



## NEWSLETTER SPRING 2018

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*Summer Jobs in the 1940s*

*\*Top left: Coralee Johns and Brandon Smith attend  
a Lands Act Community Meeting*

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF AND DEPUTY CHIEF

Dännach'a! Spring promises to be just around the corner and with it comes feelings of rejuvenation and growth. During this time, we reflect on and celebrate two important milestones for Yukon First Nations: the forty-fifth anniversary of the presentation of *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow* (February 14, 1973), and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Umbrella Final Agreement (May 29, 1993).



*Chief Kane and members of the Canadian Armed Forces Joint Task Force (L to R) Liaison Officer Captain Kathleen Tipton (Whitehorse), Yukon Detachment Commander Major Alex Trousdale (Whitehorse), Chief Kristina Kane, Brigadier General Mike Nixon (Yellowknife), Formation Chief Warrant Officer Ron Beyerbach (Yellowknife).*

In December, Deputy Chief Telep attended the Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa and Chief Kane participated in both the Yukon Forum and Intergovernmental Forum. Important discussions took place on child welfare, Indigenous language, housing and infrastructure, fiscal relations, and more. Chief Kane also attended the Association for Mineral Exploration (AME) Roundup 2018 in Vancouver. Both the Chief and Deputy Chief have participated in Yukon First Nations leadership meetings and continue to strengthen intergovernmental relations with Kwanlin Dün First Nation, City of Whitehorse, and Government of Yukon.

In March, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council hosts workshops on lateral kindness and community unity. First Nations people in the Yukon have been greatly affected by the changes that have occurred on our land in the last 125 years. There has been much trauma within our communities as a result. In many ways, our community has lost touch with the harmony that Ta'an Kwäch'än people once held; working together for the betterment of all Citizens. In order for us to move forward, this deep-rooted trauma needs to be addressed within the community. Our traditional and cultural values and knowledge will bring us together and lead us to healing and reconciliation. Over the next year, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council will be focused on promoting and strengthening our culture and traditions. This will be done, in part, through the re-establishment of the Cultural and Heritage Committee. We all must support one another in a resurgence of our culture and traditions that in many ways have been lost. As our vision statement says: "We encourage our Citizens to participate in the well-being of our nation by building a unified, healthy, and self-reliant community."

In unity,

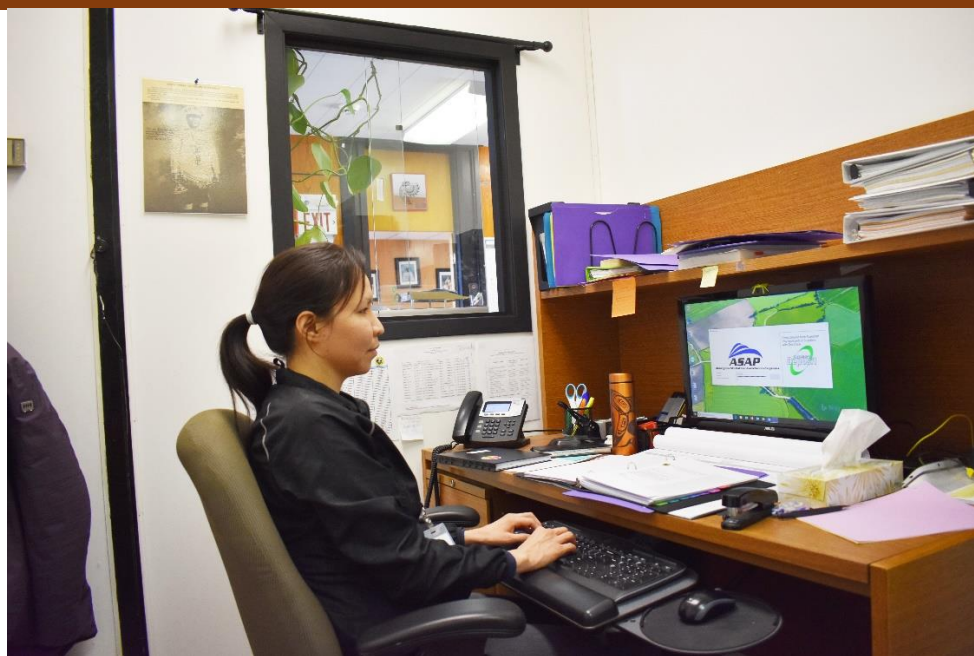
Chief Kristina Kane and Deputy Chief Michelle Telep



*Part of the Northwest Territories display at the Association for Mineral Exploration Roundup 2018.*

## COUNCIL NOTES

In the late fall and early winter, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council worked on appointments to the Shallow Bay Zoning Committee, trap-line decisions, and the purchase of database software that will help to streamline education, enrollment, training, and employment tracking and reporting. The Council also passed a motion to fully endorse the ongoing Lands Act community process with the vision of passing a Lands Act.



*Enrollment Coordinator Felicia Gordon finds the ASAP software helps her work.*

Other business included extending the Interim Administration of Justice provisions, Section 13.6.4. In the area of health, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council supported participation in the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Yukon Government, Health and Social Services Department, Family and Children's Services Unit. This agreement will clarify how Ta'an Kwäch'än Council will work col-

laboratively with the Social Services Department on child welfare matters involving Citizens. Direction was given to the Health and Education Department to design a community wellness fund policy for the benefit of all Ta'an Citizens for the purpose of facilitating access to cultural and sports activities.

As Council moves forward with these and other matters, we would like to

thank Roberta Auston, Bengie Clethero and Conrad Jack for their hard work and commitment to Council. We would like to welcome Jay Massie and Jessica Jacobs to the council table. Governance training was offered to all councilors in February, with attendance by most.

Elisha Sidoun, Clerk of Council  
[clerkofcouncil@taan.ca](mailto:clerkofcouncil@taan.ca)  
 668.3613 ex. 210

## CRIME STOPPERS AWARENESS MONTH

January was National Crime Stoppers Awareness Month.

Canadian Crime Stoppers Association is part of an international organization of volunteers, committed to solving and reducing crime.

Elder Bill Bruton was on hand at the kick-off of the territorial events at High Country Inn on January 18, 2018.

He gave an address and met with the



President of Yukon Crime Stoppers, Mike Pemberton. Yukon Crime Stoppers has recently returned to collect anonymous tips as it focuses on crime reduction in our area.

Mike Pemberton  
 President Yukon Crime Stoppers  
[mike\\_pemberton@avu.ca](mailto:mike_pemberton@avu.ca)  
[Crimestoppersyukon.ca](http://Crimestoppersyukon.ca)

## ELDERS' COUNCIL

Elders' Council continued its ongoing search for new judges for the Judicial Council. A long-term representative was appointed to Council to provide consistency and communication between Council and Elders' Council. Along the same lines, a joint meeting between Elders' Council and Council was held on December 17, 2017 and a presentation given by Norm McIntyre about trust options. Elders' Council is currently revisiting all Elders' benefits and services.



*Members of Elders' Council listen to Lands Use Planning Coordinator Natalie Leclerc.*

Elders' Council is grateful for staff members who attend meetings when summoned and engage in conversations or give input that helps make decisions. Thanks also goes to the following people: Mary Gamberg, a research scientist, who spoke about contaminants in Lake Laberge trout; Council of Yukon First Nations Senior Education Analyst, Jennifer Wykes,

who talked about the status of First Nation education in the Yukon; and Jesse Trerice, Carl Sidney and Harvey Jessup from the Yukon Salmon Sub-committee.

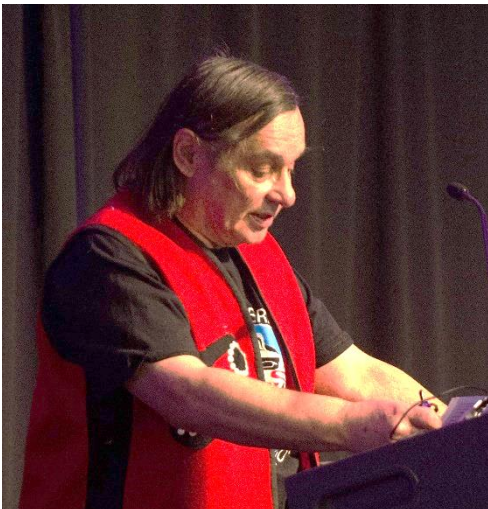
Elders' Council members are always appreciative of the opportunity to learn more about

subjects of interest. We extend an invitation to Elders from all traditional families to partake in the Elders' Council.

Bill Bruton, Elders' Council Chair  
[chairec@taan.ca](mailto:chairec@taan.ca)  
 Elisha Sidoun, Clerk of Council  
[clerkofcouncil@taan.ca](mailto:clerkofcouncil@taan.ca)  
 668.3613 ex. 210

## ELDER BILL BRUTON AT RECONCILIATION EVENT

Elder Bill Bruton gave well-received remarks before a large audience at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre on January 24, 2018. The public event, hosted by the Public Service Alliance, was titled "What is My Role in Reconciliation as a Community Member of the Yukon?"



*Elder Bill Bruton*

The audience enjoyed the sometimes funny and sometimes deeply personal insights of Dr. Evan Adams, Chief Medical Officer of the First Nations Health Authority.

Dr. Adams, a delightful speaker, is also a talented actor. His best known work is the film *Smoke Signals* alongside Adam Beach. His current job focuses on improving many areas of health for First Nations people.

## CHRISTMAS JOY 2017

Ta'an Kwäch'än Citizens had three opportunities to share the joys of the Christmas season at annual events held throughout December. First was the Elders' Luncheon which took place on December 8 in the Health and Education Boardroom. The area became a mini-Christmas dining hall, with festive tables placed throughout the decorated room and a delicious turkey buffet waiting in the foyer. The 15 Elders that attended received gifts from their Secret Santas and other small presents. They spent an enjoyable afternoon playing bingo with Chief Kane as caller.

Young and old alike were delighted with the food and gifts at the Citizens Christmas party held on December 14 at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. Food was the first order of the evening, with hams and 10 turkeys being served to more than 150 guests. The show stopper was the magnificent cake with its glorious icing that was served for dessert.

Dinner was followed with entertainment, and our own Grandma Sarah took the stage in her Christmas apron. Her comedy routine tickled the funny bones of

all ages, and everyone laughed while waiting for the next guest to arrive. And Santa did make it, to the delight of 40 excited children. Santa read stories to the youngsters, got everyone singing songs and made every child wait until all of them had their gifts before they could open them. With toys such as remote control cars and Barbie dolls, and iTunes cards for older kids, there was no one who left disappointed.

December 22, 2017, was the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Open House at 117 Industrial Road, Whitehorse. The building was transformed into a 'winter wonderland' where gifts and classy nibbles awaited the attendees. A steady stream of Citizens came through the doors throughout the day. Prominent community members, including Whitehorse Mayor Dan Curtis, Member of Yukon Legislative Assembly Nils Clarke and Member of Parliament Larry Bagnell, also attended. Few left empty-handed, as in addition to gifts, there were door prizes to take home.

We are grateful for the efforts of staff members, as well as the hard-working contractors who put in many hours in the kitchen. Decorations, gifts, food and fellowship made this a special season for Citizens.



1. Joe Jack enjoys the food at the Elders' Lunch.
2. The cake at the Citizens Christmas Party.
3. Santa enchants the crowd.
4. Three generations make Santa's 'nice' list: Diane Graham, Kara Sweeney and Lori Graham.

## DA DAGHAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION NEWS

The remaining two buildings at River Bend were ready for move-in January and March 2018. Please contact Grey Mountain Housing Society to submit your application.

Grey Mountain Housing Society  
[gmhadmin@northwestel.net](mailto:gmhadmin@northwestel.net)  
633.4880



Interested in employment or  
contract opportunities?

Follow Da Daghay or  
XY Charlie Crew on Facebook.

Don't forget to check  
[www.dadaghay.com](http://www.dadaghay.com) for  
updates.

## ANNIVERSARIES

### Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow

February 14, 2018 marked the forty-fifth anniversary of the presentation of *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*—the historic document that was presented to the Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau by a delegation of Yukon First Nation leaders on February 14, 1973. The document petitioned the Government of Canada to negotiate land claims with Yukon First Nations.

This event marked the beginning of a very long negotiation process for modern-day treaties in Yukon, and the first of four Self-government Agreements were signed in Yukon, Canada. This built on the process historically begun by Ta'an's Hereditary Chief Jim Boss in the early 1900s when he wrote to the Superintendent of Indian Affairs to seek recognition and protection of

his people and their lands. Ta'an Kwäch'än Council would like to acknowledge the many Ta'an Citizens who were a part of this important process. If it was not for their sustained efforts, we would not be where we are today.

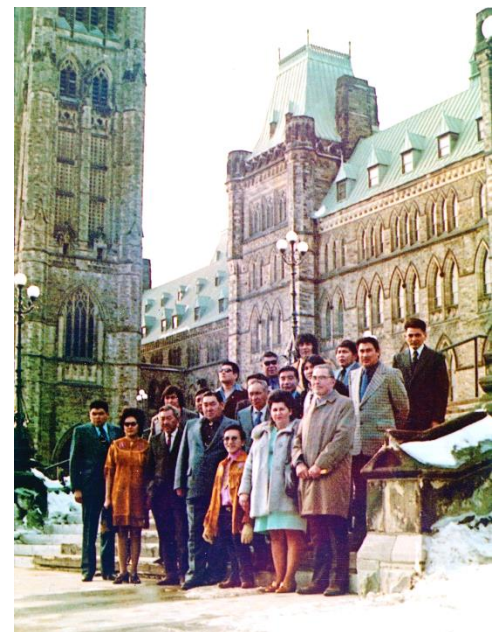
*Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow* is an amazing document that is still relevant today. It can be viewed at:

<https://cyfn.ca/agreements/together-today-for-our-children-tomorrow/>

### Umbrella Final Agreement

May 29, 2018 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA). The UFA was signed in 1993 by the Council for Yukon Indians (Council of Yukon First Nations) and the governments of Canada and Yukon. On this day, four Yukon First Nations signed their Final and Self-government Agreements: Champagne and Aishihik First

Nations, Teslin Tlingit Council, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun, and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. The document provided a template for Yukon First Nations as they negotiated their agreements. Ta'an Kwäch'än Council signed their Final and Self-government Agreements on January 13, 2002. On April 1, 2002, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council became a Self-governing First Nation.



The delegation in Ottawa, 1973  
Yukon Archives. Judy Gingell Collection,  
98174.1

## HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE URGES CITIZENS TO RECYCLE

Housing and Infrastructure would like to remind Citizens at Lake Laberge that their garbage should be out Thursday evenings for pickup. It also encourages Citizens to recycle! The Deep Creek Modified Transfer Station is open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from 9 am to 5 pm.

The Transfer Station accepts these categories of waste: household garbage, construction waste, hazardous waste, brush and clean wood. Importantly,



the Deep Creek Modified Transfer Station also accepts the following recyclable materials: electronic and electrical waste, tires, waste metals, aluminum cans, plastics and cardboard.

Jenna Rooney, Community Operations Supervisor with the Yukon Government, lets people know that recycling allows us to better manage the facility. “We can extend the life of our landfills and keep harmful chemicals and metals out of them,” Rooney says. Separating recyclable materials from other wastes keeps these materials from the landfill. It may help some plastic items eventually find new life as part of fencing or a fleece jacket.

Information at Yukon Government Deep Creek Modified  
Transfer Station Deep Creek Road  
[www.community.gov.yk.ca/cd/solidwaste\\_southeast.html](http://www.community.gov.yk.ca/cd/solidwaste_southeast.html)  
[ygrecycles@gov.yk.ca](mailto:ygrecycles@gov.yk.ca)  
667.8945

## YOUTH AND WINTER SPORTS

Traditionally, sports have been a very important part of life for First Nations youth. Competition helped develop skills that would be used to capture food, and, sometimes fight for one's life.

Sports remain important to many Ta'an youth. Kiawna Leas and Kadin Hare are two of the 1900 athletes competing in 19 sports at the Arctic Winter Games. Cohosted by Fort Smith and the Town of Hay River, Northwest Territories, the games take place from March 18 to 24, 2018. We look forward to hearing about the competitors' adventures.

Deputy Chief Michelle Telep spoke to excited Grade Six students at the opening of the forty-ninth Polar Games on February 1, 2018. The students had been brought together at the Canada Games Centre by the Yukon Schools Athletic Association. For two days, they engaged in friendly competition in sports such

as broomball, basketball, badminton, archery, speed skating, soccer, and swimming.

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council promotes healthy lifestyles and encourages Citizens to take advantage of Canada Games Centre passes from October to April.

For information about passes, contact  
Roberta Auston, Health and Wellness Coordinator  
[healthandwellness@taan.ca](mailto:healthandwellness@taan.ca)  
668.3613 ex. 407



Deputy Chief Michelle Telep with athlete Nataley Anderson

## WELCOMING STAFF TO TA'AN KWÄCH'ÄN COUNCIL

### **Robert Auston: Health and Wellness Coordinator**

Roberta Auston has come on board as Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's Health and Wellness Coordinator. Auston has worked in various aspects in the fields of social services and continuing care, so she has a real sense of the difficulties facing elderly Citizens and those who may require assistance.

Working closely within the First Nation communities has given Auston insights on how to successfully deliver programs for our Citizens' health and wellness needs and this experience will be a great asset for Ta'an. Although we are sad to see Auston leave the Council table, we're equally thrilled to be welcoming her to the Ta'an team!

Roberta Auston, Health and Wellness Coordinator  
New email! [healthandwellness@taan.ca](mailto:healthandwellness@taan.ca)  
668.3613 ex. 407



*Roberta Auston*

### **Donalda Easterson: Legislation and Policy Analyst**

Donalda Easterson, originally from Burwash Landing, is a Citizen of Kluane First Nation. She holds three degrees—BA in Anthropology, Bachelor of Law from the University of British Columbia, and Master of Law from the University of Ottawa. She is a member in good standing with the Law Society of Yukon and was a former co-legal counsel for her First Nation throughout the negotiation of its land claims agreements.

As someone who considers statutes to be “bedtime reading,” her role of Legislation and Policy Analyst will allow her to reconnect with her legal background in legislative drafting. She is also sure to contribute to the success of some very exciting legislation and policies that she will be undertaking for Ta'an.

Donalda Easterson, Legislation and Policy Analyst  
[legislationoffice@taan.ca](mailto:legislationoffice@taan.ca)  
668.3613 ex. 206



*Donalda Easterson*

## WHAT IT TAKES: ALYSHA KUFELDT TALKS ABOUT WINNING AN IMPORTANT NORTHERN FELLOWSHIP

When Alysha Kufeldt received an email from Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Health and Education Department about the Jane Glassco Northern Fellowship, she was intrigued. The two-year, project-based program helps northerners, ages 25 to 35, learn more about northern issues, leadership and policy development. This was an opportunity she knew she didn't want to miss.

Even though she was busy with her studies, Kufeldt decided to make the time to apply. The stellar student had just started the final year of her BA in English. To tackle the application process, she came up with a strategy she feels would work for others. She committed to filling out the application over a two-week period, a little at a time.

The form, she says, “was pretty standard. It asked about volunteer experience, past employment and involvement in the north.” Kufeldt had some impressive credentials to list. She had worked in programming for youth, and recently developed and implemented a summer day camp program for Ta'an. While attending

B.C.'s Trinity Western University, Kufeldt had been awarded a leadership grant, a student scholarship, the Dean's Scholarship Award and had also been on the Dean's List for the past three years of her BA program.

In a process that “felt like a whirlwind,” Kufeldt went to Vancouver for interviews. She met with former Yukon premier, Tony Penikett, the president of the program, and the CEO of the Gordon Foundation that administers the Jane Glassco Fellowship.\* Again, Kufeldt has tips to pass on to future applicants: “Just be confident in what you're talking about. Research the program that you're going to be doing, the company or the foundation that created the program.”

Kufeldt's strategies paid off. As a successful candidate, Kufeldt is now embarking on an exciting learning adventure. During the next two years she will engage in teleconferences and attend four group meetings in Whitehorse, Iqaluit, Ottawa and Yellowknife. She will work on policy-related projects in teams and individually, and receive the support of a mentor. “I know that I don't have a lot of experience in the area of policy,” Kufeldt admits, “but this program is about development, to

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\*The opinions expressed in this article are not necessarily those of the Gordon Foundation.



help us gain experience.” At press time Kufeldt was not sure what her project might be exactly, but her application focused on her area of interest—education.

Her plans after graduation include applying to the Yukon Native Teacher Education Program at Yukon College. Eventually, she hopes to teach in the Yukon. She also believes it is “inevitable that I will be involved with Ta'an. A lot of thankfulness comes in receiving funding and knowing that you would like to do well for them. They are contributing to my education and it is my duty to give back in any capacity.” We wish Kufeldt luck with her Jane Glassco Fellowship and have every reason to believe she will be successful.

In future newsletter issues, you will find out how other students aimed to excel in their education!

## April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Sunday	2 Easter Monday Office closed	3	4 *ESES Lunch and Tutoring Traditional Sewing 5 pm	5	6 Porter Creek Secondary School** Lunch and Tutoring	7
8	9 Äsqä K'e 4:30–6:30 pm	10	11 ESES Lunch and Tutoring Traditional Sewing 5 pm	12	13 PCSS Lunch and Tutoring Expectant Parent/Parent Lunch	14
15	16 Äsqä K'e 4:30–6:30 pm	17	18 ESES Lunch and Tutoring Traditional Sewing 5 pm	19	20 Porter Creek Secondary School Lunch and Tutoring	21
22	23 Äsqä K'e 4:30–6:30 pm	24	25 ESES Lunch and Tutoring Traditional Sewing 5 pm	26	27 Porter Creek Secondary School Lunch and Tutoring	28
29	30 Äsqä K'e 4:30–6:30 pm	*ESES=Elijah Smith Elementary School **PCSS=Porter Creek Secondary School				

## May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*ESES=Elijah Smith Elementary School **PCSS=Porter Creek Secondary School		1	2 *ESES Lunch and Tutoring Traditional Sewing 5 pm	3	4 Porter Creek Secondary School Lunch and Tutoring	5
6	7 Äsqä K'e 4:30–6:30 pm	8	9 ESES Lunch and Tutoring Traditional Sewing 5 pm	10 Mother's Day BBQ	11 PCSS Lunch and Tutoring Expectant Parent/Parent Lunch	12
13 Mother's Day	14 Äsqä K'e 4:30–6:30 pm	15	16 ESES Lunch and Tutoring Traditional Sewing 5 pm	17	18 Porter Creek Secondary School Lunch and Tutoring	19
20	21 Victoria Day Office closed	22	23 ESES Lunch and Tutoring Traditional Sewing 5 pm	24	25 Yukon First Nations Graduation Ceremony	26
27	28 Äsqä K'e 4:30–6:30 pm	29	30 ESES Lunch and Tutoring Traditional Sewing 5 pm	31		

## June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Äsqä K'e 4:30–6:30 pm	5	6 Traditional Sewing 5 pm	7	8 <i>Expectant Parent/ Parent Lunch</i>	9
10	11	12	13 Traditional Sewing 5 pm	14 Father's Day BBQ	15	16
17 <i>Father's Day</i>	18	19	20 Traditional Sewing 5 pm	21 <i>Aboriginal Day Office closed</i>	22	23
24	25	26	27 Traditional Sewing 5 pm	28	29	30

## Event Contacts

**Roberta Behn, [rbehn@taan.ca](mailto:rbehn@taan.ca), 668.3613 ex. 403**

Äsqä K'e, 47 McIntyre Drive, Whitehorse  
Traditional Sewing, 117 Industrial Drive, Health and Education Building

**Erin Cote, [youthsupport@taan.ca](mailto:youthsupport@taan.ca), 334.8306**

Elijah Smith Elementary School (ESES) Lunch and Tutoring, Ms. Pye's room  
Porter Creek Secondary School Lunch and Tutoring, Ping-pong room  
Yukon First Nations Graduation Ceremony, Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre

**Amanda Leas, [aleas@taan.ca](mailto:aleas@taan.ca), 668.3613 ex. 203**

Mother's Day BBQ  
Father's Day BBQ

**Julie Laliberte, [familysupport@taan.ca](mailto:familysupport@taan.ca), 668.3613 ex. 405**

New! Expectant parent/parent lunch (children up to age five welcome)  
Noon to 1pm  
117 Industrial Drive, Health and Education Building  
Second Friday each month. Chat! Eat! Learn about community resources.

Check our  
website at [taan.ca](http://taan.ca)  
for updates and  
more events.

View your  
newsletter on-  
line, check for  
news about  
employment,  
youth, programs,  
and Lands Act at  
[taan.ca](http://taan.ca)!

## WHAT'S GOING ON IN EDUCATION?

### Attendance Matters

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council is piloting an Attendance Initiative to celebrate student attendance. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 who achieve 80% or higher attendance or who improve their attendance by at least 15% this year will be eligible for trophies and cool prizes. The elementary and secondary student with the best attendance for the year will win a new bike—worth \$500! Contact the Youth Outreach and Education Support Worker, Erin Cote.

### Tutoring Support

Free one-on-one tutoring is available to all Ta'an Kwäch'än Council students attending Kindergarten to Grade 12 in Whitehorse schools. Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Education staff is also working on rotation in Whitehorse schools and can provide tutoring support during school hours.

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council is now offering homework help and a free lunch! Students can drop in every Wednesday at Elijah Smith Elementary School or come for tutoring and a free lunch every Friday at Porter Creek Secondary School in the 'ping-pong room.' Homework gets done before school even finishes! Come check it out.

### Post-Secondary Funding

Are you continuing your studies this summer? Are you planning on going back to school this fall? Looking for summer student employment? Contact Education Support Worker, Jessica Bryant, to find out how Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's Health and Education Department can help!

#### Post-Secondary Funding Deadlines 2018

Summer semester—March 15

Fall semester—July 15

Winter semester—November 15



Erin Cote

Youth Outreach and Education  
Support Worker

[youthsupport@taan.ca](mailto:youthsupport@taan.ca)

334.8306

Attendance initiative, tutoring,  
graduation or financial assistance for  
graduation regalia

Jessica Bryant

Education Support Worker

[jbryant@taan.ca](mailto:jbryant@taan.ca)

668.3613 ex. 403

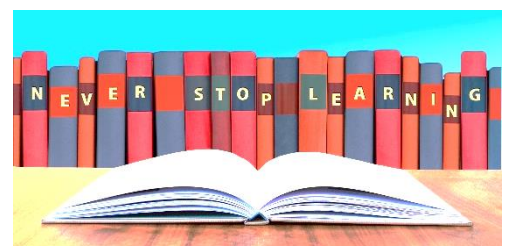
Post-secondary funding



### Graduation Time!

The Yukon First Nations Graduation Ceremony is going to be held on May 25, 2018 at Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. Please note that all graduates must submit a registration form prior to the event to be part of the ceremonies. Please contact Erin Cote for more about this celebration.

The Yukon College Convocations Ceremony will take place on May 18, 2018 at the Yukon Arts Centre. All graduates must *apply to graduate* and to be included in the convocation ceremony. Please contact Yukon College Student Services or visit the Yukon College website <http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/admissions/graduation> for more information. This event is free to the public, so come out and celebrate the achievements of our new graduates!



## SOCIAL WORK STUDENT ON PRACTICUM

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's Health and Education Department has been happy to welcome a practicum student from January to April 2018. Nikki Dillman is the third social work student that the department has mentored. Education and Training Coordinator Heather Griffiths is pleased that Ta'an supports learning in very real ways. "We are encouraged to have students," she says, "and we are given the time and support needed to help a student."

Dillman is in her fourth year of her Bachelor of Social Work at Yukon College. She is delighted to be at Ta'an, where she has a number of family connections. "My grandma was born in the old village," Dillman explains. "She was the daughter of Frank and Angie Slim." Dillman didn't specifically request Ta'an as her placement, as students cannot make particular requests. However, she was very glad when she found out that her Yukon College supervisor had matched her with the Ta'an program.

As Dillman's supervisor, Griffiths, feels that one of



*Nikki Dillman and Heather Griffiths*

the intended advantages of the placement is that "Nikki will get to wear many hats. A First Nation experience can be more flexible and richer than that of a large government." Griffiths and Dillman, for example, had already visited a Citizen in the hospital, something that may not have happened in another setting. "I really like the relationship that Heather has with her clients," Dillman says, "you don't get that many places."

Dillman will attend meetings and work with different staff members on a variety of projects, while keeping an eye on her interests of substance abuse and youth. There is no doubt that by the end of her term, both the student and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council will have been enriched!

## NALOXONE TRAINING

Staff members took naloxone training with the Yukon Government Opioid Overdose Prevention Coordinator on January 11, 2018. Eight staff members participated, received training and a kit to potentially assist a person in distress from an opioid drug overdose.

A Government of Yukon media release stated the benefit of the training program: "Naloxone is a safe drug that temporarily reverses overdoses caused by opioid drugs such as fentanyl or heroin. It can buy time and save lives before the paramedics arrive."



*Debbie Burns focuses on training*

On January 12, 2018, CBC reported eight deaths in Yukon had been linked to fentanyl since April 2016. Ta'an Kwäch'än Council aims to prepare staff to make a difference if needed.

Read more about the naloxone kits  
<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/17-022.html>

## YOUTH TRY GLASS BLOWING!

On Saturday November 25, 2018, a number of Ta'an Kwäch'än youth attended a glass blowing event at the "Happiness Factory," Lumel Studios in Whitehorse. Youth were given the opportunity to create their own piece of glasswork.

Many who attended had a fantastic time working with Lumel glassblowers to create unique paperweights and ornaments just in time for Christmas. Participants were treated to hot chocolate and Timbits, a great help on a cold day.



*Alexander LeBarge learns a new skill.*

Erin Cote  
Youth Outreach and Education  
Support Worker  
[youthsupport@taan.ca](mailto:youthsupport@taan.ca)  
334.8306

So many great things going on! Events and opportunities  
for youth appear non-stop at [Taana.ca](http://Taana.ca)



*A bald eagle feeds on lake trout.*

Deb Fulmer  
Fish and Wildlife Coordinator  
[dfulmer@taan.ca](mailto:dfulmer@taan.ca)  
668.3613 ex. 603

## CHOOSE WHICH FISH ARE BEST FOR YOU TO EAT

In general, Yukon adults do not need to limit consumption of locally caught fish. However, eating lake trout or burbot that are less than 60 cm (24 inches) in length can help limit mercury intake.

Women of childbearing age and children under 12 should limit their consumption of large Yukon lake trout and burbot according to the following guidelines.

Fish length	Weight	Recommendation
Under 40 cm/24 inches	907 g/2 lbs.	Unlimited
40–60 cm/ 15–24 inches	907 g/2 lbs. to 2.7 kg/6 lbs.	Three to four meals/week
Longer than 60 cm/24 inches	Under 2.7 kg/6 lbs.	One or two meals/week

Fish are a delicious traditional food and can continue to be a valuable source of protein for Ta'an Citizens.

## CARING FOR CHINOOK SALMON BABIES IN WINTER

Is it true that fish never sleep? One correct fish fact is that when being raised from eggs, baby salmon or alevin never stop needing care if they are to become healthy adults. The 30,000 Chinook salmon eggs that Ta'an Kwäch'än Council staff took to McIntyre Creek Incubation Facility in the fall, have since turned into small fish, about three centimetres long, with big bellies.

Their tummies—their former egg sacs—contain all the food necessary for them to survive at the alevin stage of life. However, these tiny fish need other factors to be just right in order to thrive.

They require constantly moving water to provide oxygen, as well as daily and weekly maintenance. Ta'an Kwäch'än Council staff visit at least once a week to keep their trays clean, remove any decaying matter, and update the daily record of their progress.

With such good care, it is hoped that the baby Chinook salmon will survive to enter the next or 'button up' phase. Their stomachs will close, they will start eating other food and be ready to go into the outdoor pools in late March. After that, we very much look forward to the day in July when we can celebrate the Chinook fry release into Fox Creek.

P.S. Fish apparently sleep, or at least rest, with their eyes open.



*Tiny Chinook salmon*



*Deb Fulmer and Betsy Jackson after their presentation at the Yukon River Panel in December 2017.*

## LANDS ACT COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Ta'an Kwäch'än Lands Act community meetings have been held throughout the winter, with the first taking place on December 6, 2017. Citizens of all ages are engaging in conversations about how to advance the development of Ta'an Kwäch'än Council legislation. Agendas, minutes and related documents are being posted regularly. See [http://taan.ca/departments/lands-resources-and-heritage/lands/lands\\_act\\_information/](http://taan.ca/departments/lands-resources-and-heritage/lands/lands_act_information/)



*Lori Graham, Marlene Johns, Patti Boss and Darlene Johns*

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## UNDERSTANDING YESAA

### What does YESAA mean?

YESAA stands for the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*, which is federal legislation that applies specifically to the Yukon.

### Where did it come from?

The origin of YESAA can be found in Chapter 12 of the *Umbrella Final Agreement*. It was developed in collaboration between the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Yukon Territorial Government, and the Canadian Government. Chapter 12 is also contained in the *Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Final Agreement*, and includes assessment details specific to Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

### What is the purpose of YESAA?

YESAA allows for an opportunity to identify and evaluate the environmental and socio-economic effects of proposed projects or developments. Any effects that are identified, as well as First Nation and public concerns, are to be taken into consideration when land use decisions are made. The process should prevent the approval of any projects that do irreparable harm to social or ecological systems.

### How does YESAA work?

The proponent makes an application

to YESAB (Yukon Environmental Social-Economic Assessment Board), which is the body responsible for completing the assessment. YESAB reviews the application to determine if it is adequate and may request more information from the proponent.

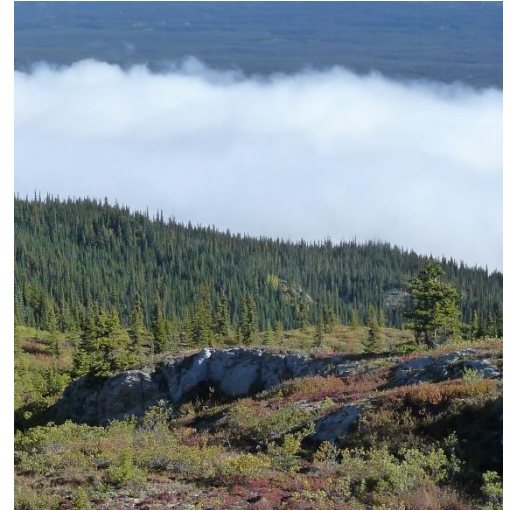
Once there is enough information to proceed, YESAB seeks input from First Nation governments, interested or affected organizations or parties, and the public. When the comment period is over, YESAB completes its assessment and makes the recommendation that the project proceeds, proceeds with conditions, or does not proceed. The recommendations are forwarded to the decision body, which is the Yukon Government on non-settlement land, or First Nation Governments on Settlement Land. The decision body accepts, modifies, or rejects the recommendation.

### How does it involve Yukon First Nations?

The purposes outlined in YESAA 2003 include:

*“To protect and promote the well-being of Yukon First Nation persons and their societies and Yukon residents generally, as well as the interest of other Canadians.”*

*“To recognize, and to the extent practicable, enhance the traditional economy of Yukon First Nation*



*Traditional Territories viewed from Grey Mountain*

*persons and their special relationship with the wilderness environment.”*

*“To guarantee opportunities for the participation of Yukon First Nation persons – and to make use of their knowledge and experience in the assessment process.”*

### The take-away!

The YESAA process should continually remind us of how important it is to fully consider all values before making land-use decisions. It gives us a chance to be active participants in our democracy and will continue to play an important part in the realization of Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's vision statement and mission.

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## OUR PLACE NAMES

Män Tl'ät (Shallow Bay or Lake Bay) was one of the most important traditional hunting and fishing areas for Ta'an Kwäch'än people. This area was one where food could be found when the other areas had little. Män Tl'ät was also known as a gathering place for many families when the whitefish spawn took place during the months of October and November. Ta'an Kwäch'än people were able to access this area since they lived on both sides of Lake Laberge. The area around Shallow Bay was also the location of many traditional cremation sites.

Luzhel Män (Fish Lake) is located northwest of Whitehorse. As today, the lake was known as an important place where food sources such as fish, moose and berries could be harvested. People followed traditional trails from the Yukon River (Tàgà Shāw) up the valley of McIntyre Creek to harvest the food resources here. The Southern Tutchone name refers to “skimming fish grease” as traditionally people would get fish in the late summer and place them in a trough to ferment. Then the fat from the fish would be skimmed off and used in cooking or to make a type of candle for light.

Chamia (Pike Slough) is located on the Yukon River (Tàgà Shāw), just south of Lake Laberge. The Southern Tutchone name for this spot refers to “where you set fish nets” because it was a good area for fishing. Pike Slough was also known as “Steamboat Slough,” as the British Yukon Navigation Company stored several of its steamboats here as it was worried about possible Japanese air attacks during World War Two.



*Män Tl'ät— Shallow Bay*

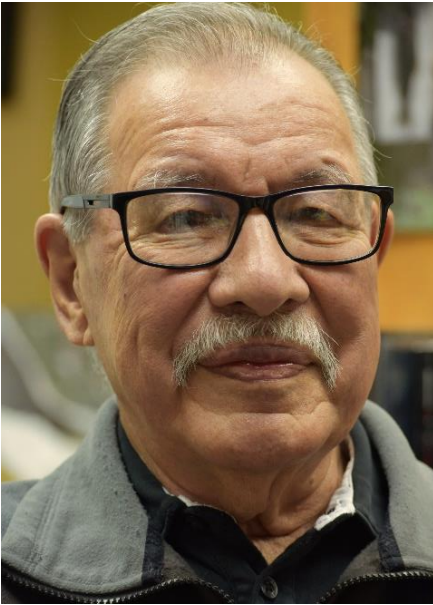


*Luzhel Män—Fish Lake*



*Chamia—Pike Slough*

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Heritage Technician  
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## SUMMER JOBS IN THE 1940S

Jim Miller spoke to the Yukon Native Teacher Education Program graduates in fall 2017, and noted that during his teenage years, instead of attending school, young people “felt we had to get to work right away. That was the most important thing in a young Native person’s life then.” His own jobs began at an early age.

Miller was the second eldest of five children and the only boy born to Jim and Elsie (Smith) Miller. His mother died when he was 10, and the care for his younger sisters and himself fell to his father and older sister, then aged 12. When he was 13, the young man began washing dishes at the White Pass Hotel’s Grill Café. Miller used the money he made to help out with the family expenses and to buy himself some new clothes (he was tired of overalls).

At age 14, Miller took a friend’s advice and signed on with the sternwheeler *Aksala* for the summer of 1948. The teen’s duties were to help the cook, “wash dishes and peel potatoes.” He rose early, fetched and carried, served deckhands their meals, tidied up, mopped, and did many other tasks. He worked from mid-May until mid-September when it was so cold, that when the boat “pulled into Lake Laberge, we had to

tie up for a couple hours and put the steam hoses on the paddlewheel, the ice was so thick on it.” Miller was finished working for the season, but signed back on in the same capacity in the summer of 1949 with the steamship *Whitehorse*.

Today, Miller remembers some of the physical differences about the town of Whitehorse that were dictated by the steamships’ needs. Wood piles were found at different places, such as Happy Lepage’s woodlot near where the hospital is now, and of course along the river route. An ice house was located near the White Pass Railway building where ice blocks were stored in sawdust until they were lifted by giant tongs onto the ships. Later pieces would be chiseled off for use in iceboxes.

On the ships, the young employee found that the crew, mostly up from Vancouver, was treated well. For example, the deckhands could choose from several selections for their meals. When they pulled into Whitehorse, the cook would often give the lad a whole pie and say, “Take this to your sisters.”

Also, he felt he was well paid at 90 dollars a month. But in 1950, Miller heard from a friend that he could make a dollar an hour with the government telegraph company, and so he decided to give it a try.



*Jim Miller and Terry Delaney, with his broom and dustpan, on the Whitehorse.*



*Jim Miller and Harold Irvine aboard the Whitehorse.*

That summer, Miller spent May to August climbing up poles, cutting brush and carrying out telegraph maintenance along the Yukon River. He enjoyed living out of camps outside Whitehorse up to Little Salmon River. “I was used to that life from being in the bush with my mother,” Miller says. “And with my uncles we were always fishing or hunting—hunting anything that moved.” The telegraph crew had one day off every two weeks. That’s when he remembers washing clothes, but also “shooting guns and having fun like that.”

When the telegraph work ended in August, Miller signed on with the *Nitsulin*, where his friend Harold Irvine was working. This little steamship ran up the Stewart River to Mayo, transporting freight one way and ore the other. The road had just opened that fall and the steamships were on their last runs. When the work was over, Miller travelled back to Whitehorse along the newly opened ‘road.’ It was little more than a track and so muddy that it meant winching the truck up most hills. The trip took two days.

That fall, Miller had had enough of formal education and, with his teacher’s blessing, left school. His father agreed to his son’s decision on one condition: the teenager would have to have a job by Monday if he wasn’t going back to school.

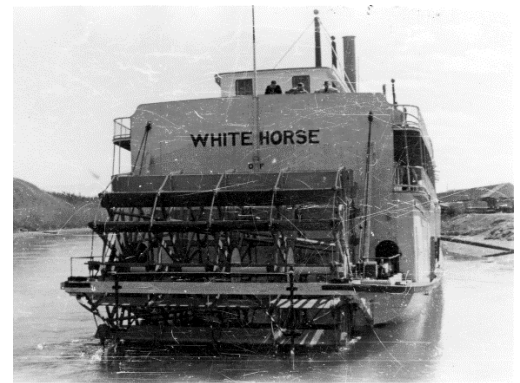
Timidly, the teen approached George Rider a few days later when Rider was delivering water to the Miller house on Strickland Street. In addition to delivering water, Rider also hauled human waste and operated woodlots. “Are you looking for good men?” Miller asked nervously. “Yes, do you know any?” Rider slowly replied. Miller proposed himself, but Rider questioned his size. “I may be small,” Miller rejoined, “but I am strong.” He was hired and within a few days he was driving a truck, even though he had never really driven one before!

The next year, 16-year-old Miller’s working life was derailed with tuberculosis. After seven years away, he was able to return to Whitehorse and worked for nearly 27 years for the White Pass and Yukon Route Railway company. When he spoke to the YNTEP graduates in 2017, his closing words of encouragement were: “You will get out of things what you put into them. Work hard, as with hard work I am sure you will succeed.” Pluck and hard work on summer jobs had launched Miller in life: some things do not change.

Watch for more stories from our Elders. Regarding stories and newsletter items, contact [communicationsoffice@taan.ca](mailto:communicationsoffice@taan.ca) 668.3613 ex. 204



*The Aksala. Yukon Archives, Claude and Mary Tidd Collection, YA 7484.*




*Sternwheeler Whitehorse. Yukon Archives, YA 1540*



*The Nitsulin. Yukon Archives, Robert Ward Collection, 8825.*

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council  
wants Citizens to know  
citizenship card applications  
are now available at the  
Administration Building.

Name: Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Citizen Card #: 1001

 Date of birth: 04/01/2002  
Date of issue: 09/28/2017  
Expiry date: 09/28/2022  
mm/dd/yyyy

People of the Lake

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Citizen Identification Card

If found please return to: 117 Industrial Road, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2T8  
Tel: (867) 668-3613 Email: [info@taan.ca](mailto:info@taan.ca) website: [www.taan.ca](http://www.taan.ca)

The bearer of this card is a Citizen of Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and is entitled to the rights and benefits outlined in the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Final Agreement and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Self-Government Agreement.

Signature: not required

The mission of our Citizens and its government is to provide, promote, protect and sustain a healthy and strong lifestyle for our Citizens and future generations consistent with the traditional values of the Ta'an Kwäch'än, through governing our natural, human and financial resources effectively.

If you have filled out an  
application, don't forget we  
need to take your picture to  
complete the citizenship card  
application process.

Felicia Gordon  
Enrollment Coordinator  
668-3613 ex. 207  
[enroll@taan.ca](mailto:enroll@taan.ca)

High school and post-  
secondary students, are you  
interested in summer  
employment? Find out about  
Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's  
summer job program.



Bobbie Kufeldt  
Human Resources Advisor  
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<http://taan.ca/job-opportunities/>

## Ta'an Kwäch'än Council

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Facsimile: 867.667.4295

E-mail: [info@taan.ca](mailto:info@taan.ca)



Citizens, please remember to  
forward your changes of address.

NEW!

**Expectant parent/ parent lunch**  
Children up to age five welcome

Second Friday of each month, noon

Health and Education Board Room

Julie Laliberte  
Family Support Worker  
668.3613 ex. 405  
[Familysupport@taan.ca](mailto:Familysupport@taan.ca)

Chat! Eat! Learn about  
community resources!

