



August 2023 Bulletin

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



Bill LeBarge, Yukon Commissioner Adeline Webber, and Alex LeBarge at the Whitehorse Airport after Alex and fellow Team Yukon athletes returned from the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) held July 15-23 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Alex brought home two Bronze Medals in U-16 Male Rifle Shooting. Congratulations, Alex! More on the story on page 7!

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EVENTS & COMMUNITY NOTICES

Meet and Greet – August 8, 2023

Education Support Team

TKC families are invited to a special barbecue at Rotary Park to introduce Citizens to our new Community Education Liaison Coordinator (CELC) on August 8, 2023 between 11am-2pm. Mikayla Duncan started the position on July 25 and will serve as a key education support person for TKC students and families from K-12. This event will be shared with Kwanlin Dun First Nation's education team. This is your chance to ask about anything education! Education support applications will also be on site. There will be lots of delicious food from Takhini River Ranch and a bouncy castle for children. Contact Ben Monkman at (867) 334-8306.



Winter Crossing Celebration

Thursday August 10—TKC Fish Camp

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Parks Canada, and the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada invite you to the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the national historic significance of T'ÄW TÄ'ÄR (Winter Crossing). The ceremony and dinner will take place on Thursday, August 10, 2023, starting at 4:30 pm at TKC's Fish Camp at Lake Laberge. R.S.V.P. to Coralee Johns at sweetcoralee82@yahoo.com.



TKC General Assembly

August 11-13, 2023 - TKC Fish Camp

Be sure and check TKC's website for the agenda for the upcoming three-day Annual General Assembly set to take place during the weekend of August 11-13 at TKC's Fish Camp at Lake Laberge. If you plan to attend virtually, full registration and the online link information will be posted to the TKC website (www.taان.ca). This year's event will include family entertainment, delicious food and events for all ages. A children's area will be set up and supervised during the meeting. Stay tuned for updates and a list of activities on TKC's Facebook page and website. For more information, please contact TKC's Office Manager at (867) 668-3613 ext. 203 or email officemanager@taan.ca.



TKC Culture Camp

August 15-17—TKC Fish Camp

Mark August 15-17 on your calendars for this summer's Culture Camp set to take place at TKC's Fish Camp at Lake Laberge. The family-oriented week will include daily cultural events for all ages. More information will be available on TKC's website and Facebook page. Contact Cultural Programs Coordinator Debbie Burns at (867) 668-3613 ext. 702.



ATCO Electric Indigenous Awards Program

Deadline: August 15, 2023

ATCO Electric Yukon is accepting applications for its annual ATCO Indigenous Education Awards Program. The program supports students from First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities who demonstrate a balanced lifestyle and commitment in their quest for education. The deadline to submit your application is August 15, 2023. For more information go to www.ATCO.com/IndigenousAwards.



Contractors Job Fair—August 16, 2023

Sternwheeler Hotel—10am-4pm

TKC contractors and job seekers do not want to miss an upcoming special job fair outlining the many opportunities ahead as a result of major upgrades planned for the Eric Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport. Set for August 16, 2023, at the Sternwheeler Hotel, information will be available for upcoming contracts, and employment opportunities for skilled tradespeople, management staff, subcontractors and procurement personnel. On hand at the meeting will be the prime contractor for the work, as well as community partners involved in the project.



Dance Group Revitalized!

Are you interested in becoming part of a Ta'an Kwäch'än Traditional Dance Group? Plans are now underway to revitalize the group, and a meeting was held on Sunday July 30th to set plans in motion to start holding weekly sessions. It's OK if you missed the meeting, we'd still like to hear from you. Also, if you do not want to dance, we will need sewers and people

that know the songs and dances so we can all learn and pass the knowledge on, like our ancestors would want. The dance group is supported by TKC's Heritage Department. Stay tuned to TKC's Facebook page for the date and location of the next session. For more information contact Nicole Smith at (867) 332-0798.



Citizen Services Booklet Now Available

TKC has produced a Citizens Service Booklet that is now available online. The booklet's aim is to help navigate Citizens through the many programs and services offered by our government. Programs covering everything from Elders, youth and family support programs, as well as housing, education and wellness services are outlined in the booklet. The booklet is available at www.taana.ca or you can ask for a copy by contacting TKC's Administration Office at (867) 668-3613.



Free Feminine Kits Available TKC Wellness Department

TKC's Wellness department is offering free menstrual kits (including pads, tampons, and menstrual cups) in a bid to address period poverty among Yukon First Nation women and girls. The products are available through CYFN who received funding from Indigenous Services Canada, as part of a program to combat financial barriers women and girls face related to affording the cost of these important products. Drop by TKC's Wellness Building to pick up a kit or contact Natalie Hare at (867) 668-3613 ext. 402.



Arctic Inspiration Prize Time!

Are you part of a team that dreams of taking your project to the next level with a little Arctic Inspiration? Well, don't miss out on applying for one of many categories under the Arctic Inspiration annual contest now collecting entries. Arctic Inspiration Prize (AIP) is the largest annual prize in Canada. By celebrating and providing seed-funding to Northern teams with innovative project ideas, the AIP supports Northerners in bringing initiatives to life that bring about the changes they want to see in their communities. The AIP is by the North, and for the North, and is a community of people and groups, including Indigenous

organizations, academia, governments, non-governmental organizations, industry, philanthropy, media and arts and culture organizations, who share a common goal: to recognize northern innovation and excellence and encourage teamwork for the betterment of life in Canada's North. The deadline to submit your optional letter of intent by November 21, 2023. Full details, including a list of prize categories and application packages, please go to their website at arcticinspirationprize.ca.



Committee Vacancies Available

Interested in taking a more proactive role in TKC's government? TKC has several vacancies on its committees. The following committee vacancies (below) are available. If you are interested, please let your family representative on Council know. More information is also available by contacting Victoria Holmes, Clerk of the Council at (867) 668-3613 ext. 210.

Audit Committee (3-Year Term)

Chief Jim Boss
Jenny Dawson

Investment Committee

Chief Jim Boss
Jenny Dawson
Susie Jim

Health Programs (2-Year Term)

Chief Jim Boss
Maggie Broeren
Susie Jim

Lands Advisory (2-Year Term)

Maggie Broeren
Jenny Lebarge
Susie Jim
Elders Council

Go to www.taana.ca
and TKC's Facebook Page for
regular updates
and events of interest!



A Resolution for Change

A resolution to address the impacts of the opioid crisis plaguing the Yukon was presented by TKC Chief Amanda Leas at the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) General Assembly held in Halifax, Nova Scotia on July 13, 2023.

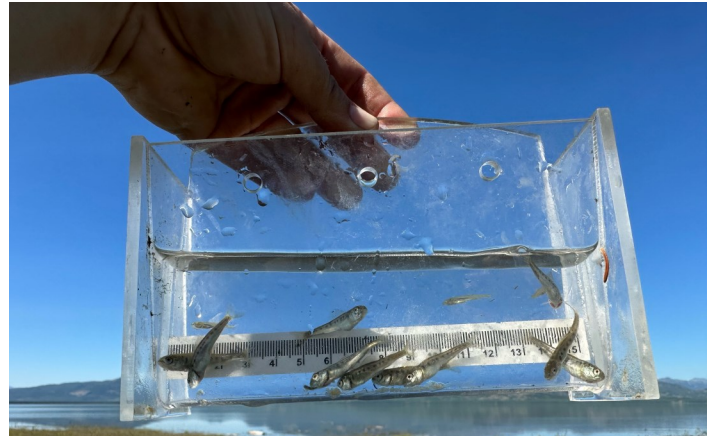
The Resolution was moved by Chief Leas and seconded by Chief Nicole Tom via proxy Councillor Calvin Charlie of Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation. It was later passed by consensus and calls on the Assembly of First Nations to provide political support to First Nations who wish to bring civil litigation against drug traffickers in their communities, and seeks support for First Nations policing services, access to restorative justice initiatives, healing lodges, harm reduction initiatives and other required measures as identified by First Nations. It also directs the AFN to call on Indigenous Services Canada to provide updates on recommendations from the Honouring Our Strengths Framework and the AFN's Opioid Strategy, and ensure that funding is made accessible to all First Nations who wish to implement these strategies, and to work with



TKC Youth Council Chair Ethan Lavallee and Chief Amanda Leas attended the AFN General Assembly in Halifax.

relevant First Nations Mental Wellness organizations that would help communities address their substance use needs.

Shāw Nithān to leadership in moving this resolution and getting this important work started for the safety and wellbeing of Yukon First Nations, and all those who have been impacted by the intersecting mental health crisis, toxic drug crisis, and opioid crisis.



From left: Student Field Technician, Brooklyn Massie, Fish & Wildlife Student, Alex LeBarge, Supervisor, Brandon Crawford, Natural Resource Technician, Jessica Lee, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada's biologist Robin Brand take a break at Joe Creek. Dog Finn also joined the crew. Above right: juvenile lake trout found in abundance at Joe Creek.

Field Work continues for Fisheries & Wildlife Team

TKC's Lands & Resources Fish and Wildlife staff have remained busy this summer with several activities to monitor fish habitats and maintain seasonal projects aimed at protecting and preserving this important resource.

On July 13-14 the department's summer students joined crews from YG Water Resources Branch to continue work on a groundwater sampling project taking place in the southern part of Lake Laberge and Shallow Bay. This important work also saw crews earlier in the summer at Horse Creek. The findings will create baseline data to be used in the future to ensure protection of our freshwater ecosystems.

Also this summer, Fish & Wildlife staff were pleased to

find freshly hatched chinook salmon on Fox Creek (by the hundreds) which indicate a successful 2023 adult return. There was also a 1+ year old chinook discovered in Shallow Bay for the first time, likely rearing in the area to take advantage of the plentiful food resources in the bay area.

On July 26, Citizens got a chance to take part in the department's first-ever BioBlitz, a Citizen-science based event that identified and recorded species of plants, insects, birds and animals. These recordings will help Lands & Resources enhance programming aimed at safeguarding these species while monitoring the impacts of climate change.

Stay tuned to TKC's Facebook and website for updates.



TKC hosted a water ceremony on July 4th at 7am at the Deep Creek Boat Launch at Lake Laberge as part of the How We Walk with the Land and Water Initiative. TKC Elder Betsy Jackson led the traditional ceremony.

In the Spotlight ...

MOTORCYCLE JOURNEY

Mike Krawczyk, (at right) stopped by TKC's offices on July 10, 2023, to pay respects to our First Nation. Mike said it was important to acknowledge his gratitude to both TKC and Kwanlin Dün First Nation for allowing him to journey through First Nation lands. Mike is on a cross-Canada tour via motorcycle that started in Newfoundland with a goal to end in Tuktoyuktuk. From left: Gloria Cashin, Sarrah Telep, Teresa Jacobs and Charles Pugh all presented Mike with a TKC pin and some gifts during his visit.



YOUTH COUNCIL

Kadin Hare is an active TKC Youth Councillor representing the Maggie Broeren Family. Kadin is a recent graduate, with honours, of Yukon University's Environmental Monitoring Program. He currently works as a TKC Wildlife Monitor.

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

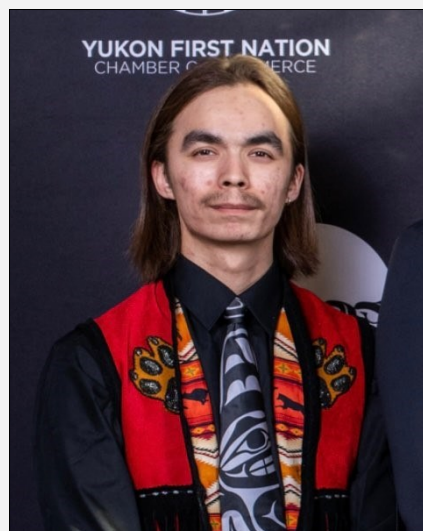
The person who I admire the most would probably be my mother Amanda Leas. I look up to her because of the progress she's made while working for Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. She's been my biggest supporter throughout my life and is always there when I need guidance.

How can youth get involved with TKC?

I think the youth could get more involved if TKC offered and promoted more programs. The youth should be motivated and encouraged to do the things they enjoy. The summer camps are a great way for some youth to get involved, but I think there should be more options of activities or different programs.

What is your vision for TKC Youth Council?

My vision for the Youth Council is to help create a foundation along with the other Youth Councillors for the new generation of youth. I want the new generation to be interested in the Youth Council and our government as it may be them who succeed us. I see that as the primary role of YC, to help the new generation of youth and our community.





TKC Youth Alex LeBarge was gifted some traditional sage following his win at the North American Indigenous Games held July 13-15 across 21 venues Kijipuktuk (Halifax). Alex received two Bronze Medals for U-16 Rifle Shooting. Congratulations Alex!

Bringing Home Bronze!

Dedication and passion for his sport as a biathlete has paid off big time for TKC Youth Alex LeBarge who brought home two Bronze Medals from the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) held in Halifax July 13-15. Alex, 15, and a Grade 10 student at FH Collins School won the medal in the Under-16 category of Male Rifle Shooting.

Facing 10 other male competitors in his category Alex says he thinks it was his seven-plus years of training in biathlon that helped prepare him for this international competition and his big win.

"I started rifle shooting this year, but I have a background in biathlon which gave me the skills, It helped, Alex says, noting, "Biathlon rifle shooting is fairly similar."

Alex says for rifle shooting at NAIG there were two formats. For one, 3P, shooters were required to fire a pre-determined number of shots in each of the three shooting positions: prone, kneeling, and standing, at distances of

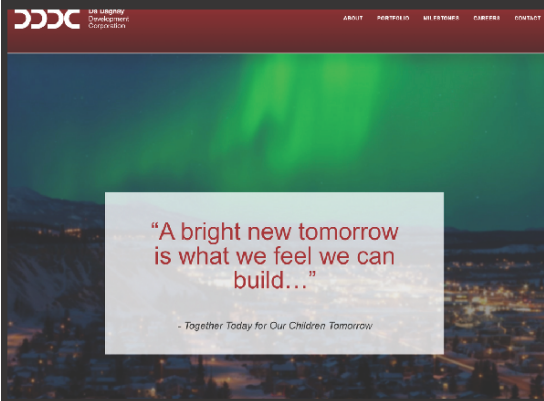
50 yards. The second, Prone, involved pre-determined number of shots in the prone position.

Along with specific training that taught him skills to align his sight picture and control his breathing, Alex notes other conditioning in biathlon, helped him prepare.

"It was very fun to do, and I made lots of new friends, because the rifle community is a very tight community. Everybody is very passionate about rifle shooting. My father went as mission staff, and he was helping lots and arranging interviews, and getting everything organized."

The Yukon earned 39 medals: 20 gold, 10 silver and 9 bronze. Medals were earned in swimming, rifle shooting, beach volleyball, canoe/kayak and 3D archery.

Congratulations to ALL Team Yukon's young athletes!



Aberdeen Broeren a TKC citizen has been doing training for the past few months to help develop and maintain the new DDDC website. We are excited to announce the new website is live!

Come and check it out at www.dadaghay.com



TBL DEVELOPMENTS

DDDC partnered with Evergreen to launch our new construction company, Triple Bottom Line Developments. TBL is currently employing four TKC citizens and will be actively involved in future developments for DDDC. TBL is a majority first nation owned construction company that focuses on providing support, training, education, and employment opportunities for indigenous youth looking to work in construction and trades. TBL will be utilized as a primary contractor for all of DDDCs current and future developments and is co-owned and managed by our longstanding partners at Evergreen Construction.

INBOX BOOTHS

We partnered up with inbox booths to provide quiet workspace for open concept offices, Commerical, schools and much more. Contact Ethan for more information.

ethan.lavallee@dadaghay.com
or 667-6609



YUKON FIRST NATIONS WILDFIRE

We would like to give a huge shoutout to YFNW for handing the wildfires that are currently happening in the Yukon and in Alberta.

YFNW has many different firebases throughout the Yukon. Yukon First Nations Wildfire was founded on the belief that we could incorporate innovative strategies and traditional indigenous knowledge into our desire to be at the forefront of Canadian Wildland Firefighting.



Da Daghay Development Corporation is a strong advocate for youth engaged in recreational activities across Yukon. We are proud to be a sponsor for the Yukon Little League Baseball Team, the Da Daghay Giants! Go Giants Go!

" Live with intentions. Walk to the edge. listen hard. Practice wellness. Play with abandon. laugh. Choose with no regret. Do what you love. Live as if this is all there is".

-Mary Ann Radmacher