

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council



Self-Governing in Yukon since April 1, 2002



On behalf of the Council of Yukon First Nations, I would like to congratulate Ta'an Kwäch'än Council on the 20th anniversary of your Land Claim and Self-government Agreements.

This anniversary is a proud moment to reflect back on the many accomplishments you have achieved throughout the years, starting with the establishment of your founding government and the vision and governance all of you have worked so hard to implement. As the current government leaders, you have a lot to be proud of and to celebrate with the many citizens that contributed to your success today.

Today is a day to reminisce all the years of negotiations and discussions and the contributions of many past leaders and citizens that helped Ta'an Kwäch'än Council to meet the many goals and aspirations that our ancestors envisioned for all Yukon First Nations.

When you pause to recognize the many milestones achieved along the way, it is truly remarkable what was accomplished for the betterment of all Yukon First Nations. Once again, congratulations and we wish you the very best in your future endeavours.

Gunalchish,
Peter Johnston,



On behalf of the federal government, congratulations Ta'an Kwäch'än on celebrating 20 years as a self-governing First Nation. I'd like to celebrate this piece of history and the establishment of our tri-party relationship.

I send my appreciation to the Elders, Chiefs, and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council for signing this important document on January 13, 2002, that reinforces the independence and prosperity of the First Nation. As a settler myself, I acknowledge there is still much work left to be done as we walk further down the path of reconciliation. Sending my best to you on this anniversary!

Brendan Hanley, MP for Yukon



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I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council on the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the signing of their Final and Self-Government Agreement and becoming a self-governing First Nation.

We would not be where we are today without the Hereditary Chief of the Ta'an Kwäch'än, Chief Jim Boss, who in 1902 wrote letters to the Government of Canada seeking recognition and protection for his people and their lands, and paved the way for future Yukon land claims.

The Final and Self-Government Agreements promote reconciliation between First Nations, the Yukon, and Canada, and provide a foundation for lasting intergovernmental relationships. The Agreements are rooted in partnership and are an example to the rest of Canada of what a strong government-to-government relationship can look like when it is formed in collaboration.

The Final and Self-Government Agreements put the power back in the hands of the First Nations and maps the way to a better future for all Yukoners.

This year we also celebrate the 49th anniversary of Together Today for our Children Tomorrow, a document that expresses the values of fairness and justice of the leaders of that time, and which have since been reflected in the Final and Self-Government Agreements.

Much has been accomplished since the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council signed their Self-Government Agreement, and I look forward to discovering what we can accomplish together over the next twenty years.

däk'anatà jè (look after yourselves)

Premier Sandy Silver

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council



Self-Governing in Yukon since April 1, 2002

TKC Chief & Council

Amanda Leas, Chief
 Christina Peters, Deputy Chief
 Councillor Diane Graham
 Councillor John S. Bunbury
 Councillor Kristina Kane
 Councillor Doris Anderson
 Councillor Jay Massie
 Councillor Tania Pope
 Councillor Alison Harpe
 Councillor Roberta Auston
 Councillor Heather Marks
 Elders Representative Thelma Sawyer
 Youth Representative Jocelyn Cletheroe



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Message From the Chief and Deputy Chief



Ta'an Kwäch'än Council is celebrating 20 years of self government! We are incredibly proud to be sharing this anniversary with you. This is an important milestone that demonstrates the hard work that our government has accomplished over the last 20 years. We would like to recognize all the Elders, past leaders and Citizens who worked so hard to get us where we are today.

At twenty years, we are still a young government. We will continue to grow and evolve in these ever-changing times. Indeed, the last two years have been very challenging for everyone. We are still dealing with a pandemic which has had far-reaching impacts on our mental, physical, and social health. Yukon is struggling with an opioid crisis, and we have lost so much in the last two years. We are all hurting. But we remain optimistic that times are changing for the better and if we stand together, we will remain a strong Nation.

There have been many good things happening at TKC over the last two years. Our leadership and staff remain committed to serving our Citizens to the best of our ability. We are working on a robust housing development plan, which will include a variety of housing options and supports for Yukon-based Citizens. Our wellness, education, and cultural programming continues to grow, and as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, we look forward to doing more in-person programs and events to bring our community together. TKC signed a Yukon declaration to support the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit+ People Yukon Strategy - *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice, Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy*. A virtual signing ceremony was held December 10th, 2021, and an implementation plan is currently being developed in response to the declaration. TKC is a full member in the Yukon First Nation Salmon Stewardship Alliance. This alliance will focus on providing a united, Indigenous-led approach to salmon conservation in Yukon. We also signed a memorandum of understanding with other Yukon First Nations for the development of an Indigenous Institute of Self Determination at Yukon University and are actively involved. As Chief and Deputy Chief, we continue to participate in Yukon Forum, CYFN Leadership meetings, Yukon Region-Assembly of First Nations and many other intergovernmental leadership meetings on the topics of COVID, mental health, education, and addressing the opioid crisis. Chief Leas is the co-chair of the Chief's Committee of Education who guides the Yukon First Nations Education Directorate and the recently established Yukon First Nation School Board.

Please keep watch on our website and on our Facebook page for updates and information on TKC programs. We also have our monthly bulletin that is mailed out to Citizens.

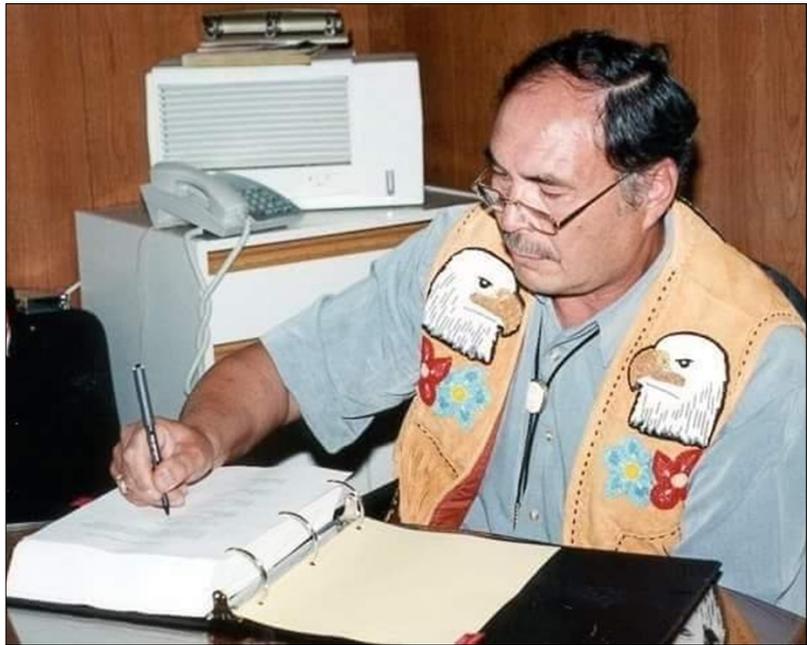
Let us celebrate together our great achievements over the last 20 years. We look forward to what the future holds for us! Be well.

Chief Amanda Leas and Deputy Chief Christina Peters

TRIBUTE to Hereditary Chief Glenn Grady

“The loss of Ta’an Kwäch’än Council Hereditary Chief Glenn Richard Grady (Keish) is deeply felt. Glenn was an essential member of the Ta’an Kwäch’än Council and had a profound influence on his community. He was a driving force...working tirelessly from the time they held their first meeting on February 14, 1987.”

-Yukon Premier Sandy Silver
(August 20, 2021)



A Leader Remembered

Hereditary Chief Glenn Grady passed away on August 10, 2021

Yukon Premier Sandy Silver’s statement (above) is just one of the many heartfelt tributes sent following TKC’s Hereditary Chief Glenn Grady’s passing on August 10, 2021.

April 1, 2022 marks the 20th Anniversary of when TKC officially began operations as a self-governing First Nation. TKC’s community continues to mourn the passing of Hereditary Chief Glenn Grady, and it is important to respectfully pay tribute to him as TKC marks this historical milestone. TKC’s very existence today as a self-governing First Nation might not exist without Chief Grady’s dedication and lifelong commitment. His tireless work on behalf of his people must never be forgotten.

It was not long after Chief Jim Boss’ passing in 1950, that Ta’an Kwäch’än’s recognition as an independent First Nation in the eyes of Ottawa soon started to disappear. Glenn was only two years old, but as time would tell, Keish would

grow up to dedicate most of his adult life to ensure the very federal recognition his First Nation almost lost, would one day be fully reclaimed.

Faced with the federal amalgamations of Yukon First Nations, bureaucratic hurdles, and countless challenges, Chief Grady, with very little financial support, gave up years of his life to ensure there was success for his First Nation. As Chief Jim Boss before him, Chief Grady refused to settle for less than what the Ta’an people asked for. When challenges arose, he persevered and after the Citizen meeting of February 14, 1987, he continued to work in earnest to bring Ta’an Kwäch’än Council the historic self-government agreement that would be signed on January 13, 2002.

Glenn Richard Grady (Keish) was born on February 14, 1948, and grew up in the old Ta’an village on the eastern side of Lake Laberge.

Glenn’s parents were Sophie Miller (nee Slim) and Gordon Grady. He was the grandchild of Aggie and

TRIBUTE to Hereditary Chief Glenn Grady

Frank Slim and was named Keish after his great uncle Skookum Jim who was Tagish Kwan.

When he was very young, Glenn lived with his Grandma Aggie and Grandpa Frank in the old village. Here, he learned traditional ways of hunting, fishing and trapping, which were skills that Glenn would use throughout his life.

In an interview Chief Grady gave to CBC in 2017, he noted how important the support of his family was during the time leading up to the official signing of the land claim.

“Ta'an was gone as soon as Mr. Chief Boss died in 1950 — that's when they brought in all the kids from all over and made the mission school (in Whitehorse). When I was growing up, everything was stolen and gone from there — it was basically abandoned, and it stayed that way for a long time, 'til we got together and my mom and my sisters and my aunt started the band over again.”

During his earlier years, Glenn attended forestry school in Hinton, Alberta, and he went on to a career as a forester, working for Yukon Forest service where he held jobs such as a firefighter, fire instructor, fire boss and tower watchman.

Glenn served as the Conservation Officer in Ross River and also worked for Foothills Pipeline as an Environmental Technician before he went on to

work with the Council of Yukon Indians as a surveyor and mapper.

As the brother of six sisters, Glenn always made sure his family was provided with wild meat and fish. Glenn was also an amazing father to his daughter Caroline, who, from an early age accompanied her dad everywhere on the land and water.

Glenn was predeceased by his father Gordon Grady, mother Sophie Miller, stepfather Donald Miller, brother Gordon and sister Geraldine. He is survived by his daughter Caroline, brother Michael, sisters Doreen, Diane, Barbara, Anne-Marie and Bev, and nieces, nephews and cousins.

“He carried on the work begun by his ancestor Chief Jim Boss,” said Premier Silver in his statement.

“This was a significant accomplishment for Glenn who spent much of his time on the land at Lake Laberge in the heart of the Ta'an Kwäch'an Council Traditional Territory. Glenn made a point of sharing his knowledge with young people and his family and his contributions will be felt for many generations to come. On behalf of Yukoners, we offer our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and all those who are affected by his loss,” Silver said.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to acknowledge that as part of TKC's 20th Anniversary we are working on a project to gather and present a historical account of the work involved leading up to the January 13, 2002 signing of TKC's Self-Government Agreement. This coverage will provide an in-depth look at the path taken and the challenges faced by TKC Hereditary Chief Glenn Grady, TKC Chairman Shirley Adamson, and the team of TKC Citizens and individuals involved in making this Self-Government Agreement become a reality. Without their commitment and dedicated hard work, the land claim may not exist today.

Interviews with TKC Elders, and those that worked tirelessly will be included in this presentation, along with photographs and coverage of the many contributions made by these individuals. We will also create a timeline of events from the 2002 signing up until and including the 20th year anniversary of 2022.

This recognition will be added to TKC's website as well as provided to Citizens in a special future publication.



OUR HISTORY



Above: Kathleen Jones and Annie Geddes. At Right: Lori Graham and William Asp during the official signing on January 13, 2002.

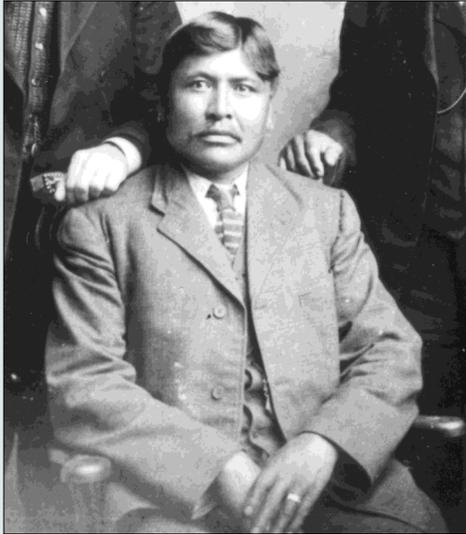


A Very Historic Day—January 13, 2002. In front: Elders Council Chair Frances Woolsey, TKC Chairman John Burdek, Minister of Indian Affairs Robert Nault, TKC Hereditary Chief Glenn Grady, Premier Pat Duncan, Member of Parliament Larry Bagnell and Sophie Miller. Second Row: Daryn Leas, Irene Smith, Marion Irvine, Kathleen Jones, Anne Geddes, Carol Elofson (Chambers-Boss). Back Row: Chief Jim Boss Regalia, Alice McGuire, Edythe Maloney, Jacqueline Bazett, Nicole Kuster (Smith), Harold Chambers, Gail Anderson and William Asp. Missing from photo is TKC signator Lori Graham.



TKC Elder Sophie Miller and Carol Elofson (Chambers-Boss) (at right, signing) were original signators on April 1, 2002.

PATH of PROGRESS



Kishxóot - Chief Jim Boss



1902–1973

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council is one of the Yukon First Nations who possesses proof of its long-standing land claim with the Government of Canada. Chief Jim Boss, with the aid of a lawyer, wrote a letter to the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs in Ottawa in 1902, claiming that Yukon First Nations were in need of a settlement because of the loss of lands and depletion of game with the gold rush and subsequent settlement by outsiders. At the time, the Ta'an Kwäch'än were granted a small reserve in their traditional territory at Lake Laberge. The vision of Chief Jim Boss finally culminated in the beginning of negotiations many decades later in 1973.

1993 (May)

The Government of Canada, the Government of Yukon and the Council for Yukon Indians sign the Yukon Umbrella Final Agreement, which lists the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council as a separate First Nation entity that would negotiate separate final and self-government agreements.

1996

A negotiator's Memorandum of Understanding acknowledging completion of the Ta'an Kwäch'än settlement is signed between the Government of Canada, the Government of Yukon and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. The Memorandum of Understanding is subject to a list of outstanding matters, including the separation of the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council from the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the resolution of overlapping traditional territories and settlement land selections.

1998 (July)

Ta'an Kwäch'än becomes a recognized *Indian Act* (Canada) band separate from the Kwanlin Dün First Nation.

2001 (April)

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and the Kwanlin Dün First Nation reach a mutual resolution on their settlement land selections picked from the same traditional territory. That same month, negotiators initial a negotiators' memorandum marking the conclusion of Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's land claim negotiations.

2001 (August)

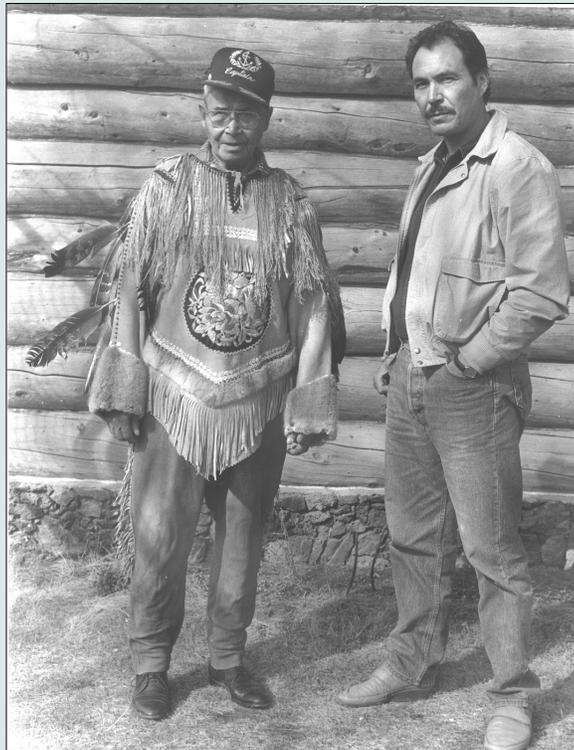
Negotiators initial Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's Final and Self-Government Agreements and recommend the agreements to the principals for ratification.

2001 (November)

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council holds a vote to approve the ratification of the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's Final and Self-Government Agreements.

2002 (January 13)

A signing ceremony of the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Final and Self- Government Agreements and implementation plans takes place. This significant event marks the 100th anniversary of Chief Jim Boss's letter to the Government of Canada. Ta'an Kwäch'än Council became the eighth Yukon First Nation to sign its Land Claim and Self-Government Agreements.



George Dawson was recognized as Ta'an Hereditary Chief on May 16, 1988. Here, Chief Dawson (wearing Hereditary Chief Jim Boss' regalia) is with Glenn Grady. Chief Dawson was born March 13, 1902 and passed away on February 1, 1989.

YEAR IN REVIEW



With the global pandemic (COVID-19) disrupting events over the past year, the production of Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's quarterly newsletter was unfortunately sidetracked. Staff turnover, shortages and event cancellations due to COVID-19, have made this period challenging on many levels. TKC, though remaining closed to the public, kept busy with many initiatives to ensure programs, community events and activities, compliant with COVID-19 protocols could take place. Windstorms and floods on our Settlement Lands, and a leadership election for Chief and a byelection for Deputy Chief, also kept us busy throughout the past year.

We have endured great losses in the last year and a half with the passing of Citizens Tawnya Chambers (December 20, 2020); Gail Anderson (January 3, 2021); TKC's Hereditary Chief Glenn Grady (August 10, 2021); Roberta Behn (October 11, 2021) and Alice McGuire (December 9, 2021). Our hearts go out to all of the family members of those lost, and to all of us as we continue to grieve these losses in our community.

We are hoping by presenting you with this special *Year in Review* section to our special *20th Anniversary Edition*, Citizens can catch up on the progress made by TKC's government. As you will see, Ta'an Citizens, our government, and staff rose to the challenge during these uncertain and difficult times. Our resilience as a Nation is strong and these highlights are just a glimpse of the many accomplishments together we can make as we move into our 21st year.





Congratulations Caroline Grady, the newest Yukon First Nations lawyer and new member of the Law Society of British Columbia! We are always inspired to see Yukon First Nations rising to exciting new heights. Caroline graduated from the University of Victoria in September 2021. Congratulations Caroline!

Leadership Awards

On March 22, 2021 two of TKC's Citizens were celebrated by the Assembly of First Nations Yukon Region during their special 2020 Leadership Awards.



Clockwise from bottom front: Frances Woolsey, daughter Roberta Auston, Benjie's daughter Jenelle Clethero, Benjie Clethero and former TKC Chief Kristina Kane.

Frances 'Gus'Duteen' Woolsey received a Lifetime Achievement Award for her many years advocating for better programs and services for women, families, and all Yukoners. Frances is from the Jenny Lebarge Family, and was a founding member of the Yukon Indian Women's Council, now the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council.

TKC Citizen Benjie Clethero, Jenny Lebarge Family, was also honoured with the 2020 Wellness Award for her 20 years spent championing children's rights throughout the Yukon. Bengie was born and raised in Whitehorse, and is of Southern Tutchone, Tlingit and English ancestry, and a member of the Crow clan. She

attended University of British Columbia, took training with the Nechi Institute, and has completed numerous courses/workshops to foster her passion for working to uphold the rights of Yukon children and youth. Bengie has worked with the Whitehorse Hospital, First Nation's Health programs, as the First Nation's Child Life Worker. She currently serves as the Deputy Child and Youth Advocate at the Yukon Child & Youth Advocate Office, a title she has held since 2011.

"This is a special moment for you to be celebrated and to be acknowledged for all of the work that you've done and that you continue to do; in the spirit of a Yukon that leads," AFN Regional Chief Kluane Adamek told recipients on March 22, 2021.

ELECTION 2021



Chair of TKC's Elders Council and former TKC Chief Ruth Massie (2002-2009) makes it official for Chief Amanda Leas on October 20, 2021.

Amanda Leas Elected Chief

TKC Citizen Amanda Leas began her three-year term of Chief following a swearing in ceremony held on October 20, 2021, before Elders Council.

Chief Leas is a member of the Maggie Broeren Traditional Family. Prior to being elected on October 18, 2021, Amanda spent five years serving as TKC's Office Manager. She was elected with 77 of the 195 ballots cast, defeating candidates Christina Peters (36 votes), Doris Anderson (32 votes) and incumbent Chief Kristina Kane (45 votes).

She brings an extensive background working as a TKC Manager and is also part of TKC's Dance Group, a dedicated artist, and has experience as an active member of two Whitehorse school councils. She says her priority as Chief will be putting Citizens needs first. Her goals include improving housing, economic development, and increasing sustainable land development and stewardship.

"I am incredibly humbled and very honoured to have been selected. I have been engaged with TKC's government since I was a child and I bring to the

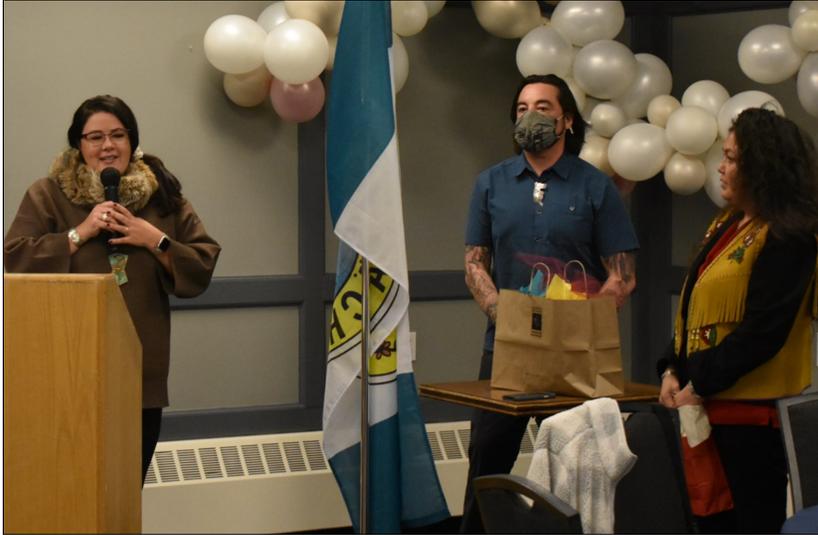
table a proven record of hard work, dedication, and a strong commitment to our community," said Chief Leas. "Living in an urban centre it's important to protect our land, while still providing our Citizens with a sustainable future. I will strive to ensure our priorities align with our traditions and our values."

On October 25, 2021, TKC hosted a special Citizen celebration to recognize the new leadership and pay tribute to Chief Kristina Kane for her nine years as Chief, and to Deputy Chief Christina Peters for her three-year term.

The election planned for TKC Deputy Chief was postponed due to a lack of nominations for the position.

On January 20, 2022, Christina Peters was re-elected as Deputy Chief in a special byelection. Christina received 59 votes over Doris Anderson (34 votes) and Brenda Sam (34 votes).

Deputy Chief Peters was sworn in on January 24, 2022.



Assembly of First Nation Yukon Regional Chief Kluane Adamek and Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Peter Johnston both spoke about the importance of partnerships. The special event was to welcome newly elected Chief Leas and to thank Chief Kristina Kane for her nine years of service and recognize Deputy Chief Christina Peters for her three years in office. Gifts, including hand-crafted regalia by Debbie Burns was also presented.



Chief Amanda Leas was joined by her husband Daniel and her children Kashtyn, Kiawana and Kadin at the official celebration of her election as TKC Chief held October 25th, 2021.



Great Pumpkin Giveaway

TKC's Development Department was busy in October 2020 and 2021 helping families celebrate Halloween during times of COVID-19. Due to safe distancing requirements, staff were unable to hold its regular Halloween party. But the department made sure all interested families got a free pumpkin, along with a special kit including carving tools and other goodies. Dozens of pumpkins were distributed to families.

National Recognition for Christine Genier

Ta'an Citizen Christine Genier has been named one of Canada's "Woman of the Year" recipients by Chatelaine Magazine. Christine, a journalist, story gatherer and member of the Maggie Broeren Traditional Family, was recognized in November 2020 for "speaking her truth at all costs," while employed at CBC North. Christine joins other Canadian winners, including Dr. Theresa Tam, the Wet'suwet'en Matriarchs,



and Samra Habib as the magazine's 2020 Women of the Year.

"Since I left the CBC, I've been working on a language revitalization project. I've been spending time with my family and recording everything they've been saying. Maybe it will just be for my children, my grandchildren, my great-grandchildren," Christine said, adding, "My fear is that we are losing some of what we're trying to capture in making it palatable to a mainstream audience."



FireSmart Activities

TKC's FireSmart program was busy in the fall of 2020 dealing with challenging weather conditions. The crew managed to stay on track in order to complete the project. The area being cleared was within Block C-51B, and was three hectares in size. The Crew was year led by Kevin Adamson, and included Dan Adamson, Rylie Green and Ray Bob.

Adjustments due to COVID-19

TKC had to introduce COVID-19 protocols and ensure physical distancing continued throughout 2021. While the office remained closed to the public, the government did operate all programs and services. Along with helping set up a separate vaccine clinic for Citizens in March 2021, TKC's Wellness Department continued to be available to assist clients, Elders and all Citizens who needed

LOOKING BACK

help registering for vaccines, learning more about testing, and getting up-to-date information on safety precautions and Yukon Emergency Measures. Natalie Hare, Health and Education's Administrative Assistant was only a call away to help navigate the community through the thick of the pandemic. TKC's website was also regularly updated with the latest COVID-19 updates and important information for Citizens. The pandemic, which arrived in Canada in January 2020, resulted in the first Yukon case in March of 2020. As of February 23, 2022 Yukon has reported 3,412 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 3,351 recoveries and 20 deaths.



Natalie Hare has been busy since COVID-19 hit the Yukon ensuring assistance to those in need is made available.



TKC's Wellness Department took special care to ensure the 10 people who signed up for the Fall 2020 canning event at Hellaby Hall got a chance to have fun, while practicing physical distancing. Participants enjoyed a special two-day event October 22-24. Their creations included pickles, canned vegetables, applesauce and jams. Clockwise from left at bottom: Geraldine Irvine, Kim Carlick, Tiffany Eckert-Maret, Charlene Burns, Lori Graham, Debbie Burns, Roberta Behn, Edythe Maloney, Doris Anderson and Charlotte Kane.



Warriors Walk

On August 9, 2021, TKC Staff were quick to congratulate those dedicated Yukoners who took part in the Warriors Walk that left Whitehorse on June 25th to Kamloops, BC. The journey, which was attended by TKC staff member Julie Smith (at right), saw warriors walk 2,100 kilometres in honour of the 215 children who were found buried in unmarked graves near the Kamloops Residential School in May, 2021. TKC Councillor Charlotte Kane also participated in the walk. The national event was made possible by the Northern Nations Alliance.



In 2021, Canada declared September 30th as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This new statutory holiday serves to honour the survivors, families and communities impacted by residential schools in Canada and the continued trauma faced by Indigenous communities throughout the country. It is a day for all Canadians to reflect on the role they play in reconciliation.

LOOKING BACK



Answering the Call! On December 2, 2021, 16 YFN Wildfire Firefighters headed to help with the flooding emergency in BC. Chief Leas was at their headquarters to help send them off. The crew included Ta'an Citizens, Nathan Smith, Ethan LaVallee and Brandon Smith.



Thanks to Santa and his elves, TKC's 2nd Annual Christmas "Drive-Thru" was a big success. The 12-days of Christmas Draw, held on Facebook was also a big hit with the community. This was the second year that due to COVID-19 TKC couldn't have its traditional Christmas Feast. But the Christmas spirit and community input made for a fun event.

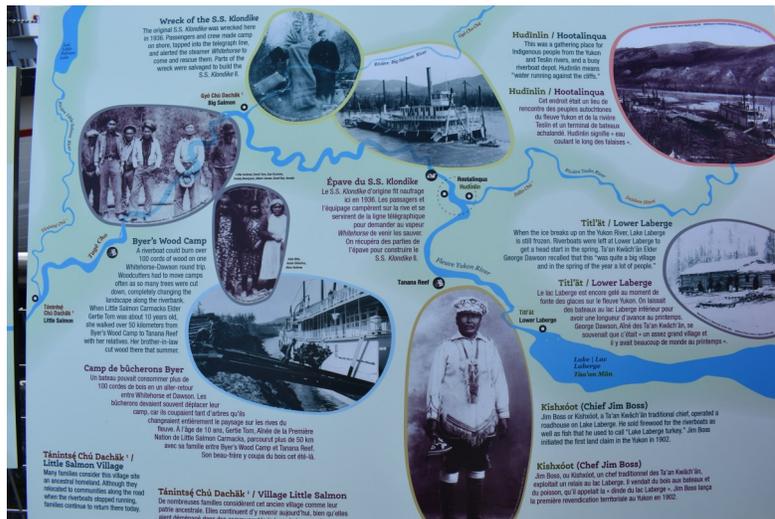


Heritage Remembered

Ta'an duo recognized for their commitment to preserving the past

Ta'an Kwäch'an Council was pleased to congratulate Citizens Nakhela Hazel Bunbury and Anne-Marie Miller who were selected as recipients of the Parks Canada CEO Award of Excellence.

Both Nakhela and Anne-Marie are being recognized with this prestigious honour for their contributions to the S.S. Klondike NHS outdoor exhibit renewal. Anne-Marie Miller serves as TKC's Heritage Technician for TKC and had worked on this project for several years. Congratulations!





“I loved my regalia so much. I felt proud and confident in it. Ellenise made my dream come true.”

-Sarrah Telep, 2019 Graduate

Honouring Our Future

TKC Grad regalia showcased in special exhibit

Ta’an Kwàchän Citizens Brittney Telep (2015 Grad) and Sarrah Telep (2019 Grad) had their graduation regalia showcased as part of the special “Honouring Our Future” exhibit at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre from January to April 2021. This exhibit honoured the hard work and creativity that goes into the regalia made specially for Yukon First Nation graduation.

“It demonstrates our increasing pride and celebration of our Yukon First Nations.” Judy Gingell, Vice-Chair of the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Society. “The dedication and effort of all these sewers, hunters, and artists are poured into each piece of regalia so their special loved one can receive their diploma wearing regalia that represents who they are.”

“These pieces deserve to be highlighted longer than one day of graduation. We are here to celebrate and hold up the pride, love and support that these family members and communities show our graduates.” said Lisa Dewhurst, exhibit curator.

Honouring Our Future is travelling to five other Yukon cultural centres until April 2023.

Top left: Brittney Telep’s regalia (2015 graduate).

Maker: Ellenise and Dorothy Profeit.

Materials: White Deer hide and seed beads.

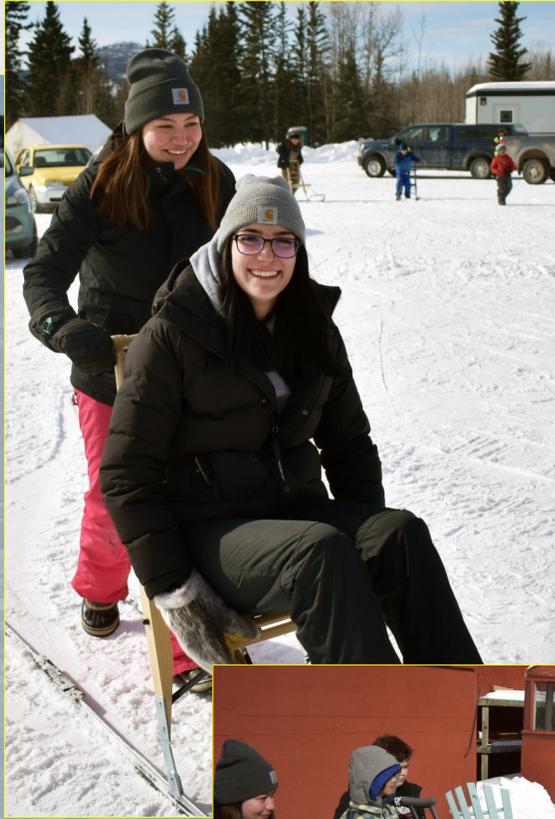
Top right: Sarrah Telep’s regalia design and materials.

Maker: Ellenise Profeit.

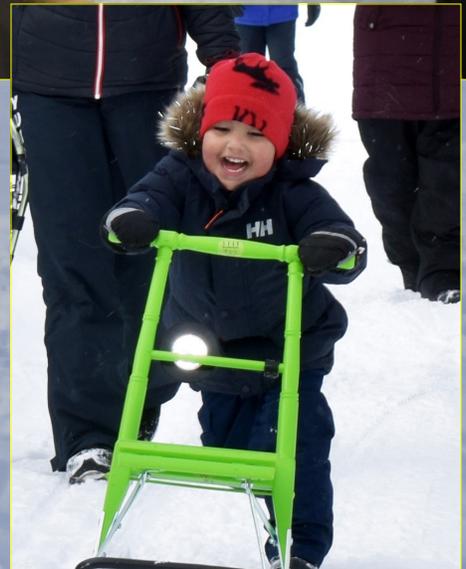
Materials: White deer hide and seed beads.



Spring Co



camp 2021!



Aerial surveys with Citizens help Lands & Resources staff gain important updates on the condition of remote TKC parcels.

Elder Betsy Jackson has been involved in surveys for several years.



Top of the Territory

Elders help gather important data

In the fall of 2020 the Lands & Resources Department (LRH) conducted two aerial surveys by helicopter over areas within TKC’s Traditional Territory including the east shore of Lake Laberge, the Thirty Mile River and the mountains east of Lake Laberge. The purpose of these surveys was to capture and update information on TKC’s remote site-specific settlement land parcels and rural blocks to inform an enhanced inventory of these sites.

In preparation for these surveys, the LRH Department compiled information previously collected on the settlement land parcels, as well as Traditional Knowledge spatial data layers and land claim selection documents. Gathering this information together, staff were able to determine what information was currently

available for these sites and what further information could be collected, such as the condition of any buildings or structures on the site or signs of recent use.

The surveys were completed on October 6th and 8th 2020 to maximize ground visibility by selecting a time after the leaves come off and before the snow flies. During the flights, data was collected by two LRH staff accompanied by the former Chief, Elders and a Councillor to assist with sharing knowledge of the areas surveyed. Former Chief Kane and Elder Joe Jack participated in the first survey flying over the east shore of Lake Laberge and the Thirty Mile River.

Elder Shirley Adamson and Councillor Gordon Harvey Jr. participated in the second survey, flying



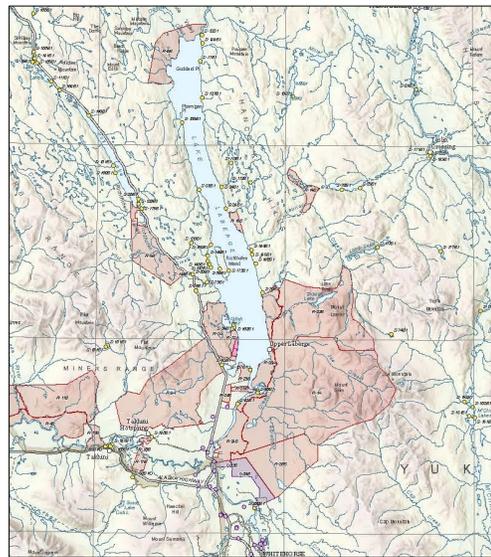
over the mountains east of Lake Laberge. The information gathered during the survey was enhanced by the participation of the Chief, Elders and Councillors involved.

During the surveys it was found that some sites still had existing structures in varying ages and degree of upkeep. Several of the site-specific parcels appeared to be in a natural state with little indication of recent human presence. While the Livingstone Trail, is fairly confined for the most part there are several locations, typically when the trail crosses a wet area where the trail appeared braided and evidence of rutting was apparent.

These observations also provide a record of the condition of the parcels to be incorporated into the inventory along with information previously collected for these sites.

If you have any questions about the surveys or would like to hear more about it, please contact us.

Dawn Hansen
Natural Resources
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Under Surveillance

TKC team travelled to Livingston District to assess the effects of placer mining in the area



TKC's Heritage Technician, Anne-Marie Miller, Wildlife Monitor Shawna Tizya joined Ta'an Kwäch'än Councillor Diane Graham and Elder Bev Miller during site assessments.

Due to Covid-19, the LRH Department had to postpone some of its planned surveying activity of TKC Traditional Territory, however, the department was able to accompany Yukon Cultural Services on a trip to the Livingstone District in late September 2020. This trip included conducting a high-level baseline reconnaissance of placer mining activity currently taking place within the Livingstone District.

This assessment will help inform future trips and further investigation of the effects of placer mining in TKC Traditional Territory.

The assessment was done by photo-documenting as many placer leases as possible from the air, while taking geo-referenced notes of unusual features, and noting whether disturbances were old, recent, or ongoing. The goal of this initiative was to facilitate TKC Elders in viewing the level of disturbance, to

answer their questions, and discuss any of their concerns. Areas studied included four S-Sites: S-193B1, S-66B1, S-15B1, and S-31B1.

Between the period of September 21st and 25th, LRH sent four staff members: Anne-Marie Miller, Shawna Tizya, Hannah Gray, and Nick Howitt to do the assessment. A number of TKC Elders were also flown in and provided invaluable context and guidance on this information gathering mission.

With a growing amount of placer mining activity taking place in the Livingstone District, the information procured from the aerial photos this September will be instrumental in identifying changes to the landscape. LRH staff are better equipped to comment on future water use licenses and operating permit applications.

In addition, there is now baseline information that can be used to help hold mining operators accountable to their obligations for reclamation on current and future projects in this area.



Wind on the Horizon

Monitoring program launched for beetle infestation caused by wind storms

In May 2021 TKC Lands, Resources and Heritage (LRH) issued a Citizens Advisory related to earlier storm damage affecting TKC forests. In October 2020, a windstorm caused a significant amount of tree blowdown located within TKC Traditional Territory, with some areas on R12A and R2A severely impacted. This was followed with a meeting with Yukon's Forest Management Branch, where LRH staff were updated about potential concerns for the overall forest health in the area resulting from this severe wind event.

Trees that were blown down release a stress hormone that attract different types of beetles to the area. The beetles don't fly until late June, so it is unlikely beetles will be in the area at present, however, there will be three species of beetles to watch out for in the affected areas: Spruce Bark Beetle, Northern Spruce Engraver Beetle and Lodgepole Pine Beetle. These beetles are native and are non-invasive species,

however, in high concentrations, they can create damage through infestation to the surrounding live and healthy trees. Once beetles fly into an area, they will establish themselves, but the larvae won't fly for one more year. If trees can be removed and dried prior to beetles establishing in the area, the risk is reduced. Trees that remain in the area will be monitored to see if beetles establish or if the area is not affected. Monitoring will occur by using Lindgren funnel traps this summer to determine if beetles are in the area, which species and how many.

Citizen Action Required

In mid-May LRH issued a Citizen Advisory that encouraged Citizens to harvest any of the blowdown trees within R12A and R2A between that date and the end of June.

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Flooding Spring 2021

High water causes concerns

Emergency efforts got underway quickly in July 2021 to help protect buildings at Helen's Fish Camp (HFC), the TKC village, and Citizens who had risk of flooding in the Lake Laberge area. Lands, Resources & Heritage (LRH) staff worked closely with Yukon Government and Yukon Wildland Fire and flood experts from Manitoba. A berm was built at HFC to divert some of the water away from the firepit area. Staff and volunteers were quick to action to help remove TKC assets from buildings as a precaution. Water levels did continue to rise, however, quick action paid off and helped mitigate long-term damages.

Water also approached the Chief Jim Boss residence at the Village. A berm was quickly constructed to protect this site. TKC would like to thank Daniel Adamson and Ranj Pillai for their efforts at this site. A site assessment was done at the Old Village to examine flood activity and future risks.

There was also high water and flood risk at the Clethero lakefront home and family property at Lake Laberge. Volunteers worked around the clock to secure the home as flooding was overtaking the property.

A boil water advisory for the Southern Lakes/ Lake Laberge was also issued on July 7, 2021 as a result of high water levels. Residents were advised to keep a 72-hour supply of water on hand. The boil water advisory was subsequently lifted.

TKC Lands & Resources will be monitoring the areas closely for the Spring 2022 season.



High water levels overtook the entrance to Helen's Fish Camp.



TKC Staff acted quickly to secure TKC assets from flood waters at Lake Laberge.



The original home in the Village of Chief Jim Boss.

From Old to New

Recycling partnership helps clean up abandoned vehicles discarded on Settlement Land sites

Lands & Resources entered a partnership with Raven Recycling and Urban Recycling in the fall of 2021. TKC Citizens were hired to help remove and transport several ‘end of life’ vehicles abandoned on Ta’an properties. Once removed, the vehicles were taken to Raven Recycling and Urban Recycling to undergo processing. Chief Amanda Leas and LRH Manager, David Irvine toured the facilities at Urban Auto Recycling and Raven Recycling on November 2, 2021 to learn about the step-by-step process involved.

Once a vehicle is delivered to Raven Recycling, and the tires and other reusable parts are removed, Urban Auto Recycling staff runs through an innovative process to ‘de-pollute’ the vehicle safely and efficiently. This process involves removing all fluids (fuels, oils, anti-freeze, washer fluids and Freon), to ensure that there are no contamination spills during the processing (baling phase). The vehicles are then crushed with a state-of-the-art industrial baler which compresses them into small transportable cubes. Raven Recycling then takes the bales and loads and ships them to southern recyclers. The end product can be used to create new car frames, tires, metal cans, trolleys and other reusable products.

This innovative initiative is in conjunction with TKC’s ongoing efforts to restore Settlement Lands to their natural state. As an urban First Nation, TKC is concerned about increased recreational activity resulting in negative impacts and physical damage to trails, buildings and cultural sites, along with an increase in debris, including abandoned vehicles, left by the public at these sites.

Altogether, 12 vehicles were targeted for removal for the program. It is estimated there are about 50 abandoned vehicles on Settlement Lands. LRH Manager, David Irvine estimates all 50 will be safely removed and recycled through this program.



At left, Raven Recycling Executive Director Heather Ashthorn joins Chief Amanda Leas, LRH Manager Dave Irvine and Scott Dudiak, Raven’s Zero Waste Foreman, during a tour in November 2021.

Saving our Salmon

*The Fox Creek Chinook Salmon Restoration Project
celebrated its 16th year in the fall of 2021.*



In 2006, TKC Elders initiated restoration activities on Fox Creek to re-build Chinook salmon stocks. Restoration activities have been ongoing for the last 15 years, and have included: annual fry releases, juvenile monitoring, adult monitoring, beaver trapping and barrier removal. These restoration activities are guided by the Fox Creek Restoration Plan, which was designed to be conducted over two salmon lifecycles. This plan is now almost complete, with Phase 2 coming to an end in 2023.

Fry Releases

Annual fry releases have been happening since 2009 and have been a very important part of this project. Each summer, the Whitehorse Rapids Fish Hatchery would collect salmon eggs from returning Yukon River Chinook and raise them to

the eyed stage. The eggs are then transferred to the McIntyre Creek Incubation Facility, where they are raised to the fry stage over the winter. The fry would then be transported to Fox Creek where staff, Citizens and members of the public helped release the fry into the creek. A fry release was not possible in 2020 or 2021, but in prior years, the numbers of fry released annually has ranged from 2,500 to 87,000, with a total of 334,608 fry released since 2009.

Fire in 2018

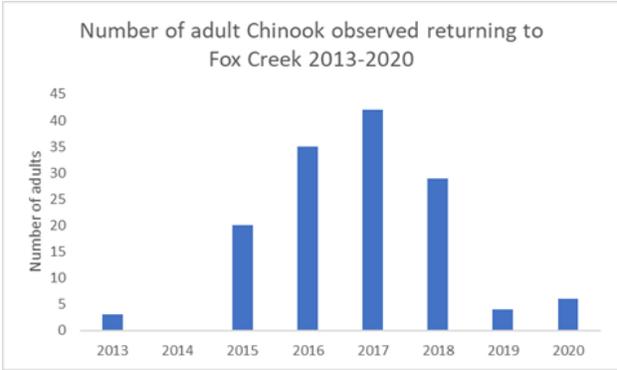
It was unfortunate that a fire destroyed the McIntyre Creek Incubation Facility in 2018, which has severely impacted this part of the project. TKC has been looking at different options to replace the facility, however, this is a big decision that will depend on the future goals for Fox Creek.

Juvenile Monitoring

Monitoring of juvenile Chinook has been ongoing since the start of the project, and four sites along the creek are monitored monthly during the open water season. Gee traps are set at each site to capture and measure juvenile Chinook and document overwintering success. Both wild and hatchery juveniles have been captured in Gee traps in Fox creek since the fry releases began in 2009. As expected, there were higher numbers of hatchery juveniles captured in most years; however, the number of wild captures increased after 2014, and we assume these to be the progeny of adults that returned to spawn. Some overwintering success of both wild and hatchery juveniles has also been observed, indicating healthy habitat in the creek.

Adult Monitoring

Adult Chinook have been observed returning to the creek to spawn since 2013. Until the summer of 2020, creek walks were the only method being used to look for adults, and the number of adults seen in the creek each year has ranged from 3-42. In 2020 TKC introduced a video enumeration weir to better understand the numbers of adults returning to the creek, and whether they are of hatchery or wild origin. The video weir had some technical difficulties, but overall it was a success and a great learning experience.



Number of adult Chinook returning to Fox Creek.



Coralee Johns and Ta'an youth inspecting the Chinook fry before release, 2016.



Frances Woolsey and her granddaughter Cheryl Kates after Frances offered a prayer for the Chinook at the 2018 fry release.



Alexander Lebarge releasing fry into Fox Creek, 2018.

Mid-Career Masterpiece

Ta'an Citizen Jared Kane takes advantage of a Western Canada scholarship to honour his great-grandmother and take his art to whole new three-dimensional level



Ta'an Kwäch'än Citizen Jared Kane had a busy summer in 2021. As the recipient of a YVR Art Foundation scholarship, (mid-career category) he was able to finish a special year-long project that not only furthered his craft as an artist, but also paid tribute to his great grandmother's legacy. The result, "Raven & Creek Mother", is a carving (at right) that tells us the moving story of Tawchalla, his great-grandmother Sadie Brown, who Jared, Kashan Tlet, spent a lot of time with when he was a young boy. This beautiful 37-inch circular work of art is now on exhibit at the Vancouver International Airport.



His work was made possible by the YVR Art Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports Indigenous artists, like Jared, in BC and Yukon through scholarships, travel grants and awards. This scholarship gave Jared a chance to take a year to work on a piece with a mentor of his choice. The work, once completed, was then displayed at the Vancouver Museum for a few months before being sent for a full year

exhibit at the Vancouver International Airport. Once the year is over, the work is returned to the artist.

"It's really great opportunity and great exposure," said Jared, who explained he was lucky to get world-renown Yukon carver Keith Wolfe-Smarch as his mentor for his project. Jared and Keith were able to work on the project at Keith's studio in Carcross. Jared, who had worked for Keith in the past, says what was most exciting about this project was he was able to take his art to a whole new level – with Keith's help he was able to transform his two-dimensional work he was used to creating into sculpture (almost three-dimensional).

"I never really learned sculpture in my 15 years – did a lot of two-D panels, flat panels, so with this piece I put two-D in, it but we're putting sculpture in as well."

Jared explains he thought of his great-grandmother a lot when he took on this project, as she had recently passed away. That's when he decided to create a portrait of their time together,

which he has many fond memories of. He has the original sketch of this project, too, which is a beautiful portrait of his tribute to Tawchalla.

“I was raised the old way with her, and one of my earliest memories is of her getting me to pull in my first salmon when I was about five or six. And that salmon was about the same size as me!” Jared exclaims. “I gaffed that salmon close to the tail and it almost dragged me in, and I remember I just pulled and pulled. I remember my grandma was so proud of me, she got me to carry that salmon around the village in front of all of the people, all her friends and all the Elders. It’s one of my earliest memories.”

Keith Wolfe-Smarch, who’s own artist son Aaron is a good friend of Jared’s, said he is encouraged with this program as it gives an artist a full year to work on a project. Jared’s category for the scholarship was what is called the “mid-career” category, and Keith explains, it was great to see Jared, who’s already an accomplished artist be able to be supported while he furthers his craft.

“I hired Jared to help us do a totem in 2018, and so we had experience working together, (and) I really enjoy working with him. He’s a really good drawer, good on paper which is the main thing. If you can see it on paper then you can see it through to a carving. He’s already got that beat,” Keith said, adding, “It’s not like he needs me, we need each other. I always like working with someone because if you work alone it’s like you’re working in a vacuum, and you get stuck on your idea. You have to be open with it and if you are you can never stop learning. We learn a lot off each other. It’s exciting. It’s fun.”





Artists On the Move

TKC Citizens 'shine bright' at Yukon First Nations Arts Program

Two TKC Citizens were excited to take part in a three-month program last spring that helped benefit their growth as artists as well as gain marketing tools for the future. Brenda Sam and Lori Graham joined four other students for the Yukon First Nation Arts Program — a program run through a partnership between Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, and Yukon University.

Instructor Darlene Scurvey, who taught the program at Kwanlin Dün's Kenädän Kų` House of Learning, focused her instructions on beading, sewing, carving and the principles of form line design.

"These women are very committed," Scurvey noted, during a visit to the classroom in March. "They already have skills, and their talent is shining through more and more each day."

Lori Graham said as a child growing up she learned to sew by watching her mother and her grandmother, but lost the skill as she grew up. Taking this course has helped her remember. "My mother used to say that if you know how to sew, you'll always have money. I am going to keep sewing now because I like doing it and it makes me feel closer to my ancestors."

In the Fall of 2021, TKC's Development Department, in partnership with Yukon University, offered a similar program from October 2021 to February 2022. The program was also able to bring on board Elder Brenda Sam to help Darlene and facilitators. The program included six two-week modules that taught beading, sewing, fine craftwork, drawing and carving, and small crafts and product development. Graduates will be prepared for work as independent artisans, producing original arts and crafts for the expanding local and international markets, or to help gain employment opportunities at community-based art production centres. Students will receive credits for each of the courses and all credits can be applied to the broader First Nations Art Certificate Program at Yukon University.



Darlene Scurvey is the programs instructor.

OUR ARTS



On Graduation Day (May 6, 2021) students held an open house to showcase all they had created during the 12-week program. Lori Graham and TKC's Wellness Manager Heather Griffiths prepare Lori's display.



Brenda Sam preparing to showcase some of the creations she completed during the course. Top of page 34 (on opposite page) is her work, too! She says it was an "intense course" with lots of homework and not a lot of free time, but she definitely believes the program was well worth the effort and will be a great opportunity for those interested.

YFN Arts Graduates 2022



From Left: Justine Copestake (KDFN), Tania Pope (student), Jessica Bryant (TKC), Alicia Harry (student), Kristine Smarch (student), Brenda Sam (TKC Elder), Chief Amanda Leas, Barb Crawford (TKC) and Lori Graham (TKC). Missing from photo: Liz Bosley (Yukon University) and instructor Darlene Scurvey.



TKC Elder Brenda Sam, Alicia Harry (student), Tania Pope (student) and Kristine Smarch (student) with Vernon Asp who instructed students in carving.



Chief Leas joined the graduates on February 5, 2022. Here, she joins student Tania Pope with her regalia creation.

Newest Staff

Staff who joined TKC
in 2020-21



Dawn Hansen
Natural Resources Technician

As a long-time Yukoner, Dawn is passionate about the natural world and devoted to seeing the Yukon grow in a sustainable way. Dawn has a degree in Natural Resource Management as well as a degree in Fish & Wildlife Biology. With over 10 years of experience working in natural resource management here in the Yukon, Dawn has gained valuable expertise in organizing and conducting field programs, collecting meaningful data, ensuring positive relationships while further developing her technical skills. In her spare time, Dawn enjoys hiking, camping, berry picking, fishing, hunting, crafting, and volunteering at the bird banding station in Teslin. You can reach Dawn at: resources@taan.ca or ext. 602.

Natalie Hare
Administrative Assistant

Natalie, a TKC Citizen of the Maggie Broeren Traditional Family, was thrilled to accept the Administrative Assistant position. Her previous work in retail helped her to adapt to the receptionist role here at TKC while TKC administration clarified the evolving responsibilities for this position. Records management will be a big part of Natalie's duties and responsibilities and with her methodical ways of approaching any tasks thrown at her, we predict success for Natalie in her new permanent position. In her free time, Natalie loves to shop, experience new places, (right now, in her mind) and people. Family is everything and when she can, Natalie is constantly spoiling all her nieces and nephews! You can reach Natalie at: adminassist@taan.ca or ext. 402.



Sarrah Telep
Accounts Payable Clerk

Sarrah is a TKC Citizen from the Jenny Dawson Traditional Family who is born and raised right here in Whitehorse. Many of you may recognize Sarrah from when she was one of TKC's summer students, as she has been involved with TKC since she was a young Youth! We know that while Sarrah studies for her Bachelor of Arts she will be a great asset to the Finance Team. She is inspired by making a positive impact, using her problem-solving abilities to achieve results, and what better place than in finance. When not working or going to school, Sarrah loves going on long walks with her dog and keeping in shape at the gym. Family is also very important for Sarrah, who loves spending time with her sisters, and everyone else. You can reach Sarrah at: payables@taan.ca or Ext. 303.



Barb Crawford
Education and Employment
Training Coordinator

Barb is a member of the Teetl'it Gwich'in Council and grew up in Fort McPherson and Inuvik, Northwest Territories. Her mother, Elizabeth Crawford nee Modeste, was born in the Yukon Territory while her family followed the caribou herd and is of the Wolf Clan. Barb has an extensive background in education and training and has worked in this capacity with a number of First Nations. She has a strong belief in lifelong learning which was instilled in her by her mother who was the first Aboriginal teacher in the Northwest Territories. When not at work Barb enjoys travelling and has been to nine European countries. She looks forward to being able to travel to see her four grandchildren, three of whom were born this year. You can reach Barb at: training@taan.ca or Ext. 410.

NEWEST STAFF



Dave Irvine **Manager, Lands & Resources**

David Irvine is a member of the Jenny Lebarge Family of Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. Dave, as he likes to be called, was born and raised in Whitehorse, and has always had a passion for protecting the land. This led him to a career in the great outdoors. Dave spent three years as a Fishery Officer for the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in the Yukon and Northern B.C. before being promoted to Senior Wildlife Officer with Environment Canada, Pacific Yukon Region, based in Whitehorse. He spent 20 years in that position. Dave's passion for the outdoors includes his love of hunting, fishing, and being outdoors in general with his wife Kim, and his two children, son Hudson, 9 — who is 'almost 10' if you ask him — and his daughter Olivia who is 7. We are excited to have Dave back with us, as he held this position in 2016 for one year, before going back to the federal government. His well-rounded knowledge of this First Nation will serve him well as the LRH department intensifies TKC's presence on the land within our Traditional Territory. You can reach Dave at lrhmanager@taan.ca or ext. 601.

Debbie Burns **Cultural Programs Coordinator**

You may only know Debbie as the TKC Receptionist since 2012 but she is so much more than our front-line Ambassador. Debbie's passion for sewing, traditional medicines, and the culture of TKC helped guide her when she was honored to take on the role of Acting Heritage Programs Coordinator last July. While in the role Debbie worked and collaborated closely with Elders and Citizens to deliver culturally relevant programs and initiatives.

Debbie looks forward to sharing her traditional skills and teachings as the new Cultural Programs Coordinator. The importance of carrying on with lessons learned will give all TKC Citizens that sense of connection and pride in the First Nation. "Anything that can bring our people together will help achieve: Together Today for our Children Tomorrow". We can't wait to see what Debbie has planned. You can reach Debbie at heritageprograms@taan.ca or ext. 403.



NEWEST STAFF



Charlene Burns
Health & Wellness Coordinator

Charlene Burns is a proud member of the Chief Jim Boss Traditional Family. Charlene has been self-employed for many years where she provided Ta'an Citizens with many wonderful meals — always able to adapt her catering and menus to last minute changes to events and gatherings. Her love of her family and her community makes her a great fit for the job as Health & Wellness Coordinator. Charlene has been busy helping Elders navigate their way through COVID-19, and working with the Wellness Team to ensure Citizens and staff have a chance to take part in health and wellness events. She's also there to help all Citizens access important programs and grants. You can reach Charlene at healthandwellness@taan.ca or ext. 407.



Vincent Smarch
Capital Infrastructure Coordinator

Vincent Smarch is a proud member of the Yanyedi Clan of Teslin Tlingit Council and brings a wealth of experience in the housing and infrastructure field in Yukon. Vince has been a red seal journeyman carpenter for almost 30 years and brings a wealth of experience, both in management and as a field carpenter, from his work with several First Nations throughout the Yukon. He brings to TKC a strong belief in lifelong learning and passing on knowledge to others. "Knowledge should not be hoarded," he says. "If you know something it should be shared." Vince believes there are three main assets in a First Nation. The first asset is people, the second is land and the third asset is housing, and that all three are needed to prosper. Vince loves "all things outdoors", and he enjoys spending his free time building things and developing his craft. He also enjoys camping, fishing, and hunting. You can reach Vincent at capitalinfrastructure@taan.ca or ext. 702.



A Brand New Day

*Congratulations to the
Class of 2021!*

- **Nathan Smith:** Grade 12 Diploma, Independent Learning Centre
- **Chad Santo:** Master's Degree in Museum Studies, Harvard Extension School
- **Jessica Adamson:** (Bachelor of Arts Degree in First Nations and Indigenous Studies from UBC)
- **Kendelle Johnston:** Special Education Certificate from Queens University

In Celebration of TKC Artists!



TKC would like to celebrate Ta'an artists who produced works for the 2021 YFN Grad Auction!

Thank you for your beautiful creations!

Jared Kane: *Drum & clothing design*

Thalia Hare: *Moccasins & Slippers*

Amanda Leas: *Earrings*

For more information on the auction and other YFN Graduation activities check out:

[Yukon First Nation Graduation/yfngraduation](#) on Facebook!

On behalf of the City of Whitehorse, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council on its 20th anniversary as a self-governing First Nation.

When I look at everything your government and citizens have accomplished in that time, it's an impressive list. The Ta'an Kwäch'än Council has made significant social, cultural and economic contributions to our community and I am proud to live in a city where we can celebrate these successes together.

The historic *Declaration of Commitment* that we signed in 2018, along with the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, is a testament to the strong partnership that exists between our governments. We will continue working with the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council to strengthen our relationship and to ensure we are doing our part to protect First Nations' rights and culture.

Sincerely,
Mayor Laura Cabott



On behalf of all Yukoners, congratulations to the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council for celebrating your 20th Anniversary of becoming a self-governing First Nation. The year 2002 was an important one for your citizens with the signing of the Final and Self-Government agreements on January 13 and becoming self-governing on April 1.

Thank you to the Ancestors, Elders, Leaders, and Chiefs and Councils for your work in bringing the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council to the forefront of the Yukon landscape and for being a voice for your citizens.

I am looking forward to celebrating this momentous occasion with you throughout the year.

All the best,

Angélique Bernard

Dazhän Kèyea dāw Kwänje (Southern Tutchone)/
Commissioner of Yukon



On behalf of the AFN Yukon Region, I extend my warmest and most sincere congratulations to the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council for celebrating this milestone 20th anniversary as a self-governing First Nation! The Ta'an Kwäch'än Council truly embodies the resilience, strength, and leadership that so many across the country look up to as an example of First Nation self-government. I'd like to congratulate and thank Chief Amanda Leas, as well as each of the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Chiefs and leaders

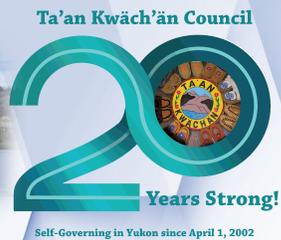


who have come before, for their continued commitment to advancing the rights of First Nation people, in the Yukon and beyond. Through their dedication and advocacy, the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council has quickly become a leader, both regionally and nationally, for other self-governing First Nations and those who are currently navigating their own path of self-determination. Your community truly exemplifies a Yukon that leads!

I am honoured and grateful to be able to live and work on the beautiful traditional territory of your First Nation. As you celebrate this historic moment, I join others across the territory and country in raising my hands to all the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council leaders, ancestors, Matriarchs, youth, and citizens who have supported this incredible journey in honour of generations past, present and future. Once again, congratulations to all citizens of the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council – I look forward to working and walking alongside you on this continued path!

Gunalchéesh

- Regional Chief Kluane Adamek





Ta'an Kwäch'än Council - April 2022