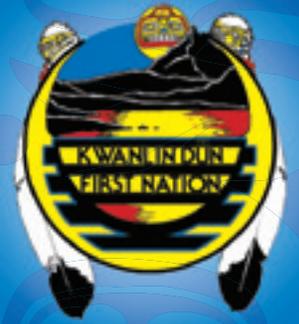


# Kwanlin Dän Ch'a



Kwanlin People of Whitehorse, How are you?



## WINTER RECREATION

Youth Recreation has been bustling with activity all winter long, and even took two overnight trips to the Youth Achievement Centre's Annie Lake Cabin in December. Here, Kaitlyn, Andrew and Brody are playing shinny on Emerald Lake. Get in on the fun!

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# Message from the Chief



Chief Doris Bill

Photo: Alistair Maitland

As many of you may have heard, a recent Yukon Supreme Court decision involving the Teslin Tlingit Council has ruled the federal government must renegotiate with self-governing First Nations based on the citizenship they serve, including those citizens who are considered to be non-status Indians. We know this has been a long-standing issue for our citizens as well. The decision is currently being reviewed to determine any implications the ruling may have on Kwanlin Dün First Nation.

In my role as Chief, I continue to advocate on behalf of our stolen sisters and brothers and, in recent months, I had the opportunity to make an oral submission on behalf of Kwanlin Dün First Nation, before the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, held in Calgary.

To support the priorities identified in the KDFN Strategic Plan, we remain in contact with other Yukon First Nations, attend intergovernmental discussions and hold individual meetings with Ministers

at both the federal and territorial levels. Building partnerships is important, and it's something we take seriously.

It is always our mission to keep citizens informed. This newsletter is only one of many ways the Kwanlin Dün government is working to engage the community in the type of dialogue and information exchange that are so critical to our success. We have been having important meetings about land planning as part of the Community Lands Plan consultation, and are hosting equally important meetings about community economic development, citizenship and housing as well. Please attend when you can, and help shape the direction of our nation.

As we prepare for upcoming events and community meetings it is important for citizens to keep contact information up-to-date. If you haven't done so recently, please contact KDFN's Citizenship Registrar at 633-7800 to ensure we are able to reach you via mail and phone. We even collect email addresses for those who have them.

## Street Drugs are Deadly

### **Naloxone kits are available from:**

Whitehorse Health Centre  
Blood Ties Four Directions  
KDFN Health Centre  
All Whitehorse pharmacies  
Outreach Van  
Mental Wellness and  
Substance Abuse Services

The reality today is that every time someone chooses to use street drugs in Whitehorse, they put their life at risk. Street drugs laced with lethal doses of opioids are becoming increasingly common and claiming the lives of our friends and families at an alarming rate.

Fentanyl is very dangerous for drug users, especially those who haven't used street drugs before. When not used properly, Fentanyl can be deadly even in the smallest doses. The size of two grains of salt is enough to kill someone using this drug.

There is no way to ensure the safety of anyone. We urge everyone to be aware and vigilant. Share this information with your family and friends – and especially our youth – about the tremendous risk in using any street drug.

Identifying the signs of an overdose can save the life of someone you love. **Some overdose symptoms are:**

- Miosis (tiny pinpoint pupils)
- Difficulty swallowing, feelings of choking
- Muscle weakness
- Confusion and disorientation
- Dizziness and fainting
- Lips and fingernails turning blue
- No response to painful stimuli
- Extreme drowsiness, inability to stay awake
- Sudden drop in blood pressure
- Significant slowing of heart rate
- Slowed breathing and respiratory distress
- Loss of consciousness

Naloxone is a medication that can counteract the effects of Fentanyl when administered to someone overdosing.



Photos courtesy Council of Yukon First Nations.

...continued

**These kits are available from:**

- Whitehorse Health Centre
- Other Community Health Centers
- Blood Ties Four Directions
- KDFN Health Center
- All pharmacies in Whitehorse
- Outreach Van
- Mental Wellness and Substance Abuse Services

When you pick up your free kit, a 20 to 40-minute training session to learn how to use the kit is offered. The Opioid Overdose Prevention Coordinator offers public training on how to use the take-home naloxone kit every Wednesday at Sarah Steel Building (609 Steele Street) starting at 4:15 p.m.

Naloxone may be ineffective if it is administered after the overdose has progressed beyond a certain point. You need to call 911 if you or someone else is overdosing or if Naloxone has been administered. Some people may be concerned about calling the ambulance because of the possibility of involving the RCMP. But consider the consequences: By not calling the paramedics, your family member or friend could die.

Earlier this year, Chief Doris Bill participated in a march and made a video published on social media to bring awareness to this epidemic. We echo her cry and urge everyone to educate themselves of the

overdose signs, pick up Naloxone kits, and speak up to save the lives of your loved ones.

**If you choose to use street drugs:**

- Don't use alone – be with people you trust
- Have a Naloxone kit and know how to use it
- Do not hesitate to call 911 if it seems like someone may have overdosed
- Consider getting your street drugs tested at Blood Ties Four Directions.



# Sixties Scoop Survivors are Eligible for Compensation

More info:  
[www.sixtiesscoopsettlement.info](http://www.sixtiesscoopsettlement.info)  
or call toll free  
1-844-287-4270

There is a class action lawsuit underway whereby Sixties Scoop survivors are suing the Government of Canada. The courts have approved a settlement that is being finalized. On February 4, an information session was held at the Mount McIntyre Recreation Centre in Whitehorse for people who wanted to learn more about it. If you didn't attend this session, it is not too late to get involved or register.

## What was the Sixties Scoop?

Between 1951 and 1991, Indigenous children were taken from their families and placed with non-Indigenous parents where they were not raised in accordance with their cultural traditions or taught their traditional languages.

## What is the class action suit about?

The plaintiffs (Sixties Scoop survivors) argued that Indian and Inuit children who were victims of the Sixties Scoop lost their cultural identity and suffered psychologically, emotionally, spiritually and physically. They were also deprived of their status, their aboriginal and treaty rights and monetary benefits related to the Indian Act. The courts have now approved a settlement between the survivors and Canada that provides compensation for loss of cultural identity for certain survivors of the Sixties Scoop.



If you are a survivor of the Sixties Scoop, your legal rights are affected even if you do nothing.

## To make a claim for money

You have to fill out a form. You do not need a lawyer, nor do you need to have all of your records on hand. There are lawyers and an administrator working on behalf of the plaintiffs who can assist you for free. You must complete a Claim Form and send it to the Claims Administrator by August 30, 2019. A copy of the Claim Form is available at [www.sixtiesscoopsettlement.info](http://www.sixtiesscoopsettlement.info).

## You can no longer opt out of the settlement as the deadline of October 31, 2018 has passed.

For more information, go to: [www.sixtiesscoopsettlement.info](http://www.sixtiesscoopsettlement.info) or call toll free: 1-844-287-4270 or email: [sixtiesscoop@collectiva.ca](mailto:sixtiesscoop@collectiva.ca).



BENEFITS AND CREDITS  
INFORMATION FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

## TAX BENEFITS

The Canada Revenue Agency has published a booklet to assist Indigenous Canadians during tax season.

For more information, contact Chris at 633-7800 ext. 112

# Indian Day Schools Class Action

*McLean v Canada* is a class action lawsuit against the Government of Canada for the abuses suffered by students forced to attend “Indian Day Schools” across Canada after 1920. This is the first national class action seeking compensation for former students and their families.

The *McLean* class action covers all students who attended Indian Day Schools that operated separate and apart from Residential Schools. This includes students who are First Nations, Metis or Inuit. The class action also covers families of these students.

An estimated 200,000 Indigenous children attended Indian Day Schools. Unlike Indian Residential Schools, students did not reside at Indian Day Schools. Indian Day Schools were administered and funded by the Department of Indian Affairs in which Indigenous students across Canada were required to attend by law (*Indian Act*). In most cases, Indian Day Schools were operated and maintained by the same religious organizations administering Indian Residential Schools. Students who attended Indian Day Schools have reported suffering the same types of abuses experienced by students who attended Indian Residential Schools (severe physical, sexual, mental and psychological abuse by teaching staff,

officials, students and other third parties). Families of these students suffered the same types of damage as the families of Indian Residential School Survivors. In addition, Indian Day Schools inflicted systemic damage upon Indigenous culture and languages.

On December 6, 2018, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Carolyn Bennett, along with the Representative Plaintiffs announced that they had reached an “agreement-in-principle” to settle the lawsuit. The agreement-in-principle includes individual compensation as well as \$200 million for healing, wellness, language, culture and legal fees. Discussions are currently underway to finalize a full Settlement Agreement.

There is currently no deadline set to register your name so that you are included. A registration deadline will be set when a final Settlement Agreement is reached. Notification of a registration deadline will be widely published. You can register even if you already received a Common Experience Payment (CEP) or residential school compensation.

Garry McLean is the lead plaintiff in the class-action lawsuit and is represented by Gowling WLG.

For more info visit [indiandayschool.com](http://indiandayschool.com)

To register for the class action, visit [gowlingwlg.com/dayschool](http://gowlingwlg.com/dayschool) or call toll-free: 1-844-539-3815. Email Vanessa Lessard at [vanessa.lessard@gowlingwlg.com](mailto:vanessa.lessard@gowlingwlg.com)



**KDFN Post-Secondary Education Program**

**The Financial Assistance Deadline for the Spring/Summer term is FRIDAY MARCH 15, 2019**



## Our Land is Precious. It's Time to Plan!

**Above:** Members of Council and KDFN staff celebrate the registration of settlement land at the Yukon Land Titles office.

Photo: Alistair Maitland

Kwanlin Dün First Nation now has the ability to register settlement land at the Yukon Land Titles Office.

This means it is possible to purchase a leasehold interest in settlement land, register it at the Yukon Land Titles Office, and have certainty of exclusive possession of that land for the duration of the lease. Leasehold interests may be bought and sold, and eligible purchasers can qualify for mortgages and other financing options.

By moving forward this way, Kwanlin Dün First Nation will forever maintain ownership of its settlement land, and select parcels of land can be made available for KDFN citizens, as well as other Yukon residents

and businesses.

Last year, KDFN made history by registering a small piece of commercial land in the industrial area at the Land Titles Office. Additionally, the Chu Níkwän Development Corporation began construction of a residential project on another registered parcel at 606 Jarvis.

“We have proven the system works,” says Chief Doris Bill. “Work on four units at 606 Jarvis is nearly complete, and KDFN citizens will have the first option to purchase leasehold interests in homes there”.

So why hasn't additional land been made available? What's the hold up? “The answer is simple,” says Chief Bill. “Our land is

precious, and we need to do this the right way.”

KDFN is developing a land use plan – the Community Lands Plan – with citizen input. Consultations, tours and workshops started in December, and are ongoing.

Once the KDFN Community Lands Plan is finalized, it will be used to inform the City of

Whitehorse’s Official Community Plan. From there, Kwanlin Dün will be in position to release land responsibly – and only in ways identified by citizens – as reflected in the Community Lands Plan.

Kwanlin Dün First Nation Settlement land and Traditional Territory maps are available at: [bit.ly/2raLDwV](http://bit.ly/2raLDwV)

**Below:** Chief Doris Bill and Premier Sandy Silver with the first settlement land Certificate of Title in the Yukon

Photo: Alistair Maitland

**ff** This is a step in what has been a long process that allows for the interesting work to begin. Kwanlin Dün First Nation, through the Chu Níkwän Development Corporation, has built solid foundations for financing, we have built a legal framework, and we’ve tested these processes within the existing system. We are happy to announce that those who choose to live and work in our traditional territory will soon have more choices as to where they build their homes and businesses.

– Excerpt from Chief Bill’s speech, Yukon Land Titles Office, November 2018



## Elder Russel Burns visits Youth Recreation

Partnered with the Youth Achievement Centre, Youth Recreation has taken two trips to YAC’s Annie Lake Cabin, spending two days and one night on the Land. Elder Russel Burns spent a few hours with us sharing stories about the area and about his trapline. We were lucky enough to see his collection of tools, most handmade from animals he has trapped or hunted.

# Community Lands Plan Update

Consultation with Kwanlin Dün citizens on the KDFN Community Lands Plan is now underway. Community Lands are KDFN settlement lands inside and close to Whitehorse city limits. KDFN is currently developing a plan for all Community Lands within the city. This plan will determine how each parcel of KDFN settlement land can be used.

An introductory meeting was held on December 6 to present the project to KDFN citizens and provide an overview of the Community Lands. The presentation included a virtual tour of KDFN Community Lands using Google Earth and aerial photography.

As part of the December 6 meeting, citizens were asked to draw a map of how they use the lands within the city. These “cognitive maps” provide an insightful look into the areas citizens use within Whitehorse. The information provided by the citizens through their maps will be helpful to KDFN’s planning staff as they put together a plan for settlement land in Whitehorse.

On December 15, KDFN staff and citizens toured KDFN settlement lands in Whitehorse. Approximately a dozen parcels were visited. Staff and citizens

**Below:** KDFN citizens are providing important input to the draft Community Lands Plan. The plan will be finalized later this year.



## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR COMMUNITY LANDS PLAN

### **Heritage Workshop**

Thursday, February 7 from 7-9 p.m.  
Nakwat’a Ku Potlatch House

### **Community Development Workshop**

Thursday, March 14 from 7-9 p.m.  
Nakwat’a Ku Potlatch House

### **Community Meeting: Summary of Citizen Input**

Thursday, March 28 from 7-9 p.m.  
Nakwat’a Ku Potlatch House

### **Van Tour of KDFN Community Land Parcels**

Saturday, March 30 from 12:30 p.m.  
to 4 p.m. Meet at the Nakwat’a Ku  
Potlatch House.

discussed the history and development potential of each of the parcels visited. On January 24, close to 50 people attended an interactive wildlife workshop, and on February 7 there was a heritage workshop. Participants at that session were able to view an intact atlatl (throwing dart) that was found last August at the Friday Creek Ice Patch.

More workshops and tours concerning KDFN settlement land in the city will be organized in March (see above).

The information presented at the introductory meeting on December 6 is now available on the KDFN website. Citizens interested in participating in a focus group or wanting an individual meeting with KDFN lands staff to discuss the Community Lands Plan are encouraged to call KDFN urban planning and policy advisor Geoff Cowie at 633-7800 ext.119. The development of KDFN’s Community Lands is key to KDFN’s future, so please consider getting involved.

# KDFN to Host 2019 Hand Games Tournament

The sound of drums and laughter echoed through the room where crowds of smiling people gathered to watch and play. Young and old from across the territory gathered in Pelly Crossing last summer for the annual Hand Games Tournament. The games took off like wildfire; the collective energy and high level of participation was exciting to see. “Hand Games bring people together,” says Jackie Callahan. “It gets people out who you don't really get to see – family and friends.”

Games played include snow snake, stick pull, pole push, hoop & pole, moose skin ball, finger pull and stick gamble.

Kaska Elder Amos Dick, also known as ‘Famous Amos’, is 96 years old and still sits on his knees to stick gamble. He makes everyone laugh and is a great crowd

pleaser. Teams of young people also come out to participate, including the ‘Pow Wow Brothers’.

The Whitehorse team—made up of KDFN citizens including Councillor Dennis Calbery—won the overall tournament. “The KDFN team was great!” says Jackie. Their win means the KDFN community will be hosting the summer 2019 tournament.

Organizers have been working with KDFN Council to plan the 2019 Hand Games Tournament, which will be held at the Jackson Lake Healing Camp over three days from August 9 to 11. If people can't wait till August, a Mini Hand Games Tournament will be held during Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous at the Nākwät'ā Kù Potlatch House on the weekend of February 22.

## New Playground Complete

The new playground in McIntyre is complete! There will be a community celebration when the weather warms up this spring. Thanks to the Yukon government's Community Development Fund for making this project possible.



# Winter Clothes Drive Warms Up People on the Inside and Outside

It's difficult to stay warm in the winter if you have to wear jackets or snow pants that are too small or worn out. Many people can't afford to buy new outerwear for themselves or their family members. Meanwhile, other people might be throwing away good used items because all the second hand drop-offs are few or far away.

That's why the KDFN Justice Department decided to hold a Warm Winter Clothes Drive last fall. Over four days in November of 2018, the community of Whitehorse pulled together their donations and support for those in need. Drop-off bins were placed at locations of various community sponsors throughout the Yukon, including the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, the Whitehorse Fire Fighters Charitable Society, Raven Recycling, Northwestel, CBC and others. The donations just rolled in.

"It was so heartwarming to see the support of the community. People came together to contribute and be a part of supporting each other," says Hailey Birney of the KDFN

Justice Department. "The quality of the clothes was just outstanding. People gave their best."

On January 17, at the Nàkwät'à Kù Potlatch House, warm winter clothes from the drive were distributed to anyone in need. This initiative has been a great way to support the community and reuse. Plus it keeps everyone warm on both the inside and the outside.

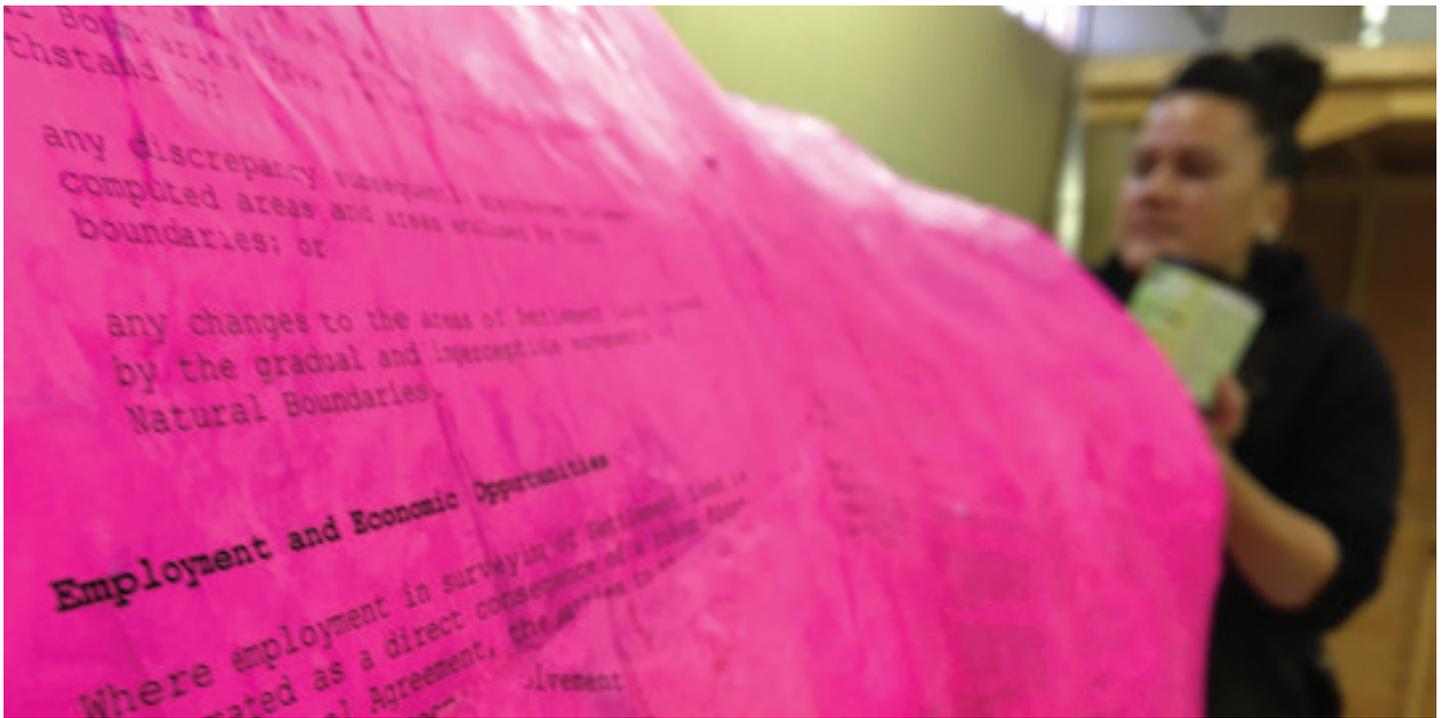
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**"It was so heartwarming to see the support of the community. People came together to contribute... People gave their best."**

*– Hailey Birney*

**Right:** KDFN staff and volunteers handed out free warm winter clothes to anyone in need on January 17.





## Talking about a Pink Moose

Lianne Charlie took a few minutes to explain her pink moose art project. When asked why she and more than 30 helpers constructed a giant hot pink bull moose, she replied, “It’s a conversation starter!” At first glance, it’s just a fun, flashy sculpture made of Styrofoam and papier mâché. But upon closer examination, you’ll find pages of the Umbrella Final Agreement, the blueprint of Yukon First Nations land claims, plastered all over its brilliant hide.

Lianne is an instructor in the Indigenous Governance Degree Program at Yukon College. She and four other artists participated in the “To Talk With Others” art project. They were each given a copy of the minutes from an August 1977 meeting between former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and five Yukon First Nations leaders discussing a pipeline project, land claims and self-determination. Each artist was asked to create a project to express their take on the meeting. Lianne decided to create this stunning pink moose.

“People ask me easy questions like, ‘Why a moose? Or why pink?’ The answers I give get people thinking about deeper questions,” says Lianne. “Questions like:

Are these land claim treaties and clauses – like the ‘cede, release, and surrender’ clause – doing as good a job as they were intended to do?” (You’ll find arrows piercing into the hide of the moose right through the pages of this controversial clause).

“More than 30 people helped to put it together. The time we spent creating and piecing together pages from the Umbrella Final Agreement opened up conversations, and not just about the UFA, but about life as Indigenous people,” says Lianne. “We realized that it’s not much different for us now than it was all those years ago.”

Lianne’s desire for the pink moose is to educate and create change. She says we need to have conversations about our land claims agreements so we can really know and understand. “We cannot start healing until we start telling the truth about what happened,” she says. What better way to continue the conversation, than in front of a beautiful Pink Moose.

The pink moose and other works from the “To Talk With Others” art exhibit opened at Yukon Arts Centre Gallery on December 6 and will be on display until February 23.

**Above:** One can read the Umbrella Final Agreement on this life-sized hot pink moose created by Lianne Charlie. It is on display as part of the *To Talk with Others* exhibit at the Yukon Arts Centre until February 23.

# Skills for Life Land and Work: Another Successful Run

The Skills for Life, Land and Work program is all about meeting a person where they are at, and helping them navigate their path. This 12-week program is coordinated by Justine Copestake, an adult educator at Kenädän Kù House of Learning, and is supported by the Yukon Government and KDFN. It encourages personal growth, development for the workplace, and acquiring essential life skills.

The most recent offering of the program ran from September 12 to December 13 of 2018. Students took part in a wide range of courses and skill-building activities including:

- Wilderness First Aid
- Firearms Course
- Conflict Resolution
- Financial Literacy
- Personality Dimension and Career Focusing
- Trappers Certification

- Traditional Snowshoes Making
- Visiting a Trapline for 5 days
- Essential Skills and Life Skills
- Relevant Workplace Shadowing

This is the second year that the Skills for Life, Land and Work Program has been offered and it continues to inspire, motivate and enhance the lives of its participants. “Seeing people connect to their culture and their land and heritage, learning from Elders and listening to stories on the Land was so enjoyable and rewarding,” says Justine, who believes strongly in the positive benefits this program had on its participants.

She says there were many healthy connections made between the participants with the wider community and with support groups like Pathways to Empowerment and the Jackson Lake Wellness Team. “And the snowshoe making course with Joe Migwans was wonderful,” she adds.

**Right:** Students learned a lot during the Trappers Certification sessions in November.



# Get Ready For Kindergarten

A parent wants only the best advantages and the best start to learning for their children. The Learning Together program, held at Elijah Smith Elementary School, provides toddlers this opportunity. This free drop-in program is designed for children 3-5 years old and their parents or caregivers. Babies are welcome, too. This program is unique because both parent and child share a playful experience while they learn together.

The Learning Together program was developed by Government of Yukon's Department of Education. Led by qualified teachers, the program's main goal is to facilitate a 'play-based' learning environment for growth and development.

Learning Together introduces toddlers to skills such as drawing and colouring, paper cutting, crafting, listening in story time, following instructions, eating together with peers, and so much more. Activities are designed to prepare kids for a fun Kindergarten experience, preparing parents for this transition as well. The early years with our children are precious and fleeting. Each stage in a child's development is a powerful moment of triumph for both parent and child.

The Learning Together program was initially run out of Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre, but it is now run at Elijah Smith Elementary School. The Learning Together program happens Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and every day is a wonderful experience to laugh, dance, play and learn together, all the while preparing children for success once they begin school.

Let this valuable program be a treat that you and your toddler look forward to each and every week.



## **The Learning Together program:**

- Free drop-in
- For children 3-5 years old
- Monday to Friday 9 am to 11:30 am at Elijah Smith Elementary



**Left:** Elder Councillor William Carlick led the opening ceremony for a new ceremonial fire pit at Elijah Smith Elementary School

# Toilet and Drain Clogging Up?

## Top tips to keep our sewers clear

Everything you flush down the toilet or pour down the drain ends up in our sewer system and can get stuck, causing a sewer back-up. This can result in a nasty clean-up or toilets and sinks that don't work properly. Here are a few tips that you can follow to keep things running smoothly.

- 1) Don't flush things that can clog up your pipes.** These include fats, oils, food scraps, paints, chemicals, cotton, condoms, sanitary products, plastics and toys. These things should go in the garbage or compost.
- 2) Treat grease before you wash up.** Pour fats into a container to dispose of later and give pots and pans a wipe with a paper towel before washing.
- 3) Use less detergent and don't drain chemicals or medicines. This helps protect our water supply.

## When things get stuck

- 1) Use a plunger.** If you're plunging the sink, make sure there's water in the basin to create pressure. Plug the opposite basin if it's a double sink. If you're plunging the toilet, choose a

heavy-duty plunger and make sure there's a good seal around the hole. Push down slowly and gently and then pull it back up sharply. If the bowl empties of water, fill it back up with jugs from the sink and keep plunging.

- 2) Use a cable auger.** This is just for sinks. Start by placing a bucket under the pipes under your sink. Remove the "trap," that short u-shaped piece of pipe, either by hand or gently using a pipe wrench. Drain water from the trap into the bucket and remove the clog if it is in the trap. If the sink is still clogged, remove the horizontal pipe that connects the trap to the stub pipe in the wall. Push the cable auger into the stub pipe until it meets resistance. Pull out 18" of cable then crank the handle clockwise until the auger catches on something. Then crank handle counter clockwise and see if it has pulled out the clog. Continue this process until the clog is removed. Then reassemble pipes!
- 3) Use vinegar and baking soda.** For clogged toilets, pour 2 cups of baking soda and 2 cups of vinegar. Let it fizz then add a kettle of hot water. Let sit an hour or even overnight before flushing.

## RCMP OFFICE MOVE

The community RCMP office in McIntyre is now located in the main Justice Department office at 7 O'Brien Drive.

During KDFN business hours, you may contact the officer on duty by calling Justice Reception.



Justice reception  
**633-7850**

### For NON-emergencies

Constable Desmond Jackson **334-4131**  
Constable Michelle Faulkner **334-5427**

### For EMERGENCIES

**911**



## New KDFN Building Update

This past fall, we hit the ground running in our efforts to design a new building. Council has selected a design that will serve as a community hub and a base for Kwanlin Dün First Nation government operations.

Beginning in September, KDFN awarded the design contract for the new building to Manasc Isaac Architects of Edmonton, Alberta. Within a few weeks, their team held a design festival here in Whitehorse to speak with Council, Elders, citizens, youth and staff, who then gave input into the vision for our government's new building. An entire half-day was set aside for citizens interested in careers in architecture, engineering and construction, and to learn about opportunities to work on this project.

After a very busy week, the architects then designed two different building concepts that were shared with citizens at the Fall 2018 General Assembly in October. On October 29, Council voted for their preferred design concept and the architects went back to work to

produce detailed plans.

Council met with the architects again in November to discuss building materials and systems. The new building will be an open, modern design supported by heavy wooden timbers. It will have a wood roof, an open concept, and it will be very efficient to minimize heating and electricity costs. The roof system will include a large number of solar panels to generate power which will be used firstly to power the building, with surplus power sold back to the utility company.

On February 12, the team met with Council again to go over detailed design plans. The project is on schedule to be put out for bids for construction in April/May of this year. Construction will begin with site preparation near the current Administration Building. The new building will wrap around the current Admin Building, which will eventually be moved and repurposed to some extent.

The new KDFN community hub is scheduled for completion in 2020.

**Above:** Artist rendering of the new KDFN Building

# Harvesting Red Cedar in Alaska

Jacqueline Shorty gained more than just a traditional skill when she travelled to Kake, Alaska in the spring of 2017 for a two-week intensive cedar harvesting mentorship. It was a humbling and emotional experience connecting her to her Tagish Kwan roots and her ancestral connection with the coastal Tlingit people.

“To have been able to participate in cedar harvesting was such a blessing,” says Shorty. “Traditional learning is incredible and so fulfilling.”

Shorty travelled to Kake, a two-day ferry trip, because it’s the closest place

where Red Cedar grows. It’s also home to Shorty’s teacher, Marwilla Hughes, a master Tlingit cedar bark craftsperson.

“Not only did I benefit as a beginner learner of how to harvest cedar,” she says of her instructor, “I left humbled and in awe of the time, patience and dedication it takes to process cedar for weaving.”

The first step, selecting a tree, took Shorty and Hughes on a physically-demanding hike into the forest. Then, they began reassuring conversations and prayers with the tree, asking its spirit for permission. “It is a very emotional process, deeply humbling,” says Shorty. After cutting down the tree, you begin a full-day’s work of pulling the bark off. “Marwilla is very agile with her hands and makes it look easy. But I soon learned that it isn’t easy and that it takes years of practice to become adept.”

Thinning is the next step. It’s a process using a small needle that Shorty says “was incredibly difficult for me to do.” But with the encouragement of her teacher, she progressed and built confidence.

Shorty then brought her strips back home to Whitehorse where they hung for a full year before they were used in a variety of projects. Looking back, over a year-and-a-half later, Shorty is hoping to return to Kake with a larger group from the community. Her trip was expensive and she thanks the Donations/First Nations Artwork and Crafts Committee for helping with costs. Her time in Kake was life-changing and she wants to share this with others.

“I felt like I was returning to who I was meant to be, who we are in our roots and for the first time in a long time I felt that I was beginning to live the history of the Tagish Kwan. It allowed me to feel a quiet self-confidence, a sense of belonging that I had yearned for my whole life. Even as I write this, I feel that well of emotion come up inside me, reminding me that I need to remember who I am and where I come from in order to become a whole person.”

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“I felt like I was returning to who I was meant to be, who we are in our roots...”

– Jacqueline Shorty



# Golden Lady of the Yukon

On January 10, 2019 Shaaw Tláa (a.k.a. Kate Carmack) was inducted into the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame, taking her rightful place alongside the other Klondike discoverers Skookum Jim Mason, Dawson Charlie, George Carmack and Robert Henderson. The nomination was a collaborative effort between the Kwanlin Dün First Nation Youth Advisory Committee, the Youth of Today Society (YOTS) and the Yukon Chamber of Mines.

In 2017, YOTS painted a mural of Kate Carmack, as part of its Festival of Murals project. The mural of Kate was appropriately placed on the side of the Yukon Chamber of Mines building, next to the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre. To portray Kate's image, YOTS used a photo from an article about Kate Carmack that was written by Eileen Vance-Duchesne in 1999. While there are many stories of the Klondike Discovery, the Vance-Duchesne article was a story from Kwanlin Dün First Nation elders that Kate Carmack was the one to find the gold in Bonanza Creek in 1896.

Zena McLean, a descendent of Kate Carmack, accepted the award on behalf of the family. On hand to witness the event were Chief Doris Bill and Councillor Jessie Dawson, Premier Sandy Silver and two of his ministers, AFN Regional Chief Kluane Adamek, Yukon Chamber of Mines past President Sue Craig and Executive Director Samson Hartland and members of Kwanlin Dün's Youth Advisory Committee to Council and the Youth of Today Society.

"The event for me was incredible. We actually got to see and experience how our work, as young people, can initiate real and meaningful change in today's world," says Cheyenne Bradley, a member of the youth delegation. "Emotions were running high that night for sure and even though it took over 120 years for Kate Carmack to get the well-deserved recognition, we were



proud to be a part of it."

"What I am hoping will come out of this is that Indigenous people and woman be provided the opportunities to be heard," says Cheyenne. "What we did here started from an old magazine article, but it brought our whole community together to shed light on a past wrong and aimed at reconciling the future"

Our Golden Lady Kate Carmack – Shaaw Tláa – has now taken her rightful place in Canadian history.

*Mural painted in 2017 by the Youth of Today Society on the side of the Yukon Chamber of Mines building.*

# Complete the Citizenship Survey ... Win a Prize!

Hard copies of the survey are available at the front desks of the Health Centre and the House of Learning. The survey is also available online at [bit.ly/2sAWiSp](http://bit.ly/2sAWiSp)

The Kwanlin Dün First Nation Citizenship Committee is developing a proposed Citizenship Act, which will define enrollment criteria for everyone who applies to be a Kwanlin Dün First Nation Citizen.

The committee wants to hear about what's important to citizens. Please take some time to complete the survey. You can also attend a meeting on either February 21 or 28 at 5:00 p.m. at the Nàkwät'à Kù Potlatch House.

Hard copies of the survey are available at the front desks of the Health Centre and the House of Learning. The survey is also available online at [bit.ly/2sAWiSp](http://bit.ly/2sAWiSp).

Please note that the survey is private: the Citizenship Committee will not see any surveys. Surveys will be kept confidential and then destroyed once the results are compiled.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Amanda Calbery, KDFN Citizenship Registrar, by phone at 867-633-7800 ext 131, or by email at [amanda.calbery@kdfn.net](mailto:amanda.calbery@kdfn.net).



## CONTEST RULES

You must submit your name to be entered into the draw. Must be 18 years of age to complete the survey. One survey per citizen. Complete the survey for your chance to win a \$500 Air North gift card. Draw date is March 1, 2019.

## Welcome Sign

As of January 18, the City of Whitehorse welcome signs are now adorned with the KDFN and TKC crests, and say, *Shrō kwàthän nj j* - "It is good to see you" in Southern Tutchone.





## Lands and Resources Operations

Staff members in the Operations section of the Lands and Resources Department are hard at work taking care of KDFN settlement land parcels. The Operations section was started in 2018, with the primary goal to monitor and inspect all KDFN settlement land parcels.

This important work allows the Lands and Resources Department to decide which parcels of land should be of top priority for remediation work. Operations crews also provide a visible presence on the land. Their work also helps to provide invaluable information about the scope of clean-up/remediation costs for future planning.

Inspections by Operations staff will also help determine if there are people residing on KDFN Settlement Lands and identify any unauthorized uses that may be occurring. This information will feed into our internal land registry system, which in turn will assist planners and land managers in day-to-day decision making.

The Lands and Resources Department recently purchased new, reliable field equipment to enable the Operations staff

to conduct monitoring and inspections throughout the year.

Occupational Health and Safety is a critical component to this new program, so proper training is always on-going.

Operations staff is also assisting with Fish and Wildlife initiatives. These initiatives are often in collaboration with neighbouring First Nations as well as the appropriate Yukon and Federal Government agencies.

“Our Steward Obligation is to act with respect for all beings, human and non-human, and all elements of the natural and spiritual worlds,” says Brandy Mayes, Operations Manager. “This responsibility is reflected in the spirit of reciprocal giving. If respect is shown, the (collectively, the spirits of those who came before us; the ancestors; our brethren – all creatures that live on the earth with us) will also care for and support us in return. However, if respect is not shown, negative or even disastrous consequences for our people may be expected.”

**Above:** Land Steward Bruce Wilson, Operations Manager Brandy Mayes & Senior Land Steward Dave Sembsmoen

## Education Survey

Thank you to everyone that completed the Education Survey on whether citizens would like to see KDFN join other First Nations in negotiations with Canada on a Yukon First Nation-controlled school or schools (K to 12). Another community consultation on this question will be held soon. Look out for an upcoming

announcement about a consultation that will be held so that you can give your opinion on whether or not KDFN should work on creating their own school.

The winner of the \$500 gift card prize for the survey was **Hank Henry**. Congratulations! Contact Therese Lindsay at 633-8422 ext. 502 to claim your prize



## Community Safety Check-ins

CSOs have begun to check in with Elders at home to see how they are doing. Even if it is just a 5-10 minute drop in, it makes a difference – especially to those who may not have family close by.

Sometimes they have performed little

errands for the elder: CSOs have changed lightbulbs, made fires, and even helped one elder with his furnace. At Christmas, Mike Carlisle took an elder on a little tour to see the Christmas lights while giving her a ride home.

## Family Enhancement Team Established in McIntyre

In partnership with Kwanlin Dün First Nation, the Government of Yukon has established a family enhancement team in the McIntyre subdivision in Whitehorse to foster reconciliation and improve outcomes for Kwanlin Dün families and children.

The new six-person team includes a

supervisor, two child protection workers, one family enhancement worker, one child-in-care worker, and one case aide. The team is working in close collaboration with Kwanlin Dün's Director of Justice and family support liaison workers to provide on-site services and support to all members of the community.

# Southern Lakes Caribou Update

## Population Estimates

The Southern Lakes caribou planning team are busy updating population data for the Carcross, Laberge, and Ibex caribou herds. These populations are monitored every fall by helicopter surveys to track the calf numbers, but total population size has not been estimated since 2008. To make this estimate, they will be placing GPS collars on caribou. The collared caribou will be counted during the helicopter surveys of the following fall. The number of marked-compared-to-unmarked animals will be used to estimate a population size for each herd. The GPS collars will remain active for several years and will be used to determine herd ranges, map habitats and track movement and migration routes.

## Ground-based monitoring

For the first time ever, the six Southern Lakes First Nations are collaborating to initiate a ground-based monitoring program for caribou. Land guardians and monitors from each First Nation received training this fall on winter monitoring of caribou. The six First Nations have identified a number of priority areas to monitor in this first pilot year of the ground-based monitoring program. These areas have been identified



from local, scientific, and Traditional Knowledge. The focus of the program will be on the Carcross, Atlin, Ibex and Laberge caribou herds.

“This work will enable First Nations to use traditional laws and collaborative approaches to address current land and wildlife management issues,” says Dave Sembsmoen, Senior Lands Steward with KDFN’s Department of Lands and Resources. “It’s a program that is rooted in education and relationship building.”

**Above:** Photo courtesy Government of Yukon



**Left:** Sheilah Sutherland and her little fox Naynay pose for a photo outside the Fall General Assembly

# Events Calendar

**M** = Mondays

**T** = Tuesdays

**W** = Wednesdays

**TH** = Thursdays

**F** = Fridays

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Citizenship Committee meetings	February 21 & 28 5:00 p.m.	Nàkwät'à Kù Potlatch House
Citizen Housing Forum	March 2 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Potlatch House
Spring Break	March 11 to March 22 Monday – Friday	Yukon schools closed
Community Lands Plan Community Development Workshop	March 14 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Nàkwät'à Kù Potlatch House
Spring/Summer post-secondary funding deadline	March 15	
Community Lands Plan Summary of Citizen input	March 28 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Nàkwät'à Kù Potlatch House
Community Lands tour	March 30 12:30 to 4:00 p.m.	Meet in front of KDFN Administration building
Fall post-secondary funding deadline	June 15	
After School Sports & Activities	Monday 3:15 to 5:15 p.m.	Nàkwät'à Kù Potlatch House
Tutoring Club	Monday to Thursday 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.	Kenädän Kù House of Learning
Homework Club	Monday to Thursday 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.	Kenädän Kù House of Learning
Reading Club	Monday to Thursday 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.	Kenädän Kù House of Learning
Dusk'a Family Luncheon	Last Thursday of every month 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Dusk'a Learning Centre
Lunch and Learn	First Wednesday of every month 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.	Meet at Natsékhi Kù Health Centre
Chronic Conditions Luncheon	Every 3rd Wednesday	Meet at Natsékhi Kù Health Centre
Healthy Babies Healthy Generations Lunch	Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 12 to 2	Natsékhi Kù Health Centre
Women's Support Circle	Every 2nd Thursday 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Natsékhi Kù Health Centre
Men's Support Circle	Every 2nd Wednesday 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Natsékhi Kù Health Centre
Sewing Group Drop-in	Thursdays (Jan 17 to March 28) 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Classroom at the Health Centre
Education, Apprenticeship or Employment Planning	Daily by appointment	Kenädän Kù House of Learning

ABOUT	CONTACT
Opportunities for Citizens to contribute to a proposed Citizenship Act.	Amanda Calbery: 633-7800 ext. 131 or amanda.calbery@kdfn.net
Discussion about KDFN rental housing now, and decisions about the future. Lunch provided. Community Feast after.	Community Services: 633-7833
School's out! See our website or Facebook page for youth activities	Kaitlyn Charlie: 334-8728
Citizens are invited to help identify lands to be used for development.	Geoff Cowie: 633-7800 ext. 119
Applicants must meet eligibility criteria	Dawn Waugh: 633-8422 ext. 508 or dawn.waugh@kdfn.net
Overview of Community Lands Plan input received to date	Geoff Cowie: 633-7800 ext. 119
Tour a selection of KDFN's settlement land located within Whitehorse	Geoff Cowie: 633-7800 ext. 119
Applicants must meet eligibility criteria	Dawn Waugh: 633-8422 ext. 508 or dawn.waugh@kdfn.net
Come hang out and have fun after school! Ages 9-17	Kaitlyn Charlie: 334-8728
By appointment. One-on-one tutoring catered to individual learning styles	House of Learning Reception: 633-8422
Bring your homework and let's get cracking!	House of Learning Reception: 633-8422
K-Grade 5. We are joined by the Family Literacy Centre on Tuesdays	House of Learning Reception: 633-8422
Healthy lunch for the families of children who attend Dusk'a	Dusk'a Reception: 393-3775
Everyone welcome. Different topics every month	Clinic Nurses 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 families to 18 months old	Renee Roy 334-3128 or Kathryn Laloge/Amy-Lynn McCann 335-4477
Learn self-care strategies, check-in, enjoy dinner and activities.	Laura Sutherst: 334-7673
Learn self-care strategies, check-in, enjoy dinner and activities.	Johnny Brass: 335-3695; 668-7289 ext.205
Lunch is provided - Come sew and socialize. Bring your own projects.	Marion Fayant 668-7289 ext. 213
Do you want to go back to school but don't know where to start? Are you looking for a job but the paperwork and resume process is hard? We are here to help with education applications, employment or apprenticeship.	Come to Reception at the Kenädän Kù House of Learning to meet with one of us from the Case Management Team.



Youth Recreation is thrilled to hit the slopes with the Yukon Youth Outdoor Leadership Association thanks to our continued partnership. We've gone to Mt. Sima a few times already this season and look forward to more good times in the coming months. For more information, call Kaitlyn at 334-8728.

**RETURN ADDRESS:**

**Kwanlin Dün First Nation**

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

 Find us on Facebook!

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**DESTINATION Address:**