

Kwanlin Dän Ch'a

"Kwanlin people of Whitehorse, how are you?"



KDFN's new Chief and Council. *Front row (L to R):* Jessie Dawson, Jennifer Edzerza, Charlene Charlie and Alicia Vance. *Back row (L to R):* Raymond Sydney, Rick O'Brien and Ronald MacIntosh.



Spring Workshops

This spring, KDFN's House of Learning will be offering a series of workshops.

The purpose of these workshops is to help community members build skills for summer employment.

The courses will include:

- Enform Chainsaw Safety
- Wilderness First Aid
- BC Traffic Control Person (Flagging); and
- Resume writing

For more information contact:

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Election Results

(Bold indicates elected)

Chief

Rick O'Brien	202
Ray Webb	112
Wayne Jim	78
John B. Smith	47

Council

Jennifer Edzerza	208
Raymond Sydney	197
Alicia Vance	178
Ronald MacIntosh	177
Jessie Dawson	174
Charlene Charlie	154
Judy Gingell	130
Ann Smith	122
Millie Sam	121
Sean Smith	118
Edith Baker	113
Linda Huebschwerlen	108
Howard MacIntosh	103
Helen Charlie	100
Malcolm Dawson	85
Jacine Fox	78
Leonard Gordon Sr.	74
Amanda Calbery	53
Larry Smarch	39

New Chief & Council

Kwanlin Dün citizens elected a new Chief and Council this month (*see side box*).

Rick O'Brien was elected chief. He will replace Mike Smith who chose not to run for re-election. Chief O'Brien, however, is not new to this role. He was KDFN's chief from 1999-2003.

The new chief said that KDFN members want jobs. He plans to make sure the First Nation gets involved in developments in its traditional territory. "I'm going to really focus on economic development. I'm going to look at creating jobs," Chief O'Brien said on election night.

The new chief also said KDFN members want change and openness, they want to be involved. He noted he needs to talk with citizens and the new council before setting direction, adding that "self-government doesn't mean I do it by myself." Council will be planning a General Assembly soon to help set KDFN's priorities.





Celebration Dinner

National Aboriginal Addictions Awareness Week (NAAAW)

In January, KDFN hosted the NAAAW Celebration Dinner (this dinner was supposed to be held in November but was postponed due to deaths in the community).

In addition to dinner and dancing by the Elijah Smith School Dancers, the event included a bannock-making contest. Winners for this delicious contest were: Jolene Smarch (1st); Tamara Vance (2nd); and Mary Allison (3rd).

We also hosted a NAAAW poster contest. The winners for the family category were Lionda Moen and her family. The classroom category was won by Selina's Pye's class. Jasmine Johnson won in the youth category, and Rae Mombourquette won the adult category.

We also distributed two community role-model awards and many healthy living certificates (*see side box*).

Thanks to everyone who participated and attended the celebration!

Community Role Models

At the NAAAW Community Dinner in January, Jason Charlie (above) and Honey-Starr Sydney received Community Role Model Awards.

There were also several certificates given out to people who are living healthy lifestyles.

Nominations for the community role model awards and the healthy lifestyle certificates came from other community members.

Everyone nominated for a healthy lifestyle received a certificate. A committee reviewed the nominations and picked the people for the role model awards.

We know there are many people out there who are living healthy lifestyles who we may have missed! So we would like to say "CONGRATULATIONS" to everyone living a healthy life. Give yourself a pat on the back!



Thank You Chief Smith!



Chief Mike Smith at his thank-you lunch. "He is one of us and we wish him every happiness from our people and from our hearts," said KDFN citizen, Ann Smith.

After serving as KDFN's chief for almost eight years, Chief Mike Smith decided this year not to run for another term as KDFN's leader.

On March 15th, KDFN staff and community hosted a lunch to acknowledge and praise Chief Smith's hard work, dedication to his community, and leadership skills.

In addition to sharing many songs, gifts, stories and jokes, many people took the opportunity to express their gratitude and respect.

Many noted that Chief Smith always worked for his people, standing up for them when the going got tough with other governments.

"He was never afraid to say no the the Yukon and federal governments," noted KDFN citizen Elaine Shorty. "He was always there, fighting for us."

His knowledge and skills were highlighted as fundamental to KDFN successfully negotiating its land claims and self-government agreements within City boundaries. These agreements were a huge milestone for KDFN.

The Chief was also thanked by younger community members and staff for being a strong mentor and role model, someone who was always there to listen and to learn from.

Chief Smith was recognized for his support and respect of his culture, listening to Elders and being a spiritual person. His ability to respect and consider everyone's traditions and strengths was acknowledged. He was thanked for caring about the unity of his diverse community and working to bring people together.

"Chief Smith respected his team," said Loretta Edzerza, KDFN's Executive Director. "He acknowledged their skills and respected their advice."

Chief Smith thanked everyone for their gratitude and the honour of serving KDFN.

Popular Courses

It has been another successful year of offering College Prep courses at KDFN's House of Learning.

Over the two semesters students have taken part in a variety of College Prep courses. Along with the usual Math and English offerings, we also offered an Environmental Studies course. This course focused on contaminants that affect our land and animals. This course continues to be popular and very informative.

We also offered a new course, History 040. This course, which looks at the Yukon and Yukon First Nation's history, is being well received by students and Elders alike.

If you are interested in taking courses this fall, be sure to plan ahead! Please drop by and see us at KDFN's House of Learning classroom.



Two House of Learning students, Cathy Empey (left) and Charmaine Hall (right) achieved Dean's List status for the first semester by achieving an A average in all their courses.



Sarina Sydney was selected as the new spokesperson for the Youth Council.



At the February meeting, youth brainstormed a list of leadership characteristics they thought a spokesperson might have. They created a long list but acknowledged that a spokesperson couldn't do it all alone; they all needed to help out.

New Youth Spokesperson

In early February, KDFN youth gathered for a meeting at the Canada Games Centre. In addition to getting to know each other better through icebreakers and trust games, participants also talked about what they wanted to see more of in our community. They discovered there were a lot of common ideas about community needs.

Youth also brainstormed a number of characteristics they thought a spokesperson for the Youth Council should have. That night, participants selected Sarina Sydney to be their new Youth Council spokesperson.

"I am very grateful to have this opportunity," Sarina said. "I found the February meeting to be a learning experience for everyone. We all seem to have the same goals in mind which I thought was interesting. My biggest goal is to serve youth needs and will try my best to reach the expectations of youth."

In part, Sarina's role as the youth spokesperson is to attend the Chief and Council meetings and to arrange activities and meetings for the youth. All KDFN citizens who are 14-19 years old are automatically on KDFN's Youth Council.

The Youth Council needs your ideas! Sarina invites all KDFN youth, 14-19 years old, to the Youth Council meeting in April where we can brainstorm ideas on what we can accomplish this year. You can also contact Sarina directly with any questions or concerns. Phone 334-4895 or email kinda-maybe@hotmail.com.

Youth Council Meeting

Saturday, April 2nd, 2:30 to 5:30

Canada Games Centre (Meeting Room #2)

Youth will talk about what they are interested in doing in the coming year and how they can work together to get their ideas happening!

Sarina will also report back about the meetings she has attended as their spokesperson. The first part of the meeting will also include a recreational activity.

KDFN citizens who are 14-19 years old are members of the Youth Council and will receive an honoraria for attending the whole meeting.

Sharing our Knowledge

In February, three staff from KDFN's Governance Secretariat attended a Yukon First Nations conference designed to share our knowledge of self-government.

The keynote speaker at the conference was Dr. Stephen Cornell, a co-founder of the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development. His message was that governance matters!

Dr. Cornell explained that governance means "how to translate the will of the nation into sustained, organized, effective action." The Harvard Project's studies have shown that good governance is more important to economic development than many other factors.

KDFN staff also attended other sessions on a range of topics. One session involved a presenter from the Gwa'sala-"Nakwaxda" xw Nations on Vancouver Island. She described how youth of her community made a video to explain a project to the rest of the community and encourage them to participate in it.

A presenter from the National Centre for First Nation Governance led a session on preparing a strategic vision. When the Centre works with communities, they ask them to think about questions such as "what are the wisdoms and teachings that guide you?" and "what does creating a new memory in the mind of our children mean to your community?"

Other conference topics included communications, getting statistics about Yukon First Nations, and funding opportunities for capacity development.

Powers of the Youth Council

1. The Kwanlin Dün First Nation Youth Council may:
 - a. give advice and guidance to the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, in particular with regard to:
 - i. programs and services to meet the needs of youth;
 - ii. assistance to young people desiring to learn about the Kwanlin Dün clan system, traditions, and culture or the operations of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation; and
 - iii. any other matter that the Youth Council considers important;
 - b. appoint one member of the Youth Council to sit as non-voting member of the Council; and
 - c. appoint a person to sit as a non-voting observer at meetings or proceedings of the Judicial Council.

Live on KDFN lands?

Be sure to note that on your tax forms!



Taxes help a government provide programs and services to people. They contribute to the community.

A portion of the income taxes paid to the federal government by *anyone* who lives on KDFN Settlement Lands should be going to KDFN.

If you live on our lands, the federal government should be giving KDFN a portion of the taxes you will pay, or have paid since 2006.

It doesn't matter if people are KDFN citizens or even if they are First Nations people.

This doesn't mean you will be paying more taxes. It just means KDFN will receive some of what you pay because you live on our lands.

If you have been a resident on KDFN lands but haven't been noting that on your income tax returns since 2006, it's not too late. You can fill out a form so that KDFN can get its share. More of your tax dollars can go to the community.

How to fill out your tax forms

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

You will also need to fill out Form YT-432 to provide a few more details (it is only one page).

If you need help undersanding the residency requirements or amending your taxes since 2006, please contact the Finance Department at 633-7800.

Justice Community Meetings

Meetings at Nàkwät'à Ku

(Food & doorprizes provided)

Elders' Meeting

Monday, March 28th, 9:30-2:00

Youth Meeting *(14-19 years)*

Monday, March 28th, 5:00-7:00

Community Meeting

Tuesday, March 29th, 9:00-4:00

We will talk about administration of justice issues.

Wed. March 30th, 9:00-4:00

We will cover child welfare in the morning and land-based healing programs in the afternoon.

Private meetings

People can also request individual, family or group meetings to discuss these justice-related issues.

We can meet with you in your home, or at a KDFN office. All private meetings will be **confidential**.

To arrange for a private meeting, please call any of the following people:

Honey-Starr Sidney: 335-1174

Dianne Smith: 334-3997

Gaye Hanson: 633-6753

If you have general questions about Justice programs please call the Director of Justice, Jeanie Dendys, at 633-7851.

Administration of Justice Community Consultations

Recently, Teslin Tlingit Council (TTC) successfully signed an agreement dealing with the Administration of Justice with the Government of Canada after almost a decade of development and negotiation. KDFN is initiating its own work on developing a similar agreement.

Some examples of areas that may be explored in an administrative of justice agreement include adoption; inheritance; wills; marriage; management, control and protection of Settlement lands; natural resources; gathering, hunting, trapping or fishing; protection of fish, wildlife and habitat; prevention of overcrowding of houses/buildings; planning, zoning and development of the First Nation lands; policing; courts; and corrections.

We secured federal funding for the current fiscal year to support research and community consultation work. It is also supporting capacity development for KDFN's Department of Justice. Funding for the next fiscal year (2011-2012) will enable us to hire a full-time staff person to work on the administration of justice initiative.

There are a series of meetings planned in March to begin the dialogue with citizens on this important topic.

On March 15th, we held a one-day Justice Caucus meeting with a lawyer to brief the Caucus on the administration of justice agreement and the related process and opportunities for KDFN. The Caucus will begin the process of developing Terms of Reference and planning for meetings the following week.

At the end of March, we will be holding a number of other meetings (*see side box*). There will be separate meetings with Elders and youth. There will also be a two-day community meeting.

The first day will be dedicated to introducing the whole topic of administration of justice to the community and engaging in discussion. There will be a lawyer's presentation in the morning and small group discussion in the afternoon. The second day will be dedicated to the topics of child welfare and land-based healing which are connected to the administration of justice.

During March, we have also invited community members to have individual, family or group meetings with resource people. All of these meetings are helping us collect information on community issues and concerns. We are also gathering advice on how to go about researching and using First Nation knowledge as a foundation for First Nation delivered justice services.



This winter three KDFN members, Pat Joe, Darrin Dawson and Lorne Lawson (to right of picture) successfully completed a five-day Trapper's Education Program offered by Environment Yukon. KDFN's House of Learning arranged the participation of KDFN members in the course.

Additional Justice Updates

Child and Family Services (Child Welfare)

In addition to being a possible area within the administration of justice, KDFN has entered into a process with Yukon's Health and Social Services to negotiate an Immediate Measures Agreement (IMA) to provide a framework for the delivery of child and family services in the short term.

Following that, another agreement will be negotiated for a longer term.

At the community meeting in March, we want to hear views about how we can make sure these programs and services meet community needs.

Land-based Healing Programs and Services

KDFN delivered two successful land-based healing pilot programs last summer, one for women and one for men.

Discussions are underway to identify funding to move into a longer-term plan of service delivery in this area.

To help us plan for more programs, we want to improve our understanding of what the community would like to see included such as cultural and land-based activities, and therapy.

Exploring a New Employment Centre

A year ago, the KDFN's Economic Development initiated a Feasibility Study and Preliminary Business Plan for a possible KDFN Employment Centre.

The study involved surveying our Social Assistance recipients, interviewing staff in a number of KDFN departments, and researching other successful First Nation Employment and Training Centres. The study was completed late 2010 and presented to Chief and Council at the first 2011 Council meeting.

Council approved funding to move forward with the next phase of planning for the Employment Centre. This phase will involve lining up funding sources from the federal and Yukon governments and other bodies, identifying a physical location to house the Centre, and developing a detailed business plan for Council approval.

Once the funding, location and business plan are in place, we will move on to creating a new Centre that can help citizens develop resumes or interview skills, learn about available jobs and training opportunities and more.

For more information on the Employment Centre, please contact Peter Turner at 633-7880 or pturner@kwanlindun.com.



The Cultural Centre is changing every week. The cedar siding has gone up (right) and the long hallway which extends from the longhouse to the Canoe Pavilion (left) will be tiled this month.

Cultural Centre Consultations

The Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre (KDCC) continues to take shape! The doors and windows are installed, the cedar siding has gone up and people can now grasp the immensity and artistry of the building.

This month floor tiles are being laid in the lobby and the “River Corridor”, the hallway which extends from the Kwanlin Longhouse to the Canoe Pavilion. This corridor will eventually house Kwanlin Dün history starting from pre-contact to our present-day contemporary ways of life.

KDFN staff are working with the KDCC Steering Committee to create guidelines for acquiring community-made items which can

be part of the Centre’s permanent collections and be displayed along the River Corridor.

Community Consultation

On February 3rd, KDFN hosted a community consultation on the Cultural Centre. The meeting was a successful exercise in getting community feedback on the educational and traditional programs being planned for the Centre.

For more information on future workshops and activities such as the call for art work and crafts or the KDCC logo competition, please visit www.kwanlindun.com, join KDFN’s Facebook page, or call Rae at 633-7881.

What we heard from citizens

Participants at a Cultural Centre consultation provided comments on why the centre was important to them and their families.

Here is some of what we heard from people:

“The Centre is important because it establishes a KDFN presence on the Yukon River waterfront & tells the KDFN Story from ancestral times.”

“It is important because it is a place to tell our History and learn our Culture.”

“The Cultural Centre is owned by Kwanlin Dün First Nation.”

“It will promote positive gatherings and bring the community together.”

“It will be a place where future generations will learn about our past and be proud of our history and archives.”

“Promotes Pride and Dignity.”

“[The Cultural Centre is] a dream come true.”

CONTACT INFORMATION

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