

# Kwanlin Dän Ch'a



Kwanlin People of Whitehorse, How are you?



## Movember Circumpolar

Brent Taylor above Aishihik Lake during the Movember Circumpolar bison hunt

*Full story on page 12*

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# Message from the Chief



Chief Doris Bill

Photo: Alistair Maitland

I hope this message finds you well. As you read through this newsletter, I am sure you will find Council and Administration have been very busy over the past few months and that we have much to talk about.

I am pleased to announce the date for the Summer Gathering at Jackson Lake has been set to **June 15-17, 2018**. Council definitely encourages citizens to attend. For those of you who cannot be there, please contact our office for any information you wish to receive, and continue to monitor our website for updates: [kwanlindun.com](http://kwanlindun.com).

I would like to recognize all the Kwanlin Dün youth who have worked so hard over the past year, and kudos to them for the many partnerships they have established! Thank you to all of the citizens and Elders who came out to support the youth along the way. The Festival of Murals project added great beauty to our city. The re-creation of Shākāt Journal, in partnership with Youth of Today Society, has delivered a means for young people to receive relevant training and provided an avenue for them to express themselves through media art.

As you may have heard, the KDFN Youth Advisory Committee to Council, Ta'an Kwach'an Council, the Government of

Yukon and Shākāt Journal have partnered for the Millennial Town Hall on February 26 and 27 at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. This is a tremendous opportunity for youth from across the territory to engage with their peers on matters important to them. On day two of the event, myself along with Premier Sandy Silver, Mayor Dan Curtis, Chief Kristina Kane and Grand Chief Peter Johnston will take questions from town hall participants. I encourage all youth between the ages of 15 to 30 to register for this free event at [www.shakat.ca/townhall](http://www.shakat.ca/townhall).

Finally, in early January, I had the opportunity to attend a meeting in Ottawa relating to child welfare. It was encouraging to finally see all levels of government, in one room and at one table, ready to have this long-overdue discussion. While no decisions were made, it has prompted governments to take a good look at the system and work on meaningful solutions that will ensure our children are kept within our communities and closer to home. In recent days, Yukon Health minister Pauline Frost has announced a review of Yukon's Child Welfare Act. As this process continues, I will continue to keep you informed.

Shaw Níthän

**Right:** Chief Doris Bill at a Yukon College flag raising ceremony in November. The KDFN and TKC flags are flying in several new places throughout our common Traditional Territories.

Also see page 16



# Minister asks youth how Ottawa can help

By Skyler Isaac

In the wake of the dissolution of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, the Yukon received a visit from the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs.

On December 15, 2017, Minister Bennett visited the Youth of Today Society to learn about the activities of the KDFN Youth Advisory Committee to Council and the Shākāt team. Afterwards, she met with several prominent youth figures from around Whitehorse to discuss the matter of youth engagement.

One young leader in attendance was Kluane Adamek, who was recently appointed to the role of Interim Regional Chief for the Assembly of First Nations. "How do we get young people into a room to talk about ideas?" she asked. "How do we get them to participate?"

Teagyn Vallevand operates workshops which raise awareness of lateral violence. "It's really difficult for youth," she said. "We need to feel supported by our peers and our mentors. I also think representation is a really important part of it, because growing up, I didn't really have a lot of young, indigenous people that I could look to for mentorship or inspirational purposes."

Other topics of discussion included getting youth supports and teaching programs out to the communities, with Bennett saying, "You need a network of youth across the country, but you need funding for local



"...growing up, I didn't really have a lot of young, indigenous people that I could look to for mentorship..."

– Teagyn Vallevand

projects of reconciliation." She then asked the room, "How would we get the tools to youth to be able to supervise a blanket exercise or lateral kindness workshop... how do we get them the tools and the online support to teach them?"

All in all, this meeting went very well. Minister Bennett was very open to hearing concerns and suggestions from the youth leaders, and even threw in a few suggestions of her own, pledging to help First Nations youth in any way she can.

*Photo Above: KDFN and other youth meet with Minister Carolyn Bennett and MP Larry Bagnell*

## Interested in representing your people?

There are many ways to get involved in decision making and moving KDFN forward. Join a board, committee or school council. There are also occasional national and international opportunities.

Submit your application, letter or resume and tell us what issues interest you. We will keep your information on file to fill vacancies.

Please visit the Executive Council Office page on our website for more information about boards and committees, the application form and boards currently seeking members.

For more information about boards and committees please call the Executive Council Office at **(867) 633-7800**.

# Millennial Town Hall

by Skyler Isaac



*The Millennial Town Hall is Feb. 25-27 at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre*

*Youth age 15-30 who are interested can register at [www.shakat.ca/town-hall/registration](http://www.shakat.ca/town-hall/registration)*

From February 25 to 27, Whitehorse will play host to the first ever Town Hall Youth Forum and Service Fair – aka The Millennial Town Hall – an event crafted and arranged by the Kwanlin Dün Youth Advisory Committee to Council and Shākāt Journal.

“This Town Hall is a chance for youth from across the Yukon to ask questions and to voice their opinions and concerns to Yukon’s leaders,” said Cheyenne Bradley, one of the event organizers. “The Service Fair portion of the event will provide information about youth services, job opportunities, employment programs and various projects they can become involved with.”

Everything kicks off on Sunday, February 25 with the “Emerging Warriors Workshop” hosted by inspirational speaker and comedian Don Burnstick at 404C Ogilvie Street (the Youth of Today Society).

The remainder of the three-day event will be February 26 and 27 at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. Some issues to be discussed include youth homelessness, the legalization of marijuana, the impacts of fentanyl and opioid use, human trafficking, prostitution, sexual health and mental wellness.

The Millennial Town Hall will be streamed live on the Internet from the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre Long House on February 27. Political leaders confirmed for the event include Premier Sandy Silver, Mayor Dan Curtis, TKC Chief Kristina Kane, KDFN Chief Doris Bill and CYFN Grand Chief Peter Johnston.

Over the course of the of the live stream event, youth will ask questions to and receive answers from the political leaders in attendance. Before the conference wraps up, they will provide their perspectives to conference organizers on the various subjects that were covered.

## COMMUNITY REMINDER ABOUT DOGS

Please remember that for the safety of everyone – and every dog – that dogs must be kept on a leash or in a secured yard at all times when they are outside the home. Also, owners please carry bags when walking your dog so you can pick up after it.

For KDFN tenants: moving forward, new tenants require permission before they can own a pet in their rental unit. For more information, please see the KDFN Tenancy Agreement.

If you are concerned about your safety because of a dog, or if you’re concerned about a dog or someone else’s safety, you can call the **City of Whitehorse Complaint Line at 667-2111**. Complaint calls are anonymous.

City of Whitehorse bylaws allow each residence to own a maximum of two dogs and two cats. A special permit is available to allow a maximum of 3 dogs and 3 cats. All dogs and cats kept as pets in the City of Whitehorse must have licences.

If you have any questions about the above information, please call the Bylaw Services Department at **668-8317**. If you have a complaint about a dog, please call the City of Whitehorse complaint line at **667-2111**. All complaints are anonymous.

### THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- Do not approach a mother dog when she is with her puppies. Some mother dogs can be very protective of their babies and may bite.
- Never approach a dog that is sleeping. You may startle the dog and it may bite.
- Do not tease a dog with food by offering the food to the dog then pulling it away.
- If a dog is eating do not try to take its food away.
- If you see a dog is hurt or injured do not touch the dog, a dog may bite if touched in a sore spot.



## Massive clean-up efforts improve land parcels

Two settlement land parcels are getting a new lease on life. After decades of unregulated dumping and unsanctioned use, these two important pieces of land are now almost completely cleaned up. Although many efforts have been carried out over the years, this work was completed between 2014 and November 2017, costing a combined total of \$250,000.

The first is Lot R-16, located at kilometre 1449 of the Alaska Highway and commonly known as the “Gun Range.” For decades, it had been used as an illegal dumping site for vehicles, appliances and household garbage. Countless ammunition shells littered the lot. After \$9200 was spent on equipment, labour and garbage removal, the place is unrecognizable. Soil remediation is the final step, but those costs are yet to be determined.

The second is Lot 225 of the Old Village in Marwell. The cleanup costs to remove 125 steel drums, 200 vehicles and 65 tons of garbage totalled \$196,000 including labour and equipment. An additional \$27,000 was spent on security fencing to protect the land pending soil testing. Once complete, the property will be ready for development.

“Kwanlin Dün is promoting the interests of

the government and our citizens to ensure not only that our land is protected but to also realize the economic benefits for KDFN citizens now and in the future,” said Don Rogers, Operations Manager for KDFN Lands and Resources.

In 2017, after a lengthy period of community consultation, the Land Vision was approved. This is a guide to the planning and management of all KDFN lands and is based on values expressed by KDFN citizens. The clean-up efforts address three fundamental pillars of the Land Vision: Caring for the land, Considering future generations, and Promoting the interests of KDFN and our citizens.

“Kwanlin Dün is taking appropriate action to restore damaged lands so they may benefit not only the present citizens but future generations of KDFN citizens,” said Rogers. The clean-up was completed through cooperation between KDFN’s Land and Economic Development departments, the Chu Níikwän Development Corporation and the Government of Yukon.

Please check out a short video on the clean-up projects including dramatic before-and-after shots. Search “KDFN Land Vision” on YouTube to find it.

**Photo Above:**  
*Lot 226 before and after clean up*



## The land provides. It always has

**Photo Above:** *The area in yellow is being leased by Yukon Energy. The remaining part of the parcel is being used to test subdivision processes.*

Kwanlin Dün First Nation is the largest landowner in the City of Whitehorse – and that land is valuable. When our leaders signed the KDFN Final Agreement in 2005, a tax exemption was built in so that the First Nation wouldn't have to pay tax on many parcels of land until 2020.

"Right now, our settlement land is an asset, but eventually, it's going to be a liability," said Chief Doris Bill. "Within the next two years, a number of KDFN tax exemptions will end. This means KDFN land will become more expensive for us to own."

Tax exemptions were built in to the Final Agreements so that First Nations and other levels of government would have time to put legal and regulatory structures in place that would enable First Nation land to be planned, subdivided, leased, and ultimately developed. "Slowly but surely, those structures have all gone in to place," said Chief Bill. "We established the

Chu Níikwän Development Corporation in 2014 so that it could facilitate wealth generation for KDFN. We gained the ability to register land at the Yukon government's Land Titles Office in 2016. Now, Chu Níikwän is working with the City of Whitehorse to learn about how permitting and subdividing land will work so that KDFN land can begin to generate wealth for KDFN citizens."

In 2017, Chu Níikwän developed and leased a small parcel of land near the Kulan subdivision to Yukon Energy. "We're moving slowly and carefully," said Chris Milner, Chu Níikwän's Chief Executive Officer. "We went with Yukon Energy because they are a partner we trust and we wanted to put all of the regulatory processes to the test."

A small portion of the land that was leased to Yukon Energy is being subdivided. This

...continued

is being done to test settlement land's ability to be registered at the Land Titles Office and maintain Aboriginal Right and Title. Subdivision is when a single parcel of land is split in to two or more parcels so that the pieces are more manageable. It's like cutting pieces of a pie.

"This is the first time we know of that First Nation land is going through these processes," continued Milner. "The subdivision is not necessary, but it's a safe test that will help us determine exactly what to expect when KDFN land is ready to be subdivided and brought to market."

"The key to long-term economic

sustainability for this First Nation is land development," said Chief Bill. "When we are ready to subdivide land for residential purposes, citizens will have first option to seize the opportunity. Once people are living on KDFN land, their tax dollars will go to the KDFN government, ensuring our future generations are well taken care of."

The land has always provided for our people – now it will just do so in a different way.

Watch for upcoming citizen information sessions to learn more about KDFN's economic development work later this year.

## Congratulations Rennes and Cassis Lindsay



**Left:** Congratulations to Rennes Lindsay (L) and Cassis Lindsay (R), who won National Swimmer of the Year and Territorial Swimmer of the Year at the 42nd Annual Sport Yukon Awards Night in November 2017!

# Alcohol and drugs - are they affecting you or someone you care about?

*Drop by the Health Centre or call 668-7289 and ask to speak to a counsellor*

The colder months of the year can bring up triggers for some people, particularly around alcohol and drug use.

Here are some ways to tell if alcohol and drugs are affecting your life or someone you care about:

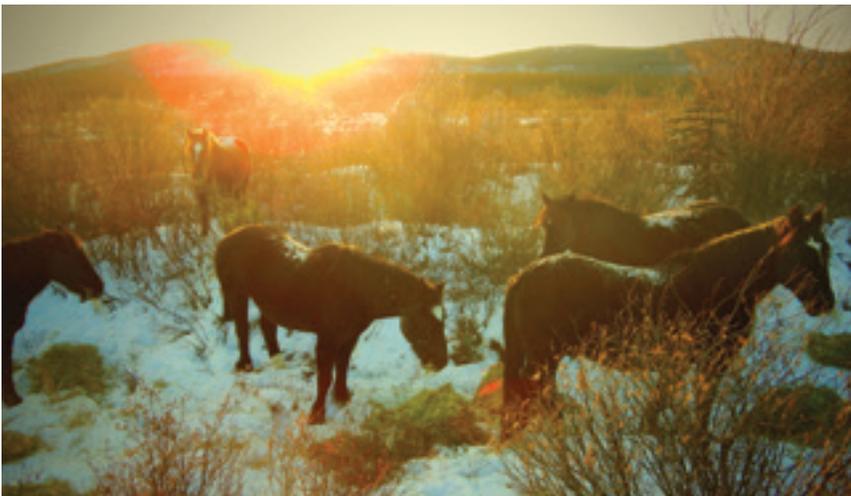
- Spending too much money on alcohol or drugs
- Debts and bills are piling up
- Trouble with the law when drinking/using
- Missing work or coming in late
- Impact on sleep, appetite, mood and spirit
- Feeling depressed or anxious when coming off a binge
- Problems in one's relationship related to drinking or drugging—like fighting, arguing, violence, cheating
- Spending less time with family who don't drink/use
- Spending less time with kids
- Finding it hard to be around kids because feeling hungover
- The kids seem to be more clingy, angrier, have more temper tantrums
- Making promises that aren't kept
- Social events center around alcohol or drugs

*Connect with the land; connect with your spirit; connect with your culture.*

- Guilt and shame about choices
- Don't know how to make things better

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Talk to a friend, a family member, an Elder or someone you trust
- Slow down the drinking or drugging or take some time away from alcohol and drugs
- Connect with yourself—do things that help you cope in a good way
- Connect with family, friends, cultural supports
- Connect with the land
- Connect with your spirit
- Connect with culture—sew, pray, drum, smudge or go to a sweat if it fits with your beliefs
- Take time to do things with your kids—read a book, play with their favourite toys, go outside together
- Tackle the things that were neglected while drinking or drugging
- Get active—go for a walk, try to get some exercise
- Eat some healthy food
- Try to get a good sleep
- Go to programming offered by KDFN or elsewhere
- See a counsellor



The KDFN Health Centre has counsellors available to support you if you want to talk about alcohol or drugs and its impact on your life. We can help if you are ready to make changes or even if you're not ready to do anything different and just want to talk it through. We know that trauma and loss are related to alcohol and drug use. We can support you with all of it. We can also help if you are a family member and need support with a loved one's addiction. Drop by the Health Centre or call 668-7289 and ask to speak to a counsellor.



**Left:** Skyla Vance working on a project during a Friday sewing drop-in at the Natséxhi Kù Health Centre

## Sewing drop-ins

**By Skyler Isaac**

Kwanlin Dün citizen Marion Fayant has been hosting a regular sewing group on Fridays since the weather cooled down. These sessions are open to any and all KDFN citizens who wish to drop in and attend.

“It’s not one specific group,” said Marion. “Citizens may drop in with their own sewing projects and work on them here with assistance between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.”

Those who drop in are offered a hot lunch and a place to gather to sew, talk and laugh. Marion explains how the group tries to do one project like vests, moccasins, mukluks, or fur hats once every couple of months for a week.

More traditional crafts such as Octopus bags, Button Blankets and Spruce Root Weaving make up a small but very important portion of the group. “That’s where Shirley Bien comes in,” Marion continues, referring to the sewing group’s instructor. “She’s knowledgeable in the traditional items and teaches the history to everyone.”

Marion claims that most of the group’s activities are aimed toward people who may be struggling in their lives, or are

simply looking for a means to occupy their time. “We strongly believe that if the hands and eyes are busy the mind has time to think,” says Shirley.

Marion finds it satisfying to pass down her knowledge to a new generation of people. “It’s great,” she said. “Participants can learn these skills for themselves at home, and then make some money at it.”

In the month of February, the sewing group will meet on the 9th, 16th and 23rd.

On February 26 to March 2, Shirley will teach people how to make beaver hats.

Citizens interested in taking part of any of the upcoming classes or sewing sessions can call the Kwanlin Dün Health Centre at 667-7289 to get more information and to sign up.

*Call the Kwanlin Dün Health Centre at 667-7289 for more info and to sign up*

## FEBRUARY DROP-IN

Sewing group will meet Feb 9, 16 & 23.

Feb 26 – March 2

Shirley Bien will teach how to make beaver hats.

# Skills for Life, Land and Work students graduate 12-week development program

For more information  
about adult  
education and work  
skills programming,  
contact Justine  
Copestake at  
633-8422 ext. 507

## By Skyler Isaac

On December 20, 2017, the Nàkwät'à Kù Potlatch House played host to a graduation ceremony for those who took part in the first ever Skills For Life, Land and Work program.

The program was run by the Kwanlin Dün First Nation Department of Education with funding from the Yukon government's Advanced Education branch. It was designed to benefit Kwanlin Dün citizens who are currently unemployed.

Taking place between October 1 and December 20, Skills for Life, Land and Work taught participants essential, Yukon-related skills such as wilderness survival, first aid, trapper training and certification, small engine repair, firearms operation, as well as hunter education and ethics. Through a partnership with Movember, it even included a bison hunt and camp.

Participants focused on workplace essential skill development – an approach that encouraged personal growth. They were also fortunate enough to be given work placements in various KDFN government departments as well as organizations like the Yukon Aboriginal Sport Circle, Canyon City Construction and

Capstone Mining Corporation's mine in Minto. These placements were integral for participants to build valuable employment skills.

"Through the Personality Dimensions and Career Focusing workshops, participants learned a lot about themselves and their interests," said KDFN Adult Educator Justine Copestake. "From there, we were able to understand the kinds of work that fit for each student, finding work placements and job shadow positions supportive of their individual goals."

"We did quite a lot, actually. It was an extensive twelve week program," said Tony Guy, one of the inaugural Skills For Life, Land and Work program graduates. "The work we did on personality development changed my whole outlook on what I wanted to go towards. I was going to go towards a mechanics course, and now I believe I'm going to go into resources."

According to Justine, the Kenädän Kù House of Learning will attempt to launch another program as soon as more funding becomes available.

When asked if he would recommend the program to anyone else, Tony simply had this to say: "Most definitely."

**Photo: Back row  
(left to right):**  
Martin Smith,  
Darrell Charlie, Ted  
Huebschwerlen,  
Renaldo Menzi, Tony  
Guy, Jessi Whalen

**Front row (left to  
right):** Jasmine Bill,  
Kathleen Dawson

**Not Pictured:** Karen  
Dawson, Shilo  
Johnson, Lorne  
Lawson, Debra  
MacIntosh





## Strengthening partnerships in education

In late January, staff and teachers from Elijah Smith Elementary School visited Kwanlin Dün First Nation offices. The event was organized by KDFN's Department of Education as a relationship-building exercise.

"We work very closely with KDFN, as half of our students are from the community," said Elijah Smith Elementary School Principal Jim Complak. "The tour was a fantastic event. Our team had a wonderful time learning more about the KDFN government and all the services it offers to citizens."

Councillor Charles Chief welcomed the teachers to the Kashgêk' Administration building. Coun. Chief, Assistant Executive Director Dorothy

Sam and Director of Governance Kim Solonick spoke and answered questions about KDFN self-government and its role.

The group then toured the KDFN Health Centre and learned more about the kinds of services offered there. Afterwards, they walked to the House of Learning, where they had a presentation on the services of the whole Education department by the Manager of School-Age Education, Therese Lindsay.

"The visit was a great success in respect to building relationships between the school and KDFN," said Therese. "There was a lot of discussion and a number of potential joint projects are now being considered."

**Above:** *Elijah Smith Elementary School staff and teachers visited KDFN in late January*

## FREE WILLS AVAILABLE TO ELDERS

It's important to have a legal will. It's important no matter how old you are but especially if you are an Elder.

A will is a legal document that says how you want your estate to be divided once you die. Your estate includes what you own (called assets) and what you owe (called liabilities). An up-to-date will can help your family and loved-ones deal with your estate when you die.

If you don't have a will, a judge may end up deciding how your estate is divided. It might not be a decision you like. Only a will can make things go the way you want.

It's a good idea to get professional legal help when you make a will. This will help you make sure all your documents are prepared and witnessed properly.

Elders can get free help making their wills. Please contact Eileen Duchesne **633-7800 ext. 105** or by email [eileen.duchesne@kdfn.net](mailto:eileen.duchesne@kdfn.net)

# Getting out on the land through Movember Circumpolar

For more information about Movember events contact Winston Smarch or Becky Broderick at the Kenādān Kū House of Learning: 633-8422.

## By Skyler Isaac

Movember Circumpolar is a partnership of organizations from across the circumpolar North, funded by the Movember Foundation. It focuses on improving mental wellness in northern communities through land-based programming. Organizations in all three territories, as well as Newfoundland and Labrador, participate.

“Kwanlin Dūn First Nation, with funding from Movember Circumpolar, has been able to organize a number of excellent activities for men aged 19 to 30-ish years old this past year,” said Becky Broderick, one of two Kwanlin Dūn employees in charge of the project. “We were able to run activities for men that they wouldn’t normally have access to,” said Becky.

Activities funded by Movember Circumpolar include a number of Tatshenshini River rafting trips, mountain biking, floor hockey games all summer, and more.

Winston Smarch works closely on Movember projects with Becky. “We’ve been busy,” he said. “There was a moose hunt, a bison hunt, and throughout fall we did hand games at the Kwanlin Dūn Health Centre every week.”

There were two first-timers on the moose hunting trip. The group managed to shoot a young bull moose on the very first night. There wasn’t such luck on the bison hunt, though there were 17 participants, thanks to a partnership with the Skills for Life, Land and Work program.

Once the weather cooled down, the Movember Circumpolar team started hosting regular ice fishing expeditions. “We try to go twice per month,” said Winston. “In spring, maybe we’ll try to go regular fishing. We’re also considering harvesting wood twice per month to provide for both Elders and future outdoor events.”

Movember programming will continue on through the end of June 2018.



**Above:** Some of the Movember Circumpolar and Skills for Life, Land and Work participants who went on the bison hunt

## Movember Circumpolar focuses on improving mental wellness in northern communities through land-based programming

# Youth programs expanding at Jackson Lake

Kwanlin Dün's Jackson Lake Healing Camp is a known for its healing programs. What some don't realize is that more and more youth programming has become available, and two new staff members are now on board to support and engage our young people.

Jenn Redvers has been hired as our Youth Outreach Worker and Kaitlyn Charlie is the new Youth Program Coordinator.

Originally from NWT, Jenn is Denesųłné. She uses land-based counselling techniques that target youth ages 12-17 who are involved in the justice system. "I have a lot of experience organizing programs for young people, working in outdoor schools and in wilderness treatment programs," said Jenn. "I'm also a ski coach and a guide. I have a lot of experience on the land."

Kaitlyn Charlie is a KDFN citizen with a passion for sport and fitness. She's involved in everything from Olympic

wrestling and weightlifting, to volleyball, baseball, track and field and field hockey. "As a citizen, I'm really excited to be working with Kwanlin Dün youth," said Kaitlyn.

"I am really looking forward to getting Kwanlin Dün youth out in to nature and learning a bit more about their culture."

Youth ages 12-17 may have already noticed more opportunities for land based cultural and outreach activities in the past few weeks. "There's more where that came from," said Jenn. "Over the next few months, youth can expect more Mt. Sima ski days, several youth and Elder Saturdays at Long Lake, and moose hide tanning along with other activities over Spring Break.

Keep an eye out for new events as they come available. Event listings can be found at the back of this newsletter, on [kwanlindun.com](http://kwanlindun.com) or on the KDFN Facebook page.

*If you have any questions, or wish to participate in any programs, call Kaitlyn directly at (867) 334-8728 or contact the Jackson Lake Wellness Team at (867) 633-7800 ext. 613.*



**Left:** Meet Jenn Redvers and Kaitlyn Charlie, who will focus on bringing great programming and activities to KDFN youth



## Hand games: passing down tradition

*Hand games events were held every Thursday through Fall 2017*

**By Skyler Isaac**

“...And that’s how you play hand games. If you wrote a book about the rules, it would probably be about this big,” She spreads her hands out about two feet apart before letting out a giggle, “There’s a lot to know and learn about it,” she concludes.

These are the words of Lilly Sallis-Clark, a young girl who has just spent the last ten minutes or so enthusiastically teaching a novice player the basic rules of hand games. The two of them are sitting in the Kwanlin Dün Health Centre where, every Thursday night this past fall, Winston Smarch, hosted a night of hand games. The event was attended by many members of the Kwanlin Dün community, but people of all ages and ethnicities were encouraged to attend.

“Sometimes a game can last five minutes, and sometimes it can last three hours,” said Winston.

“It brings the community together. I feel like the only time our people come together is when there’s a death in the community. We need to start coming together for more positive things.” Winston explained that his late grandfather, Ronald Bill, used to tell him that the community was lacking in unity. “Hopefully these hand games are helping change that,” he said.

Hand games have been around for so long that they predate recorded history. Some First Nations people believe that the games were taught to them by the animals, while others believe they were taught by the Creator in order to serve as an alternative to going to war against each other. Just like potlatches, hand games were prohibited in times of colonization. Back then, the games were still played – but in secret. The tradition has continued on to this day.

As for the Thursday night hand games, “It helps keep the tradition going,” concludes Winston.

# Information and update about radon gas

Radon gas is colourless and odourless, and it occurs naturally in the environment. Long-term daily exposure to radon over many years is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Smoking is the #1 cause of lung cancer.

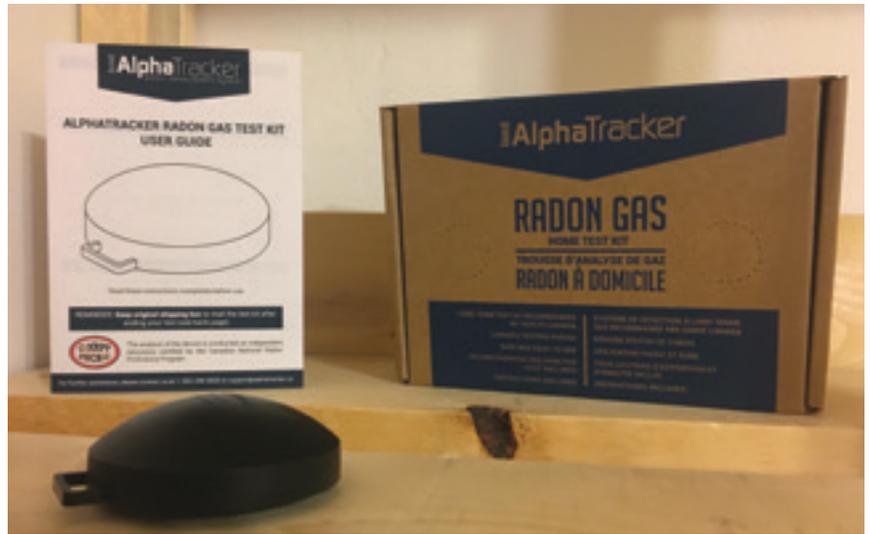
Over the past several months, Kwanlin Dün First Nation government buildings have been tested for radon. Two buildings have come back with higher-than-acceptable test results: the Kashgêk' Administration building at 35 McIntyre Drive and the Natsékhi Kù Health Centre at 43 McCrimmon Crescent.

“It’s important to address the radon gas levels in these buildings now that we are aware of it,” said Chief Doris Bill. “We are working with experts to bring levels down to an acceptable number and minimize disruptions to KDFN government business.”

Test results for all other KDFN government buildings came back with very low radon levels, so no other work will be required.

Remediating the Main Administration building will be somewhat complicated because of how the building and its foundations are constructed. In March, Heritage, Lands and Resources (HL&R) and Information Technology (IT) staff will temporarily move out of their offices so the work can be completed. During that time, HL&R staff will move to rented offices downtown, while IT staff will move to the Finance/HR trailer on McIntyre Drive. Depending on noise levels, staff who work on the main floor of 35 McIntyre Drive may have to relocate temporarily as well.

According to Health Canada, higher than acceptable radon levels become a health concern when a person is exposed to radon for several hours every day over a period of years. Exposure to radon over the short term is considered to be of much less concern. The single greatest risk to lung health is cigarette smoke.



It is anticipated that radon remediation will be simpler in the Natsékhi Kù Health Centre. This is for two reasons: the first is because radon levels there are much lower; the second is because the building has a crawl space. Hopefully, there will be minimal disruptions to staff and visitors of that building.

Radon levels in the Natsékhi Kù Health Centre are at a range where remediation should occur within two years.

Health Canada states that the health risks from radon are long term, and not immediate. The risk is from many years – decades – of exposure to elevated levels of radon. Occupants can continue to use a building while remediation is taking place.

It takes three months to properly conduct a radon test. Community Services is working with the Yukon Housing Corporation to develop an effective strategy to test KDFN-owned residences, ensure KDFN collects good information and make effective decisions once test results come in.

If you are interested in testing your own home, simple, easy-to-use radon test kits can be purchased at Home Hardware in Whitehorse for approximately \$25. If you do choose to test your home, be sure to follow the instructions and register the device on the day you begin your test.

**Above:** Radon testing kit. Simple, easy-to-use test kits can be purchased for approx. \$25.

# Do your taxes on the phone with 'File My Return'

The Canada Revenue Agency is offering low-income and fixed-income Canadians a new, easy way to file their taxes. All you have to do is call a special number and answer a series of questions over the telephone. The agent will be able to apply all the deductions, benefits and credits to which you are entitled. They will also do all the paperwork and calculations.

It's called "File My Return." If you are eligible for the new service, you will receive a letter in the mail sometime this February.

A similar program, named Telefile, was cancelled in 2013. The new program,

File My Return, is a better, easier system because you don't have to do any tax work yourself. The new service aims to make the system more effortless and encourage more people to file.

## IMPORTANT

If you live on First Nation settlement land, be sure the check the box and declare you live on settlement land.

**Right:** Mayor Dan Curtis raised the KDFN flag earlier last year with members of City Council looking on. The Kwanlin Dün First Nation flag, along with the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council flag, has been spotted at a number of new locations around the City of Whitehorse over the past few months

Photo: City of Whitehorse





**Above:** Close up of the Meritorious Service Medal.

Photo: Mike Rudyk

## Congratulations Gary Bailie

Gary Bailie received the Governor General's Meritorious Service Medal from former Commissioner Doug Phillips for his work over the past 16 years on the Blue Feather

Music Festival. The medal is given to those whose "exceptional deeds bring honour to our country". Gary received it inside the Kwanlin Koyotes Ski Chalet.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT KWANLIN DÜN

Check out the *Employment* page on our website regularly for job postings. Please visit Kenädän Ku – House of Learning at 5 O'Brien Place for job postings in and around Whitehorse. Please ask the receptionist for a copy of any advertisement you are interested in.

Staff at Kenädän Ku can also help with guidance and training to reach, or set your educational and employment goals such as career and life planning, action plans, job readiness coaching, resume development and update, and employment retention plans.

For more information please visit Kenädän Ku – House of Learning at 5 O'Brien Place or call **(867) 633-8422**.

# Events Calendar

**M** = Mondays

**T** = Tuesdays

**W** = Wednesdays

**TH** = Thursdays

**F** = Fridays

WHAT	WHEN		WHERE
KDFN Council Meeting	Tuesdays: March 6, April 3, May 1 9:30 am to 4 pm	<b>T</b>	Council Chambers 35 McIntyre Rd
Lunch and Learn	First Wednesday of every month 12:00 to 1:00 pm	<b>W</b>	Natsékhi Kù Health Centre
Chronic Conditions Luncheon	Every 3rd Wednesday of the month	<b>W</b>	Natsékhi Kù Health Centre
Healthy Babies Healthy Generations Drop-in	Every 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday of the month 12:00 to 2:00 pm	<b>TH</b>	2nd Tuesday @ Dusk'a 4th Thursday @ Health Centre
Women's Support Circle	Every second Tuesday 5:00 to 7:00 pm	<b>T</b>	21 McCrimmon
Men's Support Circle	Every second Wednesday 2:00 to 5:00 pm	<b>W</b>	21 McCrimmon
Wood Harvesting	All winter		Kenädän Ku House of Learning
Sewing Circle	Occasional Fridays 10 am to 3 pm	<b>F</b>	Classroom at the Health Centre
Ice Fishing	February Dates TBA		Kenädän Ku House of Learning
Small Game Camp	February 17–20		Kenädän Ku House of Learning
Wilderness First Aid	February or March Dates TBA		Kenädän Ku House of Learning
Be A Responsible Server (B.A.R.S) training	February or March Dates TBA		Kenädän Ku House of Learning
Drum Making & Fish Camp	March 9–13		Kenädän Ku House of Learning
Elders and Youth Camp	March 16–18		Jackson Lake Healing Camp
Class 7 Drivers' Licence Tutorials	March 19–21 1 pm to 3pm		Kenädän Ku House of Learning
Spring Into Work Job Recruitment Fair	Early April Dates TBA		TBA
Employment Readiness Boot Camp	April Dates TBA		TBA

ABOUT	CONTACT
Citizens are welcome to observe meetings. If you have an issue you wish to bring forward, Please contact Heather.	Heather O'Grady 633-7800 ext 106 heather.ogrady@kdfn.net
Everyone welcome. Different topics every month	Elizabeth Savoie 668-7289 ext. 211
Healthy lunch for Elders who have chronic conditions.	Main desk 668-7289
Healthy lunch, cover a health topic around parenting and nutrition. For pre and post-natal clients	Renee Roy 334-3128 or Kathryn Laloge 335-4477 kathryn.laloge@kdfn.net
Learn self-care strategies, check-in, enjoy dinner and activities	Jackson Lake Wellness Team reception: 633-2629
Learn self-care strategies, check-in, enjoy dinner and activities.	Jackson Lake Wellness Team reception: 633-2629
Harvest wood for young families in need and elders	Winston Smarch 633-8422
Lunch is provided - Come sew and socialize. Bring your own projects.	Shirley Bien 668-7289 ext. 202
Various locations - Day trips. Snacks, food, transportation provided.	Winston Smarch 633-8422
Set snares for rabbits, hunt ptarmagin and other small game with Elders on your traditional territory	Winston Smarch 633-8422
This course satisfies - and goes beyond - Standard First Aid requirements.	Karolina Wenzel 633-8422 ext. 505
Subject to interest. Free training. This training certificate provides servers and bartenders with knowledge about how to serve alcohol in a responsible manner.	Karolina Wenzel 633-8422 ext. 505
Make your own drum and enjoy traditional fishing	Winston Smarch 633-8422
Learn how to build shelters, play hand games, drum, and learn about the land	Jackson Lake Wellness Team reception: 633-2629
Gain the information and confidence you need to pass your Learner's Licence test.	Contact: Justine Copestake, Adult Educator 633-8422 xt. 507 to register
Come out with your resume and meet Yukon employers hiring for the summer. If you need help getting that resume created or looking better, contact Karolina.	Karolina Wenzel 633-8422 ext. 505
Courses offered will include Food Safe Level 1, Standard/Wilderness First Aid, TDG/H2S, Fall Protection, WHMIS and more.	Karolina Wenzel 633-8422 ext. 505



# CACHE YOUR PHOTOS!

We want your family photos!

Submit any black & white or colour; hardcopy or high quality digital photos that show our old and new ways of life.

Culture, heritage, history, family, connection to the waterfront.

## Enter to Win 1 of 2 Air North Credits!

Deadline to enter: March 31, 2018

Enter by submitting your photos.

Have your photos featured in the book and other displays!

**Contact us for more information:**  
Kwanlin Dün Waterfront Heritage Project  
35 McIntyre Drive, Whitehorse, YT  
waterfront.heritage@kdfn.net • (867) 633-7800

### RETURN ADDRESS:

**Kwanlin Dün First Nation**

www.kwanlindun.com

Find us on Facebook!

35 McIntyre Drive  
Whitehorse Yukon Canada  
Y1A 5A5

Phone: 867-633-7800  
Fax: 867-668-5057  
communications@kdfn.net



**DESTINATION Address:**