



# Ta'an Kwäch'än Council

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## Monthly Bulletin – May 2020

- **TKC CHIEF AND COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETINGS VIA VIDEOCONFERENCING**

In order to continue to provide leadership and to ensure Citizens are kept up to date with new developments, Chief and Council are meeting weekly. During these times of self-distancing measures, TKC Chief and Council are holding their meetings by videoconference. Chief Kane and Executive are involved in regular meetings and briefings with Dr. Brendan Hanley, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Premier Sandy Silver and Yukon Government officials, as well as Yukon First Nations leadership. The health and wellness of our Citizens remains as TKC's number one priority during this time and as events change, we will do our best to keep all Citizens informed. Please refer to our website at [www.taان.ca](http://www.taان.ca) and Facebook page for current services, contact information and regular updates.

- **CITIZENSHIP COMMITTEE BUSY WITH PENDING APPLICATIONS**

The TKC Citizenship Committee is committed to continue to hold meetings as required, to process pending applications. For more information on the application process please email Amanda Leas at [aleas@taan.ca](mailto:aleas@taan.ca).

- **CITIZEN MONETARY RELIEF FOR COVID-19**

TKC Citizens are eligible to receive a one-time payment to assist with the current health emergency. We are pleased to let Citizen's know that nearly all cheques have been processed for the TKC COVID-19 relief funding. If you have **not yet** applied, please contact Deputy Chief Peters, [deputychief@taan.ca](mailto:deputychief@taan.ca) or (867) 334-6363 with the following details for yourself and your children who are under the age of 18 (TKC Citizens): email, full name, birthdate and age, phone number, and address. If you want direct deposit also include: name of bank, bank account # (*including transit #, bank branch #, and account #*), and social insurance number. We thank you for your patience in this process.

- **TKC'S CITIZEN NAVIGATOR – COVID-19 FUNDING OPTIONS**

TKC is offering a new service to help Citizens navigate federal and territorial emergency COVID-19 funding and supports. TKC's Citizen Navigator will provide Citizens with up-to-date information on COVID-19 funding options, such as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, Canada Emergency Student Benefit, Employment Insurance, and other potential streams of funding available to TKC Citizens. The Citizen Navigator will provide information on territorial and federal funding eligibility, the application process, and other available resources and relief services. Contact Brianna Bourassa at (867) 332-2298 or [research@taan.ca](mailto:research@taan.ca).

- **HEALTH AND WELLNESS OUTREACH SUPPORT AVAILABLE**

TKC's Wellness staff are reaching out to offer phone support for those who might need social contact during the COVID-19 pandemic. Elders Support is also available for those who need assistance. This service will be evaluated on a case by case basis and could include services such as picking up and delivery of groceries/ prescriptions and phone support for those in need. For more information contact Health and Wellness Coordinator Roberta Austin at [healthandwellness@taan.ca](mailto:healthandwellness@taan.ca) or Heather Griffiths, Wellness Manager at (867) 335-0630 or [wellnessmanager@taan.ca](mailto:wellnessmanager@taan.ca). Income assistance and other health appointments are only being done over the phone, with all cheques currently being mailed to Citizens. For more information please contact Income Support Worker, Thalia Hare at [incomeassistance@taan.ca](mailto:incomeassistance@taan.ca).

- **SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM – DEADLINE EXTENDED**

Thinking of where you want to work this summer? Looking to gain experience or continue building on your skills? TKC is accepting resumes for Summer Students! We are currently exploring options for work with the following departments: Lands, Resources & Heritage; Housing & Infrastructure; Wellness & Development or Administration. Placements are from May-August 2020. Other Citizen-driven employment ideas may also be considered. Contact Bobbie Kufeldt at 668-3613 ext. 208 or email [human.resources@taan.ca](mailto:human.resources@taan.ca).

- **CREATIVE CHALLENGE – CALLING ON ALL TKC STUDENTS – GIFT CARD AND PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES!**

TKC is offering all students who would like to share their artistic pursuits, such as drawing, poetry, writing, photography, and other creative accomplishments a chance for recognition and prizes. Gift cards will be provided, as well as recognition through coverage in upcoming issues of the TKC newsletter. Students should feel free to be as creative as possible. Submissions can also include works that you have created in the past and that you are proud of. Please submit your works or arrange for us to help with submissions, by contacting Ben Monkman at 867-334-8306 or [youthsupport@taan.ca](mailto:youthsupport@taan.ca) or Janet Smellie at [communicationsoffice@taan.ca](mailto:communicationsoffice@taan.ca).

- **ENCOURAGING CITIZEN CREATIVITY**

The TKC Wellness and Education Departments hope that everyone is safe and healthy during this time. We know that this time brings many new challenges, but it is also a time for kindness, support, and creative ways to reach out to one another. We would like to help create a space where Citizens can connect to one another and share knowledge, stories, songs, and talents. It can be as simple as a written recipe, a recorded song, or a step-by-step video on how to do something. We would love to hear from you and can help you show your creation and can provide video and audio assistance. Submissions will be showcased on our Facebook page and the TKC website. Honoraria will be provided for submission. For more information, please contact Ben Monkman at 867-334-8306 or [youthsupport@taan.ca](mailto:youthsupport@taan.ca) or Janet Smellie at [communicationsoffice@taan.ca](mailto:communicationsoffice@taan.ca).

- **SUMMER DAY PROGRAM CANCELLED**

It is with regret that TKC must inform parents that we will not be hosting the TKC Summer Day Program for the summer of 2020. We have made this decision based on the current recommendations by the Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health. Parents will be emailed of any updates or new information. These updates will also be posted on the website at [www.taan.ca](http://www.taan.ca).

- **CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO EDUCATE ANGLERS**

TKC Lands Resources and Heritage has joined forces with other Yukon First Nations in a campaign aimed to educate anglers on the importance of understanding the seasonal vulnerabilities of spring grayling runs in the Southern Lakes fishing areas. Given COVID-19, there is likely to be increased pressure on these Southern Lakes fisheries. Accessible areas, such as Lubbock River, Nares River, Johnson's Crossing, Takhini River, Marsh Lake, and others, are anticipated to see increased pressure on these vulnerable spawning populations. Current regulations do not limit catch and release effort, leaving this as a voluntary effort on the part of anglers. With no requirement for angling education in Yukon, some anglers are unfamiliar with fish handling best practices resulting in mortality or excessive stress being placed on an actively spawning population. There will also be less enforcement or presence of Conservation Officers, Game Guardians, or Ecological Monitors given COVID-19 re-deployment. For more information please contact Kristina Beckman, Fish and Wildlife Program Coordinator at [fishandwildlife@taan.ca](mailto:fishandwildlife@taan.ca).

- **TKC EDUCATION STAFF TO ASSIST STUDENTS WITH HOME LEARNING**

TKC Education staff are available in the weeks ahead to help parents and students navigate new online lessons and activities for students, to ensure adequate supports are in place to succeed. While the Yukon Department of Education has assured families that coursework will be provided for students based on their unique home situations, TKC wants to ensure that TKC students have optimal home learning supports and access to online learning activities. As such, TKC will be providing laptops for students who require access to online learning and resources. Please note that we may not have equipment for everyone at this moment. We will be prioritizing students with heavy online workloads, as well as those students who do not currently have access to computers or devices at home.

TKC Education would like to also provide a supplement for May and June 2020 for the increased internet usage that will result from students completing their coursework from home. Families can apply for a \$35.00 monthly internet subsidy until the end of this school year for each household with K-12 student(s) who will be accessing online learning activities. We will try to respond to the needs of all students as soon as possible. If you wish to request a laptop or internet supplement for your student(s), please contact Youth Outreach Support Worker, Ben Monkman, at 867-334-8306 or [youthsupport@taan.ca](mailto:youthsupport@taan.ca).

- **CANCELLATION OF THE 45<sup>th</sup> YUKON FIRST NATION OFFICIAL GRADUATION CEREMONY**

In keeping with recommendations surrounding health and safety practices aimed at protecting Yukoners from the impacts of COVID-19, the 2020 Yukon First Nations Graduation Ceremony has been cancelled. Although we will not be celebrating in person, organizers will still be recognizing the achievements of the graduates of 2020 and hope to make this a memorable one, given the circumstances. Students still can be nominated for awards. A list of awards and an online nomination form will be circulated by the end of April. TKC will be providing the Chief Jim Boss Award, with preference to TKC Citizens, so make sure you apply! Students will still receive graduation certificates and a hoodie. Distribution of these will be determined later. A special call-out to share photos of students in their regalia will also take place with photos shared on Facebook at [facebook.com/yfngraduation](https://facebook.com/yfngraduation). In early June, an ad will be placed in the Yukon News with a list of names of the 2020 graduates. If you have any questions, please contact Ben Monkman at [youthsupport@taan.ca](mailto:youthsupport@taan.ca) or the Yukon First Nation Graduation Society at [yfngraduation@gmail.com](mailto:yfngraduation@gmail.com) or 867-335-1927.

*Please watch our website and Facebook for updates*

[www.taan.ca](http://www.taan.ca)

*Take care and stay safe!*