

# Kwanlin Dän Ch'a



Kwanlin People of Whitehorse, How are you?



## Quilt of Valour

Kwanlin Dün citizen Lawrence George received a Quilt of Valour in recognition of his time served in the Canadian Armed Forces. Lawrence was a Cold War Veteran and served between 1980 and 1985, including two years in Germany. A ceremony was held at the Thompson Centre in Lawrence's honour with members of the Canadian Forces, Lawrence's family, Kwanlin Dün Council, media and other guests present.



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# Message from the Chief

Spring is in the air and your new Council is in place and at work. Along with regular Council meetings, we have been receiving comprehensive updates from each department to orient the new Council and to build a productive team. Council will be



Chief Doris Bill

surveying citizens over the summer to better understand citizens' needs and to help inform our strategic planning. Citizens are reminded they are welcome to observe regular Council meetings and to make brief presentations to Council. Please contact the Executive Offices for more information on how to participate.

Our community has been shaken recently by tragedies and Kwanlin Dün continues to offer support to the families directly affected and any citizen in need. Counselling is available at Natsékhi Kù (Health Centre) for anyone.

The safety, security and well-being of citizens is a priority for Council. We continue to implement the Kwanlin Dün Community Safety Initiative. Physical safety changes to the McIntyre community continue with improved lighting, reduced speed limits and more major clean-ups this summer.

Another crucial component to the Community Safety Initiative will soon be operational - Community Safety Officers will be on the beat in our neighbourhoods this summer. They will be a point-of-contact for citizens who have security and safety concerns and will be your liaison with the RCMP. The RCMP will continue to operate in the community and will work closely with the safety officers.

The Vulnerable People at Risk Initiative remains a priority and our partnerships have grown. The working group has completed its report, *Safe at Home*, which is currently being reviewed by our government partners. Through its efforts, the working group

has strengthened relationships with other governments (Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Government of Yukon, City of Whitehorse and Government of Canada), non-government organisations, the business community, people with lived experience and faith-based organisations. It was through these relationships that Kwanlin Dün was able to operate a temporary shelter this past winter and offer 10 additional beds to those in need.

Shelters are not a long-term solution to homelessness and the *Safe at Home* report recognizes this, however shelters are needed in the short-term to fill emergency needs. Council thanks the staff from Natsékhi Kù (Health Centre) for their dedication and commitment to operating the temporary shelter with a high degree of professionalism, compassion and love for their guests. Our staff saw the gap, understood the need and acted on this opportunity to serve vulnerable people. We thank you.

The allocation of housing that meets our citizens' needs remains a priority. This summer the first tenants will move into the new duplex on McCrimmon Crescent. The duplexes are smaller and will increase the diversity of Kwanlin Dün's housing stock. To also improve the existing housing stock, Kwanlin Dün has been working to improve the energy efficiency of our rental units.

The Government has also been working to improve the energy efficiency of government buildings to reduce our heating and lighting costs and improve the comfort of everyone who uses the buildings. Soon we will be gathering at the new fire pit at the potlatch house!

To showcase the renovation work done at the Nàkwät'à Kù, we will hold our Summer General Assembly there on June 23 & 24. We will be highlighting the work of the Lands and Resources Department on the *Kwanlin Dün Traditional Territory Land Vision* - a foundational document on the well-being of the land and the well-being of Kwanlin Dün citizens who use the land. Council looks forward to seeing you at the G.A.

# Social Assistance Review Update

In February 2017, Council accepted recommendations for changes to the Social Assistance program. This ends five years of review of the program. We are excited to first announce the name change of the program to “Pathways to Empowerment” or “Pathways” for short.

At a General Assembly in March 2012, citizens spoke about and directed Kwanlin Dün to make changes to the social assistance program. Citizens have said that social assistance is not our way ... traditionally we were taught to be self-sufficient and to support one another in times of need.

Presently, KDFN follows the federal department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAC) policy and legislation from the Government of Yukon on rates and benefits. Kwanlin Dün is working toward creating its own legislation and policy.

Currently, social assistance is in place as a last resort to support citizens in financial need. The review was about looking at new approaches to delivering the program and incorporating culture and traditional values. It also addresses the well-being of citizens and the overall health of the community.

In 2014, a steering committee made up of Council and staff from the departments of Social Assistance, Health, Education & Employment, Justice, Executive Council Office and Administration was established. In 2015, a survey was sent to all social assistance clients and over 70% responded. From the responses and additional research, an internal document was produced and an option paper presented to Council.

The options incorporate a community circle of care approach and three primary action paths for citizens on social assistance – education, healing and employment. A community circle of care is a way to coordinate the services a citizen and their family receives and to ensure collaboration between government departments.



The community circle of care, the action paths and a whole-of-community approach will move many clients on to a pathway of personal empowerment through wellness programs, education and employment.

The government recognises that there will always be a need for financial support in times of emergency when people are unemployed, or when a person is temporarily or permanently physically unable to work. However, many citizens currently receiving social assistance can move forward with the appropriate wellness, education and employment supports.

Clients have been individually consulted, involved and engaged in the process to date and later this year there will be consultation with the community as a whole.

*For more information contact the departments of Health or Administration at 867-633-7800.*



**Your Council:**  
*William Carlick,  
 Dennis Calbery, Doris  
 Bill, Ray Sydney,  
 Jessie Dawson,  
 Howard MacIntosh,  
 Sean Smith and  
 Charles Chief (below).*

**Photo credit:**  
*Alistair Maitland*



## Meet Your New Council!

The Kwanlin Dün Council would like to express its appreciation to citizens, for casting their vote in the 2017 Election, and to the many candidates, who put their names forward for consideration.

Since being sworn in, Council has received briefings from each government department; participated in regular Council meetings; and, attended the Intergovernmental Forum in March. In addition, Council is now reviewing the comprehensive plan to end and prevent homelessness in Whitehorse – *Safe at Home* and has reviewed the National Child Benefit and authorized reimbursements to citizens who qualified. Today, your Council is hard at work moving the government forward. Please join us in welcoming your new Council.

**Chief Doris Bill** is a member of the Wolf Clan. Her priorities for the Kwanlin Dün Government in her second term are to ensure continuity and stability for the Nation moving forward. This includes the implementation of the KDFN Final and Self-Government Agreements; improved

programming and services for citizens; homelessness and poverty reduction; an increased focus on youth initiatives; and, community safety. “I will continue to work hard to represent all citizens to ensure fairness and honesty as we move forward building our vision for the future together,” said Doris.

**Councillor Dennis Calbery** is a member of the Wolf Clan. He enjoys hunting, hand games, and teaching his children. This is a second term on Council for Dennis. His goal is to continue building on the work toward responsible and respectful use of the land and resources. He encourages all citizens to get involved and to give Council their input. “We all need to work together to succeed as a self-sustaining nation,” said Dennis.

**Councillor Charles Chief** is a member of the Wolf Clan. He is a proud husband, father, and grandfather. He enjoys four-wheeling, hunting and fishing on his grandfather Charlie Chief’s trap line. Charles is a strong advocate for community safety and wellbeing for all citizens. “I would like for the people of Kwanlin Dün to be

healthy -- in body, mind and spirit -- to move towards community healing,” said Charles.

**Councillor Jessie Dawson** is a member of the Wolf Clan. Jessie makes history as the longest running Kwanlin Dün Council member with 17 years of service! She is a proud mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Jessie often talks about the importance of education and asking for help when needed. “There is much good to be learned in books, but the most important thing to learn is to be open to learning – open to exploring your potential,” said Jessie.

**Councillor Howard MacIntosh** is a member of the Crow Clan. He is a proud father and grandfather. By trade, he is a Journeyman Carpenter and enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, and boating. This is Howard’s second term on Council. He is a strong supporter of economic development ventures, such as a recreation building, cultural camps and a place where citizens can access building materials. “I will do my best to advocate for moving Kwanlin Dün forward. I want to do what is best for my people,” said Howard.

**Councillor Sean Smith** is a member of the Wolf Clan. He is a husband and father of three children. Sean enjoys teaching,

drumming, dancing, and spending as much time on the land as he can. This is Sean’s second term on Council. Sean is a strong advocate for traditional teachings, language and culture revitalization. “We must reflect our traditional law and values in governance and carry the teachings of our Elders, as we move forward together,” said Sean.

**Councillor Ray Sydney** is a member of the Wolf clan. He is a proud father and grandfather. He enjoys sitting around the fire listening to the stories from our Elders. Given his previous experience in law enforcement and work with the KDFN Justice department, he strives for healing approaches within the community. “I would like to see a more open and safe community for our children and youth,” said Ray.

**Elder Councillor William Carlick** is a member of the Wolf Clan. He was appointed as the Elder representative on Council by the Elders Council in March 2017. He is a proud husband and father. He enjoys hunting and camping, being on the land and climbing mountains. In 2016, William volunteered in the Healing Canoe journey to Moosehide. “I want to continue the good work that is in progress to make KDFN successful. Let’s all work together!” said William.

## 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**.

### WANTED:

### ▶ YOUTH OBSERVER

The Kwanlin Dün Beneficiaries Trust is seeking a Kwanlin Dün Youth Beneficiary to sit as an Observer for the trust. The selected Youth Observer will participate in regular meetings, provide advice, and gain experience for future employment opportunities. The Trust Observer Member will be appointed for a five-year term and receive an honorarium.



## Kwanlin Dün Temporary Shelter - A Respectful Respite

**Photos above:** The white walls were turned into canvases for guests to express themselves. (Artists: Steve Smith aka Animal and Danny O'Brien)

From early February to the end of April, the Kwanlin Dün Natsékhi K ı̄ (Health Centre) operated a temporary shelter in the former St-Elias Group Home on 5th Avenue in downtown Whitehorse. Ten additional emergency shelter beds were made available to vulnerable people at risk.

Financial support came from the Government of Yukon (including the loan of the building), the Kwanlin Dün Elder's Fund, and donations from Whitehorse businesses and community members.

Even though our partners are still reviewing the action plan to end and prevent homelessness, *Safe at Home*, it is already having a positive impact. It was the relationships built among the plan's working group members that resulted in the opening of the temporary emergency shelter for three months.

Guests said that the shelter was a very welcome alternative. The shelter beds were almost all occupied every night and there was usually a line-up to secure a place. The shelter saw a total of 822 people staying over the three months and an additional 130 people had to be turned away because the shelter was full.

**What made the shelter a good place to stay?** Kwanlin Dün's Manager of Outreach & Health Promotion programs, Christina Sim, said it had a lot to do with the way people were treated by staff. "We treated the people at the shelter as adult guests and

staff demonstrated deep compassion and love," Christina said. "Guests were shown hospitality by our wonderful staff." Staff frequently checked in with guests to get their feedback on the services provided.

There were no mandatory lights out; the adults went to bed if and when they chose to. The doors were open to intoxicated people - as long as they were not in physical danger to themselves or others. While alcohol was not allowed to be consumed at the shelter, guests were permitted to lock up their alcohol and retrieve it in the morning. This practice significantly reduces binge drinking when individuals would otherwise consume all of their alcohol quickly before entering a shelter, concerned that it would be confiscated or thrown away.

The rooms were semi-private, linen was washed daily, full bathrooms were available and food was provided at any time. Staff were also available to play games, watch movies and talk through the night with guests, if needed. The entire shelter was immaculately cleaned daily. Guests had their clothes laundered while they slept, if requested.





Though the shelter was only open for a few months and the building will be demolished this spring, its operation demonstrates the need is real in downtown Whitehorse and that vulnerable people want their dignity and humanity respected.

Shelters however are not a long-term

solution to housing – they are not homes. Emergency shelters will always be needed to address short-term crises, but if the community is being responsive, stays should be less than 30 days. Rapid re-housing of individuals and families into appropriate housing options with supports when necessary should be the focus.

**Photo above:**  
The comment wall confirms guests liked the service and the compassion available at the temporary shelter.

# Rental Housing Application Information

The Government of Kwanlin Dün operates a portfolio of 233 rental properties within the City of Whitehorse. The Community Services Department manages maintenance and allocation of all rental units. This is governed by the KDFN Housing Rental Policy passed by Council in 2016.

All applications for housing are reviewed for accuracy by the department and approved by the Housing Allocation Committee. To be eligible for a Kwanlin Dün rental unit you must be a Kwanlin Dün citizen or the primary caregiver of a citizen and be 18 years of age; other criteria is outlined in the rental policy available at [www.kwanlindun.com](http://www.kwanlindun.com).

As the real estate owner and landlord of the rental units, the Government of Kwanlin Dün is subject to territorial



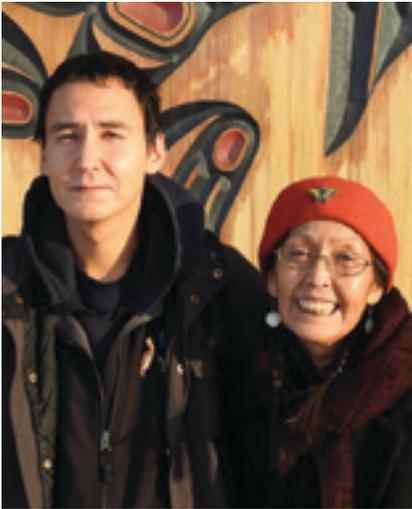
legislation and regulated under the Yukon Residential Landlord & Tenancy Act.

KDFN Citizens are welcome to apply for rental units at any time throughout the year at the Department of Community Services. The Tenant Relations Officer is available to discuss your application.

For more information contact the Department of Community Services at 867-633-7833 or stop by 77 McClennan Road at McIntyre Dr.

# Justin Smith Returns from Second Epic Peace and Dignity Journey

Last year, Kwanlin Dün First Nation carver Justin Smith ran all the way from Alaska to Panama — and it wasn't the first time he's done it. First in 2008 and again in 2016, Justin was part of the Peace and Dignity Journey — a spiritual journey uniting indigenous peoples from Argentina to Alaska.



**Photo:** Justin Smith and his mother Elder Ann Smith

"It's been a dream to be able to experience this," said Justin, "It's really helped me a lot to reconnect with my family and community, the land and water, my culture and traditions. It feeds the soul and keeps you strong."

Running anywhere from 20 to 100 kilometres a day, runners carried staffs adorned with eagle and condor feathers. Departing in late May, one group from Argentina, the other from Alaska, they met up on the Panama Bridge in December.

A four-day ceremony marked the end of the journey, where groups shared concerns, hopes and spiritual traditions from indigenous groups across the Western Hemisphere.

There was a lead staff for each group — condor feathers adorned the staff from South America and eagle feathers for North America. In 2008, Justin carried the lead eagle staff to meet the condor staff in the middle of the Panama Bridge. "It was a powerful moment," said Justin.

The runners visited hundreds of First Nations communities along the route. Together they conducted ceremonies, praying over the staffs. Justin learned how spiritual traditions spanning the continent have so much in common and how people are working hard to preserve and resurrect the old ways of spirituality and culture.

Everyday, he said, they would form a circle and Elders and others would speak on behalf of their tribe. "The Elders are here to pass

on the tradition and culture of thousands of years of teachings," said Justin. "They have real meaning and will help us in difficult times. It's a gift of life."

People in each community treated the runners with respect and honour. They were given lodgings, food, health care, transportation and more. "They look after you from the moment you arrive on their land to the moment you leave," said Justin's mother Elder Ann Smith. "Reciprocity. It's the old time way, the proper way."

The theme of the 2016 run was "seeds" which is everything from genetically modified organisms (GMOs), farming, children and the idea of renewal and new life. The group held this theme in mind through prayers, stories and sharing concerns as they travelled through various communities.

"Seeds are sacred and we were planting them wherever we went," said Justin, speaking metaphorically. "Watering them, cultivating them, so that something will grow, something will be there for the children."

Ann Smith supported her son the entire journey in whatever way she could. "It was tough on him. He wanted to give up a few times," she said. "I told him to stick it out and he did. I am proud of him."

Justin and his mother encourage anyone interested to consider it — and wish for wider community support of initiatives like this. "It's about gaining back who you are and your spirituality," said Ann. "How will our children learn to live their life in a good way? As a community, if we want to heal, we need to support our youth to learn the old ways."

Everyone is welcome to join in the Peace and Dignity Journey, no matter what background. The next run happens in 2020.

"There's so much trouble in the world," said Justin. "Something like this shines through like a light. It gives us hope."

For more information  
call 867-633-7800

# Busy as Beavers at Canyon City Construction

Over March and April, crews have been hard at work slashing, clearing and grubbing around the Whistle Bend Subdivision. In May they're moving on to Fire Smart work, clearing out dead wood and lower branches to minimize forest fire risk to residents. Later in the summer, Canyon City will be constructing several homes.

"The client, Yukon Government, was really happy with the crews work; the crew was just excellent, it was a joy to see these guys work," said Jacob Heigers, General Manager at Canyon City Construction.

These tree-clearing projects were awarded under YACA (Yukon Asset Construction Agreement), an agreement with Yukon Government whereby opportunities for training, employment, new business or investment are provided when the Yukon government

embarks on a construction project valued at over \$3 million within the Traditional Territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation.

For three months of work, Canyon City was able to employ a six-person crew of KDFN citizens. They also used some of the new KDFN equipment — a big 930 front-end loader, an excavator and a CAT skid-steer. There was also a tool allowance which equipped all the crew members with new chainsaws.

The employment of KDFN crews at the F.H. Collins site with Quantum Murray is also a YACA project. That work started last summer and has provided steady employment for around eight workers. "The feedback is really good," said Jacob. "Quantum is going to use them on future demolition projects. It's very positive."

For more information contact Canyon City Construction at 867-633-6585 or email [jacob@canyoncityconstruction.com](mailto:jacob@canyoncityconstruction.com)



**Photo:** Whistle Bend Slashing Crew, L to R: Bobby Bill, Brian MacIntosh, Kevin Smith, John Wilson, James Johnnie, Renaldo Menzi, and Gerry Lesh. Missing from photo: Andy Sewap

# Great New Discount for KDFN Citizens at Kilrich

All KDFN citizens can now receive the contractor discount at Kilrich Industries. The major construction supplies business is part-owned by Kwanlin Dün's Chu Niiqwan Development Corporation.

"Chu Niiqwan Development Corporation proudly owns 25% of Kilrich," says Chris Milner, Executive Director of Chu Niiqwan, "So this is one way that the two companies are giving back to the community."

**The discount provides retail savings**

**from 5% to 20% depending on the product. To receive the discount, KDFN citizens need to show a letter of citizenship at the front desk. Citizens may contact the Executive Council Office for a letter of citizenship.**

For more information call Chu Niiqwan Development Corporation at 867-393-2688 or for a citizenship letter 867-633-7800 ext. 130





## Elders Day Camp Leaves Participants Wanting More

*For more information please contact the Jackson Lake Wellness Team at 867-633-7800.*

A great time was had by all at the three-day Degay Zhra (Swan Month) Elders Day Camp held at Jackson Lake over the weekend of March 25, 26 and 27. It was so much fun, Elders are hoping there will be more opportunities to get together like this in the future.

“Elders really seemed to enjoy themselves,” said Britteny Johnson, Administration Support for the Jackson Lake Wellness Team who helped organize the camp. “There were so many highlights but the thing that stands out the most was that they had a chance to

get together and visit.”

The Elders Day Camp was a way to celebrate Degay Zhra and was packed with fun activities like skinning and dressing game, sewing and potlatch-bag making, tool making, and music. There was even a bannock and tea-making contest. “That was one of the favourite parts,” said Britteny. “There was a tasting; all the bannock was perfect - soft and fluffy on the inside and crispy on the outside and not greasy.”

Around 15 to 20 Elders participated each day and were provided transportation, meals and cabins for resting. Six KDFN youth were employed to help run the camp. Two more joined as volunteers because they heard how much fun it was. “The youth were really involved,” said Britteny. “They were very helpful, always asking what more could be done. It was not just an opportunity for them to work -- it was also a learning opportunity.”

With all the positive feedback from Elders, youth and program coordinators, Britteny said everyone hopes more programs like this will happen in the future. She reminds us: “When Kwanlin Dün comes together anything is possible.”



# Story-Weaving Workshop Spins Together the Voices of Elders and Youth

Many of Kwanlin Dün's archived records of traditional origin stories told by Kwanlin Dün Elders are incomplete. Eleven people, including Elders and youth, participated in an intense two-day "Story Weaving" workshop on March 17 and 18 at the Cultural Centre. The participants worked creatively together to draw out memories of the old stories — and to dream, envision and create new story elements — in an effort to complete some of our stories.

"We need to finish and make a connection with our stories," said Rae Mombourquette, Coordinator of the Kwanlin Dün Whitehorse Waterfront Heritage Project. "It allows our community to look at our own stories through our own lens and not have rules about what's allowed or not in a western and colonial context."

The March session began with an origin story told by Elder Louie Smith that many had never heard before. Taking place at a local lake, maybe Marsh Lake, it was a story about how Raven tricked Seagull into getting him some dirt from the bottom of the lake which Raven used to grow into the land. Louie shared many more parts to the story but it was incomplete. With the help of facilitators from Gwaandak Theatre, participants then created new elements, interpretations and branches from this story.

"People came with an openness and willingness to share — to storyboard, to dream, to cry, to hold a safe space for everyone," said Rae. "Everyone just showed up totally engaged and open. The amount of sharing, the amount of creativity was just overwhelming."

Another story-weaving workshop is expected in June. People interested in participating may contact Rae Mombourquette directly.



Results from the two sessions will be written up in the first chapter of the Kwanlin Dün Waterfront Heritage Book to share these creations with the community.

For more information contact Rae Mombourquette at (867) 633-7800 ext. 120 or [rae.mombourquette@kdfn.net](mailto:rae.mombourquette@kdfn.net)

**Photo top:** Facilitator Melaina Sheldon from Gwaandak Theatre

**Photo above:** Youth participant Trina "Adanchilla" Pauls listening to Elder Louie Smith

# Gas Tax Dollars Light Up The Way For Safety And Energy Savings

For more information contact Gary Bailie at 867-334-3313 or [gary.bailie@kdfn.net](mailto:gary.bailie@kdfn.net)

Thanks to Gas Tax funds some key buildings around the community are brighter, safer, warmer, and cost less money to run. Gas Tax dollars must go to projects that reduce our energy usage. This year, KDFN received funds to replace several old furnaces with energy-efficient upgrades and to install energy-saving LED lightbulbs in a variety of community buildings.

Old furnaces are being replaced at Nàkwät'à Kù (Potlatch House), Community Services building and Kenädän Kù (House of Learning). Over \$275,000 of Gas Tax money funded the furnace replacements. The furnaces are expected to result in approximately 25 to 30 percent energy savings due to the new technology and fuel efficient burners.

"We used to get nothing but complaints from people in these buildings about the inconsistent heat," said Gary Bailie, Capital Projects Manager, "Now we have warmer buildings, cleaner air from an HRV (heat-recovery ventilator) system, more dependable furnaces — and we save money in the long-run."

Exterior lights on all KDFN's community

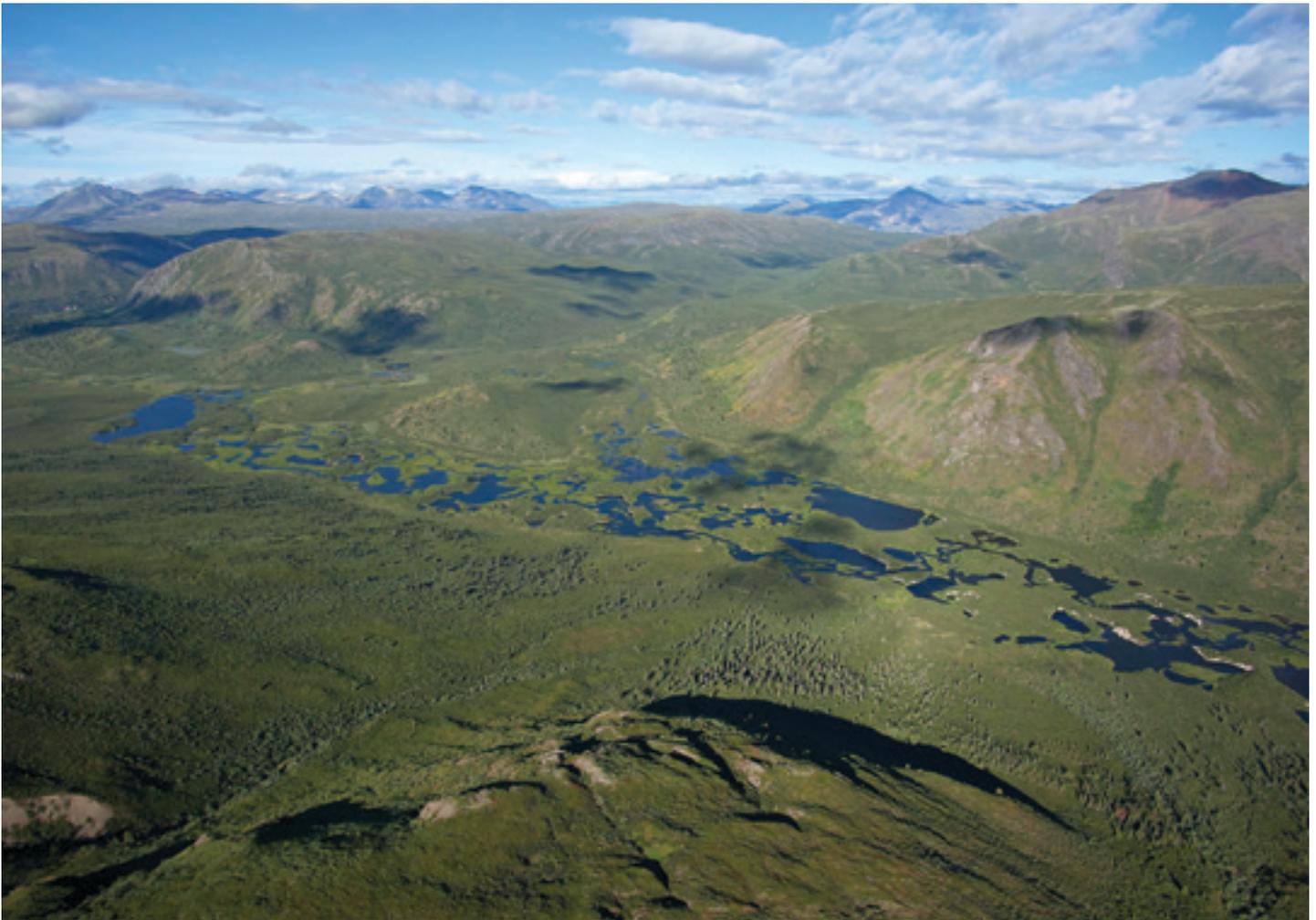
buildings have been a problem as they frequently burned out making some public areas dark and potentially unsafe at night. They were also costing a lot of money to always replace. Gary and his crew converted exterior lights on all community buildings with energy-efficient LED lightbulbs. The bulbs have a solar cell that switches them on when it gets dark.

"It saves a ton of energy, makes the community safer, and zeroes out our O & M (operation and maintenance) costs because we don't have to change the bulbs all the time," said Gary. Around \$50,000 went to the LED conversions. Estimated energy savings for the upgraded lighting is around 200% - a huge savings as they don't burn out for 10 to 15 years.

The projects started in June 2016 and will be complete in August 2017 when Kenädän Kù furnaces will be replaced.

Gary hopes to apply for solar power installations in the future. "I love the Gas Tax. They're good people to work with. Straightforward," said Gary. "I'm excited to see what KDFN will choose in the future."





## Land Vision Complete

Council approved the *Kwanlin Dün Traditional Territory Land Vision* last May. A printed document will be released at the KDFN General Assembly in June. To develop the *Land Vision* the KDFN Lands and Resources department held community consultations and on-the-land field trips, reviewed archived Elder interviews, maps and important documents, and prepared drafts for community review. The *Land Vision* is a key document that will steer future planning and development on all KDFN settlement lands and surrounding public lands.

The *Land Vision* lays out clear values, principles and goals reached by the Community through consensus. Key values fall under the umbrellas of “Well-Being of

the Land” and “Well-being of the people.” The guiding principles are: Respect, Caring for the Land, Considering Future Generations, Cooperation and Community.

The goals listed in the *Land Vision* give direction to people doing land-use planning and to those working on land development. Goal #1 is to conserve areas of high wildlife-habitat value and maintain the health of wildlife populations. Goal #2 is to conserve areas of high heritage value while maintaining and creating opportunities for Kwanlin Dün citizens’ traditional use of the land. Goal #3 is to create opportunities that support the development of the Kwanlin Dün community and government. Goal #4 is to develop opportunities to support the economic improvement of Kwanlin Dün citizens.

**Photo Above:**  
Coal Lake

*For more information, contact John Meikle 867-633-7800 ext 118 john.meikle@kdfn.net*

## Judy Gingell: *Homage*

**Photo below:**  
Judy Gingell with  
her mother Elder  
Annie Smith and the  
necklace

In March 2017, Elder Judy Gingell was chosen as the inspiration for a piece of contemporary art created by artist Donald Stuart. Judy's inspirational necklace is part of Donald Stuart's collection, titled

*Homage*. Judy was chosen for her nearly five decades of work promoting and advancing Aboriginal rights and government in the Yukon and her many contributions to the Yukon community.

*Homage* features a series of necklaces inspired by outstanding Canadian women spanning various fields from the arts to science, sports and politics, including Buffy Sainte-Marie, Laura Secord, Julie Payette and Mary Pickford.

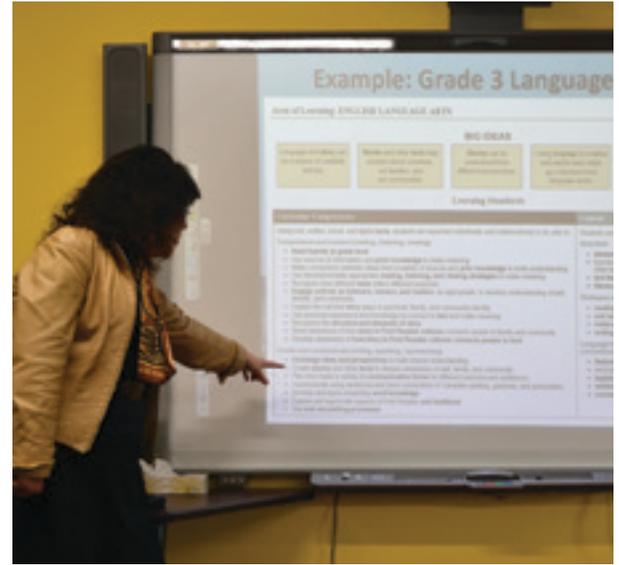
The opening reception honouring Elder Judy Gingell included a dance performance by Elijah Smith Elementary School dancers. Nigha shãw níthän Judy Gingell for your leadership and outstanding work for your community and your people.



## Chundäy K'anàt'a Dancers - Elijah Smith Elementary School

Students from all grades at Elijah Smith School participate in the dance group. They learn traditional dances, songs and stories and perform at local events. Khâsha, leader of the dance group, tells a story of how Elder Judy Gingell helped the group in its early days; Judy saw the students perform at an event and noticed that many dancers were barefoot.

She asked why they weren't dancing in moccasins and was told many of the dancers didn't own any. Judy responded "well, we have to do something about that..." Judy applied for funding for a sewing project involving local Elders and began creating 35 pairs of dance moccasins! Now the students perform with pride in their traditional dance moccasins.



## Changes Happening in Yukon Schools

In March, Deputy Minister of Education Judith Arnold gave a presentation at Kenädän Ku to parents, students, staff and citizens on the Yukon's curriculum re-design.

Yukon schools follow the British Columbia (B.C.) curriculum which is changing. Yukon schools will begin to use the new B.C. curriculum with Yukon content and Yukon First Nations' ways of knowing and doing in all grades. The new curriculum will focus on skill development.

A curriculum is an outline of the lessons, academic content and standards that students learn in school classes and programs. The new curriculum will help students develop the skills they need to succeed in work and in life, while supporting the different needs of every student. One of the goals is to increase the number of students that graduate and allow students to pursue a variety of paths after secondary school, including post-secondary education.

The focus of the new curriculum is developing essential skills: literacy (reading, writing, speaking), numeracy (math, problem-solving), communication, critical thinking and analysis, and personal-social skills.

The curriculum will include more hands-on

learning, finance and career education in all grades.

Building on the good practices already happening in Yukon schools, teachers will use and develop Yukon resources to teach curriculum and integrate Yukon First Nations' ways of knowing and doing at all grade levels.

Students will continue to do assignments, projects, tests, exams and receive progress report cards. There will be no changes to the number of credits or courses required to graduate. The five required B.C. Provincial Exams (BCPEs) will be replaced in the 2017-2018 school year by two new skills-based provincial exams: the literacy and the numeracy exam.

### When the changes will happen?

Schools and staff are preparing now for the changes. In the 2017/2018 school year, changes will be in effect from Kindergarten to Grade 9. Students in Grade 4 and 7 will write Yukon Foundation Skills Assessments in fall 2017. The new numeracy exam will begin in January 2018.

In the 2018/2019 school year, changes will be in effect for grades 10 to 12 and the new B.C. Literacy exam is expected to begin.

In the 2019/2020 school year, all changes will be in effect from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

### Photo top-left:

L-R: Therese Lindsay, KDFN AI Director, Education, Government of Yukon Deputy Minister of Education, Judith Arnold and Dawn Waugh, KDFN AI Manager, Education.

### Photo top-right:

Judith Arnold gave a presentation at Kenädän Ku on the Yukon's curriculum redesign on March 29.

For more information visit the Government of Yukon Education website at [education.gov.yk.ca](http://education.gov.yk.ca) or email [curriculum@gov.yk.ca](mailto:curriculum@gov.yk.ca) or call Kenädän Kù at 867-633-8422.

# Kids After-School Program Goes Back-to-the-Land

Over two weeks in March, youth from the community participated in an outdoor pilot after-school program. The aim of the pilot was to try out a land-based after school program that builds connections between youth, Elders and citizens with land-based and cultural knowledge to share. The pilot also looked at what would be needed in order to make such a program viable in the long-term.

“We received a lot of positive feedback from the community,” said Delilah Pillai, Acting Manager of Justice, and one of the leads in establishing the pilot. “We had kids saying this was great and they really enjoyed themselves.”

The pilot was facilitated by Erin Nicolardi and Emily Payne from Rivers to Ridges, a youth outdoor education organization in Whitehorse. Rather than leading the program themselves, the educators brought together expertise available within the community – organizing Elders and other leaders to help teach and guide the programs. “It was really good to have Emily and Erin,” said Delilah. “They didn’t come here with a set mind frame — they looked to bring together the traditional knowledge available here.”

The program was available to school-children aged 6 to 12 and ran on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays over two

*To volunteer for the Recreation Committee and to assist with sports, cultural and on-the-land events, please contact Delilah Pillai at 867- 633-7850 or email [delilah.pillai@kdfn.net](mailto:delilah.pillai@kdfn.net)*





**Photo:** Practicing skills as a team

weeks from March 7th to 16th. A total of 20 youth participated with an average of 11 on any given day. Fresh and healthy snacks were provided and a full dinner was served on Thursday evenings. Five KDFN citizens were employed to support the program.

Activities included shelter building, fire starting, hand games, drumming as well as forest explorations to learn about plants and animals. There was a “touch-and-feel” nature table set up in Nàkwät’à Kù where many formal and informal lessons unfolded. “A child picked up a dried blob and said ‘This is a mushroom,’” said

Delilah. “And then the Elder said, ‘No, this is grandmother’s medicine.’”

The end results show the program was very positive and a report provided by Rivers to Ridges made suggestions on establishing a long-term project. Some of the suggestions included consistent programming, more training for staff working with children and youth, a designated indoor meeting space and transportation available for youth. Forging connections with existing community initiatives like Kwanlin Koyotes and Jackson Lake Wellness Team was also recommended.



**Photo far-left:** Ready to drum with Doronn Fox.



**Photo left:** Working on bow-drill skills.

# Graduation Season

Congratulations students on your achievements! We are very proud of all Kwanlin Dün students. We apologize if we missed anyone and ask that you contact Kenädän Ku.

## POST-SECONDARY GRADS

**Amber-Rose Shorty** graduated from the Office Administration program at Yukon College. She received a certificate as an Administrative Assistant. Her next plan is to find employment. "I want to thank my family who has helped me a lot with my son when he was sick, so I can go to school every day. I also want to thank my instructors for encouraging me when it felt impossible to keep going," said Amber-Rose.

**Kelly Smith** will be graduating in June from the University of Lethbridge. She will be receiving a Bachelor Degree in Health Sciences with a major in Addictions Counselling. Kelly wishes to thank Kwanlin Dün for its support and for helping to fund her education. "I have already started my career as a Case Manager/Aboriginal

Liaison at McMan Youth, Family, and Community Services," said Kelly.

**Eric Robbins** recently received a Red Seal Ironworker Certificate.

**Danielle Fry** received a Bachelor of Design in Photography with distinction from the Alberta College of Art and Design.

**Cheyenne Bradley** received a Northern Science Diploma in Environmental and Conservation Sciences from the Yukon College.

**Nita Clarke** received an Administrative Assistant Certificate from the Office Administration program at the Yukon College, her second certificate in the program. Her first certificate was the Accounting Clerk Certificate.

**Alexander Gatensby** received a certificate in the Multimedia Communications Program at the Yukon College. He learned the fundamentals of graphic design, business communications skills, and using multiple design software programs. Alexander hopes to use his skills and knowledge on projects such as online podcasts, short films, logo making and other design projects. Alexander plans to make a career in graphic design.

**James Williams** received a Doctor of Medicine degree from the Southern Medical Program through the University of British Columbia. James will be partaking in the Rural Family Practice Residency through the University of Calgary. "I would like to thank Kwanlin Dün for the constant support during the long road of education."

## REACH YOUR EDUCATIONAL GOALS

Staff at Kenädän Ku can help with guidance and training to set and reach your educational goals.

For more information about the Post-Secondary education program please call (867) 633-8422 or visit our education page on our website.

## Upcoming Post-secondary Funding Deadline

*For more information about the Post-Secondary Education Program please visit the Education page at [www.kwanlindun.com](http://www.kwanlindun.com) or call 867-633-8422.*

Kwanlin Dün First Nations citizens interested in pursuing post-secondary studies may be eligible to apply for funding under the Post-Secondary Education Policy.

**Application deadlines for Fall semester is June 15, 2017.**

Late applications will be deferred until the next intake.

If you are interested in more studies but do not yet have a clear direction, career counselling is available at Kenädän Ku.



# Community Safety Officers Graduation

Fourteen participants from Yukon First Nation communities, many from Kwanlin Dün, completed five weeks of training and were awarded an *Associate Certificate in Community Safety* from the Justice Institute of British Columbia. The program was developed collaboratively with the Kwanlin Dün Department of Justice.

The graduates received training in conflict resolution, restorative justice, intergenerational trauma, suicide prevention, report writing, first aid and more.

Four of the graduates will be hired to work for Kwanlin Dün as Community Safety Officers and Land Stewards. The

Community Safety Officers (CSO) will be a visible, day-to-day presence in the community to support citizen safety and security. They will be a point-of-contact for citizens and the RCMP.

The Land Stewards will patrol Kwanlin Dün's Traditional Territory. They will monitor activity and educate citizens and visitors on the appropriate and respectful use of the land. They will work collaboratively with the CSOs and closely with the Government of Kwanlin Dün's Department of Land and Resources.

Citizens will receive more information on the Land Stewards and the Community Safety Officers programs when they are operational later this summer.

**Photo above:** (L-R) RCMP Inspector Archie Thompson, Haley White, Rosie Smith, John Bunbury, Sheila Ceasar, Hank Henry, Elias Park, Susan Burns, Michael Carlisle, MLA Jeanie Dendys, A/Director Gina Nagano, Jesse Ryder, Cody Park, Cynthia Taylor, Tyler O'Brien, Dustin Greenland.

For more information contact KDFN departments of Justice or Lands and Resources at 867-633-7800.



# Funding helps Dusk'a produce Southern Tutchone books for children

For more information contact Erin Pauls at 867-633-7816 or [erin.pauls@kdfn.net](mailto:erin.pauls@kdfn.net)

Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre has received \$9,600 from Yukon Historic Resources Fund to publish a series of six bilingual children's books written in both English and Southern Tutchone. Dusk'a will produce around 300 books with plans to distribute them not only within Kwanlin Dün but around all Southern Tutchone communities and schools in the Yukon.

"We're very excited to produce these books and for us to be able to share them so freely with our colleagues that are working so hard on language revitalization," said Erin Pauls, Manager-Director at Dusk'a. "Our language is at a point that we really need to bond together as Southern Tutchone speaking people."

Each book focuses on a different theme of every-day life like getting dressed, eating, washing, as well as traditional drumming and dancing. "They are simple in nature," said Erin. "And will help teach everyday conversation for young kids." The target audience is 18-month to five-year-old children. There are currently 24 children of this age enrolled at Dusk'a

and each will get a book. The rest will go to different departments in KDFN plus to the Ta'an Kwäch'än and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. Every public school in Whitehorse that teaches Southern Tutchone will also get a copy of the series.

The team from Dusk'a working on the books includes Erin Pauls, Darlene Scurvey and Lorraine Allen. They are also making some educational videos that feature Elders reading the books aloud — to help people learn by hearing and seeing the language being spoken. The videos will be posted on Dusk'a's and KDFN's YouTube channels.

Erin said they were feeling inspired to produce a series of books after the Royal Visit last fall and their generous donation of a Southern Tutchone children's book. "When this funding proposal came up we felt confident that we could do it ourselves and make our own books," said Erin.

All the books are scheduled to be produced and distributed in time for the new school year.





## Dusk'a Manager Receives Highest Honour

Erin "Kothetty" Pauls, Manager of Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre, received a Certificate of Excellence from the Prime Minister on May 3 in Ottawa.

This national award is considered the highest honour for teachers and early childhood educators in Canada. "It is a great honour for me to receive this award, and I do so on behalf of all the committed and talented staff at Dusk'a," said Erin. "I am only as strong as the team I work with which includes Dusk'a staff, senior management and leadership who support us diligently and celebrate our successes."

In Ottawa, Erin spoke to educators about

best practices that honour First Nation culture in the classroom through language revitalization; that understand the history and life of Canada's First People; that showcase local indigenous treasures in school curriculum; and, that promote First Nation student success in early education.

"It is a pleasure for me and all our staff to see our young people develop in an environment that supports First Nation traditions and fosters a love of learning rooted in indigenous practices," said Erin.

Erin dedicates this high honour to Dusk'a and Kwanlin Dün leadership, government staff and to the Kwanlin Dün community as a whole.

*Photo top-left: Erin receiving award from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau*

*Photo top-right: Erin with MP Larry Bagnell*



# Have a story idea you want to see in the next issue of Kwanlin Dän Ch'a?

Kwanlin Dün's Communications Unit produces the Kwanlin Dän Ch'a Newsletter every January, May and September. Send us your story ideas, photos, and information for future issues. We want to highlight our citizens' accomplishments and successes!

**Please contact us at [communications@kdfn.net](mailto:communications@kdfn.net) or (867) 633-7800.**

## Employment Readiness Bootcamp

**Photo below: L-R:**  
Casey McLaren  
(Instructor's  
Assistant), Kody  
Bien, William Burns-  
O'Brien, Tyra Mullin,  
Frank Smith, Mike  
Kramer (Instructor),  
Hilda Dawson,  
Sean Dawson,  
Jessica Bien, Kerry  
MacIntosh-Smarch

Kenädän Ku offered a spring 2017 Employment Readiness Bootcamp in April and May. The courses were funded through Yukon Government Advanced Education and were intended to build and strengthen employment skills. The courses included Standard First Aid, Food Safe level 1, Transportation of Dangerous Goods, H2S Alive, Fall Protection, Workplace Hazardous Materials

Information Systems, and Yukon Traffic Control.

The Bootcamp is offered in the spring – follow KDFN's Facebook or Twitter pages for immediate information on this program and others. For more information about Adult Education and Employment services available at Kenädän Ku please call (867) 633-8422 or visit the KDFN website.



## Career Focusing™ at the House of Learning

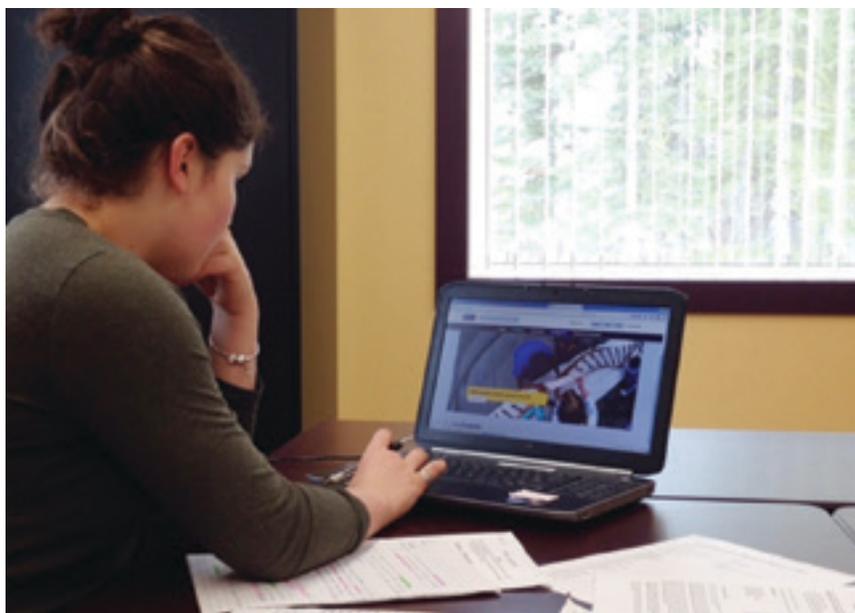
**Below:** Rennes Lindsay researching University programs during Career Focusing™ at the House of Learning.

We are all unique and different. We all have our own gifts to give the world. To be happy in our career life, we all need to find out what “work that fits” means for us.

Career Focusing™ is a way to do this. It is a framework used to help you learn exactly what work is a good fit for you. It helps you to develop the tools to look forward and to figure out your career goals, then it helps you to map backwards and identify the best ways to prepare to get there. You will create a plan and put it into action.

There are three staff at the House of Learning trained to facilitate this program of discovery. During Spring Break, two KDFN youth went through the process from start to finish and created a plan for their future. “Career Focusing really helped me realize the breadth of my future possibilities by finding my strengths and capabilities,” said Rennes Lindsay, one of the participants.

If you are interested in this process, contact Faith Whiting, Adult Educator at Kenädän Ku at 867- 633-8422 ext. 507 or [faith.whiting@kdfn.net](mailto:faith.whiting@kdfn.net).



# Cultural Centre Cabins Named

During the winter, the three Cultural Cabins at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre (KDCC) were named. The cabins will be used for an artist residency program and programming workshops. Watch for a KDCC sewing project this summer.

**Ägikú** – Pronounced ‘Awe-guy Coo’ English Translation “Wolf House” *\*Note this is the animal and not the Clan\**

**Tz’ük’ē Kú** – Pronounced ‘T’zurr-K’ee Coo’ English Translation “Crow House” *\*Note this is the animal and not the Clan\**

**Gū Kú** – Pronounced ‘Gyou Coo’ English Translation “Chinook Salmon House”



# Practicing Traditional Purse-Making Skills

Through the traditional and cultural component of the KDFN Mental Wellness Program four women completed the five-day purse making course at the Health Centre. The women enjoyed working and laughing together. The staff at the Health Centre hope to have more courses such as this one in the future.

For more information contact Marion Fayant at the Health Centre at (867) 668-7289.

**Photo:** (L-R) Jenny Webb, Melissa O’Brien, Melody Reynosa and Martha Vaneltsi proudly displaying their craft.



# Kwanlin Koyotes

Kwanlin Koyotes’ youth and parents held their wrap-up practice in March. They enjoyed the warm sun, the deep and fast snow, and a bonfire. We look forward to seeing you on the trails next year!

The Kwanlin Koyotes cross country ski club encourages youth to reconnect with the land, learn teamwork and healthy living habits. Use of the equipment, ski shack, and trails are free to all KDFN citizens. Kwanlin Dün citizen Gary Bailie is the cross country ski coach, trail keeper and has been running the Kwanlin Koyotes program for the past 18 years. Thank you Gary for all your hard work!





**Photo: Spring Break Fun!** Kenādän Ku staff helped 10 lucky youth to participate in activities over the spring break. The fun included skiing at Mount Sima, a glassblowing workshop, swimming and rock climbing.

**RETURN ADDRESS:**

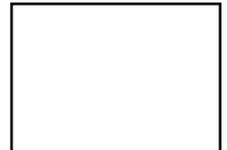
**Kwanlin Dün First Nation**

[www.kwanlindun.com](http://www.kwanlindun.com)

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