



April 2023 Bulletin

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council - 117 Industrial Road, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2T8



Photo by Kiawna Leas

From front to back: Kiawna Leas, Maddy Sutherland, Nataley Anderson, Ben Monkman, Brandon Crawford, Janeva Pope and Michael Broeren.

Our Road to Our Future

Five Ta'an high school students got a chance of a lifetime touring universities

by Maddy Sutherland

This past February five TKC youth, including myself, got a chance to spend five days touring universities learning about potential post-secondary opportunities.

The tour was to offer students a chance to visit different universities across British Columbia. During the trip, we visited several campuses which included The University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology and many more. Other students who attended the tour included Janeva Pope, Kiawna Leas, Nataley Anderson and Michael Broeren.

This was a fantastic opportunity for us youth to see what's out there as we gear up for post secondary learning.

Ben Monkman, TKC's Youth Outreach Support Worker who helped organize the trip, said these tours are a fantastic opportunity for students soon to graduate high school.

"Deciding which road to take when it comes to post secondary education is a huge decision," Ben noted. "There are many opportunities and many directions each student has. Trips like this present them with options to help when choosing their paths forward."

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Spring Camp Coverage—page 6-7

EVENTS & COMMUNITY NOTICES



CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT DROP IN EVENTS

Starting March 29, 2023

Starting on Wednesday March 29 and continuing for three weeks, TKC'S Lands & Resources Department will be hosting Citizen engagement drop-in events at the Department's headquarters located at 9042 Quartz Road (Griffith's Building). Further dates include April 5, April 12, and April 19. The Department is seeking Citizen input during these sessions and will be hearing comments and concerns about a number of projects and programs the Department is undertaking. Snacks will be available, as well as draws and door prizes at every event. For more information contact Natalie Leclerc at (867) 668-3613 ext. 604 or email nleclerc@taan.ca.



FUN EASTER BASKETS AVAILABLE

April 5-6, 2023

Families will be happy to know that Easter baskets for children aged 0-12 will be available from the Development Department on April 5 and 6 from 1-4:30. If alternate arrangements are needed or you would like to reserve a basket, please contact Natalie Hare at (867) 668-3613 ext. 402 or email adminassist@taan.ca.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Heritage and Culture Manager

Deadline: April 14, 2023

Reporting to the Executive Director, the Heritage and Culture Manager is responsible for planning, organizing, implementing, directing, and reviewing programs, projects and initiatives related to TKC Heritage and Culture, to achieve objectives of the TKC Final Agreement, in particular, Chapter 13, and the TKC Strategic Plan. As well, this position is responsible for ensuring that government initiatives and policies are developed pursuant to the Final Agreement, and TKC Constitution. For a full job description please contact Bobbie Kufeldt by e-mail at rkufeldt@taan.ca. As per policy, preference will be given to those

qualified TKC Citizens who self-identify in their cover letter/résumé, although we encourage all who are qualified to apply. The closing date for this position is Friday, April 14, 2023.



CITIZEN COMMUNITY MEETING

Thursday April 20, 2023

Sternwheeler Hotel (5pm to 8pm)

Mark Thursday April 20, 2023, on your calendars for an upcoming Citizen community meeting. The meeting will be held at the Sternwheeler Hotel or Citizens can attend virtually. Starting at 5:00pm, the meeting will offer updates for Citizens on housing developments as well as strategic planning initiatives. Honoraria will be provided for those attending. Rides are available if needed. Dinner and door prizes will be provided. Contact Victoria Holmes, Clerk of the Council, at (867) 668-3613 ext. 210 or email clerkofcouncil@taan.ca.



MAPPING MY WAY PROGRAM

Four-Week Program starts April 18, 2023

This spring, the Development Department will be running a new four-week program called Mapping My Way. The program, delivered by Donna Moore at La Strata Solutions, is aimed at helping Citizens chart their course in areas of career and personal development. Topics will include creating self-awareness, goal-setting, resume-building and interview preparation. The virtual program will be delivered via Zoom on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. To register, please contact Barb Crawford at (867) 668-3613 ext. 410 or email training@taan.ca.



2023 NORTH AMERICAN CARIBOU WORKSHOP

May 8-12 (Anchorage, Alaska)

TKC is now accepting Expression of Interest from TKC Citizens, including youth and Elders, interested in attending the 2023 North American Caribou Workshop & Arctic Ungulate Conference hosted in Anchorage, Alaska (May 8-12, 2023). The conference includes discussions aimed towards inter-governmental collaboration across

arctic ecosystems to protect northern ungulate populations. TKC has been an active member in Southern Lakes caribou recovery efforts and maintain a vested interest in the conservation of northern ungulates. This would be a great networking opportunity for both staff and Citizens to share knowledge and lessons learned from other jurisdictions that could be applied within our Traditional Territory. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jessica Lee at (867) 668-3613 ext. 602 or email resources@taan.ca.



WORK PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR SUMMER **Deadline: April 19, 2023**

Northwestel is launching an exciting work placement program this summer that is designed to give Northern young adults the skills and complete training to enter a rewarding career with Northwestel. From June to September 2023, participants in the program have a chance to earn two Yukon University credited courses, specialized training to build the skills needed to work at Northwestel as well as full-time employment as either a Customer Service Representative or a Service Technician once training is complete. To be eligible you must have a high school diploma or equivalent by June 2023, two references, a valid driver's licence (for outdoor workers only) and a clear background check. The application deadline is April 19, 2023. More information is available by email at futures@northwestel.ca or by contacting Barb Crawford at (867) 668-3613 ext. 410 or email training@taan.ca.



GIRLS WRITE THE FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP **Deadline: July 1, 2023**

An exciting opportunity for female Citizens looking for some extra help with university costs is now available. The Girls Write the Future Scholarship will cover up to \$5000 of tuition fees per year for students beginning their studies at McGill University, University of Winnipeg or Yukon University. To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must identify as female, be Indigenous, intend to graduate from high school this year or have already graduated but not started post-secondary, have a high school GPA of 75 per cent or equivalent and have a proven track record of

community service and engagement. More information is available at www.girlswritethefuture.org/scholarship. If you require assistance applying, please contact Kaitlyn Silvester at (867) 668-3613 ext. 401 or email educationsupport@taan.ca.



TKC's Housing crew members Corey Kirkpatrick (above) and Gabriel Profeit (below) work on the decking systems at the new mobile homes at Lake Laberge. All nine homes have been placed on site.





International Women's Day was celebrated on March 8 and TKC Chief and Council took time during a meeting on Intergovernmental relations to celebrate the female leadership and staff in attendance. From right: City of Whitehorse Director of Community Services Krista Mroz, Mayor Laura Cabott, TKC Chief Amanda Leas, TKC Councillor Roberta Auston, City Councillors Melissa Murray and Michelle Friesen, TKC's Executive Assistant Katelyn Friendship and City of Whitehorse's Director of Infrastructure and Operations Tracy Allen.

CHIEF AND COUNCIL

Housing

This month, Council continues to work on TKC major housing initiatives and projects with hopes to combat the housing crisis in the near future. The tender for the housing development on C9 (Whistlebend) has been released, with hopes to have a contractor secured by the summer. We are still working on the placement of the nine mobile homes out at Lake Laberge and are hoping to have Citizen's in them soon.

Elders Complex

TKC has started the process of working with Yukon Housing Corporation regarding funding for a new 20-bedroom Elders' complex. A special meeting was set to be held on Monday March 27 to discuss this project, the design, and the proposed locations (Whistlebend, Riverdale or Porter Creek).

Home Repair Fund Policy

Council has amended the Home Repair Fund Policy to assist Citizens in the greatest need with financial assistance with retaining the value, extending the life, and moving their home towards a greater level of functionality. Citizens can now access this funding for replacement of furnace, broken windows, oil/propane tank, septic tank, water tank/heater/pump, roof,

insulation upgrade, mold remediation, and home modifications related to a physical disability. Citizens can access an application form on Ta'an's website or speak with the Housing Manager.

New Executive Director

Some Councillors actively participated in the hiring of the new Executive Director, Charles Pugh. The Executive Director provides the link between the Chief, Deputy Chief, Council and department managers. The Executive Director is responsible for leading, planning, managing, and implementing TKC programs and policies, supervises staff, and oversees the activities of the Administration Department. Charles is a great asset, and we look forward to working with him.

Council Meetings

Council continues to meet approximately every two weeks to tend to pertinent business required to keep the TKC government operating effectively. On March 14th they met and approved the operating budget for 2023/24. Council is also continuing to work on amending their Rules of Procedure, to ensure a clear and concise process of Council matters.



Elders Shirley Beattie and Patti Boss attended a special presentation on How We Walk with the Land and Water at TKC Fish Camp on March 18.

Elders Council Meetings

In February, the Elders closed their meeting due to the passing of an Elder. The Elders Council offer their sincerest condolences to the family and friends. In March, Elders reconvened for their monthly meeting to deal with TKC business. Elders have reappointed a judge to the TKC Judicial Council, ensuring that the Judicial Council is able to continue operations in adjudicating Citizen complaints. The Elders Council is currently amending its Rules of Procedure in an attempt to make the Elders Council atmosphere more welcoming and positive. Elders Council continues to make travel plans as COVID subsides, with two proposed trips planned in the fall.

Wills & Estates Workshop and TKC Updates

The Elders Council also participated in a Wills & Estates workshop, learning about important aspects that need to be addressed when creating a will and estate management and planning. They look forward to having a lawyer draw up their wills in the coming months. They continue to receive updates from managers and outside contractors, allowing them to gain information about TKCs standing in various initiatives, including the Whitehorse Rapid Dam Relicensing Project and How We Walk with the Land and Water.



Special workshop on wills and estates.

Youth Council

Youth Council Continues to meet once per month. The Youth Council is currently planning on traveling to different destinations to gain knowledge on different files and initiatives that TKC is involved in as well as learning about governance opportunities and processes. The Youth Council looks forward to receiving jackets, similar to the Elders Council, so they are easily identified as TKC Youth Council representatives. With spring on the horizon, Youth Council looks forward to continuing its momentum in making recommendations to Council to address TKC youth issues since Youth Council's revitalization in November of 2022.

Spring Ca

by Maddy Sutherland



camp 2023



We are pleased to officially introduce the newest TKC employees!

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Jessica is the new Natural Resources Technician. She is from the Yukon and is excited to join the TKC team. She has a diploma in Renewable Resources Management and a Degree in Northern Environmental Conservation Science. Jessica brings with her a variety of experience working in the environmental field ranging from forest management to water monitoring. In her spare time, she enjoys a wide range of outdoor activities.

You can reach Jessica at (867) 668-3613 ext. 602 or email resources@taan.ca.



Jessica Lee
Natural Resources Technician



Charles Pugh
Executive Director

I am honored to have this opportunity to serve Ta'an Kwäch'än Council as I was born in Whitehorse and have grown up with many citizens as life-long friends. My father was Dr. Pugh, many might remember him as the humming dentist. I am Wampaoanoag through my mother Virginia Pugh and a Crow through my adopted mother Mary Blair from White River First Nation. I have four children and four grandchildren and my wife Jenny works at Copper Ridge Place. My greatest happiness along with my family and adopted families has been working with Nations, Elders, and Citizens on their dreams and visions for self-governance. I have a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Legal Studies. I worked in a managerial capacity at CYFN for 6.5 years, other Nation governments for around 14.5 years and have been an active volunteer on the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre Board for many years. My other academic career background includes working with children, youth, and families and in addictions prevention, services for the homeless, information management, highways maintenance, human resources legislation and policy, and housing management with either the Yukon or Nunavut Government.

You can reach Charles at (867) 668-3613 ext. 201 or email ed@taan.ca.

University Tour to B.C. a Success

Continued from page 1

As a grade 11 student, It was a fun experience for me because I've never been to Merritt, Kelowna or Kamloops. So it was super neat seeing different parts of BC. A future trip in October is being planned to tour Alberta universities, so I'm hoping that I can go on this trip, too, because I think it will be equally as fun and interesting.

I found this experience to be eye opening in many ways. We visited the campuses, saw what majors the universities had available and got to meet some of the students and the professors. Each school we visited was different and gave me a more defined idea of what I want to do when I eventually go to university or college. And I think that it is very important to know what kind of work you want to do in the future.

I especially liked the trip for the outside activities we were also able to take part in.

Just to be out exploring was a great

experience. These included mini golfing, VR, going to the arcade and tons of shopping.

If you are interested in more information about BC universities or to sign up for the October 2023 tour in Alberta contact TKC's Education Support Worker Kaitlyn Silvester and she will be glad to help you. You can reach Kaitlyn at (867) 668-3613 ext. 401 or send her an email at educationsupport@taan.ca.



**Tuesdays
5:30pm to 8pm
9042 Quartz Road**

The Next Thread



**Drop in for some fun, interactive, sewing....
just because!**

Look for scheduled programming at www.taان.ca. Citizens are more than welcome to bring their own sewing projects!

Supper is provided

**Contact Cultural Program Coordinator, Debbie Burns at
(867) 668-3613 ext. 702.**



Upcoming workshops: Mitts ~ Leftover Project ~ Canvas Top Mukluks

In the Spotlight

Kara Sweeney and Maddy Sutherland were recent participants in the Warrior Program. The Warrior Program, run by Yukon First Nation Wildfire, (YFNW) has a lot to offer First Nation Youth. Through the program, you can acquire skills in First Aid, gain certification in Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System, Transportation of Danger Goods and other useful practices that are helpful in gaining employment. During the program participants experienced mock-interviews with real businesses to gain interview experience. They also learned CPR skills in the First Aid Course, learned some firefighting basics and visited the ShakatMedia Creative House. The program started on February 27th and was for two weeks. On the last day there was a ceremony where each participant was given a certificate of achievement from YFNW.

“Overall this was a great experience for us,” says Maddy. “It has helped me figure out what kind of career I might want to go after in the future.”

For more information on the Warrior Program go to www.yukonfirstnationswildfire.ca.

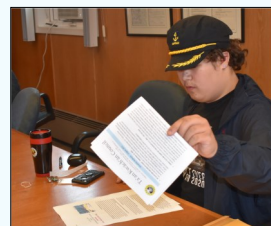


Maddy Sutherland graduated the Warrior Program on March 10, 2023. Congratulations Maddy and Kara for a job well done!

CAREERS

Blending Work Experiences will Enhance Summer Student Program

Looking for summer employment? We are now accepting resumes for TKC's Summer Student Program. This program is for students in high school or post-secondary. For 2023, TKC is offering a blended work experience for students interested in working for more than one division or department. For example, if you have an interest in fish and wildlife as well as lands and resources, or environmental projects, your placement could be set up to accommodate these different work experiences. The same would work if you have an interest in working in communications or administration, wellness, development, or housing. Our goal is to help offer you a work experience that can enhance your overall experience working for your First Nation. Cover letters and resumes can be sent to Bobbie Kufeldt at humanresources@taan.ca. Please identify which key department(s) you would like to work with in your cover letter, and we will do our best to create a summer position for you! **You can also call Bobbie at (867) 668-3613 ext. 208.**



Whitehorse Rapid Dam Relicensing Project Update



Photo Credit: Yukon Fish and Game Association

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council is working in Partnership with Yukon Energy, Yukon Government, KDFN and CTFN on the relicensing of the Whitehorse Rapids Dam. The current water licence for the Whitehorse Rapids Dam expires in mid-2025.

TKC has an important role in relicensing the dam, which includes:

- 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.
- Collecting and including Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the Assessment and Permitting Process.
- Assessing and improving fish passage through the fish ladder.
- Ensure that the fish hatchery is having positive impacts on returning Chinook Salmon.
- Keep the 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.

Over the next few months we are planning summer field surveys and would like to interview Elders and Knowledge holders about what life was like before the dam, what you know about important habitat for fish and animals, and what areas are important to Ta'an. If you are interested in contributing your knowledge or participating in the studies please let us know.

More information on TKC's involvement in the dam will be provided at the upcoming Citizen engagement events on March 20, April 5, 12 and 19.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about the Relicensing of the Whitehorse Dam, contact Dave Irvine or Lea Pigage

Dave Irvine (Lands and Resources Manager)
lrhmanager@taan.ca
Phone: 867-668-3613 x 601

Lea Pigage (Project Lead)
lea@simplenorth.ca
867-334-9968



Department of
Lands & Resources

Citizen Engagement

Drop In
Wednesdays 3–6pm

9042 Quartz Road

March 29

April 5

April 12

April 19

Snacks, draws and door prizes!

**For more information contact Natalie Leclerc at (867)
668-3613 ext. 604 or email: nleclerc@taan.ca.**

Do you have an event or photo you would like featured in the Monthly Bulletin, Facebook page or on the TKC website?

Contact the Communications Office at (867) 668-3613, ext. 204, or by email at communicationsoffice@taan.ca.

