



# Ädätàl/ Spring

Ta'an Kwáchan Council



## INSIDE

Language Lab  
Easter Message  
Ädätàl/Spring Events

Council Connections  
In the Spotlight  
HR Highlights



# LANGUAGE LAB

*Join us as we learn these Tàa'an Man  
(Lake Laberge) dialect phrases.*

Where do you Live? **Jáw nannje?**

I live in Whitehorse. **Kwänlin njinjèa.**

Where do you come from? **Jáw kwats'än inch'äw?**

I come from Lake Laberge. **Tàa'an Män kwats'än ich'e.**

Do you speak Southern Tutchone? **Dän k'e kwinja?**

Yes, I speak Southern Tutchone. **Àghay, dän k'e kwishè.**

No, I do not speak Southern Tutchone. **Äjù, äju dän k'e kwishè.**

These and other phrases available in the Southern Tutchone Phrase Book by Nakhela Hazel Bunbury.  
Join us as we learn these Tàa'an Man (Lake Laberge) Dialect phrases.

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

Thursday May 1-5pm  
Thursday May 15-5pm  
Thursday May 29-5pm  
Thursday June 12-5pm

## ELDERS COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday April 22-9am  
Tuesday May 13-9am  
Tuesday May 27-9am  
Tuesday June 10-9am  
Tuesday June 24-9am





# An Easter Message

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From Chief & Deputy Chief

Hello, Citizens! It's that time of year again—spring is in the air, and Easter is right around the corner! We can't help but feel the excitement as the days get longer and the flowers start to bloom. Whether you're out on an Easter egg hunt or simply enjoying the extra sunshine, we hope this season fills your heart with joy.

We wanted to take a moment to send some springtime cheer your way. May your Easter basket be full of joy, and your spring days be filled with adventure, lots of laughter and good times with friends and family.

Wishing you all the best and have a safe Easter weekend! Shāw Nithän.

-Chief Ruth Massie and Deputy Chief Michelle Telep



# Ädätàl/Spring EVENTS

## General Assembly Date Set! August 7-10, 2025

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council has selected August 7-10 as the dates for the upcoming General Assembly at TKC Fish Camp. The meeting will include cultural activities, special events for children, as well as a government tradeshow on Friday August 8. For Citizens wishing assistance drafting resolutions or amendments, contact Victoria Holmes at 668-3613 ext. 210 or email [clerkofcouncil@taan.ca](mailto:clerkofcouncil@taan.ca). Look for more details coming soon at [www.taan.ca](http://www.taan.ca).



## Special Easter Baskets for Our Children Coming Soon!

TKC has been busy preparing Easter baskets for kids to celebrate Easter. Baskets will be ready to pick up from the TKC Wellness Building April 14-17, 2025 before 4:30. Parents interested in requesting a basket can contact Natalie Hare at (867) 668-3613 ext. 402 or email [adminassist@taan.ca](mailto:adminassist@taan.ca).



## Four Seats Left! Mapping My Way Youth Online

Attention TKC Youth! Don't miss out on this great opportunity for a special four-week online program aimed at helping you as a youth navigate your future. Mapping My Way is a virtual workshop (Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-8:30pm) set to start May 1. Topics include resume building, interviewing prep, creating self-awareness, and personal development plans. Honoraria is provided. With four seats left, call Tania Pope, TKC's Youth Outreach Support Worker at 668-3613 ext. 403 or email [youthsupport@taan.ca](mailto:youthsupport@taan.ca).

## The Next Thread – Spring Lineup

Tuesday night sewing group welcomes Citizens who are working on their special regalia for this year's First Nation Graduation Ceremony. Sewing takes place every Tuesday at 5:30pm at 9042 Quartz Road. Dinner is provided and sewing machines are at the ready!

Red Dress Pin Kits: Debbie and the group are also busy getting special Red Dress Day pin kits ready for those interested in helping our community show their support for this important day. May 5, 2025, marks the 15th anniversary of the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People, also known as Red Dress Day. Full details on how to get your special kit are on the back page of this bulletin.



## Winter Crossing and C9 Development Job Fair

TKC Citizens interested in exploring new job opportunities available within our Nation's community shouldn't miss out on the special Job Fair set for Thursday April 24. The event will focus on current contracting and employment opportunities at the Winter Crossing and C9 Housing developments located in Whistle Bend. TBL Developments Inc, a Da Daghay Development Corporation (DDDC) Partnership firm will be on-site and ready to "talk shop" and work with applicants on these exciting project opportunities. The fair runs from 1pm-4pm and will take place at TBL's main office at 91044 Alaska Highway. To register for a ride call Natalie Hare at 668-3613 ext. 402.



### YFN Grad Coming Up!

Families are busy gearing up for the 50th Yukon First Nation Graduation Ceremonies set to take place on Friday, June 13, 2025! The 2025 celebration will be held at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre with the reception starting at 12pm and the ceremony at 2pm. Nominations are now open for several achievement awards for Yukon First Nation graduates.

Sponsored by community groups and businesses, awards include two Leadership Awards from CYFN, the Dave Joe Barrister and Solicitor Award, and Environment & Climate Stewardship Award offered by AFN Yukon Region, two ATCO Electric Yukon's 'Invest in future Leaders' Awards and the Crowe Mackay LLP Award.

The Chief Jim Boss Award will also be given out to the most community-minded Yukon First Nation graduate. Preference will be given to Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Citizens. Altogether there will be 47 Awards in 26 different categories. Nominations close on May 9th. A full listing of the awards is available on the Yukon First Nation Grad Facebook Page.



### Community Meeting TKC Lands Act

TKC's Governance Department will be holding a Community Meeting on June 3, 2025 to update Citizens on work being done to date to create a TKC Lands Act. The meeting will include a presentation by TKC's Legislative Policy Analyst Michael Draper who will be developing draft content for the new Act. Honoraria will be provided. This community meeting will be the first of several public events planned to gather Citizen input. For more information contact Michael Draper at 668-3613 ext. 504 or email [legislation@taan.ca](mailto:legislation@taan.ca).



### Cemetery Clean Up Planned

Citizens will be able to take part in an annual spring clean up at the TKC Cemetery on May 31. Equipment and supplies will be provided. For more information contact Debbie Burns at 668-3613 ext. 702 for more information.



### Salmon Art Callout a Success

TKC Lands Department would like to thank all Citizens who submitted salmon art for the TKC Salmon Art contest. Submissions are currently under review, and only artists selected will be contacted. For more information contact Fish and Wildlife Coordinator Kim Koyczan at 668-3613 ext. 603.



The Chàsan Chùà (McIntyre Creek) Steering Committee has released a What We Heard Report on protecting Chàsan Chùà (McIntyre Creek) Check out the report at [www.taan.ca](http://www.taan.ca)





# Council Connections



## New Governance Department

*Long-serving FN negotiator Chantelle Schultz to lead the team*

TKC Executive is pleased to announce the establishment of a new Governance Department within Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. The new department was approved by TKC Council in 2024. TKC's new Governance Manager Chantelle Schulz will lead the new department. She started her position on February 17, 2025. Reporting to the Executive Director, Chantelle and the Governance Department will support the implementation of TKC Final and Self-Government Agreements.

Chantelle is a member of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) and has spent the majority of her life living in Whitehorse and Atlin.

She will oversee TKC's Implementation Officer and work closely on the continued negotiation of amendments to our Land Claim and Self-Government Agreements and their implementation plans, as well as Financial Transfer Agreements, Program/Service Transfer Agreements and related policies and protocols.

Chief Massie noted this satisfies the longstanding desire of Council to establish a stand-alone Governance Department.

In her role as Governance Manager, Chantelle

is also responsible for managing consultants, and contractors including legal counsel. She also serves as Manager to TKC's Legislation & Policy Analyst, Clerk of the Council, Citizenship Coordinator, and Communications Officer.

"We are extremely pleased to welcome Chantelle to this new role," says Chief Massie. "Chantelle brings solid frontline experience leading her Nation's (TRTFN) Negotiations Department. She has a Bachelor of Social Work and worked for five years in child protection services which adds value to her impressive skillset. She is a hard worker who is organized and confident. Her skills and strong family values will be a great addition to our team at TKC."

Chantelle (please see page 13 for her bio) says she is honoured to take on this new role with TKC, and looks forward to working closely with Citizens as she embarks on her journey ahead. "The position of Governance Manager for Ta'an is newly created following a recent restructuring of staff, so you will find us working hard to learn, assess, and develop priorities as a team. It will take some time to become familiar with the specific goals that are most important to the people and communities of TKC, but we will deliver information as time goes by."



*TKC Youth Council meetings are gearing up. From left: Sarrah Telep, Brooklyn Massie, Ethan Lavallee (on monitor) Chantelle Schultz, Kadin Hare and Victoria Holmes during the March 31, 2025 meeting.*

## Policy Committee Callout

TKC's new Policy Committee is now looking for Citizens — two from each Traditional Family — to fill important seats to help oversee policy reform! Duties will include but not limited to:

- Reviewing and drafting updates to existing TKC policies;
- Drafting new policies in alignment with Council priorities;
- Consulting with stakeholders and gathering community input on policy matters; and,
- Recommending to Council updates and new policies for approval and implementation.

This committee is essential as we move toward building good governance within TKC.

Please submit your expression of interest to Victoria Holmes, Clerk of the Council at 668-3613 ext. 210 or email [clerkofcouncil@taan.ca](mailto:clerkofcouncil@taan.ca). A full list of current committee vacancies is available at [www.taan.ca](http://www.taan.ca).



*TKC Heritage Staff Debbie Burns and Lori Graham have created a beautiful tribute to TKC Elders at the TKC Fish Camp. This is a work-in-progress. If you have any photos of your Elders contact Debbie Burns at 668-3613 ext. 702 or email [heritage@taan.ca](mailto:heritage@taan.ca)*

# In the Spotlight



TCK Citizen Jennifer Lafleur was this year's recipient of a Public Service Commission "Award of Honour" for her work with the Department of Justice at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. Jennifer was joined by TKC Chief Ruth Massie (right) and Deputy Chief Michelle Telep (left) at a special awards ceremony on March 14. Other recipients included Lori Duncan (centre) and Leanne Geddes (second from right) who both won Excellence in Public Service Awards.

***"We are incredibly proud to celebrate Michael's dedication and hard work in completing this rigorous program. His commitment to personal growth and community service is truly inspiring!"***

**-Da Daghay Development Corporation, DDDC.**

TKC would like to extend our congratulations to Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Citizen Michael Broeren and all graduates of the Yukon First Nations Wildfire Warrior Program!

Your resilience, perseverance, and passion are to be celebrated as you take the next steps in your journey.



*Michael Broeren (centre) with his sisters Aberdeen Broeren (left) and Desiree Coad-Broeren.*

# Our Youth On The Move

## Awards of Excellence

On February 17, 2025, two of our community's Citizen athletes were honoured with Yukon Sports Excellence Awards for their hard work in bringing awards home to the Yukon. Young athletes from across the Yukon were offered awards for their achievements at the Arctic Winter Games, the North American Indigenous Games, as well as provincial and western championships.

Kiawna Leas was recognized for her team medal win at the 2024 Arctic Winter Games (Mantanuska-Susitna Valley Alaska) in Dene Hand Games; and Alex Lebarge, who won a Gold Medal as an individual in the Biathlon Ski (7.5 Kilometre) competition.

Congratulations to these fine young athletes on your incredible achievements! Your hard work and dedication truly inspire us all.



**Alex Lebarge** is a member of the Jenny Lebarge Traditional Family.



**Kiawna Leas** is a member of the Maggie Broeren Traditional Family.



# Dän k'è

Our Culture - Our Way  
March 11-14

*Spring Camp 2025 was a delight for participants with dozens of fun events spread over four days. The camp attracted Citizens of all ages and offered everything from language lessons, a paleontology tour of ancestral artifacts, ice fishing, medicine making and lots and lots of fresh mountain air!*

*TKC's Heritage Department want to thank all who came out to enjoy the week's activities. Shäw Nithän to the cooks, Lands, Development and Housing departments and other staff who helped make this a memorable event.*

*Organizers are especially pleased with the community's enthusiasm for the presentations and events from key facilitators Nicole Smith, Russel Harold, and John Burdek (and his grandson helper Spencer). Also a huge Shäw Nithän to our Elders who bundled up and joined in all the fun!*

*At left: Three-year old Olea MacDonald gets some help from her visiting Grandmother Roberta Stastyn doing printmaking.*





## Andrew Johnston Executive Director

After more than 12 years of dedicated service as TKC's Finance Manager, Andrew Johnston officially stepped into the role of Executive Director on April 1, 2025. Andrew brings a wealth of fiscal expertise to this position, along with significant oversight and experience with many large projects and services, having spent considerable time as Acting Executive Director.

Congratulations Andrew, we are very pleased you are taking on this significant role within the Ta'an Kwächän Council. You can reach Andrew at 668-3613. ext 201 or email [ED@taan.ca](mailto:ED@taan.ca).

# HR HIGHLIGHTS

*Empowering Our Workforce!*

## Amanda Leas Heritage Manager

Former TKC Chief Amanda Leas, who opted not to run for a second term is back at TKC! Amanda is no stranger to TKC's management team. She served many years as Office Manager before her term of Chief (2021-2024). On March 18 she started the position of Heritage Manager. Amanda, an established artist herself, brings her experience as a manager from when she worked at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.

Congratulations Amanda! We can't wait to share your new adventure bringing your many talents and artistic knowledge to the community! You can reach Amanda at 668-3613 ext. 701 or email [heritagemanager@taan.ca](mailto:heritagemanager@taan.ca).





## Taylor Yeulet Accounts Payables

My Name is Taylor Yeulet. I am a member of TKC and part of the Maggie Broeren family. I've spent most of my life here in the Yukon and there's nowhere I'd rather be.

I have recently been placed in the role of Accounts Payable Clerk for TKC and am glad to be working alongside the great people we have here. You can reach Taylor at 668-3613 ext. 303 or email [payables@taan.ca](mailto:payables@taan.ca).

# HR HIGHLIGHTS

*Welcome to the team!*

## Troy Chisholm Senior Systems Administrator

Hi, my name is Troy Chisholm and I am TKC's new Senior System Administrator as of Feb 10/25. I was born and raised in Antigonish, Nova Scotia and it is where I began my IT career as St. F. X. University in 2000. Fast forward 25 years later and here I am, a married father to four boys! We spent six years in Fredericton, New Brunswick where I worked for a healthcare company providing digital Imaging and X-Ray services. Then we decided in 2014 to relocate to Whitehorse with our boys. We lived here until 2022 and then had a small stint from 2022-2024 in Okotoks, AB - but we missed the Yukon too much and relocated back here last summer. I had worked at NorthwesTel in several IT management roles from 2014-2017 and then held similar roles at YG from 2017-2022. I love the outdoors in any shape or form I can get to it (camping, hunting, outside yard work, weekend BBQs, etc). As does my wife and boys (partly why we relocated back - there really is nothing like the outdoors in the Yukon!). I am very happy to be part of the TKC team now and to have met all the very nice people that work at TKC. You can reach Troy at 668-3613 ext. 209 or email [srsysadmin@taan.ca](mailto:srsysadmin@taan.ca).





## Chantelle Schultz Governance Manager

My Tlingit name is Shaax'akée and I am a Yanyedi (wolf) woman from Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN). My grandparents were Sylvester and Evelyn Jack and my mother is Yvonne Jack. I have lived outside the Yukon a couple of times in my earlier years, but I always returned home and have lived in Whitehorse for my entire adult life. Maintaining cultural connections to my home community in Atlin, B.C has been critical and I have had strong relations with my people and Nation activities throughout my lifetime. I obtained my Bachelor of Social Work from the (then) Yukon College and University of Athabasca in my twenties, which I have always been extremely proud of as I am a strong supporter of Indigenous-centered, Northern-focused education. I put my degree to good use and worked in Child Protection for five years before I moved on to provide service to my own home Nation at the TRTFN managing their Negotiations Department.

When I am not working, I can be found in the summertime at the Jack family's fish camp and my hunting cabin or simply wandering the backroads and trails of our homeland territories in the beautiful North. I will be very grateful to share time with you as we work hard to serve the Nation we are all dedicated to. Gunalchéesh, shāw nithän, thank you so much, I am honored to serve. You can reach Chantelle at 668-3613 ext. 206 or email [governancemanager@taan.ca](mailto:governancemanager@taan.ca).

# HR HIGHLIGHTS

*Welcome to the team!*

## Hayli Deans Finance Manager

Hello! My name is Hayli Deans and I am the new Finance Manager. I was born in Yellowknife, raised in Alberta, and moved to Whitehorse in 2022 with my husband Alex. The Yukon quickly felt like home for us. Outside of work, I coach youth volleyball and enjoy hobbies such as hiking, biking, skiing, knitting, and taking care of my plants/garden.

I have a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from SAIT and a Chartered professional accountant (CPA) designation. In a previous job, I had the privilege of travelling to many different Arctic communities across NWT and Nunavut as an auditor for the municipalities, and I have a great appreciation for Canada's North. I'm truly excited to learn all about TKC, meet citizens, and contribute to the government in my new role. You can reach Hayli at (867) 668-3613 ext. 307. or email [managerfinance@taan.ca](mailto:managerfinance@taan.ca).



# HR HIGHLIGHTS

*Welcome to the team!*

## Malachi Lavallee Wildlife Monitor

Malachi LaVallee (Maggie Broeren family), TKC Citizen and of Tlingit Ancestry (TTC) is the newest Fish and Wildlife Monitor. He started in March of 2025 and is excited to learn more about TKC governance and values. Growing up around the Yukon he has spent much of his life living on Ta'an Settlement Land. He has fond memories of travelling with his father John LaVallee and brother Ethan LaVallee embarking from southern Lake Laberge to Hootalinqua for his fathers daily boating work trips.

TKC has always made him feel welcome and at home inviting him to Spring/Summer camps and Christmas Parties despite the fact that he was a citizen of Teslin Tlingit Council before ultimately switching to TKC as a young adult. Malachi has extensive knowledge working in the back country as he has six seasons working on an Initial Attack Fire Crew both as a crew member and crew leader. He has spent winters in the past working on projects such as River Bend (DDDC) or assisting with the completion of the Ta'an Village water sheds built by the trailers.

The past two winters he has led the TKC Firesmart Crew in their projects, a position he has thoroughly enjoyed and increased his skillset. He looks forward to his new opportunity and the room for growth within the First Nation. You can reach Malachi at 668-3613 ext. 611.





"I felt so beautiful and so confident and just so proud of my heritage that day. I really felt like I shined bright, and all my ancestors were there to watch me."  
 "Ich fühlte mich an diesem Tag so schön und so selbstbewusst und so stolz auf meine Herkunft. Ich hatte wirklich das Gefühl zu glänzen und alle meine Vorfahren waren da, um mich zu sehen."  
 Sarrah Tlingit  
 Yukon First Nations



Sarrah's dress was made of white deer hide and seed beads. Brittney Telep's dress, made by Dorothy Profeit, worn at her 2015 graduation is also a part of the original regalia exhibit that toured throughout the Yukon between 2021-2023.

# ON TOUR

## Sarrah Telep's graduation regalia (2019) is showcased in Switzerland

Images are now circulating world-wide from the Honouring Our Future: Yukon First Nations Graduation Regalia exhibit that has been on tour since 2021. On April 4, a 15-piece exhibit was launched at NONAM, North American Native Museum in Zurich, Switzerland.

One of the pieces includes the traditional regalia made for Sarrah Telep, who is a member of the Jenny Dawson Traditional Family. Sarrah (at left) graduated in 2019. Sarrah's beautiful dress was made by Ellenise Profeit and designed by Taiya Melancon. The display at NONAM also celebrates Sarrah's words which artfully accompany the exhibit. Sarrah notes: "I felt so beautiful and so confident and just so proud of my heritage that day. I really felt like I shined bright, and all my ancestors were there to watch me."

The travelling exhibit is a collaboration of the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, Teslin Tlingit Council and the Yukon Arts Centre. The exhibition was also hosted at Canada House in London, England, from June 13 to October 6, 2024.

These regalia pieces, handcrafted by mothers, aunts, clan members, community matriarchs, and patriarchs, tell stories that resonate deeply with our communities.

# SNAPSHOTS

SELF-CARE DAY - MARCH 21, 2025

by Natalie Hare



Send us your beautiful photos and a brief description from events, or time spent on the land. Use your phone or any camera and your work will be featured here every quarter. Send your photos to us via email [communicationsoffice@taan.ca](mailto:communicationsoffice@taan.ca)



# Wilderness First Aid



Corey Kirkpatrick and Anilee Butler

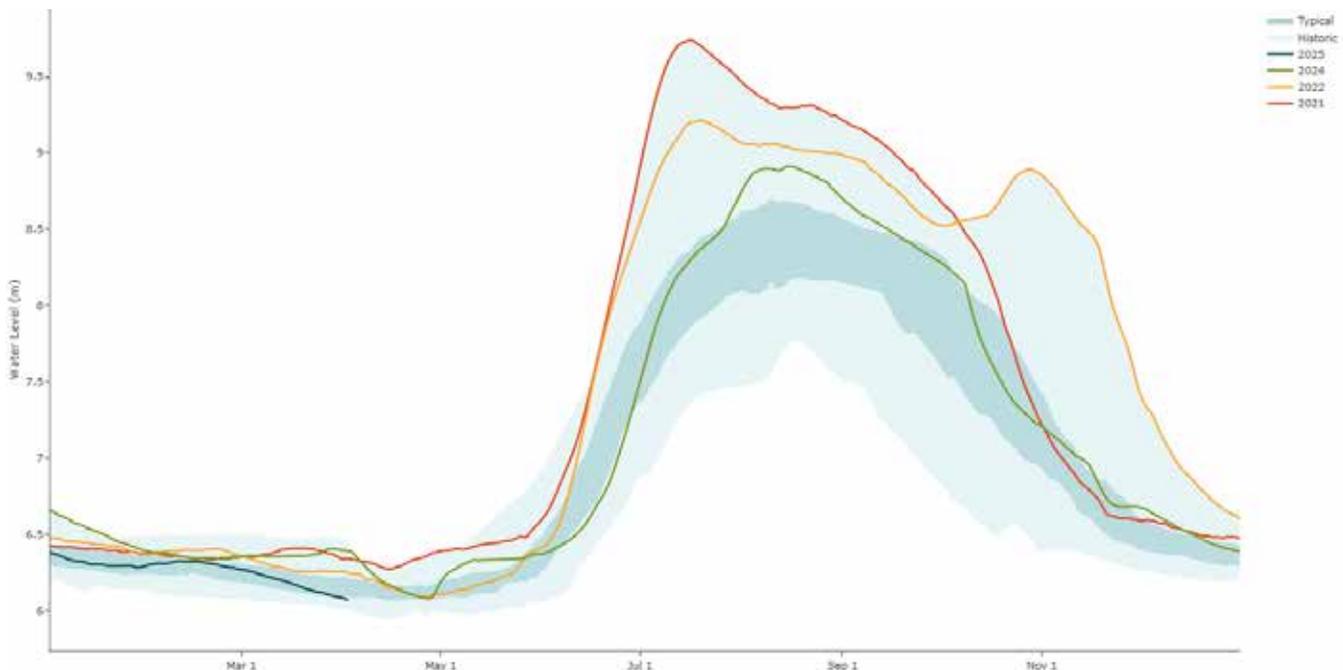


Jonathan Burdek and Casey Cardinal  
tend to rescue patient, Gabe Profeit.

March 24-28 TKC Lands, Housing and Development staff took part in Wilderness First Aid training at Yukon University. This important training teaches valuable first aid skills for emergency situations in remote settings. Twelve staff were able to take part including Kadin Hare, Kim Koyczan, Shawana Williams, Jonathon Burdek, Tania Pope, Anilee Butler, Casey Cardinal, Natalie Leclerc, Corey Kirkpatrick, Justin Jacobs, Kate Andre and Gabe Profeit. Congratulations everyone for completing this important training!

## Lake Levels Lake Laberge near Whitehorse

Water levels in Lake Laberge and the headwaters are below average right now, and the Southern Lakes snowpack is also below average for April.



Post-Secondary Grads, please register by April 15, 2025



## *Class of 2025*

### AFN Yukon-Region Indigenous Post-Secondary Graduation Ceremony

Friday, May 23rd, 2025

Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre

11:00am

All graduates must be in attendance by: 10:00am

*We hope you can join us!*

To register, please click here

Should you have questions, please email:

[kimrumley604@gmail.com](mailto:kimrumley604@gmail.com)





## Red Dress Day Pin Kits now available!

Pick yours up at TKC's Main  
Administration Building.

Special Pin-Making  
Session

April 15th 2025!

# *The Next* **THREAD**

*Tuesdays at 5:30pm*  
*9042 Quartz Road*  
*Dinner is Provided!*

*Best in Company is guaranteed!*

May 5, 2025, marks the 15th anniversary of the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People, also known as Red Dress Day. This day serves as a powerful reminder of the need to recognize and address the violence still faced by many in Canada.