

Kwanlin Dän Ch'a

KWANLIN PEOPLE OF WHITEHORSE, HOW ARE YOU?

SUMMER 2024



Land Steward Officer Brandy Mayes helps a student from Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre release a baby salmon into its natural habitat.



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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 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

KDFN Government Departments

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

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**

Community Services (staff are available at this number on-call
24/7 for tenant home emergencies): **867-633-7833**

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
(Weekdays 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.): **867-668-7289**

Whitehorse Outreach Van (Daily 5:30 p.m. to 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**.
Open 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 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**

Animal Control

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

Looking for a phone number? kwanlindun.com/find-a-phone-number



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

A Message from the Chief

Dzenu shāwthan, KDFN.

Council welcomes Citizens to Shakat, a time when we celebrate the long days and warm sunshine across Dakeyi (Southern Tutchone) Haa Aani (Lingit), meaning our land. On the following pages you'll see what is happening in our community of Kwanlin Dün First Nation to connect with the land and water, to our culture and to each other.

Members of our community gathered at the garden outside the Natsékhi Kù Health Centre to celebrate the soil and plants that will offer fresh food through the summer. We've walked through the forest to learn about the traditional medicines that nature offers. Kwanlin Dün First Nation lands staff headed to Chasàn Chùà (McIntyre Creek) to help with ongoing efforts to clean up a historic dump site that was never properly remediated from years ago. Kwanlin Dün's traditional values to take care of the land and water continues through our work.

In June, I met with leaders from the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Carcross/Tagish First Nation near Täkwädhän Kwäshāw (Marsh Lake) to renew the Charter for How We Walk With the Land and Water, Nän ye chu ye ts'ädñäl. In 2017, our First Nations committed to work with each other to fulfil Chapter 11 of the Umbrella Final Agreements, which mandate the creation of a regional land use plan for the Southern Lakes. This plan is rooted in the belief that everything is connected, and that connection makes us stronger.

Also, at the end of June Kwanlin Dün had their Lhu Kwata Ku (Fish Camp) organised by the Justice team out at Ta'an Man (Lake Lebarge). There, children, youth and Citizens experienced an amazing week of learning and culture through the harvest and processing of the different kinds of freshwater fish. The amazing week was also blessed with great weather that provided children and youth with fun activities like swimming. Camps on the land bring us together, they make us stronger, and nàkwäye ye ghakets'edan k'é kekwänidlj (we have fun and learn).

In this issue of Kwanlin Dän Ch'a, you'll read about Citizens connecting to their culture. Citizens like Anne Spice, who is actively connecting with culture through her work as a tattoo artist. During June and July, she worked out of the Natsékhi Kù Health Centre offering traditional tattoos. She says she is "moving forward in the spirit of our ancestors." You'll also read about Elder Russell Burns and his collection of tools that our ancestors depended on to provide for their families. These tools have been passed down to Russell and go back generations. Now, he is passing on his knowledge to children and Citizens.

In June, KDFN Citizen Gary Bailie was inducted into the Yukon Sports Hall of Fame for his work with the Kwanlin Coyotes cross country ski club in McIntyre. During the ceremony, Gary reminded us that if you want to go fast, you should go alone - but if we want to go far, we should go together.

I would also like to extend a congratulations to all of the KDFN graduates of 2024. We are so proud of you!

Shāw nithän, másin cho, gunatch'ish, and thank you. I hope you enjoy this Shakat issue of Kwanlin Dän Ch'a.

Chief Sean Uyenets'échja Smith





Do you know someone that deserves a **SHOUT OUT**?

Let us know! Email communications@kdfn.net. Please make sure you have permission from the person you'd like to shout out to share their success with us.

SHOUT OUTS!

Congrats Cory!

Congratulations to Cory Holway who won the Yukon Youth Summit Award on April 17, 2024 for his exceptional work with the community!

Here he is with Elder Jessie Dawson, who nominated him for the award.

Traditional teachings

Shout out to everyone who took part in the trappers workshop in April. Check out this group photo!

Health and Wellness Appreciation

Shout out to the staff at Natsékhi Kù Health Centre! Shāw níthän, másin cho, gunáčhísh, and thank you for everything you do. Check out this photo from Health and Wellness Appreciation Week in May.





KDFN at Intergovernmental Leaders' Forum

Chief Smith addresses Prime Minister

Last May, Chief Sean Uyenets'echja Smith, joined by KDFN staff, attended the second Intergovernmental Leaders' Forum in Gatineau, Quebec.

Speaking to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Chief Smith advocated for language and culture funding, investments in infrastructure and housing, funding for emergency response, and the implementation of modern treaties and self-governing agreements.

"This is our moment as leaders of this country to contribute to achieving the vision of grandparents, parents, leaders, and Elders, and the dreams of our children and future generations," says Chief Smith. "This continues the work of Together Today for our Children Tomorrow just as it was presented in 1973 when Yukon First Nations presented their vision to your late father, the Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, to begin land claims in the Yukon Territory."

ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT: KDFN Negotiator Angus Cathcart, KDFN Negotiator Joseph Fred, KDFN Assistant Executive Director Jacqueline Shorty, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau, KDFN Chief Sean Uyenets'echja Smith (photo courtesy of government of Canada).

Former KDFN chief awarded with Coronation Medal

Doris Bill was one of 30,000 Canadians recognized for their community contributions

BY: **Meribeth Deen**

Congratulations to former Kwanlin Dün First Nation Chief Doris Bill, for being awarded with the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

Coronation medals have been awarded to accompany the ascent of every British monarch since King Edward VI in 1547, but have not been awarded since Queen Elizabeth's coronation in 1953. The Queen herself awarded Yukoner Patsy Henderson with the medal in 1959.

This time around, Yukon Commissioner Adeline Webber chose the territory's 21 medal recipients and awarded them at Taylor House on May 10, 2024.

"This program is a way to say thank you to those who have contributed so much to our communities," says Commissioner Webber.

In her nomination form, Webber wrote that Doris Bill has championed many social issues including community safety and housing, and that she now offers unique insights which "position her as a trusted and inspiring leader" at Yukon Housing Corporation.



Growing food together in the community

BY: *Aurora Hardy*

The community garden next to Natsékhi Kù Health Centre is now open, and thriving! This year we grew: herbs, lettuces, celery, cabbage, carrots, beans, peas and more!

Some things to keep in mind when visiting the garden:

- Only take what you need, try not to over-harvest
- Pick up after your dogs
- Leave the garden better than how you found it
- Please be respectful - this garden is for everyone



QUESTIONS?
Please contact
Tamara Fischer
at 867-334-2879.



Elders Council welcomes Elaine Shorty

*Elected in March, KDFN's
Elder Councillor wants to
make sure all KDFN Elders
are heard and included*

Looking ahead to her term as Elder Councillor, Elaine Shorty says she sees two years of making really positive things happen.

She says - she wants to make sure all Elders are heard, no matter who they are or where they live.

"I'd like to see more events happen that are really geared toward what Elders want and need," she says. "And I'd like to get some funding to make them happen."

Shorty says she'd also like to build stronger ties with the KDFN Youth Council.

"I'd like to include them in our meetings, so that they can learn how things are done and how decisions are made, but also just so we can build relationships. We hear things like, we're losing knowledge or, our young people aren't learning, but if we include them, they will learn."

Shorty says that she's hoping to pull together a week of workshops where Elders can share their traditional knowledge, and where youth and Elders can have fun together.

Shorty says, KDFN Elders should feel free to reach out to her if there is something they are interested in, or if they need help with a problem.

She can be reached at 867-332-2032 or by email at elaine.shorty@kdfn.net.







Dusk'a reunion

Shāw nithān, másin cho, gunatchísh, and thank you to everyone who came out to the Ashea / Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre Alumni Reunion on May 22!

Fun times were had by all. Activities included glass blowing, bouncy castles, face painting, live music, dancing, and more!

We got the chance to speak with many alumni, and hear about their wonderful memories about the daycare.

Sheilah Sutherland recounts her time at the daycare, saying "There was a cook at the daycare, and she became everybody's grandma at the daycare. Eventually I just kinda transitioned to a real grandma thing, where I would go to Mayo with her in the summer... even to this day she's still my grandma."





'I'm honoured to do that'

Elder Russell Burns is passing his knowledge on to the next generation

BY: *Dylan MacNeil*

Want to learn more?

Check out a video of Russell showing his bone tools at

[Youtube.com/@KwanlinDun](https://www.youtube.com/@KwanlinDun)





The How We Walk with the Land and Water open house was held on April 16, 2024 at the Mt. McIntyre Rec Centre.

KDFN Elder Russell Burns was there displaying his collection of bone tools.

“A lot of these tools here are passed down generation after generation, for hundreds of years, maybe even thousands of years,” says Russell. “We’re still learning about it today.”

Russell says the tools offer an important glimpse into our ancestors' ways of life. Many of them are two tools in one. Like, a hide scraper that also doubles as a place to store bone marrow to mix with dried meat.

“Way before houses, way before cars and trucks and skidoos, our Elders had to live off the land and learn to respect the land and the animals and the plants, the water, because we use it,” says Russell.

Those on-the-land survival skills were passed down to Russell from his Elders. Now, they are a part of his everyday life.

“I go out hunting in the fall and I go out fishing in the summer. In the winter I do my trapping. In the springtime I don't do much. I leave things alone in the spring because in the spring, everything grows,” he says. “Our Elders say ‘if you touch that bird egg, that mother bird will put that bird egg away.’ So, you learn to respect that from our Elders.”

Russell recalls learning from his Elders. He says they always had a story to go with their lesson.

“When they go out and catch their animals, they always sit me beside them and let me watch for what they're doing and help,” says Russell. “These kinds of ways were very important for me to learn.”

Now, Russell is focused on passing that knowledge on to the next generation. He says his Elders left a lot with him.

“I'm using it because they taught me how to use it. I'm respecting that,” says Russell. “I'm honoured to do that.”



Gary Bailie inducted into Yukon Sports Hall of Fame

*The KDFN Elder has had
a lengthy skiing career*



It was standing room only on June 19, 2024 at the Kwanlin Koyotes ski cabin as KDFN Elder Gary Bailie was inducted into the Yukon Sports Hall of Fame.

At eight years old, Gary got his start in skiing when he was part of the Territorial Experimental Ski Training program with Father Jean-Marie Mouchet. From competing in national cross country ski competitions to coaching, Gary has had a lengthy career. In the year 2000, he started the Kwanlin Koyotes. He says the Koyotes are the legacy of his daughter Stacey.

"She asked me one day when we were skiing if she could take her friends so, next thing, I had all these Kwanlin Dün kids," says Gary. "If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't have done it. She was my great inspiration, my great love."

For Gary, getting out on his skis is healing.

"When I'm out there, I feel this connection to not only the creator, but to my ancestors and it just really has helped me to be who I am," he says.

Congratulations Gary! Shāw nithän, másin cho, gunałchîsh, and thank you to everyone who made Gary's induction happen, especially Sport Yukon!

Youth Rec launches summer handgames practice

Hand-crafted counting sticks used in games and demos

After two years of practice, Kianna Blake-Sidney is upping her game - her handgames game, to be specific.

BY: **Meribeth Deen**

Kianna works for KDFN in youth rec, and over the summer, she's been running a handgames practice for the community.

The aim of the practices are to help people sharpen their skills so that they can go enjoy events being held in different Yukon communities.

"So many of our young people in our community know how to play really well," she says. "But others are just learning."

Kianna says she's still learning herself.

"I enjoy playing, but at times I wonder, 'what am I doing?' I went to Carmacks for a tournament and was sitting there on the mat and knew all of the calls. That was a great experience."

At fish camp this June, Kianna took on the project of making handgames sticks to support the program.

The eight and ten inch sticks are made from willow branches with the bark carved off and the ends rounded. Kianna made 24 in total, and says she's stumbled over unexpected lessons in the process.

"Today I learned that if you boil the willow bark, the oil that comes out of it is a natural form of Aspirin," she says.





405 Collaborative Hub - growing community

Welcome to our community-based outreach space, a collaboration between KDFN Health & Wellness, Education & Social Development, and Justice to increase opportunities for KDFNs most vulnerable population to gain access to services such as education, skills development, justice, health and social support services.

405 Ogilvie St. is a safe and inclusive environment where connections are forged, and relationships are nurtured to cultivate a sense of belonging, resilience, and personal growth. At 405 Ogilvie St., we believe in the power of human connection to create positive change and foster a sense of belonging, reciprocal learning and support while providing access to services. Through a variety of low barrier outreach programs and initiatives, our aim is to bring people together and break down barriers in efforts to build meaningful relationships that enrich lives and strengthen communities.

Join us as we embark on a journey of connection, growth, self-identity, building community, and healing in a good way. We are working to increase support and reduce harm, creating a space where KDFN Citizens who experience stigma, discrimination, criminalization, and isolation because of alcohol or drug use are valued, respected and met where they are at.



Making connections and building relationships

HERE IS A (GROWING) LIST OF SERVICES AVAILABLE IN OUR COLLABORATIVE HUB:

- Drop-in counselling - Mondays, 1 to 3 p.m.
- Weekly women's group, Mondays, 5 to 8 p.m.
- Weekly men's gathering, Thursdays, 5 to 8 p.m.
- Harm reduction supplies & training
- Health checks and nursing services
- Alcohol and substance use disorder support
- Nutrition and hydration
- A safe space
- Restroom facilities
- Traditional knowledge sharing

Our Health Advocacy and Navigation team works collaboratively with a client's care team, to ensure Citizens and their families are treated with respect and dignity by health care professionals and staff. They raise awareness about instances of racism in healthcare through various methods, challenge harmful stereotypes, address discrimination, and empower Indigenous individuals to reclaim their voices and rights. This is a non-clinical position that supports KDFN Citizens/families to navigate the range of clinical and community-based health services. They can help coordinate wrap around wellness planning and work to increase health literacy of clients.



*It's a reclamation of
our collective life -
our collective culture:
things that have
been erased.*

Tattoo medicine

Reclaiming traditional tattoos as a healing ritual BY: Olivia Gatensby

When you think of the history of tattoos, what comes to mind? There are a lot of depictions of tattoos from many cultures across history, but I have rarely seen mention of traditional Indigenous tattoos. This might be because it is hard to find information about how our ancestors did tattoos. But thanks to artists like Anne Spice, tattoo rituals are making a comeback.

KDFN Citizen Anne Spice is a hand-poked tattoo artist and spends most of her time living in Ontario.

She began tattooing six years ago while doing Indigenous land occupation in British Columbia. Since then, she has been refining her skills and learning as much as she can about how our ancestors did traditional tattoos.

"It's a reclamation of our collective life - our collective culture: things that have been erased," she explains. "It's very hard because tattooing was outlawed. It would have been something we practised at potlatch, but as part of the potlatch ban and other colonial laws, the practice of tattooing faded for a number of generations."

Because of this, most information is only available via written documentation by anthropologists and missionaries with varying degrees of accuracy, and often painted in a negative light. Despite this, a movement has popped up to bring back traditional tattoos.

"There's this really inspiring revival that's happening amongst Indigenous people all over the world about reclaiming tattoo practice, and re-inventing the way we mark ourselves."

Anne says she is determined to "move forward in the spirit of our ancestors", come to terms with the lack of available information, and share what she can with other people.

Anne visited Whitehorse this summer, and worked at Natsékhi Kù Health Centre to tattoo KDFN Citizens as a healing ritual, and to share what she's learned with others.

Among those people was me, Olivia Gatensby.

To me, getting a tattoo from Anne was a way of marking a very special moment in my life.

Before my appointment I didn't even know what I wanted as a tattoo. However, I knew I wanted it to represent my femininity, as I'm going through a gender transition from male to female. As well, the idea of getting a traditional tattoo helped me feel closer to my heritage and culture, as I admittedly have felt a bit of distance in that area.

When I arrived for my appointment Anne greeted me kindly and I explained the significance of this for me. She came back with suggestions that clicked with me right away:

1. Two lines on my fingers signifying the water/river, and representing change.
2. Circles on my fingers which are meant to represent the moon - an icon that is closely associated with womanhood.

I immediately loved the idea, and she got to work.

The whole thing took about an hour and a half. It was painful, but I think that's a part of the experience, as Anne describes the practice as "a way to mark painful transitions and transformations."

Overall the experience was positive, and I'm very grateful to have had this opportunity.

Healing through art

BY: *Olivia Gatensby*
PHOTOS BY: *Kailen Gingell*

In 2023, the YVR Art Scholarship selected four Indigenous artists to create and display art in the Vancouver Airport. They each received \$5000 to fund their art projects within a year. KDFN Citizens Karra MacIntosh and Eila Vallevand were among those selected.

Eila didn't learn about the program until it was seemingly too late to apply, but since it fell on a weekend she tried her luck and submitted it at 1 a.m. after the deadline. After that she waited, and eventually got a call to confirm her acceptance.

"I was super busy and hadn't been checking my emails," Eila explains, "I had no clue and totally forgot. Then I got a call from their coordinator asking 'are you coming to the ceremony we're hosting in the Vancouver airport on Friday?' and I was like... what? I got it?"

With the scholarship, she was able to take time to buy materials to work on a deeply personal passion project, drawing inspiration from her late father Wayne Vallevand.

Her design is currently being displayed in the Vancouver airport. It will remain there for a year in total, and then move around to various displays until it is eventually returned to her.

She made a beautiful set of clothing, combining traditional Indigenous aesthetics with modern day street wear. She credits her mentor Shirley Smith as an incredibly positive influence as she helped not only artistically, but also with the grief that comes with losing a parent. "She taught me to speak to my art," says Eila, "as though I was speaking with my dad."

Her artistic vision culminated as a corset bustier made out of moosehide. The inside lining was made using old t-shirts her dad used to wear. On the front, she used a design of a van he drew when he was young.

"I just had it hung up on my wall because I loved all of his drawings, and I knew I wanted to incorporate him somehow," she reflected. "He was still around when I came up with the concept and he joked: 'why would you use one of those old raggedy drawings?' I was like, what the heck! This van's cool!"

She was able to use the piece in her portfolio when applying to Emily Carr University of Art and Design. She was accepted into their visual arts program and will be attending this fall.

"As a person who struggled in school and didn't graduate, it feels good to know that I can further my education, which is something my dad wanted to see me do. Even though he has passed, he is still with me every step of the way."



Thay T'äw Kwändür is now available

Children's book celebrates language, tradition and a changing landscape

The story of Thay, told by the late KDFN Elder, Äyenjiatà Louie Smith, inspired its re-telling for 3 to 5 year olds growing up in an energy intensive world. The result is a picture book, called *The Winds over Whitehorse: Thay T'äw Kwändür (Golden Eagle Nest Story)*, which is now available for free through the Yukon Imagination Library and as a digital download at www.chuniikwan.ca/eagle-hill-energy.

Co-authored by KDFN Citizen and Culture and Heritage Steward, Kikchucks Rae Mombourquette and illustrated by Yukon-based artist Tedd Tucker, the book follows the Tsà I (Gopher) family on a cranberry-picking journey up Thay T'äw (Haeckel Hill). Young gophers Olive and Louie have all kinds of questions for their grandmother, including one about how the hill got its name. Grandmother, Ätsūq, appreciates the children's curiosity, but also needs to get berries in her bucket so enlists Raven, Ts'ürk'i, to fill them in.

With Southern Tutchone sprinkled throughout the story, an explanation of wind energy basics and a nod to the possibility that Thay might still be up on the hill – there's lots of learn and even more to enjoy in *The Winds over Whitehorse*.



Long before there was a busy city with neighbourhoods full of houses and cars on the roads, there was a giant golden eagle, named Thay, who lived in the T'äw nest up here on this mountain...







KDFN Youth tour post-secondary schools

The group headed down south to get inspired about education

Last April, KDFN Education and Social Development supported a group of KDFN Youth to tour post-secondary schools.

The tour kicked off here at home with a visit to Yukon University. The group then headed to British Columbia to check out more schools. They stopped at InFocus Film School, Simon Fraser University, the British Columbia Institute of Technology, and Langara College among others.

We hope everyone had fun and got inspired about education!

Shăw nithän, másin cho, gunatchísh, thank you to everyone who helped make this trip happen.



KDFN GRADS 2024

On behalf of KDFN Council, congratulations to the KDFN graduates of 2024 and their families. All your hard work has paid off. We're excited to see what you achieve in the future!

HIGHSCHOOL

Shea Gordon
Tijuan Petrovic
Jasmine-Rose Lloyd
Trustin Boulanger
Peter Henry
Jacob Gole
Molly Sam
Jason McKay

POST-SECONDARY

Melissa O'Brien
Fabianne Bolton
Āyīzhia, Cory Holway
Ashley Hubbard
Melia Hudgin
Rennes Lindsay
Reena Coyne
Ashley Waugh







SUMMER FUN
@YOUTH
REC!



KDFN Youth Rec kicked off summer with the Community Bike Rodeo, trips to Carcross, archery, mountain biking, gardening, learning Bear Awareness Safety with the KDFN Heritage, Lands, and Resources, and participating in Fish Camp at Lake Lebarge and Hide Tanning Camp in McIntyre. We are looking forward to more time spent on the land with canoe trips, adventure camps, attending Moosehide Gathering, biking, day trips, and more! For more information on Youth Recreation Programming, please check the KDFN Facebook page where we post all of our calendars and updates.

To register for programs, please phone Youth Recreation Program Coordinator Nadine Poirier at 867-332-1744.

SUMMER FUN @ YOUTH REC!













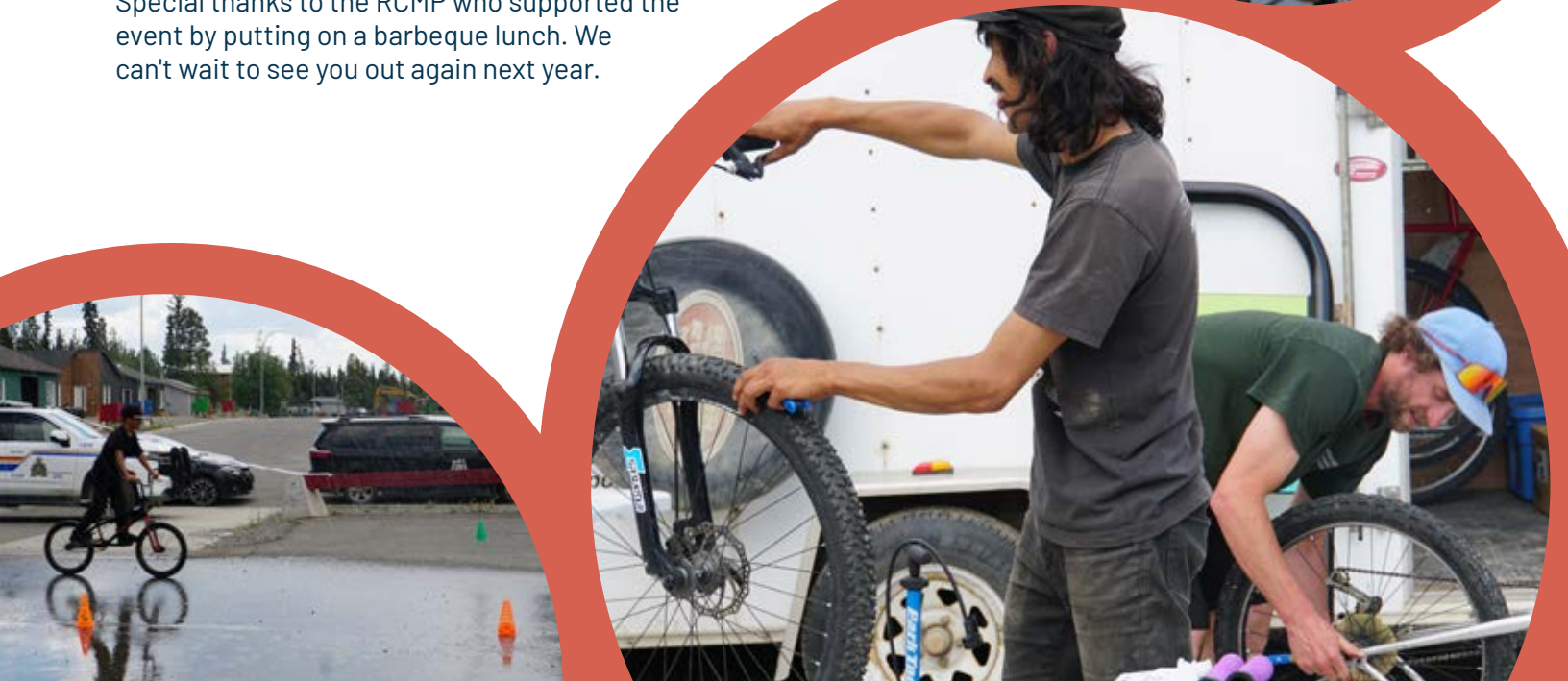
Having a blast at the BIKE RODEO!

Shãw níthãn, másin cho, gunatchísh, and thank you to everyone who came out to the Bike Rodeo on June 18!

We are grateful to all KDFN departments for their contributions to this event.

Also, thank you to Legal Aid, Northern Construction and Integra Tire for their donations - and a big thank you to YFNED and Chainwhip Community Bike Space for coming out to fix bikes.

Special thanks to the RCMP who supported the event by putting on a barbeque lunch. We can't wait to see you out again next year.





Dusk'a Grads CLASS OF 2024

The Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre pre-k class of 2024 graduated in May.

The graduating class is:

Avery Silas-Bowe
Idalia Thompson
McKinley Kuster
Olivia Cardinal-Pye

McKayla Mullin
McKenzie Mullin
Kayleigh McLaren-Charlie
Myra Jackson-MacIntosh



Good times at **DUSK'A!**

Check out some pictures of the fun things the students at Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre have been up to!







Dusk'a students raise salmon, and release them into the wild

On May 7, Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre students joined KDFN Land Steward Officers (LSOs) at Wolf Creek to release baby salmon fry into the water!

These salmon were raised in the daycare, where the students watched them grow until they were ready to be released in their natural habitat.

With the help of LSO Brandy Mayes, each student got the opportunity to release one baby salmon into the water.





Fish Camp keeps us connected

*Organizer
Troy Friday says,
traditions need to adapt
to a changing world*



Fish Camp is all about connection - to each other, to the land and to tradition.

Troy Friday recognizes that a lack of salmon threatens those connections, and as a fish camp organizer, he says he's always looking for creative ways to adapt.

"I've been trying to find new ways to re-establish that connection," he says. "I believe we have done it by targeting different fish species."

This year, the community harvested between 120 to 140 fish over four days, and sixty percent of those were whitefish - inconnu, long-nose whitefish, as well as lake whitefish, with the rest being lake trout.

"We also harvested two genetically different species of lake trout, the meat is quite orange in one, and the meat is very white in the other. They are both very healthy and happy fish, they just have very different diets," says Troy.



Troy says they also caught some suckerfish in their nets, but released them all back in the water immediately.

“They live on the bottom and taste a bit like mud,” he says. “They’re not good people-food.”

The nets also pulled up a few large pike from the deepest, coldest parts of the lake.

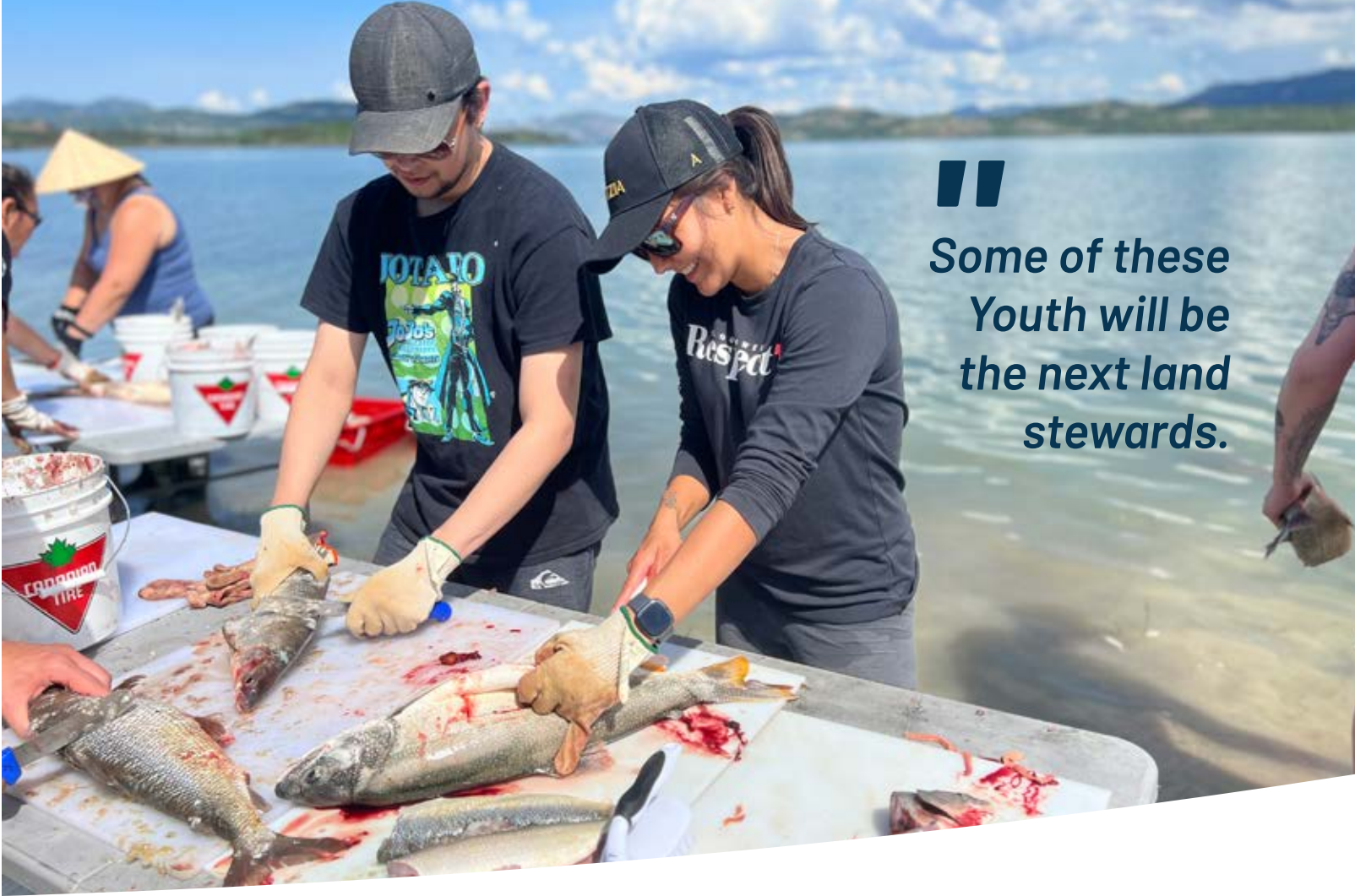
“Priscilla Dawson [along with Jenessa Tlen and Dustin Hill] in Education managed the fish table and did a wonderful job of teaching the respect piece,” says Troy. “Priscilla also demonstrated how to clean and scale a fish properly. With a bony fish like pike, de-boning really takes some skill. We also kept some of the larger whitefish scales and dyed them, those will be used in future sewing projects.”

This year, KDFN contracted Environmental Dynamics Inc. (EDI) for support with Fish Camp. They provided a 24-foot boat that was used for netting.

The Justice Department boat allowed for people to get out on the water and watch the netting process, and was also used to bring groups of Youth onto the water for rod fishing.

“They did fairly well catching pike on shallower waters, but we released every fish that we caught on fishing rods.”





“
Some of these
Youth will be
the next land
stewards.”

EDI also brought a biologist named Petra Szekeres who taught about fish biology and wove western science with traditional knowledge.

“One example of how she did that is she took out the otoliths from an inconnu, those are the ear bones, and showed the Youth that they have traditionally been used to make earrings.”

Troy says he was glad to have Petra and James from EDI, at Fish Camp to show Youth possible future career paths.

“Some of these Youth will be the next land stewards,” says Troy. “They will be biologists, fisheries techs, there are so many possibilities. The Youth need to know that not every job is a desk job.”

Troy says he looks forward to doing it all over again next year, and that he has plans to get a hold of a dozen inner tubes so that KDFN Youth can have even more fun on Ta’an Man.

Troy would like to thank all the hard-working folks that helped make fish camp 2024 a huge success! A special thank you to all the Youth that attended and to Elliott for the amazing ghost fish story at our closing circle. A big thank you to our Elders who came out and shared traditional knowledge, stories and tea. A huge Gunałchîsh to our cooks, who were led by Teresa Ward. Másin cho to the Education and Health departments. Shăw nithän to James and Petra from EDI. And last but not least our own Justice department family. Thank you all!

Helping with education and ethics around recreational fishing in our traditional territory



With another fishing season underway, KDFN is playing an important role in educating anglers on respectful practices through their initiation and support of the online Fisheries Education & Ethics Development (FEED) course.

The FEED course is designed and developed in an effort to share Yukon fishing regulations, First Nation perspectives around catch and release, Yukon's fish ecology, and fish handling best practices, principles, and tips.

The 45-minute course is free and available online respectforfish.appendo.io/, aiming to reach as many anglers as possible. Over the past couple years, the course has been tested by more than 100 anglers, First Nations' fishers and staff, and students. New content has been added in response to their feedback.

The FEED course features interactive content, videos, and knowledge-check "tests", making it easy to follow and engaging. Course users can also receive a certificate upon completion.

This Fall, KDFN Lands Stewards will be bringing the course to high school classrooms to engage youth in best practices for stewardship. The course has been funded by the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust for 2024-2025.

To take the course and provide your feedback, please visit <https://respectforfish.appendo.io/> or scan the QR code with your phone. For other updates on the FEED course and similar stewardship efforts, follow Respect for Fish on Facebook.





Freshwater Fish Contaminant Sampling

As part of the new KDFN Freshwater Fish Monitoring Program (FWFM), the Heritage, Lands, and Resources Department collaborated with Mary Gamberg on her Northern Contaminants Program.

Currently the Yukon lacks data on mercury/heavy metal levels in freshwater fish. This project aims to better understand the mercury levels in various species and lakes/ivers across the Yukon. The findings will help Yukoners determine safe fish consumption levels.

KDFN staff and consultants collected lake trout samples from Braeburn Lake. The following day, a sampling workshop was held to gather the necessary samples for testing and to teach KDFN youth how to properly process and sample fish.





Michie Creek juvenile salmon work

One of KDFN's ongoing projects is monitoring Chinook in Michie Creek.

Key efforts include removing barriers to salmon migration, monitoring environmental conditions, assessing salmon populations, and studying juvenile salmon growth and migration.

The project also focuses on capacity building for Kwanlin Dün First Nation Citizens and continues long-term stewardship activities.

The past few months have been focused on monitoring the juvenile Chinook.

In early May, hatchery Chinook fry were released into the head of Michie creek. KDFN and DFO staff were stationed below to observe the fry release and monitor their behaviour.

In late May and late June, KDFN staff along with Environmental Dynamics Inc. (EDI) and contractor Lars Jessup, flew out to Michie creek to set minnow traps.

The traps were set and left overnight. The following day they checked. The salmon fry were measured and weighed then released back into the creek. Both wild and hatchery fry have been observed in the creek.



All hands on deck with northern pike

As part of the new KDFN Freshwater Fish Monitoring Program (FWFM), Heritage, Lands and Resources participated in a day focussed on Northern Pike. There is little known about Yukon's northern Pike populations, so the Government of Yukon is beginning a Pike Monitoring Program. KDFN wants to ensure that they are prepared to actively steward these freshwater fish.

Northern Pike are becoming more important as a food source given the drastic decline in Yukon River salmon and also to help with implementing KDFN Final Agreement special provision (16.9.10.1-8; Schedule D). This is unique to KDFN and addresses harvest and access to freshwater fish in the traditional territory.

KDFN staff and consultants gathered at the blue bridge at Marsh Lake for a day of monitoring local observations, fishing line clean-up, contaminants testing, fly-fishing training, boneless fish filleting training, outreach, education around fishing regulations and best practices in fish handling.

Best of all, Northern Pike that were caught were filleted and deep fried for a delicious shore lunch and remaining fish were prepared for the KDFN Elders Gathering July 16 and 17, 2024.

It was a great day with skills developed, fish shared, outreach, and education from a number of tourists and visitors that stopped by.



Caring for Chasàn Chuà

Cleaning up our Traditional Territory

Big ups to everyone helping clean up Chasàn Chuà!

This June's "Care for the Creek" saw the public come together to take care of McIntyre Creek. The annual event is a time for people to help repair damage at McIntyre Creek, where a municipal landfill operated from the 1940s to 70s.

KDFN staff were there doing their part! They pulled lots of old tires and metal from the creek. Shāw níthän, másin cho, gunáčh'ish, and thank you to everyone who made this happen. Special shout outs to CPAWS Yukon, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, and all of the funding partners.





Get weekly email updates from KDFN!

Want to stay in the know about what's going on in your First Nation? Subscribe to the Kwanlin Dän Ch' a Weekly email update!

Send us your photos of the community! We'd love to feature them. Is there someone in the KDFN community who deserves a shout out? Let us know!

To subscribe or share something, email communications@kdfn.net.

If you think you should be receiving emails but are not, please check your junk folders.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Southern lakes caribou relationship plan

The Southern Lakes Caribou Steering Committee is excited to share their draft Southern Lakes Caribou Relationship Plan for public review over the summer and fall of 2024.

Kwanlin Dün continues to be a key contributor to the Southern Lakes Caribou Recovery project and partners with 8 other governments on the Steering Committee. The Relationship Plan has been in development since 2018, and the Steering Committee intends to finalize it over the winter of 2024/2025.

KDFN is asking beneficiaries to maintain the caribou moratorium on Southern Lakes caribou until this plan is finalized and vetted by our Elders and our citizens.

If you have questions or to report caribou mortalities, please contact Brandy Mayes, or Southern Lakes Caribou Steering Committee support Lars Jessup for more information and check the website southernlakescaribou.com.

Southern Lakes Feasibility Study

Over the past year, a KDFN-led feasibility study has explored the opportunity for a Chu Niikwän (Yukon River) Gyu (Salmon) Stewardship Centre (CNGSC) in Whitehorse.



THE CNGSC WOULD FEATURE:

- **Gathering and Teaching Places** (e.g. land and water based cultural spaces and classrooms) - for the KDFN Community and Citizens for ceremony, gathering, and to learn, teach, & share knowledge.
- **Research Hub** - a place for formalized Traditional Knowledge and western science interactions between Citizens, scientists, researchers, academics and professionals to steward salmon.
- **Centre for Chinook Restoration** - like that of the McIntyre Hatchery where regional First Nations driven projects can be conceived, designed and delivered. Eggs and fry for tributaries centred in KDFN values and habitat restoration (e.g. spawning channels).

This first year of the feasibility study is aimed at understanding the general interest and needs for the Centre. A team of experts was established to examine the options and opportunities, including potential Indigenous research partnerships, biological & environmental considerations for the hatchery, important cultural elements, business and tourism opportunities, initial design options, and brand identity.

A KDFN delegation visited First Nations hatcheries in BC to explore potential models and identify contacts, approaches, best practices and possibilities for Yukon River Chinook restoration. Five sites were visited, including kł cpəlk stimí Hatchery (Penticton); Okanagan Nation Alliance's Hatchery in a Box (Westbank); Ahousaht Fisheries and Maaqutusiis Hahoulthee Stewardship Society (Ahousaht); Tofino Hatchery (Tofino); and Nitinat River Hatchery (Port Alberni).

The CNGSC is part of implementing the Southern Lakes Salmon Plan - Connecting the Broken Salmon Trail. Formal partnerships are being explored with the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and other Yukon First Nations..

Logo design based on beaded Salmon by Carissa Waugh

WHAT'S NEXT?

KDFN has confirmed funding for a second year to continue the feasibility study, which will dive deeper into the technical needs of the Centre - e.g. location, infrastructure needs for a hatchery - and ongoing partnerships.



A shared approach to moose management in the Southern Lakes

Kwanlin Dün Heritage, Lands and Resources staff are partnering with neighbouring First Nations and the Government of Yukon to ensure healthy moose populations.

In 2021, moose survey results in the Fish Lake and Mount Lorne moose management units indicated that moose populations have increased, while results in the Wheaton Valley area remain low.

These areas once had abundant moose populations but experienced declines throughout the 1980s. This resulted in harvest restrictions being placed on licensed hunters in 1989, although no formal moose recovery program was implemented.

In 2012, recommendations made by the Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating Committee focused on establishing a managed harvest framework, including harvest data collection, and mapping and protecting important moose habitats, along with recommendations related to reducing predation rates, monitoring, and education.

These recommendations have largely not been implemented. Driven in part by increased moose numbers, partner agencies interested in Southern Lakes have reconvened to establish a shared approach to moose management.

Reach out to your Heritage, Lands and Resources representative Brandy Mayes for more information or to share your thoughts related to moose.

Contact: brandy.mayes@kdfn.net; 867-336-3316

BACK TO THE LAND:

Building KDFN's traditional-use policies



All KDFN Beneficiaries and Citizens are eligible for a traditional-use allocation.

Traditional-use allocations are parcels of land for subsistence or ceremonial activities, including: fishing, hunting, and harvesting camps, cabins, etc.

KDFN is creating policies and rules for developing the sites and we want to hear from you.

TRADITIONAL-USE SITES

Currently, traditional-use sites are:

- ✓ only available to KDFN Beneficiaries and Citizens
- ✓ granted through an application process
- ✓ 0.4 hectares min., based on demonstrated needs
- ✓ not allowed to be converted into a lease

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

- ✓ Fill out a survey:
kwanlindun.com/engagement
- ✓ **Contact us to:**
 - share your thoughts on traditional-use activities
 - check a historical submission process a historical submission

TRADITIONAL-USE SITES CAN HAVE:

- ✓ cabins
- ✓ caches
- ✓ fish racks
- ✓ solar panels, satellite dishes, antennae, etc.
- ✓ outhouses tent frames
- ✓ equipment storage

TRADITIONAL-USE SITES CAN'T HAVE:

- ✗ anything hazardous or dangerous to the land and wildlife
- ✗ excessive traffic, noise, emissions, odour, smoke, etc.
- ✗ unregistered vehicles, except within enclosed buildings
- ✗ signage over 2 square metres

Questions? Contact:  867-633-7800 ext. 128  lands@kdfn.net



How We Walk with the Land and Water

We gathered together to renew our commitment to work together and honour all our relations.



CHARTER SIGNING CEREMONY



WE ARE GATHERED TODAY TO CELEBRATE



TODAY THE CHARTER WAS SIGNED BY THE CHIEFS OF THE THREE NATIONS ON THIS LAND WHERE ALL THREE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OVERLAP

WHISKEY FLATS "WE ALWAYS FIND THE BEST PLACES TO LIVE BY THE WATER"

OUR CABIN GOT MOVED
"OUR GRANDMA WAS ALWAYS PROUD OF US"

THE CAMPFIRE SMOKE ALWAYS FOLLOWS THE QUIET ONES

STORYTELLING

WE ALWAYS RESPECT AND HONOUR THE WATER
CONNECTION IDENTITY CEREMONY LANGUAGE
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT "WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT WE ARE FIGHTING FOR"
"YOU NEED TO KNOW OUR HISTORY"
"WHY I'VE LEARNED TEACHING CHILDREN"
"EVERYTHING IS ALIVE"
"THOSE MOUNTAINS ARE ALIVE"
SPIRITUALITY

HOW WE WALK WITH THE LAND AND WATER IS A LAND RELATIONSHIP PLAN

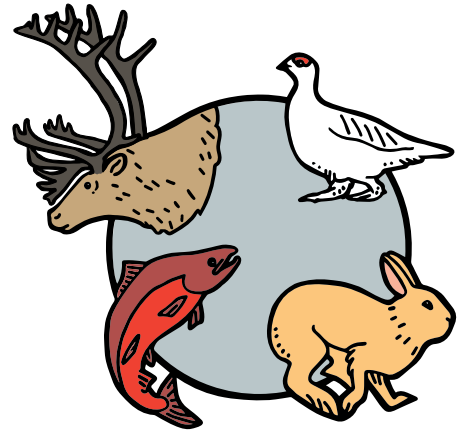
- IT'S ABOUT GETTING OURSELVES READY
- SALMON IS A FOCUS. SAVE THE CHINOOK.
- DRAFT CARIBOU PLAN



Yukon Graphic Recording

HOW WE WALK with Land & Water renews charter

Signing ceremony held May 30, 2024



The How We Walk with Land & Water (HWW) Renewed Charter Signing Ceremony formalizes the three Nations' commitment to working together towards Indigenous-led Regional Land & Water Relationship Planning.

The Charter reaffirms our commitments and responsibilities to each other and to all our relations - our winged ones, our finned ones, and hoofed ones and to our ancestors. The ceremony was also an opportunity to honour those knowledge holders & Elders who have been involved and contributed to HWW.

Shälwníthän & Gunalchéesh to leadership of each Nation; Chief of Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Sean Smith, Chief of Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Amanda Leas, and Deputy Haa Shaa du Hen of Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Darla Lindstrom for supporting this important community initiative.

The overall goal of How We Walk With the Land and Water is to guide the three Nations to prepare for, and meaningfully participate in Indigenous-led land and water relationship planning processes, consistent with natural law and traditional customs.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR HWW

- Establishing a Governance Committee with representatives from each Nation. This Committee would provide the political and strategic guidance with respect to the eventual implementation of land and water planning.
- Establishing External Information Sharing Agreements.
- Articulating processes and developing planning Calls to Action/Policies, guided by community values and Elders' statements.
- Initiate Indigenous-led Regional Land and Water Relationship Planning.



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

Community Advisory Committee submits report to YESAB

In May 2024, the KDFN Community Advisory Committee submitted their report to the Yukon Environmental and Socioeconomic Assessment Board (YESAB) for the Whitehorse Water-Use Relicensing Project.

PURPOSE OF THE KDFN COMMUNITY SUBMISSION TO YESAB

Yukon Energy Corporation's (YEC) existing water licence for the Whitehorse and Lewes dams was issued in 2000, and is scheduled to expire on May 31, 2025. To continue operating the dams beyond 2025, YEC will need a new water licence. As a result, YEC needs to submit a proposal to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board (YESAB).

The YESAB process guarantees opportunities for Yukon First Nation participation through the seeking views and information phase of the assessment. This submission to YESAB comes directly from the Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) Community Advisory Committee, appointed in 2023 by KDFN Council. The mandate of the Committee is to support the development of a KDFN community values submission report to YESAB, to guide the participation in community engagement and provide input into the project negotiations, including recommending potential compensatory and reconciliatory actions from a Kwanlin Dün perspective.

The Committee has worked with the KDFN Government, its community, and contractors to present the Community Values & Calls to Action as part of this submission. The intention of the information presented within this submission is to influence the focus of the assessment as well as mitigations and/or recommendations issued at its conclusion.

THE KDFN COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee is made up of five KDFN Citizens and Beneficiaries with diverse backgrounds, knowledge, skills and experiences. They are:

Mikah Fox – Wallachea
Rick Gingell – Kashgêk'
Rae Mombourquette – Kikchuks
Elder Larry Smarch – Gooch Shádia
Carissa Waugh – Ékè Éwe



To view the full report, please visit www.kwanlindun.com/wwurp/ or contact Emily McDougall by phone or email (867-334-2115 or emily.mcdougall@kdfn.net) if you would like a print copy.



VALUES

THE VALUES DESCRIBED WITHIN THE DOCUMENT ARE:

1. Interconnectedness, Respect for Nature and Ecological Health
2. Stories, Cultural Heritage and Connection to the River
3. Reconciliation, Recognition of Rights and Displacement
4. Representation, Collaboration and Push for Infrastructure
5. Knowledge Transfer and Youth Involvement
6. Relationship Building and Trust
7. Equity, Justice and Social Responsibility
8. Advocacy for Salmon Conservation and Restoration



ACTION

THE CALLS TO ACTION PRESENTED WITHIN THE DOCUMENT ARE:

1. Acknowledgement and Accountability
2. Access, Food Security and Resource Permanence
3. Freshwater Fish, Birds, Mammals, Amphibians and Habitat
4. Barriers to Salmon Passage and Restoration
5. Relationships Between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Land and Water Users
6. Economic, Capacity and Compensation Efforts
7. Placing Indigenous Peoples and Languages on the Landscape



THE MARKERS FOR SUCCESS REGARDING THE IMPACT OF THIS DOCUMENT ARE:

- YESAB, YEC and Partners have read and reflected upon this document
- YESAB, YEC and Partners have discussed internally and brought the appropriate partners together to discuss how to best move forward
- YEC and Partners align the calls to action within the respective First Nation agreements associated with this process
- YEC and Partners agree to sit down with the KDFN Committee to discuss the community values & calls to action
- Together, KDFN and YEC and Partners lay the foundation of moving forward together by reaching consensus on calls to action implementation, realistic time frames, and identifying our collective responsibilities

Recipes using ingredients from the community garden

BY: *Rae Mombourquette*



Wanting to provide my family delicious, nutritious, whole foods - complimented by fresh items from the KDFN community garden is at the top of my list when brainstorming dinner ideas for my family in the summer.

Today, I faced the added challenge of plus 25 degree weather so I do NOT want my oven on, and being 9 months pregnant, meaning I don't want anything complicated.

This afternoon, I waddled around the community garden for about 30 minutes, weeding the chickweed and lambsquarter that was thriving in the greenhouse.

Making sure to pick clean (rinsing off the dirt, or only taking the leaves and composting the stems). I also picked the bolts (green seeds) of the spinach and was sure to bag these for home use! On the way out I picked a few strands of chives and was sure to include some of the purple blossoms.

Once home I put everything except the chives into a bowl of cold water; and was sure to rinse well. I picked out anything that looked like I wouldn't want to eat it. I put all the chickweed, lambsquarter leaves, and some of the spinach leaves into a lettuce spinner. And then I was ready to start getting creative!

CAMELIZED APPLE, ONION SAUSAGE:

- 1 pack sausage of your choice (pork based is nice)
- 1 half onion (white, yellow or red)
- 1-3 apples (a good way to use bruised or wrinkly ones)
- 1/3 cup dried cranberries
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 2 tbsp water
- Pinch of sage (1-2 leaves if using fresh)
- Pepper to taste
- 5-7 Chive blossoms.

-
1. In a pan, I use cast iron, cook the sausages low and slow adding a bit of water to the bottom of the pan, letting it evaporate. Once sausages are cooked, but not yet browned, remove them from the pan and set aside.
 2. Add onion to pan with a bit of oil, once tender, add cored, peeled and diced apples, pepper and sage, bump the heat to medium and stir frequently - you may want to add a bit of oil to the pan. Once looking golden brown add the sausages whole back to the pan and cook until the sausage is browned on the outside.
 3. Add the dried cranberries and the soy sauce and water to deglaze the pan (get all the stuff sticking to the bottom off). Salt to taste and add the chive blossoms.
 4. Turn off heat.

BOLTED SPINACH AND WILD MUSHROOM FRITTATA :

- Wild mushrooms - fresh or dehydrated
- 1 onion
- 2 left over (cooked) sausages
- 4 cloves garlic
- 1/2 cup milk
- 4-6 eggs
- Bolted spinach leafs and seeds
- Chives
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Olive oil
- Knob of butter
- 1 cup of cheese of your choice

1. Add your onion to a dry cast iron pan, once looking transparent, add salt and let them sweat, then add a drizzle of olive oil.
2. If using dehydrated mushrooms, break them up and soak them in the milk until ready to use
3. Preheat the oven to 400°; and grate your cheese.
4. Add cooked sausage and garlic to the fry pan and cook until everything is warmed.
5. Roughly chop spinach leaves and seeds together.
6. Place a knob of butter into the pan and once melted add the spinach, it should look glossy, if not, add a little more olive oil so the eggs do not stick.
7. Whisk eggs together with milk and mushrooms, add salt and pepper. Add to the pan. Layer cheese on top and place into the oven. Cook for 30 min, or until golden, and firm.
8. Remove from over and let cool for 10 minutes, add chives.

Spinach notoriously dislikes the heat and will bolt as soon as temperatures warm (sprouting long stems with seeds). If you catch these bolts early enough they remain tender and sweet before turning the entire plant woody and bitter.

To pick, snap or snip the bolted shoots as close to the stem as you can. Rinse. You can store it in a plastic bag in the fridge for up to 4 days - sauté, add to soup or take off leaves and seeds to add to salads or eggs.

For the mushrooms I used morels, aspen boletus (orange tops), and hawkwings that I harvested and dehydrated last year.

If you are new to mushroom harvesting, be sure to always go with someone who knows what they are doing and how to prepare.

Wild mushrooms are a beautiful addition to Indigenous food security - but they can also be dangerous if you don't have the knowledge of what is good to use.

GARDEN WEED PESTO:

- 1 package of pasta of your choice
- 1/4 cup nuts of your choice (cashew is nice)
- 1 lemon
- 3 - 5 cloves of garlic
- Handful of washed, spun garden weeds (or basil)
- 1/2 - 1 cup olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 tbsp Nutritional yeast (optional), can use fresh parm cheese).

1. Get a large pot of salted water for the pasta. Cook according to pasta instructions (suggest al dente, a little undercooked so the pasta holds its shape and absorbs the pesto).
2. Add the nuts, lemon juice, peeled garlic, nutritional yeast to a food processor or blender and blend until a paste is formed.
3. Add the weeds in batches, being sure to add olive oil with each batch, add salt and pepper. Blend until weeds are all cut up and well incorporated.
4. Drain pasta and add pesto to noodles and stir until each noodle is coated.

Enjoy!



New signs feature Southern Tutchone

Governments say, signs symbolize commitment to working with First Nations

The City of Whitehorse and the Yukon Government unveiled new signs featuring Southern Tutchone translations in several prominent locations in Whitehorse this July.

Nàkwäye Kų Shāw is a direct translation for “Canada Games Centre” and the words *Nàkhu Nakwáye/ K’atsedegü kų* appear on the Takhini Arena’s sign, the English translation is “play/skate house.”

These changes follow a new sign featuring Southern Tutchone on City Hall last year, and adhere to the new Building Signage Policy passed in 2023.

The Yukon Government in collaboration with Ta’an Kwäch’an Council and Kwanlin Dün First Nation unveiled a painted land acknowledgement at the arrivals area in the Whitehorse airport. The sign features English, French and German, with a Southern Tutchone translation at the top.

Chief Sean Smith says he’s happy to see this sign up to welcome visitors and people returning home.

“This new sign will help teach people about the Traditional Territories of our home,” he says in a press release.

Every year, roughly 400 thousand people land at the Erik Nielsen International Airport.



DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR DOGS ARE?

Residents of McIntyre and Crow and Swan Street, Please remember to keep your pets secure in your yard.

When you let your dog roam freely it puts people at risk, as well as putting your dog in danger of getting injured.

In 2023, over 25 dogs were impounded from McIntyre. 18 were not claimed and put up for adoption.

IF YOU HAVE A PET, PLEASE:

- Make sure they are tied up, or cannot get outside of your yard when you let them outside,
- Keep them inside when you are not at home,
- Use a leash when you are taking them on walks, and
- Keep loud pets inside at night.

If you encounter a dog and do not feel safe, you can call

**Whitehorse
Animal Control**
at **867-667-2111**.







Taking care of the forest

KDFN Citizen voices featured in animations about Southern Lakes Wildfire Strategy

The Southern Lakes Wildfire Strategy was officially released last May. This is a shared project between Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Carcross/Tagish First Nation.

Together, we are working to understand & prepare for wildfire risk in the Southern Lakes region. This work is supported through funding from Climate Change Preparedness in the North Program.

Shout out to the KDFN Citizens that lent their voices to the project!

A four-part animated video series was made as part of the Southern Lakes Wildfire Strategy. Bruce Wilson narrates the video about protecting natural resources and heritage. Elder Pat Joe helps tell the story of how bear got flint. Cory Holway speaks Southern Tutchone throughout the videos.

You can learn more and watch the videos at www.kwanlindun.com/southern-lakes-wildfire-strategy

Shãw níthän, másín cho, gunatçhîsh, thank you to everyone involved in this project.







Chu Níikwän Place officially opens

One of Chu Níikwän LP's biggest projects to date is now complete

Chu Níikwän Place was officially opened on April 16, 2024. The building is one of the biggest projects taken on by KDFN's development cooperation, Chu Níikwän LP, incorporated in 2015.

Built on settlement land designated for revenue generation through KDFN's agreements, this project will empower the KDFN community.

Northwestel is leasing the top two floors, making Chu Níikwän Place their home. The bottom floor has available office space. The over 41,000 square-foot building is located in downtown Whitehorse, on Quartz Road.

Guests at the grand opening included KDFN Chief Sean Smith, Chu Níikwän LP CEO Rick O'Brien, Yukon Premier Ranj Pillai, and City of Whitehorse Mayor Laura Cabott. Others who worked on the building at all stages from planning to construction were also there.

Shăw nithän, másin cho, gunałchísh, thank you to everyone who helped make this vision a reality.





An update from Chu Níikwän LP & Companies

EXCITING NEWS: 2024 HOUSING PROJECT KICKOFF!

We are thrilled to announce the commencement of our 2024 Housing Project! Over the next year, we will be adding a total of 22 residential units to our community. These will include 4 Single Family Homes, 3 Duplexes, and 3 Townhouses (each with 4 units).

We are partnering with NGC Builders Ltd. to bring this project to life, with a target completion date of July 2025.

Construction is already underway—check out the duplex foundations we have started on Murphy Road!

GRAVEL & EQUIPMENT

Since April 2024, our team has been tirelessly trucking and moving gravel non-stop. We are excited to announce the addition of 2 new tractors, 2 belly dump trailers, and another DL420 loader to our fleet. This expansion has enabled us to achieve a significant milestone: producing over 100,000 m³ of gravel for the Airport project alone this year.

The growth of our trucking and equipment fleet has also opened doors for us in other areas. We are pleased to share that we've hired a mechanic and now offer PMVI's and mechanical services. This progress wouldn't be possible without your support and involvement.

We are looking to further expand our team and are currently seeking Class 1 drivers and Heavy Duty Mechanic Apprentices. Join us as we continue to grow and contribute to our community!



WIND: LIVE WIND GENERATING WIDGET NOW AVAILABLE!

Stay up-to-date with the latest from our windmills. Visit our dedicated webpage for the most recent updates and see how much energy is being generated in real-time. www.chuniikwan.ca/eagle-hill-energy

CNLP PLACE

We are excited to announce that our latest building project is now fully complete! We are looking to secure a few more tenants for the ground floor and are thrilled with the quality of the building added to our Property Management portfolio. If you're a business owner searching for a top-notch location, don't miss this opportunity! Contact us today to secure your spot.

For more information about property management or to learn how you can help build capacity through our property management partners, please reach out to Jesse at 867-333-0409.

WIND

We're thrilled to announce that as of March 15th, all four of our windmills are officially up and running, churning out clean, renewable energy and making a positive impact on the grid! This achievement is a major leap forward in our dedication to sustainable energy production.

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



COPPER RIDGE WEST

WELCOME HOME WHITEHORSE



COPPER RIDGE WEST

We are thrilled to announce that our residential lots in Copper Ridge West are now available! With only 6 prime lots remaining, this is your chance to secure your future home in this highly sought-after community.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity! Contact us today to reserve your lot and explore the possibilities for custom home building. Let us help you turn your dream home into a reality at Copper Ridge West.

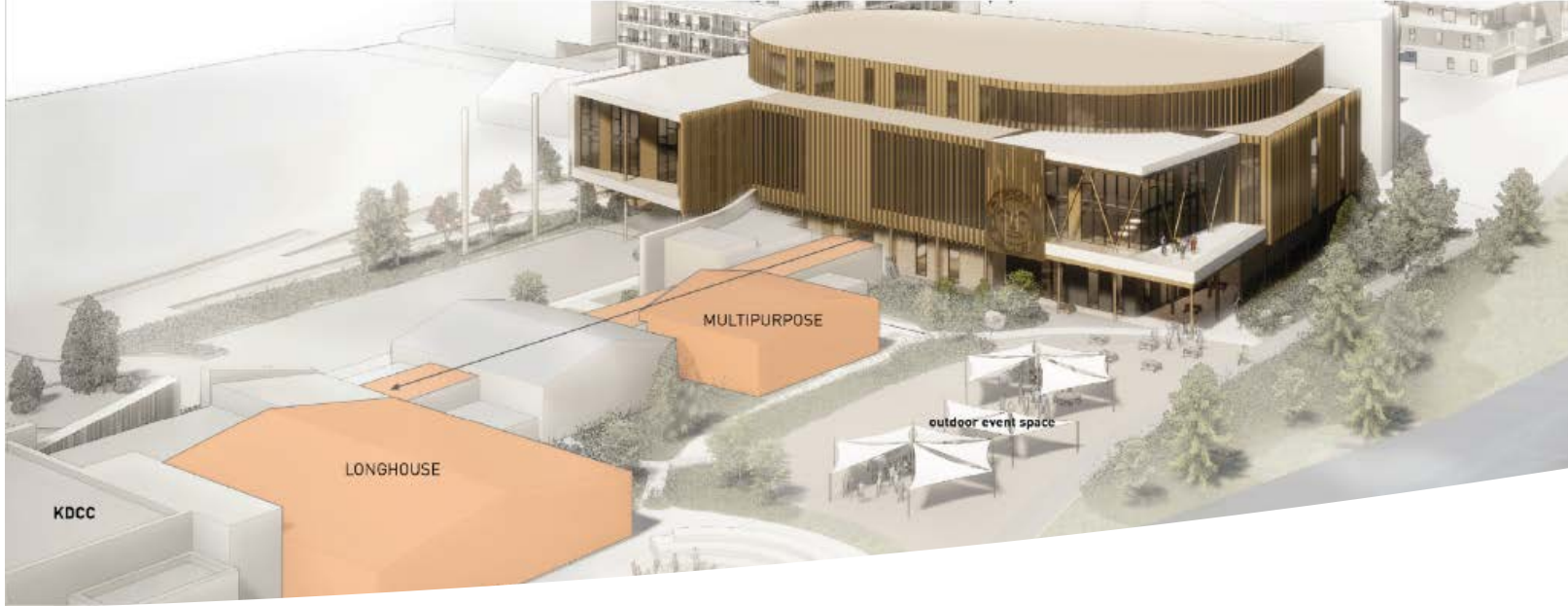
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Join one of our dynamic teams at the Chu Niiwan Group of Companies!

Are you ready to take your career to the next level? We're expanding our team and looking for passionate, skilled individuals to join us in the following roles:

- **Lead Hand Carpenter:** Bring your expertise and leadership to our construction projects.
- **Class 1 Drivers:** Hit the road with us and enjoy a rewarding driving career.
- **Junior Survey Technician:** Start your surveying career with hands-on experience and growth opportunities.
- **Heavy Duty Mechanic Apprentice/Fueling & Service Technician:** Learn and grow in a dynamic, hands-on environment.
- **Bookkeeping/Data Entry:** Play a crucial role in keeping our operations running smoothly.
- **Property Management:** Manage our properties with efficiency and care.

If you're excited about these opportunities and want to be part of a vibrant, growing company, reach out to Jesse at 333-0409 or email office@canyoncitylp.com. Don't miss out on the chance to join our talented team!



YUKON GATHERING PLACE

Chu Níikwän LP (CNLP), the Development Corporation for the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, is proud to announce the design and construction of the Yukon’s first purpose-built convention center, the ‘Yukon Gathering Place’. Situated on the traditional waterfront lands of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, this state-of-the-art facility aims to attract national and international conventions to the Yukon.

The project, in partnership with the Yukon Convention Bureau (YCB) and the Yukon Government (YG), is expected to generate an economic impact of \$20 million annually after five years of successful operation. The site, steeped in cultural significance and history, will neighbour the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Center and reflect the natural beauty of the surrounding river and land.

Designed to host 750 attendees for formal dinners and 1,000 for theater-style events or concerts, the facility will include versatile breakout rooms and spaces for performing arts and art displays. The culturally themed precinct will prioritize pedestrian-friendly features and enhance the visitor experience.

The design team aims to complete the schematic design and cost estimate by Fall 2024, with the venue set to open before moose hunting season in 2027, pending funding approval. This project embodies First Nation values of collaboration, community, multiculturalism, inclusion, and diversity.

Rick O’Brien, CEO of Chu Níikwan LP, stated:

“Whitehorse, Yukon - Chu Níikwan LP is thrilled to announce the planning of ‘The Gathering Place’, a state-of-the-art facility designed to become the premier destination for the meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions market from outside the region. This is important for our nation because it brings gatherings ‘back to the river’ and we are happy to share our land with visitors. With a commitment to innovation, community development, and a strong value proposition, Whitehorse is poised to become a leading destination for business, tourism, and cultural activities.”

Gunałchîsh, Mähsí’ cho, Shäw nithän,
Sógá sénlá, Thank you.



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2024 GRAVEL DISCOUNT FOR KDFN CITIZENS

Canyon City Construction LP is offering a discount for KDFN Citizens on processed gravel for a maximum of 4 loads per calendar year. A load is measured at 9 m³ (12 yards).

Example: A load of ¾" Crush is currently \$523.88 (includes GST) for a 9m³ load of delivered materials within city limits from our McLean Lake Pit.

This same load with the applied KDFN discount will be \$423.88 plus GST.

NOTE: PROCESSED GRAVEL PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. THERE IS A PRICE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR MCLEAN LAKE AND GOLDEN HORN PITS.

ELDERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR AN ADDITIONAL 10% DISCOUNT ON A MAXIMUM OF 4 LOADS PER YEAR.

CASH PAYMENT REQUIRED UPON DELIVERY

KWANLIN DÜN CULTURAL CENTRE



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Pieces from local
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heritage@kdcc.ca to consign your
artwork 1171 Front Street

A summer sundog spotted in McIntyre on July 11, 2024. From the YNLC Southern Tutchone dictionary:
Sha dzāy dik' q k'e kwājädàak'ü. When the sun dog is out it will turn cold.

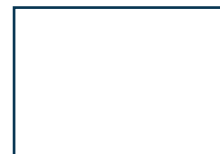
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