

# Kwanlin Dän Ch'a

“Kwanlin people of Whitehorse, how are you?”



KDFN hockey players of all ages came together to play hockey at the Takhini Arena on February 21st and March 5th. The games were organized to support ending violence against women. Recreation staff from KDFN Health gave players and spectators a small piece of moosehide to pin to their shirts and jackets as a show of support for ending violence and for honouring, respecting and protecting women and children.



## Save the Date!

We are planning a Summer General Assembly for June 14-16th at Jackson Lake. Be sure to mark your calendars!

## Keep your info updated!

Have you moved recently? Are you not getting any mail from KDFN? It is important the Citizenship Registrar office has your up-to-date mailing information!

Call Lily at 633-7865 or email [lsembsmoen@kwanlindun.com](mailto:lsembsmoen@kwanlindun.com) to make sure we have your correct contact info!

## Want to be smoke-free?

Do you want to stop smoking or take steps toward becoming smoke-free? Or are you looking for reliable information about tobacco use?

Health Promotion has free programs to help you.

If you are concerned about your smoking or are ready to become smoke-free, we're ready to help.

Contact the Health Centre at 668-7289 or drop by for more info.

## Elders Sharing Knowledge in the Schools

Many of our Kwanlin Dün Elders are working with Yukon schools in helping to provide First Nation programming. They make themselves available to visit schools to share their teachings.

### Resource booklet being developed

At a recent Elders Council meeting, the Yukon government's department

of Education presented their plans to create a resource booklet with profiles of Elders and other community members who have traditional skills to share and are available to come in to the schools to work with students.

Elders and other community members interested in being part of the

resource booklet are asked to complete a profile. The profile should indicate the types of knowledge that you can share, your contact information and fee information.

*To sign up, contact Selena Pye at Yukon's department of Education at 456-6734.*



Students at Elijah Smith proudly display beadwork they worked on last year with the help of KDFN Elder, Annie Smith.



## Help ensure your taxes support your community!

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

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

It doesn't matter if people are KDFN citizens or even if they are First Nations people. If you live on our lands, the federal government should be giving KDFN a portion of the taxes you will pay.

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

So when you are preparing your income tax forms this year, make sure you include information on where you live if you live on KDFN lands. You can fill out one easy form to make sure that KDFN gets its fair share.

### 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 Dün 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).

KDFN signed a tax sharing agreement in 2006 so if you have lived on our lands but haven't been filling out the forms, it's not too late! We can help you do the residency forms for the past 6 years.

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

## Chief & Council Message

Many of the stories in this newsletter talk about the contributions of time and ideas that so many people make to our community and First Nation.

We have Elders sharing their knowledge in the schools and youth meeting to provide input on what they would like to see happen in our community.

Community members of all ages have also been coming out to open houses to provide their ideas on community safety and well-being. Beneficiaries have been attending meetings to provide input on the development of the Trust Fund.

And we have volunteers working with our young Kwanlin Koyotes to get them on the land, having fun and staying healthy.

Last fall, we also had great participation in our General Assembly. Each GA, we see more people are coming out to have a voice in their First Nation. Many also came to the Open House the night before the GA to learn more about KDFN's programs and services.

Chief and Council applaud the growing number of people who take the time to put their ideas forward and those that volunteer their time to help others in our community and who put their name forward for committees and working groups. Your contributions are so important to the success of our First Nation and our community as a whole.

In the coming year we will be working hard, with your continued guidance and input, to implement the Strategic Plan. This Plan, which was also developed in consultation with the community, will help us create a stronger government and a healthier community.



The day before the General Assembly in October 2012, KDFN departments held an open house. Many people came and learned more about our programs and services. They also provided staff with good feedback.





## Kwanlin Dün Elder Honoured

According to tradition, the government's Finance Minister always wears a new pair of shoes to deliver the budget. Premier Pasloski chose to wear a new pair of mukluks, made by Annie Smith, to present his government's budget on March 21st.

Yukon's Premier opened the legislature with a tribute to Kwanlin Dün Elder Annie Smith. Premier Pasloski described Annie Smith as "an icon of Yukon's First Nation sewing and beading community."

The Premier's tribute honoured Annie's lifelong sharing of her sewing and beading skills and her traditions.

Even today, at the age of 86 years old, Annie is still busy sewing and sharing her knowledge and skills with others. She travels to communities and schools and works with various First Nation organizations to foster cultural activities such as fishing, hunting, tanning, language and crafts.

Last summer, Annie was also presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition for all that she has contributed to the Yukon and Canada as a whole.

*Go to [www.legassembly.gov.yk.ca/coverage.html](http://www.legassembly.gov.yk.ca/coverage.html) for video or audio version of the Premier's tribute to Annie Smith.*

## McIntyre is getting rewired!



A new two-year project will provide the McIntyre subdivision with improved electrical services, telephone, cable television and faster Internet connections.

Getting this new system in place requires putting in temporary, above ground poles and wires in this summer. The old underground system will be dug up and replaced next year.

The project is being done by Yukon Electrical Company Ltd (YECL) and Northwestel (at no cost to KDFN).

### FIRST STEP: Temporary above-ground poles & wires

This summer, YECL will be surveying locations for temporary above ground poles. They estimate there will be 94 poles needed. As they will be digging up the underground system next year, the temporary poles will need to be located away from the current system and closer to residences.

Once the poles are in place, new overhead wiring will be installed. Then houses and KDFN buildings in McIntyre will be reconnected to new, temporary overhead system.

Kwanlin Dün is working with YECL to ensure that residents will be told about work in their area and any service disruptions that might happen when the system is changed from underground to overhead.

### NEXT YEAR: Replacing the underground services

In 2014, the old underground power and telecommunications infrastructure will be dug up and replaced with new upgraded services.

Once the new, improved system is in place, the temporary above ground services, including the poles, will be removed.

*McIntyre residents will be receiving project updates and notifications of any road or service disruptions. If you have any questions contact John Pattimore, KDFN's Lands Specialist, at 633-7836 or [john.pattimore@kwanlindun.com](mailto:john.pattimore@kwanlindun.com).*

# Training Program a Success

This winter eight First Nation students completed a 15-week Outdoor Power Equipment Maintenance and Repair Program.

Students learned new safe work practices including how to prevent injuries and fires and how to respond to accidents. They learned how to maintain and repair outdoor power equipment such as chainsaws, outboard motors and snowmobiles. They also learned new workplace skills like how to communicate effectively in the workplace and use a computer.

The students received certificates in Standard First Aid, WHIMIS and Chainsaw Safety. In May, the successful participants will receive a Certificate of Completion from Yukon College.

The program was a collaboration between Yukon College and KDFN. It was funded by the federal Northern Adult Basic Education Program.

*Congratulations to Joseph Allison; Dakota McLeod; Christopher Dawson; Marlon O'Brien; Bobby Bill; Ethan Alex Carlick; Nolan Charlie; and Floyd Charlie.*



In February, eight First Nation students successfully completed a 15-week Outdoor Power Equipment Maintenance and Repair Program.



## Youth Injury Prevention Program a Success

Over March spring break, Kwanlin Dün hosted a youth Injury Prevention Initiative called "Back to the Land". Youth (ages 14-19) participated from across the Territory. They stayed at the Jackson Lake Healing Camp and participated in various training and activities.

They learned ice safety, including how to set fish nets safely on ice and to rescue themselves and others. They learned First Aid and CPR, avalanche awareness and snowmobile safety. They went out snowshoeing and learned about winter wilderness survival.

Every evening there were cultural activities. Participants also took a capacity building workshop to learn how to take these skills back to their communities. Their new skills will also be very useful for jobs in community recreation.



## Youth Brainstorming Session

Kwanlin Dün young people came together on March 12th for an afternoon of fun activities and to take part in a visioning exercise. The event was hosted by KDFN's Youth Council and was designed to inform Chief & Council on the priorities of our young people.

Suggestions gathered at the session focused on what youth would like to see in the community. Recreation facilities, coordinated activities and learning opportunities ranked high on the list of suggestions among participants.

The young people agreed to form a committee to work on advancing the voice of young people in Kwanlin Dün.

The March session was coordinated by Executive Council office whose mandate includes providing support services to governing bodies, and in this case, to Youth Council, an official governing body within KDFN.

## Kwanlin Dün Business Directory

KDFN maintains a directory of Kwanlin Dün member-owned businesses and is always accepting information on these businesses for the directory.

Having this information on hand allows us to ensure that contract opportunities reach our community as we receive many calls from companies and community partners looking to contract locally.

Kwanlin Dün also issues Requests for Proposals from time to time, and businesses that are listed in the directory can sign up to automatically receive open proposal calls in their area of expertise.

To add your business to this directory, contact KDFN's Communications Unit at 633-7835 or [communications@kwanlindun.com](mailto:communications@kwanlindun.com).

We will need your business name, address, contact information and a summary of services which will be posted on the Kwanlin Dün website and made available to our departments.

## Kwanlin Dün Filmed for Video Celebrating Self-Government

A video production team recently visited various Kwanlin Dün sites to collect film footage for a new video about two significant milestones in Yukon First Nation history.

The 2013 video commemorates the 40th anniversary of *Together Today for our Children Tomorrow* and the 20th anniversary of the signing of the *Umbrella Final Agreement*.

The educational video contains footage from visits to many Yukon First Nations. It highlights the benefits that Yukon First Nations have realized through their Self-Government Agreements.

The video can be found at [www.mappingtheway.ca](http://www.mappingtheway.ca). It will also be distributed to Yukon Self-Governing First Nations and other organizations involved in land claim implementation. It may be shown publicly at events here and outside the territory.

*The video production is a project of the Implementation Working Group's Communications Committee, and is supported by participating Self-Governing First Nations, the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada.*



KDFN Nurse Aubyn Russell and auxiliary Receptionist Mabel Logan working with the videographer at the Health Centre. The crew also filmed First Nations youth at Fish Lake during the Injury Prevention training, activities at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre and construction of the two new homes in McIntyre.

# New Secure Certificate of Indian Status Cards Being Issued

A new Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) card is being issued to replace the laminate and plastic Status cards that people now have.

The new cards have a number of security improvements to help protect First Nations from identity theft.

Kwanlin Dün's Citizenship Office recommends that Citizens whose current Status cards expire in six months or less should make an appointment with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) to get their new secure Status card.

There is a backlog of four months for applications so be sure to give yourself enough time to get a new card (however, if your old card expires, you will still have access to related benefits and services).

The following documents are needed to get a new card:

- Long form Birth Certificate with parents names (available from Vital Statistics);
- Two passport-style photographs (can be taken at the Qwanlin Mall Shoppers Drug Mart location, at Walmart or Photovision);
- Two pieces of valid identification (one must be picture ID) or passport;
- The completed SCIS application form.

People will have to pay for any fees charged for getting these documents, but there is no charge for getting the new secure Status card. All of your documents will be returned after the application is processed.

To ensure you have the correct documentation with your application, you might want to make an appointment with the local AANDC office in the Elijah Smith building. People whose Status card is expired, or close to its expiry date, are being given priority for appointments.

People can submit their applications by mail. However, if there is anything missing or not in the correct format, the incomplete application will be returned.

Older Status cards are valid until the renewal date on the card. The new and older cards can be used for crossing the border into the US (by land and water). But continued acceptance of these cards is up to the US and Canadian governments and could be changed in the future. So it is better to travel with a passport when you cross the border.

*For more information and the SCIS application form, visit [www.aadnc.gc.ca/](http://www.aadnc.gc.ca/). You can also call toll-free 1-800-567-9604 or 667-3347 to make an appointment or learn more.*

## CHOICES!

### Youth Sexual Health Conference 2013

Kwanlin Dün is hosting the second CHOICES! Youth Sexual Health Conference on July 26, 27 and 28th.

This conference will bring together youth from across Canada for 2.5 days of workshops, learning and networking.

There will be amazing speakers like actor **Dakota House** (TeeVee from the TV show "North of 60") and **Jessica Danforth (Yee)** from the Native Youth Sexual Health Network. There will also be dynamic entertainers and musicians such as renowned First Nation hypnotist and motivational speaker **Scott Ward**.



#### Volunteers needed!

We will need many hands working together to make this event in our community a success. *Please contact Christina Sim at 336-0854 or [choices@kwanlindun.com](mailto:choices@kwanlindun.com) to find out how you can help.*



Elders Council members took time out for a photo at a recent meeting in February. In the past year, Elders Council adopted new official Rules of Procedure. Their work on developing new Rules was part of KDFN's strategy to formalize and integrate mandates, roles, processes and authorities among Council and those that report to Council.

## Action Planning for Community Safety and Well-Being

In response to calls from the community, and in support of its strategic plan, KDFN's Chief and Council directed staff to start working on an Action Plan for Community Safety and Well-Being in December.

Council directed that an Interdepartmental-Community Working Group be set up with Directors from seven KDFN departments and five community members to oversee the action plan process. Two Elders, one youth and two other community members will be part of the Working Group.

The purpose of this project is to produce an action plan that will support actions—by both KDFN and the community—to improve safety and well-being.

### Immediate action

As good ideas come up during the planning process, the goal is to take action right away.

Two spin-off projects have been the training of staff and community members in crisis response and the planning for coordination between departments in the event of a crisis.

Funds have also been identified from Justice Canada to complete a community assessment related to youth land-based treatment.

### Community input

In February, two youth sessions were hosted by KDFN departments. The 45 young participants provided excellent ideas on how to keep youth and their families safe and to support healthier lives.

A community-wide open house the following evening drew a crowd of 150 people. People visited six displays throughout the Potlatch House on recreation and 're-creation'; youth programs and land-based healing; community crisis response; safety and security; community well being; and visions for the future. More great ideas were shared.

Jeanie Dendys, Director of Justice said: "It was great to see such a good turnout to the event. We saw people that do not usually come out and people thanked us for asking for their ideas."

More meetings were held in March to continue the planning and to help initiate action on immediate projects.

### Next steps

A draft action plan will be submitted to Chief and Council in April. More Community meetings will be organized throughout the year to support the planning and decision-making.





The Kwanlin Dün cemetery at the bottom of Two Mile Hill (above) and the graveyard near the hospital were restored last year. The Two Mile Hill Cemetery has been closed and there is a new Kwanlin Dün cemetery being developed on Long Lake Road.

## KDFN Cemetery Clean-up and Construction

Last summer and fall KDFN crews worked to clean up and restore the cemetery at the base of Two Mile Hill and the old graveyard behind the Whitehorse Hospital. The work crews cleared brush, repainted fences and repaired spirit houses.

This project was a cooperative effort between the Lands, Resources and Claims Implementation Department and Community Services and was funded by a grant from the Yukon government. Further restoration work on Kwanlin Dün cemeteries is planned for this upcoming summer.

### New Cemetery on Long Lake Road

In addition to cleaning up the existing cemeteries, Kwanlin Dün has developed a new cemetery along the Long Lake Road. This area was identified by Kwanlin Dün staff, citizens and Elders as the best location for a new cemetery.

Last June, a geotechnical assessment of the proposed cemetery site was done to make sure the site could support a cemetery and an access road.

The Lands department developed a plan for the cemetery site which identified the location for burial plots, parking and road access. A new access road was built off of the Long Lake Road. The cemetery will soon be ready for burials.

*To arrange for a burial in the new cemetery please contact the Lands, Resources and Claims Implementation department. Call Reception at 633-7800.*

## Forbidden Love: HACES Student Film Screens at Dawson Film Festival!

Congratulations to the students of Kwanlin Dün's recent Heritage and Culture Essential Skills (HACES) program! Their short film, *Forbidden Love*, was selected to screen at the Dawson City International Short Film Festival (March 28-31, 2013).



The film is a coming of age story about Hughy, a young man that is forced to choose between his mother's desire for him to attend bible school and his dream of becoming a DJ.

HACES students created this short film as part of their 10-week College program at the House of Learning. Students also developed their skills in interviewing, performing archival research and photography.

### Film Credits:

#### Actors:

Charles Hager  
Marie Webb  
Jackie Callahan  
Dennis Allen  
Marlon O'Brien  
Paula Taylor

#### Writers:

Paula Taylor  
Jackie Callahan  
Kristine Smarch  
Charles Hager  
Marie Webb  
Ann Marie Etzel  
Priscilla Smith  
Pearle Shorty

#### Behind the camera:

Clare Daitch - Producer  
Kristine Smarch - Director  
Paula Taylor - Sound  
Kristine Smarch - Camera

#### Coordination:

Ann Etzel  
Santana Charlie



# KDFN Beneficiary Trust Fund

Early last fall, a KDFN Trust Working Group was set up by Chief and Council. Six Beneficiaries were appointed to help create a trust fund that would preserve land claim monies for current and future generations.

The main task of the Working Group has been to develop an Investment Trust Deed for the fund. A trust deed specifies how a trust should be managed.

The purpose of KDFN's Investment Trust Deed is to ensure long-term growth of the fund through investments that have an acceptable level of risk. The overall goal is to make investments that will meet the needs of both current and future generations through the creation of a stable and consistent source of income for KDFN Beneficiaries.

To help it with its task, the KDFN Trust Working Group has been meeting monthly as well as getting direction from Kwanlin Dün Beneficiaries. The working group held community consultation meetings in October and December 2012.

The working group has also been working with a First Nation law firm to create a legal trust deed that reflects the uniqueness of our First Nation and the Beneficiaries.

## Where are we now?

A draft Investment Trust Deed has been completed and reviewed by the working group. It will soon be presented, along with the working group's recommendations, to Chief and Council for review.

After Chief and Council have had an opportunity to discuss the deed, another Beneficiaries meeting will be scheduled so that Beneficiaries may learn more about the Trust Fund and provide further insight and direction.



Learning to bake cupcakes was one of the activities at a Spring Camp hosted by Health in March. Kids also went bowling, snowshoeing, dog mushing. They made art and visited the wildlife preserve and hot springs.



On February 12th, KDFN and three other First Nations signed an important agreement dealing with overlaps of our Traditional Territories. *Left to Right:* Khà Shâde Héni Danny Cresswell (CTFN), Chief James Allen (CAFN), Chief Kristina Kane (TKC), Elder Judy Gingell and Chief Rick O'Brien (KDFN).

## Overlap Agreement Signed

KDFN recently signed an important agreement with three other First Nations. The *Interim Administrative Agreement for Overlapping Traditional Territories* deals with the overlap of the traditional territories of KDFN, Carcross/Tagish First Nation (CTFN), Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC), and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN).

"Reaching a successful conclusion on overlap issues marks a significant milestone for Kwanlin Dün," explained Chief Rick O'Brien. "The signing of this agreement will allow us to move forward in implementing key provisions that are set out in our Final Agreement."

In these overlap areas, many parts of our Final Agreement could not be applied until a number of issues were resolved. This new agreement and associated maps provide area boundaries for forest management planning, regional land use planning and a fresh water fish assessment and management plan.

The Agreement also allocates traplines between First Nations in the overlap area. It identifies common sense boundaries that are easy to locate on the ground and on a map.

The four governments have been working together toward an overlap agreement since 2007.

# New Offices for Canyon City, Improved Building for KDFN

Last year, Canyon City Construction, was paying rent in a small downtown office and its equipment and tools were spread over different places in town. It desperately needed one place where it could run its business out of.

It made a deal with KDFN. The First Nation owned a rundown building that no longer met code on the corner of Tlingit and Platinum in the Marwell area.



The new offices of Canyon City Construction are on the corner of Tlingit and Platinum. The KDFN company is a for-profit business that employs qualified citizens whenever possible.

Canyon City Construction agreed to pay up front for significant renovations to the building, including upgrades to the sewer and water, in exchange for a 15 year lease. KDFN still owns the building but it is now greatly improved!

The company started its work last May, employing a number of citizens to help completely redo the building.

In February 2013, Canyon City Construction moved into two of the four new offices. Another office is rented to another KDFN business, Whitehorse Property Management and they are looking for a tenant for the remaining office.

Canyon City Construction will be recouping the costs of reconstructing the building through saved rent costs in other locations and through profits from current and upcoming construction projects.

## Welcome New Constable



Kwanlin Dün would like to extend a warm welcome to RCMP Constable Philip Whiles.

The new constable provides services to Kwanlin Dün under an Enhanced Policing Agreement with the local RCMP "M" Division.

This agreement provides for up to two full-time RCMP members who work out of a satellite office in KDFN's Main Administration building.

This Agreement is just one example of the many ways that Kwanlin Dün Justice is partnering with the local RCMP in support of a greater policing presence and understanding of our community. It contributes to our vision of a safe, secure, closely-connected and thriving community.



Thanks to all the youth "Gophers" who helped out at last fall's General Assembly. Your help is appreciated by the community!



# Kwanlin Koyotes: Volunteer Energy Gets Youth on the Land

For over 12 years, Kwanlin Koyote volunteers have been helping our youth and families get on skis and out into the woods. People donate their time to setting the trails and coaching our youth.

“Volunteering is so important,” says Gary Bailie, who volunteers as Head Coach of the Koyotes. “It helps build a community.”

Gary has a Level III coaching certificate and has helped train others to coach. He also sets the tracks on the trails.

About 40 kids ski regularly as part of the club. Any child six or older is welcome to come out with the volunteers after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays (younger children must be accompanied by their parents). Equipment for youth and adults is available free or charge at the clubhouse and skiing on the Kwanlin Koyotes trails is free. The Koyote cabin is also open on the weekend.

Kwanlin Dün also has an agreement with the Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club. They use (and groom) our Sundog trail and, in exchange, our Koyote youth get to ski for free on all of their trails.

## Annual Kwanlin Classic Ski Event a Success

The Kwanlin Koyotes cross country ski club hosted another successful Kwanlin Classic ski event and fun day on March 22nd.

This annual event, sanctioned by Cross Country Ski Canada, involved young skiers from rural communities in addition to our own Kwanlin Koyotes skiers.

The day-long lineup of ski activities and games focused on cooperation rather than competition. Even the most inexperienced skiers felt encouraged to participate.

The nature of the event reflects the values of the ski club. Through the Koyotes ski program, young skiers learn about welcoming and hosting others. They also learn about cooperation and working as a team to succeed together.



Gary Bailie is one of the volunteer coaches.

KDFN's recreation program is now supporting the program by covering the operating expenses for maintaining the club.



## New Homes by and for KDFN

Just off of McIntyre Drive, KDFN's company, Canyon City Construction is busy building two new homes for the community.

These small, energy efficient two-bedroom homes are being built to help address the housing shortage in the community. They will be owned by KDFN and rented to our citizens.

The new homes are being built with quality materials that are healthy and durable. There will be efficient lighting, very well-insulated walls and roofs, natural wood kitchens, flooring that will last and many other great features.

The two new homes should be ready to move into in June (the process for allocating the homes will be developed in the coming months). Plans are being developed to build more high quality homes in the community.

### Congratulations Dennis Calbery!

Dennis (*left*) is one of the KDFN carpenters working on the new houses. In early March, Dennis complete his Journeyman Carpenter's ticket!

**Kwanlin Dün First Nation**

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



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