



March 2023 Bulletin

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



TKC YOUTH COUNCIL IS ON THE MOVE!

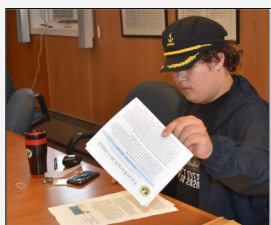
Pictured Left to Right: Sarrah Telep (Jenny Dawson Representative), Brooklyn Massie (Jenny Lebarge Representative), Charissa Tizya (Chief Jim Boss Representative), Ethan LaVallee (Maggie Broeren Representative), and Kadin Hare (Susie Jim Representative).

CAREERS

Come join the TKC Team for Summer!

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. Cover letters and resumes can be sent to Bobbie Kufeldt at humanresources@taan.ca. Please identify which 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.



EVENTS & COMMUNITY NOTICES

SPRING CULTURE CAMP

March 14-17, 2023 – TKC Fish Camp

TKC Families will be happy to know that this year's Culture Camp, set for March 14-17 at TKC Fish Camp has a lot of games and activities for all ages! Along with traditional events including fishing, language lessons, hand games, and visits to the Old Village (across the lake) there will be traditional lean-to building and medicine making, along with fun tea-boiling and bannock-making contests. The events will be held between 9:30am and 3:30pm daily. Rides will be available on a daily basis from TKC's Main Administration Building. Stay tuned for more information soon on Facebook and TKC's website. For more information on the camp, contact Debbie Burns, Heritage Program Coordinator at (867) 668-3613 ext. 702 or email heritageprograms@taan.ca.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT— MARCH 18, 2023

TKC Fish Camp 11-3pm

How We Walk With the Land & Water is welcoming all Ta'an Kwäch'än Citizens to a community gathering titled Our Land & Water is Our Home. Gather together over fire and food and share what is important to you on the land and the water. Input gathered will help with the regional land and water planning for the area. A half-day honoraria will be provided for Elders who wish to attend. Lunch, coffee and tea will be provided. For more information contact Coralee Johns at (867) 689-4536 or email community.hww@gmail.com.



OUR LANGUAGE, OUR CULTURE, OUR WAY EDUCATION CONFERENCE March 22-23, 2023

Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre

The Yukon First Nations Education Directorate will be hosting the 4th Annual First Nation Education Conference—Our Language, Our Culture, Our Way at KDCC. Registration is now open for two days featuring an exciting lineup of speakers, including Dr. Alex Wilson and Notorious Cree (James Jones). Also entertaining during the gala event will be Conway Kootenay. The event includes a fashion show and delicious meal for just \$5 with all proceeds going to

First Nations Grad. A full lineup of events is available at www.yfned.ca. Contact Jessica Bryant at (867) 668-3613 ext. 408 or email developmentmanager@taan.ca.



HEALTH COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Deadline March 24, 2023

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC) is currently looking to fill five vacancies for a two-year term on TKC's Health Programs and Services Advisory Committee. The Committee is responsible for providing direction and assisting the Wellness Department Manager in the delivery of health programs and services by TKC to Ta'an Citizens. Duties may include receiving program information from the Wellness Manager and providing constructive feedback, bringing awareness to the health and social needs of Citizens, informing and educating Citizens about health program and services delivered by TKC, and contributing to the development of annual priorities and work plans. We are looking for Citizens that are 19 years of age or older. Preference will be given to those that have a background in health programs and services. Full details on how to apply are available at www.taan.ca. A list of persons meeting the requirements will be submitted to TKC Council for a decision. Letters of interest should be sent by 4:30pm no later than March 24, 2023. Contact: Victoria Holmes, Clerk of Council at (867) 668-3613 ext. 210 or email clerkofcouncil@taan.ca.



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.

THINK SAFE TO BE SAFE—ICE SAFETY REMINDER

TKC Lands & Resources Department would like to warn Citizens and users of Lake Laberge of an open water site on the south end of the lake that poses a risk to winter lake travellers. Open water sites are common this time of year, however spotting them may be difficult. Please drive or hike carefully. For more information or to report open water, contact TKC's Wildlife Monitors at (867) 668-3613 ext. 611.



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.



PROJECT MANAGER NEEDED—HOW WE WALK WITH LAND AND WATER PROJECT—Deadline: Until Filled

How We Walk with the Land and Water (HWW) is looking for a Project Manager to assist Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, and Carcross/Tagish First Nation in preparing for regional land and water relationship planning, pursuant to Chapter 11 of Final Agreements. The mandate was provided by Chiefs in a Project Charter signing ceremony in October 2017, and re-affirmed December 2020. The Project Manager is responsible for overall project management and administration for the HWW Project. A full job description is available at www.yuwin.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, the 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.



JARED KANE'S WORK NOW ON PERMANENT DISPLAY

A handful of First Nations artists from Yukon have had their work selected for the prestigious Yukon Permanent Art Collection (YPAC). The pieces will join over 500 works in the collection by 275 artists. YPAC's overall aim is to showcase artists and works that are significant to the territory's art legacy. Jared Kane, a Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Citizen whose panel carving *Raven and Creek Mother* was among the acquisitions and is featured in *Dis Orientation*, said he's thrilled his work was chosen. "I feel great, to be honest. I'm grateful. It's my first piece (to be selected)," he said. "I'm noticing a lot of people are stopping and that's exactly what I want. I want them to stop and see our pieces." Congratulations Jared! Works from the collection are displayed in public buildings in Whitehorse, Dawson, Faro, Haines Junction and Mayo for the enjoyment of Yukoners and visitors.





Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met with Yukon First Nation Chiefs on February 13, 2023 to highlight the significance of the 50th Anniversary of Together Today for our Children Tomorrow—Yukon's historic document that paved the way for the negotiation of the Yukon Final Agreements and Self-Government Agreements.

CHIEF AND COUNCIL

Housing on Horizon

Although winter is often a time for rest and relaxation to recuperate from the busy summer season, TKC Council remains busy with ensuring initiatives and projects continue to be completed. Many of the mobile homes have been successfully placed at Lake Laberge and a timeline for Citizen move in has been set. Council continues to support TKC's Citizens First Housing Initiative now working on developments on C-9 and C-16. TKC Council consistently supports the Implementation office to attend negotiations and have a strong TKC voice and presence at the table.

Land Claim Lobbying Meetings

Chief Amanda Leas joined Chiefs and First Nation leaders from across the Yukon the week of February 6, 2023 for some busy meetings in Ottawa with officials who sit at the implementation table for Yukon First Nation self-government. The meetings offered Yukon leaders a chance to update officials on individual First Nation's progress on implementation, as well as a chance to have one-on-one meetings regarding

funding initiatives available to First Nations. Chief Leas was able to lobby for housing, language and education dollars, all important priorities for TKC Chief and Council.



Yukon First Nation Chiefs were in Ottawa the week of February 6, 2023 to meet and lobby with federal officials for program funding. From left to right: Northern Affairs Minister Dan Vandal, Chief Amanda Leas, KDFN Chief Doris Bill and YFN lawyer Dave Joe.

Elders Council

Elders Council continues to meet regularly and provide guidance to both TKC Council and Youth Council. They are engaging on projects to offer traditional knowledge on TKC initiatives such as the Dam re-licensing project and How We Walk with The Land and Water. The Elders Council have amended their Rules of Procedure with the hopes of creating a positive atmosphere at Elders Council meetings. The Elders look forward to upcoming travel opportunities this fall.

Youth Council

This year, the TKC Youth Council looks forward to connecting with Council to provide recommendations that will have positive impacts on all TKC Youth and to gather wisdom from the Elders Council. Youth Council has made connections with the Assembly of First Nations and anticipates conferences and travel being a large part of their 2023. Youth Council holds their meetings once per month and want to remind all TKC youth that they are welcome to observe the meetings.



TKC Elders enjoy a game of Indian Bingo at the Elder's Tea held in December.



TKC Elders got a chance to share some personal cheer with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during his recent visit to Whitehorse on February 13. Nakhela (Hazel) Bunbury (above) and Betsy Jackson (right).



In the Spotlight



Chief Amanda Leas joins the PM with her daughter Kiawna Leas.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

We are pleased to officially introduce you to the newest TKC employees!



Mark Doucette
Human Resources Manager

I am a proud Metis person, originally from the historical little town of Mattawa Ontario. My heritage is a mix of Algonquin, French & Irish with a sprinkle of Swedish on my maternal grandmother's side of the family. Over my career I have worked in the fur industry, held sales and marketing roles within the print industry and over the past 20 years in a variety of senior management roles that took me across North America. I worked a few years in Nunavut with Qulliq Energy Corporation, tried to retire back in Ontario (without success), and since 2018 have been here in the Yukon, where I was responsible for the growth and development of Haa Shagóon Hidi, the learning centre for Carcross Tagish First Nation. Most recently, I spent nine months working on a stabilization project with the Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association as their Director of Business Operations. When away from work, my wife and I enjoy exploring the Yukon and B.C. in our RV. I am now happy to be here as a part of this great team at Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. You can reach me at (867) 668-3613 ext. 212 or email hmananager@taan.ca.

I started the position of Wellness Manager on Dec. 12, 2022. I have lived in the Yukon for over 50 years, and am a graduate from FH Collins. After high school, I completed undergraduate degrees in social work and criminology at universities in B.C. My two children were born in Whitehorse, and we are a Metis family. On April 8, 2022 we welcomed to our family our grandson, Eli. I worked over 30 years providing treatment, counselling, and working on the frontline with teenagers and their families. I am excited at the opportunity to work with Ta'an Kwäch'än in the Wellness Department. I have worked with First Nation people in Whitehorse, Old Crow, Watson Lake, Ross River and Teslin. I enjoy walking and snowshoeing in the bush with my daughter and our dogs. I also paint with acrylics in an abstract style. Overall, I am super excited to work for the Ta'an Kwäch'än Government and look forward to getting to know everyone. You can reach me at (867) 668-3613 ext. 409 or email me at wellnessmanager@taan.ca. My work cell number is 335-0630.



Cathy Deacon
Wellness Manager



Chris Cowx
Housing, Research & Project Officer

Chris was born in England and grew up in Vancouver, B.C. He attended the University of Victoria and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in History. After running a small contracting company, he got married and eventually headed North, landing for a few years in Nunavut where he worked for the Government of Nunavut's Department of Economic Development. He moved back south for a while and continued work for the North from Vancouver however, by 2015 the call of the North became too strong and he headed back, this time to the Yukon. Chris worked as a contractor for various organizations, and then settled into a position as General Manager for the White River First Nations DevCorp. After starting at his post for TKC on December 7, 2022 and he is very happy to be able to call Ta'an Kwäch'än Council his new professional home. He is looking forward to being able to help Citizens be able to have proper housing, which is the most basic of human needs. During his off time, Chris enjoys camping, fishing, hunting and outdoor activities. Chris joined TKC on December 7, 2022. You can reach Chris at (867) 668-3613 ext. 503 or email research@taan.ca.



Nikita Sawrenko-Bailey
Administrative Assistant

Since I was a little kid I have always been fascinated by learning how things work. I started out in automotive mechanics as a teenager and went on to get a certificate in auto body at Centennial College in Scarborough, Ontario in 2006. In 2007 I moved to the Yukon and began my apprenticeship as an Aviation Maintenance Engineer with Air North, Yukon's airline. During my 10 years with Air North I gained multiple endorsements and certifications including my full Aviation Maintenance Engineering license. I've spent the last two years expanding my carpentry skills and knowledge. I am always looking to learn new things and expand my skill set. My downtime generally goes to my wife, the kids and the dogs. I am appreciative of the opportunity to work for Ta'an as the Maintenance and General Labourer. I can be reached via the Housing Department (867) 334-6783 or email maintenance@taan.ca.



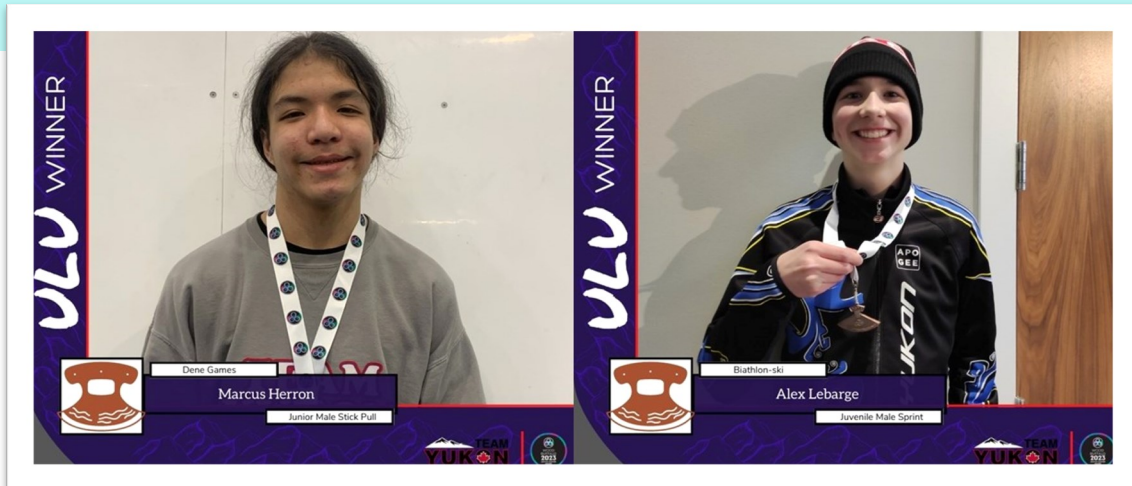
Corey Kirkpatrick
Maintenance & General Labourer



Gabriel Profeit
Lead Carpenter

It was while he was working part-time at Pelly Farms during high school that Gabriel, who is a Ta'an Kwäch'än Citizen, got his first taste for building things and found the inspiration that would lead him to where he is today. A graduate from FH Collins, Gabriel tried to sign up for apprenticeship training here in the Yukon, but with higher-than-average wait-times, he instead decided to home base head to British Columbia where he dedicated the next four years to attend British Columbia Institute of Technology. After completing the intensive apprenticeship training program, he gained his Red Seal in Carpentry. After receiving his ticket, Gabriel worked several jobs focusing on commercial and residential builds, between Kamloops and Vancouver. Back in Whitehorse for the past four years, Gabriel has worked steadily with housing and infrastructure projects throughout the Yukon. On December 5, 2022, Gabriel joined TKC's Housing & Infrastructure Department as Lead Carpenter. In his spare time, Gabriel loves to hit the outdoors, where he spends a lot of time on the land. Gabriel can be reached at (867) 334-3700 or email at leadcarpenter@taan.ca.

Winners' Circle — 2023 Arctic Winter Games



TKC wants to congratulate all our Arctic Winter Games athletes who competed in Wood Buffalo, Alberta in early February. Congratulations Alex Leberge and Marcus Herron (above) for your wins! Also, in our Winner's Circle are below from right: Kadin Hare (Bronze—Dene Games); Kashtyn Leas (Gold—Dene Games) and Kiawna Leas (Bronze—Dene Games). We are wishing all Yukon athletes congratulations on a great success! For more results and photos go to: www.facebook.com/goteamyukon.



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 668-3613, ext. 204, or by email at communicationoffice@taan.ca.

