

Winter 2025

Ta'an Kwäch'an Council Bulletin



Fish sampling on Schwatka Lake using small mesh gillnetting. For a full story please see page 6.

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WINTER

CULTURE CAMP 2025!

March 11-14

Dust off your snowpants and get ready for some outdoor fun at the upcoming TKC Spring Culture Camp set for March 11-14 at TKC Fish Camp! This year's events will include ice fishing, Atlatl demonstrations and ice patch artifacts tours, language lessons and so much more! Delicious food on site daily. Stay tuned to Facebook and our website for more information and a calendar of events! Contact Debbie Burns for more information at 668-3613 ext. 702.



FOOD SAFE TRAINING!

Level 1 Apply by: February 28, 2025

Are you a TKC Youth interested in pursuing a career in the culinary arts? You will get a chance to learn more at an upcoming Basic Food Safe Course now accepting applicants. The course includes learning about food-borne illness and prevention, personal hygiene and health and food protecting and preparation. Contact Tania Pope, TKC's Youth Outreach and Support Worker at 668-3623 ext. 403 or email youthsupport@taan.ca.



CALLING ALL ARTISTS

Grad Logo Designs Needed

The Yukon First Nation Graduation Society is now in search of its official 2025 logo. Send in your artwork for consideration by February 28, and the winning selection will be made into a vector version for use for all things Grad! You can submit more than one design via email to yfngraduation@gmail.com. Good luck!

COMPENSATION AVAILABLE

Contact: TKC Wellness Department

Citizens interested in learning about new compensation possibilities under the First Nation Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle Settlement can reach out to the Wellness Department for more information.

On April 19, 2023, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the Moushoom and Trout Class Action plaintiffs, reached a final settlement agreement, totaling more than \$23 billion. This agreement intends to compensate those harmed by discriminatory underfunding of the First Nations Child and Family Services program and those impacted by the federal government's narrow interpretation of Jordan's Principle. Eligible children may receive \$40,000 or more in compensation depending on the number of eligible claimants. Parents or grandparents who were caring for an eligible person at the time of removal may also be entitled to compensation in cases of multiple removed children. Contact Frances van Kessel, Health Canada Coordinator at (867) 668-3613 ext. 414 or email healthcanadaworker@taan.ca. More information is also available at www.fnchildclaims.ca.



University Enrollment Time!

Post Secondary Deadline: March 15, 2025

University deadlines for enrollment start March 15. Dates can be program-specific so be sure and contact TKC's Education Support Worker Kaitlyn Silvester, who is more than happy to help you chart your educational course and make sure you have all the necessary enrollment information. Kaitlyn can be contacted at (867) 668-3613 ext. 401 or email educationsupport@taan.ca.

SALMON ARTISTS NEEDED!

DEADLINE: March 31, 2025

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are sought from TKC Citizens who are interested in providing art submissions to be incorporated in a joint logo created with art from TKC, C/TFN & KDFN for the proposed Salmon Stewardship Center. Citizens are encouraged to submit photos of salmon artwork including paintings, carving, beadwork, graphic art, quilting etc., or if you have any existing artwork you would like help with transforming into digital format, contact TKC's Fish & Wildlife Coordinator, Kim Koyczan, at (867) 668-3613 ext. 603 or email fishandwildlife@taan.ca. Any artwork chosen will be limited to use only for this logo and copyright will remain with the artist. Please

include with your submission your fee rate. Ta'an Kwäch'än Council has full discretion to pick the proponent of choice, reserving the right to accept any EOI offer, including that with a higher rate, waive defects in any offer, or reject all offers.



Example above with spot for TKC logo.



NOTICE

Special Members Meeting
Mundessa Development Corporation
Tuesday March 11, 2025
Hellaby Hall - 4th & Elliott Street

5pm-7:15pm
Dinner will be provided.

Special Members Meeting

This meeting will be held as follows:

- To elect two remaining board members (1) one each from the Susie Jim and Jenny Dawson Families.
- Strategic Planning Process 2025-2030: Residential Lots within the City Boundary discussion.

Quorum: Fifteen (15) in person, 18 years and older will constitute quorum.

If you are a member of the Jenny Dawson or Susie Jim Family and are interested in being nominated for a Director position **contact Coralee Johns at (867) 689-4536.**

North Slope Neighbours



TKC Chief Ruth Massie attended the Indigenous Conservation Economies Conference in Whitehorse on January 28. It is an exciting opportunity to bring people together around leading edge issues of conservation and management for the Yukon North Slope and beyond. Delegates included TKC Lands & Resources staff. Chief Massie addressed the conference following a powerful performance by the Aklavik Delta Drummers and Dancers.

“We here in the southern Yukon value these events and believe now more than ever it is important that all our land claim legislated bodies throughout Canada’s North support each other. Times are changing fast right on our doorsteps, and the work you all will do today will support the need for continuing a national dialogue surrounding all of our protective areas, including the Yukon North Slope,” Chief Massie told the delegates.

This meeting also celebrated last Spring’s signing of the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area Agreement, which aims to conserve and protect the eastern areas on the North Slope of the Yukon in the Inuvialuit Settlement region. The Yukon North Slope Conference, with support from the Government of Yukon, is held every five years, as per the Inuvialuit Final Agreement.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Bachelor of Business in Finance Opens Doors for a Bright Future

Graduating from university is a significant milestone, and today we pay tribute to Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's latest post secondary graduate Dylan Massie! In December 2024 Dylan graduated with a Bachelor of Business in Finance at Mount Royal University, a program she is quick to admit has changed her life.

"It feels so good to be finished, but I had a wonderful experience getting to where I am," Dylan says, adding she particularly enjoyed her past four years studying in Calgary, a city she describes as offering the same 'small town' vibe she was used to in the Yukon.

Dylan has now assumed a full-time job at Atco Electric Yukon where she worked during the summer while in school.

When asked if she had any advice for those wishing to take on post secondary education she didn't hesitate to say.

"Don't give up! Even if it takes you longer than you thought, keep at it and you will succeed."

Congratulations Dylan. Well Done!





Our Great Outdoors

TKC Lands and Resources staff have been busy this winter collecting information about the environmental health of the Traditional Territory, and engaging with TKC Citizens and the public about what they're seeing. Jud Jacob, TKC's Land Steward and the Lands Monitors are out daily surveying moose and caribou habitat and collecting information about how other wildlife (and people!) are using the land. Our monitors also support the TKC Lands and Resources team to collect information about the health of fish habitat in the territory, and they oversee some of the fieldwork collected by contractors for projects

A collaborative approach to proactive preservation and science helps build capacity.

happening in the territory, such as the relicensing of the Whitehorse dam, and other potential energy projects. The Yukon First Nation Salmon Stewardship Alliance and the Yukon River Panel have identified that there's little information and knowledge about the strength of salmon fry and their overwintering habitat on tributaries of the Yukon River. In light of this, the TKC Lands and Resources team are leading a variety of fieldwork activities to help TKC chart a path forward for future salmon habitat restoration work. Some of these activities include:

- Collecting river and creek flow measurements and water temperature year 'round
- Characterizing seasonal dissolved oxygen levels (a potential limiting factor for fish)
- Conducting detailed mapping of suitable spawning/rearing habitats using drone surveys
- Exploring mitigation measures for fish passage at beaver dams
- Determining fish species presence
- Water sampling to determine changes over time in water quality

Data collected and analyzed by the team will tell TKC if these streams are suitable for Chinook salmon spawning and rearing. Fish and wildlife monitoring in TKC territory is supported by TKC Citizens who share their knowledge and expertise with staff, as well as contracted experts, the Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council, and KDFN and Yukon First Nation Salmon Stewardship Alliance personnel. This collaborative approach to all the work we do provides training and capacity building opportunities for TKC staff.

Cover Photo:

Fish sampling on Schwatka Lake using small mesh gillnetting with TKC's Kim Koyczan, Fish and Wildlife Coordinator, Jud Jacobs, Lands Steward, and Jonathan Burdek, Lands Monitor. Alex Therriault, (at right) is an EDI fish biologist who was learning how to set gillnets under the ice. The project supports Yukon Energy Corporation's investigation of what fish populations are transported through the Whitehorse dam.



Water Sampling Continues

Natural Resources is hoping to continue water sampling throughout the winter on Lake Laberge and Takhini River tributaries. Above photo are TKC Natural Resources staff Kim Koyzcan and Kate Andre. Water quality data contributes to the information collected by the Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council for the entire Yukon River watershed, and will be included in an annual report to be released this Spring. Water temperature information collected also helps TKC understand how salmon habitat quality across the watershed is influenced by climate change and industrial activities.

FireSmart Activities a Success

Standing dead trees and brush in ignition zones near buildings and homes were removed this year by

Malachi LaVallee and Duran Simon were hired to complete Firesmaring at TKC Fish Camp and nearby residences. (Below Photo) Malachi and Duran finished up their Firesmart surveys in January for those who consented to have their homes assessed. Several factors contribute to the vulnerability for homes including roofs, gutters, eaves, vents, siding, windows and doors, decks and porches, fencing, and yards. As part of TKC's Firesmart program, TKC conducted assessments on home-ignition zones and identified some immediate actions that could be taken to reduce a home's vulnerability. To learn more about what steps you can take for your home, visit: [Resources | FireSmart Canada](#). To sign up for an assessment of your home call Kate Andre, Natural Resources Coordinator at (867) 668-3613 ext. 602.



Callout for Committee Members

*TKC is recruiting for the following
vacancies on committees*



Citizenship Committee

(Meetings : 4-times per year)

Vacancies: Jenny Dawson Family

Duties: Reviews and approves or denies Citizenship applications.

Term: (2) Two Years

Trust Working Group

(Meetings: Ad Hoc)

Vacancies: Maggie Broeren; Ex-Officio (Elder Rep x 2)

Skills: Relevant experience/education in finance.

Duties: Assist with community presentations, and information sharing regarding the future of the TKC Trust.

Term: (2) Two Years

Audit Committee

(Meetings: Ad Hoc)

Vacancies: Susie Jim Family

Duties: Assist in presentation of annual audit to General Assembly; review and make recommendations to Council annually on fiscal year statements; provide recommendations to Council related to fiscal policy and legislation.

Housing Committee

(Meetings: Ad Hoc)

Vacancies: Non Citizens x 3, Citizens x2

Duties: Review programs, services and initiatives; recommendations.

Term: (2) Two Years

Duties: Planning and implement housing initiatives.

New Process

In December 2024, TKC Council passed a resolution directing TKC to enhance the process for Citizens to be able to better participate in our government.

This includes plans to increase communication to our Citizens through regular postings in Citizen publications as well as providing up-to-date listings of committee vacancies on TKC's website. Stay tuned to our website for committee member profiles and coverage of current member initiatives in-progress to keep our Citizens aware and engaged.

How to Appoint a Member of Your Family to a TKC Committee:

- Submit your resume and letter to the Clerk of the Council, noting which committee you would like to be added to.
- Council will review and vote on a motion.
- Once the motion is passed you will be notified.

For more information, on this process, or to discuss the opportunities available contact:

Clerk of Council
Ta'an Kwäch'an Council
(867) 668-3613 ext. 210



Health Programs and Services Advisory Committee

(Meetings: Monthly)

Vacancies: Susie Jim Family

Skills: Prior experience/education related to wellness programming.

Duties: Review programs, services and initiatives; recommendations.

Term: (2) Two Years

Cultural and Heritage Committee

(Meetings: Ad Hoc)

Vacancies: Susie Jim Family

Term: (3) Three Years

Duties: Currently inactive this committee is appointed by the Elders Council and would work closely on reviewing cultural and heritage activities.

Lands and Resources Advisory Committee

(Meetings: Ad Hoc)

Vacancies: Maggie Broeren,
Jenny Dawson Family, Jenny Lebarge,
Susie Jim, Elders Council, Youth
Council

Skills: Relevant experience or education in lands and resources.

Duties: Making recommendations on legislation, projects and initiatives related to Lands and Resources.

Term: (3) Three Years

HR HIGHLIGHTS



Long-serving TKC employee Teresa Jacobs retired from her position as Payroll and Benefits Officer at the end of December. Teresa, who dedicated 18 years working for her government, will stay on as Enrollment Clerk on a part-time basis. Here, she is joined by her family who came to help celebrate her next journey. Congratulations Teresa and enjoy your new adventure! Left to right: Jud Jacobs, Terrance Carlick, Jessica Jacobs, Teresa Jacobs and Kim Carlick.



Jud Jacobs

As we start a new year, we wanted to give a big shoutout to the following staff for the following internal promotions:

Jud Jacobs – started with TKC in February 2024 and through a successful competition has been promoted to the Lands Steward position as of October 7/24

Kim Koyczan – started with TKC in September 2024 and through a successful competition has been promoted to the Fish and Wildlife Coordinator position as of October 7/24

Sarrah Telep – started with TKC in November 2020 and through a successful competition has been promoted to the Payroll and Benefits Officer position as of November 10/24

Gabe Profeit – started with TKC in December 2022 and through a successful competition has been promoted to the Housing and Infrastructure Manager position as of December 9/24

Please join us in wishing them the best in their new roles and giving them the support we give to each and every team member.



Sarrah Telep



Gabe Profeit



Welcome to the Team!

Newer faces at TKC!

Johnathan Burdek has acquired land-based skills that date back to before he was even born. In fact he admits because of his Ta'an upbringing, (Jonathan's father, John Burdek, is a member of the Jenny Lebarge Family) he will always be happiest when he's here on the land in his home community. Jonathan joined TKC back in August of 2024 as a Fish & Wildlife Monitor. Taking on this role, he reflects, has been like coming home. Jonathan is a journeyman welder by trade. He did leave the Yukon to pursue his trade and was quick to find lots of work in Alberta, but after three or four years he yearned to return to the Yukon. Already on the job with TKC for more than four months he's adapted nicely to his new role. "Exploring all our traditional turf, all the sites and being out there has been an incredible experience. I'm very proud of what we've been able to accomplish and want to make sure that we protect as best we can our land for future generations. It's not just for us now. We need to always think of years ahead." You can reach Jonathan at (867) 668-3613 ext. 611 or email monitor4@taan.ca.



Jonathan Burdek
Fish & Wildlife Monitor



Kim Koyczan
Fish & Wildlife
Coordinator

Kim Koyczan, TKC's new Fish & Wildlife Coordinator, is of Tahltan First Nation ancestry, born and raised in Whitehorse, Yukon. Kim is a recent graduate of the Renewable Resource Management program at Yukon University. Kim has gained valuable knowledge spending time on the land through her course work and upbringing, gaining a deep appreciation for natural ecosystems and a passion for preserving Indigenous culture.

Kim is a small business owner of Nature Spirit Soaps, which is based on her self-directed study of medicinal plants and their healing benefits which she is eager to share with the Citizens of TKC for the benefit of present and future generations. Kim brings with her a wealth of knowledge, both scientific and traditional based teachings that include wildcraft harvest, beading and sewing with hides and fur.

After spending the summer of 2024 working at the Whitehorse Rapids Fish Ladder, and fond memories of working at fish camp with family on the Stikine River, Kim has nurtured a deep passion and inspiration towards protecting wild salmon populations and key wildlife species. Kim aspires to influence utilization of medicinal plants found in areas approved for development to encourage land-based healing within the community. You can reach Kim at (867) 668-3613 ext. 603 or email: fishandwildlife@taan.ca.



Anilee Butler
Community Education
Liaison Coordinator

Äyinzhì Anilee Butler ùye.
Kwanlin kwatson iche
Dazhan Aghllan che
Ama Mona Butler ùye na
Ata Jim Butler ùye ch'e

Shãw níthän to Nicole Smith for her incredible Southern Tutchone lessons! Hello! My name is Anilee Butler and I am new to the role of CELC (Community Education Liaison Coordinator). I was born and raised in the Yukon and am very grateful for that. I love being outdoors and can be found exploring around, hiking with my dog, or paddleboarding whenever possible. I have a diploma in Criminology from YukonU and I am currently completing my Bachelor's of Education through YNTEP at YukonU. I am very excited about the changes concerning the education of our youth in the Yukon and proud to be a part of it. I can't wait to learn so much more about TKC and meet Citizens in my new role. Shãw níthän Look forward to seeing you soon! You can reach Anilee at (867) 668-3613 ext. 413 or email celc@taan.ca.

Elders First

Annual Fuel Subsidy Reminder



TKC Elders, who reside in Canada, please note the annual cycle to claim your 2025 Fuel Subsidy has begun. (January 1–December 31)

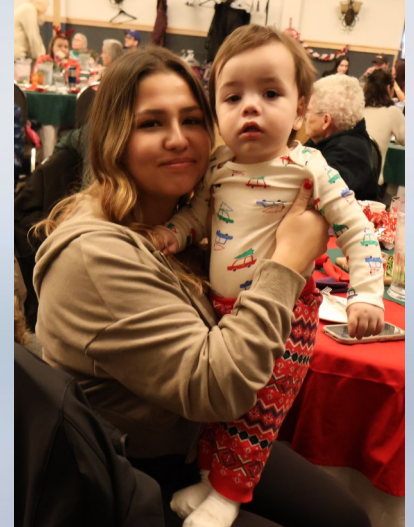
Starting January 1, 2025, TKC's Housing & Infrastructure Department will issue a purchase order for the first fill up. You can access the remainder of your \$3,000 annual allocation on a monthly basis through a TKC purchase order, or by submitting receipts, as proof of purchase.

The Elders Fuel Subsidy Policy and application forms are available at www.taan.ca or you can pick up an application at 117 Industrial Road. For more information contact TKC Housing & Infrastructure Manager Gabriel Profeit at (867) 333-9580.



TKC Department of Housing & Infrastructure

Christmas Party Time!



December 12, 2024 - Sternwheeler Hotel

For more holiday photos please go to www.taan.ca and look for
“Seasonal Shots” – Christmas 2024!

TKC's

Update on the Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station Relicensing File



Overview

TKC has been working with Yukon Energy, along with Yukon Government, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Carcross/Tagish First Nation on the Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station (WRGS) Relicensing File since April of 2022. Yukon Energy's existing Water Use Licence expires May 31, 2025. This licence allows Yukon Energy to operate.

To obtain a new licence, Yukon Energy is required to:



1. Collect environmental and socio-economic baseline data to document the existing conditions of plants, animals, people and land that the WRGS may negatively impact.
2. Submit a Project Proposal to the Yukon Environmental and Socioeconomic Assessment Board to assess and mitigate project effects.
3. Submit an application to the Yukon Water Board to obtain a Water Use Licence
4. Submit an application to Fisheries and Oceans Canada to obtain a Fisheries Act Authorization.

Since working together, we have been advancing three main components of the project:

1. Historical & Economic Reconciliation

2. Energy Agreements

3. Reducing Impacts

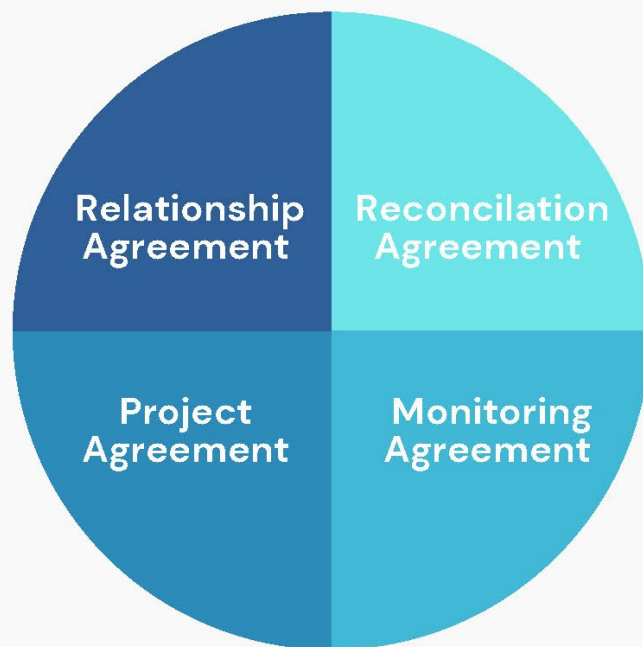


1. Historical & Economic Reconciliation

The TKC team is working to advance historical and economic reconciliation with Canada related to the initial design and construction of the Whitehorse Dam. TKC, and other Yukon First Nations, were not consulted nor accommodated when the dam was constructed. This facility has had far-reaching impacts on our culture and way of life, notably the flooding of important traditional use and occupancy sites and the devastation of Yukon River Chinook salmon which are critical to our culture and way of life. TKC requested Canada's involvement in this matter beginning in August 2022. Chief Leas had numerous meetings with Federal Ministers, which Chief Massie is now continuing. TKC has provided a summary of interests that we hope to see fulfilled as part of this reconciliatory action. These conversations will continue over the coming months and we are hopeful that the path currently proposed by Canada will ensure that TKC's interests are addressed.

2. Energy Agreements

TKC is working to negotiate four energy agreements with Yukon Energy and Yukon Government:



For more information on the Energy Agreements, request a summary from TKC.

3. Reducing Impacts

The Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station has been operating since 1958. Yukon Energy's last Water Use Licence was obtained in 2000, before the Umbrella and Self-governing Agreements were signed. Yukon Energy has not been required to have a Fisheries Act Authorization for this facility until now. Work is required to ensure that this facility is in compliance with the Fisheries Act.

THREE MAIN PROJECT EFFECTS THAT THE TKC TEAM IS FOCUSED ON:

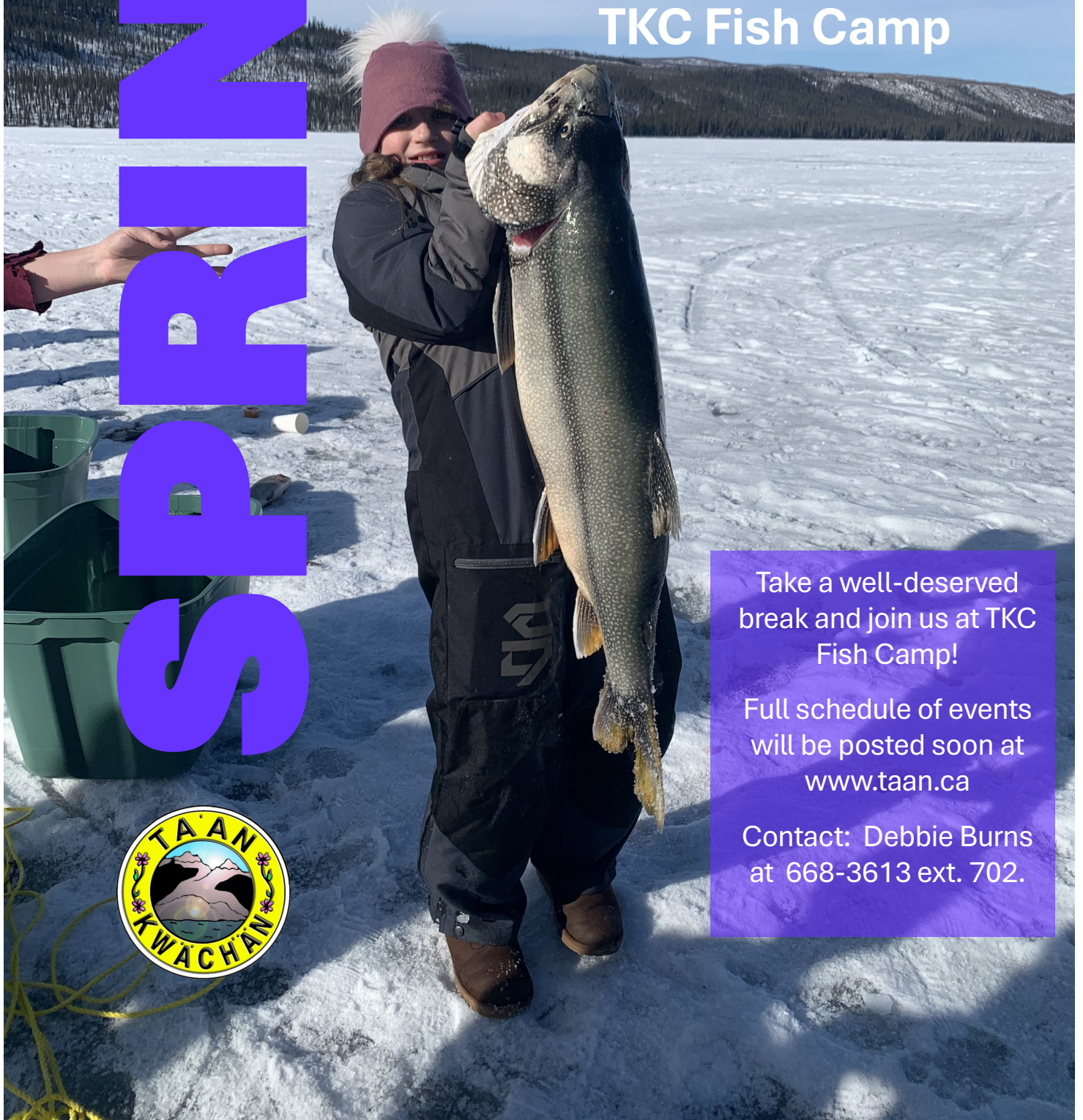
- Reducing fish mortality through the four turbines and spillway.
- Increasing fish passage rates through the fish ladder.
- Reducing fish mortality downstream of the dam when Yukon Energy reduces river flow too quickly.

We are making progress on all these important aspects, but these mitigations will be expensive so there is more work required to ensure that effective mitigations get implemented to reduce these effects. We are working with Yukon Government and Canada to ensure that these effects are reduced as much as possible.

OPENERS

Culture Camp

**March 11-14, 2025
TKC Fish Camp**



Take a well-deserved break and join us at TKC Fish Camp!

Full schedule of events will be posted soon at www.taana.ca

Contact: Debbie Burns at 668-3613 ext. 702.

