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Shirley Adamson is a member of the Wolf Clan and Citizen of the Ta'an Kwäch'än. She kept the young ones captivated with her traditional teachings during August's Family Camp. **For more coverage please see page 7**

Message from Chief and Deputy Chief

Dännch'a! Welcome to the Fall edition of the TKC Newsletter. In this issue, we reflect on the many activities that kept us very busy this past summer and into the fall.

TKC had some wonderful programming including summer youth activities, Culture camp, Family camp, a Men's camp and a Women's camp. These are great opportunities for us to come together and spend time laughing, sharing, and building our relationships. We encourage all Citizens to come out and become involved in the activities and programming that continues to take place at TKC.

TKC has been reaching out to Citizens to participate in a socio-economic gap survey. This survey covers a variety of topics such as housing, education, community well-being, and community safety. Information gathered will be used to develop an action plan to access funding and develop programming for Citizens. A big thank you to all those who participated!

Housing is a high priority for TKC Citizens. Recently, Council approved the Home Renovation Fund for Citizens who own their own homes within TKC traditional territory. The intent of this policy is to help those in greatest need. Many Citizens have already come forward with interest to access this fund.

TKC successfully re-negotiated our Federal Transfer Agreement (FTA) with the Government of Canada and this has resulted in significant funding increases. We are also working on an agreement for the repayment of negotiations loans that were incurred during our land claims negotiations. TKC will receive just under \$14 million over five years, once the agreement is finalized.

Leadership continues to attend and participate in Yukon Forum, Intergovernmental Forum, CYFN Leadership meetings, and Yukon Assembly of First Nations regional meetings. Chief Kane is currently Co-Chair of the CYFN Chiefs Committee on Education and sits on the National AFN Chief's Committee on Charter Renewal, and the National AFN National Fisheries Committee.

Please stay tuned to our website and on our Facebook page for updates and information on TKC programs and events. We also have our monthly bulletin that is mailed out to Citizens.

In unity, Chief Kristina Kane & Deputy Chief Christina Peters





unativitie and trail management before a dail falls. Als

Council Notes

From the approval of new policies to benefit Citizens, review of the Financial Audit and many other important items, the Council had a busy summer. In terms of policies, Council approved the Physical Activity Fund Policy that provides Citizens up to \$540 annually for a wide variety of purposes. This policy is aimed at encouraging Citizens to be physically active in order to promote good physical and mental health. Another policy that passed is the Home Renovation Fund Policy. This policy is for Citizens who both own and occupy their own homes on TKC Traditional Territory, to receive support for renovation needs that help to address various health, safety, and environmental issues or which might otherwise contribute to the deterioration of the investment in their home.

Lastly, the Potlatch Donations Policy was updated after more than a decade. The sums have been significantly increased to reflect the heavy expenses incurred by the families in the event of the passing of a loved one. Salmon were also on the agenda during the last few months. Council approved two contribution agreements to enable Ta'an to continue to prioritize the work in the restoration of the Chinook Salmon stock at Fox Creek, which is especially critical following last year's unfortunate events at the hatchery.

Council approved the replacement of the roof of the current Administration building to prevent the infiltration of water. This follows earlier work to replace the flooring on the lower level of the building.

Council approved Yukon Government and the Government of Canada to begin its assessment in the remediation and reclaiming of a long inactive placer mining site on a Settlement Land Parcel just off the Klondike Highway near Horse Creek. YG and Canada will be funding the entirety of the site remediation as they recognize responsibility should not fall upon TKC.

Council also instructed the Lands, Resources and Heritage Department to start exploring the and opportunities of residential possibilities development on Site Specific Parcels (also known as S-Sites). The goal is to facilitate the access of Citizens in developing specific parcels for residential purposes that have been historically designated and used over generations by the Traditional Families. While S-Sites do not come close to the size of other TKC Settlement Lands, doing so would be helpful in determining the most appropriate use of these particular lands as we advance towards a comprehensive Lands Act.

Council decided to restructure the Health and Education Department differently with its division into two departments, with Wellness and Citizen Development themes. With Winter arriving, the Housing Department was approved by Council to purchase a new Dodge Truck with a snowplow. Council approved the disposal of the previous Skidoos and ATVs to happen at the General Assembly in a draw for Citizens. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed concerning Mining. Most of the expertise was provided by other First Nations such as Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Nacho Nyak Dun who have significant mining on their Traditional Territories. They led the way and established recommendations for this Mining MOU. While the scope of mining activity on TKC Traditional Territory is negligible in comparison to other YFNs, TKC provided its full support.

In Implementation matters, the renewal of the Financial Transfer Agreement was negotiated and approved by Council. Moreover, the sum of nearly \$13 million was negotiated as part of the Negotiations Loans Repayment. The annual Financial Audit was also closely examined by the Council and approved.

The Da Daghay Development Corporation attended Chief and Council to discuss the ongoing Administration Building Project and Phase 2 of the Riverbend project. Council decided that the extensive public consultation on the Administration building had run its course and that DDDC were to proceed forward with the project and the funding applications. In regards to Riverbend, Council approved the lease of eight additional units within the new phase.

Elders Council Notes

The Elders Council dealt with a variety of topics and issues with the primary focus during this period being on the renewed Rules of Procedure of the Judicial Council. The TKC as well as Councilors attended two Elders Council meetings for an in-depth review. Judges Michael Dougherty, Barbara Evans and Darla Jean Lindstrom answered questions raised by Elders and Councillors.

> Elisha Sidoun Clerk of the Council clerkofcouncil@taan.ca (867) 668-3613 ext. 210

Welcome to the Team!



Hannah Gray GIS Technician



Hannah moved to Whitehorse in 2013 from her hometown of Sidney, British Columbia after graduating from the University of Victoria with a BSc in Geography. Her recent employment as a GIS Specialist with EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc had Hannah involved in mapping and analysis for a variety of fish and wildlife studies for

projects across Yukon, British Columbia and Nunavut. Hannah was also involved in fieldwork for a Chinook salmon restoration project, and many aquatic monitoring and terrestrial fieldwork projects across the Yukon. She has also created maps for the Government of Yukon including the campground maps found at many YG campgrounds. In her free time Hannah enjoys spending time outdoors mountain biking, hiking, skiing and doing DIY home projects and gardening. Please join us in welcoming Hannah to the Ta'an Team!! You can reach Hannah at: gisanalyst@taan.ca or (867) 668-3613 ext. 606



Denise Gordon Natural Resources Technician

Denise grew up in northern British Columbia and has called the Yukon home for almost ten years. Her previous work experience includes working as the Habitat Technician at the Department of Environment for YG. In this role she coordinated projects such as wetland inventory, vegetation assessments and lynx necropsies. Denise holds a BSc in Environmental Science from the University of Alberta where she studied land reclamation, soils, and botany. She loves to be outdoors in nature, spending time gardening, berry picking and learning about plants. With her interest

in sewing, Denise completed her first Yukon parka last winter! Sounds like mitts might be next!! Please join us in welcoming Denise to the Ta'an Team!! You can reach Denise at: resources@taan.ca or (867) 668-3613 ext. 602.

Arctic Winter Games
International Committee invited
TKC youth to offer a Hand Games
demonstration for the AWG
committee.

Kadin Hare (centre) led the demonstration.



Summer students bring a wealth of assistance and 'can do' spirit



Summer students Sarrah Telep and Brooklyn Massie were instrumental in helping organize and carry out the Summer Day Camp's Rock Climbing trip that took place on Ta'an Kwäch'än Traditional Territory.

Over the summer, TKC was fortunate to hire six fantastic summer students: high school graduates Bêlit Peters, Kadin Hare, and Sarrah Telep; high school student, Brooklyn Massie; new postsecondary graduate, LeaAnne Geddes and doctoral student, Caroline Grady. The program had students placed in supporting positions in Health, Education and the Land's Department. All the summer students did an amazing job in their roles! Both Bêlit Peters and Kadin Hare brought their positive attitudes and their drive to work each day, as they assisted the land's crew out on the traditional territory of the Ta'an People. Sarrah Telep and Brooklyn Massie brought their enthusiasm and can-do spirit to the Children's Day Camp Program and were amazing role models to the children—thank you!

"No task was too great or small" for TKC Citizen, LeaAnne Geddes, noted Bobbie Kufeldt, TKC's Human Resources Advisor. "LeaAnne worked so well with the students and youth at the Day Camp; however, she felt the greatest satisfaction assisting in the delivery of programs and services for the Elders." LeaAnne, a recent graduate of the Health Care Assistant Program at Yukon College, brought a wealth of knowledge into her role. Caroline Grady, who is currently pursuing her Doctorate Degree in Law, was also a tremendous asset with her contributions to the TKC's Lands Resources & Heritage Department. "Knowing the importance of

getting our Land's Act on track, Caroline continued to firm up all the research needed to move to the next phase in the final development of the current draft of the Lands Act," noted LRH department staff.

"We've been really happy with being able to offer meaningful jobs to students," said Education Support Worker, Jessica Bryant. "Students have opportunities to access training and certification and to network with other professionals in their fields of interest. The goal of the program is to meet students where they are, to find out their passions and goals, and then to provide them with work experience that will further them on their career paths," noted Jessica. "It can feel like it takes time to see the results of this kind of programming; however, we are starting to see our summer students graduate and choose to become permanent employees of the TKC government. Others are securing jobs in their fields. It feels pretty amazing to know that the summer employment program is succeeding at building capacity within the First Nation and supporting Citizens to become active and incredibly skilled members of the work force."

We would like to say a big thank you to the students for all their hard work and dedication this past summer! We sincerely hope to have you back again next year!

TKC traditional sewing group gets funding boost



The weekly Ta'an sewing group has some good news to share about its traditional sewing group.

TKC was chosen as one of four Yukon groups to receive grant money under the Continuing Our Journey National Indian Brotherhood (NIB) Trust Fund.

The NIB Trust Fund recently approved approximately \$6.5 million in funding to 84 groups and organizations who offer cultural and healing programs to First Nations across Canada, of which it received more than 160 applications. The NIB Trust Fund allocates funds in accordance with the 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, the largest settlement agreement in Canadian history.

The settlement agreement provides compensation to survivors for their experiences at residential schools. Funds are available to First Nation and Métis individuals, governments and organizations through a competitive application process.

"In this time of reconciliation where we are working to address the harms of residential schools, it is my honour and privilege to contribute to the advancement of healing, promoting Indigenous languages and culture revitalization," said Arnold Blackstar, NIB Trust Fund Executive Director.

"This is a great opportunity to help facilitate First Nations people who are looking for support to bring about positive changes for themselves and their communities".

Roberta Behn, Heritage Programs Coordinator, says the grant money will go towards sewing materials and other events throughout the year. The weekly sewing group gets together every Wednesday evening starting at 5 p.m. at the TKC's Health & Wellness building.



Roberta Behn, Heritage Programs Coordinator rbehn@taan.ca (867) 668-3613 ext. 403

Safety First

TKC has formed a working group to strategize a plan for community safety. With supports from Public Safety Canada in the way of a facilitator, Chris Lafontaine, several Citizens met to provide insight into what a community safety plan could look like for TKC. The group looked at the history of TKC to understand how we came to be in this place and what are some barriers that prevent success. TKC is also looking at ways to "celebrate" Ta'an Kwäch'än. Examples include cleaning up Lake Laberge and recognizing Citizens' achievements. We would like your suggestions on ways we can hold up those members who have successes. The Community Safety working group will continue to meet and develop an action plan for community safety.

> Roberta Auston, Health & Wellness Coordinator healthandwellness@taan.ca (867) 668-3613 ext. 407

Family Camp and Men's Camp August 9-11 (Helen's Fish Camp)

Roberta Auston, Health & Wellness Coordinator healthandwellness@taan.ca (867) 668-3613 ext. 407

The annual camps were met with a downpour of rain on the very first morning but the weather did cooperate nicely after that. The camp had a focus on a values system that came from the 7 Grandfather Teachings, presented by visiting Six Nations Lenape facilitator lan Angus. We took two hours each morning to discuss respect, honor, truth, wisdom, bravery, love



and humility. Our afternoons were busy with making soapberry ice cream, language lessons, archery training with Les Johns, jam-making with Kim Carlick and storytelling with Elder Jim Miller. Other workshops included mini drum-making with Roberta Behn and paddle carving and painting with Stewart Tizya. With donated salmon, participants also learned the traditional way to cut, smoke and dry salmon.

The children were kept busy with activities in the Kids' Tent. It was wonderful to see the traditional value teachings accepted by the participants and that they showed such encouragement. Each participant enjoyed what they learned about harvesting fish and had a small portion to take home with them. Participants also learned how to carve, sand and paint a paddle. Some took their unfinished artwork home and completed them and returned to show their handiwork. Archery was interesting and participants were attentive in learning this practice. Elder Jim Miller offered stories centered around Lake LaBerge and many young people wanted to hear more stories.

Traditional Language Instructor Nicole Smith reviewed the Ta'an Kwäch'än place names map in Southern Tutchone. This was very interesting and it showed the name of the place with its identifying words and why it was given that name, e.g 'A place to get a certain type of fish.'







If you would like a copy of a photo, please contact the Communications



Office at (867) 668-3613, ext. 204 or email: communicationsoffice@taan.ca

Yukon Forum





Chief Kane attended Yukon Forum on Teslin Tlingit Traditional Territory in September 2019. Here, Yukon First Nation Chiefs, Council of Yukon First Nation's Grand Chief, the Premier, and Cabinet members discussed a variety of topics including Fish and Wildlife, Child Welfare, the Representative Public Service Plan, Justice, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and Yukon Days.



Going Hunting (Ładiya)

From the Southern Tutchone Phrase Book, Tàá'an Män Dialect, by Hazel Nakhela Bunbury. (Available at TKC)

Where are you going? Jù djíya? I am going hunting. Ładiíshàl. What are you going hunting for? Ye ka ładiiya. I am going hunting for moose. Khànay ka ładiíya.

Elders Gathering in Winnipeg

A group of Ta'an Kwäch'än Elders got the chance to attend the National Gathering of Elders in Winnipeg in late September.

This gathering offered Elders, for the second time in Canadian history, an opportunity to get together in the spirit of friendship and reconciliation with other Elders from every regional Indigenous group in Canada.

The agenda included several ceremonies, as well as specialized forums on topics including reconciliation, language and culture, missing and murdered, climate change, as well as children and family. Betsy Jackson, who was one of the Elders who travelled to Winnipeg, updated the TKC Elders Council on the event at their October 16 meeting.

"From my perspective it was well attended by Elders all across Canada and the message I got from the different sessions I went to was we need to go back to the land," says Betsy.

"One common question being asked was 'How do we as grandparents help our young people?" Betsy explained. "Not necessarily the way we did when our ancestors were there, but using the land for teachings, just going out there and being healthy."

Bill Bruton, Elders Council Chair agreed with the message coming from the conference, noting, "We need to get back to learning the spiritual values, something we have been losing steadily. We need to come back to that. We need to do ceremony more."



Porter Creek Secondary School also unveiled two Elder Wall Panels. The portrait of **Chief Jim Boss** is now part of the school's permanent Southern Tutchone signage project, also officially launched on September 25.

Chief Kane spoke to students and those gathered on September 25 at Porter Creek Secondary School. The school officially raised the flags of the Ta'an Kwäch'än and Kwanlin Dun First Nation. The flags will now remain on full display at the high school.



Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's 2019





Weather cooperated nicely during preparation.



Natalie Hare kept the production going.



Charlotte Kane inspects the progress made. Altogether 163 jars of canning were produced!



'Moccasins proud'

Roberta Behn, Heritage Program Coordinator, says those who attended this year's Women's Retreat were presented with a kit containing all the ingredients to make their own pair of moccasins during the three-day retreat held at Helen's Fish Camp in late September.

by Thalia Hare and Roberta Behn

Our "Women's Retreat" was held September 25-27, 2019 at Helen's Fish Camp. We had an overwhelming response from not only TKC Citizens but also from the general Whitehorse population. We gave priority to TKC Citizens and had a list of others who expressed interest in case all spots weren't filled. We had space for 12 women. We are happy to report that all seats were filled with Ta'an Kwäch'än members.

We enjoyed making moccasins, canning vegetables and fruit. Some had never canned before and others had not sewn moccasins before. We also offered manicures and almost everyone got to get their nails done by Natalie Hare, who did a wonderful job.

It was so nice to see everyone participating and being proud of the end products of hard work. All together we ended up with 163 jars of canning, and all participants were happy to take canning home.

Everyone finished their slippers except for a couple of us... but they will soon be done. We also had a hypnotherapist available to anyone that wanted to have a session with her. We heard nothing but good things from those that did go see her. Thanks, Shannon, for being a part of our Women's Retreat. We enjoyed having you.

We plan on having a Women's Retreat again and perhaps it will become a yearly event. A huge thank you to our wonderful cooks Charlene Burns and her daughter Charissa who kept us well fed and took such pride in their awesome creations from the kitchen.

Thank you to all the TKC women who attended the Women's Retreat. Be sure to share with others all the fun we had and wear your new moccasins proud. May they lead you down many happy trails!







Orange Shirt Day began in 2013 as a result of residential school survivor Phyllis Jack Webstad discussing her experience when she arrived at a residential school. Webstad shared her story at a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, British Columbia, Canada, in the spring of 2013. On her first day at residential school, Phyllis had her new orange shirt taken away from her. Phyllis' experience is used today to teach students about residential schools and their assimilation practices. The date of September 30 was chosen for the annual event because it is the time of year in which Indigenous children were historically taken from their homes to residential schools.







Staff Day 2019 held on August 29 at Helen's Fish Camp allowed TKC staff to show their creative side in a traditional setting.



Steps to Success

TKC Education would like to congratulate our students who have participated in the 2018/19 Steps to Success program, and achieved various accomplishments in attendance!

Perfect Attendance:

Nataley Anderson Logan Anderson Alexa Anderson Mia Broeren Sienna Broeren Phoenix Johnson Kane Kiawna Leas

Over 80% Attendance

Kashtyn Leas Carriline Peden Kalie Massie Janeva Pope Calum Pillai Brooklyn Massie Lily Rose Harvey Dylan Massie Zack Seguin Kadin Hare Alexander Lebarge Teya Seguin

Congratulations, and keep up the good work!

Steps to Success 2019-2020

During the 2018/19 school year, the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council will run our Third Annual "Steps to Success Attendance Initiative." Students who enroll in our initiative and achieve attendance rates of at least 80% or make improvements in their attendance rate by 15% or more will receive prizes and awards. Prefect attendance will be recognized with a grand prize at the end of the school year.

Students must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Applicants must be registered TKC
- Applicants must be attending K-12
- Applicants must be attending a school within Yukon

Remember parents, if your child needs to miss school please call in and notify them. These will not be counted as absents





Steps to Success **Attendance Initiative**

Win a grand prize valued at \$500

For more information Please contact: **Ben Monkman Youth Outreach and Support Worker**

youthsupport@taan.ca 867-334-8306

Tutoring

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council would like to remind Citizens that a Tutoring Program is available for school-aged children. TKC, in partnership with LDAY, Learning Disabilities Association of Yukon, provides one-on-one tutoring and is funded through Yukon Government Department of Education.

LDAY works to pair the student with the tutor that works best with their needs and concerns. This service is free to our Citizens, from

Kindergarten to Grade 12 living in the Yukon. It would be great to hear from parents about any educational supports that they feel would benefit their children.

Our Youth Outreach Support Worker also has Thursday drop-in office hours at Porter Creek Secondary school (Rm. 225) from 12-3pm, and a Wednesday Lunch at Elijah Smith Elementary.

Please contact Ben for more information.

Ben Monkman, Youth Outreach Support Worker youthsupport@taan.ca (867) 334-8306

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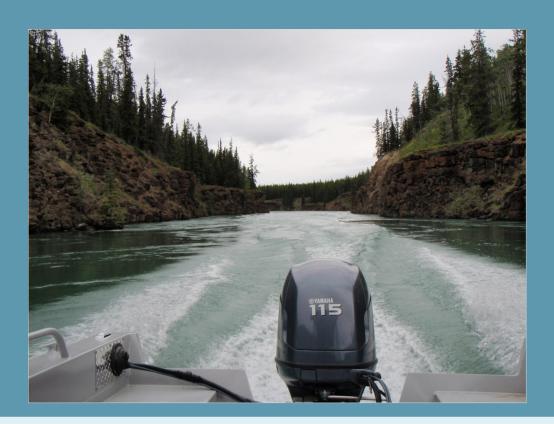
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Kwäch'än Council

Citizens: Please remember to forward

your changes of address.





Do you have a story you would like to see featured in the newsletter? We are looking for stories and photos (new and old) of Citizens to feature! Contact the Communications Office at 668-3613, ext. 204, or by email at communicationsoffice@taan.ca.