



Ímbè/Summer Newsletter 2020

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Newsletter, Summer Quarter, 2020

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Summer students and the Ta'an Day Camp had a unique experience taking a trek to the site by Fox Creek where they were able to help with juvenile monitoring of Chinook salmon. **For a report from Lands, Resources and Heritage Summer Fisheries Student Brooklyn Massie, please see Page 9.**

Message from Chief and Deputy Chief

Dännnh'a! We hope everyone had a good summer and were able to get out on the land and enjoy our beautiful territory with your loved ones. While we saw restrictions ease over the summer, the COVID-19 pandemic continues and we must remain strong and diligent, particularly as fall approaches and the cold and flu season starts. We encourage everyone to continue to follow the advice of the Yukon Chief Medical Officer of Health and to practice the Six Steps to Staying Safe:

- physical distancing (at least two metres away from those that aren't part of your social bubble);
- wash your hands frequently (using soap and water or hand sanitizer with at least 60 per cent alcohol);
- stay at home if you are feeling sick;
- follow gathering guidelines;
- limit travel to rural communities; and
- self-isolate for 14 days if you have been outside of British Columbia, Nunavut or the Northwest Territories, or if you have had contact with someone with COVID-19.

In June, TKC staff returned to the Administration building with modified office protocols and practices in place for COVID-19. Over the summer, Chief Kane and Deputy Chief Peters continued to participate in regular Yukon First Nations Chief caucus meetings, meetings with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Government of Yukon's Premier and Ministers, CYFN Leadership meetings, and Assembly of First Nations Chief's Committee meetings. Meetings have been adapted to ensure safe practices, utilizing teleconference and video conferencing technologies



to ensure work continues. National Indigenous Peoples Day was celebrated virtually, with a joint message from Chief Kane and Chief Bill (Kwanlin Dün First Nation) to open the celebrations. For the second year in a row, TKC participated in the Reconciliation Heart Garden at the RCMP detachment in Whitehorse. Councillor Diane Graham and Citizen Debbie Burns assisted with the planting of this beautiful symbol in our community. While we could not hold our regular summer gatherings this summer, TKC was able to offer a modified summer camp program for TKC children, and our Wellness staff have been busy planning cultural events for the fall.

The safety, health, and wellbeing of TKC Citizens remains our top priority. Please reach out if you have any questions and we will work to assist you. Keep watch on our website and on our Facebook page for updates and information. We also have our monthly bulletin that is mailed out to Citizens.

Be well and stay safe.

In unity,

Chief Kristina Kane & Deputy Chief Christina Peters



Council Notes

The summer of 2020 has been different than any summer before, with COVID-19 and the amount of rainy days! Council met throughout the summer, every other week with the choice of meeting in person or through teleconference to ensure physical distancing measures were met. Now we are starting to get used to the new norm and are preparing for fall. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and wanting to protect the health and safety of our Elders, Elders Council did not meet over the summer.

Work has been done at the TKC cemetery on the Western shore of Tàa'an Män. This has included re-establishing paths as well as constructing and painting a perimeter fence. The Lands, Resources and Heritage Department has been coordinating a cleanup of other areas as well. We have also been working to improve visibility and safety on the Ta'an Village Road by initiating the installation of streetlights and road upgrades.

In April 2017, Council approved the Yukon Geological Survey to drill a scientific test well to a depth of 500 metres on R-9A lands and allow monitoring for a one-year period commencing 2017. The drill hole was capped 1.5 metre's below the surface, and drill site remediated by covering area with chipped wood from trees cleared on site. The results of the drilling showed that for the first 450m the geothermal gradient is "typical." After 450m there was a sharp "spike" toward a temperature of 25.3°C. The temperature spike is unclear, but likely indicates the presence of a hot aquifer below 450m. Council has agreed to additional exploration with Yukon Government to understand geothermal potential of the area over a 2 to 5 year time frame.

In July 2020, Council supported the signing of a Child Welfare Memorandum of Agreement with Yukon Government, which will ensure TKC families will be further protected and TKC will have more power in situations involving TKC children in care, if they arise.

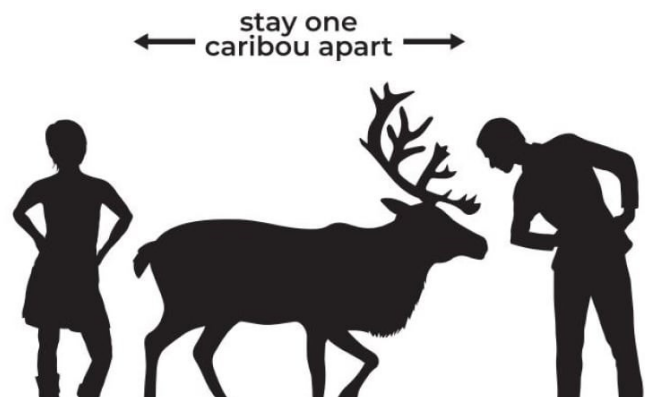
As per a decision of Councillors, TKC Councillors will now need to provide an annual criminal records check. This will be incorporated into revised Rules of Procedure for Council.

In September 2020, TKC Chief and Council approved the creation of a new Community Wellness Fund Policy. The new policy will incorporate all funding opportunities for Citizens under the Physical Activity Fund Policy for recreation activities, as well as offer new reimbursements for cultural activities.

The Council has approved three amendments to the Self Government Agreement (SGA). One of these amendments is to make it clear that SGA amendments are done through the consent of Council and no longer the Hereditary Chief or Chairperson. The second amendment has to do with Citizens who were Status Indians under the Indian Act and who contributed to a registered pension plan between April 1, 2003 to April 1, 2006. The SGA amendment states they should have been exempt from paying income tax during that time and will be reimbursed if they paid income tax on their registered pension plan. The third amendment exempts TKC from GST when they purchase fee simple land for government use. The SGA amendments come into force when the Government of Canada passes an Order in Council. Yukon Government will have their Order in Council by the end of 2020 and then Government of Canada will ratify the amendments.

With support of Council, in September, TKC hosted the Council of Yukon First Nations Fall Leadership Gathering at Helen's Fish Camp.

Clerk of the Council
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Cemetery Revitalization Efforts a Success



The summer of 2020 saw restoration work take place at the Lake Laberge Cemetery, “Natsèdeway Kennji”. This work resulted in a complete transformation of the historical Ta’an Kwach’an burial ground. Ta’an Kwach’an Council’s Culture and Heritage Committee oversaw the project which resulted in a thorough re-landscaping of the area, restoration work as well as the construction of a 900-plus linear foot fence.

Anne-Marie Miller, TKC’s Heritage Technician with the Lands, Resources and Heritage Department, who led the project, explains the crew had worked full-time since July 20th to get the project completed. Anne-Marie explained it was a project that she, as a Citizen, has been passionate about for many years and long before she became a Ta’an staff member.

“This has been very close and dear to my heart. The graveyard is a sacred place. It is a place where we honour and respect our loved ones. Our graveyard is irreplaceable and is a significant historical and valued resource for the Ta’an Kwäch’än people. For many years we have noticed that the graveyard was in dire need of a cleanup, repair and attention. This project is a good start to ensure we protect that part of our history and our heritage.”

To ensure restorative work was in keeping with Ta’an values, culture and tradition, Anne-Marie states that Elders from both the Wolf and Crow moieties were always at the cemetery to provide direction and support. At times, it was difficult for these Elders to sit all the time. They were eager to

provide “hands on” support and offer their expertise when needed.

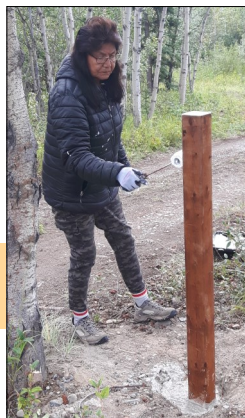
“The Elders were very important in providing history and stories of the cemetery and other Ta’an cremation and burial sites. The cemetery is where our ancestors are buried, and it is very important that we have our Elder’s perspective and enhance their knowledge and teachings,” says Anne-Marie.

Work included clearing heavy overgrowth around many of the grave sites and throughout the cemetery grounds. Anne-Marie noted that all the work complemented the cultural landscape of the cemetery. This involved cutting old poplar trees and removing overgrown vegetation and dead trees that were a safety concern. All the natural shrubs, she notes, including bear roots, soap berry and strawberry bushes, rose bushes, sage and other low ground covering plants within the cemetery were preserved. As well, an inventory of graves and cremations were documented to add further details to maps that have been created as part of this project.

“It was a lot of work. We are very proud of what was accomplished and know this work will be appreciated by our families who have loved ones resting at the cemetery. We are very thankful to the Wolf Elders and Crow Elder for their wisdom, knowledge and teachings that they shared,” Anne-Marie says, adding “A lot of thought and care went into the work and we are pleased this project was accomplished. Each of the workers at the cemetery had a loved one resting at the cemetery. It meant a lot to us to do this work in a



TKC Elders Glenn Grady, Norman Adamson and Sam Broeren oversaw the project.



respectful and loving manner.”

The TKC Cultural and Heritage Committee has also planned for the installation of two washrooms and a storage shed so future landscaping can be maintained. This will also provide the necessary tools on hand to families when they need to bury their loved ones.

There will be an official commemoration of the work completed at a later date.

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council would like to say “Shàw Nithän” to the following individuals:

Wolf Elders: Glenn Grady and Norman Adamson

Crow Elder: Sam Broeren

Work Crew: Kevin Adamson (Wolf), Troy Pope (Crow), Angela Hare (Wolf), Ray Bob (Wolf)

Volunteers:

Council: Diane Graham and John Bunbury

Elders: Bev Miller and Betsy Jackson

TKC Culture & Heritage Committee Members:

Edythe Maloney – Chief Jim Boss

Hazel Bunbury/Bev Miller – Maggie Broeren

Betsy Jackson – Jenny Lebarge

Citizens:

Debbie Burns, Peter Borotsik, Shawna Tizya, Teresa Jacobs, Felicia Gordon, Lori Graham, Christine Genier, Jenna Duncan, Brooklyn Massie.

LRH staff including Scott Paszkiewicz, Natalie Leclerc, Nick Howitt, Hannah Gray, Kristina Beckmann, Testloa Smith, Andre Eckert-Maret as well as other staff members Elisha Sidoun, Brianna Bourassa and Janet Smellie.

Also, a huge Shàw Nithän to Ta'an Citizen, Daniel Adamson for his generous offering of tools, equipment, water and other work-related items. His support and kindness was deeply appreciated. Shàw Nithän to everyone who came to the cemetery to visit and offer their support.

Anne-Marie Miller, Heritage Technician

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Commemorative Reconciliation Garden

Representatives of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council joined members of the RCMP for the second annual planting of a special garden at RCMP's 4th Avenue Headquarters in Whitehorse on June 10, 2020. The Healing Garden is a collaboration between the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and the Whitehorse RCMP.

The garden symbolizes working together to strengthen relationships between the RCMP and Indigenous Communities in the City of Whitehorse. A formal commemoration was held on July 22 where there was an official unveiling Wolf and Crow moieties, which will watch over the garden.

A Joint Message

TKC Chief Kristina Kane joined forces with Kwanlin Dün First Nation Chief Doris Bill to record a special virtual message to help celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, 2020.

"Over 100 years ago, my grandfather Chief Jim Boss petitioned the Government of Canada seeking recognition and protection of First Nation rights in the Yukon," said Chief Kane. "Nearly 50 years ago, a contingent of Yukon Elders, led by Chief Elijah Smith, presented the Government of Canada with *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*. The dedication of these leaders led our nations to the self-governments we uphold today."

"National Indigenous Peoples Day is a day of celebration, remembrance, and reflection. It is a day to acknowledge our history and to look with optimism to the future. Because of the COVID-19 virus we cannot celebrate today as we would normally. With social unrest throughout the United States, and protests across the planet, it is important we pull together to offer a message of strength, solidarity and peace for all



Indigenous people - and all of humanity."

The Chiefs virtual message joined dozens of other messages and artistic performances from across the Yukon for a live broadcast.

BC Wild Salmon Harvest Shared With Citizens



TKC Lands, Resources and Heritage staff were busy on August 5, 2020, making sure safe distancing measures were in place while they distributed sockeye salmon to Citizens.

With a noticeable depletion of salmon stocks in the traditional Ta'an harvesting areas, TKC Government has been purchasing salmon from Taku Wild for the past few years to ensure Citizens get to enjoy this traditional food. Ta'an, along with other Yukon First Nations have led the way in refraining from an annual Chinook salmon harvest in order to allow the fishery to rebound.

Taku Wild is a subsidiary of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation of Atlin, BC.

TKC Introduces Community Wellness Policy

TKC has approved the creation of a new Community Wellness Fund Policy that will both incorporate earlier funding opportunities for Citizens under the Physical Activity Fund Policy and also add new funding for Citizens interested in pursuing cultural activities.

TKC Chief and Council approved the new policy at its September 10 Council meeting. The main changes are increasing the annual expense limit to \$600 from \$540 as well as offering reimbursements (up to this amount) for both recreation and cultural activities.

The Community Wellness Fund Policy will be backdated to April 1, 2020, which means that any Citizens who have applied for funding since that date and the expense was more than \$540 can receive up

to an additional \$60. The Physical Activity Fund Policy has been repealed. The application form has been updated and it along with the new policy are available on the TKC website at www.taana.ca.

Citizens can also get a copy directly from TKC if preferred. For more information please contact Roberta Auston.

Roberta Auston
Health and Wellness Coordinator
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Protection and Preservation of Settlement Lands

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC) and Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) reached out to Yukoners and all travellers passing through the Whitehorse and surrounding area earlier this summer, to support efforts to protect and preserve the cultural and environmental integrity of First Nation Settlement Lands.

With a growing population in the Whitehorse area, TKC and KDFN Settlement Land has become a destination for more people each year. These lands are increasingly used for hiking, camping, dog walking, biking, wildlife viewing, off-road vehicle use and many other recreational pursuits.

Due to the introduction of COVID-19 regulations, both TKC and KDFN lands staff recorded a significant increase to the number of people utilizing Settlement Lands for recreational purposes. Because Whitehorse serves as a busy hub for Yukoners, travellers passing through to Alaska, and British Columbia residents who are now able to enter the Yukon freely, both First Nation governments were concerned with the negative impacts future use will have on these important areas.

These concerns include:

- unauthorized usage, vandalism and destruction of cultural sites, including traditional family cabins and camp sites;
- unauthorized structures, and the creation of trail obstructions and cutting of trees;
- unauthorized trail development and road network development;
- social media promotion of specific wildlife viewing sites;
- increased pet waste, litter and dumping;
- general environmental and habitat degradation; and
- a general lack of awareness by the general public about First Nation land management practices.



Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Kwanlin Dün First Nation asked members of the public to refrain from using Settlement Land sites in order to allow the land, water, and wildlife populations time to heal.

"We respect everyone's desire to enjoy all that the Yukon has to offer. But we are concerned that increased use of these lands for recreational pursuits is having a negative impact. The cumulative effects and impacts facing these sites is challenging and can take years to reverse," explained Chief Kristina Kane.

"This increase in use also needs to be taken seriously by our government when it comes to safety and liability matters. The public puts themselves at risk when using lands that are not regularly patrolled or managed for general recreational purposes. We hope to educate everyone about respecting and caring for these important TKC resources."



Scott Paszkiewicz
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In the Field

*This report was prepared by
TKC Summer Fisheries Student
Brooklyn Massie*

Although this year's TKC Summer Day Camp was limited due to COVID-19, Ben Monkman, TKC's Youth Outreach and Support Worker, still found a way to organize many exciting activities for the kids. In early July, Ben reached out to Kristina Beckmann, TKC's Fish and Wildlife Program Coordinator, to arrange for the kid's camp to join them in their field work as a fun learning experience.

Over the summer I, as TKC's Summer Fisheries Student was fortunate to join Kristina to work on the Fox Creek Salmon Restoration Project. Throughout the summer we would go to Fox Creek at the end of each month to study the catch and release of juvenile Chinook.

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council initiated the Fox Creek Chinook Salmon Stock Restoration Project to rebuild the extirpated stocks in the historic traditional fishing stream. The project includes stewardship and restoration activities that are guided by both traditional and scientific knowledge. The project planning began in 2006, with restoration activities beginning in 2008 and continuing over two salmon life cycles. Phase I, or the first salmon life cycle ended in 2015, and the project is now in Phase II, or the second salmon life cycle. Chinook fry have been released into Fox Creek annually since 2009 and adults have been returning to spawn since 2013.



Spawning success has been confirmed with wild fry emerging from spawning redds since 2016.

Restoration activities and monitoring are conducted annually by TKC staff and Citizens in order to ensure the continued success of rebuilding this stock.

Although this year there were no fry released, Kristina and I will continue our regular monitoring of juveniles, adults and redds. In previous years, the majority of fry were generously donated by Yukon Energy from the Whitehorse Rapids Fish Hatchery and the remainder came from the Stream to Sea program, which raises salmon in Yukon schools.

Fox Creek flows into Lake Laberge, located just north of Whitehorse, Yukon. One of my most memorable times this summer was on July 28, 2020 when the kids camp got a unique opportunity to take a field trip out to Fox Creek to help us set up the fish traps and place them in the water. The kids got to go back to Fox Creek the next day to help pull the fish traps and see what they caught.

Overall, this summer has been a wonderful opportunity for me. It offered me a chance to experience a different work environment than my past two summers where I helped run the TKC's Summer Day Camp.

I am now embarking on studies at Yukon University and am looking forward to returning to work next summer at TKC where I hope to return to LRH.

-Brooklyn Massie



Generous Gestures — Sundog Retreat Shares Harvest



Sundog Retreat shared its yearly harvest of carrots, beets, and potatoes with Ta'an Citizens this summer. Owners wanted to thank Ta'an as their farm is located on TKC Traditional Territory.

Ta'an Citizens were able to get a taste of fresh organic farm vegetables this summer when Sundog Retreat gifted TKC with boxes and boxes of its summer harvest.

"We are tremendously grateful that we are able to operate on Ta'an Traditional Territory. We thought what better way to show our appreciation than to give back to the First Nation," Sundog's owner Andrew Finton says.

Sundog not only presented TKC with boxes of produce, which was distributed on two occasions to TKC Citizens in need and Elders, but the local business also offered TKC Citizens the chance to come out to the farm to harvest fresh from the ground.

Sundog Retreat, which is located on the North Klondike Highway, decided to focus on the agricultural side of its business due to COVID-19 impacts on its eco-tourism resort and retreat operations. Andrew and his wife Heather run the business and explained that this year they turned their passion for increased local food security into a greenhouse operation with field crops. The couple hired local First Nation students, which also helped fill some gaps in the job market.

Andrew says after realizing food costs would go up this summer, and knowing there was a growing need for access to healthy food, the couple increased their operations. Along with selling their crops in local grocery stores, the

couple also donated much of their harvest to the Whitehorse Food Bank.

Andrew noted next season he hopes partnerships could develop between Sundog and First Nations, including TKC, that will utilize both on-site facilities and food crops.

TKC's Wellness Department reports that this offering was very well received by Citizens, many of which had weekly boxes of produce to enjoy at the end of the harvest season. TKC appreciates the gesture and offers a huge thank you to Sundog Retreat for its kind and thoughtful gift.



Roberta Auston
Health and Wellness Coordinator
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healthandwellness@taan.ca

The New Normal

TKC has introduced measures surrounding the use of masks to ensure the safety of Citizens when it comes to COVID-19. Because of the low number of recorded COVID-19 cases, Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Dr. Brendan Hanley has not made masks mandatory for Yukoners in public places. Some businesses have adopted policies that require masks to be worn in their establishments and some Yukoners have also made the personal choice to wear masks. TKC has now received and is making available reusable masks for all Citizens and staff to have for personal use and to use at their own discretion.

TKC staff are now required to wear masks when handling harvested fish or meat, food, or are unable to practice safe distancing (2 metres) when providing services to Citizens. It is important to remember that wearing a non-medical mask or face covering alone will not prevent the spread of COVID-19.

TKC has re-arranged its reception area at the main Administration Building to accommodate safe distancing measures for staff. There are also stations that offer disposable masks, hand sanitizer and gloves at the entrances of both the Administration and the Wellness and Development offices, should Citizens who have appointments at TKC wish to wear them. TKC will make these available during any events that involve staff and Citizens.

Citizens and staff are also being asked to think of each other's safety when it comes to the decision of when to wear a mask in public in response to COVID-19. TKC continues to follow guidelines as set out by the Yukon's CMOH and will keep Citizens updated.

As long as COVID-19 continues to pose a threat to TKC Citizens, TKC will also continue to keep its office closed to the public.

For more information on how to safely wear a mask or for general assistance please contact Amanda Leas, TKC Office Manager.



Amanda Leas
Office Manager
668-3613 ext. 203
aleas@taan.ca



CONGRATULATIONS



All graduation photographs courtesy of Alistair Maitland Photography.



TO OUR GRADUATES!!!



2020



2020 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

CONGRATULATIONS, BROOKLYN!

Brooklyn graduated from F.H. Collins Secondary School this spring and will be pursuing her first year at Yukon University this fall. Brooklyn Massie is a member of the Jenny Lebarge Traditional Family.



CONGRATULATIONS, TAYLOR!

Taylor Yeulet graduated from Porter Creek Secondary School this spring and has been hard at work as a crew member with Yukon First Nations Wildfire this summer.

Taylor will be pursuing an Electrical Apprenticeship at Yukon University this fall.

Taylor Yeulet is a member of the Maggie Broeren Traditional Family.



You are both role models for the youth of the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. Feel proud of your accomplishment!

2020 POST-SECONDARY GRADUATES

CONGRATULATIONS, JENNA!!!

Jenna Duncan has graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree from Simon Fraser University. She has recently been working with TKC's LRH crews and plans to work with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans later this summer.

Jenna Duncan is a member of the Jenny Lebarge Family.

We wish you the very best, Jenna!



CONGRATULATIONS, ALYSHA!

Alysha Kufeldt has graduated from the Yukon Native Teacher Education Training Program (YNTEP) through the University of Regina in cooperation with Yukon University. Alysha will be beginning her teaching career this fall at Elijah Smith Elementary School.

Alysha Kufeldt is a member of the Jenny Lebarge Family.

Good luck in your new career, Ms. Kufeldt!



CONGRATULATIONS, DESIREE!

Desiree has graduated with her Red Seal Level I and II from the Culinary Arts Program at Yukon University. She is currently working but plans on returning to school next fall to continue her Red Seal training. Good luck, Desiree!

Desiree Coad-Broeren is a member of the Maggie Broeren Family.

"I definitely recommend the program. I loved it! I learned so much, and I made a lot of friends in the program...I learned so many skills I can use in my daily life...I would also like to start my own catering business some day." We wish you the best, Desiree!



CONGRATULATIONS, ALISON!

Alison Harpe has graduated with a Northern Justice and Criminology Diploma from Yukon University this spring.

Alison is now working full-time in a position with the Justice Department of CYFN.

Alison is a member of the Susie Jim Traditional Family.

We are so very proud of you, Alison!



CHILDREN'S SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Hello Community,

We are proud to announce that we were able to provide a variety of summer activities to TKC children, and overcome some of the restrictions in place due to Covid-19. TKC coordinated with the Children's Day Camp providers, Rivers to Ridges and Yukon University (STEM Camps), to provide weekly summer camp spots throughout the summer. Both camps were successfully attended, and TKC was able to sign-up 12 children for 13 weeks of camps. We have heard lots of positive feedback from parents, and these camp opportunities were thoroughly enjoyed by all the children who attended. We will look at the possibility of these opportunities next summer, so stay tuned next spring for information on camp sign-up dates and deadlines.

TKC also created an operational plan and hosted our own summer programming. TKC hosted summer activities 3-days per week for four weeks. Enrollment was capped at seven children per day, but all activities were outdoors and the kids had a blast—even with this wet summer. Campers enjoyed a variety of fun activities that included Geo-Caching on Ta'an's Traditional Territory; rock climbing; orienteering; beach days; visits to the farm and wildlife preserve; Carcross exploration; dog sled rides; learning about fish spawning; museum tours; BBQs and more!

We are so happy that we could host the children again this year! We were fortunate to hire four new summer students to help run the summer program. Adrianna Smith took a leadership role and helped organize and facilitate the program—she was a strong role model and assistant. We created a role called Junior Youth Leader, which was a position for younger students who would like to help run a program but are still new to working. Thank you to our summer students for your help this summer!

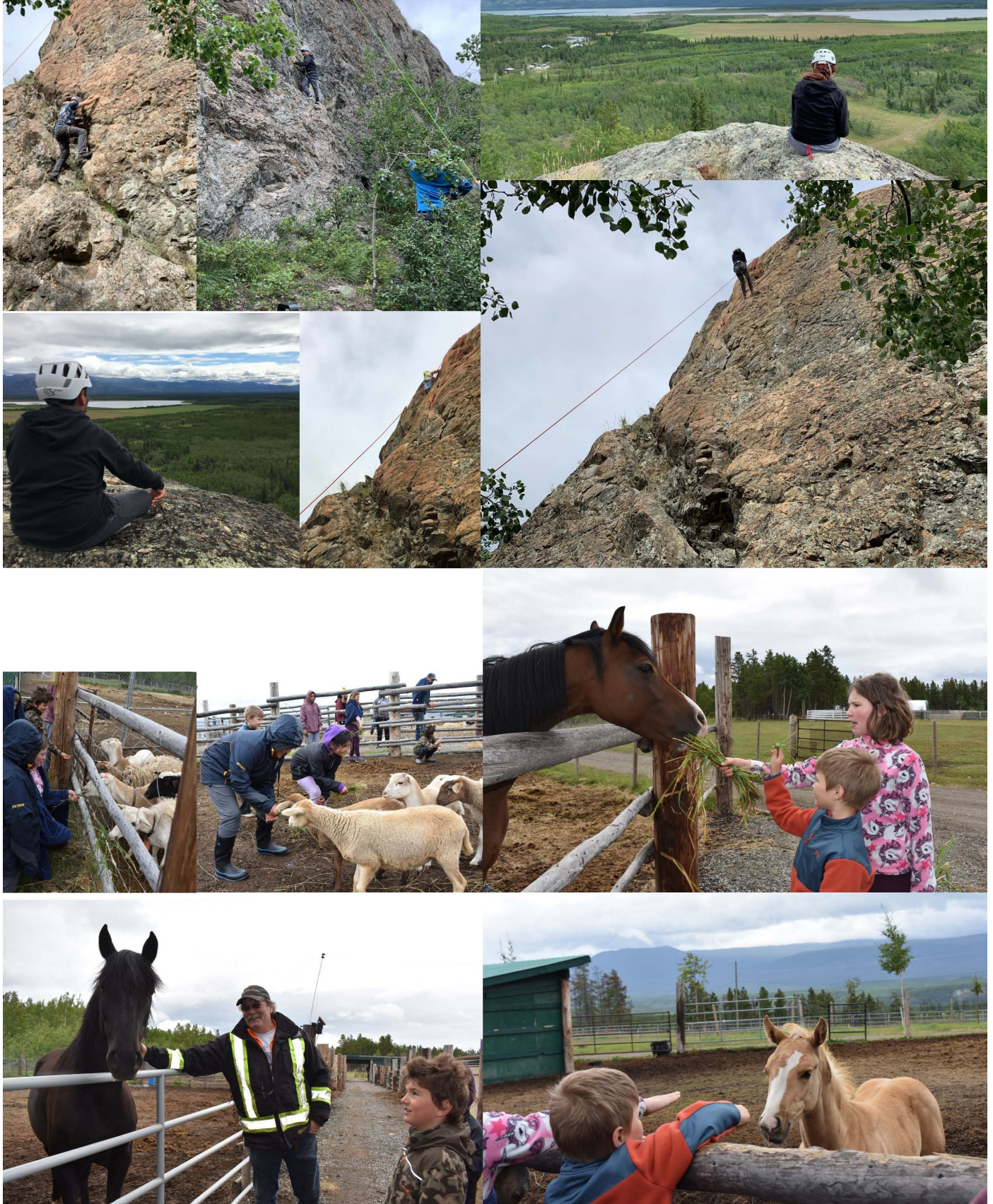
We look forward to bringing you back next year!

Ben Monkman, Youth Outreach and Support Worker



Ben Monkman with our Summer Day Camp Coordinator, Adrianna Smith, and our three Youth Leaders, Kiawna Leas, Madison Sutherland and Janeva Pope.

Summer Activity Fun ...







River Bend Project Builds TKC Workforce

Da Dagay Development Corporation's Chief Operations Officer, Tiffany Eckert-Maret, Ben Asquith, Chief Executive Officer and John Lavallee, Manager of Property Maintenance and Construction at the River Bend job site.



Hiring and training TKC Citizens is a top priority that is keeping John Lavallee and the Da Dagay Development Corporation (DDDC) busy these days. John, who serves as DDDC's Manager of DDDC's Property Maintenance and Construction division notes since the DDDC's River Bend project started, there has been a steady increase in TKC-owned and operated small businesses signing on as sub-contractors for the project. This summer the crews were busy working on Buildings 4 and 5.

As of now, there are almost a dozen Citizens involved in the project, including TKC businesses Little River Contracting and Choice Plumbing and Heating. Employees and contractors include Corey Pope for road work, Frances McGuire for landscaping, Colin Adamson for plumbing work and Kadin Hare, a recent high school graduate, who is pursuing training in the trades with Yukon University.

John says one way to show how far DDDC has come is to compare today's workforce at River Bend to when DDDC first began construction of Building 1. When Phase 1 was built, the workforce was then managed by the builder Evergreen Construction, and, even though they did ensure TKC Citizens were hired for the construction of the first phase, the majority of the workers were non-Citizen and non-First Nation. Now, that they are completing Buildings 4 and 5 and DDDC is overseeing the project, the majority of workers are TKC

Citizens and neighbouring First Nations.

"I fought for hiring our own people from the beginning," notes John, who admits "Trying to build a team has not always been easy and it takes time. Having a core team of people to call in has been challenging but well worth it for our community."

DDDC is also finding success with the creation of a database of Citizen-owned small businesses and tradespeople that John and DDDC are hoping will help with future developments.

"There is a lot of potential out there for future developments. Having workers to call on is key," John explains, adding, "There is so much with our lands that we can do with in areas of future developments. We just need to find the projects that will benefit us and help us move forward."

DDDC is located at 2237 2nd Avenue, Suite 200 (Waterfront Station) and our office hours are 8:30-4:30 Monday-Friday. We encourage all TKC Citizens to visit our website www.dadagay.com or follow us on Facebook for the most up to date information and to learn about future opportunities.



Stay tuned for the Grand Opening of the new playground which was constructed at the River Bend subdivision this summer.



Attention Citizens:

Da Daghay Development Corporation is creating a database of Citizen-owned businesses and skilled tradespeople in preparation of future development projects on TKC Traditional Territory.

If you are a:

- Business Owner
- Contractor
- Skilled Laborer
- Goods or Services Provider

We want to hear from you!

Please contact Lori at 867-667-6609 or lori@dadaghay.com

All participants will have their name included in a draw with a chance to win a \$200.00 gas card!

Welcome to the Team!

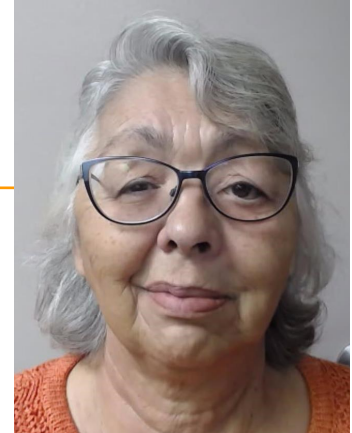


Kaitlyn Silvester
Education Support Worker

As a born and raised Yukoner, Kaitlyn has experienced a lot of the education challenges and needs of our youth and adults. Kaitlyn's years of working within the education and social services fields will serve her well in her role as Education Support Worker. Kaitlyn's knowledge of Ta'an Kwäch'än Council comes from her spouse, Corey Pope, her four children (one was a summer student this year) and her natural curiosity for understanding the world around her. When not at work or enjoying the outdoors, such as horseback riding with her family, Kaitlyn's newest challenge to herself is to learn how to knit. Perhaps she will model her best efforts for us. Regardless, we are sure with Kaitlyn on board that she will continue to respond to our Citizens with their education needs.

Please join us in welcoming Kaitlyn to the Ta'an Team! You can reach Kaitlyn at 668-3613 ext. 401 or email educationsupport@taan.ca.

Isabelle Dewhurst
Family Support Worker



Isabelle is a Tlingit from Teslin belonging to the Dakhl'awe'di Clan Eagle moiety. Delivered by her grandmother, Virginia Smarch, and her great Granny Annie Geddes nee Sidney, Isabelle was born in a tent beside Teslin Lake. She is the proud mother of four, and the grandmother of two.

Isabelle is able to make use of her strengths and skills in the areas of culture and education to assist in her new role as Family Support Worker.

Isabelle has already established a great rapport with communities and partnering organizations through her in-depth experience in health, education, justice, culture, governance, and other socially related matters. When not working she enjoys looking after her grandchildren and sneaking away for some traditional harvesting, preserving, and gardening. I asked, she did not tell me her favourite berry patch.

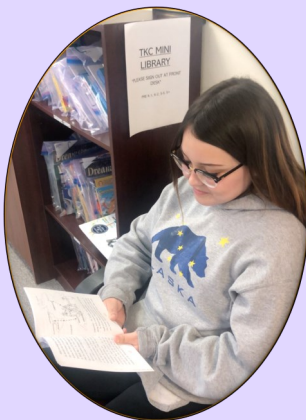
Isabelle would like to thank Ta'an Kwäch'än Council for the honour and privilege to work for Ta'an and its Citizens. We look forward to all Isabelle has to offer.

Please join us in welcoming Isabelle to the Ta'an Team!! You can reach Isabelle at 668-3613 ext. 405 or email familysupport@taan.ca.

New Mini Library for Children and Youth

This summer, TKC was honoured to receive a donation of approximately 110 school-aged appropriate books for TKC children and youth. This donation was a gift from the Yukon First Nation Education Directorate and was made possible by Indigo Books, Jordan's Principle, and the Paul Martin Foundation in a collective initiative to enhance literacy.

The TKC Development Department has decided to use the books to create a mini library for community members. Families can come in at any time to sign out book packages for learners of all ages. We have packages geared to Preschool, Kindergarten to Grade 2, Grades 3-5, and Grades 5 and above. Each book package has 3-4 books and are grouped by age. All book packages can be signed out at the reception desk in the Development and Wellness building. Our Administrative Assistant will be overseeing the mini-library and would be happy to show you what is available and help you or your child sign out one of the reading packages available.



"We have books for Pre-Kindergarten, K-Grade 2, Grade 3 -5, and Grade 5+. We have created a system where parents can pick a pack of 3 (or more) books to bring home and enjoy. Reading is so important for a child's growth and development, promotes creativity, as well as keeps your memory sharp. For more information, don't hesitate to call or stop by the Wellness and Development building." - Natalie Hare

We encourage parents and students of all ages to take advantage of these books and enjoy them! We look forward to expanding our mini-library, so if there are any books or collections you would love to see, please let us know!

Happy Reading!



Photos: Hazlyn Broeren picking out her first reading package with Development Manager, Jessica Bryant and Madison Sutherland reading one of the youth novels available.

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council

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Find us on Facebook at Ta'an 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.**