

# Kwanlin Dän Ch'a

“Kwanlin people of Whitehorse, how are you?”



Fritz Mueller Photo

On June 21st, many people joined a procession from Rotary Park to the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre to kick off the Centre's Grand Opening celebration. The beautiful day was full of song and dance, story telling, food and fun. It was a wonderful community-wide celebration of KDFN's new cultural home by the river. Check out four videos of the celebration at [www.youtube.com/user/KwanlinDun](http://www.youtube.com/user/KwanlinDun). For a slideshow from the event, visit [flickr.com](http://flickr.com) and search "Kwanlin Dun First Nation."

## Important Child Welfare Agreement Signed

KDFN and the Government of Yukon recently signed an important agreement to guide the delivery of child welfare services to Kwanlin Dün children while keeping children safe and connected to their families, community and culture.

According to Jeanie Dendys, KDFN's Director of Justice, the new agreement "is about setting down procedures for social workers when they come into our community, and how Kwanlin Dün is going to be involved with those interactions."

The new agreement allows KDFN to be fully involved and present in child welfare matters involving Kwanlin Dün children.

The agreement applies to all staff in KDFN and in the Yukon government's Health & Social Services department who are involved in the delivery of child welfare services.

These staff will work together, on a government to government basis, to ensure that KDFN is fully included in all child welfare activities involving Kwanlin Dün children.

Negotiations for this agreement have been going on for two years, ever since KDFN initially banned child welfare workers from our land.

The agreement is a step towards KDFN eventually taking greater responsibility for the administration of child welfare.



## General Assembly 2012 Nàkwät'à Kù Potlatch House

On Friday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> (10am. to 7pm), KDFN departments will be providing information at our *Program Open House/Information Sharing Fair*.

On Saturday, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>, breakfast will be start at 8am. The GA will get underway at 9:30am.

And at 6pm on Saturday, we are hosting a community dinner and games night!

*Advance submission of GA resolutions is encouraged. A template is available online or call 633-7880 for assistance.*

*Check out the website for details on the GA or contact Reception at 633-7800.*

## Post Secondary Funding

Attention post secondary students! The deadline for submitting applications for financial assistance for the winter term is **Nov. 15, 2012 at 4:30pm.**

For information and forms, contact the Post-Secondary Education and Special Programs Coordinator at the House of Learning (633-8422) or get your applications online at [www.kwanlindun.com/education](http://www.kwanlindun.com/education).



Fritz Mueller Photo

## New Office Closure Policy

**Starting on November 1, 2012, KDFN will no longer close its offices when there is a death in the community or a funeral.**

This difficult decision was made after a lot of discussion.

Council received a draft recommendation from the General Assembly and consulted the Elders Council and other citizens.

People recognized that it costs KDFN a lot of money every time the office is closed. It interrupts important business, making it harder to provide quality programs and services to all of our citizens.

Employees who want to take a leave when a family member passes on will be able to do so (as provided for in our Personnel Policy).

Council is very respectful of families who lose loved ones and we want to continue to ensure citizens who pass on are honoured.

### Donations for Funeral Expenses

On request, KDFN will make the following donations to assist KDFN families with funeral expenses:

- \$100.00 will be provided for refreshments;
- \$800.00 will be provided to assist with funeral costs;
- Free rental of the Nàkwät'àKù for the service and the following potlatch ;
- A KDFN van will be made available to the family upon request. The family is responsible for gas and paying a driver who is on the KDFN drivers list.

## Chief and Council Message

It has been a full and rewarding past few months for KDFN staff and leaders.

On June 21st, National Aboriginal Day, hundreds of people celebrated the grand opening of our Cultural Centre.

It was a wonderful opportunity to exercise our traditional role of hosting people from different cultures and communities on the riverbanks. It was also a spectacular celebration of years of hard work by our negotiators, elders, staff and leaders to give life to the vision we had of regaining our place by the river and in the City of Whitehorse.

Yet the Cultural Centre is just one of the recent initiatives that highlight how Kwanlin Dün is moving proudly forward into a stronger future.

We have also signed an important Child Welfare Agreement with the Yukon government. This new agreement represents how KDFN puts the interests of our citizens first when working with other governments. This new agreement with the Government of Yukon will help KDFN protect our children and youth.

Children and youth are one of the six priorities outlined in our recently completed strategic plan. Our other priorities deal with: governance and financial management; income and wealth creation and management; lands and resources; social assistance and housing; and culture and heritage.

The strategic plan comes at the halfway point in our three-year

mandate. To date, we have been working hard on completing outstanding initiatives and dealing with issues carried over from past years.

This important strategic plan is a concrete example of how our Council is focusing on things that will make a real difference in people's lives, and that will strengthen and formalize our structure and practices as a government.

For example, we recently adopted a new policy on bereavement office closures, wrapping up an issue that has been the focus of much discussion over the years. It was a difficult decision to make, but after much discussion and consultation, we felt it was time to take this step.

Now, as we start the second half of our mandate, we will be focusing our energy and resources on moving forward on the priorities in our strategic plan and on delivering effective programs and services to our citizens.

As we move forward, we will continue to talk to our citizens and respond to your input.

This summer, in response to requests from many citizens, we held a General Assembly on the land. It was a great opportunity for people to visit and have fun together while talking about many important issues.

And we look forward to hearing more input and direction for our citizens at the October General Assembly. See you there!





Many youth had fun learning new mountain biking skills at five clinics put on by KDFN and Boreale Mountain Biking.

## Youth on the move!

This summer, KDFN's recreation program had youth on the move!

### Summer camp

There was a summer camp that ran from June 25th to August 3rd for kids 6-12 years old.

The camp was packed full of great activities including lacrosse, horseback riding, bowling, floor hockey, and of course tons of fun games and crafts! We also visited great places around town including the new Monkido aerial adventure obstacles at Mt. Sima.

### Mountain Biking

KDFN's Mobile Youth Centre partnered with Boreale Mountain Biking to hold five mountain bike courses in August and September.

Over fifteen youth participated and had a blast learning new skills and exploring the trails in our backyard. Both parents and kids said that this is something they would like to see continue next summer. Parents also suggested training on how to maintain mountain bikes.

### Active and Safe

The Recreation program also coordinated an injury prevention project called *Active and Safe: Back to the Land*. First Nation youth ages 12-19 from across the

territory were invited to participate and receive training on how to prevent injuries on the land.

We wanted to provide youth with the tools they need to spend more time on the land and do more traditional activities. The focus was on skills that would keep them, their family and their friends, safe.

Youth received their Pleasure Craft Operators ticket and learned to drive a motorboat safely. They completed a river rescue course, learned about archery and went on an eight-day canoe trip down the Teslin River led by the National Outdoor Leadership School.

Elders from the community also came to show how to set traps, make medicine bags, and set up a safe camp.

This project will happen again during March break. It will focus on winter activities including ice safety, setting a fish net, and snowmobile and avalanche safety. Participants will receive certification in Wilderness First Aid.

Thanks to all those who helped make this project a success!

*To learn more contact Tayler Vallevand-Vance or Michael Code at the Health Centre: 668-7289 or [recreation@kwanlindun.com](mailto:recreation@kwanlindun.com).*



The General Assembly held at Jackson Lake in July was a great success. People really enjoyed the chance to be on the land and to visit with friends and family. The summer GA was held in response to citizens asking for more meetings and activities on the land.

## Community-based Counselling

KDFN’s Counselling Services has been talking with community members about the counselling programs and services people would like to see at the Health Centre. Staff want to make sure the services they offer are meeting community needs.

This fall, for example, there is a support group on grief and loss being hosted by counselling staff at the Health Centre. This type of group was requested by community members.

Currently, Counselling Services offers a range of services for individuals, couples and families. People of all ages can access counselling.

People can access services for: substance misuse; mental health and wellness; trauma; family violence; residential school survivors; grief and loss; and general counselling.

Counselling services can be provided at the Health Centre and also to clients who might be at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, the hospital,

or other places in the community. Counselling services also provides referrals to other local service providers and programs.

Community members can get help with applications for residential treatment programs and they can also access pre-treatment counselling before they go off to such programs.

*If there are services, programs or groups you would like to see Counselling Services offer, we’d love to hear from you. Please call Jeremy, the team leader for the Counselling Services Team at 668-7289 or email [jeremy.baumbach@kwanlindun.com](mailto:jeremy.baumbach@kwanlindun.com).*



### Traditional Healer

Byron Matwewinin, a traditional healer from Manitoba, will be at the Health Centre from Nov. 5-16. People can book appointments to see Byron by calling 668-7289. Talk to Marion for more information.



### Safe Ride Home

Last May, KDFN’s Health Centre offered free rides home to people during the night after the buses stopped running (from May 21-27). The service was open to anyone in Whitehorse. The successful program was a done as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.





Youth at the summer General Assembly voted to elect a new Youth Councillor. Chris Vance was elected for a one-year term. At a special luncheon after the GA, Chris took the oath of office and was sworn into his position on Council by Doris Bill, Chair of KDFN's Judicial Council.

## New Committee for Donations and Artwork and Craft Purchases

Every year, KDFN receives requests for money to support a wide variety of events and activities. There are also requests for KDFN to purchase arts and crafts from community members for gifts or to be saved in our special permanent collection.

To help us make fair and consistent decisions, we decided to create a committee that would make decisions about requests for donations or to buy artwork.

KDFN is still fine tuning the donations policy and the terms of reference for the committee. We expect the Committee to be up and running shortly. The committee will include an Elder, three citizens from the community at large and one staff advisor.

KDFN citizens and organizations who want funding from KDFN for their recreation or community event or project will need to fill out an application.

Applications will need to be submitted before the 20th of each month and then the Donations Committee will

meet at the end of the month to review the applications.

KDFN will not fund 100% of any event or project. Everyone who applies for support from KDFN will be expected to raise money from other sources. For youth events, at least 25% must come from other sources. Adult groups will need to get at least 50% of their costs from elsewhere.

The maximum amount KDFN will contribute to any one person or organization is \$2000 per fiscal year. Eligible costs will include things like registration fees, accommodations, travel, facility rental, school events and trips.

A policy about KDFN buying arts and crafts has also been developed.

*For more information, contact Beth Theriault at 633-7878 or [beth.theriault@kwanlindun.com](mailto:beth.theriault@kwanlindun.com).*

### Safe Ride Statistics

Total rides provided: 148

Program ran for 46 hours with 12 different volunteers

We drove a total of 1389 kilometres (863 miles)

### Thank you to our project partners:

- Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre
- Mic Mac Toyota
- Metro Chrysler
- Victim Services, Government of Yukon



# Moving Ahead with our New Strategic Plan

A group of about forty Citizens gathered at Nakwät'á Kù to participate in a series of two community dinners and information sessions on Kwanlin Dün's newly-released three-year Strategic Plan. The new three-year Plan covers 2012-2015.

The Plan includes important items that need to be put in place to help KDFN benefit more from its land claim and self-government agreements.

## How the Plan was developed

There have been many community meetings and reports that have provided ideas and input for this new Strategic Plan.

In addition to the community information nights, Chief and Council held sessions to introduce the Plan and its priorities to KDFN Directors and staff.

## Purpose of the Strategic Plan

The overall purpose of the Plan is to help KDFN succeed as it moves from being an *Indian Act* band back to being a self-governing First Nation. The desire is to have a government that meets both the traditional and contemporary needs of its members.

The actions in the Plan focus on:

- Developing legislation and policies that will result in greater confidence, certainty, efficiency and transparency
- Designing and establishing a governance structure that will allow KDFN to benefit from resource and revenue opportunities.

- Creating a jobs strategy that will improve work opportunities and success for KDFN Citizens.
- Developing a 'wealth creation and management' strategy that will give KDFN a firm and sustainable financial foundation.
- Improving the quality and delivery of programs and services to KDFN Citizens, with a special focus on social assistance, housing, child protection and youth.
- Improving communications with KDFN Citizens.

## Six Priority Areas

The Strategic Plan has six priority areas:

1. Governance and financial management,
2. Income and wealth creation and management,
3. Lands and resources,
4. Social assistance and housing,
5. Children and youth, and
6. Culture and heritage.

At the meetings, community members emphasized the need for the First Nation to commit to the initiatives in the Plan. They expressed a sense of urgency for getting the work done.

Now that the community and staff meetings are done, KDFN Directors using the Strategic Plan to develop are developing work plans and budgets for 2013-14. There will be more future opportunities for citizen involvement in these initiatives.

*Citizens can get a copy of the Strategic Plan at reception at 35 McIntyre Drive or by calling 633-7800.*



Clare Daitch photo

## Heritage and Culture Essential Skills (HACES)

Twelve students are taking part in the Heritage and Culture Essential Skills (HACES) program being offered through Yukon College this fall.

Delivered at the House of Learning, the 10-week program has been customized to fit First Nation needs. It is building people's ability to manage, interpret and celebrate First Nation heritage resources.

HACES students are developing essential skills—such as reading, writing and computer use—while they work on a heritage project. They are interviewing Elders, researching archival materials, learning filmmaking and photography skills, and much more! And students will be developing a website to share their community projects!

Students had fun learning team building skills during the Steps for Success course.





Government of Yukon photo

In September, Jeanie Dendys, KDFN's Director of Justice, accepted a Community Safety Award on behalf of the Jackson Lake Land-based Healing Program. It was presented by the Yukon government's Justice Minister, Mike Nixon.

## Community Safety Award

KDFN's Jackson Lake Land-based Healing Program was recently given a Community Safety Award.

The program was recognized for its role in preventing people from entering or re-entering the criminal justice system.

The program was seen as providing a supportive environment for people struggling with substance abuse, the effect of residential schools, grief and violence.

The Community Safety Awards were created as a result of the Review of Yukon's Police Force. This police review highlighted a need to recognize the contributions of Yukoners who promote community safety.

Yukon government's Justice Minister, Mike Nixon, presented eleven recipients with the first annual Community Safety Awards at a reception for the *National Symposium on Policing in Northern and Remote Canada* on September 18th.

## Wildlife Recommendations

At the end of last March, the Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating Committee (SLWCC) wrapped up four years of hard work. KDFN was the co-chair of this committee and one of five committee members representing various Yukon-based First Nations. Other members included the Taku River Tlingit and the BC, Yukon and federal governments.

The SLWCC was set up under the Kwanlin Dün and Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreements. This committee was the first collaboration by all governments in the Southern Lakes region to recover and conserve wildlife and their habitat in this area.

### Over 90 new recommendations developed

Over the four years, the committee completed the most comprehensive assessment of wildlife knowledge and concerns on record to date.

The committee then came up with 9 key recommendations and 83 supporting recommendations. The recommendations were based on what was learned during the assessment.

The nine key recommendations are considered essential for effective wildlife management in the area. Some are really important for the public management of wildlife (such as cooperation among the responsible parties and public education). And others deal with issues that are common for many groups of species (such as harvest and habitat management).

The 83 supporting recommendations are specific to individual species or groups of species.

These supporting recommendations are intended to guide the parties when they are setting their priorities or addressing issues for specific species (such as moose or furbearers). The supporting recommendations may also provide guidance to others interested in helping wildlife in the region.

The SLWCC members submitted their recommendations to all of the nine governments represented on the committee and respectfully requested that these parties work together to implement the nine key recommendations.

For more information, please contact Dave Sembsmoen at 633-7814 or [dsembsmoen@kwanlindun.com](mailto:dsembsmoen@kwanlindun.com).





## Paws & Claws

On September 15th, Nakwataku Potlatch House saw more four-legged animals than ever before!

KDFN helped organize a "Paws and Claws" event with the City of Whitehorse and the Humane Society. The purpose of the event was to help ensure our community is safe for everyone and to help citizens take care of their pets.

During the one-day event, 15 pets were spayed or neutered, immunized with rabies and other shots, micro-chipped and given a lifetime dog license. Transportation to and from the vet clinic was provided.

As some services couldn't be completed that day, a follow up clinic will be arranged for again later in the fall.

# Cultural Centre is a Busy Place: Come Visit!

It has been an exciting and rewarding first summer in the Cultural Centre!

The Grand Opening on June 21st was an amazing community-wide celebration of the Centre. Beforehand, KDCC staff were busy installing many different displays of Yukon First Nations art, artifacts, and information in time for the successful opening.

Throughout the summer, the Artist Studio was filled with artists creating paintings, prints, carvings, and more. Behind the Centre, the Northern Cultural Expression Society carvers, under the guidance of Master Carver Wayne Price, worked away on a Healing Totem. This totem will be raised in early November.

Over 5,000 visitors came to learn about Kwanlin Dün's history, culture and Traditional Territory. The Centre had visitors from all over Canada and the US, and as far away as Europe, Hong Kong, Thailand, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Tunisia. People were very enthusiastic about the displays, films, photographs, and our beautiful building.

The Centre is quickly becoming a popular facility for conference, meetings, weddings, and other special events. Rooms are booking up weeks and months in advance and clients are always talking about the beauty, atmosphere, and friendly staff at the Centre.


The staff at KDCC look forward to seeing more KDFN members come visit and use the spaces available for the community. The Elders' Lounge is open most days, during public hours, for anyone who wants a quiet space to meet, chat, reflect, and enjoy the fireplace. The Sacred Space can be booked, free of charge, for healing, spiritual, or counseling purposes (please call a week ahead to ensure it is available).

Our winter hours are: Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm; Saturday and Sunday, closed (except for rental bookings).

*If you have any questions about the Centre, please contact our front desk at 456-KDCC (5322) or [info@kdcc.ca](mailto:info@kdcc.ca). Or visit [www.kdcc.ca](http://www.kdcc.ca).*

### Kwanlin Dün First Nation

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

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