

# Kwanlin Dän Ch'a

“Kwanlin people of Whitehorse, how are you?”



The Dakhká Khwáan Dancers performed at the swearing-in ceremony for the new Chief and Council. (See story inside!)



## Plan now for Fall Courses!

This September the House of Learning (HoL) will once again be providing College Prep courses in English, Math and Study Skills.

HoL will also be hosting distance classes in Communications, Environmental Studies and English.

These courses provide study in a safe, accessible, and supportive learning environment.

Courses are open to all First Nations and all KDFN staff.

Make plans now to sign up for the courses you want and arrange your funding. (The deadline for full funding is June 15th 2011.)

See Cathy or Belinda at the House of Learning classroom or phone 633-8422 ext. 7896.

## Katelyn Dawson: Building Skills and Experience



Katelyn Jessica Dawson, who's turning 20 in July, is working as a first year Carpentry Apprentice on a housing project being done by a KDFN company, 42135 Yukon Inc.

Katelyn graduated from F.H. Collins in 2009. She wanted to find good work but wasn't sure what interested her. So she enrolled in Yukon College's *Women In Trades* course. The course gave her some hands-on experience in carpentry, welding, plumbing, electrical work and culinary arts.

In the end, she chose to follow the same career path as her dad, Howard MacIntosh (Little Mac). She is now working with him on the job site.

Katelyn isn't one of those people who sits around waiting for something to

come to her; instead she tries different things and goes after what interests her.

Once she decided carpentry was what interested her the most, she took *Pre-Employment Carpentry* at the college. The program included 300 hours of practical work, 300 hours of classroom work and lots of homework.

Once she completed the program, Katelyn applied for her job at 42135 Yukon Inc. She also earned her WHMIS, Rigging & Hoisting, First Aid and Flagging certificates. These certificates make her even more qualified for future positions.

Katelyn is happy with the money she's making just two years out of high school. She is considering training to be a Construction Safety Officer once the construction season winds down.

But right now she's got a great job, is enjoying the summer and is learning alongside her proud-looking dad!



## How you can help CHOICES!

### Submit Art for T-shirts!

The *Choices!* Youth Sexual Health Conference will be giving each of the delegates and volunteers a super awesome T-shirt to celebrate the conference.

And we want the t-shirt to feature the work of a Kwanlin Dün artist.

The contest is open to all Kwanlin Dün artists and youth artists are strongly encouraged to enter.

The winner will have their art featured on over 300 shirts which will get exposure throughout Canada and Alaska!

**The contest closes at 4pm on Thursday, June 30th. Contact the coordinators for info!**

### Donate handmade items!

We are looking for donations of handmade items like jewelry, moccasins, vests, mitts, purses, hats, potlatch bags and all other artwork.

Many of the donations we receive will be given away as prizes for the youth. It is such a wonderful thing to receive a handmade gift and we want our youth to experience that too.

Some donations will be used in a silent auction to help raise money to cover the costs of hosting this huge event.

All donations are equally appreciated and will be well received.

### Get involved - Volunteer!

We need over 25 volunteers, who can donate anywhere from 1 hour to 2.5 days! It is a great chance to meet people, gain skills and support youth! All ages are welcome to volunteer.

There will be a **Volunteer Recruitment session on Thursday June 30th @ 6pm - 7pm at the Health Centre.** Or contact the CHOICES! coordinators for info.

# CHOICES! Youth Sexual Health Conference

The KDFN Health Centre is planning an exciting conference for youth on July 29-31. The event will include three days of food, fun activities, entertainment, friends and all the sex education one could ever hope for!

The event is open to all youth from ages 13-19 from across the Yukon, Canada and Alaska. We expect 200-250 people!

Plus there will be some amazing speakers and resource people including the very cool Jessica Yee who has described herself as a “multiracial Indigenous hip-hop feminist reproductive justice freedom fighter!”

The goal of the Whitehorse-based conference is to provide youth with skills and confidence building to help them make healthy choices with sex and sexuality as well as drug and alcohol use.

For information on how to register, you can visit [www.kwanlindun.com](http://www.kwanlindun.com) or contact the coordinators, Christina Sim and Sarina Sydney.

**CHOICES!  
Contact  
Information:**

**Christina Sim or  
Sarina Sydney**  
KDFN Health Centre

*Phone:* 668-7289  
*Email:* [choices@kwanlindun.com](mailto:choices@kwanlindun.com)



Community members will be able to play ball this summer thanks to many great volunteers! In particular, Jackie Callahan (*flipping burgers above*) has been volunteering lots of time to coordinate work on fixing up our baseball field.

With BBQ supplies and other support provided by the KDFN Health Centre, Jackie organized a Community Clean Up and BBQ on June 2nd. And what a great turn out! About 60 community members and KDFN staff came to pick up garbage on the field and surrounding area.

After some additional grading the field will be ready for use! Yeah Team!



Chief Rick O'Brien spoke at the beginning of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings in Whitehorse.



The two Commissioners, Willie Littlechild and Marie Wilson, listened and took notes as residential school survivors made statements about their experiences. Friends, family and support workers sat with the survivors to provide strength and comfort.

## Truth & Reconciliation Hearings held in Whitehorse

“The legacy of Indian residential school will never be forgotten.... Telling our stories is one step in the right direction to taking back our power as First Nations people and as First Nations governments.”

With these words, Chief Rick O'Brien helped open the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) hearings in Whitehorse.

Over two days, many survivors of residential school bravely told their stories, either publicly at Nàkwät'à Kù Potlatch House or privately at KDFN's Health Centre. Earlier in the week, the TRC also took statements in Dawson City and Watson Lake.

The TRC was established as part of the Settlement Agreement on Indian Residential Schools, Canada's largest class action suit. It is not a part of government.

“The Commission's job is to learn the truth about residential school, to inform Canadians, and to make sure we never forget,” said Marie Wilson, one of the Commissioners. “Reconciliation is about understanding what happened. We need that to move forward.”

All of the survivors' statements were recorded so they could be included in a national database.

Whitehorse was the 18th community the TRC had visited as part of its northern tour. At the end of June,

the TRC will be holding a three-day national event in Inuvik which many survivors from across the north will be attending.

Marie Wilson noted that the community events are as important as the national ones for collecting testimony from survivors.

The Whitehorse hearings were jointly hosted by Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'an Council and the Council for Yukon First Nations.

Many agencies provided support workers to help survivors and others during the emotional days before, during and after the event. A sacred fire was lit on the first morning and tended for the two days.

“People didn't want it to end. People were supporting each other and it really brought the community together,” one participant observed. “It is so true that the more people talk, the better it is for healing.”

### Support is available

If you, or someone you know, needs someone to talk to, please come by the KDFN Health Centre or call us at 668-7289. There is also a toll free, 24-hour national crisis line for residential school survivors and family members: 1-866-925-4419.

# Gaining New Job Skills & Experience



KDFN citizen, Chris Trociuk, is working as a Project Inspector at the Whistle Bend Subdivision.

Two Kwanlin Dün citizens, Chris Trociuk and Byron Kodwat, are working in training positions on the new Whistle Bend subdivision project. These positions enable these two people to learn new construction industry skills.

KDFN's Economic Development team negotiated these two training positions under Yukon Asset Construction Agreements, or YACAs for short.

These type of agreements come out of KDFN's Final Agreement. KDFN can negotiate on-the-job training and other benefits on large Government of Yukon construction projects happening within our traditional lands. The new Whistle Bend subdivision is one example.

## *Chris Trociuk*

Chris Trociuk started work earlier in the spring as the Government of Yukon's Project Inspector at the Whistle Bend project.

Chris says he's drawing on all his previous experiences in the construction industry. According to him, he wishes he'd spent more time learning to work on computers to help him in this role. His boss says he's doing a great job!

The new skills Chris is learning on this job will help him to continue to find steady employment in the construction industry.

Chris says he might even start his own business, after his current term position is completed with the Yukon government.

As a Kwanlin Dün citizen, Chris' hard work and skills are impressing Government of Yukon officials as well as his co-workers. Essentially, Chris is creating strong impressions in the government and business community, and paving the way for other Kwanlin Dün citizens in the future.

## *Byron Kodwat*

In April, Byron Kodwat, was hired to be a Surveyor Assistant on the Whistle Bend project. The surveying skills and experience that Byron is gaining on this project will make him in-demand on the many future construction jobs that are anticipated in the Yukon.

The objective of these term positions is to give Kwanlin Dün citizens on-the-job training and build up their marketable job skills. With their new skills and experience, citizens in the program will have an easier time finding future employment.

Our long-term goal is to ensure KDFN citizens will be able to make careers out of their YACA training experiences.

*For more information about YACA training and other benefits, visit Peter Turner at KDFN's Economic Development offices or phone 633-7880.*



KDFN citizen, Byron Kodwat is a Survey Assistant Inspector at the Whistle Bend Subdivision.

## **Ensure your taxes go to your community!**

If you have been a resident on KDFN lands but haven't been noting that on your income tax returns since 2006, it's not too late. You can amend what you submitted in the past.

You can fill out a form so that KDFN can get its share. More of your tax dollars can go to the community.

On the first page of the general T1 tax form, check the "YES" box in the "Residency information" section. Then write in "Kwanlin Dün First Nation" and the number assigned to KDFN which is "11004".

You will also need to fill out Form YT-432.

If you need help please contact the Finance Department at 633-7800.

# Creating Opportunities in a Changing World



The world is changing very quickly now, and the question for economic development is how does Kwanlin Dün First Nation fit into the global and regional picture?

For the United States, they are printing money at record speeds, which means their money is now worth less than a year ago. Being Canada's really only trading partner, with the devaluation of the U.S. dollar, the Canadian dollar has become very expensive for many other countries.

How does this relate to Kwanlin Dün? Well, we are in the process of opening our Cultural Centre, and if the Canadian dollar is more expensive for Americans and Europeans, then it potentially means we will have fewer visitors from these countries. We are going to

be charging foreigners to visit the Culture Centre, so it potentially means less revenue for the facility.

In Whitehorse, many foreigners working here send money back to their native countries. With the stronger Canadian dollar, it means they are now making more money for their families back home than a year ago.

In the future, we will probably see a lot more demand for foreigners wanting to come to Yukon and work for Canadian dollars.

What does this mean for Kwanlin Dün citizens? It means that the job market may get even more competitive here in Whitehorse.

Right now many businesses are spending on average \$2,000 to bring in each foreign worker, while we have 15% unemployment in the village.

As a people, when one of us makes a mistake and does not show up for work, it potentially reflects poorly upon all citizens. Many local employers have given up on hiring First Nations, as they say we are not reliable.

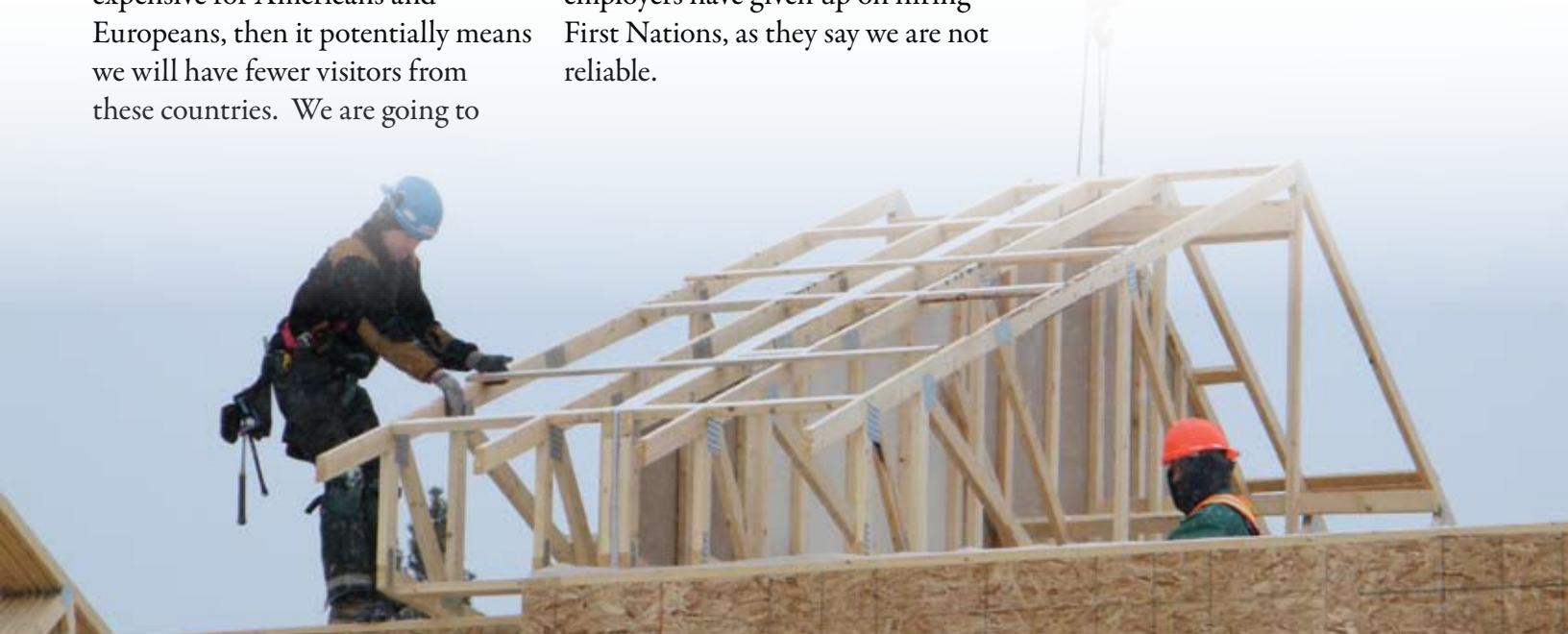
This assumption about reliability is not true for all, but as a community we need to think about the big picture and our place in the big picture.

The world is changing quickly and, I believe, we as Kwanlin Dün citizens don't want to be left on the sidelines once again.

As the Councilor assigned to Economic Development, I am working with our staff to create financial opportunities for our First Nation, but I cannot do this alone.

We as a First Nation need to build a strong reputation of being hard workers, honest people, and responsible people. To build this reputation, it requires we all work together.

*Raymond Sydney is your elected Councilor for Economic Development and he would love to hear from citizens about economic development. He can be reached by phone at 633-7838, by email at [rsydney@kwanlindun.com](mailto:rsydney@kwanlindun.com), or in person at the KDFN's Administrative Offices.*



# Fish Lake Water License

This past spring, Yukon Electrical Company (YECL) applied for a two-year extension of its water licence for the Fish Lake Hydro Project. Elders Ronald Bill and Rose Charlie recounted their experience of life at Fish Lake. They recalled the late summer and fall when families would travel to camps at Fish Lake fishing for trout and whitefish.

Other documented histories of Fish Lake have talked about the bounty of Fish Lake:

*"...people could use a dip net, bucket or gunny sack as well as either commercial or 'moose twine' nets, catching 80-100 fish in one day."*

The area was also a rich source for moose, caribou, sheep, marmot, beaver, muskrat and gophers. Many people spent winter and spring at Fish Lake, ice fishing, hunting and trapping. Part of this area is deemed sacred and was a place where annual gatherings occurred, drawing people from Marsh Lake, Lake Laberge and Kusawa Lake areas.

Today, KDFN has a large amount of settlement land in the area although few people rely on the area for harvest these days. A 2009 survey indicated that the lake no longer provides such abundance and concluded that the "lake has been fished out."

Additionally, several KDFN selections have been periodically flooded and eroded by high water levels associated with the Yukon Electric Company's hydro project.

The KDFN Lands department, reviewed the YECL application and recently presented recommendations dealing with things like high water levels, through both the YESAA and the Water Board relicensing processes.

KDFN Lands department expects YECL to apply for a 25 year renewal in the next couple of years. They will be preparing for this longer license renewal application in the months to come.



Graduates at the Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre performed the "Head & Shoulders, Knees & Toes" song in Southern Tutchone for parents and guests on June 8th.



KDFN's community health nurse, Christina Sim, recently presented KDFN's unique posters on breast feeding to 300 nurses at a national Community Health Nurses conference in Halifax.

The posters were a huge success! The other nurses thought the photos of the families were beautiful and really appreciated the images of men helping to support breastfeeding by doing other chores and family activities. Over 400 of KDFN's posters were taken back to communities all over Canada to be displayed at health centres, hospitals, clinics and offices.

A very big thank-you to all of the families who volunteered their time last year to be featured in the posters. You are helping to raise awareness across the country! People can view the posters at the Health Centre and other KDFN offices.

# Swearing-in the new Chief & Council

On April 17th, over 200 KDFN citizens, staff, community members and other well-wishers gathered at Nàkwät'à Kù for the swearing-in ceremony for the new Council.

Each councilor made a powerful declaration of their responsibilities to the citizens as they read out their oath of office. Many spoke of unity, transparency and a commitment to working for the people in government.

Each member was presented with an eagle feather as a traditional symbol to help them on their leadership journey. They were also given other gifts from the community.

The new Chief, Rick O'Brien told the audience, "We will work together to create a positive and effective government for Kwanlin Dün citizens." He noted that the focus for the next three years in office would be economic development, training, employment. He added that there was also a need for capital investment in community infrastructure, to invest in ourselves.

The event was festive and celebratory as families gathered, some in their best regalia, to welcome the new Council, and to thank the out-going councilors.

Over the course of the night, the Elijah Smith Flying Eagle Dancers, the fancy dancers and the Dakhká Khwáan Dancers helped the community celebrate and honour our leaders.



**Top:** *Left:* Community applauds new Chief & Council. *Right:* Councillor Jesse Dawson and her great granddaughter.

**Middle:** *Left:* Councillor Alicia Vance. *Right:* Judicial Council Chair Doris Bill and Councillor Ron MacIntosh.

**Bottom:** *Left:* Councillor Ray Sydney and Youth Councillor Sarina Sydney eat with family and friends. *Right:* Councillor Charlene Charlie eats with her family and friends.



Sandi Porter training at the Flagging Workshop on McIntyre Road



Enform Chainsaw Safety course. Back row (left to right): Zaa Robin Basil, Dezi Graham, Mike MacIntosh, Karen Macleod, Shirley Allison, Hank Henry Front row (left to right): Tyler Smith, JT Papequash.

## Short Training Courses

Over the last year the House of Learning has hosted eleven workshops including Boating Safety, Firearms Safety, Enform Chainsaw Safety, Wilderness First Aid and BC Traffic Controller Certification.

Eighty-seven community members have successfully participated in one or more of the workshops, gaining valuable employment skills.

The House of Learning often provides short training opportunities. If you are interested in doing a training within the community please stop by the House of Learning to talk to Belinda about the kind of courses you are interested in. Or you can call her at 633 8422 ext.7897.

## Tenant Workshops and Info

### Home Maintenance Workshop (FREE!)

Tenants are invited to come and learn more about fixing up and maintaining their home. Learn how to:

- make small home repairs around the house
- repair holes in drywall and paint
- save money by making your home energy efficient

**When:** Wednesday July 20th, 1-4pm

**Where:** Nàkwät'à Kù Potlatch House

### Wood Furnace Workshop (FREE)

Come and learn how to know if your furnace is working efficiently, and how you can save wood and money.

**Date and Time:** To be announced in the early fall.

*If you would prefer to attend a workshop in the evening instead of the daytime, or if you have ideas for other workshops we should offer, please let us know! Call the Housing Officer at 633-7846.*

### Tenants: We Need Your Income Information!

The Housing Office is once again collecting proof of income amounts for all tenants. This is a requirement as part of our agreements with CHMC.

If you are a tenant and have not yet brought in proof of income for the past year, please do so as soon as possible. This can be a T4, tax return or any other proof of income.

*This information is crucial.* KDFN needs it to secure funding for the Housing Office, home repairs and renovations. All of your information is kept strictly confidential.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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