



Yūk'è/Winter 2020/21

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Newsletter, Winter Quarter, 2020/21



Photo by Janeva Pope

Message from Chief & Deputy Chief	02	TKC Xmas Drive-by.....	06
Council Notes	03	Elders Tea	08
Yukon Forum	04	Top Honours to Frances Woolsey ...	09
Creative Challenge.....	05	TKC Vaccine Rollout	10
New Years Care Packages	05	Caring For the Land	11

Message from Chief and Deputy Chief



We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Christmas. Even though planning holiday activities this year had to be done a little differently due to COVID-19, we hope everyone was able to enjoy memorable visits with families and friends. We enjoyed doing our Christmas drive-thru and the 12 days of Christmas draws for Citizens.

As winter is here and we're spending more time indoors, it's more important than ever to stay vigilant and practice the Safe Six-Plus One. We want to make sure that all of us — our families and our neighbours get through these challenging times. This means stay six feet, or two metres away from anyone you meet in public. If you can't keep your distance, wear a mask. Wash or sanitize your hands often, especially if you are coming and going from places outside your home and workplace. Most importantly, stay home when you feel sick. By staying home when you are sick, you're taking care of yourself, protecting others, and helping our community stay strong.

We are grateful that the Yukon Government's immunization program got underway in early January. Getting vaccinated is your choice, but we trust the Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health's recommendation that getting vaccinated will save lives and keep our community safe from serious outbreaks. TKC's Wellness Department is working hard to ensure TKC Citizens 18 years and older, register and receive their first dose of the vaccine. Don't be afraid to reach out to our Wellness staff if you need assistance.

Over the last couple of months, we continued to participate in Yukon Forum, CYFN Leadership meetings, and Yukon Region-Assembly of First Nations meetings. In February, TKC held its Annual General Assembly. We would like to acknowledge everyone's participation and patience with the use of both a virtual and in person format.

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

We wish you a happy new year and all the best for 2021. Let us all take care of each other and share a little kindness as we go. Take care and stay safe.

In unity
Chief Kristina Kane
and Deputy Chief Christina Peters

Council Notes

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and increase in the number of cases, Council directed that all in person Council, committee, working group, and staff meetings be suspended and that alternate virtual technologies be used to hold meetings, until the Chief Medical Office of Health advised otherwise.

MMIWG2S+ Declaration

Council endorsed the Chief to sign a Yukon declaration to support the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit+ People Yukon Strategy- *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice, Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy*. A virtual signing ceremony was held December 10th, and an implementation plan is currently being developed in response to the declaration.

Yukon First Nation Salmon Stewardship Alliance

Council supported the participation of TKC as full members in the Yukon First Nation Salmon Stewardship Alliance. This alliance will be administered by CYFN and is funded by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. It will focus on providing a united, Indigenous-led approach to salmon conservation in Yukon.

Funding Agreements

In February, Council passed the 2021-2022 annual budget. Council also passed a motion in February to accept a post-secondary technical grant, which provides Yukon-based TKC post secondary students

with an extra \$500 to go towards technology costs. Other funding agreements were also secured to support Indigenous languages, income assistance, emergency operations, COVID-19 relief, and housing/ capital projects.

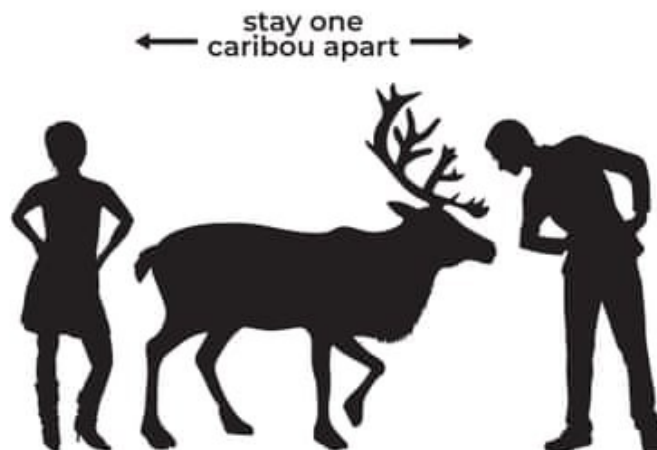
Election Act

Council continued its work on the amended *Elections Act*, which included putting it into second reading and sending it to Elders Council for review.

TKC General Assembly

TKC held its Annual General Assembly February 12-14, 2021. With the challenges of the pandemic, this was both an in-person and virtual event. While there were some technical difficulties to work through, overall, the meeting had a high level of attendance and participation from Citizens. One resolution was passed, related to dual Citizens. Persons who are enrolled with Ta'an and another Yukon First Nation or another Indian Act Band must decide within thirty (30) days of receipt of written notice from Ta'an which First Nation they want to be enrolled with, and, failure by the person notified to provide a written response to Ta'an within thirty (30) days will result in removal from the Ta'an enrollment list. We thank everyone who participated in the Assembly.

Clerk of the Council
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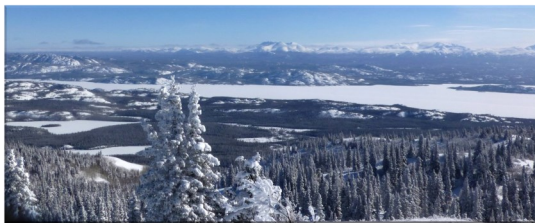
Yukon Forum—YFN Procurement Policy Unveiled

On December 11, 2020 Yukon's Premier, Cabinet members, Council of Yukon First Nations' Grand Chief and Yukon First Nations Leaders met for the Yukon Forum both online and in person at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. During the one-day meeting, the leaders discussed a range of issues, including the Yukon Strategy on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit Individuals, pandemic management, the Mineral Development Strategy, the territory's forestry industry and the recent Yukon Days meetings with the federal government. One key accomplishment announced at the forum was the endorsement of the Yukon First Nations Procurement

Policy. The Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy will strengthen outcomes for Yukon First Nations people and businesses by providing opportunities for Yukon First Nations governments, businesses and people to participate in territorial procurements. The new policy also encourages Yukon businesses to bid on government contracts in partnership with Yukon First Nations businesses.

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Public Lands Advisory Issued to Yukoners



Due to COVID-19 regulations, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC) lands staff continued to record a significant increase in the number of people utilizing Settlement Lands for recreational purposes throughout the fall and winter of 2020. Because Whitehorse serves as a busy hub for Yukoners, TKC's Lands, Resources and Heritage Department issued a public advisory explaining TKC's concern about the negative impacts future use would have on these important areas. Areas of particular concern included Mudd Lake (Settlement Land Parcel R-9A), Swan Lake area and Settlement Lands off the Livingstone Trail.

The negative impacts included:

- Unauthorized usage, vandalism, and destruction of cultural sites, including traditional family cabins and camp sites.
- Habitat degradation caused from off-road

vehicles, specifically snow machines, and unauthorized 'trail maintenance' cutting trees and creation of trails.

- Increased litter and dumping and general environmental and habitat degradation.
- A general lack of awareness by the public about First Nation land management practices.

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council asked the public to refrain from using Settlement Land sites to allow the land, water, and wildlife populations time to heal.

TKC plans to increase patrols and public engagement activities throughout the winter. The advisory also recommended those uncertain of where Settlement Lands sites are or have questions about land management practices, to please visit the TKC website or contact the department.

Manager, Lands, Resources & Heritage
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Creative Challenge 2020

Ta'an Kwäch'än Citizen Janeva Pope, aged 15, has been avidly interested in photography since she was a child.

Janeva is the winner of our Creative Challenge 2020. Her photo of the sunrise (page 1) and sunset (back page) were taken outside her home at Marsh Lake, Yukon. This horse (at right) was also included with her entry. Congratulations Janeva! Thanks for your submissions.



New Years Care Packages

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Education Support Worker Kaitlyn Sylvester sent out much-appreciated care packages to several TKC post-secondary students in January. The packages included health and wellness products, some warm winter items and some fun items to help students cope easier while being away from home.

At the time, there were 25 TKC Citizens actively enrolled in post-secondary studies throughout Canada and in Yukon.

Kaitlyn Sylvester,
Education Support Worker
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TKC Open House Holiday Cheer!

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, TKC wasn't able to host its annual Christmas dinner, but did offer a special Drive-By event so Citizens could pick up family baskets, gifts for children as well as gift cards. There was also a special live daily Xmas draw where TKC gave away daily gifts via TKC's Facebook page. Thank you, too, Santa for your visit!



Elders Christmas Celebration



TKC's Wellness Department offered two Elders Teas in November and December while practicing safer TKC protocols. Both were well attended and offered TKC Elders a chance to visit before the holidays.

Above: Thelma Sawyer, Roberta Auston and Geraldine Irvine.

Elders who attended participated in some fun exercises and games. There was also a gift exchange, several door prizes and a special draw for an Air North gift certificate.

Right: Rose Irvine and Thelma Sawyer.



Top Honours to ‘Gus’Duteen’ - Frances Woolsey



Commissioner of Yukon Angélique Bernard enjoyed a personal visit with Frances Woolsey on February 22 2021, following the official induction of Frances and nine other recipients to the Order of Yukon for 2020.

Photo courtesy of the Office of the Commissioner of Yukon

In December, TKC Elder Frances Woolsey was chosen to be inducted into the Order of Yukon for her “outstanding contributions to the social, cultural and economic well-being of Yukon and its residents.” The Commissioner of Yukon, Angélique Bernard, in her capacity as Chancellor of the Order of Yukon, announced Frances and nine other Yukoners as the 2020 inductees to the Order of Yukon on December 2, 2020. Frances, or Gus’Duteen, is from the Jenny Lebarge Family, and has spent many years committed to making her community a better place for all Yukoners. She was one of the founding members of the Yukon Indian Women’s Council, now the Yukon Aboriginal Women’s Council, as well as dedicated many years to several significant initiatives that led to much needed services for all Yukon people.

Commissioner Bernard, notes Frances “embodies a link to the past, to the roots of Yukon, while also being a symbol of progress.”

“Her enduring commitment to the preservation of history and to the renewal of cultural practice is remarkable. She is a mother, a grandmother, and a great-grandmother. To this day, she continues to be, among so many things, an innovator, an artist, a seamstress, a homemaker, a diplomat, and, above all, a leader.”

“I wholeheartedly commend Frances Woolsey for appointment to the Order of Yukon. I know that she would bring honour to the position and this recognition of her would inspire many more people to emulate her dedicated service to our community.”

Frances is joined in this honour with Yukoners Keith Byram, Jack Cable, Bess Cooley, William Klassen, Dr. Sally MacDonald, Agnes Mills, Doug Phillips, Gertie Tom and Ron Veale. Congratulations Frances!



Frances with former TKC Chief Ruth Massie in earlier days.
(Photo Courtesy of Frances Woolsey)



Natalie Hare, Administrative Assistant with TKC's Wellness and Development department played a key role helping TKC Citizens with the COVID-19 vaccine rollout which started in January 2021.

COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout

TKC Wellness staff were busy during the New Year assisting Citizens with the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout.

The department's staff were available to all Elders and Citizens who requested assistance with registering for on-line appointments and helping with transportation to and from the vaccination centre, and provided up to date information about the Yukon Government's immunization program. The vaccine first became available on January 19, 2021, for Elders 70 and older, and on February 10, 2021 for everyone aged 18 and above.

The goal of Yukon's COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy is to ensure that every adult Yukoner who wants to receive the COVID-19 vaccine can receive it. These immunization efforts were put in place to help slow the rate of transmission.

The vaccine requires two doses (injections) with the

2nd dose given 28-35 days after the first dose. Even with receiving the vaccine, it is recommended all recipients need to continue practising the Safe 6 Plus One. Vaccines continue to be available for those who have yet to receive one.

If you need assistance to register online for the vaccine please contact TKC's Wellness Department at (867) 668-3613 ext. 402. You can also register online at <http://yukon.ca/this-is-our-shot>. TKC will continue to provide regular updates on any changes to the vaccine rollout and to the Safe 6 plus 1 directive and other public health measures on our website www.taana.ca as well as on our Facebook page.

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A 'Calling Song' from a Grandmother "Caring for the Land."



Photo by Roberta Auston

People need to remember that the land is as alive as they are. The land has eyes and can see. It has ears and can hear. It has hands that can touch, and feet so it can move. It has a heart so it can love, and a mind that can understand. The recognition of these things is the first step in caring. As you would and should care for others, so should you do for the Earth.

As you do this, you will restore your own balance.

Be true between yourselves and be true to the land. When you are not true between yourselves, it is a lie. When you are not true with the Earth, it is also a lie. Not being true blocks the relationship and things get stuck, misunderstood.

Be careful with each other and with the land. Do not be violent with either.

Begin talking to the land even though it may seem silly at first. It is a recognition that the land is alive, the same as you are.

Love each other, love the land.

Heal your relationships with each other. Heal your relationship with the land.

Every act and every moment counts. Nothing is too small.

The Earth is waiting for all of this.

(A wonderful friend has given this to me and I pass it on as I believe that there are many Ta'an Kwäch'än people who work with the land and believe as I do, that the land is aware of us as we are aware of it and that is what gives us life.)

- TKC Citizen Roberta Auston

How is it outside?

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

How is it outside? Chích'a dakwäch'a?

It is cold outside. Chích'a kwäk'ü.

Is it warming up outside? Kwäjänädhela?

Yes, it is warming up. Aghay, kwajenädhèl.

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Find us on Facebook at Ta'an Kwäch'än Council

Citizens: Please remember to forward
your changes of address.



Photo by Janeva Pope

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.