



# May 2023 Bulletin

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



*Yvonne Jack enjoys her visit with Nicole Smith, who works on her eagle design for a vest she's making, at the Tuesday night sewing session (The Next Thread) on April 25. **Please see page 6** for a special feature on this sewing sensation.*

## — INSIDE —

Events & Community Notices .....	Page 2
Chief and Council .....	Page 4
Youth Council .....	Page 5
The Next Thread: Weekly Sewing Sessions	
Helps Keep Roberta Behn's Legacy Strong .....	Page 6
HR Highlights .....	Page 8
In the Spotlight .....	Page 10

# EVENTS & COMMUNITY NOTICES

---

## **MOTHER'S DAY GIFT BAGS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP**

Moms will be celebrated this year with special gift baskets that will have all sorts of special items to show our appreciation. Mother's Day is on Sunday May 14 and the gift baskets will be available for pick up on Thursday May 11 and Friday May 12 from the TKC Main Administration building between 1-4pm. To register for a basket please contact Lori Graham at (867) 668-3613 ext. 203 or email [officemanager@taan.ca](mailto:officemanager@taan.ca).



## **TEMPORARY MEMBER VACANCY Laberge Renewable Resources Council Deadline: May 31st**

TKC has an immediate vacancy for a temporary member to sit on the Laberge Renewable Resources Council (LRRC) for a term ending December 2026. As a member of the LRRC, you would be expected to attend monthly meetings, the annual General Assembly, and working group meetings. Interested persons are requested to submit a letter of interest outlining their qualifications (template available upon request) and a copy of their resume. A list of persons meeting the requirements will be submitted to Chief and Council for a decision. As outlined in Chapter 16.6.4., once Chief and Council have selected their nominee, the name will be sent to the Minister of Environment for acceptance. Letters of interest should be sent by 4:30pm no later than May 12, 2023. Contact: Brandon Crawford, Fish & Wildlife Coordinator, 9042 Quartz Road, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 5L8 or call (867) 668-3613 ext. 603 or email [fishandwildlife@taan.ca](mailto:fishandwildlife@taan.ca).



## **YUKON FIRST NATION GRADUATION—June 2, 2023 Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre**

The 2023 reception and ceremony will be held at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre on June 2, 2023! There will be reception prior to the ceremony, from 12pm until 2pm. Tickets are required to attend. The graduation ceremony will begin at 2pm outside. There will be no dinner after the ceremony. All graduates need to be at the Cultural Centre by 12:30pm, dressed in their traditional regalia. There will be a group photo taken at 1pm sharp outside by the river. More updates are available on the Yukon First Nation Graduation Facebook page.



## **BIO BLITZ – TKC Fish Camp July 26-27, 2023**

Looking for something fun to do this summer? Join Lands & Resources at Fish Camp July 26th and 27th from 9am-3pm for our first annual TKC Bioblitz! Wait, but what is a Bioblitz? A Bioblitz is a citizen-science based event to identify and record as many species of plants, insects, birds and animals in a specific area and time period. This information can help Lands & Resources staff ensure that these species and habitats are safeguarded as we monitor for impacts of climate change, future development proposals, and backcountry recreation. We will be running this event around Lake Laberge with sample sites at Fish Camp and boat rides to the old Ta'an Village to explore the diverse habitats on both sides of the lake. Prizes, food, campfire, and two days of outdoor fun awaits! For more information contact Brandon Crawford Fish & Wildlife Coordinator [fishandwildlife@taan.ca](mailto:fishandwildlife@taan.ca) or Jessica Lee, Natural Resources Technician [resources@taan.ca](mailto:resources@taan.ca).



## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY DATE SET August 11-13, TKC Fish Camp**

We are happy to announce TKC's annual General Assembly will be held the weekend of August 11-13, 2023 at the TKC Fish Camp at Lake Laberge. Official callouts will be forthcoming for constitutional amendments, along with the agenda and special events. Stay tuned for updates on TKC's Facebook page and website in the coming weeks. Delegate forms will be available soon online at [www.taan.ca](http://www.taan.ca). For more information contact Victoria Holmes, Clerk of Council at (867) 668-3613 ext. 210 or email [clerkofcouncil@taan.ca](mailto:clerkofcouncil@taan.ca).



## **CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT A SUCCESS DOOR PRIZE WINNERS**

TKC's Lands & Resources spring Citizen Engagement sessions held on March 31 and April 5 were a success! Here are our winners for the door prizes: Lands Prize: A cast iron cooking set, Bobbie Kufeldt; Resources Prize: A pair of universal snowshoes, Coralee Johns; and Wildlife



Monitors Prize: A pair of Bushnell hunting binoculars, Hudson Irvine. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone that came out to our engagements to learn about our projects and to offer your input on programs you'd like to see. Stay tuned for future community events, including a fresh Taku River salmon giveaway, set for this summer from the Lands & Resources Team!



#### **DRIVERS BEWARE – Deer alert for Yukon Highways**

With this year's spring melt now well under way, this is a reminder that the shoulder areas of Yukon highways are popular feeding zones for deer and elk. Due to their neutral-coloured coats (combined with the dead grass in ditches) deer/elk are particularly hard to spot this time of year. Mule deer/elk are primarily active during the morning, evening, and moonlit nights; retreating to secluded areas for rest during the day. Please drive carefully and keep a sharp lookout at this time. TKC Wildlife Monitors can be reached at (867) 668-3613 ext. 611.



#### **NEW WORK GEAR AND EQUIPMENT PROGRAM FOR CITIZENS**

TKC has a new Work Gear and Equipment Funding Program. TKC is committed to reducing barriers to employment and supporting its Citizens in securing and maintaining employment. The Development Department provides Citizens with \$500 towards work

gear and equipment to reduce the financial barriers to securing and/or maintaining employment. For more information contact Barb Crawford, the Education & Employment Training Coordinator at (867) 668-3613 ext. 410 or email [training@taan.ca](mailto:training@taan.ca).



#### **APPLICATION FORMS NOW AVAILABLE FOR REVISED 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 application forms on TKC's website at [www.taan.ca](http://www.taan.ca).



#### **AVIAN FLU WATCH REMINDER**

This spring, Yukoners are being asked to minimize contact between domestic or wild birds and remember to report a sick or dead bird to the territorial emergency wildlife hotline at 1-800-661-0525. Residents are reminded to ensure your property and outdoor spaces are free of all birdfeeders and other attractants. Citizens can also contact TKC Wildlife Monitors at (867) 668-3613 ext. 611.





**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.taan.ca](http://www.taan.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.**





Ethan Lavallee, Chair of TKC's Youth Council, and Chief Amanda Leas joined Canadian R&B pop singer Jilly Black at the AFN Chiefs Meeting on April 4. Jilly was honoured for purposefully changing Canada's national anthem at an NBA All-Star Game in February. She changed "O Canada! Our home and native land!" to "O Canada! Our home on native land" to recognize the Indigenous people who lived on the land before European settlers. Black was presented with an eagle feather and wrapped with a blanket during a Blanketing Ceremony by AFN Knowledge Keepers and National Chief RoseAnne Archibald.

## CHIEF AND COUNCIL

### General Assembly set for August 11-13, 2023

On April 20, Council selected August 11-13 as the dates for the next General Assembly. We are very pleased to be able to hold our annual assembly during a warmer season and will be hosting the event at our own traditional fish camp at Lake Laberge. Citizens can expect a callout for constitutional amendments and registration shortly. Council will also be appointing a Chair and legal counsel. More details will be posted to TKC's website.

### Ottawa Meetings Continue for TKC Leadership

Chief Amanda Leas joined dozens of Yukon First Nation leaders to attend the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa on April 4. Highlights include negotiating an agreement to increase to the Child Welfare Contribution Agreement from \$20 to \$23 billion. The changes also add another 13,000 First Nation children to the existing settlement and ensures families receive a minimum of \$40,000. The new settlement, now has federal, AFN and First Nations Child and Family Caring Society approval and is awaiting approval from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal and the federal court.

### Lobbying Efforts Continue in Ottawa

Chief Leas has also been actively representing TKC with the assistance of our Implementation Officer Anne-Marie Miller in Ottawa on other important files. On February 27, they both attended the Land Claim Agreement Coalition meetings which included several meetings to bolster relationships on the implementation front. Both Chief Leas and Anne-Marie are also actively taking part in a series of language advocacy meetings which began in March and allow TKC to advocate for more cultural program dollars.

### Elections Bill Under Review

On April 5, Council passed a motion sending the Elections Bill back to the Elections Act Special Committee. The Special Committee will review the object, expediency, principles and merits of the Bill, alternative methods of obtaining its purpose, and will make proposals for specific amendments. The Bill will then go back to Council and Elders Council for review and further amendments before being approved. The next election will be on Monday October 21, 2024.



## Elders Complex

Elders Council decided at a special meeting held on March 27 on a location for the new Elders complex. After a presentation by TKC's Housing and Infrastructure Department Elders were presented with three site options (Whistle Bend, Porter Creek or Riverdale) and decided the best option was on Settlement Land site C-9 in Whistle Bend. TKC has started the process of working with Yukon Housing Corporation to secure funding for the new 20-bedroom Elders' complex. The proposed facility will be adjacent to the new 24 townhomes TKC is building. It is a residential quiet area, surrounded by woodland, and an excellent trail system. It is also close to Keno Way (a future commercial district of Whistle Bend).



*Elders were offered a presentation on March 27 that included this example of an Elders housing complex built by the Metlakatla First Nation located near Prince Rupert BC.*

## YOUTH COUNCIL

This month, we begin our series of profiles of members of TKC's Youth Council. Brooklyn Massie has been a member of Youth Council since 2022. Brooklyn is studying Northern Outdoors and Environmental Studies at Yukon University and is working this summer as TKC's Fish & Wildlife Student Field Technician.



### **Who is someone you admire and why do you look up to them?**

I have always admired and looked up to my father, Jay Massie. He is extremely hard working and dedicated to our family. I have never met anybody as strong as my father, he has made me into the person I am today and I will forever be grateful to call him my dad.

### **How can youth get involved with TKC?**

I think a great way for youth to be more involved with TKC is by engaging in community events such as culture camps and other fun activities. I believe we can all take different approaches towards creating more exciting educational opportunities for the youth in our community. As a youth council representative, I am hoping we can come up with access to new events for youth.

### **What is your vision for TKC Youth Council?**

My vision for TKC youth council is to provide a more collaborative and safe environment for our community. I hope to be more involved with building a supportive youth council and to inspire other TKC youth to do the same.



# THE NEXT THREAD



*Weekly sewing sessions help keep Roberta Behn's legacy strong*



*Clockwise from front: Stewart Tizya, Corey Holway, Raelina Jobin, Tynyca Tizya and Betsy Jackson.*

Debbie Burns smiles as she carefully carries a pot of steaming hot homemade stew from her truck. This is followed by homemade bannock, salads, drinks, and cups. Desserts, too, are carefully carried into the building at 4092 Quartz Road. By day, this is a location that serves as the main workplace for staff with TKC's Lands & Resources, Heritage and Culture, and Housing Departments, as well as provides work stations for some administration staff. But each Tuesday at 5pm it gets magically transformed by Debbie and her co-facilitator and sewing master Betsy Jackson into a relaxing, welcoming and very popular place for sewing enthusiasts.

The Next Thread, as it's called now, is a weekly sewing gathering Debbie and organizers hope will continue in the tradition that Ta'an Kwäch'än Citizen and long serving Heritage Programs Coordinator Roberta Behn brought to the Ta'an community.

Roberta passed away October 11, 2021, and she spent many years dedicating her time ensuring cultural programs like weekly sewing sessions similar to the Next Thread, dance group events, and other traditional get-togethers were made available. Roberta, who was a loving grandmother and mother, had a special passion for the arts, and her fun, spontaneous and much loved creative programming for all age groups continues to be missed very much within the community.

"Roberta was the heart of our cultural programming and it's an honour for me to try and carry on this part of her legacy," Debbie says. "I'll never be able to, and I don't want to replace what she offered, but I want her work to be remembered and carried on. I'm very happy to be here to try to keep this sewing program and other events she created going."







**Above:** Betsy Jackson helps Barbara Hare ready her fabric for her melton vest creation.

**Below:** Debbie Burns with a gun case design she adapted for a special Father's Day Workshop.



Debbie herself is an avid seamstress, and enjoys designing and making moccasins, slippers, and traditional clothing. Like many who attend the Tuesday night sewing sessions, creating your own unique designs, and adapting a sewing project to your own vision, is what it's all about.

Since Debbie took on the role of Cultural Program Coordinator she has introduced themes and specific project nights, and with all the materials provided it is a great way for new learners to improve their craft. Last winter, she worked with parka specialist Dorathy Wright who hit the Yukon by storm with her innovative workshops. Several Ta'an Kwäch'än Citizens signed up for the program which taught amouti and parka making.

"The sewing nights are great because we can learn and share our creative knowledge and they are done in a way that is a continuation of our culture," says Tiffany Eckert-Maret, who often attends the weekly event, sometimes along with her mom, Doris Anderson.

"That's how we used to do things. I remember when I was young and my grandmother (Irene Smith) would come over and they would all sew together. It can be very healing."

As Roberta always ensured delicious homemade soup or stew was simmering nearby during her sewing nights, Debbie is also providing homemade suppers for those who come by, even if it's just for a bite to eat and some company — everyone is welcome.

"There isn't a day go by where I don't miss my friend Roberta," she reflects. "She is missed and loved by many. This is one way we can be sure we do her memory right."



# HR HIGHLIGHTS

---

## Anne-Marie Miller takes on new governance role with TKC

Anne-Marie Miller was born and raised in Whitehorse, Yukon. She is a proud member of the Wolf Clan from the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and is a member of the Maggie Broeren Traditional Family.

Anne Marie has spent the last four and half years serving as TKC's Heritage Technician. On April 14, 2023, Anne-Marie started her position as Implementation Officer, a position she had been acting in since November 1, 2022.

From 1982 to 1984, Anne-Marie attended Mount Royal College in Calgary, Alberta and graduated with a Diploma in Social Work in 1984. She returned home to the Yukon in the summers where she obtained employment working at Kaushee's Place and the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. In 1986, she returned to the Yukon and has worked in various social services settings which include Youth Services, Young Offenders, Child Welfare, Residential Care Attendant in group homes, Manager of Health and Social Programs, Family Support Worker and worked as a First Nations Health Administrator.

Anne-Marie has served on numerous Boards and



**Anne-Marie Miller**  
**Implementation Officer**

committees which include the Yukon Women's Transition Home (Kaushee's), Social Assistance Appeal Committee (Yukon Territorial Government), Ta'an Kwäch'än Board of Directors, Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society Yukon (FASSY).

**Continued on next page**

### **The following staff are currently acting positions to cover for staff leave:**

A/Office Manager – Lori Graham in effect until June 26/23

A/Housing Manager – Vincent Smarch in effect until May 29/23

A/Home Support Worker – Laura Nolan in effect until July 21/23



# ‘I’m excited for this new adventure.’

In 2011, Anne-Marie completed her Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work at University of Regina in Regina, Saskatchewan. She also acquired a Diploma in Criminology and a Certificate in Women’s Studies.

Anne-Marie has volunteered at numerous agencies which included McCauley Lodge, Victoria Faulkner Women’s Centre, Whitehorse Food Bank, Whitehorse Minor Hockey Association and Yukon Distress and Support Line. Anne-Marie was a hockey mom for 25 years and continues her passion for sports.

In 1999, because of her love and commitment to her native heritage, she wanted to learn her traditional language, Southern Tutchone. She began training as a Native Language Teacher with the Yukon Native Language Centre in Whitehorse. She worked as a Native Language teacher trainee in both elementary and high school, which included Elijah Smith

Elementary School, Porter Creek Junior High and FH Collins in Whitehorse. She was grateful to have the teachings of her late mother, Sophie Miller, who was a fluent speaker of the Lake Lebarge dialect as a mentor.

Anne-Marie has raised three children and has two granddaughters and takes a lot of pride in being able to share the language and culture with her family.

Anne-Marie says she is excited “for this new adventure” she is taking with this new role in Implementation.

“I have learned a lot in the last few months working in this area,” she notes, adding “I am committed to respectful collaborations at the fiscal policy table on behalf of our nation and working for the betterment of Ta’an Elders, Citizens and future generations.”

Congratulations Anne-Marie. She can be reached at (867) 668-3613 ext. 211 or email [implemtationoffice@taan.ca](mailto:implemtationoffice@taan.ca).

## Heather Griffiths returns to TKC

We are very pleased to welcome Heather Griffiths back to the team as TKC’s Wellness Manager. Heather brings more than eight years of steady experience working for TKC where she held several roles including Income Support Worker and Employment & Education Worker. Heather returned to her former post of Wellness Manager in April 2023.

Born and raised in Whitehorse, Heather’s educational background includes studies in business administration and social work. She also completed coursework for her Masters of Social Work in Indigenous Trauma Resilience at the University of Toronto. coursework she completed through the University of Toronto.

You can reach Heather at (867) 668-3613 ext. or email [wellnessmanager@taan.ca](mailto:wellnessmanager@taan.ca).



**Heather Griffiths**  
**Wellness Manager**

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT ...



## **Leadership Award!**

Congratulations to Malachi LaVallee on being the recipient of the 2023 Samay Thia Harry Allen Leadership Award. Malachi was presented the award by Premier Ranj Pillai (left) and CYFN Grand Chief Peter Johnston (missing from photo) on March 24 at the 43 Annual Kilrich Yukon Native Hockey Tournament.

## **Team Leas!**

*Chief Leas was joined by her daughter Kiawna Leas to help kick off the Opening Ceremonies at the Yukon Native Hockey Tournament March 24.*

*Kiawna is passionate about sports herself and recently brought home a bronze trophy from the Dene Games she competed at the Arctic Winter Games. Kiawna, wearing a DDDC Keets jersey, reminded players at the hockey tournament how important it is to always support each other and to have lots of fun. Full coverage of the hockey tournament along with all the winning scores is available on the Yukon First Nation Hockey Facebook page.*







### 40 years of Service Recognized!

*Photo credit: CYFN*

In April CYFN hosted a celebration for the retirement of Ta'an Elder Edythe Maloney (above left) and Marsha Flood. Together, they comprise over 80 years of service to CYFN! Congratulations Marsha and Edythe and thank you for your commitment and dedication!

### How We Walk Outreach

Coralee Johns, Community Coordinator for TKC with the How We Walk with the Land & Water initiative, explains the program to TKC student Maddy Sutherland during TKC's Lands & Resources Open House held April 5. The program is helping Kwanlin Dün, Carcross/Tagish and Ta'an Kwäch'än First Nations prepare for Chapter 11 Land Use Planning by creating a unified vision for the Southern Lakes that is rooted in indigenous story, law, knowledge and affirmed by western science.

Elders named the initiative Aat á x yaa has na.át. aáni ka heen (Tlingit) | Nän ye chu ye ts'àdnäl (Southern Tutchone). For more information visit their website at [www.howwewalk.org](http://www.howwewalk.org).



Special gift baskets will be ready for pick up on  
**Thursday May 11th and Friday May 12th**  
**1-4pm**

**TKC Main Administration Building**

To register for a basket contact Lori Graham at  
(867) 668-3613 ext. 203  
or email [officemanager@taan.ca](mailto:officemanager@taan.ca).



***Don't Forget  
May 14, 2023!***

**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](mailto:communicationsoffice@taan.ca).**

