

Kwanlin Dän Ch'a

KWANLIN PEOPLE OF WHITEHORSE, HOW ARE YOU?

SUMMER 2023



A day trip to Carcross with Youth Rec!

INSIDE

- 4 Shout Outs
- 8 Good times at the GA
- 12 Äyjnzhia Cory Holway shares his journey learning Dákwänjē
- 14 Carissa Waugh and Jessi-John Whalen on climate action
- 16 Jeremy Parkin is making music
- 18 Daniella Charlie is creating art
- 20 Kiara Krogsgaard is a people person
- 22 Jason Mckay freestyle
- 24 Kristin Smith wants to make a difference
- 26 Handgames
- 28 Paddle Carving
- 30 Congratulations Grads!
- 32 Hide Camp
- 40 Community Services
- 43 Health & Wellness
- 54 Land planning projects
- 58 Salmon and caribou
- 64 What's happening at KDCC
- 66 Updates from CNLP

Quick reference

Contact Numbers

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 Nats'ekhi 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?
kwanlindun.com/find-a-phone-number

KDFN Government Departments

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**

Nats'ekhi Kù Health Centre: **867-668-7289**

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

Substance Use Support and Harm Reduction

KDFN's Nats'ekhi Kù Health Centre
(Weekdays 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.): **867-668-7289**

Whitehorse Outreach Van (Daily 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.)
867-334-1647

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

Yukon's Supervised Consumption Site at **6189 – 6th Avenue**.
Weekdays 12 p.m. to 9 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 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

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

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

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

Animal Control

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



CUT OUT AND KEEP ON YOUR FRIDGE FOR QUICK REFERENCE.

A Message from the Chief

Welcome to the summer issue of Kwanlin Dän Ch'a!

This is my first issue as Chief. I am thrilled to look back on all that has been accomplished and forward at what is to come.

In this issue, we are showcasing some of the amazing things KDFN youth have achieved through education, talent, and drive. Read ahead to find out about youth who are recording their own music, creating art, leading climate action, and working hard to succeed in their post-secondary studies. We are so proud of what you all have accomplished.

Of course, we also have updates from KDFN departments. There is so much good work happening throughout the government. For example, Community Services is moving ahead with new housing projects for Citizens. In addition to the 13 tiny homes that have been constructed, we're proud to have Chu Níikwän LP also building seven new two-bedroom homes in McIntyre.

KDFN's Health and Wellness, Education and Justice teams are offering countless opportunities for supportive programs, recreation, and cultural connection. I especially enjoyed visiting the hide tanning camp that was held in May.

KDFN's Heritage, Lands, and Resources department is on the forefront of major development projects that will benefit our Nation for generations to come. Shăw nithän for your participation in our recent public engagement sessions on the Land Strategy.

And finally, I want to thank you for sharing your input during the Continuation of the General Assembly. KDFN Council is here to listen to your ideas and work with you all as we take our next steps forward as a Nation.

Shăw nithän, Másin cho, Gunałchłsh, Thank you,

Chief Sean Smith



“

KDFN Council is here to listen to your ideas and work with you all as we take our next steps forward as a Nation.

Chief Sean Smith

SHOUT OUTS!

Let's celebrate success!

Carissa Waugh is the Yukon Region Representative for the Assembly of First Nations Women's Council

Carissa is a KDFN Citizen and part of the Crow Clan. Her Northern Tutchone name is Ékè Éwe meaning "Caribou Hoof Noise," after her Great-Grandma Emma Shorty.

Carissa was selected as a Fellow in the first cohort of the Yukon First Nations Climate Action Fellowship. Carissa advocates for Climate Change/Action, Every Child Matters, Reconciliation, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and 2Spirit People.

"I'm excited to bring my experience into my new role to advocate for Yukon First Nations Women," Carissa says.

Congratulations, Carissa!

*Read more about Carissa on pages 14 and 15.
Information from the Assembly of First Nations*

Succeeding at work

Shout out to Victor for the cover and feature story in this year's Yukon Mining & Exploration Directory!!

"Victor has a great work ethic, has an infectious laugh, is always on time and is excited to learn new tasks and be part of the Career Industries team."
- Rick Mombourquette, Career Industries' Manager of Marketing and Sales

Way to go, Victor!!

Do you know a KDFN Citizen, Beneficiary, or employee who deserves a shout out? Let us know! Email communications@kdfn.net

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

Yukon Youth Summit Accolades

Big congratulations to all of the Elders and Youth who were recognized In April at the Yukon Youth Summit Awards. We're sending a special shout out to Jasmine Bill, Carissa Waugh, Sheilah Sutherland, Doris Bill, Pat Joe, Gary Bailie and Jessie Dawson!

Emerging artists

Shout out to KDFN artists Eila Vallevand and Karra MacIntosh who were selected for YVR Art Foundation Emerging Artist Scholarships. And congratulations to all the B.C. and Yukon artists who received scholarships in 2023! Way to go!

Art in the National Park

Shout out to Kwanlin Dün First Nation visual artist Teagyn Aatagwéix'i Vallevand for being selected for the 2023 Kluane National Park Artist in Residence program in partnership with the Yukon Arts Centre and the Kluane Lake Research Station!

Going to the Games

Congratulations to everyone who competed in the NAIG (North American Indigenous Games) in July!

Middle right: Karee Vallevand (Assistant Chef de Mission), Mya Wilson (Archery), Pat Joe (Team Elder), Katelyn Dawson (Volleyball Assistant Coach), Natilee Thompson (Basketball), Katie Gage (Basketball), and Kianna Blake (Volleyball).

Middle bottom: Mya Wilson at practice.



MINING & EXPLORATION Directory



A Special Shout out to Circle and Culture Coordinator Karole O'Brien

BY: **Justice Director Terri Cairns and Gwyneth Williams, Family Services & Community Manager**

Karole is a valued member of the Justice Team. She is deeply intuitive, kind, wise and authentic to the core... a change-maker! She uses her own personal knowledge and diverse experiences of people and of the world to tell stories. In every aspect of her work she is able to connect one-on-one with families and community to elicit individual and group strengths. Her superpower is the ability to bring forth a sense of who you are and who you might become. She is a true mentor and inspires all of us to do better everyday.

Karole's life work has always been to keep children safe and happy, remaining with their families and community and connected to their culture and identity. With the power of ancestral knowledge and experience she is able to instill pride in culture and identity. She does this important work everyday.

Karole is a tiny lady with a huge heart and very strong shoulders. Karole brings a sense of calm, reassurance and guidance to Team Justice.

Thank you for all your work Karole!



Flag Raising

In June, the City of Whitehorse permanently raised the flags of the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Kwanlin Dün First Nation in front of Whitehorse City Hall, now translated to Kwänlin Kêye Ghända Ghakwije Kų in Dákwänjê- Southern Tutchone, Lake Laberge dialect.

The translation means "place where they talk about Kwanlin (Whitehorse) area"/"Place where they discuss Whitehorse area (affairs:business)." This highlights the work that happens at City Hall and is the first of several translated place names planned for city buildings.



CENTRE PHOTO (LEFT TO RIGHT):

Members of City Council, Elder Nakhela Hazel Bunbury, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Chief Amanda Leas, Whitehorse Mayor Laura Cabott, KDFN Chief Sean Smith, Cory Holway, Kianna Blake and members of KDFN Council.

Sarah Lewis Photography



Chief Sean Smith, Cory Holway and Kianna Blake raise the KDFN flag outside Whitehorse City Hall.

Sarah Lewis Photography

KWANLIN DÄN CH'A

General Assembly

We gathered on June 3rd and 4th for the Continuation of the General Assembly!

Here are some photos from the daytime meetings and the evening celebrations.





Unlocking a ‘whole other perspective on the world’

For the past year, Äyjnzhia Cory Holway has been learning Dákwänjē (Southern Tutchone) as part of the Youth Today, Language Leaders Tomorrow program.

BY: Leighann Chalykoff

Äyjnzhia Cory Holway was never excited to go to school until he started learning Dákwänjē (Southern Tutchone).

“I feel like I am still a baby in the language,” he says. “I am excited to learn every new word.”

Since November 2021, Cory has been working with the Yukon Native Language Centre through the Youth Today, Language Leaders Tomorrow program. Through the program, 12 Yukon youth have been learning Dákwänjē and Łingít through classroom work, conversations with Elders and proficient speakers, and by spending time on the land.

For Cory, learning Dákwänjē has opened up “a whole other perspective on the world” and new ways of thinking.

“There is knowledge embedded in the language,” he says. “There are teachings that can only be understood in Dákwänjē, and it’s really fulfilling to be able to unlock some of that knowledge.

“Through the language, you imagine how things used to be, and how we can bring some of those things back to make the world a better place.”

There is useful information in traditional place names, and words can carry wisdom connected to long ago stories. Certain words can also demonstrate different worldviews. For example, in Dákwänjē the word kenädän means both teaching and learning, while in English the two are quite different concepts.

“I am learning how to lead and project my voice because our voices have lots of power in them,” says Cory. “If you sharpen the way you use your tongue, it can be stronger than any weapon.”

Words can protect. They can influence and give hope. And they can be agents of change.

Cory’s first exposure to learning native languages was not a positive experience.

“I have a story to tell that brought me a lot of pain at the time,” he says. “When I was in high school, I went into the classroom where native language was taught and I saw the Łingít “X” on the wall. It’s a really hard sound to make and I tried to read it, and all the kids laughed at me.”

“I got nervous, and so I started laughing too. Then the teacher came in and started yelling at me because I was laughing. It was a pretty bad feeling. It doesn’t feel good on your spirit.”

CORY HAS SOME ADVICE IF YOU’RE JUST BEGINNING YOUR LANGUAGE JOURNEY:

“Be prepared to have your mind blown in a good way. As you learn, you’ll understand more about our place names, our stories and culture.”

Don’t be afraid to make mistakes.

“Be patient. There’s a long way to go to becoming a fluent speaker.”

Today, when Cory speaks Dákwänjē people have told him it sounds like he’s singing. The tones and inflections used in words can change their meaning. He says, Dákwänjē helps him to think before he speaks. And now, with the help of the Łingít learners in his class he is able to pronounce his father and cousins’ traditional names.”

“If we pick up our languages again there are no limits,” he says. “I am going to take this momentum that I have and run with it.”

As his language learning continues, Cory has also accepted a job with KDFN as a Language and Culture Connector.

While in the Youth Today Language Leaders Tomorrow program, Cory’s wages were funded by KDFN through the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Program.

For more information about the **KDFN ISET Program**, please call Kenädän Kų – House of Learning at 867-633-8422.



“*I am learning how to lead and project my voice because our voices have lots of power in them. If you sharpen the way you use your tongue, it can be stronger than any weapon.*”

Young Yukoners take action on Climate Change

Carissa Waugh and Jessi-John Whalen represent KDFN as part of the Yukon First Nations Climate Action Fellowship.

BY: **Dylan MacNeil**

Formed in 2020, the Yukon First Nations Climate Action Fellowship is working on an action plan that aims to help communities and governments tackle climate change in a way that reflects a Yukon First Nations worldview. According to a draft of that action plan released last summer, “the heart of climate change lies within our disconnection from spirit, self, each other and earth.” The fellows promote reconnection as climate action.



JESSI-JOHN WHALEN

KDFN Citizen Jessi-John Whalen is 26 years old and a member of the Wolf clan. Through his job as a wildland firefighter, Jessi sees the impacts of climate change first hand.

“This year, I was in Carmacks and I was helping with the flooding. I know the year before that, there was flooding,” says Jessi. “It’s getting worse and worse, that’s because of climate change. The glaciers are melting faster, we’re getting later winters.”

Jessi got involved with the fellowship because he cares about Earth. With the fellowship, Jessi has travelled around the Yukon to talk about the work they do, as well as give back. On a recent trip to Atlin, the group canned fish for the community.

Jessi would like to see more programs to teach people about their culture, especially the creative aspects like drum making and regalia making.

“Anything to spark that artistic side,” he says. “It’s a release. If you’ve got pent up emotions built up, pursuing your hobbies and doing what you like to do is a good way of letting go of those things.”

He believes connecting with traditional ways of life can create more sustainable ways of living and fight climate change.

“Why can’t we start growing food on our lawns instead of going to the grocery store and getting plastic bags?” he says.

Jessi hopes here at home, we can set an example for the rest of the county.

“The Yukon might be the first place to be like: ‘Hey look over here Canada! Maybe you should start doing the same thing we’re doing to save our asses from global warming,’” says Jessi. “This is a serious thing.”

Wildland firefighting may be a lifelong career for Jessi as he loves it. He is also optimistic he can inspire the next generation to care about their communities and give back.

CARISSA WAUGH

Carissa Waugh is a 29-year-old KDFN Citizen and member of the Crow clan. Last November, she travelled to the Egyptian city of Sharm El Sheikh to attend the United Nations Climate Change conference, COP27. She feels the trip was an amazing opportunity, though it was a little overwhelming because of how much there was to take in.

“It was definitely very surreal to be there,” says Carissa.

Carissa spent her time in Egypt listening to panel discussions. One of the highlights for her was a roundtable meeting led by international Indigenous youth.

“That really opened my eyes,” says Carissa.

Despite all of the doom and gloom around the environment, Carissa believes young people can turn things around.

“People say ‘it’s too late to fix the earth,’” Carissa says. “It makes me hopeful that we have youth that are working towards leadership.”

Carissa has been involved with climate action since a young age. In highschool, she was a youth representative with the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council. In early 2020, Carissa attended an Arctic Council conference in Ottawa. That trip inspired her to do more when it comes to global warming. With some encouragement from friends, she jumped at the opportunity to join the fellowship.

“It’s really been a life changing experience,” says Carissa. “I have been able to do so many things that I am passionate about.”

An avid artist, Carissa reconnects with her spirit and the world around her through beading. Under her Northern Tutchone name, Ékè Éwe, she makes and sells earrings and pins. Carissa’s

designs feature depictions of natural things like feathers and fish, as well as pop culture icons like Bart Simpson and Darth Vader. She also designed a logo for the fellowship.

Carissa’s not sure what the future holds for her but she would like to continue her art. She and some other fellows have talked about potentially starting a maker’s space where Indigenous artists can create. She also feels getting into leadership is not out of the question.

“My opportunities are open,” says Carissa.

Carissa would like to say shāw níthän, másín cho, gunáçhłsh, and thank you to the Northern Council for Global Cooperation for helping fund the trip to Egypt.



RECONNECTION
is climate action



Nobody is watering the plants, Jer'

Jeremy Parkin shares the story behind his latest single, and explains what inspired him to take music composition into his own hands.

BY: *River Gatensby*

Jeremy Parkin's latest single is called Nobody is Watering the Plants. It seems abstract, but it has a lot of meaning.

"In the spring I was being mentored by my mom's best friend - an elder and knowledge keeper in my life." He explained. "One day he was talking about the trauma indigenous communities go through. A lot of these people aren't given the time to be understood... So he's explaining this, and at the end of it he just kind-of said "nobody is watering the plants, Jer" and I was like woah. He meant just like how you water plants to grow, people need the proper attention and time..."

He chose this as the song title, as it fit the tone of his most recent project: a collaboration with Cole Pauls for the Yukon Arts Centre's 30th birthday.

Cole animated a video of a "dog boy" in a hoodie and jeans walking with his hands in his pockets down a Yukon highway. It played on an endless loop with Nobody is Watering the Plants playing in the background. The dog boy is a recurring character in Jeremy's work.

"I really liked the animation of the highway because I travel a lot for my job," he says. "I feel like a roadrunner constantly."

Jeremy is 25 years old, born and raised in Whitehorse, Yukon.

"I started playing when I was 11 or 12. I was basically listening to everything my older brother listened to, and was really inspired to learn guitar" he explained. "As I got older I really wanted to be in a band, but it was hard in a small community."

After taking music lessons he taught himself by learning to play existing songs.

An online video creator, Cameron Argon, inspired him to take matters into his own hands. At 14, he bought software to compose his own music.

"Cameron Argon did these vlogs, and I watched him get into producing electronic music. It was appealing because I realized I could make full songs with drums, guitars, synths and all these other things on my own."

Jeremy's style resembles the popular lo-fi hip-hop genre, drawing inspiration from '90s electronic music. He credits his taste to movie soundtracks he listened to at a young age, such as Space Jam and the 1998 Godzilla.

Jeremy is also part of a hip-hop duo called Local Boy with collaborator Kelvin Smoler.

"We put the first song together in one session, and kept collaborating whenever we could," says Jeremy. "The dynamic between us was really easy, and didn't feel forced."

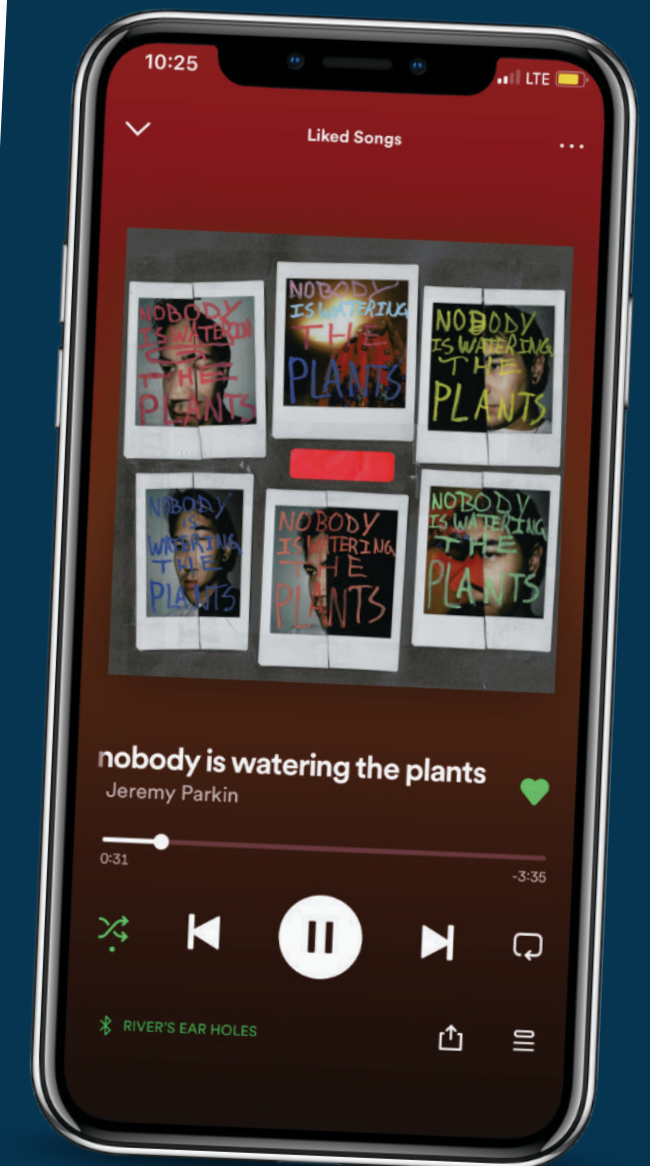
On top of writing music, Jeremy works with the Yukon First Nation Education Directorate (YFNED). Since May 2021, he has been a part of its mobile therapeutic unit, providing programming to Indigenous youth in Yukon's rural communities.

"We basically try to see what they're into and what opportunities we can facilitate," he says. "I'm lucky that a big part of my work with YFNED has been doing a lot of music and hip-hop workshops."

"It's a blessing and really cool to see how many creative and talented young people are in the Yukon."

If you are a KDFN youth interested in music, reach out to Jeremy on Instagram at @jerparkin.

You can listen to his music on Apple Music, Spotify or Soundcloud.



@jerparkin



Daniella Charlie completes Yukon First Nation arts program

BY: *Dylan MacNeil*

Last January, 27-year-old KDFN Citizen Daniella Charlie completed the Yukon First Nations Arts program at Yukon University.

Daniella had a little experience doing some freehand beading and drum making before the program, but now they’ve taken their creativity to the next level.

“I wanted to learn more of the artwork because I never got taught any of that growing up,” says Daniella.

Over four months, Daniella learned how to bead, sew, embroider, work with porcupine quills, and more. It all culminated in their final project – making moccasins complete with moose hair tufting.

“She’s done really well in the program. She passed everything and got good marks,” says teacher Darlene Scurvey.



APPLYING FOR POST-SECONDARY SUPPORT FROM KDFN

To be eligible for financial assistance from the Post-Secondary Education Program, students must:

- be a KDFN Citizen (Refer to the policy for definition of “Citizen”)
- be enrolled in or have been accepted for enrolment in a program of study at a recognized and accredited institution, and
- be in good financial standing with KDFN

Application Deadline

We encourage you to apply as early as possible.

Applications must be received at least four weeks before your program start date.

For example, if your program begins on September 9,, you need to apply before August 12th.

Find out more about how KDFN can support your post-secondary education at kwanlindun.com/education/post-secondary-students



By studying people, Kiara Krogsgaard found out more about herself

Kiara Krogsgaard will soon graduate from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, but her educational journey was not a straightforward path. She followed her interests and found herself looking at life through a different lens.

BY: *River Gatensby*

Have you ever wanted to take a post secondary class? Maybe you were already studying and realized that the program you signed up for isn't really your cup of tea? Well, a similar thing happened to Kiara Krogsgaard.

For four years Kiara has been working hard toward her degree. She originally signed up to study history and film, but she eventually realized that it wasn't what she wanted to pursue.

"I didn't want to get bogged down with classes I found boring," she explained. "I wanted to focus on what I found interesting and have fun at University."

An introductory Anthropology course was a part of her original course load, leading her to realize she was more interested in studying people across different cultures throughout history. So, she switched her major.

"The opportunity to learn about humans across different cultures in history... that's always been really cool to me," she said. "I like learning about different civilizations, and people in all different contexts."

This was complemented by her Native Studies course, which similarly analyzed Indigenous peoples' knowledge, traditions, and oral histories. In November 2023, Kiara will graduate from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Anthropology and minors in Christian Theology and Native Studies.

Although she'll have the credentials, Kiara does not plan to pursue a career in anthropology. Though, she did note that completing a four-year university degree is a large benefit when searching for a job.

"A lot of people say you can't get a job with an arts degree, but I don't think that's true," she said. "Employers look for dedication, which can be proven from committing to your education, whatever the topic."

Kiara chose her courses based on what interested her. For example, Christian Theology and Native Studies are relevant to her personally as an Indigenous person who grew up in a Christian household. Her theology program even examined how pop culture stories, such as Harry Potter, Hunger Games, Lord of the Rings and Star Wars, relate to Biblical themes.

"Art looks different to a lot of people, even if it's not necessarily what the artist intended—it just depends on the lens you look at things through," she explained about her takeaway from the program.

After graduation, she plans to continue working at her current position at Service Canada, moving from part time to full time. She also wants to continue her education at some point, but she's not sure where her interests will take her in the future.

Find out more about how KDFN can support your post-secondary education at kwanlindun.com/education/post-secondary-students

KEEP YOUR ADDRESSES UP TO DATE

If you're a KDFN Beneficiary or Citizen and your address has changed, please update it with the registrar.

Email:
citizenship@kdfn.net

We send out important things from time to time and we don't want you to miss out.

Shāw níthän, Gùnáłchîsh,
Mähsí'cho and Thank you!



Reaching new heights

Seventeen-year-old KDFN Citizen Jason Mckay dedicates his free time to perfecting his technique in freestyle skiing. His dedication paid off when he earned second place in the Junior Nationals competition in Calgary in 2022.

After countless hours of practice, Jason Mckay found himself in Calgary, headed down the slope in front of all his peers. He goes for his first jump... and crashes. His shins hurt, and the wind was sucked out of his sails. He was almost ready to quit, but his coach pulled him to the side and encouraged him to continue. With newfound motivation, Jason picked himself up and tried again. Visualizing his next move, he glides down the hill, up the jump, and sticks the landing.

He wasn't expecting much after his first run. But he gave his all, and much to his excitement, he won second place!

When they found out, both Jason and his coach cried tears of joy. This was an important experience for Jason, as freestyle skiing is what he focuses on every winter.

It's a unique sport, because you don't have to follow a specific set of instructions for your jumps. Instead, you are in charge of what tricks you do while in the air. You do it in your own way, with your own creative style.

Skis weren't Jason's first choice however, as he

explained, "I tried snowboarding when I was around 11 for about a year. I realized I didn't like it, then I saw most of my friends on skis doing really cool tricks and I thought that looked really cool and wanted to try."

Soon, what started as a hobby became a large part of his everyday life.

As you would expect, mastering a sport like this takes a lot of time and dedication. Jason spends all his free time at Mount Sima during the winter months, from the moment it opens, to practice his technique.

All of this time is well spent. As a result of his hard work, he was able to participate in competitions across Canada, along with his team at Freestyle Yukon. This March, he competed in the Junior Nationals competition in Calgary. Last year, 2022, he competed in the same event and placed second in the under 18 category. He was also invited to go to the Canada Winter Games this year, but unfortunately couldn't participate because of an injury.

"Calgary 2022 was my first ever national competition. I was very surprised to place second. I personally feel like I was going higher and farther than a lot of the other people in my category, and a lot of people had crashed so I was able to take advantage of that. I crashed my first run and was thinking of scrapping my second run. My shins were in so much pain because I was leaning so far back in my boots. But one of my coaches took care of me, and motivated me to keep trying. When we found out we both cried together because we were so happy."

That being said, Jason isn't only in it for the competition. He stated that even though he has attended competitions, he does it mainly as a fun activity, and is happy that he was able to make connections with other people when he traveled.

He plans to keep going to these competition and eventually compete for a living.



'I want to be able to advocate for our people'

KDFN Citizen Kristin Smith is working towards her bachelor's degree in social work.

BY: *Dylan MacNeil*

Kristin Smith wants to make a difference, and now she's pursuing the education she needs to do it.

The 33-year-old KDFN Citizen and member of the Crow Clan, recently completed the Community Mental Health Worker program at Vancouver Island University (VIU).

"I feel like there is so much systemic racism in social work or government or medical or anything like that," says Kristin. "I wanted to be able to advocate for our people and be another voice for Indigenous people."

Social work runs in Kristen's family. Her sister and mother both work in the profession. For Kristin, her education journey has been healing.

"It's helped me process and deal with traumas of my own," says Kristin. "To be successful in this world, you kind of have to be educated. And, I think it's important for more Indigenous people to become educated so that we can help bridge the gaps and stop all the racism."

Earlier in life, Kristin went to university for a subject she wasn't interested in, but now, they are doing what they love. Kristin encourages Indigenous people setting foot on the path to higher education to follow their heart.

"Do what you want to do," says Kristin. "I kind of did what my parents wanted me to do in the beginning, and it didn't work out for me. Just keep your head up and keep going."

Thanks to the support of her partner and with the help of funding from Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Kristin was able to put all her energy into education.

"I was working in the beginning [of my program] and then I cut it down to only working on weekends. But then, it became too much. It was too stressful. I was able to quit my job and fully focus on school. It really helped me a lot by not having the extra stress of also working."

Now, Kristin plans to go back to VIU for more classes with the goal of getting her bachelor's degree in social work.

"I'm happy I'm doing something that hopefully my kids will be proud of," says Kristin.

Find out more about how KDFN can support your post-secondary education at kwanlindun.com/education/post-secondary-students



Creating wearable works of art!

Shout out to everyone who participated in KDFN's vest making program through Education and Social Development in April. We can't wait to see the finished pieces!





Inaugural secondary school handgames tournament held in Whitehorse

The First Annual Secondary School Handgames Tournament was held at Porter Creek Secondary School on Thursday, May 18, 2023.

The tournament was hosted by KDFN and the Yukon First Nation Education Directorate.

14-year-old Natilee Thompson of the Wolf Clan was there to play for Porter Creek Secondary School.

"I literally love handgames," says Natilee. "I've been playing since I was maybe six or seven."

The sound of drumming filled the air as dozens of youth came together to take part in the traditional games. The energy of it all is what pulls Natilee in.

"It's an awesome game to play. It just brings everyone together. It uplifts everyone's spirits and it's just a really fun place to be at. There's lots of love, lots of joy, lots of good feelings," says Natilee.

16 year old Myra Kendi of the wolf clan took to the mat for F. H. Collins Secondary School. Myra has been playing handgames for a few years now. Earlier this year, she played at the Arctic Winter Games in Wood Buffalo, Alberta.

Myra feels there was some steep competition at the secondary school handgames tournament.

"It's fun but also kind of nerve wracking because I've heard Porter Creek is really good," says Myra.

Shāw nithän, másin cho, gunatchîsh, and thank you to everyone who made this tournament possible!

Watch the video! Check it out at [youtube.com/@KwanlinDun](https://www.youtube.com/@KwanlinDun)



Carved creations

Learning to make paddles with Duran Henry

From June 5 to 9, there were paddle carving classes with Duran Henry at Kenādān Ku House of Learning.

Participants spent the first part of the week carving paddles. They then painted their creations and stained them with linseed oil.

22-year-old Marlon Scarff of the crow clan painted the raven stealing the sun on their paddle.

"It was a little frustrating but it was easy," says Marlon.

19-year-old Dontae Menzi of the wolf clan painted a wolf and bear paw on his. He says the whole process was quite relaxing.

"It just helps with a lot of stress and anxiety," says Dontae.

Shāw nīthān, gūnáłchīsh, māhsī'cho, and thank you to everyone involved.





Lily Sallis-Clark and members of her family celebrate her graduation.

BIG, BIG, BIG CONGRATS TO ALL OF THE GRADS!

GRADE 7

Selkirk Elementary School
Drayden Boss
Jermaine Kendi
Mason Kendi
Starlene Taylor

Jack Hulland Elementary School
Brooklyn Cornell-Allison

Elijah Smith Elementary School
Marcus Fred
Harmony Smith
Kiauna Smith
Katie Gage
Kecin Cashin
Seth Domay
Lily Sallis-Clark

GRADE 12

Catholic Central High School
Noelle Mullin

Gloucester High School
Marissa Meilleur

Tantalus School
Damien Charlie-Ballentyne
Peter Skene Ogden
Kaye-Lynn Taylor

St. Francis of Assisi
Darius Wolsynuk

Independent Learning Centre
Andrew Thompson
Jordanna Scurvey
Shayla Dawson

Porter Creek Secondary School
Rose Mary Bill
Logan Rogers
Gemini Gill-Scarf

Dusk'a Grads CLASS OF '23



Congratulations to the Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre class of 2023.

The young learners tossed their caps at a graduation ceremony in June. We wish you nothing but the best as you continue your education journey!



'It's important for everybody to learn together.'

This spring, KDFN hosted a Community Hide Camp and welcomed the community to participate in a variety of cultural educational activities.

BY: **River Gatensby**

It's a weekday morning. On your morning walk you look across the street, and you see a series of tents. As you approach, you see several people of all ages from your community laughing and chatting with each other.

A moose hide is draped over a large wooden structure, and two people on either side are scraping at it with unique tools. People are gathered around a campfire, smiling, chatting and laughing. Elders are here to share their stories, and youth are ready to learn.

This hide camp was an opportunity for the community to come together close to home, to learn and socialize.

Anybody who wanted to join could participate in carving with Northern Expressions Cultural Society, beading and tufting with Laura Suthers and Karole O'Brien, and naloxone training.

But the highlight of the event was, of course, the moose hide tanning.

The idea sparked from a youth hunting trip. Frances Langtry, KDFN Justice Youth Outreach worker explained that the whole idea for the camp started because they "ended up with a moose hide" after the hunt.

Over the course of a week, people were invited to walk up, and help to scrape the hides, or the variety of other available activities. It ran all day, all week, so if you wanted you could even drop by on your lunch break.

Young KDFN citizens were eager to learn from their instructors, and even interrupted our interview to ask questions on how to continue their preparations. At times there were several stations set up with people working on different hides.

Delaney Prysnuik and Montana Prysnuik of Copper Caribou facilitated the camp and instructed the community on how to properly prepare and tan a moose hide. Attendees watched them strain the liquid out of a hide by holding it on either end, stretching, twisting, scraping, all while explaining the whole preparation process.

They agreed to facilitate the Hide Camp "to create a space in the community where anybody can come and bridge gaps between the youth, elders, and everybody can just come together." as Delaney expressed.

They brought with them a mental encyclopedia of traditional knowledge stemming from workshops, instructional videos, and skills shared with them by Elders including Elder Gertie Tom, the author of "How to Tan Hides in the Native Way."

"Being invited to do a community event like this is really special," said Montana. "It's important for everybody to learn together."

They were both happy to share the skills they learned over time, especially with youth who approached them and exclaimed that they really like doing this.

As you might guess, the process is not easy and requires a lot of physical labour. But it is an important skill, and a crucial step in the creation of cultural items.

The hide from this camp will be used for future KDFN events such as youth beading nights, community beading nights or other workshops where hide is necessary.

For information on future events and opportunities, stay tuned to kwanlindun.com





We've been having lots of fun at **YOUTH REC!**



We started the year off with trips to Mount Sima, fun and games at the after-school program, and outings around town. Our Spring Break Camp featured some new activities like dog mushing and ice climbing, and some old favorites like sledding in the Carcross Desert, skiing and snowboarding.

With the warm weather and summer holiday upon us, we've been having fun exploring local playgrounds, gardening, swimming, going to the Fireweed Market, outings to Carcross and partnering with organizations such as Yukon Aboriginal Sports Circle, Skills Canada, Boys and Girls Club and the folks from How We Walk With Land and Water. We've been at the Multi Purpose Building doing activities like tie dye, beading, crafts, cooking/baking, movie nights, board games and going out bowling. We helped with the Community Clean-Up in May and had a wheelin' good time at the Community Bike Rodeo in June!

We would like to extend a huge Shāw nithān, Másin cho, Gunatch'ish, thank you, to the CSOs, RCMP and the larger Justice Department who support our programs on a regular basis.

For more information on what's to come this summer, please check out the KDFN Facebook page or phone 867-332-3060.









Tyler Pye, Harold Dawson, and Charles Dawson on the job site.

Community Services is hard at work on housing for KDFN Citizens

TINY HOMES

In March, a new tiny home was moved into McIntyre. This home was created as a partnership between KDFN's Community Services department and Yukon University.

After a little lift with a crane, the tiny home now rests on its foundation at 50/52 Murphy Rd. There's still some more work to be done. Once completed, it will become part of KDFN's housing stock.

There are 12 other tiny homes under construction in McIntyre. Shout out to the KDFN Citizens hard at work building the homes, including Tyler Pye, Harold Dawson, and Charles Dawson. They are just a few of the Citizens helping to shape the future of KDFN housing.

"It feels really good to be honest. It's close to home," said Tyler when asked what it's like to work in the community.

Thirteen tiny homes are currently under construction in McIntyre. Once complete, they'll be part of KDFN's housing stock.

In March, a new tiny home was moved into McIntyre.

CNLP IS BUILDING SEVEN NEW TWO-BEDROOM HOMES

KDFN Community Services is thrilled to be working with Chu Niikwän LP as the main contractor on seven new two-bedroom homes in McIntyre.



Chu Niikwän LP is the main contractor on seven new two-bedroom homes in McIntyre.

A RECENT RENOVATION IN MCINTYRE

This renovation on a KDFN tenant home in McIntyre was wholly completed by KDFN Community Services staff members. Frank Jim, Pat Smith, and Sean Dawson were the project leads, and many other staff members pitched in to complete this project, which is now ready for KDFN Citizens to move in!

Pat and Frank are experienced carpenters that have worked in the community for a long time. It was a great opportunity for Sean and other staff members to learn and benefit from Pat and Frank's knowledge.

The renovation included everything from replacing the floors, windows and doors to refinishing the ceiling and cabinetry.



Pat Smith, Sean Dawson, and Frank Jim were the project leads on the renovation.



PLANTING FLOWERS TO HONOUR THE MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS, AND TO REPRESENT EVERY CHILD MATTERS

In June, members of KDFN's Community Services team planted red and orange flowers to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and to represent Every Child Matters.

Shāw nítāh, másin cho, gunat̓ch̓sh, and thank you to everyone involved, especially Marlon O'Brien and Brandon Callison, pictured here, as well as Shawn Wood.



KDFN Health & Wellness supports the community

KDFN'S OUTREACH TEAM SUPPORTS WHITEHORSE CONNECTS

The KDFN outreach team partnered with the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition to provide health services for the Whitehorse Connects Days.

TOP RIGHT: Dayna Lennie, Outreach RN, providing immunizations.

TOP CENTRE: Amy Genier, Manager of Outreach Services, serving homemade bannock and traditional medicine.

BELOW: Yves Paradis, Outreach LPN, providing footcare.



THE 'COLDEST HOUSE IN THE YUKON!'

KDFN's Home Care team took Elder Elsie Cletheroe on a trip down memory lane when she visited her old house for lunch.

Elsie lived in the old log house that's currently Woodcutters Blanket from 1964 to 1976. Then, it was located at 409 Strickland. She raised her children there, Ed, Georgina, William and Stanley. The kitchen was located outside the building, and Elsie described it as the "coldest house in the Yukon!"

Elsie and Georgina outside of Woodcutters Blanket.





MEET OUR DOCTORS!

We are thrilled to welcome **Dr. James Van Camp!**
Dr. Van Camp joined our team in May 2023.



Hello, my name is Dr. James Van Camp and I am a member of the Tłıchq First Nation. I was born and raised in Fort Smith, NT, and am the son of a residential school survivor. I attended post secondary school at the University of Calgary, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, and then the University of Victoria, BC, while fulfilling my medical school prerequisites and finally the University of Alberta in Edmonton for medicine.

Afterwards, I completed my residency training in Grande Prairie, AB, where I specialized in rural family medicine. I worked in several communities thereafter, but loved the Yukon and decided to make Whitehorse my home along with my wife and son, who is now six years old.

While in the Yukon I have worked in our ER department and several neighbouring communities in addition to family practice. I have also developed additional competency in cancer care and work as a GP oncologist at the Whitehorse General Hospital. I am excited to join the team at the Natsékhi Kù Health Centre!

If you are a KDFN Citizen who does not have a family doctor, phone us at 867-668-7289, ext. 205 to be added to the waitlist.

We're happy to have **Dr. Xui-Mei Zhang** continuing to work with us!

Dr. Xui-Mei Zhang has been a valued member of the Natsékhi Kù Health Centre since 2011. She also works at the Pine Medical Clinic in Whitehorse.

She is a founder and consulting physician for the Women Midlife Health Clinic, and the on-call physician for the Sexual Assault Response Team.



FIND OUT ABOUT SOME OF OUR REGULAR PROGRAMS

WALK-IN NURSE CLINIC

Our Walk-In Nurse Clinic is open Monday to Friday from 9 - 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

DROP-IN COUNSELLING

Drop-in Counselling continues three times a week:

- Mondays from 3 - 4 p.m.;
- Wednesdays from 2 - 4 p.m.; and
- Fridays from 1 - 3:30 p.m.

CHRONIC CONDITIONS LUNCHEONS

Chronic Conditions Luncheons are held on the third Wednesday of the month. Different health topics are presented each time, and we are open to your ideas for future topics.

Contact Denise at 867-334-3316 for more information.



FOOT CARE CLINICS

Regular foot care clinics are available for people with diabetes, mobility issues, or circulatory issues.

Contact Hanna at 867-332-9552 for an appointment or for more information.

ELDER ACTIVITIES

If you or a KDFN Elder you know is socially isolated and would benefit from activities that bring people together in the community, please contact Aubyn at 867-334-4002 to discuss opportunities to join our social programming.



A RECAP OF SOME OF OUR SPECIAL EVENTS

1ST ANNUAL MEDICATION ROUND UP

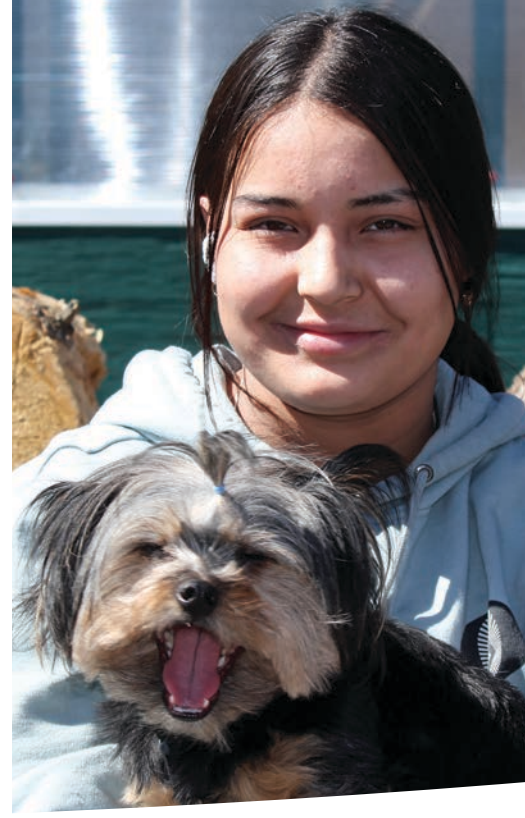
WOOT WOOT! Shāw nithän, másin cho, gunatchîsh, and thank you to everyone who brought in their old, expired and unwanted medications to Natsékhi KùHealth Centre for safe disposal during the 1st Annual Medication Round Up! With your help, we were able to safely dispose of 21 pounds of medication.

NATSÉKHI KÙ OPEN HOUSE

Big thanks to everyone who came out to our Open House in the spring. We really enjoyed talking to you all!

KINDERGARTEN FAIR

We welcomed pre-K kids and their families to the Health Centre in May for a super fun Kindergarten Fair with fun activities, information and a BBQ lunch.



RICHARD JACKSON (ROCKY)

Richard Jackson (Rocky) is Tahltan from Telegraph Creek, BC. He was at the Health Centre in late May to connect with people about health & wellness and lead ceremony if people wished. We will have Rocky visit again. He can talk about prayers, self-care and what one can do alone to gain confidence within themselves to take a step forward on their healing journey. The next time Rocky visits he will be doing an “On-nee” – Calling Back Your Spirit Ceremony, as well as, meeting with individuals. Please watch for social media posts and posters for dates he’ll be at KDFN.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Health Centre hosts a variety of events in the community garden and wall tent. The food harvested from the garden supplies fresh produce for Health Centre programming.

A big shout out to all of our volunteers who are helping with watering, weeding, and various other tasks.

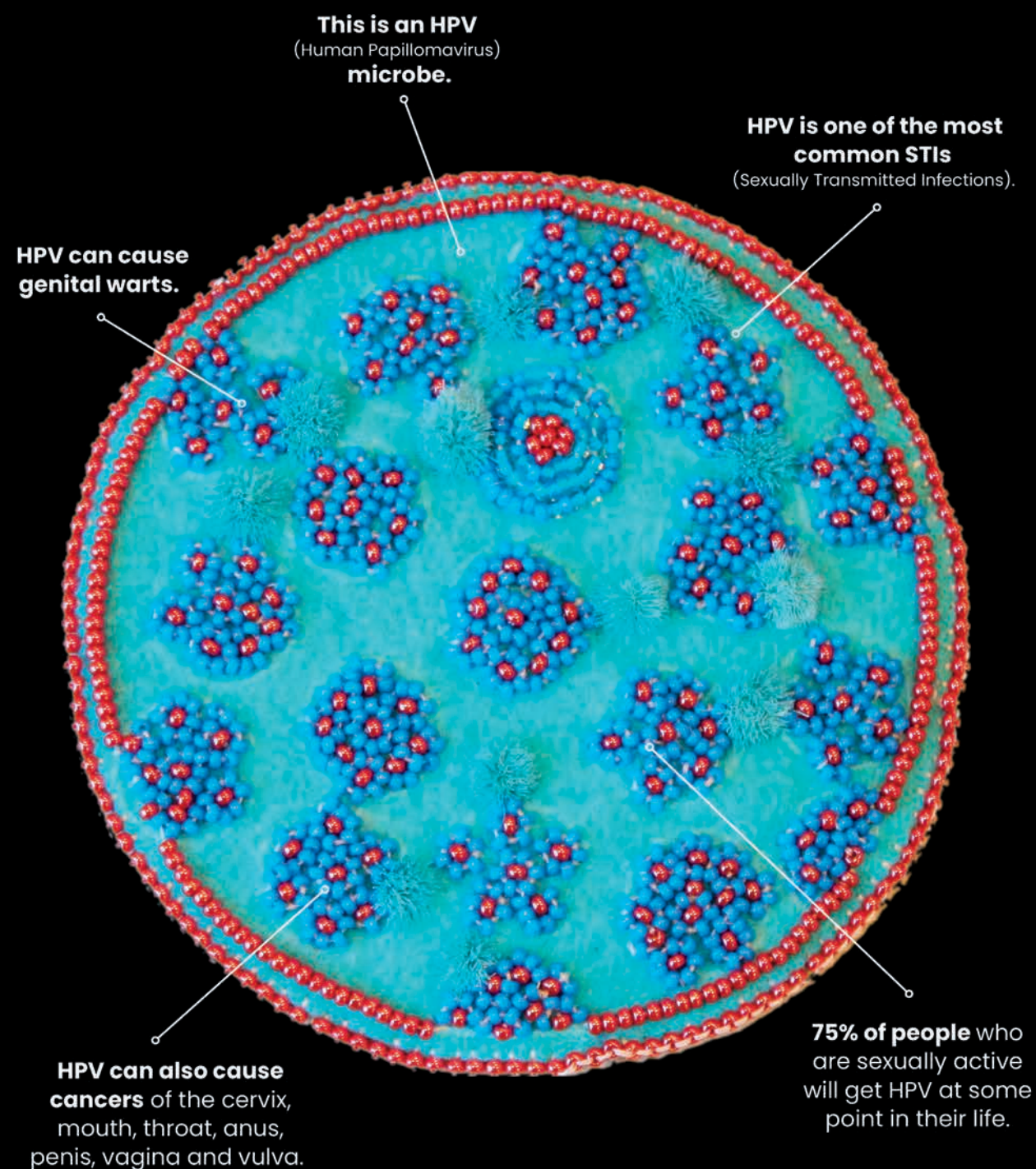


PET CLINIC

Shāw nithän, másin cho, gunatchîsh, thank you, to Veterinarian Samantha Salter, Veterinarian Cassandra Andrew, Vet Tech Sandy Secord and reps from the Yukon Humane Society—Marie Rowe, Carol McCormack and Suavis Plunkett-McCormack—for going above and beyond to support our furry friends at our Pet Clinic. And a big shout out to the Nats'ekhi KùHealth Centre staff for organizing the clinic!!

There was an overwhelming response. More than 30 dogs and cats were examined, vaccinated and treated, and the amazing volunteers who hosted the clinic worked overtime to see as many animals as they could.





ASK A HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL IF YOU SHOULD GET THE HPV VACCINE

The HPV vaccine is recommended for:

- everyone age 9 to 26; and
- people with a cervix age 27 to 45.

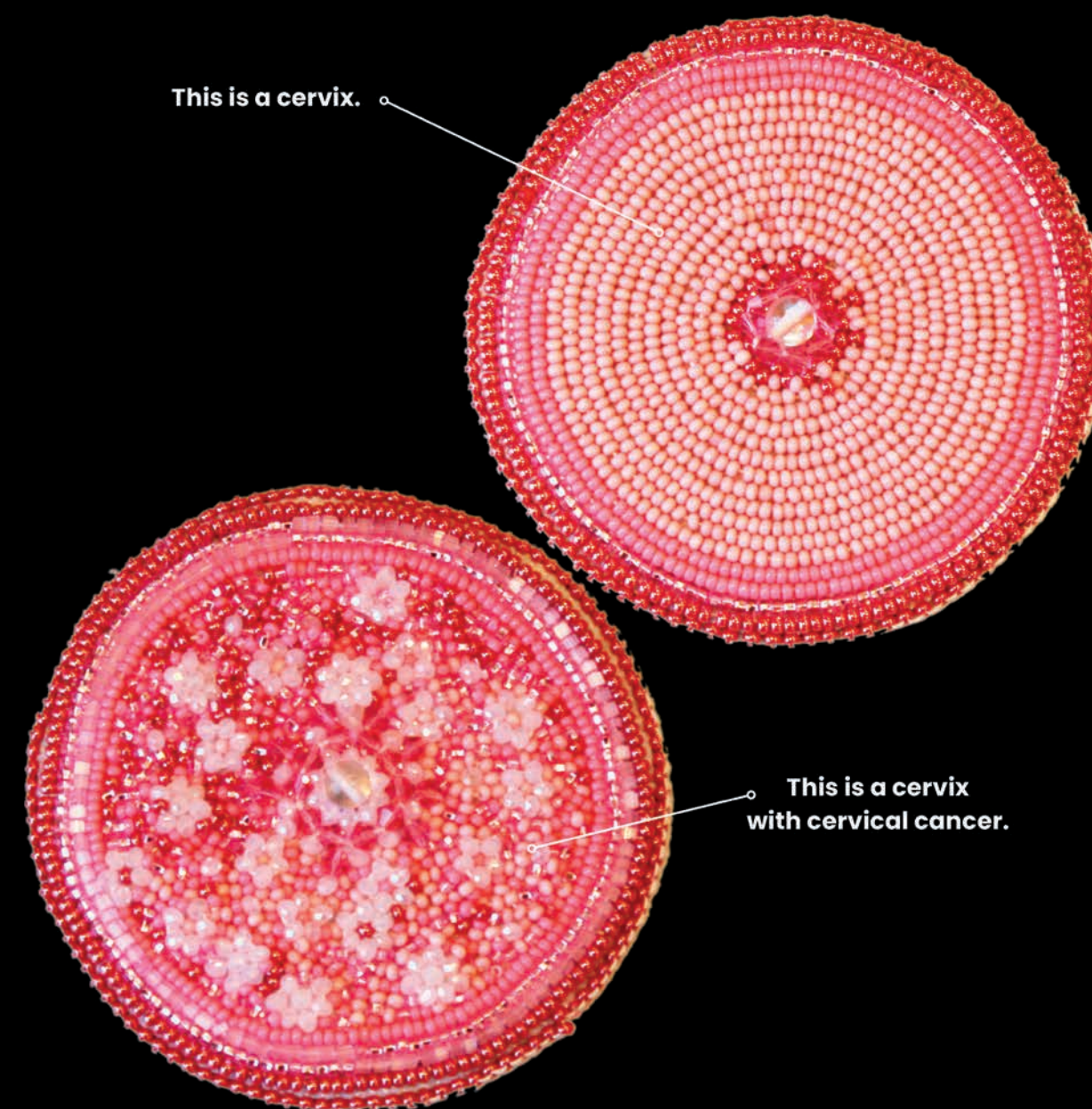
Visit Natsékhi Kù Health Centre or your community health centre.



We are grateful for the use of this original beadwork created by Stormy Bradley.

This message was brought to you by Kwanlin Dün First Nation with support from the Yukon's Immunization Program.

75% of people who are sexually active will get HPV – Human Papillomavirus – at some point in their life.



The HPV vaccine protects against the types of HPV that cause most cervical cancers.

INCORPORATING BEADWORK INTO HEALTH MESSAGES

This winter, we commissioned local artist Stormy Bradley to create beadwork of the HPV microbe, a healthy cervix and a cervix with cervical cancer. The art was used to make these vaccine awareness posters and will be displayed in the Health Centre.



As a direct result of feedback collected through the Łu Zil Män Fish Lake Local Area Plan, the Yukon government has installed an outhouse and garbage cans on site!

64% of people who responded to the survey wanted outhouses, and 65% wanted garbage cans.



Planning for the future of KDFN Traditional Territory

KDFN's Heritage, Lands and Resources department had a busy winter, working on several planning projects within our Traditional Territory. Engagement with KDFN Citizens and Beneficiaries has been an important part of our work.

DEVELOPING A PLAN TO HELP GUIDE HOW HISTORICAL SUBMISSIONS ARE RESOLVED AND HOW NEW LAND APPLICATIONS ARE PROCESSED

KDFN is looking at solutions to resolve the Historical Submissions backlog and develop residential land both for Citizens and revenue generation. "Historical Submissions" include Expressions of Interest, Land Set Aside, and Band Council Resolutions.

The goal of the plan is to balance current Settlement Land interests with land interests of future generations, and protect lands for cultural, heritage, and traditional uses.

Three Community Open Houses were held in June 2023 to gather feedback from Beneficiaries and Citizens. We are planning to add a few more open houses in the coming months.

Beneficiaries and Citizens can help by completing a Lands Plan Survey to guide how residential land is developed.

A copy of the survey is available:

- online at kwanlindun.com/landsplan
- on paper in the Kashgêk' building and included in the Summer Newsletter package.

For more information, please visit: kwanlindun.com/landsplan

CONTACT:
Jimmy Kennedy, A/ Lands & Resources Manager
867-334-2746 | jimmy.kennedy@kdfn.net

VALLEYVIEW SOUTH (THE 'TANK FARM' AREA)

The area between Hamilton Boulevard and the Alaska Highway will have a new identity in the next few years, and KDFN is helping to shape it.

KDFN is participating in a City of Whitehorse Master Plan for the area, which is temporarily being called Valleyview South. It includes two KDFN Settlement Land parcels on either side of Sumanik Drive, C-117B and C-141B. These parcels are already designated for residential and commercial use.

Other groups also own land in the area, including the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, the Yukon government, the City of Whitehorse, and several private landowners.

In November 2022, we mailed a questionnaire to all KDFN households, asking what Valleyview South should be like in the future. Opinions were mixed, but respondents were united in wanting to see a high-quality development in a vibrant, safe, and accessible neighbourhood. In June, the City hosted an open house and a survey.

The settlement parcels will have a flexible mixed-use designation, which gives KDFN many commercial and residential development options.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The master plan will be completed in December 2023.

To read the public engagement summary, visit: kwanlindun.com/valleyview-south-master-plan

CONTACT:
Glenda Koh, KDFN Urban Planning and Policy Advisor
867-332-3859 | Glenda.Koh@kdfn.net

ŁU ZIL MÄN (FISH LAKE) LOCAL AREA PLAN

Through a survey and public events hosted in 2022, KDFN Citizens and Beneficiaries and the general public identified what makes Łu Zil Män special and important. Many people identified:

- Wildlife and fish habitat (77%);
- Recreation (58%);
- Traditional and cultural uses (44%); and
- Heritage resources (39%).

Find the "Vision, Values & Guiding Principles" and the "Łu Zil Män Fish Lake What We Heard Report" at kwanlindun.com/fishlakeplan

WHAT'S NEXT?

- The joint KDFN and Yukon government steering committee will create a draft local area plan.
- KDFN Citizens and Beneficiaries and the general public will be asked to give feedback.
- The plan will be revised based on feedback received.
- KDFN and YG will approve and implement the plan.

FIND OUT MORE:
kwanlindun.com/fishlakeplan

CONTACT:
Karee Vallevand, KDFN Community Engagement Planner
867-334-3569 | Karee.Vallevand@kdfn.net



MCINTYRE, CROW AND SWAN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Progress continues on the McIntyre, Crow and Swan Neighbourhood Plan, which will guide future development in those areas.

Since work on the plan began in 2022, we have established an Advisory Committee, held four workshops, and put out a neighbourhood survey to all KDFN households.

Engagement with Beneficiaries and Citizens resulted in valuable information about community values, concerns, and ideas to address concerns.

WHAT'S NEXT? Land planners will use the community feedback to develop a draft plan for the neighbourhoods.

FIND OUT MORE: kwanlindun.com/neighbourhood-plan

CONTACT:
Karee Vallevand, KDFN Community Engagement Planner
867-334-3569 | Karee.Vallevand@kdfn.net



WHITEHORSE WATER-USE RELICENSING PROJECT

The Water-Use Licence for the Whitehorse dams will expire in 2025. To continue operating the dams, Yukon Energy Corporation (YEC) must go through a process to renew this licence.

This renewal process is KDFN's first opportunity to influence the dam relicensing since signing our 2005 Final and Self-Government agreements.

KDFN is involved in the relicensing process to:

- Ensure that KDFN's interests are represented and prioritised;
- Preserve or enhance KDFN environmental, cultural, and heritage values in the Southern Lakes region, and the health and wellbeing of the KDFN community; and
- Acknowledge the historical and ongoing impacts of the dams, and seek compensation.

In December 2022, KDFN called for applications to join a Community Advisory Committee for the project.

In February 2023, an Open House and Dinner was held in person at Nàkwät'à Kų Potlatch House and online.

WHAT'S NEXT? A story sharing event for KDFN Citizens and Beneficiaries is scheduled for August 2023.

FIND OUT MORE: kwanlindun.com/wwurp

CONTACT:
Emily McDougall, KDFN Sustainability Planner & Whitehorse Water-Use Relicensing Project Manager
867-334-2115 | Emily.McDougall@kdfn.net



KDFN WORKS WITH YG TO UPDATE THE YUKON'S MINING LEGISLATION PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF YG SUCCESSOR LEGISLATION

The Yukon government is updating its mining legislation. KDFN and other Yukon First Nations are working with the government on the new laws to represent KDFN's interests and ensure meaningful participation in the process.

WHAT'S NEXT? The process is still at the initial stages. We will keep updating the KDFN community along the way.

COMMERCIAL / INDUSTRIAL LAND PLANNING

Demand for commercial and industrial land remains high. KDFN is working in partnership with the City and the Yukon government on a master plan for an area along the Ice Lake Road.

The area includes KDFN parcel C-86B and a larger parcel of YG land, located just north of Yukon Gardens, west of the highway, and east of Hamilton Boulevard. The plan will result in unserviced commercial and industrial lots.

During land claims, KDFN selected C-86B for its commercial potential, and the Community Lands Plan identified it for revenue purposes. The plan is projected for completion by December 2023.

WHAT'S NEXT? HLR will review the initial planning scenario in July and August. Public review is scheduled for November.

CONTACT:
Glenda Koh, KDFN Urban Planning and Policy Advisor
867-332-3859 | Glenda.Koh@kdfn.net

RANGE POINT JOINT MASTER PLAN FINALIZED

KDFN and the Yukon government have completed a plan for a new neighbourhood on Range Point.

The area includes:

- KDFN Settlement Land parcel C-15B (14.85 hectares); and
- YG's Lot 262-6 (3.6 hectares).

Started in 2020, the plan was created with input from KDFN Beneficiaries and Citizens, Range Point residents, governments, and the general public.

During land claims, C-15 was selected to help KDFN make money to provide programs and services to Beneficiaries and Citizens.

The Range Point neighbourhood will include approximately 390 units through a mix of different housing types. It will also feature a central park, internal paths, and access to nearby green spaces.

As with all KDFN residential developments, KDFN Citizens will get a preferential opportunity to purchase on the Settlement Land parcel.

FIND OUT MORE:
kwanlindun.com/range-point

CONTACT:
Glenda Koh, KDFN Urban Planning and Policy Advisor
867-332-3859 | Glenda.Koh@kdfn.net



MEET OUR NEW STAFF!



Emma Hoogland,
Fisheries Technician

I am a citizen of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and am a member of the Crow Clan. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Natural Resource Science and am passionate about nature and conservation. I grew up in the Yukon, which has helped fuel my love of the outdoors. In my free time I enjoy camping, hiking, and mountain biking. I am excited to join the KDFN team and do my part in helping to conserve our natural resources.



Brianna Capot-Blanc,
Fisheries Technician Trainee

I am a citizen of Fort Nelson First Nation, I am from the Wolf Clan. I was born and raised in the Yukon. My great-grandparents are Annie and Johnnie Smith. I've been trying to get out and interact with the community more, like doing sacred fires and attending and helping with events at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. In my free time I tend to bead earrings, go for walks, and enjoy the sun while it's out. I've been looking into expanding my knowledge and love for the outdoors, and I am excited that I will be part of the team as a Fishery Technician Trainee for 2023.



Woah, Bear! KDFN Land Stewards helped spread bear education and awareness at the Bear Fair.

Updates from Heritage, Lands and Resources Operations team

Bear awareness, fishing education and ethics, investigating muskats, and much more!

KDFN's Operations Team has been busy working on the Traditional Territory.



PROMOTING EDUCATION TO HELP MINIMIZE BEAR-HUMAN CONFLICTS AT THE BEAR FAIR

Operations Manager for Fish and Wildlife Brandy Mayes, Land Steward Officer Bruce Wilson, HLR Trainee Alberta Sam and members of the Bear Working Group attended the Bear Fair at LePage Park on May 17th. The Bear Working Group consists of people from KDFN, TKC, Yukon Government, City of Whitehorse, WildWise, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Raven Recycling, Grizzly Bear Protection Yukon, and Yukon First Nations Educations Directorate.

The Bear Fair is a family event for people to come and learn about the fundamentals of bear behaviour, managing attractants and how to handle bear encounters. During the event there are bear spray demonstrations, tips on the best way to prepare your property and campsite and learn and ask questions to Conservation Officers, biologists, and other experts. The Bear Fair is an on-going campaign to help minimize bear and human conflicts.

BEAR AWARENESS AND BEAR SPRAY TUTORIALS

This spring Bruce Wilson hosted bear awareness and bear spray tutorials for the Wild School, BYTE in collaboration with the Youth Achievement Centre, Elijah Smith Elementary field day at Chadburn Lake, and the KDFN Firesmart crew.

FISHING EDUCATION AND ETHICS DEVELOPMENT COURSE (FEED)

The KDFN has been working on a course to educate Yukoners, visitors, and students in how to treat all fish with respect. This means sharing First Nation values around catch and release fishing and the problem with "playing with food". The course also uses the best available science to demonstrate how to properly release fish if anglers are required to do so because of the Yukon Fishing Regulations.

It is hoped that when anglers are fishing for lake trout, grayling, northern pike or whitefish in our Traditional Territory they will understand that our relationship with fish is different than "sport or recreation".

This course has been under development for two years. It has been developed by KDFN with support from partners such as the Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resources Council and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, to name a few. It was built in Yukon and uses only Yukon fish photography. Funding was provided by the Government of Canada.

It is hoped that the course will be taken by students studying environmental or experiential science and may be a requirement in the future to obtain a fishing license.

Find out more at kwanlindun.com/fishing-education



END OF LIFE VEHICLES PROJECT

The ELV (End of Life Vehicles) Project will recover, remove and recycle abandoned vehicles in our community and in outlying KDFN land parcels within our Traditional Territory in an environmentally responsible manner.

Abandoned vehicles pose environmental and safety risks. They can be fire hazards, dumping grounds for garbage, animal attractants, and are sources of soil contamination.

The project started last year and we managed to recycle 17 vehicles. This year we intend to continue with this project.

HOW TO REPORT AN ABANDONED VEHICLE: Contact Bruce Wilson at bruce.wilson@kdfn.net or by phone at 867-334-8990.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS WE FOLLOW? We will inspect the vehicle and post a notice on it. Timeframe for removal will be 2 weeks, which is far longer than Whitehorse Bylaw Services removal timeframe of 72 hours.

We send the VIN number and license plate to:

- Yukon Motor Vehicles to see if it is registered; and
- the RCMP to see if it was involved in a crime.

We will also display pics and descriptions of ELVs on the KDFN website and on notice boards in the community so that citizens are fully informed.

Visit kwanlindun.com/elv for ongoing updates. information.

CHASÀN CHÙÀ-MCINTYRE CREEK TIRE CLEAN UP

On May 31st Land Steward Officer Bruce Wilson attended the Chasàn Chùà-McIntyre Creek Tire Clean up which was organized by The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board. Different organizations and volunteers helped with the clean up. McIntyre Creek was historically an old dump site and over the years as the banks have eroded old tires have slowly emerged. During this clean up approximately 40 tires that were pulled from the creek.

McIntyre Creek (Chasàn Chùà in Southern Tutchone) is a significant travel corridor for species such as moose, caribou and wolves and is also a historical creek where Chinook Salmon spawned. It is in the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

Archaeological evidence and traditional knowledge tell us this area has been significant to KDFN for thousands of years. Historically, many families had fish and hunting camps all along the creek, from the Yukon River to Fish Lake.

YUKON U GUARDIAN TRAINING PROGRAM

In March, Alberta Sam and Bruce Wilson attended a five-day, Yukon University pilot guardian training camp in Old Crow. Along with other Yukon FN guardian attendees, they learned winter bush skills, team building, resource management, and just how to get things done in extreme winter conditions. Yukon U is currently developing and will soon offer a full Guardian Training Course for anyone interested in stewardship as a career. The intent is for KDFN Land Steward Officers to take the full course next year to get an official certification.

INVESTIGATING MUSKRAT POPULATIONS

KDFN has been investigating muskrat populations in the Lewes Marsh Habitat Protection Area. Oral history suggests that muskrat populations have declined dramatically since the Whitehorse Dam was constructed, however the specific cause is up for debate.

Most of the field work has been done in spring looking for signs of muskrat on the melting ice. Evidence of muskrats in the wetter areas of the marsh include the well-known push-ups, however other observed structures included feeding platforms and lodges that are like beaver houses. In fact, they have been known to use abandoned beaver houses for shelter. Guardians have also seen evidence beneath the collapsed shelf ice of paths in the mud where they move freely to feed well away from water while avoiding predators on the surface.

2023 YUKON RIVER EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

HLR Trainee Alberta Sam was selected to attend the 2023 Yukon River Educational Exchange hosted in Alaska from July 10th to 20th. The exchange program is in partnership with YSSC and Alaska's Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

The educational exchanges happen annually with alternating host countries. It's a way for people who live on both sides of the United States/Canada border to increase their understanding of their neighbours' experiences and challenges as they relate to Yukon River salmon fisheries. It's also a way for fisheries management agencies on both sides to discuss Canadian-origin Chinook and fall chum salmon issues directly with the people who rely on them.

FIRST NATIONS NATIONAL GUARDIANS GATHERING

Bruce and Cheyenne represented KDFN at the gathering in May. Land Guardians from across the country assembled in Ottawa to meet other First Nation guardians, learn about other guardian programs, participate in land stewardship workshops, and share successes and challenges.

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY TENT

KDCC Cultural Director Kailen Gingell invited LSOs to showcase our program at the National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations on June 21. Bruce Wilson set up an LSO tent outside and engaged with locals as well as with people from far and wide. The theme of the tent was salmon conservation, but other aspects of our program were also on display.

There was plenty of swag to give away so we had a draw box where people could submit their name and number in hopes of winning a prize of their choosing. This proved very popular as people love free stuff. We also gave away KDFN booklets (KDFN history and ideals), hunting and fishing regs, and bear awareness pamphlets. We were well received and there was strong interest in our program and in salmon conservation.



Salmon Update

Compiled by the Operations Team at KDFN's Heritage, Lands and Resources Department

HELP PRESERVE YUKON CHINOOK

KDFN is asking Citizens and Beneficiaries not to harvest Chinook salmon in the Yukon River or its tributaries this season.

As of June 27th, the Historical Cumulative Daily Passage at the Pilot Station sonar site in Alaska was:

- 22,301 in 2023;
- 22,974 in 2022; and
- 115,132 in 2019.

The Historical Daily Passage was:

- 232 in 2023;
- 1,717 in 2022; and
- 3,352 in 2019.

The Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (YSSC) is recommending: "No harvest of any Chinook or Chum salmon in 2023 in either the mainstem of the Yukon River or Porcupine." YSSC would also like to engage with KDFN about a potential long-term closure of at least one lifecycle for Chinook salmon.

The YSSC is a public advisory body established in 1995 through the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) with respect to salmon management in the Yukon. Its mandate is to make recommendations to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and to Yukon First Nations on all matters related to Yukon River salmon, their habitats and management, including legislation, research, policies, and programs.

THE SOUTHERN LAKES SALMON PLAN HAS BEEN COMPLETED

Through a collaborative effort with the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Carcross/Tagish First Nation, and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, a ground-breaking plan has been developed for Yukon River Chinook salmon. Named "Connecting the Broken Salmon Trail," this Indigenous-centred plan aims to restore and prioritize the critical role of salmon within the cultures, languages, landscapes, and laws of the First Nation in the Southern Lakes.

At the heart of this initiative is a deep reverence for ceremony and a commitment to upholding the traditional laws of SHARING, CARING, RESPECT, and TEACHING.

Dakānut'a ich'e daghashru ichj ghats'ūt'ar yè dān dānk'e kenūdān

The involvement of respected Elders and engaged Citizens has allowed for a profound understanding of the vital role that salmon play in family connections through fish camps, cultural knowledge transfer, and ceremonial practices. The plan recognizes the significant historical and ongoing cultural impacts and losses that have affected salmon and the people involved.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION AROUND A POTENTIAL KDFN SALMON STEWARDSHIP CENTRE

The KDFN have an opportunity to work with other Yukon First Nations and DFO to establish a dedicated KDFN Salmon Stewardship Centre (SCC) in the Whitehorse area. The SCC needs more community discussion and would have three main parts:

- A Gathering and Teaching Place;
- A Restoration and Research Hub; and
- A Stewardship Hatchery.

Objectives of the Salmon Stewardship Centre:

- **CARE** - Supports the recovery of salmon stocks in the KDFN Traditional Territory and associated Southern Lakes headwaters through Salmon Plan implementation.
- **SHARE** - Working across generations, focuses on maintaining a connection to salmon culture in a time of extremely low salmon abundance.
- **RESPECT** - Embodies the traditional laws and values through ceremony and language.
- **TEACHING** - Weaves Indigenous knowledge and western science through the transfer of knowledge from Elders and youth and with scientists and the community.

Gyu kutsān du dān ātl'q nāshējāl

Salmon are bringing people and organizations together.

For more information, contact Land Steward Officer Cheyenne Bradley at cheyenne.bradley@kdfn.net or 867-332-6419.

THE TAKHINI SONAR STATION IN 2023

KDFN has operated the Takhini Sonar Station since 2021. The sonar camp is located on the Takhini River, approximately 5 kilometres upstream from where the Takhini meets the Yukon River. The station was previously operated by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in 2017 and 2018.

This year, sonar operations are expected to run between July 30th and September 5th. Land Steward Officer Cheyenne Bradley, Heritage, Lands and Resources Trainee Alberta Sam, Fisheries Technician Emma Hoogland and Fisheries Technician Trainee Brianna Capot-Blanc will be operating the station. Land Steward Officers and other organizations, such as Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Carcross/Tagish First Nation will also be assisting with daily operations. Environmental Dynamics Inc. and the Yukon First Nation Salmon Stewardship Alliance will be providing technical advice. DFO is loaning equipment.

With funding from the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative, KDFN was able to purchase our own sonar to ensure this project continues

WHY? This program counts Chinook salmon migrating up the Takhini River to their spawning grounds. Data collected is used to help make in-season recommendations to KDFN Citizens and Beneficiaries. And, once the project is complete, KDFN can then use the data to make postseason recommendations to the Yukon River Panel.

HOW DOES IT WORK? The sonar is an equipment called ARIS 1200. It operates 24/7 and records fish swimming by or objects floating downstream. Staff onsite use a program called Ecotastic that measures the fish and clocks how fast it swims to determine if it is a salmon or a freshwater fish.

KEEP UP TO DATE: Daily sonar counts will be posted on the KDFN website and Facebook page.

For more information, contact Land Steward Officer Cheyenne Bradley at 867-332-6419 or cheyenne.bradley@kdfn.net.



Caribou Update

Compiled by the Operations Team at KDFN's Heritage, Lands and Resources Department

SOUTHERN LAKES CARIBOU RECOVERY PROGRAM

Southern Lakes caribou were once abundant. Their decline resulted from factors like the Klondike Gold Rush, settlement, and overhunting. To address this, the Southern Lakes Caribou Recovery Program was launched, involving First Nation governments, Yukon and British Columbia governments, and Parks Canada. The program included a cessation of licenced harvest and a First Nation voluntary harvest moratorium, leading to successful recovery and increased caribou numbers. However, today caribou face new challenges in urban areas, such as road collisions, land development, and recreational activities. It is crucial to exercise caution to prevent further declines and effectively manage the herds.

The Southern Lakes Steering Committee, representing nine governments, is working on a Relationship Plan based on Indigenous knowledge and western science to ensure a sustainable and respectful connection between caribou and people. First Nations prioritize conservation efforts and continue to share and advance their hunting ethics and beliefs rather than lifting the hunting moratorium at this time.

SOUTHERN LAKES CARIBOU SUMMIT

First Nation Elders, youth, knowledge holders, leadership, and staff gathered for the 2022 Southern Lakes Caribou Summit at the end of November in Carcross. The Summit was held to share perspectives and stories and discuss the progress made through almost 30 years of the Southern Lakes Caribou Recovery Program, which includes the Ibex, Carcross, Laberge, and Atlin caribou herds. The event included a ceremony to awaken spiritual connections and welcome the recovering caribou home. There were focused discussions on how to reinvigorate our traditional reciprocal relationship with caribou in the future. Information shared at the Summit will inform the ongoing development of the caribou relationship plan for the Southern Lakes herds. Kwanlin Dun has been involved in this Indigenous-led planning process since its inception in 2018.

Flip to the next page to see the illustration from the summit!

NORTH AMERICAN CARIBOU CONFERENCE 2023

KDFN along with other representatives from the Southern Lakes Caribou Steering Committee (SLCSC) were invited to the North American Caribou & Angulate Conference held in Anchorage, Alaska in May 2023.

Representatives from the SLCSC held a 2-hour panel presentation on the planning process for the caribou relationship plan for the Southern Lakes Caribou Herds. Focus discussions were on how 9 governments worked together to create the plan which builds off the best of First Nation worldviews and non-First Nation worldviews to create a healthy, generational relationship with caribou. Relationship plans are similar to management plans yet try to 'cross boundaries' between knowledge systems. We also spoke about the sacrifices the Southern Lakes First Nations and Yukoners have made in order to recover the Southern Lakes Caribou Herds for over 30 years.

CARCROSS/TAGISH RENEWABLE RESOURCES COUNCIL ON THE LAND GATHERING

KDFN was invited to attend the Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resources Council's on the Land Gathering at Skookies Camp in Carcross on June 16-17, 2023. In attendance were other First Nations and Renewable Resources Councils from the Southern Lakes area, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, and the Southern Lakes Caribou Steering Committee. The agenda ranged from moose and caribou management to angling ethics surrounding catch and release fishing. KDFN staff, youth, and Elders were in attendance to contribute their input to these important initiatives in the Southern Lakes.

THE SOUTHERN LAKES CARIBOU STEERING COMMITTEE

The Southern Lakes Caribou Steering Committee continues to work towards completion of a management plan for the Carcross, Ibex, Laberge, and Atlin caribou herds. Comprised of 9 governments, including Kwanlin Dun, the Steering Committee has been working towards this objective since 2018. The Southern Lakes Caribou Recovery Program is now 30 years old, and thanks to the many shared efforts and initiatives, the herds are continuing to grow. The Steering Committee is currently focused on addressing the remaining gaps identified through the planning process and compiling a draft plan which will be shared for public review. A draft plan is anticipated to be available in 2023. In the meantime, Kwanlin Dun continues to ask beneficiaries to not hunt these caribou herds in support of the continued recovery effort. Check for more information.

Find out more about these projects at southernlakescaribou.com, or contact KDFN's Heritage, Lands and Resources Operations Manager Brandy Mayes at brandy.mayes@kdfn.net





What's up down at KDCC?

This summer the KDCC hosted our annual National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration!

We welcomed thousands of visitors from all over the world for a fun day in the sun and awesome main stage performances from Kwanlin Daghaalhaan Ké Dancers, Bria Rose, the Teechik Dancers, Jeremy Dutcher and more!

KDCC Hosted renowned Haida artist Dorothy Grant for another hat making workshop this summer. Participants spent 4 days with Dorothy, who shared her knowledge and expertise in fashion, arts, and design. KDFN Pathways sponsored 9 participants to take part in the workshop and create their own wonderful hats! Gunałchish, Dorothy!

The Shakaat Artist Residency is in full swing! Artists are hosted in the three culture cabins from July 10 – September 15. We are hosting many new faces this year. Come on down and say hi!

This summer the KDCC will begin 3-D scanning some of our collection pieces. This will allow KDFN art to be showcased in new mediums including Augmented and Virtual Reality. Another way these scans will help is by allowing us to showcase our artefacts in 3-D space right in the palm of your hand on your smartphone.





Chu Níikwän LP Update

A NEW LOOK FOR OUR GROUP OF COMPANIES

We have been working on unifying the brand for our Group of Companies. Shout out to Terrence Shorty for designing the new logo for Whitehorse Properties.



Whitehorse Properties LP is our property management and lease-hold company.



Canyon City Construction LP is our construction and gravel sales company.

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

BUILDING HOUSES FOR KDFN

We are excited to start a seven-unit housing program with KDFN and NGC Builders. This project will see seven two-bedroom units completed by December 2023.

CHU NÍIKWÄN PLACE

You may have seen some development on our piece of land by Walmart. There is a three-storey commercial building being built by Wildstone. We are anticipating a completion date of March 2024.

This project is moving fast and Wildstone is hiring! Please check out Wildstone's advertisement on KDFN's facebook page if you are interested!

GRAVEL & EQUIPMENT

Due to lack of interest Canyon City Construction LP has cancelled the Class 3 Driver training. We are accepting names and if we receive enough interest we will try again in the Winter 2023/Spring 2024. If you're interested, email office@canyoncitylp.com to be added to the list.

NEW KDFN Citizen Gravel Discount

Canyon City Construction LP is happy to offer KDFN Citizens a \$100 per load discount on processed gravel on a maximum of 4 loads per calendar year. A load is 9 m³ (12 yards).

For example, currently a load of ¾" Crush from our McLean Lake Pit delivered within city limits is:

- Regular Price is \$477.61 + GST
- KDFN Discount Price is \$377.61 + GST

NOTE: Processed gravel prices are subject to change and there is a price difference between our mclean lake and golden horn pits. Cash payment required upon delivery.

To order phone 867-333-0409.

KDFN KASHGÊK' BUILDING

The building signs are being installed in July 2023.

WIND ENERGY

Eagle Hill Energy Limited Partnership (EHELP) is 100% owned by Chu Níikwän LP. This project includes 4 Mega-Watt wind turbines that will be constructed on Haeckel Hill.

Please check out the EHELP updates on our website at www.cnlp.ca

GAS BAR ART WALL

If you still have fish to hand in, please contact Katelyn Dawson at KDFN Justice Department at katelyn.dawson@kdfn.net

Keep up with Chu Níikwän LP on our website www.cnlp.ca

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

AUGUST: Remember to apply for KDFN post-secondary funding at least two weeks before you plan to start your studies!

AUGUST 9: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

AUGUST 21: Discovery Day in the Yukon (KDFN offices are closed)

SEPTEMBER 4: Labour Day (KDFN offices are closed)

SEPTEMBER 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (KDFN offices are closed)

OCTOBER 9: Thanksgiving (KDFN offices are closed)

OCTOBER 28 - 29: KDFN General Assembly

NOVEMBER 8: Indigenous Veterans Day

NOVEMBER 11: Remembrance Day (KDFN offices are closed November 13)

NOVEMBER 13 - 18: Rock your Mocs Week

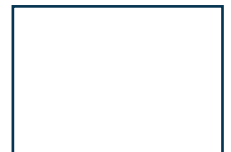
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We're online at kwanlindun.com

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DESTINATION ADDRESS