Kwanlin Dän Ch'a

KWANLIN PEOPLE OF WHITEHORSE, HOW ARE YOU? SPRING/SUMMER 2025



INSIDE

- 4 Shout Outs
- 8 KDFN's 20th Anniversary Celebrations
- 12 New KDCC curator's breakout show
- **18** KDFN's first language immersion program
- 20 Youth Rec winter adventures

- 32 School credit for cultural learning
- **36** Men's Club goes on the road
- 38 RCMP Community update
- 44 Salmon initiatives
- **56** Economic Development updates

OUICK REFERENCE

CONTACT NUMBERS

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

For emergencies always call.....

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 Kỳ 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

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**



A Message from the Chief

Dzenu shäwthan KDFN!

Let us welcome Ädälät K'e - Springtime across Kwanlin Dün Territory and a new edition of the Kwanlin Dän Ch'a Newsletter. Ts'ua lhädadäl - birds have returned and new growth is happening on the land and water. We are grateful for the warm sunshine and weather for getting out on the land and spending valuable time with family and loved ones.

In this spring edition you'll get updates from Community Services on housing construction in McIntyre. You'll read about Myra Kendi, a KDFN Youth who recently, was an intern with KDFN Heritage, Lands, and Resources. You'll also read about the Southern Tutchone Language Immersion Program. Students have been studying and immersing themselves in the language and connecting to culture and ancestry. Immersion Program students will gain a Certificate in Language Proficiency from Simon Fraser University, in collaboration with the Yukon Native Language Centre.

2025 marks two decades since the signing of our Final & Self-Government Agreements that came into effect on April 1st, 2005.

Our Agreements represent our right to govern ourselves, how the people want our own government to work. That right was fought hard for by many of our Elders and past leaders. These agreements bring opportunities that empower Citizens to achieve valuable things to support families. Opportunities for Intergenerational transfer of knowledge, education, and revitalization of our culture, language, and identity. It was not that long ago that KDFN Citizens were subject to programs and services under Indian Affairs, now, we are writing our own story and moving on our own path. This year, from March 29 to April 5, we celebrated our culture, language and identity by coming together to celebrate 20 years of Self-Government. The week included cultural performances, hand-games, storytelling, music, good food, history and much more. I hold my hands up to everyone who pulled together to make these celebrations a success.

Now, we look forward to the next 20 years. We look towards creating a better future for the next generation and those who are not yet born. We are strengthening our Nation together. We are deepening our connections to the land, each other, ourselves, and our culture. We are empowering our Citizens to be all they can be. We've come a long way, but there's more work to be done. We will get there by working together.

Dákhwän níyē njesadiye - Our People Working Together

Shāw níthan, másin cho, gunałchîsh, and thank you.

Chief Sean Uyenets'echja Smith





Hockey hall-of-famer visits KDFN

Last February, hockey legend Bryan Trottier stopped by the Kashgêk' building. Bryan is a seven-time Stanley Cup winner. He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1997. Shāw níthān, másin cho, gunałchîsh, and thank you for visiting!



Capstone congrats!

Shout out to Myra Kendi for completing her grade 12 capstone requirement. For this project, Myra spent more than 30 hours improving her traditional beading skills. Read more about Myra and her work as an intern with KDFN Heritage, Lands, and Resources on page 48.

Do you know someone who deserves a shout out?

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





ROCK YOUR MOCKS

In collaboration with contractor Mikaiah Ladue and Elder Cathy Smith, we hosted a series of 11 moccasin-making workshops for youth from January to April, 2025.

Six participants registered, and those who attended expressed appreciation for the support, guidance, and materials provided.

The workshops took place weekly on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Kashgêk' building with dinner provided at each session.

To celebrate the youth's accomplishments, we held a special dinner on April 23 where participants were invited to bring their families and share their work. Shaw nithan, masin cho, gunałchish, and thank you to everyone who participated.





20 years of Self-Government

If we come together as people, we can do amazing things...

Between March 29 & April 5, the Kwanlin Dün community came together to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of the First Nation's Final and Self-Government Agreements.

The agreements were signed on February 19, 2005, and came into effect April 1.

The 20th anniversary celebrations included handgames, singing, storytelling, art-making and of course plenty to eat. They offered community members who are too young to remember life before self-government plenty of lessons in how much has changed. They also offered older community members plenty of opportunity to reminisce. It was a week of intergenerational learning and community connection.



During the closing ceremonies, Elder and former Chief Ann Smith told attendees that connection – and community support – helped her navigate through difficult times and become a leader. She said that community support for leaders, and for each other, is as important today as it ever was.

"We have to learn to support each other. That way, we can make it. Our neighbours can make it. Our people can make it.... If there's difficult times coming, this is the time when we need to get together and help each other. If we come together as people, we can do amazing things."

Smith said, Kwanlin Dün is still at the beginning of its journey as a self government, and that there are many more leaders coming who will need the community's support.

Celebrating KDFN's accomplishments and the transformation made possible by self government is less about the machinery of government than it is about the power of culture and connection. And yes, it's about the past – but also, looking forward, and continuing to forge the path our ancestors dreamed of.















Teagyn's Big Beaded Bougie Earrings

KDFN Citizen curates first show at the KDCC

BY: Olivia-Vivian Gatensby

This spring, KDFN Citizen Teagyn Aatagwéix'i Vallevand kicked off her career as a curator for Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre (KDCC). While she may not have expected a whole lot of attention for her first display, it turned out to be a major success drawing attention from the community.

The exhibit is called "My Big *Beaded Bougie Earrings" with an asterisk, because not all of the pieces in the display were made using bead work.

"I was literally thinking this exhibit isn't going to be too serious. It has to be really fun... I see all these bougie native people with their bougie earrings, so obviously it needed to be a play on that..." Teagyn explains when asked how she came up with the name. "It needed to be big, and there needed to be beadwork, so It was just kind of automatic... it made me think of that TLC show "My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding"..."

When preparing for the exhibit, fun was on the top of her mind. She described wanting the whole project from start to finish to feel fun and creative. As well, as an artist, Teagyn knows what it's like to make jewelry for a supplementary income. So, she wanted to give an outlet to the Indigenous artists in the Yukon who make wild "bougie" jewelry.

This clearly appealed to a lot of people, because she got several more applications than she had expected.

"This is my first show that I ever curated," says Teagyn. "How I was thinking it was going to go is that I would just get a couple submissions and that every submission would be accepted... I budgeted for fourteen to twenty sets of earrings." What ended up happening though, is that the number of submissions shot up to over fifty over the weekend before the submission deadline. She and the culture team at the KDCC were only able to accept submissions within their set budget, but they did end up displaying the earrings that didn't make it in for purchase, and sold every item.

"It was crazy to see just the immense amount of talent from the artists who submitted. It was so difficult for us to select, because we had to narrow down over fifty submissions to just twenty one," she says.

On top of the excitement of it all, Teagyn got to go to travel overseas for her work.

"I got to go to Switzerland as part of the Honouring Our Futures show... I was able to talk about my first show. It was a good training opportunity for me because I was able to see how they run their facility. They have so much respect for Yukon First Nations. It was really cool."

Teagyn is looking to produce exhibits that are geared toward our community, so if you're a KDFN artist and would like to talk about getting your artwork into a show or exhibit, pay her a visit at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre!







Chasing Copper

Brian Walker makes traditional Tin'aa

Brian Walker swings his hammer at his chasing punch. Through the process of repoussé and chasing, an ancient metalworking technique, he's making copper Tin'aa. You may have heard Tin'aas referred to as copper shields, but Brian says they were never used for protection.

"I don't think they were ever used as shields. They were a symbol of wealth," says Brian.

Brian says that Tin'aas don't symbolize wealth in the western sense of having a lot of money. He says they represent wealth in ways like having lots of food and resources on the land.

On April 2, Brian was at the KDFN trade show as part of the 20th anniversary of KDFN's Final and Self-government agreements. The event took place at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. There, he demonstrated his copper skills to visitors. He created six small copper pieces, each representing a baby frog. The pieces were made to be riveted to the larger Tin'aa, representing the matriarch of the frog family.

"This is the frog mother and she's going to have six little frogs," says Brian. "I've made them so they're kind of happy and content with full stomachs. That was my idea because a lot of my work has connections to children and motherhood."

According to Brian, the Tin'aa is closely connected to Tlingit culture. He says they are often made small to use for jewellery, but over time, people started to make them bigger.

"The Chief's would own them. Sometimes they would cut them up and give them out at potlatches. Or, they'd go out in a canoe and throw the copper out and offer it as a gift," says Brian.

Brian says copper was a big trade item for Indigenous peoples as European settlers made their way to Turtle Island.







Treat yourself!

On March 21, KDFN Justice co-hosted a Self-Care Day with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council in the gym at the Multi-Purpose building. A team of stylists and estheticians took on hair, nails and brows; a smoothie bar, cupcakes and lots of healthy treats kept people nourished. Community members of all ages enjoyed taking the time to stretch, care for themselves and connect with others.

GET TESTED!

New sexual health campaign aims to answer questions about healthy relationships

This past winter, KDFN Health & Wellness launched a sexual health campaign, aimed at Yukon First Nations Youth. The goal of the campaign is to give young people the tools they need to be "that friend" that has the answers when it comes to healthy relationships and sex.

Young people are in a stage of life where they rely on each other for information and support. Unfortunately, youth don't always have access to accurate and non-judgmental information about relationships, consent and sex. This campaign is designed to educate youth and train them to be a resource, a sort of walking brochure, that can answer those inevitable questions from their friends or point them in the right direction for good sources of information.

If you are sexually active, then getting tested should be part of your routine. Get tested in the Yukon at the following locations:

Natsékhi Kų Health Centre, 53 McClimon Crescent, phone: 867-668-7289

Yukon Youth Clinic, 211 Hawkins Street Suite 102, phone or text: 867-335-1728

Queer Yukon, door on Baxter Street 4230 4 Ave, Unit #1, phone: 867-333-0132

To learn more, follow @Gettestedyukon on Instagram.









Southern Tutchone immersion program sees students work towards certificate in language proficiency

The 6 month program aims to deepen language retention and cultural connections

Awakening Southern Tutchone through a community centred approach, Kwänlin Dun First Nation has started a new six-month intensive Southern Tutchone Language Revitalization Program.

This program offers a unique opportunity to gain a Certificate in Language Proficiency from Simon Fraser University, in collaboration with the Yukon Native Language Centre.

It includes nine university courses and starts with a four-week immersion course where students are immersed in the language for 6 hours a day, mimicking how babies would naturally learn language.

This immersion course emphasizes oral retention before progressing to reading and writing skills.

Students then focus on the alphabet, writing system and pronunciation through a phonetics course.

This is then followed up with an on the land immersion camp where cultural activities are performed in Southern Tutchone.

During this time, students learn the technology used in language documentation and preservation, as this plays a vital role in language revitalization and makes it accessible to a wider audience.

The cohort will learn grammar and sentence structure before embarking on another six-week immersion course, and another on-the-land immersion camp, aiming to deepen language retention and cultural connections.

It is important to celebrate the little milestones to build confidence and a sense of community in the cohort. Students are excited to speak Southern Tutchone and are doing great.

They even speak Southern Tutchone to each other in the community and already make Southern Tutchone TikTok videos on their own time for fun.



Havin a blast with Youth Rec!

Check out what KDFN Youth Rec has been up to! Over the last few months, youth have enjoyed winter and spring break activities at Sky High Wilderness Ranch, the cross country ski trails, and playing around the community! They went dog mushing, ice fishing, snowmobiling, played laser tag, went biking around the community and so much more. For more information on youth recreation programming, please contact Courtney at 867-334-8718.































STOP

KDFN Youth UP their game

Collaboration with Basketball Yukon makes for an elevated camp experience

"People ask us, why does Youth Justice put so much into basketball, couldn't you do some other sports? And we could," says Community Manager Heather Mayes. "But the kids love basketball. They ask for basketball, so that's the programming we deliver."

During spring break, KDFN Youth got their fill.

A five day camp hosted at the gym in the Multi-Purpose Building gave the youth a chance to train alongside Wolf Pack players as well as the Yukon women's basketball team heading to the Canada games this summer. Another bonus was having a coach with serious dunking credentials - 2013 NCAA dunk champion and former Harlem Globetrotter Doug Anderson.

And yes - Doug definitely took the time to show off his skills. The kids loved it!

Crossing guards reinstated at Elijah Smith Elementary

Elijah Smith Elementary School now has three crossing guards that are helping to keep our children and Youth safe. Crossing guards are on duty from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on school days. Shäw níthän, másin cho, gunałchîsh, and thank you to the crossing guards and our MLA in McIntyre, Minister Jeanie McLean for helping to make this happen.

Having fun creatively

Check out what the students at Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre are up to!

When we hear the word spring, we think summer is on its way, but before spring comes, winter waves its hands and gives you a chill from head to toe. Regardless of the season, Dusk'a is always ready to bring learning, fun activities and unending exploration for children to express their creativity and unique identity. As the sun kisses the winter snow, our students hit the trail. As the temperature reaches -20 and below, free painting is the best thing to do. Using their hands and feet or anything else, they can show their imagination and creativity through paint and paper. When students miss camping and fishing, we have it covered. Setting up the tent and roasting some marshmallows while fishing beside the tent is one of the best ways to bring outdoor activity into indoor play.

Regarding teamwork, students were able to build a mini fairytale village based on their imagination and creativity. We have the best drummer who will make you dance to the beat. We also have our salmon presentation, where children learn and understand the life cycle of the salmon. When it comes to community connection, two RCMP officers visited the center and built a connection with our students by reading a story to them. We are looking forward to more adventure, fun activities, and an unending learning journey this coming summer.











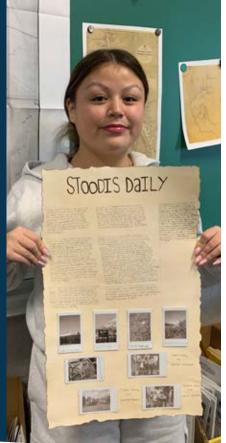








This November, six KDFN youth participated in a two-week course called Kwänlin Dän gha eech'e - Honouring Identity, Celebrating Self. They learned about the historic relationship between inland and coastal First Nations through a reenactment of Chief Kohklux chasing trader Robert Campbell out of Fort Selkirk. They travelled to Alaska, where they visited the Tlingit Community of Klukwan, and researched their own family lineage at both the Yukon Archives and the State Archives in Juneau.







32 Students participating in KDFN's Southern Tutchone Immersion program will receive a certificate from Simon Fraser University upon completion. Three of the students in this year's program are still in high school. They will earn high school credits for their work in the program as well. In the photo above, the students in the Immersion program are working on their grad regalia.

Youth can now earn high school credits for KDFN-developed courses

Elective credits are awarded for cultural knowledge acquisition

Chief Kohklux led a group of Tlingit warriors from the coastal community of Klukwan across the Chilkat mountains to meet Robert Campbell at Fort Selkirk on the Yukon River. The journey first took place in August, 1852 – but history repeated itself on a cold, snowy day last November. The second journey actually took place behind Porter Creek Secondary School, with Gary Johnson acting as Khoklux and a group of KDFN Youth taking on the role of the Tlingit warriors.

This dramatic recreation was part of a history lesson meant to demonstrate the long-standing connections between inland and coastal First Nations, and to provide a jumping off point for the youth to research their ancestry. It was part of a two-week genealogy course developed by KDFN Education called, Kwänlin Dän gha eech'e – Honouring Identity, Celebrating Self.

Thanks to a Yukon Government policy announcement made in September, 2024, all the youth who participated in and completed the course's requirements have been awarded high school credit for their work.

The opportunity to gain school credits is also available to youth who participate in Hide Camp, Fish Camp and Hunt Camps run by KDFN Justice.

In April, three youth spent the whole week at Hide Camp where they learned traditional skills including tool making, fur dyeing and tufting, and meat processing.

Troy Friday taught the portion on processing elk meat.

Aside from learning to safely handle the very sharp knives, Troy says the youth learned to locate glands and tendons in the meat, to remove them and set them aside to be enjoyed by dogs.

Standing beside the elk legs, Troy pointed to the Achilles tendon and said, "I didn't expect to bring Greek mythology into this lesson but, that ended up being a part of our conversation too."

KDFN Education Manager Krista Strand says that at the moment, students are getting credit for electives on the basis of acquiring traditional knowledge. She says it is her hope that before long, all the other curriculum-related learning that happens at Hide Camp and elsewhere will be acknowledged by the Department of Education.

"The genealogy course meets every social studies requirement between kindergarten and grade twelve according to the BC curriculum," she says. "There are so many curriculum goals that are being achieved through these activities, and I was happy to learn that an English teacher at Porter Creek marked one of their student's journals from the geneaology course and included it in their final grade. This kind of collaboration is really something to celebrate."

Youth can also get credit for spending time working on traditional arts activities with family members. They simply need to track their







Honing skills at Hide Camp

April 28 to May 2, 2025, was hide camp at Nàkwät'à Kų Potlatch House. Day one saw Sarah Johnson-Smith and Darlene Scurvy prepare two moose and one caribou hide.

Day two of the camp kicked off with a visit from students from Elijah Smith Elementary School. The kids practiced their drumming, played games, and got acquainted with various furs and learned how they are used. Troy Friday processed elk legs, removing tendons and glands.

Day three was another busy day at hide camp. It included more school visitors, community members working together on hide scraping and of course, time spent relaxing and connecting with friends by the fire.

Day four was a chilly morning. Good thing the fire kept everyone warm! Students from Elijah Smith helped with the processing of a moose hide and the softening of a wolverine hide. Bones were cooked for marrow. Youth working for credit have processed and dried all the meat off one elk leg.

There was still a lot of work in progress on the final day at hide camp. People were finishing up their tools, and students from Grey Mountain Elementary helped take moose hides to the next level of processing. Hides that were not completed – like the caribou hide that was being fleshed under Darlene Scurvy's expert supervision – will be stored appropriately so that work can continue on them at the next hide camp. Shaw nithan, masin cho, gunałchish, and thank you to everyone who helped make this year's camp a huge success!





KDFN Men's Club goes on the road

Trips to Vancouver, Haida Gwaii and possibly Terrace build a network and momentum around men's health

BY: Meribeth Deen

On April 10, KDFN's Men's Club hosted guests from the Council of Yukon First Nations and an organization called the Dudes Club, based in Vancouver. This event took place at at Nakwät'a Ku Potlatch House and included a handgames demonstration for the Southern visitors, some of whom came to the Yukon last summer to attend a retreat at Jackson Lake Healing Camp.

In March, members of both the Dudes Club and KDFN's Men's Club met at a wellness retreat in Haida Gwaii. The event included more than 80 men, mostly from BC First Nations, and was hosted by the Skidegate men's group called Gaagagaay.

The KDFN participants said just getting to Haida Gwaii was an adventure. On the 16 hour drive to Prince Rupert, they met a KDFN Citizen on the road and gave him a ride home. From Rupert, it took another eight hours on a ferry to get to their destination.

"The best part was the ferry ride over," joked Charles Waugh. "I spent the whole trip hanging over the side, and when we got there, I jumped out and kissed the ground."

The group started building connections as soon as they got their land legs back.

"We went down there, and they opened the doors for us," says Brian Bunning. "It was amazing how welcomed we felt, we even made good friends with the chief."

The workshop offered conversations around masculinity, health and wellness, and offered experiences like massage and acupressure.

"These things were definitely uncomfortable for some of us, but they made us realize that we need to take care of ourselves," says KDFN Citizen Buck Gilson. "And it showed us that men's health is possible."

Buck and others say – the experience opened their eyes to how much is lacking in terms of support for men's health in the Yukon. They say it also motivated them to dream about what could exist here.



Brian Bunning says he would like to see men's group programming run seven days a week, focusing on on-the-land activities.

Frank Jim says he would like to see every Yukon First Nation running their own men's health and wellness group, and also, a wellness retreat that is open to all of them.

Kyle Sam works with The Dudes Club. He says he would like to see the KDFN Men's club dig into their cultural identity, and find a name that represents that.

"Gaagagaay means, We Paddle Together," he says. "I can imagine all those men paddling together. You need a brotherhood and strength to do that. I already see the men in KDFN doing that. It would excite me to see a future name change for the KDFN men's group, so they can take more ownership over the work that they are doing, for their own people."

Kyle says has a bigger vision too – one that comes out of his travels to the Yukon and to First Nations across British Columbia.

"In a way we are reopening the grease trail," he says. "I know for example that here it is increasingly hard to access salmon. But when KDFN men go down south and meet men from other communities they can access it. And similarly, men from those other communities can access foods and other items that are hard to come by where they live."

When the KDFN men travelled to Haida Gwaii, they brought moose meat. The men from Haida Gwaii gifted them with halibut, which they brought back to Whitehorse and shared at a community storysharing dinner.

Brian says that while ambitions for the KDFN Men's Club grows, so does attendance at the weekly meetings.

"Our space is starting to feel a little small," he says, referring to 405 Ogilvie. "But we need more input and participation. We need more healthy men to come out and play a leadership role so we can continue to offer support to all the men who need it, regardless of where they are in their own journey."

Men's health, says Brian, is family health, and community health.

"The first time I heard that, it really rang true for me," he says. "And it still does."

The KDFN Men's Club is looking forward to the possibility of attending a retreat in Terrace, BC, in July. If you are interested in attending, reach out to Brian at 867–334–5598 or brian.bunning@kdfn.net.



KDFN RCMP updates

Community members may have noticed that there have been a number of staffing changes at the RCMP's policing unit at KDFN. In case you are wondering where some familiar faces have gone, and want to learn more about some of our current staff, here's an update:

Cpl. Adam LIGHTF00T has been promoted to Watch Commander Sergeant at Whitehorse Detachment, and Cst. Julia MAHONEY is currently filling in for him. Cst. MAHONEY grew up on a farm in Ontario. She has been a member of the RCMP since 2001. Cst. MAHONEY was first posted to Alberta and spent 18 years there before being transferred to the Yukon in 2019. Cst. MAHONEY has really enjoyed getting to know the Citizens and participating in some of the fabulous activities that take place at KDFN.

Cst. Derek KIRSTEIN was posted to the KDFN policing unit for the past year, but he too has been promoted and was transferred to Regina, SK in February. Cpl. KIRSTEIN has been replaced by Cst. Philip ISABELLE. Cst. ISABELLE is a second generation Mountie and was actually born in the Yukon and lived here till the age of three while his father was posted at Whitehorse and Carmacks. From the Yukon, Cst. ISABELLE and his family were transferred to Montreal. The entire family transferred back to the Yukon in 2019, and Cst. ISABELLE joined the RCMP from here in 2022. Cst. ISABELLE enjoys all sports, especially hockey and golf, though the rec kids have shown him a thing or two about basketball! Cst. ISABELLE has been a great addition to the KDFN policing team (and the Kwanlin Dün NHT team)!

Cst. Nikki PERRO has been posted to KDFN since November 2023, she is the veteran in our group! She grew up on Vancouver Island and had always been interested in policing. When she was in highschool, she was part of a "Stetson and Spurs" program run by the RCMP in her hometown. Through the program, she got the opportunity to go to the RCMP Training Academy in Regina for a week, and got a feel for what it was like to be a police officer. She knew then it was the career choice for her! Cst. PERRO was posted to the Yukon immediately after completing her training and has loved every minute of it. She is a trained crisis negotiator, bicycle unit patroller, jet boat operator, ATV and snowmobile driver. She'll be the one petting all the dogs in the community!

Please stop by the Justice wing of the Kashgêk' building if you are interested in connecting with the policing team – whether it's for just a chat, a conversation about the work we do and the partnership we uphold, or for any kind of assistance. We would like to hear your ideas about how we can make your community safer.

The RCMP is hiring!

The Government of Canada initiated the IT Apprenticeship Program for Indigenous Peoples. This program provides First Nations, Inuit, and Métis youth who have a passion for Information Technology (IT) with an opportunity to develop marketable experience and in-demand skills. It involves 24 months of paid term employment, on-the-job learning and online training within the federal public service, which also provides a pathway for full-time employment.

In the spirit of reconciliation, this program removes common barriers that exist as it relates to employment within Canada's digital workforce. Training and experience serve as an alternative to the minimum education; candidates are evaluated using a holistic and consistent process, and the program reduces the need for relocation by allowing remote work. This is in line with the exemption for Indigenous public servants to the Government of Canada Hybrid Work Model whereby 'Indigenous public servants whose location is critical to their identity to work from their communities'. The program has been developed by, with, and for Indigenous peoples from across Canada. Its design incorporates the preferences and needs of Indigenous learners while recognizing the importance of community.

Upon successful completion of the program, it is hoped that apprentices will consider remaining with the Government of Canada. Graduates are issued a digital certificate and a portable verifiable credential. It is endorsed by the Chief Information Officer of Canada and formally recognized as meeting the GC Qualification Standard alternative for the IT Occupational Group. Better representation within the public service of Canada's fastest-growing demographic group will lead to more innovative and inclusive solutions to today's complex challenges.



ARE YOU READY TO ANSWER THE CALL?

We're hiring: RCMP Telecommunications Operator/911 Police Dispatcher

What the work involves

- answer public calls for police and emergency help
- analyze and provide information to police officers
- dispatch and track police response
- search databases to help with investigations

Competitive salaries, increasing from \$64,265 to \$86,007 within the first five years of service!

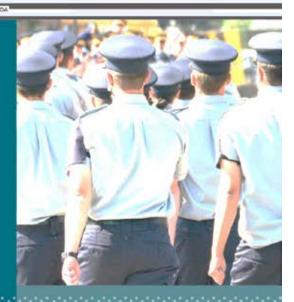
Apply today: Telecommunications Operator/911 Police Dispatcher





Indigenous Pre-Cadet Training Program

Summer 2025



The Indigenous Pre-Cadet Training Program (IPTP) offers Canadian Indigenous people an opportunity to experience a modified three-week Depot training experience within the RCMP at the RCMP Training Academy in Regina, Saskatchewan.

"I wasn't sure about a career with the RCMP. The IPTP changed that for me. I loved every drill, fitness, and classroom session at Depot." Hannah Millier, Program Graduate from New Brunswick

You'll learn:

- > An introduction to the Criminal Code and RCMP policy
- > Physical fitness and drill
- > Skills to help prepare you to apply to be a police officer

Basic Requirements

- > Be of First Nation, Inuit or Métis descent
- > Be a Canadian citizen
- > Be able to pass an enhanced reliability security check
- > Be in good physical condition
- Possess a Canadian high school diploma or equivalent at time of program participation

Learn how to apply!

Contact us at: IPTP-PFPA@rcmp-grc.gc.ca



66

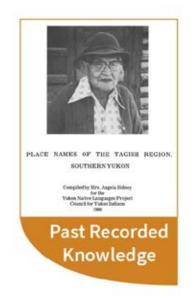
I'm excited to be able to one day become an RCMP officer and inspire more to join to show that we can make a difference in society.

Phoebe Niviagsiag, Nunavut

99



Speaking for Our Voiceless Relatives and Our Relationships through Maps



The How We Walk with the Land and Water initiative has been working with our traditional knowledge and other information to map the important places for our fish, wildlife and plants across the Southern Lakes. We have also mapped important cultural places that sustain our relationships with the land and water. Maps have been made for important habitats for caribou, moose, sheep, goats, muskrat, grizzly bear, salmon, lake trout, and other sensitive species. Maps also have been made of our own important places that sustain our relationship with our lands and waters.

Even more maps have been made of all the human developments, and how our landscapes and wildlife habitats are going to change due to climate change. **All together, we have over 66 maps representing our values!** These maps are owned by our Nations and are not available to other governments or outside groups unless all our Nations agree; our sensitive cultural information will not be shared.

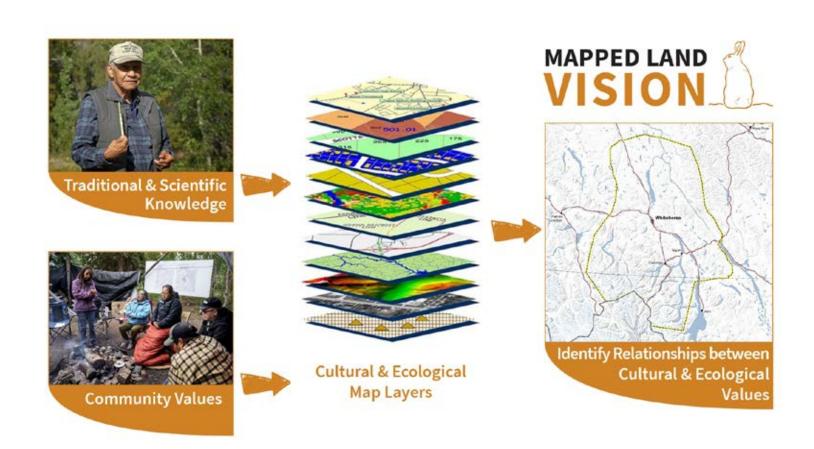
What is a Decision Support Tool?

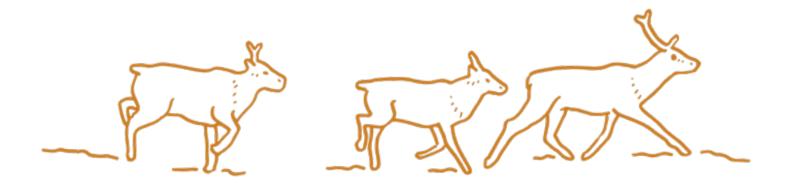
Good Information Supports Good Decision-Making! Decisions we make about our lands and waters need to consider many values and relationships, and maps can help describe and show these complex relationships.

The decision-support tool is like stacking the maps on top of each other to create one or a couple holistic maps that show where our relationships come together. These combined maps help our decision-makers ensure all of our relatives have the places and spaces they need, and we have spaces for our relationships with them, today and forever.

Every being has a job to do here on this planet, or they wouldn't be here. Animals are little farmers planting trees. Many seeds need to pass through an animal to germinate a seed. It's medicine or it's edible or it's just good to look at.

RICHARD CRAFT, KDFN ELDER







Nen ye, tu ye da ne dii kânáda Aat á x yaa has na.át. aáni ka heen Nän ye, chu jutzän da näll ye - Nan ye chu ye ts'àdnäl How We Walk with the Land and Water

Salmon Stewardship Centre could be a hub for community-driven salmon conservation

The Salmon Stewardship Centre is an exciting potential project in the early stages of development, focused on the restoration, conservation, and stewardship of Yukon River Chinook salmon populations. This project is being collaboratively developed by Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Carcross/ Tagish First Nation. Located near the Yukon River in Whitehorse, the Centre aims to become a hub for community-driven salmon conservation, educational programs, and the integration of traditional ecological knowledge.

This centre aims to:

- Restore and enhance Yukon River Chinook salmon through salmon stewardship.
- Revitalize salmon community and culture among the three nations, including the promoting of cultural practices.
- Reclaim place and space along the Yukon River.

The centre would include a teaching and gathering space, a research hub that braids traditional knowledge, western science and chinook restoration initiatives such as a conservation hatchery.

KDFN, TKC and C/TFN have been working together to complete year 2 of a feasibility study. In early March, the three nations held engagement events with Citizens in Whitehorse and Carcross to gather feedback on potential names for the centre, guiding principles, what it should include, if it should include a hatchery to help our salmon populations recover and where it should be located.

The three nations will continue their work over the coming year, advance the design of the centre, establish a joint governance structure and secure funding.







Michie Creek adult & juvenile Chinook monitoring

Kwanlin Dün Heritage, Lands and Resources will continue the long-running Michie Creek Chinook salmon and habitat monitoring program in 2025.

This program has run continuously since 2003, monitoring stream flows and temperatures, removing beaver dams and other obstructions to migrating salmon, and documenting the number of spawning Chinook and redds in the prime spawning habitat below Michie Lake.

In 2024 there were 75 adult Chinook and 48 redds observed in Michie Creek, the highest totals observed since 2017.

In Michie Creek, much of the monitoring effort to date has focused on counting the number of adult salmon that come back every year, but keeping track of juveniles is also important in understanding the spawning and incubation rates for salmon eggs.

Between May and September, KDFN staff, with assistance from contractors, have completed monthly sampling for juvenile Chinook salmon.

From May to September, a total of 100 minnow traps were set, baited with a small amount of salmon eggs and left to fish overnight. The fish are then carefully taken from the traps, measured, weighed and released back to the creek. The fish captured during all sampling events combined have included: 102 wild juvenile Chinook, 55 hatchery juvenile Chinook, 5 Arctic grayling, 4 burbot, 34 longnose sucker, 5 lake chub and 38 slimy sculpin.

This provides insight into how successful the spawning conditions were over the previous two years. Michie Creek is also where Yukon Energy has been releasing hatchery raised juvenile salmon for many years. The 2024 monitoring can be used to track growth and behaviour throughout the year compared to hatchery fish.

Over the next few months, we will take a closer look at the data collected in 2024 and compare it to past sampling data.

The circle of salmon and science

Working together to monitor salmon populations

The journey of the Chinook salmon begins in July, in the Bering Sea, where they have spent the last 1-7 years maturing. From there, they embark on an epic migration back to the Yukon River. As they pass through Emmonak, Alaska, a select number of these salmon are tagged with radio telemetry tags. Since their sole focus is reaching their natal streams to spawn, they do not eat during this journey, allowing the tags to be safely placed in their stomachs.

The salmon then undertake a 3,000+ km journey up the Yukon River. As they make their way upstream, fisheries scientists diligently prepare for their arrival. Telemetry towers are strategically set up along the Yukon River to monitor the migration of Chinook salmon. As the Chinook pass by, the tags send a signal to the tower, which is then recorded. These towers provide comprehensive data on salmon numbers and migration patterns. KDFN's Operations team collaborated with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC), and Yukon First Nations Salmon Stewardship Alliance (YFNSSA) to install the Takhini Telemetry Tower.

Before the salmon pass by the telemetry tower, they encounter the Takhini SONAR Counting Station. KDFN, YFNSSA, Environmental Dynamics Inc. (EDI), Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN), and Yukon Conservation Society (YCS) worked together to set up the Takhini SONAR Camp this year. The SONAR system emits radio frequencies that bounce off the fish, similar to echolocation, allowing technicians to visualize and count the salmon as they move.

Data is updated hourly, with two technicians monitoring the SONAR to ensure accurate counts.

Upon reaching their spawning grounds, the salmon find mates and complete their life cycle. During the spawning period (late August/early September), drone surveys are conducted to confirm the number and success of spawning salmon. EDI and KDFN conducted surveys on the upper Takhini River to capture footage of spawning salmon and their redds (egg nests).

Finally, a carcass survey is conducted to assess the spawning success rate. Technicians scan the river near spawning areas to search for salmon carcasses.

These surveys can help indicate the relative number of salmon in the river, as well as their sizes, ages, locations, and success at spawning.

> By documenting salmon that are unable to spawn, we can start to identify potential threats to the population.





Our surveys focus on the Yukon River in Whitehorse, as well as the Teslin River which allows us to see how Yukon River salmon compare to salmon from nearby streams. Working with Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, our crews found over 80 salmon as part of the monitor program, providing important insight into these populations.

DNA samples are also collected from the carcasses to monitor the genetic health of the salmon population. KDFN collaborated with EDI to conduct the Takhini River carcass survey during one of the drone surveys in September.

As the salmon eggs rear, and fisheries scientists analyze data, the carcasses of the salmon return nutrients into the ecosystem, feeding plants and wildlife, the cycle is complete.

The total estimated number of Chinook salmon in 2024 was 710, a significant increase from the previous year's 332. The ongoing seven-year agreement appears to be yielding positive results, and we hope to see continued growth in the salmon population in the coming years.

A special thank you to those at YFNSSA, EDI, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), TKC, CAFN and YCS, as well as our dedicated consultants: Lars Jessup, William Twardek, and Dennis Zimmermann, for their invaluable contributions to our fisheries projects, which make this work possible.

Shāw níthän, másin cho, gunałchÎsh, and thank you as well to the participants that helped on the 2024 Chinook Salmon Carcass Survey project: William Twardek (Ecofish) Pascal Salvage, Cheyenne Bradley, Elizabeth MacDonald (YFNNSA), Scotty James (C/TFN) Brooklyn Massie (TKC), KDFN Land Stewards and Fishery Technicians.





HLR started the work on Lewes Marsh last summer - as an offshoot of a muskrat study commissioned by Yukon Energy.

Land Steward Officer Bruce Wilson says that in the summer, members of the HLR team set out on the marsh in a canoe to set up game cams.

In winter, muskrats create networks between ice layers as a way to protect themselves from predators. So in December, Myra and the team set up game cams between the ice layers on the marsh.

Myra says she wanted to work with HLR because she loves being outdoors. For the Marsh Lake game cam project, she had the chance to put her auger skills to good use.

Myra will finish up high school at FH Collins this spring. She says she hasn't figured out what her next steps are, but she enjoyed her time working at HLR. Members of the HLR team say - they'd love to have her back in the office and out in the field working with them again in the future.









We have been working over the four seasons to understand how muskrats and beavers live in the Lewes Marsh. We visited the marsh one day a week to look for signs of where muskrats prefer to eat and den.

During the spring low water period, we followed muskrats in the evenings when most active to learn their swimming and diving patterns. We were able to observe some of the places muskrats eat bottom plants in the river, channels and most of them live in bank dens during this period.

During the summer rising water period, we observed muskrats returning to eat marsh plants and change to higher dens in banks and some houses sitting on bank marshes (higher grounds).

At or near the level when Yukon Energy stores water, most muskrats left their dens in banks to gain higher grounds on marshes to build houses made of plants-brown moss. This happens every fall at or near the controlled water level (when Yukon Energy begins to store water). Muskrats have learned to adjust to the fall water storage and some of the changes over the winter to complete their year-round living.

The lowering period starts in the fall when the reservoir is holding water and freezes in early winter. We found that muskrats continue live in houses not only access water under the ice sheet but also when water is replaced by air. The ice sheet becomes protection either with water or air space for them to live all winter.

Beavers also learned similar ways to adjust by either staying in the same lodge all year or switch from a high to a low lodge and vice versa as levels rise or lower. The high lodge are used in fall-winter with the food cache and the low lodge is used spring-summer where young are born.

In general, we learned that muskrats and beavers follow water levels for protection. They leave dry marshes when the water is low and return when flooded again. Beavers often have muskrats living with them, sometime building their own side house as dens that are fused with the beaver lodge. Muskrats then feed on river bottom plants and willow twigs from the food cache over the winter.

Yukon Energy is planning to continue monitoring muskrats in this area using aerial and ground-based surveys.



TRADITIONAL **ALLOCATION POLICY**

KDFN's Traditional Allocation policy helps care for our land and respects Beneficiary and Citizen rights.

The policy follows the guiding principles of the KDFN Land Vision and Community Lands Plan:

- Respect: Honour the land and all animal life.
- Care: Take care of the land.
- Share: Consider future generations in all decisions.
- Balance: Weigh individual and community needs equally.

TRADITIONAL USES

Only KDFN Beneficiaries and Citizens can hold a Traditional Allocation.

Every Beneficiary and Citizen can hold one Traditional Allocation for traditional activities like hunting, fishing, and harvesting.

These allocations can be used to support and continue traditional practices.

APPLY TODAY

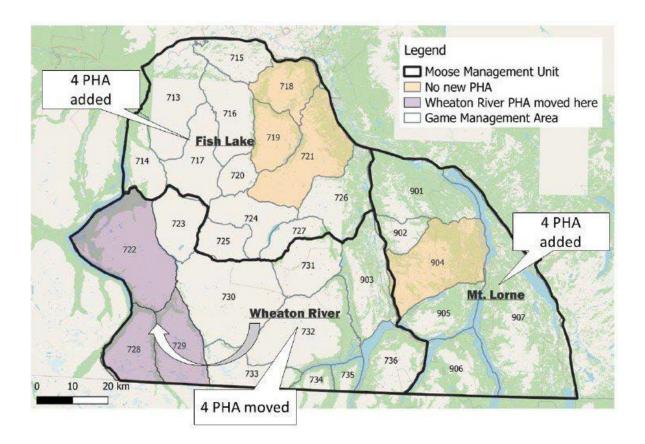
Currently, KDFN is processing Traditional Allocations tied to a historical submission.

Application forms are available at:

- (L) The KDFN Lands Office, Kashgêk' Building, 35 McIntyre Drive
- Kwanlindun.com







Southern Lakes Moose Co-Management Working Group

Kwanlin Dün Heritage, Lands and Resources staff partnered with neighboring First Nations and the Government of Yukon in 2024 to form the Southern Lakes Moose Co-Management Working Group.

This initiative began following the release of moose survey data that showed an increase in moose abundance in the Fish Lake and Mount Lorne Moose Management Units (MMUs). Licensed moose hunting in these areas has been restricted to permit holders selected through a lottery draw since 1989.

The working group developed a draft Action Plan for management of moose in the Southern Lakes to balance interest in increasing licensed hunting opportunities with complementary actions to benefit moose. Expected management actions in 2025 are the pursuit of an Off-Road-Vehicle Management Plan and other strategies to reduce disturbance to moose, increased capacity for enforcement and monitoring, and support for local trappers.

The Government of Yukon is increasing the number of permits in the Fish Lake MMU from 3 to 7 (excluding GMSs 7-18, 7-19, and 7-21), from 4 to 8 in the Mount Lorne MMU (excluding GMS 9-04), and removing permit hunt opportunities in the Wheaton Valley area (GMSs 9-03, 7-30-7-35) for a period of 5 years to support moose recovery in this area.





What's new with KDFN Community Services?

STAFF UPDATES

We have hired new team members, Sarah Kroon and Brandon Johanson, who have come on as Housing Support Liaison Workers. Kyle Humphreys is our new Capital Projects Manager. Donald Shorty and Allan Taylor are now a part of our operations & maintenance team. After an internal promotion, Blade Joe is now our Government Buildings Maintenance Lead.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

Our housing development is progressing, with three duplexes near completion and four single-family units almost to finishing stages. These units are awaiting seasonal grade work and will then be sent to the Housing Allocation Committee for distribution. Our three townhouses are in various stages of construction, from roofing to framing and footings. These twelve units are expected to be completed by late fall. The Justice 4 plex is advancing to completion with an expected occupancy of August 1, 2025.

HOUSING ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE SWORN-IN

The KDFN Housing Allocation Committee added new members and refined their Terms of Reference to ensure a transparent, fair allocation proces. The committee was sworn-in on April 3, 2025.





SPRINGTIME WORK

During spring melt, CS has worked tirelessly to prevent potential melting issues through snow removal and downspout extenders. We have had units compromised, but quick responses from the dedicated team have minimized the extent of damage.

We have been working to mitigate mold in units with certified professionals completing work to identify and eliminate future issues.

GREENER HOMES FOR KDFN

Home assessments have been ongoing within the community for the Greener Neighborhood Pilot Program. This program aims to retrofit homes to meet modern green energy standards fully. The final product will give Citizens a more energy-efficient home, ideally reducing operational costs. The program covers 100 homes. We are also assessing homes for the Heat Pump Program, which will install 50 heat pumps in homes to add an additional source of heating. Our goal is to make the homes more efficient, reducing costs for Citizens.

OTHER UPDATES

- Chu Niikwän LP is working on the development and conceptual phase for a proposed new Community Services building for KDFN.
- Home renovations -we have retrofitted 5
 homes and will have them ready for allocation
 in the coming weeks.
- Community Services is working with Heritage, Lands, and Resources and the City of Whitehorse on a traffic calming proposal for McIntyre Drive. The design will be brought to the Council for further input and approval.
- An updated KDFN Housing Policy is currently going through the SCLPD process. We are hoping to roll it out early summer.
- We will be looking to engage the Community to hear from Citizens in May/June. We will have some proposed future developments for feedback and will look for Citizen input as to what areas should be prioritized.

Latest news from KDFN Economic Development!



Sky High Wilderness Ranch

The ranch has been very busy over the winter with winter tourism activities. KDFN has also had events and activities at the ranch, and kids had a great time there during spring break. Starting on June 1st, horseback riding will be available for the summer!

Sky High Wilderness Ranch has appointed new board directors, including Citizens Gary Bailie, Troy Friday, Hank Henry, Rae Mombourquette, Alicia Vance, and Charles Waugh. The board has been busy working on strategic planning, board governance and operational planning. Watch for future events and engagement opportunities over the summer and early fall.

Citizens can utilize the ranch activities for 30% off! Go check it out and meet the staff, horses and dogs!

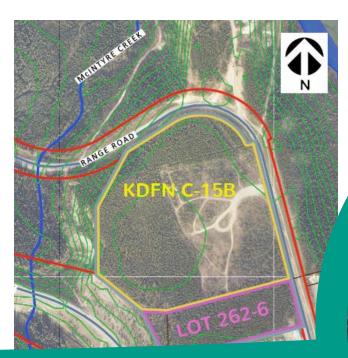
Range Point Subdivision: a new neighbourhood in the making

Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Yukon Government are working together to develop the Range Point Subdivision, an exciting new neighbourhood located just north of Northland Park on Range Road. The subdivision is mostly situated on lot C-15B, which is Kwanlin Dün land that is designated for residential development.

The site was cleared over the winter and is now ready for infrastructure work to begin. Over the next two years, roads, utilities, and other key services will be installed to prepare the land for housing construction, which is expected to start in late 2026.

Once complete, the subdivision will include more than 385 new housing units, offering a mix of housing types for Whitehorse's growing population. Kwanlin Dün Citizens will have preferential opportunities to purchase leasehold lots and completed homes.

Range Point is shaping up to be a vibrant new addition to the city and will create many home ownership opportunities as well as economic prosperity for Kwanlin Dün Citizens.



Do you have a business idea? Do you want to start or expand a business?

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." – LAO TZU $\,$

If you've been thinking about starting a business or growing one you've already started, Kwanlin Dün has a business coaching program that can help you. We're expanding the program to better meet the needs of Kwanlin Dün Citizens by adding two new coaches, including one that specializes in tourism-related businesses.

The program is flexible and designed around your goals. It begins with an initial session to meet the coach and build a personalized coaching plan. From there, you'll receive one-on-one guidance tailored to your needs, with continued aftercare support available after your business launches.

Coaching focuses on key areas such as evaluating your business idea, understanding market potential, planning for startup, and determining operational costs and revenue and expense projections. You'll also get help navigating registrations, permits, insurance, GST, and payroll. Coaches can assist you with writing a business plan and for helping prepare for funding opportunities.

To learn more or to enroll, contact Martin Meyer at martin.meyer@kdfn.net.



News from Chu Niikwän LP & Companies

HOUSING

We're in the home stretch of several exciting housing projects around the community! From the duplexes on Murphy Road to the single-family homes on Macauley Road and the townhouses on McClimmon, it's been a busy few months — and we're proud of the progress that's been made.

We truly value the great relationship we have with our shareholder and are grateful to be their trusted contractor. It means a lot to be part of adding much-needed homes to the community and helping neighborhoods grow.

4-PLEX FOR KDFN JUSTICE

Our 4-plex for KDFN Justice on McIntyre Drive is nearing completion, with just a few months left in the construction timeline. This project represents an important step toward supporting communityled justice solutions, and we're proud of the work that has gone into bringing it to life.

As we approach the final stages, we are excited to prepare for the official handover of the finished building to KDFN Justice



NEW CABINS AT SKY HIGH

We're thrilled to announce that over the next few months, we will be building and installing two new dry cabins at KDFN's Sky High Ranch. These new additions will offer even more space and comfort for those visiting the property, making it an even more incredible destination for everyone. Stay tuned for updates on this exciting project!

We can't wait to see how these cabins enhance the experience at Sky High Ranch!

GRAVEL & EQUIPMENT

We're excited to announce that preparations are already underway for the final year of the Airport Run Reconstruction project! After a highly productive season last year—where we set a new record by producing over 150,000 m³ of gravel—we're aiming to match that same momentum in the months ahead.

As we gear up for another busy season, we'll be looking for local support to help us cross the finish line strong. Please keep an eye out for job postings and advertised positions within the community. Your skills and commitment are essential to making this final phase a success.

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. Check it out here:

www.chuniikwan.ca/eagle-hill-energy

WE ARE HIRING!

Looking to take the next step in your career? Join a dedicated team that's building with purpose. We're currently hiring for the following positions:

Gravel & Equipment Project Manager

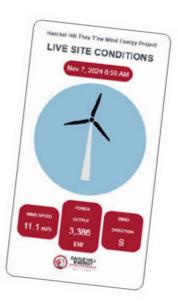
- 3+ years of project management experience
- Clean driver's abstract
- Skilled in estimating and managing projects from start to finish
- Sign-up bonus available

Gravel & Equipment Foreman

- 2+ years supervising crews of 10–15 employees
- · Clean driver's abstract
- Equipment operating experience required
- · Sign-up bonus available

Construction Project Coordinator

- 3+ years of project management experience
- Clean driver's abstract
- Experience with estimating, tender bidding, and overseeing jobs start to finish
- · Sign-up bonus available



Ticketed Carpenters

- Must have necessary carpentry certifications
- Ability to work on a variety of ongoing construction projects
- Clean driver's abstract

Executive & Bookkeeping Assistant – 1 year term

- 2+ years of administrative experience
- Responsible for organizing a dynamic office, setting meetings/events, minute-taking, filing, and general administrative support

If you're interested, please call us with any questions and submit your resume to admin@canyoncitylp.com

we look forward to hearing from you!





Moose tracks spotted outside the Kashgêk building on March 3, 2025.

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

Sign up to receive emails at kwanlindun.com/email

Or send an email to communications@kdfn.net

We're online at **kwanlindun.com**

Find us on Facebook!

DESTINATION ADDRESS