



Ímbé/Summer Newsletter

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Newsletter, Summer Quarter, 2022

Message from the Chief	2	Summer Camp 2022	8
Council Notes	3	20th Anniversary Celebration	10
Bringing Housing Home.....	4	Welcome to the Team	12
Reconciliation Garden	6	Record Fire Activity	14
Summer Salmon	7	Whitehorse Rapid Dam Project ..	15



*This summer TKC was busy taking part in community events that recognize reconciliation (above left) and organizing the 20th Anniversary Celebration of TKC's Self-Government Agreement (above right). **Lots more coverage inside!***



Message from Chief Leas

This summer was a very energetic time for us at TKC as we welcomed a record number of summer students to our busy workplace. This year, a dozen high school and post-secondary students worked in all areas of the government, and it was a pleasure to be a part of their work experience.

It was wonderful to be able to put COVID-19 in the background this summer as we were able to resume an active Summer Day Camp program and other outdoor events including a well-attended Culture Camp, and an informative and fun Lands & Resources barbecue.

As a government, housing remained our top priority, and on July 4, Council passed a motion that supported the placement of nine mobile homes on TKC Settlement land in the Lake Laberge area. These homes will be an emergency measure to accommodate displaced Citizens and is a project we are very proud to be finally taking on for our Citizens.

As many of you are aware, during the 2020 General Assembly, TKC Citizens passed a resolution declaring a state of emergency for housing and we have since acknowledged the lack of reasonably priced housing for Ta'an Citizens to be our government's top priority. We held a virtual meeting on July 27, to update everyone with our plans for the development of two new housing initiatives on Self-Governing Lands within the City of Whitehorse. This is a major step and I'm encouraged we are moving

forward on this important issue. These new developments will create subdivisions in both Porter Creek and Whistle Bend. There's a lot of work ahead, but I am confident that with all 'hands on deck' we will succeed on all fronts and be able to achieve the goals we are setting out.

My commitment to put housing first when I was elected remains my main priority. Our Council is committed to putting 'Citizens First' when it comes to planning, designing, building, and allocating these housing units.



On September 8th, we were able to move forward with our 20th Anniversary Celebration of TKC's Self-Government Agreement. Our special Celebration and Community Gathering that followed was a wonderful opportunity to finally recognize those who dedicated so much of their time and energy to our land claim.

On September 12th at a byelection for Deputy Chief, Citizens elected Kristina Kane. Kristina brings many years of experience and I look forward to working with her in the days ahead.

I am confident that with the strong voices we have on Council and the dedicated staff we have, we will overcome the many obstacles in the days ahead to ensure our community will thrive during these uncertain times.

As fall and winter approaches, be safe and kind to each other.

-Chief Amanda Leas



Council Notes

Housing remains Council's top priority. Most Council meetings have been regarding housing with the goal of having citizens placed in homes. Site preparation has begun at the lake for the placement of nine mobile homes, and we have been working on site development and zoning requirements for Site C -9B and C-16B for two new housing developments.

The Council of Yukon First Nations had their General Assembly earlier this summer, which was attended by Chief Leas, Councillor Kristina Kane, and Elders Shirley Beattie and Barbara Hare, who provided representation on behalf of TKC. Topics included the opioid crisis, as well as the housing crisis. Council also sent representation to the Moosehide Gathering hosted in Dawson City; Councillor Roberta Auston and John Bunbury attended this event. The Canadian Government has increased funding for post-secondary students and Council worked to incorporate those into our annual budget to support our citizens attending post-secondary institutions.

Although summer has been busy, Council continues to make regularly scheduled Council meetings their priority. They continue to deal with business required to move TKC forward as a Nation. New policy development has also taken place with our Elected Official Disclosure Expense policy, which will increase transparency between citizens and the elected officials of TKC.

As COVID remains in our lives, Council continues to have meetings virtually to remain safe, and as we transition back to normalcy, Council is working towards moving to in-person meetings. Citizens have been attending Council meetings from time to time,

remaining informed on current issues and business being dealt with at the Council level.

TKC finished their summer off with a Community Meeting & Celebration to celebrate 20 years of self-government for TKC. The Community Meeting was well attended by both citizens and Councillors giving constructive feedback and support to both Council and the staff of TKC. The Celebration was a success, where many staff, citizens, and Councillors were able to build relationships and report to one another.

Elders Council

The Elders' Council has had a busy summer with multiple meetings, lots of business, and lots of events. TKC sent Elders to Celebration in Juneau, Alaska, as well as Moosehide Gathering in Dawson City. Many Elders attended both events and were proudly sporting their TKC swag, as well as representing TKC in these spaces. The Elders that attended these events were pleased with the outcome and the support they received from the different communities. Elders Council is working towards hosting meetings with a virtual option to open up participation for more Elders to join. Elders Council also continues to advise Council using their knowledge and experience. Wills & Estates workshops continue to be one of Elders' Council's goals. These workshops will most likely take place during the fall and winter seasons.

Victoria Holmes
Clerk of the Council
(867) 668-3613 ext. 210
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Current Council Members (October 2022)

Chief Amanda Leas
Deputy Chief Kristina Kane
Councillor Diane Graham
Councillor Jay Massie
Councillor John S. Bunbury
Councillor Doris Anderson

Councillor Tania Pope
Councillor Charlotte Kane
Councillor Roberta Auston
Councillor Heather Marks
Elders Representative Thelma Sayer

Bringing Housing Home



TKC is prioritizing affordable housing options for its Citizens, following the passing of a motion on July 4th supporting the placement of nine mobile homes on TKC Settlement Land. At a virtual meeting held July 27, Citizens were updated on the plans, which will see the homes being used as an emergency housing measure to accommodate displaced Citizens. The location (as shown above) will be at the TKC Village, just past Lot 120, adjacent to the power line road. These homes are being put in place as a temporary solution and not meant as a permanent housing placement.

This housing initiative is one of three developments TKC is currently undertaking to ensure Citizens have access to safe, affordable housing. Other developments TKC is busy undertaking include the development of single-family housing lots along Birch Road in Porter Creek and a development of townhouse units in Whistle Bend. (More information about these developments is available at www.taana.ca)

Along with site preparations, plans and permits, TKC is now finalizing policies that will guide the allocation process for these new developments. This will include creating a housing database and registry system. These projects will also provide job and training opportunities for TKC Citizens.

Citizens should watch our website for more information. Contact Matthew Dickson, TKC Housing Manager at (867) 668-3613 ext. 501 for more details.



Matthew Dickson
Housing Manager
(867) 668-3613 ext. 501
housingmanager@taana.ca

TKC Post-Secondary students were sent a special care package this summer. Being away from home, especially in times where a rising cost of living is tough on everyone, the packages were a big hit. Here Barb Crawford, TKC's Education and Training Support Worker and Lori Graham, Acting Education Support Worker prepare dozens of packages.



TKC gives a big thank you to our youth who helped make the Summer Student Employment Program a huge success this year! From left: Kashtyn Leas (Administration), Albert Peters (Housing) Belit Peters and Brooklyn Massie (Lands & Resources), Chief Leas, Adrianna Smith and Sydney Peters, (Development) Jessica Bryant (Development Manager) Janeva Pope (Administration) and Teya Seguin (Development). Missing from this photo is Madison Sutherland (Administration) and Nataley Anderson (Development).

TKC wishes you all the best for your school year ahead and we hope to see you all next year!



Chief Amanda Leas spoke on August 8 at a special dedication of the Reconciliation Garden in front of the Whitehorse Detachment, RCMP Headquarters.

Each year, TKC joins Kwanlin Dün First Nation to plant the heart-shaped garden which serves as a testament to the unique approach to reconciliation that exists in Yukon. Ta'an Councillor Diane Graham, Wellness Coordinator Charlene Burns, Heritage Coordinator Debbie Burns and Education Support Worker Lori Graham helped plant this year's garden. TKC students Sydney Miller and Adrianna Smith also helped with the planting.

This year, orange marigolds were added, in recognition of the many truth and reconciliation initiatives that continue in Yukon and across Canada.



Rotary International Tours Yukon

On June 22, TKC Elder Debbie Burns accompanied Chief Amanda Leas at Taylor House (Office of the Commissioner of Yukon) to help plant a special reconciliation garden in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee to celebrate 70 years of Queen Elizabeth's reign. Chief Leas spoke at the event which included special guest Jennifer Jones (here with Chief Leas) who is the first female president in the history of Rotary International.

Rotary International is a humanitarian service organization which brings together business and professional leaders in order to provide community service, promote integrity, and advance goodwill, peace, and understanding in the world.

Summer Salmon

TKC Summer Student Madison Sutherland caught up with Citizens during the annual Taku River Salmon pick-up on July 8. Each Citizen was able to get one fresh sockeye Salmon harvested from the Taku River area.



What are you going to do with you salmon?

Christina Peters: "I am going to chop them up in chunks and cook them."

Charlotte Kane: "I'm going to fillet it, skin it and eat it."

Tiffany Ekert-Maret: "We're going to smoke it and eat it."

Jenna Duncan: "We're going to can them."

John Lavallee: "Steaks."

Corey Pope: "I'm going to make it into candied salmon. It will last longer."

Charlene Burns: "We're going to Fish Camp and we're going to dry some and make candied salmon."

Benji Clethero: "Going down to the lake to smoke it."

Chris Sawyer: We're going to barbecue it or put it on a fire."



TKC Summer Day



ay Camp 2022



TKC's 20th Anniversary Celebration



TKC's 20th Anniversary Celebration was held on Thursday September 8 at TKC Fish Camp at Lake Laberge.

Throughout the afternoon, Citizens and invited guests took part in cultural events, games, and activities. This was followed by a Community Feast and evening of guest speakers, recognition awards, and entertainment. The Celebration event was emceed by Christine Genier who welcomed special speakers and dignitaries including Assembly of First Nations' Chuck Hume, Council of Yukon First Nations' Grand Chief Peter Johnston, Whitehorse Mayor Laura Cabbott, and Minister of Environment and Highways and Public Works Nils Clarke. Yukon Member of Parliament Brendan Hanley also attended.

Christine's mother, Shirley Adamson, one of the

original TKC land claim negotiators received a standing ovation for her impromptu speech which spoke to the long road that led to the land claim.

Presentations and gifts included a special blanket presented by the Whitehorse Detachment of the RCMP and traditional Tlingit artwork presented by Teslin Tlingit Chief Eric Morris.

Chief Amanda Leas presented dozens of recognition awards to the many TKC Citizens who have made TKC what is it today, with a special acknowledgement to the signatories of TKC's Self-Government Agreement, and the Administrators, Elders, and past leadership. The event was followed by a Community Gathering held on September 9 which included a TKC Trade Show, dinner, and Community Meeting.

More photos are available at www.taan.ca.



The Community Feast and meals throughout the two-day event were provided by Scott and Jackie Dickson, owners of Takhini River Ranch. Scott and Jackie's delicious menu throughout the two-days included pulled and roast pork, chicken and delicious desserts and home-baked pies.

Photos: At right, TKC Elder and former Chief Ruth Massie with visiting Citizen Jodi Mazic from Germany. Below, Chief Amanda Leas presents former TKC Chairperson Bonnie Harpe with a recognition award for her dedicated service. Below right: Teresa Jacobs who organized the TKC swag/gift tent for the two days received a door prize from TKC's Manager of Lands and Resources Dave Irvine.



Welcome to the Team!

Please join us in welcoming these new staff members to TKC!



Matthew Dickson, Manager Housing & Infrastructure

I began my role as Manager of Housing & Infrastructure on June 13, 2022. As a TKC Citizen who believes strongly in family and community, I am excited to contribute my skills as a team leader for the many housing initiatives TKC has embarked on. I bring with me 20 years of experience in the construction field as a Red Seal Carpenter and Construction Manager, as well as many years running a successful business working in the Yukon's housing industry and with various Yukon First Nations.

Building a solid team that can skillfully tackle all the upcoming housing needs TKC has is my top priority. My goal is to create a system I hope will re-invigorate the department. Please bring any housing-related requests to me. All requests will be logged, processed, and dealt with in a timely manner. You can reach me at (867) 668-3613 ext. 501 or email housingmanager@taan.ca



Aashna Jhunhunwala, Office Manager

Driven by the desire to learn and adventure, my journey started from Nepal to India and now all the way to the Yukon. I came to Canada as a teenager and completed my Bachelors in a small town in New Brunswick.

I started my career as a co-op student and have experience working in operations, administration, and finance. It has all lead to my current position as Office Manager at Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. I enjoy spending time with loved ones, watching Korean drama and experiencing different things. I hope that over the course of the next few weeks I get the chance to meet you all in person and look forward to getting to know all of you! You can contact Aashna at (867) 668-3613 ext. 203 or email officemanager@taan.ca.





Kadin Hare, Wildlife Monitor

My name is Kadin Hare. I am part of the Maggie Broeren family. I was born in the Yukon and spent eight years in the NWT. I moved back with my family in 2014 and have been a part of Ta'an for about seven years. I love being on the land and monitoring for our people. I graduated from Porter Creek Secondary School in 2019 and I am currently attending an environmental monitoring course at Yukon University. I hope to bring in knowledge I learn from my course to help my First Nation in land development and other environmental projects in the future.



Austin Smith—Wildlife Monitor

Hi, I'm Austin. I am a new Wildlife Monitor for TKC.

As a Wildlife Monitor, I am tasked with helping my coworkers monitor all TKC land for anything out of the ordinary. For example these are some of the things I am to help with: Reporting people who are modifying the land or taking resources without permission; people living on TKC lands without TKC's knowledge; keeping an eye on animal habitats; reporting on garbage and waste on the land to be cleaned up.

I am a TKC Citizen and have taken part in many TKC events and group activities. My passion is to be out on our traditional land and explore places I haven't seen or been to. I also value the land greatly because it provides for our people.

Records Set for Summer Fire Activity

by Madison Sutherland



As of July 5, 2022, fire activity in the Yukon had exploded the records, bringing more wildfires than we have seen in 25 years. The average number of wildfires for this time of year was 60 fires. By July 2022, there were 244 wildfires burning which represents an increase of almost six-times the number of fires recorded last year where there were 42 wildfires recorded.

By mid-summer, firefighters and attack crew members in BC had been called in to help Yukon firefighters and crews. The Yukon had 25 attack crews from the territory and 18 attack crews from BC. Unit crews, helicopters and airtanker groups were here helping as well. The firefighters and crews used hand-tools to dig out heat and smoke in order to ensure they are extinguished.

This summer also saw some communities across the Yukon including Pelly Crossing on alert for evacuation. By mid-July widespread rains had helped ease the fire activity, though much of the summer remained active keeping firefighters busy throughout the Yukon.

Yukon firefighters were also deployed this summer to go help fight fires in B.C. and the United States.



We want to offer a huge thanks to all the firefighters and crews who were busy keeping us safe this summer! For updates and more information please go to www.yukon.ca/en/get-wildfire-updates

Note: By the end of fire season, as of October 31, 2022, the Yukon had recorded 276 wildfires which burned 175,285 hectares of land. The five-year average for forest fires in Yukon is 86 fires with an average of 165,633 hectares burned.

Whitehorse Rapids Dam Project



Ta'an Kwäch'än Council is working in partnership with Yukon Energy, Yukon Government, Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) and Carcross Tagish First Nation (CTFN) on the re-licensing of the Whitehorse Rapids Dam. The current water licence for the Whitehorse Rapids Dam expires in mid-2025.

To obtain a new water license, Yukon Energy needs to have an Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment completed By YESAB, apply for a water-use licence and apply for a *Fisheries Act* Authorization.

These licenses and authorizations are required for Yukon Energy to operate the Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station which produces hydropower for Yukoners.

Components of the Whitehorse Rapids Dam that will be reviewed and authorized include operating the Lewes Control Structure which changes water levels in Marsh Lake and operating the Whitehorse Dam (including the dam, spillway, four turbines, the power canal and fish ladder), which generates electricity and changes water levels in Schwatka Lake.

What is TKC's role in relicensing the dam?

- To keep electricity rates low for Ta'an Kwäch'än Citizens.

- Ensuring that operating the dam is not going to have further negative effects on the land, water, animals, plants and people.
- Assess and improve fish passage through the fish ladder.
- Ensure that the fish hatchery is having positive impacts on returning Chinook Salmon.
- Keep Council and Citizens updated on where the project is at.
- Ensuring that Ta'an has a voice in the process.
- Reconciliation with Yukon Energy, Yukon Government and Government of Canada.

If you have specific questions or would like to learn more about the re-licensing of the Whitehorse Dam, reach out to Dave Irvine, Lands & Resources Manager at (867) 668-3613 ext. 601 or email lrhmanager@taan.ca.



Citizen Update

Land Selection Application Updates

During the summer 2022 TKC's Lands & Resources Department put a call out to all Citizens who previously applied for land selection to contact the department to ensure your file is up to date. You can contact TKC Land Steward, Testloa Smith to update your file at (867) 668-3613 ext. 605 or email tsmith@taan.ca.

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.



TKC Elders Betsy Jackson and Brenda Sam join summer student Adrianna Smith to prepare fresh salmon for canning during this summer's Culture Camp.

**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.**