Manager

Susan Heffner has worked with the KDFN Heritage, Lands, and Resources Department for the past 10 years as a consultant. Susan brings 25 years of experience in archaeological fieldwork, heritage assessment work, and traditional knowledge facilitation.



# Update on KDFN's new Heritage Unit

## What's happening in KDFN Heritage?

**Visiting and documenting sites:** Over the summer, we've been busy visiting as many KDFN land parcels as possible with KDFN's Land Stewards. During these trips, we've documented 12 archeological sites, a few heritage trails, modern cabins, and several old camps in the Stony Creek, Takhini, and Annie Lake areas.

Protecting Yukon Ice Patch and Hunting Blinds areas from mineral staking: KDFN is working with other First Nations and the Yukon government to protect heritage areas connected to the Yukon Ice Patch and Hunting Blinds Projects from mineral staking.

The Hunting Blinds Project is mapping the area with drones. The 3-D footage will create a virtual tour and allow KDFN Citizens to experience these alpine areas in a new way. This summer, we visited these areas to record blinds, and to take some of our own drone footage.

Please contact Susan, if you know about hunting blinds or sheep and caribou hunting.



### Heritage assessment of the Whitehorse Hospital area:

KDFN has requested a heritage assessment in the existing hospital area. The assessment includes background study of the area when it was a settlement and camp, before the hospital was built.

Please contact Susan, if you have any information about this area.

**Other projects:** Here's a snapshot of some other projects the Heritage Unit has been working on since March 2022.

- Reviewing heritage sections of the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) and Marsh Lake land use plans
- Providing input into the:
  - Yukon Energy Corporation relicensing process;
  - City of Whitehorse's Official City Plan; and
  - the Yukon government's Territorial Lands Act.
- Participating in the Heritage Working Group at the Yukon Forum.
- Reviewing heritage permits and assessments for work in KDFN Traditional Territory.
- Conducting a heritage assessment of R-62A; and
- Visiting and documenting KDFN grave sites.



ABOVE: A 30- to 40-year-old moccasin was found west of Stony Creek and north of the Haines Highway. If you have any information on the moccasin or the beading, please get in touch.

## COMING UP: Creating a KDFN Heritage Committee

KDFN will create a heritage committee in winter of 2023. This committee will provide guidance, and set priorities for KDFN's Heritage Manager. Watch for more information on this.

Please feel free to get in touch, If you find an artifact, trail, camp, cabin, or any heritage feature while out on the land, or if you would like more information on the sites found.

Contact: Susan Heffner, Heritage Manager, 867-334-4336 | Susan.Heffner@kdfn.net





# Planning and protecting our land for the future

KDFN manages our land through regional, local and community area planning. These plans guide how our communities can grow and develop while protecting the land and water for future generations.

Over the spring and summer, our team has been focused on three plans:

**McIntyre, Crow and Swan Neighbourhood Plan;**

**Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) Local Area Plan (with Yukon government); and**

**How We Walk with the Land and Water (with Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council)**



## Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) Local Area Plan

KDFN and the Yukon government are developing a local area plan for the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) area with support from Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

A steering committee – made up of three KDFN and three YG appointees – is developing the plan. In the spring, the committee wrote a summary report about the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) area to help guide the planning process.

The committee also released a short survey to learn more about community values and vision in the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) area in July. The survey results and feedback on the summary report will help the committee draft the plan in the fall and winter of 2022/23.

KDFN held a community BBQ for Citizens and Beneficiaries in August to learn about the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) Summary Report, tell Fish Lake stories, and win prizes.

For more information, visit [kwanlindun.com/fishlakeplan](https://kwanlindun.com/fishlakeplan) or contact:

Karee Vallevand  
KDFN Community Engagement Planner  
867-334-3569 | [Karee.Vallevand@kdfn.net](mailto:Karee.Vallevand@kdfn.net)



## McIntyre, Crow & Swan Neighbourhood Plan

A neighbourhood plan is being created to guide future development of McIntyre subdivision and Crow and Swan streets.

Through two workshops and a survey, Citizens and Beneficiaries shared concerns about the neighbourhood and created a vision to improve the neighbourhood. The vision focused on safety, education, traditional values and economic opportunity.

Feedback and ideas gathered from the workshops and the survey will be used in the neighbourhood plan.

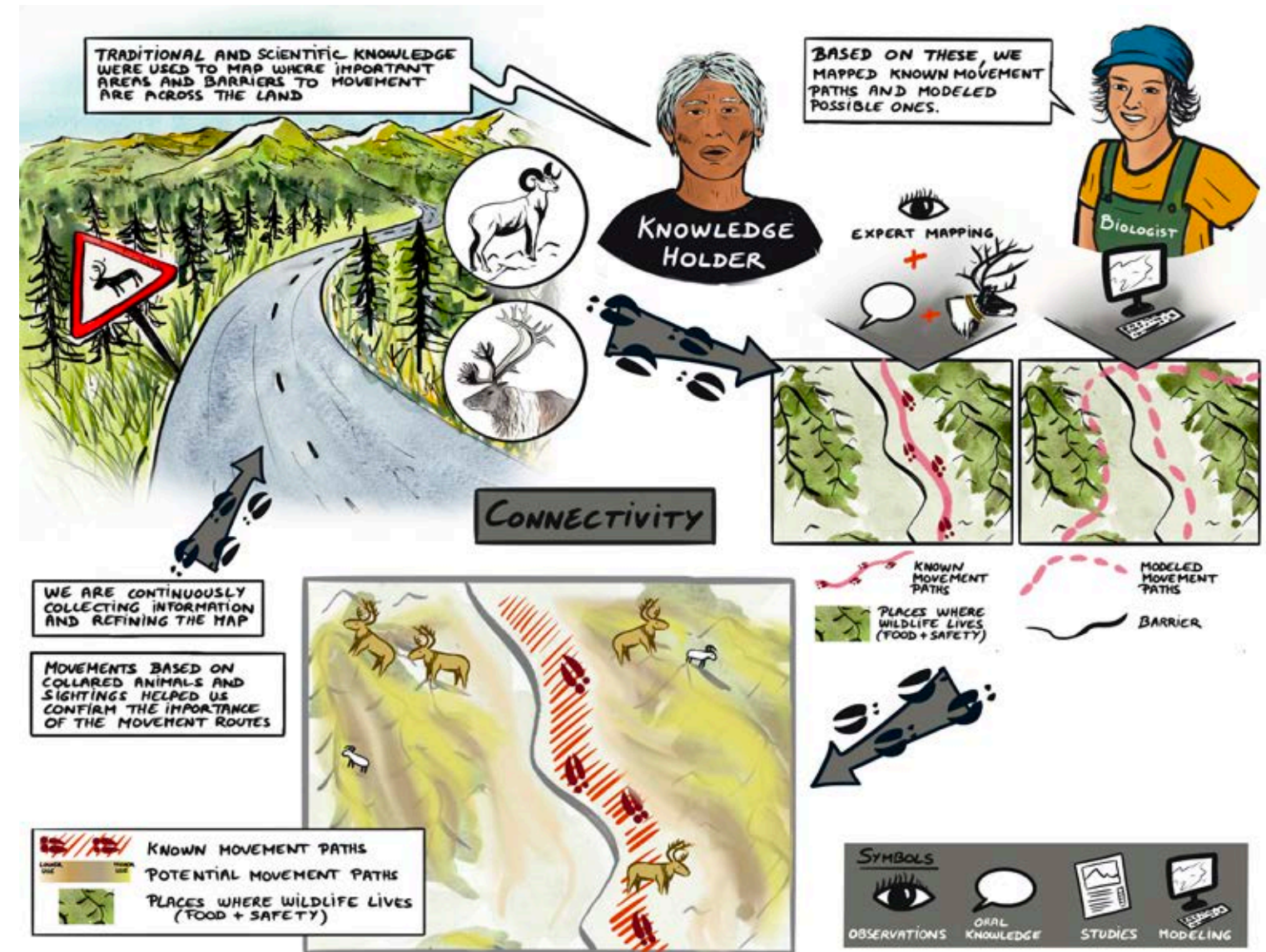
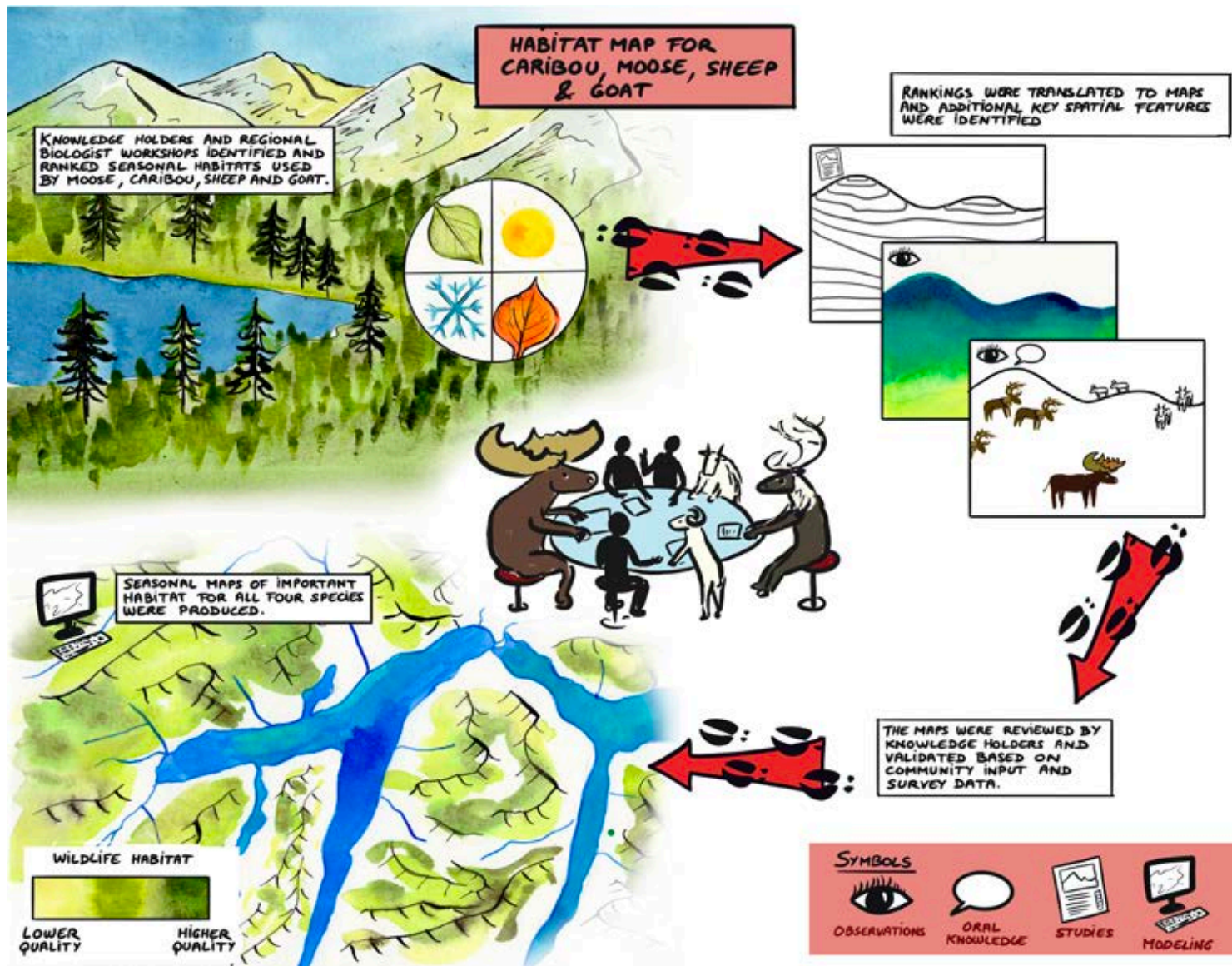
Congratulations to our three Neighbourhood Plan survey, and poster contest winners: Melissa O'Brien, Sandi Porter, Darlene Scurvey and Rae Mombourquette. Each winner received a \$225 gift card.

More community events will be held in the fall.

For more information, visit [kwanlindun.com/neighbourhoodplan](https://kwanlindun.com/neighbourhoodplan) or contact:

Karee Vallevand  
KDFN Community Engagement Planner  
867-334-3569 | [Karee.Vallevand@kdfn.net](mailto:Karee.Vallevand@kdfn.net)





## How We Walk with the Land and Water

KDFN is working with Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council on a regional plan that overlaps the three First Nations' Traditional Territories.

The plan focuses on the relationship between land and water, and brings together traditional knowledge with western technology and science-based approaches. Maps created for the plan, combine present day knowledge with ancestral knowledge from over 300 recorded interviews of Elders and knowledge holders.

In July, two well-attended open houses were held in Whitehorse and Carcross. Elders, youth and Citizens were asked to confirm and validate map values, and share knowledge of the area. All knowledge shared is securely stored and cannot be accessed without permissions.

Those who were unable to attend the open houses are welcome to contact us to set up a time to meet. Please email [communications.hww@gmail.com](mailto:communications.hww@gmail.com)



## Reclaiming, restoring, and beautifying our lands by removing vehicles

This summer KDFN piloted a new program to remove and recycle end-of-life vehicles abandoned on our Settlement Land.

Through a new pilot project 16 derelict vehicles were removed from KDFN Settlement Lands within Whitehorse. The goal of the project, led by Land Steward Officer Bruce Wilson, was to reclaim, restore, and beautify our lands in a responsible and environmentally friendly way.

We considered many factors when choosing areas to focus on, such as: environmental concerns, accessibility, condition of vehicles, Citizen concerns, and the potential for vandalism or arson.

In this first stage, we focused on the McIntyre subdivision, C-42B on Long Lake Road, C-31B in McCrae, and C-103B/D on Squatters Road.

Here is the process we followed for removing and recycling the vehicles:

1. We posted notices on the vehicles and contacted the owners, if there were any. They were given 14 days notice, whereas the standard notice is 72 hours.
2. The vehicles were towed to Raven Recycling. Through an Urban Auto Depolluting System, they removed and safely disposed of anything that could pose an environmental risk, such as oils, antifreeze fluid, and tires.
3. Vehicles were compacted and baled for transport.
4. A transport trailer load was sent to Edmonton for recycling at General Recycling Co. and written proof of recycling was provided.

We would like to thank our project partners: Raven Recycling, Urban Auto Recycling, and John Lavalley & Sons Towing. We would also like to acknowledge the Yukon government for contributing funding.

We plan to work with the Yukon government to continue this project in the future.

For more information, contact: Land Steward Officer Bruce Wilson  
867-334-8990 | [bruce.wilson@kdfn.net](mailto:bruce.wilson@kdfn.net)

## Meet KDFN's Fisheries Technician Trainees

### Alberta Sam

I am Northern and Southern Tutchone and a Beneficiary of Kwanlin Dün First Nation. I am of the Wolf Clan. My grandparents are Albert Fred, Hilda Sam, Margaret Malcom, and Cathro Peter.

I was born in Whitehorse and raised in the McIntyre community. Growing up, I always loved the outdoors and I still do today. I enjoy hiking, biking, and taking photos of all things in nature.

I'm excited to be a part of the team, and I'm eager to get on the land to learn and have fun and to be connected more with my community, friends, and family!

### Kluane Clarke

My name is Kluane Clarke. My First Nations name is "Udan Chá", which means "Kind Hearted". My name was gifted to me by May Roberts of Little Salmon/Carmacks. I belong to the Wolf Clan.

I am Northern Tutchone and a Beneficiary of Kwanlin Dün First Nation.

My great-grandmother is Jessie Isaac and my great-grandfather is Solomon Charlie of Aishihik and Chief of Cracker Creek. My grandparents are Cary and Meta Bailie and my parents are Tina Bailie and Tom Clarke. I was born and raised in Whitehorse. I grew up in the community and am quite familiar with everyone. I have a huge appreciation and interest for nature.

I'm happy to be back for my second year as a Fisheries Technician Trainee, working alongside the Land Steward Officers on the Takhini River Sonar Project and other exciting projects.

I am learning so much and I am stoked to be back!







## An update from the Yukon First Nations Salmon Stewardship Alliance

### Our first summer of activities supporting Yukon First Nations.

The Yukon First Nation Salmon Stewardship Alliance (YFNSSA), through the Council of Yukon First Nations, supported Yukon First Nations with their salmon projects, including planning new projects, supporting current projects, and providing equipment to individual governments. We also hosted technical working group meetings that brought Yukon First Nations together to discuss specific salmon issues, such as collecting Chinook brood stock for the Whitehorse hatchery.

KDFN, Ta'an Kwach'an Council, and Carcross/Tagish First Nation asked Yukon Energy Corporation to reduce its brood stock collection to align with the low salmon numbers.

Most recently we hosted an Annual Salmon Ceremony and Gathering on the land that highlighted salmon ceremony and culture. The gathering was a large partnership with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation, Yukon University, Salmon Knowledge Hub, and the Canadian Mountain Network.

For research, we partnered on a Yukon River wide research project studying juvenile Chinook habitat with Natasha Ayoub and we will be seeking Traditional Knowledge to inform this research. In the coming months we will increase work on the *Fisheries Act* Implementation and work at establishing a governance structure.



## Surveying salmon carcasses

As part of KDFN's ongoing efforts to monitor and restore salmon to the Yukon River, we are conducting surveys to find salmon carcasses. These surveys can help indicate the relative number of salmon in the river, as well as their success at spawning.

By documenting salmon that are not able to spawn, we can start to identify potential threats to the population.

Our surveys focus on the Yukon River in Whitehorse where we are trying to understand whether the dam influences salmon spawning. We also do these surveys on the Teslin River to see how the Yukon River fish compare to those elsewhere.

Although the run is low this year, our crews have been finding salmon and learning important information to help monitor the population.







# Kwanlin Dün stewardship of fisheries

KDFN has been working with many partners to support fish and fisheries in our traditional territory.

We know that fish are important to our community in order to practice our culture, and support our food security. We have seen drastic declines in salmon and we face a number of threats (like climate change and overfishing) to our freshwater fish populations.

We're working on many projects to conserve, protect, rebuild, and support fish every year. Here is some information on two of those projects we would like to highlight.

## Southern Lakes Salmon Planning – Reconnecting the Broken Salmon Trail

Working with the Carcross/Tagish First Nations and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council since 2019, the salmon plan focuses on the critical importance salmon has within Southern Lakes cultures, languages, landscapes and laws, as a means to set management, conservation and protection priorities.

The plan has focussed on ceremony, and through the traditional laws of SHARING, CARING, RESPECT and TEACHING. Our Elders, Citizens and governments understand the importance of salmon in our community for family connection through fish camps, cultural knowledge transfer, culture and ceremony. Through a commitment of working together in order to regain the connection, support recovery, and feel the presence of salmon in our communities for future generations.

"People from Marsh Lake, Tagish, and Lake Laberge used to meet here [at King

Salmon River or Salmon Creek] in summer at a fish camp several miles up the McLintock River. For many years there was a fish trap at this spot."

-Angela Sidney, Place Names of the Tagish Region, Southern Yukon 1980

## Fishing Education and Ethics Development (FEED) Course – Online Course for Recreational Anglers

We have heard of the concerns around recreational/sport fisheries in the lakes and rivers within our traditional territory. There have been concerns around overfishing, catch and release fishing, and fish ethics that don't match up to our traditional laws. We are working to support the lake trout, whitefish, burbot and grayling that we rely upon.

We are working on a FEED course that licensed recreational anglers can take to learn more about the fish in general, how to respectfully handle fish, release fish properly (if required to release by law) and our First Nation ways around fish. We hope this will result in more respect for fish and an understanding of our subsistence fisheries and rights to fish.

Thanks to our numerous fisheries partners:

- Nick de Graff – CAN-NIC-A-NICK Environmental
- Government of Yukon – Fish and Wildlife Branch
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Environmental Dynamics Inc.
- Dennis Zimmermann – Big Fish Little Fish Consultants
- Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board
- Respect for Fish

For more information about these projects, please contact:

Brandy Mayes, Operations Manager at KDFN Heritage, Lands and Resources  
867-336-3316 | [brandy.mayes@kdfn.net](mailto:brandy.mayes@kdfn.net)

Cheyenne Bradley, KDFN Land Steward Officer | 867-332-6419 | [cheyenne.bradley@kdfn.net](mailto:cheyenne.bradley@kdfn.net)

Dennis Zimmermann, Project Facilitator | 867-336-3474 | [b1fyukon@gmail.com](mailto:b1fyukon@gmail.com)



# Counting Chinook for future generations

The Takhini River Sonar Project helps Kwanlin Dün First Nation make salmon conservation decisions. BY: *Dylan MacNeil*

KDFN Land Steward Officer Cheyenne Bradley and Fisheries Technician Trainee Kluane Clarke wake up, start the coffee, make breakfast, and get ready for work. They don't have a far commute to get to their job though, they're camping there.

Cheyenne and Kluane are stationed on the Takhini River, about five kilometers upstream from the confluence with the Yukon River, tasked with the important job of counting Chinook salmon as they travel to their spawning grounds.

They're two members of the operations team that runs the Takhini River Sonar Project. The crew is rounded out by Operations Manager Brandy Mayes, Land Steward Officer Bruce Wilson, and Fisheries Technician Trainee Alberta Sam.

The team also gets help from Champagne and Aishihik First Nation Fish and Wildlife Manager Josée Lemieux-Tremblay, Salmon Stewardship Program Officer Brittany Au, Parks Guardians Annika Joe and Denise Hume, and Land Guardians Matthew Brown and Levi Graham.

In duos, they take turns spending between three and seven days at the sonar station.

On the right bank of the river is the camp. There are a few tents for sleeping, a generator, an electric fence to keep bears out, a spot to launch a boat, and the main tent. The main tent is like an office—Inside there's a makeshift kitchen, a few tables, and lots of computer screens.

About 100 feet downstream and across the river on the left bank is where the actual sonar is. It resembles an old TV antenna sticking out of the water. Using sound beams, it detects fish that swim

by. A weir keeps fish from entering the sonar's blind spot. Data is wirelessly sent across the water to the main tent, where it is saved and counted hourly by a program called Echostatic.

"Everybody knows what a sonar is in a submarine. It's like 'beep!' The sound waves are bouncing," says Cheyenne, explaining how the equipment works.

Images from Echostatic look like a colourful array of dots and speckles all over the screen. To most people, it's difficult to decipher, but Cheyenne and Kluane know exactly what to look for. Certain dots and lines mean there are fish in the water. They use techniques like measuring the length of the lines and how fast they move on screen to determine if it's a Chinook.

"Other species of fish, they kind of like to mill around, which means they stay on the screen for a while and then they go," says Cheyenne.

"Salmon, they want to spawn, they want to get to their grounds, so they just go."

The Takhini River Sonar Project is located near the end of the Chinook Salmon's spawning route. The fish migrate from the Bering Sea up the Yukon River through Alaska and into Canada. On the Takhini River, salmon spawn near the Takhini River campground.

Cheyenne and Kluane aren't just counting fish for fun though. Their work supports what traditional knowledge has known for years — the number of Chinook is declining. The information collected at the Takhini River Sonar helps KDFN make conservation decisions, like asking Citizens and Beneficiaries not to harvest Chinook in efforts to preserve the species for future generations.

"In western science, they need the numbers to make decisions, whereas traditional knowledge we know that we've seen different things in the past," says Cheyenne.

"We don't like to use the word management when it comes to fish and wildlife," says Brandy. "We, as First Nations people, have been coming back to these rivers year after year for the salmon. They have their annual cycle and we follow them, so they manage us. To honour and respect our salmon relations, it is our responsibility to raise awareness, to protect and conserve salmon and their habitat."

Beyond salmon conservation, the Takhini River Sonar Project also gets people out on the land.

"This camp teaches life skills. The responsibility of having to run the camp by yourself, having to cook dinner," says Cheyenne.

As for what Kluane thinks of the sonar, they enjoy learning about all the fancy gear.

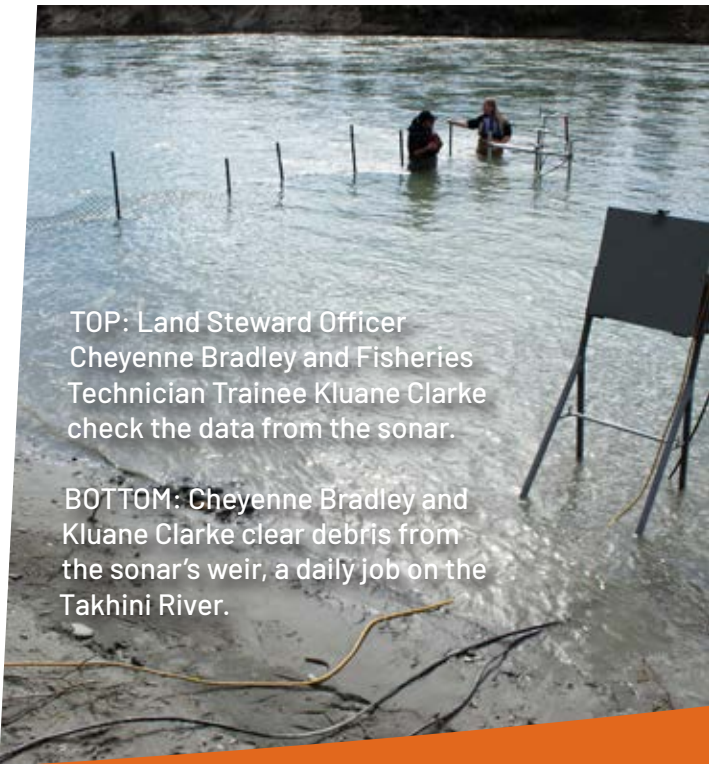
"It can be tedious but it's really cool to learn," says Kluane.

"I'm really into outdoorsy things and learning about the natural life of things. It's really interesting," they add.

KDFN has been operating the sonar for two years now. Fisheries and Oceans Canada ran it in 2017 and 2018. Equipment typically stays in the water from the end of July to early September, though it can be taken out earlier or later deepening on when it stops detecting salmon.

The crew on the Takhini River Sonar Project would like to say shāw nithän, gùná'chish, mähsí'cho, and thank you to Chief Doris Bill, Ta'an Kwach'an Council, Yukon First Nation Salmon Stewardship Alliance, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee and KDFN Recreation for visiting the sonar.

As well, they would like to send a big shāw nithän, gùná'chish, mähsí'cho, and thank you to their partners Environmental Dynamics Inc., Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Champagne and Aishihik First Nation, and funding partners Yukon River Panel and the Yukon Pacific Salmon Commission.



TOP: Land Steward Officer Cheyenne Bradley and Fisheries Technician Trainee Kluane Clarke check the data from the sonar.

BOTTOM: Cheyenne Bradley and Kluane Clarke clear debris from the sonar's weir, a daily job on the Takhini River.





## Michie Creek Habitat Monitoring Project 2022

The Michie Creek Habitat Monitoring Project assesses a portion of the migratory habitat to ensure that adult salmon were not obstructed during their upstream migration. The project includes the mitigation of beaver dams and the long-term monitoring of flow and stream temperature at the primary Chinook spawning location in upper Michie Creek.

In mid-June, instruments to monitor water levels and stream temperature were installed in upper Michie Creek. At the time, Michie Creek was in full flood and was not wadeable.

Another field trip happened in late July to adjust the monitoring station and estimate discharge. A temperature monitor was also installed in the Whitehorse Rapids Fish Ladder near the end of June.

In early August, a barrier survey was completed on a section of Michie Creek between the Michie Lake outlet and the Byng Creek confluence. No beaver dams and very little beaver cuttings were observed at this time. There were, however, plenty of large mature trees that had fallen into the river, presumably from the heavy snow load from the previous winter.

While many of these large trees contributed to logjams that were already present, it was believed that these further accumulations would not pose as barriers to the upstream movement of migrating salmon.

In early September a spawner and redd survey was completed on the section of Michie Creek between the Michie Lake outlet and the Byng Creek confluence. Only one spent female Chinook was enumerated just upstream of the Byng Creek confluence. Additionally, no redds were observed at this time. These results represent the lowest count since surveying of the Michie Creek index area began in 2004. These extremely low counts correspond to the low numbers of salmon (165) that were enumerated at the Whitehorse Rapids Fish Ladder in 2022.





## WANTED:

### Hides of harvested moose, caribou and mule deer

## Help us monitor the health of Yukon cervids

### What you can do

Submit the hide of a harvested moose, caribou or mule deer.

- ▷ We are accepting the whole hide or a large portion of the hide from the neck and shoulders.
- ▷ Please bring a fresh hide, or the hide can be frozen if the submission is delayed.
- ▷ Bring the hide to the Animal Health Unit at the Department of Environment.



Find us at 10 Burns Road, Whitehorse.

For more information, contact us at [animalhealth@yukon.ca](mailto:animalhealth@yukon.ca) or 867-667-5600

To thank you for participating, hunters who submit a hide will receive a thermos (while supplies last).



\*Cervids are wild plant-eating animals, such as moose, caribou, and deer.

Consider submitting the head as well. Heads from harvested moose, caribou and mule deer will also help us monitor wildlife health.

# Update on the Southern Lakes Caribou Recovery Program

KDFN continues to be a key contributor to the Southern Lakes Caribou Recovery project, including the Ibex, Laberge, and Carcross herds. The Southern Lakes Caribou Steering Committee, which includes 9 governments with interest in the Southern Lakes herds, has been working towards an agreed approach for caribou management since 2018. The Steering Committee has achieved a lot over the past 4 years and will soon start sharing the work we've completed to date.

One of the continuing gaps is a framework for sharing caribou harvest when the plan is completed. Re-establishing connections with the caribou through hunting is a priority for KDFN.

- Since 1993, KDFN and neighbouring
- First Nations have asked their
- Beneficiaries to not hunt caribou to
- help the recovery efforts.

The Steering Committee is planning a meeting of the Southern Lakes First Nations to discuss:

- How could caribou hunting resume in the Southern Lakes?
- How many caribou could be harvested?
- Who gets to hunt?
- How do we manage the hunters to ensure the hunt is sustainable and considers traditional values?

These are some of the key questions that must be answered. If not done carefully and respectfully, we risk losing the caribou again.

We respectfully ask our beneficiaries to continue to uphold the voluntary harvest restriction until we have a plan in place.

For more information, visit [southernlakescaribou.com](http://southernlakescaribou.com) or contact:

Brandy Mayes,  
Manager of Operations & Fish and Wildlife  
867-336-3316 | [brandy.mayes@kdfn.net](mailto:brandy.mayes@kdfn.net),

You could also contact  
Lars Jessup, Fish and Wildlife Advisor  
867-332-7599 | [lgjessup@protonmail.com](mailto:lgjessup@protonmail.com)





# What are my hunting rights?

Answers to some frequently asked questions around harvesting rights under the Kwanlin Dün Final Agreement (KDFA).

**Q: I'm KDFA Beneficiary. What are my KDFA rights to hunt?**

**A:** You have the right to:

- hunt for food for yourself and your family on KDFN's Traditional Territory during all seasons,
- harvest male or female animals (except bison or elk) at any time of year with no bag limits, subject to regulations set by KDFN, and
- use traditional and current methods and equipment for harvesting.

**Q: I'm a KDFA Beneficiary. What happens to my KDFA hunting rights if I apply for a hunting licence?**

**A:** Nothing happens to your KDFA hunting rights if you apply for a Yukon hunting licence. If you chose to use a hunting licence, you have to follow the rules of the Yukon *Wildlife Act*.

**Q: I'm a KDFA Beneficiary. What are my rights to hunt outside of KDFN Traditional Territory?**

**A:** Outside of KDFN Traditional Territory, you can hunt with a valid Yukon hunting licence or consent of the First Nation whose Traditional Territory you'd like to hunt in.

**Q: What are the differences between a KDFA Beneficiary's right to hunt and a non-Beneficiary KDFN Citizen's right to hunt?**

**A:** Hunting rights are not granted to every KDFN Citizen. If you're a non-Beneficiary non-Indigenous Citizen of KDFN, you need a hunting licence to hunt anywhere in the Yukon.

Until further notice KDFN will not be giving consent to non-First Nations and non-Beneficiaries to hunt or fish on Category A Settlement Land because proper wildlife assessments haven't been done and KDFN hasn't developed a *Wildlife Act* and regulations.

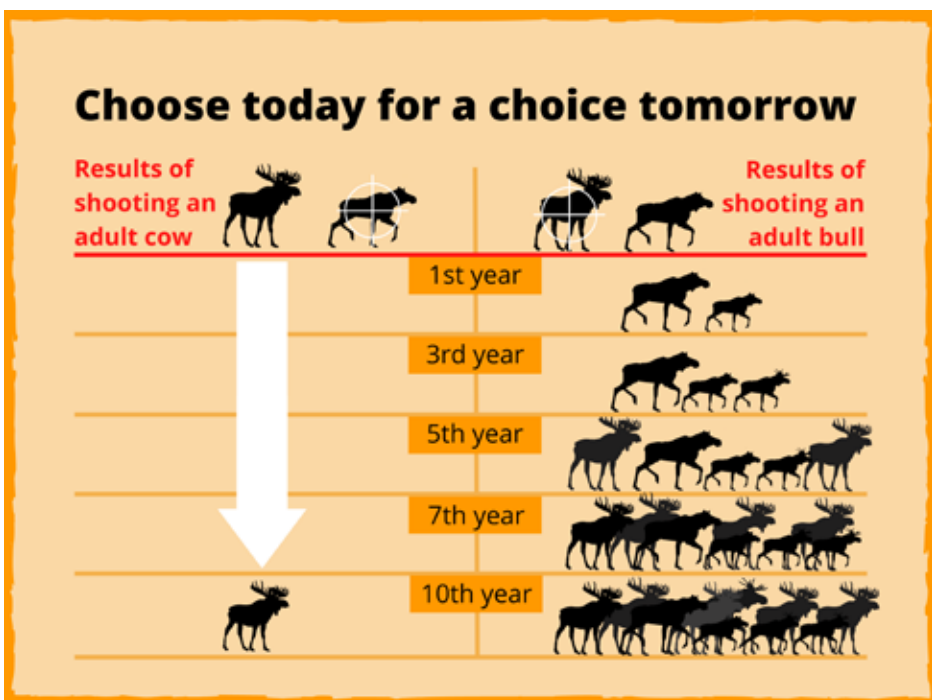
To read your full harvesting rights under the Kwanlin Dün Final Agreement, head over to [www.kwanlindun.com/harvesting-rights](http://www.kwanlindun.com/harvesting-rights).

## Hunting with principles

When it comes to hunting, we all have to do our part to maintain healthy wildlife populations. Wildlife has sustained Kwanlin Dün since ancient times and hunting and fishing remains very important today.

But in recent times, moose have been harvested at unsustainable rates. There's also growing concern about the health of sheep populations. Our Land Vision reminds us of our shared values around wildlife stewardship and our relationship to the land. The Land Vision was passed by Council in 2016 and was finalised in 2017.

The goal of the Land Vision is to conserve areas of high ecological value and maintain the health of wildlife populations. Some guiding principles of the Land Vision are respect, caring for the land, and considering future generations.



**DID YOU KNOW IF YOU HUNT ONE COW MOOSE, YOU TAKE OUT AT LEAST THREE GENERATIONS OF CALVES?**

Traditional knowledge and recent moose surveys in the Southern Lakes show the moose population is declining. In areas with low and declining moose populations, killing a cow moose can prevent a population from growing and cause further decline.

Please respect the cow moose. She is necessary for a healthy moose population.





# What's new

Canyon City Construction LP is our construction and gravel sales company, while Whitehorse Properties LP is our property management and lease-hold company.

These companies work together to generate income for KDFN, and plan future developments in Whitehorse.

## OUR NEW KASHGÊK' BUILDING

We are still working on the hardscaping and landscaping. You'll see our crew and subcontractors actively working throughout the fall.

---

We have many success stories, additional information on the above projects and equipment lists can be found on our website [www.cnlp.ca](http://www.cnlp.ca).

# with Chu Níikwän LP?

## MCINTYRE GAS BAR

Landscaping at the new McIntyre gas bar is now complete.

Canyon City and KDFN's Justice Department have been working on a community artwork project with wooden fish. We are still waiting for fish to be painted and sent back to be installed on the fence.

Please drop off your painted fish at the new Kashgêk' Building. If you have fish that needs to be picked up, please contact KDFN Youth Outreach and Wellness Coordinator Katelyn Dawson at 867-332-6446.

## GRAVEL & EQUIPMENT

Canyon City is close to finalising a Class 3 Driver training program for KDFN Citizens. We are trying to schedule this for around November 2022. We are no longer taking names, if you have already put your name forward, please watch out for a phone call or an email in the next few weeks.

This has been a record busy summer for CCCLP, you may have seen our trucks running around town.

Check out our KDFN Citizen gravel discount on our website.

## HAECKEL HILL WIND PROJECT UPDATE

**A message from Eagle Hill Energy LP, a Chu Níikwän Development Corporation company**

Thank you everyone, for your cooperation and support this summer as we build the infrastructure for the four new wind turbines on Haeckel Hill-Thäy T'äw.

The project is progressing on schedule with construction and road upgrades. New turbines will arrive from the Netherlands next summer, and the energy production will start next fall.

The Haeckel Hill access road remains closed to allow heavy equipment to operate safely around the site and improve the road for future use.

Road closures will continue late into fall and will resume again next spring in preparation for the turbines to arrive. We apologize for the inconvenience.





# What's up down at KDCC?

The Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre has kept very busy this year. Between May and August, we held workshops, cultural programs, hosted many artists for the Shakaat summer Artist Residency, and celebrated our 10-year anniversary!

## We're 10!

This year marked the KDCC's 10th anniversary. The centre opened on June 21, 2012, which is also Indigenous Peoples Day. Yukon performers and the Snotty Nose Rez Kids performed at the celebration.

## Art and Exhibits

**YFN Arts Student Showcase:** At the beginning of the summer, KDCC opened the YFN Arts Student Showcase from Yukon University to support new graduates from the YFN Arts program.

**Kwānñthàt:** A Great Distance: Next came the exhibit, "Kwānñthàt: A Great Distance". The exhibit showcased design elements from 15,000 years ago, as well as contemporary artists. Three periods are set out in the gallery: Geometric, Beaded, and Contemporary.

The featured piece, a hide dress from the Royal Ontario Museum, has returned and is on display for the first time since collection.

The exhibit was curated by Dr. Ukjese Van Kampen, who recently completed his second PhD at the University of Lapland in Finland.

**The Wolf Man comes home:** As well, the KDCC sent out a famed piece, "The Wolf Man" by Kitty and Billy Smith, for conservation work. It was returned in superb condition and the wolf has been carefully reapplied and now sits back in its original position. We have also acquired two more Kitty Smith carvings that are still currently out for conservation.

## Workshops: Hat making, carving and more

Dorothy Grant put on a hat making workshop for KDFN and TKC citizens. Participants learned the ins and outs of making a felt hat with Northwest Coast designs. Dorothy is a world-renowned fashion designer hailing from Haida Gwaii. Dorothy's works have been featured internationally at Indigenous Fashion Week and the Oscars Red Carpet.

Northern Cultural Expression Society has set up at the KDCC for the summer and fall for the next two years. They will be working on a dugout canoe.

## COMING UP AT KDCC

- 1-week hide tanning camp with Margaret Douville
- Witness Blanket exhibit (late September to mid-December)
- Nùchū Kwàch'é (it is fall time) - Shakaat Artist Residency exhibit featuring works from all shakaat artists around a central theme of late summer/fall harvest, hunting, and stocking up for the winter.

Follow Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre on Facebook to stay up to date with our upcoming exhibits, programming, and events.

This year marked the KDCC's  
10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY!







LEFT: Judy Gingell in regalia after being asked to dance with the The Dakhká Khwáan Dancers who will be the lead dance group for Celebration 2024.

TOP: KDCC staff and members of our governance council embarked on a journey to Celebration in Juneau Alaska to return a button blanket that was mistakenly repatriated to the KDCC. The Button Blanket features the porpoise of the Chookaneidí clan. Upon returning the blanket, an impromptu ceremony took place where life was danced back into the blanket.







**TOP RIGHT:** Members of the KDCC Governance Council, Teagyn Vallevand and Stormy Bradley toured the Canadian Minister of Tourism around the KDCC for a very special visit to the Yukon. The Honourable Randy Boissonnault

**BOTTOM LEFT:** KDFN Citizen Duran Henry of NCES holds an Adze mimicking the t-shirt he is wearing. A tool used to carve away the red cedar of the dugout canoe.



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

**October 10:** Thanksgiving

**October 13:** KDFN Community Language Survey Closes. Visit [kwanlindun.com/engagement](http://kwanlindun.com/engagement) or stop by the Kashgêk' building.

**October 14:** Kashgêk' building Opening Announcement. Find out more at [kwanlindun.com/Kashgek](http://kwanlindun.com/Kashgek)

---

## **October 29 & 30: KDFN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

PARTICIPATE:

- in person at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre
- online through Zoom.

Visit: [www.kwanlindun.com/GA2022](http://www.kwanlindun.com/GA2022)

---

**October 31:** Halloween

**November 11:** Remembrance Day

**November 13-19:**  
Rock your Mocs [rockyourmocs.org](http://rockyourmocs.org)

**November 16:**  
KDFN By-Election Voting Day

**November 20-26:**  
National Additions Awareness Week

**December 6:** National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

**December 21:** Winter Solstice

**December 25:** Christmas Day

**December 26:** Boxing Day

**January 1:** New Year's Day

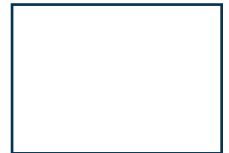
## STAY UP TO DATE WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING AT KDFN!

Sign up to receive emails at [kwanlindun.com/email](http://kwanlindun.com/email)

Or send an email to [communications@kdfn.net](mailto:communications@kdfn.net)

We're online at [kwanlindun.com](http://kwanlindun.com)

 Find us on Facebook!



**DESTINATION ADDRESS**