



September 2023 Bulletin

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



Winter Crossing Plaque unveiled—Page 4

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EVENTS & COMMUNITY NOTICES

The Next Thread Returns!

Sewing enthusiasts will be happy to know that TKC's Heritage and Culture department's popular weekly sewing drop-in event will be returning Tuesday September 19. Held each Tuesday between 5:30pm and 8pm the sessions are open to all Citizens who have basic sewing machine and beading skills. Debbie Burns, TKC's Cultural Programs Coordinator says ideas for what sewers want to create this fall season will be discussed at this first session. Supper is also provided. Contact Debbie at (867) 668-3613 ext. 702 or drop her your ideas via email at heritageprograms@taan.ca.



Openings on Housing Committee

The Housing Department is looking for two TKC Citizens who are at least 19 years old to sit on the newly established Housing Committee. Experience in non-profit housing management, financial management, accounting expertise or business management expertise is considered an asset. For more information contact Christopher Cowx at (867) 668-3613 ext. 503 or research@taan.ca.



Judicial Council Appointments

On August 8, 2023, the Elders Council met and reappointed Michael Dougherty, and appointed Julie Jai to the Judicial Council to join current member Barbara Evans. TKC Youth Council currently has a callout for youth interested in sitting on the Judicial Council as an observer. If interested, please contact Victoria Holmes by September 10 at (867) 668-3613 ext. 210. As per a recent General Assembly Resolution, Administration will be reviewing and researching alternative adjudicative process. In the meantime, however, the Judicial Council has the responsibility to adjudicate any cases of alleged violations of TKC laws, mediate or arbitrate disputes between Citizens and TKC, and determine the validity of a TKC law or regulation. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to the registrar at registrar@tkjc.ca. Complaint forms can be found online at taan.ca.



Training Opportunities for Fall 2023

TKC's Development Department is offering Citizens and staff an opportunity to receive training in Wilderness

First Aid (3-day course) and Firearms Acquisition (1-day course). There are 12 spots reserved for TKC and the courses will be held later in September or early October as the dates are to be determined. For more information or to sign up please contact Barb Crawford, Education, Employment and Training Coordinator at (867) 668-3613 ext. 410.



Mural in the Making!

It's not too late to take part in a special youth project that will permanently transfix the Canada Games Centre with the creation of a special permanent mural. The artwork concept has been created in collaboration with TKC, Youth of Today Society and the City of Whitehorse. Events are taking place at the Canada Games Centre. The mural consists of two sections, including a section dedicated to the Lake Laberge Fish Camp, a place where our youth learn about Ta'an history and culture. The second section will be a continuation of the lake, incorporating the salmon's natural habitat. Between September 11 to the 15th, there will be community painting and food! We would greatly appreciate you attending and sharing some traditional knowledge and stories to add your personal touch to the finishing of this lovely testament to our culture. Please call or text Kara Sweeney if you are available and she can plan around your schedule. You can reach Kara at 1 (604) 869-4299.



Dance Group Revitalized!

Are you interested in becoming part of a Ta'an Kwäch'än Traditional Dance Group? The group meets every Monday at 5:30pm at the office of Da Daghay Development Corporation at 81E Wilson Drive (Granger Mall). Along with dancers 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 and supper is provided. For more information contact Nicole Smith at (867) 332-0798.



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
Youth Council



Fish Camp Upgrades Ahead

The Housing & Infrastructure Department has received funding to upgrade TKC's Fish Camp. These upgrades include a kitchen upgrade, gazebo upgrade, field leveling, road widening, sea cans for storage of materials and supplies, additional bathrooms, and bear barrels around Fish Camp for waste disposal. You can already find the newly installed dock system allowing access to the lake!

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



David Bunbury (here with Chief Amanda Leas) was the big winner of an Air North travel package during one of the final draws at the TKC General Assembly held on August 13 at TKC Fish Camp. Congratulations David!

Mark Your Calendars!

Don't forget events for Orange Shirt Day, also called National Day for Truth and Reconciliation or National Day of Reconciliation will be held on **Saturday, September 30.**

Stay tuned to TKC's Facebook and Website page for a listing for events in recognition of this important day.





KDFN Chief Sean Smith, Breanna McLeod, Brenda Sam, Sean Sam, John Bunbury (Jr), Nakhela Hazel Bunbury, Hazel Bunbury Bonnie Joe, John Bunbury, William Bourguignon (Parks Canada), Derek Grose, Ruth Massie, Betsy Jackson, Kathy Burden (Parks Canada), Karen Rutledge (Parks Canada), Mayor Laura Cabott, Coralee Johns, Shawna Tizya, Roberta Auston, Jackie Williams, Linda Johnson, Charles Pugh, Anne-Marie Miller.

A Monument for All Time

T'äw Tà'är 'Winter Crossing plaque will mark important Ta'an historical intersection

On August 10, 2023, the Government of Canada commemorated the national historic significance of T'äw Tà'är at a special ceremony with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council to unveil the plaque that will be placed at the site on the Teslin River. The ceremony was held at Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's Fish Camp at Tà'a'an Män (Lake Laberge).

T'äw Tà'är has long been an important meeting place on the Teslin River in what is now the Yukon. At the intersection of many traditional travel routes, this cultural landscape, also known as Winter Crossing, represents the interconnected web of seasonal food, family, travel, and trade for the Ta'an Kwäch'än. T'äw Tà'är was chosen by the Ta'an Kwäch'än to represent the broader landscape that connects to their traditional way of life.

The name T'äw Tà'är means "grayling run up" in Dän K'è (the Southern Tutchone language) and refers to the run of Arctic grayling fish that would take place each spring when the site was used as a fishing camp.

T'äw Tà'är National Historic Site pays tribute to the past and continued relationship between the Ta'an Kwäch'än and their homelands. The importance of the broader landscape not only connects to seasonal harvests of animals, plants and fish, but also the

creation of good relations with neighbouring Northern Tutchone, Tagish, Tlingit and Kaska peoples through marriages, travel, and trade.

"This permanent marker will be placed at the heart of one of our ancestor's core gathering hubs," said Chief Amanda Leas in a media release promoting the event.

"This area remains a cultural landscape rich with history of those who hunted, trapped, and fished in T'äw Tà'är or Winter Crossing. It was a place where many of our relatives lived, harvested, and homesteaded. Only remnants of the original village exist today, but T'äw Tà'är remains an influential link to who we are as a Nation, and it is a heritage site and sacred burial ground the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council continue to preserve as best we can. This commemoration by the Government of Canada today to place a historical marker at this site represents a huge milestone for our First Nation as we continue to prioritize the preservation of our traditional territory. We want to thank the Government of Canada and the Historic Sites and Monuments Board for this recognition for all Canadians to share."

In late September or early October the plaque will be transported by helicopter to the actual site and placed permanently with an official recognition and prayer ceremony led by TKC Elder Betsy Jackson.

Priorities for Parliament

Chief Leas Addresses Rural MPs at special Yukon Meeting in August



TKC Chief Amanda Leas got a chance to address Western Canadian Members of Parliament who met in Whitehorse on August 8 for a special rural district caucus reviewing regional mandates including housing, climate change and economic development.

The meeting was hosted by Yukon MP Brendan Hanley and held at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. Chief Leas, joined Premier Ranj Pillai and Kwanlin Dün Chief Sean Smith to update MPs on matters of importance to each of their constituencies.

Chief Leas offered members a brief history of Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and outlined some of TKC's top priorities, which include land and resource management and housing.

She explained TKC's business arm, Da Daghay Development Corporation, is a proud partner with Yukon First Nation Wildfire, and is leading the way worldwide when it comes to wildland firefighting, and emergency response.

"The crews are among the best of the best and have worked tirelessly this summer. I hope you take the time to familiarize yourselves with their achievements and join us in supporting our call to ensure more support from federal departments is made available to these important First Nation emergency business initiatives. They are on the frontlines here, and they are ready — but it's only through continued federal support they will be able to continue to mitigate this new reality and protect our communities."

Chief Leas explained the unique challenges TKC faces when it comes to the desperate lack of safe, affordable housing for Citizens, particularly as Whitehorse's



Chief Amanda Leas met with MPs on August 8. Above Chief Leas takes time to discuss the issues with the Honorable Francois-Phillipe Champagne Minister of Science, Innovation and Industry. Minister Champagne is also the MP for the riding of Saint Maurice-Champlain in Quebec.

population is growing faster than anywhere else in the country.

"Our Citizens First Housing Initiative, which we launched last year is just one example of our progress I can share with you today. Starting with two new housing developments within city limits, we will be able to provide affordable, self-sufficient housing for our Citizens and eventually the community at large. We're also including energy solutions right from the initial planning through the life of the homes. This is progress, I myself, am very proud of. Since I became Chief about two years ago, we have boosted our staff to accommodate these projects and are currently busy reaching out to funders and community partners, both at the federal and territorial level, to make these projects a reality. We hope you will support us with these important initiatives."

2023 Summer

A Photo Essay by TKC Summer Student Maddy Sutherland



Camp Recap



HR HIGHLIGHTS

'The' TKC Summer Student Experience

By Alex LeBarge

This summer I have had the amazing opportunity of working as a summer student with the Lands and Resources branch of the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. As a high school student who loves the outdoors, I believe that I couldn't have found a better job.

As a summer student, this job has everything I could hope for! My experience working with Lands and Resources has been fun, interactive, social and informative.

During my employment I have learned tons of valuable skills ranging from useful things like unloading boats from trailers and power washing to very fun things like minnow trapping and packing fish. Some skills that I learned would go great on a resume, like calculating forest growth with Permanent Sample Plots, and monitoring drinking water from wells by sampling the water. All of which were done with a great team!

I have made many new friends and met many great people from diverse backgrounds. I have made friends not only in Ta'an but also in the many branches of the government. For example, I recently worked with the



Forestry Management branch and the Environment and Wildlife Viewing branch (Y2C2). At the start of the summer, I also worked with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

This summer was action-packed and filled to the brim with exciting and educational moments, but some of the most memorable were doing a creek walk of Fox Creek with DFO and Fin the dog, sinking down to my knees in silt on Horse Creek, and minnow trapping with Y2C2 at Fox Creek.

To conclude, I am very grateful for the phenomenal opportunity of working with Ta'an, and I hope to come back next year.

Alex is a Grade 10 Student at FH Collins and we look forward to his return in the Summer of 2024!

~ Citizen Job Board ~

Heritage Technician Permanent Full-Time

Reporting to the Heritage & Culture Manager, you will coordinate land-based heritage resources, consult with TKC Citizens about their concerns and desires for TKC land-based heritage resources, conduct research and document and catalogue information about Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's heritage resources.

Deadline: September 15, 2023

Preference for TKC Citizens Fire Smart - Crew Leader 2 Fire Smart Crew Members

**Anticipated start date:
October 16, 2023 for 6-8 weeks**
Must have valid driver's licence, chainsaw safety certificate and general skills relate to brushing along with the willingness to work outdoors during all weather conditions.

Deadline: September 29, 2023

Legislation & Policy Analyst

Permanent Full-Time
Reporting to the Executive Director, this full-time permanent position is responsible for developing TKC's legal and regulatory framework. The position works closely with the Chief & Deputy Chief, Management Committee, other committees, and all government branches.

Deadline: September 15, 2023

To request a job description for the above positions please contact Bobbie at the Human Resources Department at (867) 668-3613 ext. 208 or email humanresources@taan.ca Full job postings available at www.taan.ca.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT...



A Little Bit of Help Goes a Long Way!

TKC Wellness and Development Department would like to thank Elders Ruth Massie and Rose Irvine who joined our staff to help create several care packages for the evacuees that were displaced from their homes in Old Crow and Mayo this summer. Kwanlin Dün First Nation offered a safe and comforting gathering space at its Nàkwät'à Kù Potlatch House throughout the evacuation. TKC and other Yukon Nations were quick to offer their support for the hundreds of families affected.

On August 6, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun 's community of Mayo was evacuated due to the severity of the Talbott Creek Fire. On August 9, several surrounding fires led the Vuntut Gwitchin Government to evacuate about 250 residents of Old Crow, many of whom came to Whitehorse. Residents were able to return to Mayo on August 13 and to Old Crow by August 16. Shāw Nithän, Team TKC for all your help!

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023



Charlie Smith-Bob learns the art of glassblowing.



Benji Clethero, Frances McGuire and Jen LaFleur.



Councillor Diane Graham and Chief Amanda Leas.



Brenda Sam and John Lavalley.



Teya Seguin presents her grandmother Audrey Sundholm with a door prize.



Nakhela Hazel Bunbury and Rose Irvine.



General Assembly 2023

Yukon Premier addresses General Assembly, commits to strong future by working together

The weather cooperated nicely for this year's General Assembly held on August 11-13 at TKC Fish Camp.

The three-day event was well attended and along with the important business at hand, delegates were offered family-fun activities, including "hands on" glass blowing, live entertainment and lots of door prizes. The food was prepared and served by Takhini River Ranch owners Scott and Jackie Dickson, and was delicious.

Delegates met for three days, and business included reviewing the TKC audit and passing several resolutions. One resolution, prompted by concerns raised by the TKC Youth Council, received strong applause by the Assembly and resulted the passing of a resolution that condemns lateral violence in all TKC spaces. It directs Council, Elders Council and TKC management to ensure workplace harassment and human rights training, lateral violence training, conflict resolution training, and crisis prevention training is made mandatory.

Other resolutions call on TKC's Administration to declare a state of emergency on housing, and to develop an emergency preparedness plan to maintain the safety of Council, staff and Citizens.

On August 13, Premier Ranj Pillai attended the General Assembly, which was the first time the Premier's Office was in attendance. He addressed Citizens and also

stayed to answer questions covering areas including economic development opportunities for TKC and territorial support for TKC's new housing initiative.

"Your Nation's doing great work. We've gone through our cabinet process and the land title opportunities; only a handful of Nations have been as progressive as you and got that completed. Now we'll wait for Canada to finish off their amendments I believe to your agreement, and then we will continue that work. We were very supportive of that." Premier Pillai said, adding, he is following TKC's Citizens First Housing Initiative closely and sees a strong working relationship ahead.

"Housing wise, I know there's been some work under way – our commitment will continue, whether its to work with the Nation or the Development Corporation to "de-risk" projects, for us to come in a lease space that we can then use for affordable housing or for us to get a place where we can help offset the costs that you have as you build out your own neighbourhoods and your own subdivisions."

A full list of resolutions will become available soon, and Citizens wishing more information can contact TKC's Clerk of the Council Victoria Holmes at 668-3613 ext. 210, or email clerkofcouncil@taan.ca.



Do you have a story you would like to see featured in the monthly bulletin? 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.

From top: Maddy Sutherland, Kiawna Leas, Charissa Tizya and Tynyca Tizya enjoy a moment on TKC's new dock on Lake Laberge.