



April 2024 Bulletin

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



This year's Spring Camp saw a bounty of fish, lots of fun, and a great opportunity for all attending to learn traditional ways from our Elders. For more please see pages 6-7.

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EVENTS & COMMUNITY NOTICES

Ground Search Exercises set for April 22-May 4

The Yukon Residential School Missing Children Project (YRSMCP) will be conducting ground search exercises on two former residential school sites in the Riverdale area between April 22 and May 4, 2024. These sites include a TKC Settlement Land parcel and is the former site of Coudert Hall (1960-1971) on Nisultin Drive. The site of the former Yukon Hall (1960-1971), which is now Kwanlin Dun First Nation Settlement Land will also be tested. YRSMCP, TKC, and KDFN are asking that individuals refrain from visiting these sites during the search as it may be disruptive to the crews. More information about the project is available by contacting Deborah Dupont, YRSMCP Project Manager at www.rsmcp.com (867) 384-1224 or email deborahdupont@gmail.com.



2024 Annual General Assembly

TKC's 2024 Annual General Assembly will be held May 24-26 at the TKC Fish Camp. Citizens can attend in person or virtually for the three-day event, which will include daily draws and entertainment. If you wish to submit a Constitutional Amendment, please submit the proposed amendments by Monday, April 29, 2024. Send constitutional amendments to Clerk of the Council at clerkofcouncil@taan.ca. Delegate forms are available at the TKC Administration Office and on the TKC website. You are encouraged to have forms in by May 23, 2024. Additional meeting details and/or changes will be posted on www.taan.ca or on the TKC Facebook page.



Yukon First Nation Graduation Update

Yukon First Nation Graduation Society is now accepting nominations for the 2024 Yukon First Nation Graduation Awards. This year there is a total of 50 award categories available for students to be nominated for. To see the awards and to nominate a grad go to <https://bit.ly/3THij22>. The 49th Yukon First Nations Graduation is set to take place on Friday, May 31, 2024. The 2024 reception and ceremony will be held at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. More details

will be available on the YFN Grad Society Facebook page once they have been confirmed.



Avian Influenza is Circulating

TKC Lands & Resources would like to remind citizens that avian influenza is still circulating across Canada, with territorial and federal monitoring efforts still ongoing to track this disease. With the return of our beloved swans and other migratory birds, there are some helpful resources available of how you can help monitor this disease, keep domestic birds safe and contribute to this monitoring effort through samples collected during waterfowl harvests. Get up-to-date information at your local Conservation Office. Or visit canada.ca/avian-flu-arctic.



Well Sampling Available

Attention TKC Citizens – if you, a family member, or friend have a well in the Whitehorse area that you would like sampled as part of an ongoing groundwater quality study, please register at the link below. Testing is free! Last summer TKC Lands & Resources helped collect data on a number of wells in Jackfish Bay and Shallow Bay residential areas. For more info contact Brandon Crawford, Supervisor of Fish & Wildlife at fishandwildlife@taan.ca or 867-668-3613 Ext. 603. You can take part in a Whitehorse survey by scanning the code (at right).



Yukon-wide Board Opportunities

CYFN is accepting applications from Yukon First Nations citizens to fill vacancies on numerous boards and committees. Vacancies need to be filled on the Yukon Heritage Resources Board (2), Yukon University Board of Directors (1), and Yukon Energy Corporation (2). All applicants must submit an application form and resume that demonstrates relevant experience and/or education for the board/

committees to which they are applying, to qualify for nomination. Visit CYFN's website to learn more about each board and committee and to download an application form. Completed applications can be sent to boardsandcommittees@cyfn.net. The deadline for applications is April 26, 2024.



Family Well-Being Gathering April 27, 2024 – TKC Fish Camp

TKC Citizens are invited to a full day gathering on April 27 that will include cultural activities and sharing ideas on how to enhance child and family well being. The event will include knowledge sharing with rounds of small group conversations about how TKC can best support our children, youth and families. There will be food, gift cards, and door prizes provided. Transportation and registration can be arranged by contacting Natalie Hare at (867) 668-3613 ext. 402 or email adminassistant@taan.ca.

Yukon First Nations Youth Summit

“Taking Responsibility for our Community Wealth” is the theme of this year’s Yukon First Nations Youth

Summit set for June 3-4, at the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre. The two-day workshop will feature interactive seminars, panels and breakout sessions for delegates to learn more about investments, finance and First Nation Government trusts. Food will be provided. The summit is open to First Nation Youth between the ages of 18-29. For more information contact Rosalie Norwegian, IWE Officer at rose@dananaye.com.



Spots Open for Little League!

TKC Citizens! Yukon Little League has spots available for this year’s baseball season! Kids 9-17 are welcome to register.

Ages 9-11 (Mon/Wed)
Ages 12-14 (Tues/Thurs)
Ages 15-17 (Tues/Thurs)

The season will kick off mid-May and run through to the end of July. <https://registration.teamsnap.com/form/4132>

Exciting events including skills camps and coaching clinics are on the horizon, with summer tournaments in Alaska and Whitehorse!

The graphic features a scenic background of a frozen lake with mountains in the distance. The word "Advisory" is in the top right corner. The main title "Ice & Water Safety Notice" is in large white text. A smaller inset image shows a close-up of a hole in the ice. A text box on the right contains a warning message. At the bottom, there is contact information for the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and their Wildlife Monitors, along with a circular logo for the council.

Advisory

Ice & Water Safety Notice

TKC Lands & Resources Department would like to warn Citizens and users of Lake Laberge to take extra precautions as we are now entering spring break up season. Open water sites are common this time of year, however spotting them may be difficult. Please drive or hike carefully.

Think safe to be safe

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council - Lands & Resources
Wildlife Monitors (867) 668-3613 ext. 611



Training Opportunities

TKC's upcoming training opportunities were given some positive promotions at a recent career fair and barbeque held at Kwanlin Dün First Nation's Kenädän House of Learning on March 27. The event was sponsored by Flatiron Constructors and attended by several subcontractors set to work with Flatiron for the upcoming runway reconstruction project at the Eric Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport.

Along with several job opportunities within the project, TKC and Flatiron are offering a special six-week training opportunity for TKC Citizens interested in completing training as Heavy

Equipment Operators.

The training is set for mid-April and trainees may have the opportunity to learn how to operate dozers, excavators, loaders, and graders. Trainees will also be required to take safety training courses. There will be opportunities for seasonal employment on the ENWIA Main Runway Reconstruction Project over the next 2 years.

If you have any questions, please contact TKC's Education & Employment Training Coordinator Barb Crawford at (867) 668-3613 ext. 410 or email training@taan.ca.

CYFN offers support for New Yukon Health Authority

On March 19, the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) passed a resolution in support of the *Health Authority Act*, Bill 38, that was tabled in the Yukon Legislative Assembly on March 11.

The proposed legislation establishes the legal framework to create Shäw Kwä' (Health and Wellness Yukon) Yukon's first health authority. Through the Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH) and the Health Transformation Advisory Committee (HTAC), Yukon First Nations have worked closely with the Government of Yukon over the last nine months to develop this legislation to ensure it will be beneficial for all Yukoners and to provide a framework for building a modern and culturally responsive health authority. Once the Health Authority Act is passed, the Chiefs Committee on Health and the Health Transformation Advisory Committee will work with the Yukon Government, health system partners, health and social service organizations and associations, and all stakeholders to revitalize the health care system in the Yukon.



A Collective Project

Da Daghay Development Corporation (DDDC) and its business West End Developments has been chosen as the key developer to revitalize a 2.12-hectare parcel of land zoned for mixed use residential and commercial development at the intersection of 5th Avenue and Rogers Street.

The Government of Yukon has signed an agreement to sell the site to West End Developments for \$1 to develop the parcel for residential and commercial use.

West End Developments has a vision for a development that will revitalize an area of downtown Whitehorse largely unused since the mid-1960s. The project will be renamed Kèjān + Rogers, which reflects a collective reconciliation path forward. West End Developments is a Yukon-based company consisting of four equal partners: Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's Da Daghay Development Corporation, Northern Vision Development LP, Kobayashi + Zedda Architects Limited, and Ketza Construction Corporation.

The sale of this site for a nominal fee requires the purchaser to take on the liabilities and costs associated with development, including covering the cost of mitigating slope stability, management of contaminants, removal of existing buildings and relocation of power lines. The construction of a berm is necessary to protect the site from potential future escarpment failures prior to any housing

development. The site must also be developed in accordance with an existing environment risk-based restoration permit due to the prior history of ground contamination.

Speaking on behalf of West End Developments, Tiffany Eckert-Maret says they are “honoured to turn an underutilized downtown Whitehorse brownfield site into a vibrant, affordable, and accessible community.” As a parcel within Ta’an Kwach’an’s traditional territory, and a team made up of companies with deep roots in the Yukon, the development group will endeavour to realize First Nation economic reconciliation, create much needed housing, and help establish a new sustainable downtown neighbourhood.”



Community Services Minister John Streicker, Tiffany Eckert-Maret and Premier Ranj Pillai.

By
Maddy
Sutherland

SPRING



Learning to cut fish



Group picture with the Rendezvous que



What they got from the rabbit snare!



Posing with the big fish

CAMP 2024



en



Cutting the rabbits



Ice-fishing



Learning about hunting



Playing Indian bingo



Fire Break at the Ready!

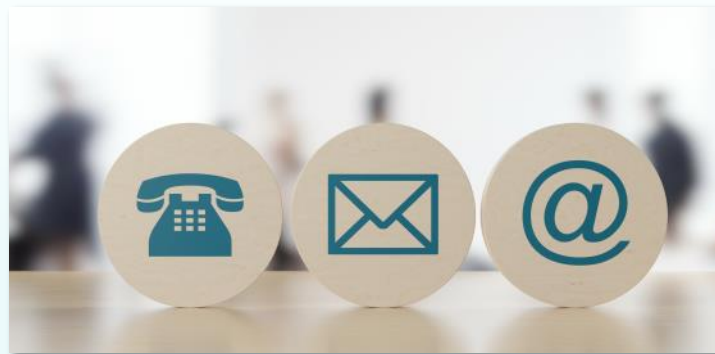
On March 22, 2024 Yukon Community Services Minister John Streicker convened a meeting and helicopter tour for a group including Wildland Fire, TKC, Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN), Yukon Government (YG), Carcross-Tagish First Nation, City of Whitehorse and Mount Lorne Hamlet representatives. The purpose of the meeting was to share ideas on emergency planning and tour work being done to create fire breaks to protect the Whitehorse urban and surrounding area in the event of wildfire.

Forest areas are mature in Whitehorse and because natural occurring fires have been prevented through the decades, forest stands are ecologically unique and face a higher risk for intense fires. While the snowpack in the Southern Lakes area is slightly above average for the snow pack, the temperatures currently and predicted are above average which could elevate risk.

A disaster has always brought out the best in different governments, KDFN was quick to lend a helping hand last year, making all resources available with TKC pitching in when First Nation of

Nacho-Nyak Dun and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation had to evacuate their Citizens due to wildfires. Starting the meeting process now gives an early start to building team spirit and collaboration that all governments will need should Whitehorse face an emergency fire season.

To be prepared YG has been working since 2020 to create one of the biggest series of fire breaks in any jurisdiction. When completed, these combined breaks will measure approximately 20 kilometres in length. The fire breaks are created with environmental integrity always as a top priority, with caribou movement pathways left untouched. Cutting includes thinning, as well as clear cutting to ensure ecological balance with effective fire breaks. An intense effort is being made with federal support to plant large stands of deciduous trees which are much more able to stop the spread of major fires and act as a green fire break. With the high volume of cutting, both KDFN and TKC also expressed an interest in clearing opportunities and access to the firewood produced to ensure the completion of this critical project and provide economic opportunities to First Nation governments.



Citizens, please remember to update your address, email, and phone number with TKC!

In order to better serve you, it is important we have your up-to-date mailing address and phone number on file.

If your information has changed please contact the Enrollment Office at (867) 668-3613 ext. 304 or email

enroll@taan.ca

Shäw Nithän



IN THE SPOTLIGHT...



Kiawna Leas (second from right) joins other gold medal winners in the Dene Games Open Female.



Alex LeBarge returned home with yet another Gold!



Kiawna Leas joins her mom Chief Amanda Leas who was busy welcoming teams at the Opening Ceremonies 44th Kilrich Yukon Native Hockey Tournament on March 21.



Please join us for
**A Gathering for TKC Child, Youth and
Family Well-Being**

April 27, 2024
9am to 3:30pm
TKC Fish Camp
Cultural Activities!
Food & Door Prizes!

Join us for a full day gathering for cultural activities and sharing ideas about how to enhance child and family well being.

All TKC Citizens and their loved ones are invited, especially children, youth and families.
Transportation and registration can be arranged by contacting **Natalie Hare at (867) 668-3613 ext. 402 or email adminassist@taan.ca**

Why is this happening?

TKC is working to improve how children, youth and families get support when they need it. This gathering seeks your input on this work so future family supports reflect what citizens know will work best for programming and resources and places for activities. You can provide your feedback by completing this survey.





Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Citizens

You are invited to attend our
General Assembly
May 24-26, 2024
TKC Fish Camp

If you wish to submit a Constitutional
Amendment, please submit the proposed
amendments by
Monday, April 29, 2024 (Midnight)

Send constitutional amendments to:
Clerk of the Council at
clerkofcouncil@taan.ca.

**Citizens can
attend virtually.**

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Daily Draws and
Entertainment

~ ~ ~

Delegate forms available at
the TKC Admin Office
and on the TKC website.
***You are encouraged to
have forms in by May
23, 2024.***

For more information
contact: Aashna
Jhunhunwala at ext.
203 or email
officemanager@taan.ca.

