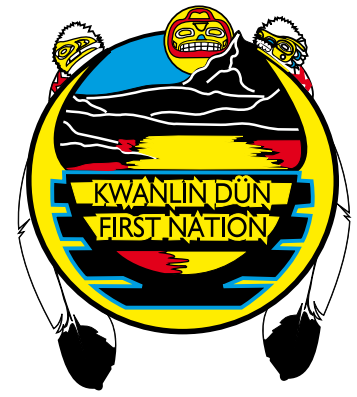


# Kwanlin Dän Ch'a

“Kwanlin people of Whitehorse, how are you?”



The KDFN Clean-up Crew – Kevin, Bobby, Marlon and John

## Feeling proud – thank you for your hard work!

This summer a major clean-up of the community took place. Many large, junk items from yards and homes were recycled and debris taken to the City of Whitehorse landfill.

The departments of Health and Community Services led this project and removed hazards that affect the health and safety of children, youth, elders and adults. Junked appliances, vehicles and garbage are both a health and an environmental concern. This project is about your well-being and that of your family's. Old vehicles and garbage can contaminate the land and attract bugs and rodents that can harm your health and damage your home.

Over the last few months, citizens have asked for more than 70 bins to clean both inside and outside their houses. Kwanlin Dün has removed more than 100 vehicles from its properties in Whitehorse and Marsh Lake.

Your landlord (KDFN) has a legal responsibility to ensure that Yukon fire and public health legislation is followed. Kwanlin Dün recently received a report from the City Fire Department about the fire risk too many vehicles pose. Your tenancy agreement requires you to keep leased property safe and clean, this includes removing all vehicles that are not insured or registered.

**There is still time to get more clean-up done!** The Kwanlin Dün Clean-up Crew will work until the end of September to get the job done. And, we will be celebrating everyone's hard work with a wrap-up BBQ, please watch for more information.

*To have a bin delivered to your home, help with cleaning debris or to have vehicles removed for free, please call the Health Centre at 668-7289.*

## WILLS AND ESTATE PLANNING FOR ELDERLY

KDFN has received funding for a one-time project to assist eligible Elders with writing their wills and planning their estates.

*For more information, please contact the office of the Chief at 633-7826 or by email: eileen.duchesne@kdfn.net*

## SENIORS INCOME SUPPLEMENT

The Yukon Seniors Income Supplement provides an income supplement of up to \$247.53 monthly to low-income seniors 65 years and over who are also receiving the federal old age security (OAS) and guaranteed income supplement (GIS).

*For more information visit [www.hss.gov.yk.ca/ysis.php](http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/ysis.php), call 456-3946 or contact the Health Centre at 668-7289.*

## FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Kwanlin Dün First Nation annual General Assembly is scheduled for October 23-25<sup>th</sup> at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre

A follow up notices and advertising will begin as the meeting date approaches.

*Citizens can call 633-7800 or monitor our website for updates.*

# Message from Chief Bill



Several steps have been taken to address these concerns and a full report will be delivered at this year's General Assembly.

I would also like to personally thank all citizens who have welcomed staff into their homes to discuss their housing concerns and those who have played an active role in the community clean-up initiative. Your assistance is very much appreciated.

Over the next several months, you will also see some significant changes at Nàkwät'à Kù Potlatch House thanks in part to the recent approval of our Canada 150

application, under the Community Infrastructure Program. The renovation will allow for an expansion and many improvements to the facility. More details will be shared in the coming months and we appreciate your patience while the renovations are underway.

Finally, on October 19<sup>th</sup> Yukoners will go to the polls to exercise their right to vote in the federal election to elect Yukon's Member of Parliament.

There have been changes to the *Canada Elections Act*; Kwanlin Dün First Nation will explain these changes at the September 30<sup>th</sup> Let's Keep Talking community meeting. I encourage citizens to attend.

I hope this message finds you well. As you read through the newsletter, I am sure you will find the Council and Administration have been very busy over the past few months and we have much to report on.

As many of you may know, the fall General Assembly has been scheduled for October 23-25, 2015, at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. The Council encourages citizens to attend.

For those of you who cannot be here for the GA, please contact our office for any relevant information you wish to receive and continue to monitor our website for updates at [www.kwanlindun.com](http://www.kwanlindun.com).

Among the many issues and initiatives that were identified at the 2014 General Assembly, removal of derelict (run-down and abandoned) vehicles and community safety were identified as major priorities.

## KDFN at Brooks Brook Handgames Tourney

Congratulations to KDFN's team "Helen's Angels" on placing 6th overall of 30 teams!



KDFN team (left to right): Steven Shorty, Sean Smith, Merlin Charlie, Tyler Smith, Dennis Calbery, Brent Taylor



Drummers (left to right): Roger Ellis, Doronn Fox, Tyler Smith, Dennis Calbery, Steven Shorty, Joseph Nayally



KDFN kids (left to right): Brody Calbery, Novak Calbery, Tayvin Calbery, Takaska Calbery, Adam Dawson, Tamika Charlie



"Helens Angels" (left to right): Jackie Callahan, Pearl Shorty, Wynette Dawson, Alanah McLaren, Cheryl Dawson, Amanda Calbery (Photos: Jackie Callahan)



# Citizenship Office Now Accepting Beneficiary Applications

KDFN's Citizenship Office is now accepting applications for new beneficiaries only. This applies to people who are not enrolled with any other land claims agreement in Canada.

Citizenship applications for persons linked to the new beneficiary's application are also accepted at this time.

Draft *Kwanlin Dün Citizenship Act* legislation is currently in development. This legislation is needed before the Citizenship office can begin to deal with any other types of applications, such as transfers. KDFN's Citizenship Committee and Council have been working through the legislative process as quickly

as possible. Even though passing legislation takes time, having laws in place will guarantee that the process is clearly outlined and fair for all persons that the law is designed to serve.

KDFN's Citizenship Registrar is available to assist in the process of applying for beneficiary status and citizenship. The Citizenship Office is also responsible for keeping citizen contact information current.

*Please contact KDFN's Citizenship Office to arrange an appointment or to update your contact information; call 633-7843 or email [citizenship@kdfn.net](mailto:citizenship@kdfn.net).*

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## Kwanlin Dün and City Partnership Initiatives Underway

Many visible improvements have been put into place since Kwanlin Dün and City of Whitehorse held a cooperation forum last September. Some of the results include:

### Bus Shelters

Last winter the City installed new bus shelters along the McIntyre Drive and Crow / Swan Street bus routes. They feature KDFN's wolf and crow moiety symbols designed by Kwanlin Dün artist Justin Smith. The artwork was also used for the lamppost banners (shown right).



### Hamilton Boulevard Turning / Merging Lane

City crews have constructed a turning and merging lane at the intersection of McIntyre Drive and Hamilton Boulevard, at the request of Kwanlin Dün during the forum last September.

The new lane provides safe turning and merging for drivers making a left turn onto Hamilton Boulevard off McIntyre Drive.

### KDFN Moiety Lamppost Banners

New banners featuring KDFN's wolf and crow moiety symbols are displayed on the street lampposts between 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Front Street along Black Street and in the entryway to Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. The banners also display KDFN's crest and the City of Whitehorse logo along the bottom of the design.

### Vulnerable Persons at Risk Forum



In April, KDFN and the City of Whitehorse jointly hosted a forum to discuss ways to support and improve conditions for the City's most vulnerable persons. *For more information on this key initiative, check out our article on page 10.*

# Tiny Buildings Project Delivers Wide-Ranging Benefits

This spring Kwanlin Dün, Yukon government and Carcross Tagish Management Corporation partnered to deliver a project to build a series of tiny buildings to be used as micro retail spaces in Carcross.

The project provided a group of KDFN citizens with an opportunity to gain work experience and to develop carpentry skills under the guidance and mentorship of local Journeymen.

“Programs like these not only lay the groundwork for a future career, they help build experienced, employable Citizens,” Kwanlin Dün Chief Doris Bill said.

Merlin Charlie, Kerry MacIntosh, Renaldo Menzi and Steven Shorty successfully completed the project.

They demonstrated dedication to the project and were reliable, hard working and supportive of the program and one another.

They all took great pride in the quality of the tiny homes they built as a team and they each gained skills that they can now use to build a future career.

The four men have signed up with the Apprenticeship Board through Yukon government's Advanced Education Branch so that all their work hours are counted toward future efforts to acquire journeyman status.

“It was a great way to get young men into a good working habit, a great way for them to see what really goes on in the business and to learn a new skill. I thought having them all sign papers to be apprentices was awesome and gives them all something to look forward to other than just being a labourer. If there is the chance to build more, I would be happy to join again,” said Steven Shorty, project participant.

The tiny buildings were ready in time for this summer's tourism season and are now used as micro retail spaces for vendors in the Carcross Commons.

*KDFN and partners are exploring the possibility of providing another intake for this successful program. Stay tuned for further updates!*

## FEDERAL ELECTION - CHANGES TO VOTER REQUIREMENTS

There will be a federal election on Monday, October 19, 2015.

All Canadians aged 18 or over as of Election Day are eligible to vote. Citizens must register to vote.

Citizens should make note of the following changes to voter requirements:

### **Voter Registration**

Ways to register to vote in the election:

- go to [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca); or
- call 1-800-463-6868; or
- visit the Elections Canada office in Whitehorse.

### **Voter Identification (ID)**

To prove your identity to vote in the election, you will need to present ID that proves who you are (has your name and photo) and where you live (physical address).

### **No Permanent Address?**

Persons without a current address, options are available, such as shelters issuing letters of confirmation

For a complete list of acceptable ID, go to [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca) or visit the Elections Canada office in Whitehorse.

### **On Election Day**

To vote on Election Day, you must bring identification proving who you are and where you live. Identification is needed even if you have already registered as a voter. Your voter registration card is NOT a form of ID on Election Day.

*For more information, call or visit the Elections Canada office at 456-3777 or in the Yukon Centre Mall located at 2190 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (next to Liquor store and Cash Plan) in Whitehorse.*

*At the September 30<sup>th</sup>, Let's Keep Talking meeting at the Potlatch House, we will provide more information and computers to register online - bring your ID.*

# Visiting Dignitaries Receive Messages of Importance to KDFN

As a self-governing First Nation, Kwanlin Dün is an official order of government. Many visiting dignitaries request meetings with leadership and invite leadership to talk at functions.

Over the summer visiting dignitaries met with the Chief and she was invited to speak at gatherings such as the July 2015 Conference of the Governor General, Lieutenant Governors and Commissioners at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.

At this dinner, Chief Bill spoke to the governors and commissioners about the importance of the recently released Truth and Reconciliation Report. She specifically recommended that they do everything in their power to not shelve this report and its recommendations.

“Our most valued resource is our people and the legacy we leave for future generations,” said Chief Bill.

“As Justice Murray Sinclair reported, the cumulative impact of residential schools is one of unresolved trauma. There needs to be a fundamental shift in the relationship between government and First Nations if reconciliation is to be achieved – a shift that has to go both ways. Do not allow this document to be shelved, it is time for resolutions.”

Chief Bill went on to speak about the work the KDFN government is doing like engaging the City of Whitehorse in the Vulnerable People at Risk forums, the Strength Within Circle / youth wellness gathering and the on-going Let’s Keep Talking meetings.

*To stay informed, 'like' us on Facebook and visit [www.kwanlindun.com](http://www.kwanlindun.com)*



Chief Bill and KDFN Executive Director Roxanne Vallevand hosted a delegation visiting from New Zealand (above left). Chief Bill also met with a cultural delegation visiting from China earlier in the year. Talks included the possibility for hosting cultural exchanges in the future (above right).

## MCINYRE POLLING STATION - MUNICIPAL ELECTION ON OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

**The municipal (City) Election is on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> (before the federal election).**

For the first time in a city election, there will be a polling station in McIntyre subdivision to assist those with access and mobility issues (Elders and people without transportation).

There will also be regular polling stations for the October 15<sup>th</sup> municipal election at the Canada Games Centre and at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.

*Please stay tuned for more details.*

# House of Learning Fall/Winter Program Schedule

## Personal and Employment Exploration Week

*September 21st – 25th (Mon – Fri)*

*9:00am – 3:00pm*

This one-week workshop is designed for those people who want to work or go to school and don't know what direction to take. We will focus on the following:

- Personality Dimensions – a four-morning workshop aimed at discovering which jobs suit your personality
- Develop a resume and cover letter, and learn how to succeed in a job interview
- Explore your educational options at Yukon College and learn how KDFN Education can help you achieve your educational or employment goals.

## Workplace Essential Skills – Commercial Cleaning

*October 19th – December 4th, 2015 (Mon – Thurs)*

*9:00am – 3:00pm*

Gain essential skills for the workplace while training to become a custodian. This seven-week program will provide the opportunity for learning in the following areas:

- Commercial cleaning techniques and tools
- Safety training - certification in First Aid, WHMIS and Food Safe

- Background math, chemistry, computer use and other essential skills involved in the profession
- A better understanding of personal barriers to employment and support to create an action plan
- Workplace experience

## Workplace Essential Skills – Introduction to Trades

*Exact date TBA (mid-January 2015 for 7 weeks)*

Interested in the trades? We are working on a program to be offered mid-January that includes an introduction to trades-based math, introductory computer skills and we are partnering with Yukon College to offer the following courses:

- Construction Carpentry for Beginners
- Basic Home Plumbing
- Basic Home Wiring

HOL programming is open to all KDFN citizens free of charge, but registration is required. All courses will be held at the House of Learning – 5 O'Brien place.

*For more information or to register contact Faith at 334-2444 or [faith.whiting@kdfn.net](mailto:faith.whiting@kdfn.net).*

## CITY CALLS ON RESIDENTS TO REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING

Kwanlin Dün Council supports the City of Whitehorse in its efforts to put a stop to illegal dumping. Illegal dumping is the deliberate disposal of unwanted items where it does not belong. Couches, fridges, construction and demolition waste, televisions, household garbage and more are being discarded in our wilderness.

Earlier this summer, City crews installed signs encouraging residents to report illegal dumping. If you see someone illegally dumping, record the date and time along with

a description of the person, vehicle and materials being discarded.

To report illegal dumping and illegally dumped materials call 667-2111. Callers can remain anonymous if they choose.

*Tipping fees will be waived on Household Hazardous Waste on September 19, 2015 from 10am to 4pm at the Waste Management Facility. For more information, visit [whitehorse.ca/hhwdays](http://whitehorse.ca/hhwdays).*



# Let's Keep Talking About Community Safety and Well-Being

Every four to six weeks the community has been coming together with staff and leadership to share dinner and talk about issues at the "Let's Keep Talking" events.

These events are to give community members regular opportunities to meet between General Assemblies to voice concerns and contribute ideas.

Community safety and security has been a topic raised at each meeting. Community suggestions have been used to inform plans and actions including two reports on community security.

At the first meeting, guidelines were created to support good sharing and discussion. They include; protecting speakers by not using names in reports; committing to listening to one another; and, creating an environment of respect with no "peer pressure", judgment or violent language or behaviour.

One community member suggested a more active version of the meeting which is "Let's Keep Walking." One community walk has been held and another is planned before winter.

A major community clean-up of hazards is underway and brush-clearing was done to open up areas of the community identified as high risk. This work was led by KDFN's departments of Health and Community Services.

Council is working to identify funds to support additional staff in the Department of Justice to launch a community security guard program and other initiatives.

Community visioning sessions with multiple departments contributed to a draft Community Safety and Well-being Plan that connects the KDFN Strategic Plan to community action. The draft plan will be brought to the community for feedback later in 2015.

The next "Let's Keep Talking" event is scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup> at the Nàkwät'à Kù Potlatch House. All community members are invited to have your voice heard and to contribute your ideas for building a safer and healthier community.

*For more information contact KDFN Department of Justice at 633-7850.*



In February, while attending the national roundtable on missing and murdered Aboriginal women, Chief Bill added her support for a national inquiry on missing and murdered Aboriginal women. "I support the call for a national inquiry and I see the need for a strong national action plan," said Chief Bill. "This is no longer an issue that can be passed by the wayside or pushed off to various departments, this is a national concern."

Photo (left to right): KDFN Chief Doris Bill, Lorraine Netro; VGFN and AFN Regional Womens' Representative, Yukon Premier Pasloski, Krista Reid; President, Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle, Elder Diane Lilly



Learn more about the story of Yukon's journey in establishing First Nation self-government agreements through a new exhibit online at [www.mappingtheway.ca](http://www.mappingtheway.ca).

*Visit [www.mappingtheway.ca](http://www.mappingtheway.ca) and enter for your chance to win a 32GB iPad Air. The deadline to enter is Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

# Summer Activities at Dusk'a

Over the summer, the children at Dusk'a participated in gardening, releasing salmon fry, birch bark crafts, drumming, cultural activities including medicine walks with Elders, releasing butterflies and incubating quail eggs.









# Kwanlin Dün and City Host Vulnerable Persons at Risk Forum

Hundreds of people gathered at the Vulnerable Persons at Risk Forum that Kwanlin Dün and the City of Whitehorse hosted at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre in April.

It was the first time a gathering to discuss issues and supports for vulnerable people had ever been held in the Yukon.

The idea to take action on moving forward with initiatives to assist vulnerable people came from the intergovernmental forum between KDFN and the City of Whitehorse in the fall of 2014.

The purpose of the forum was to begin the collective work needed to see that the needs of vulnerable

people are met and to ensure adequate services are in place to support them in our community.

Representatives from a wide range of stakeholder groups, agencies and service-providers from Whitehorse and throughout the territory participated in the forum.

In her speech, Chief Bill strongly encouraged participants to bring forward their expertise, insights and ideas.

While political support and funds will be needed to help address the issues, Chief Bill emphasized that much of the knowledge to guide any plans would come from the combined wisdom of the group of experts who attended that day.

When discussing the issue, Chief Bill described the way that many individuals who are experiencing vulnerability often face disapproval and separation from others.

Some people experiencing these things may turn to substance abuse, inappropriate behaviour or victimizing others.

Since the current KDFN Council was elected in 2014, the KDFN community alone has endured many tragedies, some accidental, however many times involving violence.

Rethinking and reshaping current approaches to these issues was widely recognized and supported by delegates taking part in the session.

Momentum is building on this important issue. Working together with service-providers, the City of Whitehorse, the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, KDFN, and the Yukon government, an action plan is needed to keep moving forward.

An element of creating this plan will include engaging Whitehorse's business community on the issues and impacts of vulnerability, homelessness and poverty.

There will be another forum to engage the Whitehorse business community on September 11-12<sup>th</sup> at Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.

*For more information, contact the Office of the Chief at 633-7826 or email [eileen.duchesne@kdfn.net](mailto:eileen.duchesne@kdfn.net)*

## WATCH FOR: COMMUNITY MEETINGS TO REVIEW KDFN'S CONSTITUTION

Over the next six months, the Constitutional Review Committee will be gathering input from citizens on ways that the *Kwanlin Dün Constitution* can be improved.

The amendments will help to modernize and leadership to better govern the nation.

When the consultation and review process is complete, Council will bring an updated Constitution forward for citizen approval through a referendum.

*We are hoping this can be done before the next Council election in 2017. Keep an eye out for meeting dates starting in September. Questions? Call KDFN at 633-7800.*

# Housing – your right, your responsibility

Kwanlin Dün First Nation's housing stock is diverse and varied - we have newer houses, older houses, houses in need of repair and maintenance, we have houses that are under mortgage with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and houses that will soon no longer have a mortgage.

One of leadership's and the government's goals is to ensure that all citizens that need a home are provided with affordable, safe housing. To do this, we all have responsibilities.

The KDFN government is working in phases – first, it is working on houses that are coming off mortgage, then, older houses and then, vacant houses.

Currently, we are inspecting houses that are coming off mortgage to ensure reserve funds are available to address maintenance issues. When

a house comes off mortgage with the CMHC, KDFN fully owns the house and KDFN no longer has access to CMHC maintenance reserves.

The maintenance of older houses is being done in phases using funds available. Vacant houses to be repaired are in the third phase. Once they are repaired, they will be available again to rent.

Annual inspections will be conducted and tenants will be required to acknowledge the repairs done and agree to maintain their house to a certain standard. KDFN pays for regular wear and tear on houses, but willful damage will be charged to the tenant.

All tenants have rights, but they also have responsibilities. This also applies to government departments. Read your tenant agreement and know your rights and responsibilities. The tenant

is responsible for insuring their personal property inside their home in case of fire or other damage.

The rent you pay goes toward the repair and maintenance of KDFN houses. Rental rates for KDFN citizens are subsidised by the KDFN Government. To provide adequate housing the Government must collect current and outstanding rent.

Your rent is used to pay for maintenance costs. Tenants are responsible to pay rent on time. The government appreciates the effort tenants are making to pay their rent and the Department of Community Services will work with tenants with outstanding rent to establish a reasonable payment schedule.

*For more information contact  
Community Services at 633-7833.*



Above: Chief Bill and Councillor Dawson pose for a picture with Whitehorse Mayor Dan Curtis at the Seniors Tea, an annual event hosted by the City of Whitehorse to celebrate the stories and contributions of seniors and Elders in the community.



# Strength Within Circle: Youth Wellness Gathering Empowers Youth



Over 100 youth from across the north participated in the three-day youth wellness gathering. (All photos in this article: Alistair Maitland Photography)

The Strength Within Circle: Youth Wellness Gathering empowered more than 100 youth to have healthy minds, bodies, spirits and hearts.

Held at the Jackson Lake Healing Camp from July 3 to July 5, 2015, the gathering was hosted by Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the youth collective Our Voices.

Youth from across the north took part in a weekend of workshops and speakers.

Speakers included Olympic boxer Mary Spencer, renowned comedian Ryan McMahon and motivational speaker Dwayne Peace. They told youth they are the leaders of today and encouraged them to keep a positive mindset

during dark times.

Topics such as grieving, loss, suicide prevention, drug and alcohol abuse, and bullying were discussed throughout the weekend. The goal was to provide a setting where Youth could feel comfortable addressing these issues and show they are a part of a community that supports them.

The event also featured cultural activities like beading, hand games, sessions with Elders and a community feast. The feast featured performances by youth from McMahon's acting workshop, and Burwash singer Diyet's music workshop.

A performance by the Dakhkhá Khwaán Dancers wrapped up

the feast, with participants joining the group to dance well into the night.



Blanket exercise on the history of Aboriginal people in Canada.



On Sunday, all participants attended the ceremony to extinguish the Sacred Fire. The ceremony provided a powerful and poignant moment for people to share personal reflections and experiences on life and their struggles.

Many of the youth that participated emphasized the importance of coming together, in unity, to learn about how to deal with difficult issues. Many also mentioned the importance of taking the tools they received to their communities and continuing the work started at the gathering.

Kwanlin Dün and Our Voices thank all sponsors and volunteers who made this memorable weekend possible. We'll be sharing a video production documenting this event in the coming weeks on KDFN's website and Facebook.

*To view photos from the gathering, visit KDFN's Flickr gallery or [www.kwanlindun.com](http://www.kwanlindun.com). For more information about the gathering, contact KDFN's Justice Department at 633-7850. Article contributed by: Alturo Calvo, Communications Officer, Our Voices.*



Elder Councillor Judy Gingell showcases her uppercut with special guest speaker Canadian Olympic boxer Mary Spencer.



KDFN youth try ziplining during adventure-based summer program.



KDFN citizens serving lunch.

# Building-a-Path-to-Wellness - Jackson Lake Land-based Healing Programs

Thirteen men recently completed the 28-day land-based healing program at Jackson Lake.

The welcome home ceremony held August 12<sup>th</sup> drew the biggest crowd in the history of the program! Nàkwät'à Kù Potlatch House was bursting with singing, drumming and laughter as the men were honoured by KDFN, their families, friends and invited guests.

Phil Gatensby and Andy Neiman are the two main cultural and clinical leads for the men's program.

Participants from the women's program were welcomed home in a similar celebration on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Building-a-Path-to-Wellness programs have been offered since 2010 and men's and women's programs have been held once or twice a year since.

KDFN has more than 20 years of experience offering land-based recreational and healing programs to youth, adults and families. In both 2014 and 2015, two programs were held and funded by the Yukon government. Two adult programs will also be offered in 2016, also supported by the Yukon government.

Stable funding has meant more effective planning for the programs offered to all Yukon First Nations and all Yukoners seeking help.

Health Canada funding for the work of the Jackson Lake Wellness Team (JLWT) has been in place since 2013.

The JLWT Coordinator, Colleen Geddes, also oversees the delivery of the Building-a-Path-to-Wellness programs. The team assists people applying for the four-week program and helps them get ready to go on the land. The team supports participants throughout the program with preparation before, work during and with aftercare following completion.

The Jackson Lake Wellness Team is working on developing and distributing additional resources on prevention and aftercare services within Kwanlin Dün and with other participating First Nations.

Building more youth-centered options for land-based healing programming has long been a priority for Kwanlin Dün and other Yukon First Nations. Active fundraising over years has secured new multi-year funding from the Movember Foundation and Justice Canada.

*KDFN is looking forward to working with other interested First Nations, the Yukon government and other community partners to develop and implement land-based options for youth programming. To learn more, contact KDFN Justice at 633-7850.*

## Congratulations Louie Smith!

Kwanlin Dün extends its sincere congratulations to Elder Louie Smith on being honoured by Yukon Learn with the Lifelong Learner Award for 2014/15.



## Yukon College Honours Gary Bailie

A big shout out to KDFN citizen and long-time employee Gary Bailie on being awarded a Yukon College Honourary Diploma in recognition of his tireless commitment to the community.





# Drafting of KDFN Trust Indenture Underway

An important aspect of the consultation meetings hosted by KDFN's Trust Working Group has included deciding on which **trust model** to recommend to Council.

A **trust model** is a structure that guides the trust and includes defined roles and authorities around management of the trust.

Beneficiaries were presented with information on the features, pros and cons of each trust model. Input gathered from beneficiaries helped to inform Council's decision to proceed with an administrative trust model.

Work has now begun on developing a **trust indenture**. A **trust indenture** is a binding legal document.

The trust indenture will be designed to meet the needs of the community and in a way that ensures that the capital can grow.

The trust indenture will outline how funds will be:

- Invested, allocated and protected for future generations;
- Protected from taxes; and
- How funds will be distributed back to the community via programs.

Use of Compensation Funds for anything other than what is written in the trust indenture will be illegal. The trust indenture will also spell out the roles of trustees and the responsibilities of the Investment Manager.

The trust indenture and KDFN's *Investment Governance Act* legislation protect the Compensation Funds against unlawful use by defining very clearly how funds can be used.

Next steps include:

- Drafting and approval of the trust indenture (currently in progress)
- Recruit and appoint trustees
- Recruit and hire an Investment Manager
- Invest the trust funds
- Implement the trust as per indenture.

We are looking for citizens who are interested in KDFN's financial future and becoming a trustee for the Beneficiary Comensation Trust.

*Questions or information requests can be submitted via KDFN's Main Administration by calling 633-7800.*

## Best Wishes to KDFN's 2015 High School Graduates:

Dilan Burns

Kathleen Dawson

Alexander Gatensby

Kailen Gingell

Dennis Itsi

Bo Lewis

Quinton Sterriah

Kayla Trudeau

Sebastien Lewis

Austin Smith

Wesley Hirsche-Smith



### Way to go, Gavin!

Gavin Smith (pictured here) won the Grade 7 Citizenship Award at Elijah Smith Elementary School. Gavin regularly attended math tutoring at KDFN for two years and his dedication has paid off. Congratulations!

# Land Vision Project - Project Overview and Update



William Smith stands next to an old outfitter's cabin at Rose Lake used by KDFN people, including his father, dating back to the 1940s.

A vision for Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) traditional territory is needed to ensure that the values of the Kwanlin Dün community are reflected in the planning, management, and use of settlement and non-settlement land throughout KDFN's traditional territory.

The planning of KDFN settlement land is a necessary first step in order to achieve numerous objectives of the First Nation.

These objectives include:

- land for citizens for residential use;
- land for economic development; and,
- land for traditional activities.

We asked Kwanlin Dün community members to identify which lands in the KDFN traditional territory should be set aside for (1) wildlife; (2) heritage; (3) community development; and (4) economic development.

Staff then compiled the information and created a series of maps. These maps are the basis for a draft land vision for Kwanlin Dün.

As part of the project the Lands and Resources department is organizing a series of field trips to key areas within the traditional territory to document Kwanlin Dün's traditional land use in these areas.

A three-day field trip to Rose Lake took place over the summer to document Kwanlin Dün's traditional land use in the area. More field trips are planned as part of this project.

Once all of the field trips are complete, there will be a potlatch / community meeting for Citizens to see the work done and provide comment.

Further discussions are taking place with the Kwanlin Dün community and the Elders Council to refine the land vision. Then, the refined draft vision will be presented to KDFN Chief and Council for approval. Once approved by KDFN leadership, the land vision will guide more detailed planning of land within the Kwanlin Dün traditional territory.

*For more information, please contact John Meikle, Senior Lands and Resource Planner 633-7859 or Geoff Cowie, Urban Planner and Policy Advisor 633-7802.*

# A Recap on Spring and Summer at the Cultural Centre

Spring and summer at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre (KDCC) has been a fun and busy time!

Over 2,000 people visited the Walking With Our Sisters exhibition to commemorate missing and murdered Indigenous women.



Walking with our Sisters exhibition to commemorate missing and murdered Aboriginal women across Canada.

More than 500 people also attended the screenings of the Highway of Tears documentary, with Q&As hosted by filmmaker Matt Smiley.

In June, KDCC once again organized and hosted the Whitehorse National Aboriginal Day celebrations with over 1,500 people joining us to celebrate the importance of Canada's First Nations culture.

The Adäka Cultural Festival returned and had 13,000 visitors over the course of seven days; wrapping up with a sold-out fashion show that showcased the amazing talent of First Nations designers.

The summer brought the usual crowds of tourists to the centre, with over 2,000 people touring the centre and learning all about KDFN history and culture from our summer interpretive guides.

With many 5 star reviews on Trip Advisor, the KDCC is now one of Whitehorse's Top 10 Attractions, a real achievement given the centre is a newcomer on the tourism scene in Whitehorse!

Our Interim Executive Director, Gordon Campbell, will be leaving to head up Kwanlin Dün's newly established development corporation, Chu Ninkwan.

During his year at the centre, Gordon moved the centre from a loss position to a financial surplus

position and he has improved the centre's relationship with its anchor tenant, the Whitehorse Public Library. All of the staff at the centre will miss Gordon's smiling face, financial acumen, and quick sense of humour!

However, with each goodbye comes a new beginning, and the centre is excited to welcome our new Executive Director, Tracy-Anne McPhee.

She took the helm at the beginning of September, and brings a range of important experience to help the centre continue to grow and improve its operations and success.

Tracy-Anne is a lawyer and was the Yukon Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner.

She has held a number of senior positions in the non-profit community including the Board of Directors of the MacBride Museum. She is thrilled to be joining the team at the cultural centre.



Welcome to KDCC's new Executive Director, Tracy-Anne McPhee.

Be sure to see our current Gallery exhibit. The Gēs Tu'è' · T'ahéni · Gyò Chúa · M'clintock River exhibit is only on display until September 15, 2015.

This cultural exhibit features stories and information from KDFN Elders, and is a fascinating exploration of how the physical traces left on the landscape correspond to the traditional knowledge from the Elders.

The centre has also undergone some technical upgrades and renovations including, Elders' seating outdoors with the addition of more benches and picnic tables and the installation of the Moiety panel at the fire pit.

*For more information, please contact KDCC at 456-5322, or via email at [info@kdcc.ca](mailto:info@kdcc.ca)*



# Skills for Employment Event Planning Course Cooks up a Success!



Event Planner Program Graduates and Instructors (left to right): Marjorie Cowell (Instructor), Lisa Smith, Sandi Porter, Chantelle Williams, Tayler Vallevand Vance, Faith Whiting (Instructor) Front row: Millie Gage, Hilda Dawson

Six KDFN citizens completed a full-time 12-week Skills for Employment Event Planner program that was offered in partnership between Yukon College, Yukon government and KDFN over the winter.

Throughout the program, the group worked to increase employment skills through a focus on event planning. Students also worked on subjects such as math, literacy, writing, document use, computer use, and success and wellness, while developing a vocational portfolio and learning how to plan events.

“I am more confident in myself; that I can do whatever I set my mind on,” participant Hilda Dawson said. “I was committed and put the course ahead of anything else that would stand in my way because I was determined that this was my priority and I wanted to do this for me.”

Students learned how to plan a menu of finger foods, how to calculate how much food to prepare and how to adapt recipes depending on crowd size. The class learned how to make some Mediterranean-style foods and sourdough bread and cranberry chutney. It was hard work but the students also had fun too!

As part of their program, the group participated in the planning and running of three events that were held during the month of March including: the Yukon First Nation Resource Conference, a Community Celebration of the renovations to the House of Learning and a Community Tea that was hosted at the Potlatch House.

Following graduation, the group was hired to work with the City of Whitehorse to coordinate the Vulnerable People at Risk Forum.

Many graduates were hired through the spring and summer to work in the Event Planning field. Four graduates have plans to continue their education at Yukon College this fall.

*Learn more about upcoming Skills for Employment programs - contact Faith at 334-2444 or [faith.whiting@kdfn.net](mailto:faith.whiting@kdfn.net).*



# Advancing KDFN's Economic Development Initiatives

In May, Kwanlin Dün signed an Investment Options Agreement with the Yukon Development Corporation.

The agreement provided KDFN with the opportunity to invest in the recent Whitehorse Diesel-Natural Gas Conversion Project.

The deal is part of a broader agreement with Yukon Energy that was made possible by the *KDFN Final Agreement*.

This confirms that KDFN will have opportunity to play a meaningful role in the future energy needs of the territory through investment and job opportunities related to Yukon's energy projects.

These opportunities will help to ensure continuity and stability for the First Nation, create future wealth for KDFN citizens and help to strengthen the economic base of the First Nation.

Kwanlin Dün has also completed work to establish a new development corporation to oversee wealth-generating activities for the First Nation.

The new development corporation is called Chu Ninkwan which means *Yukon river* in southern Tutchone.

*Learn more by contacting KDFN's Economic Development unit via KDFN's main phone line at 633-7800.*



Taking a break for a photo during the traffic control training course that KDFN hosted during the summer months. (KDFN Photo)



# Cache your Story - Waterfront Heritage Project Update

This project captures the Kwanlin Dün peoples' history and informs newcomers to this land of the social and cultural traditions that flourished on the banks of Chu Ninkwan (today, the Yukon River).

## What is this project?

The Kwanlin Dün Whitehorse Waterfront Heritage project is a multi-year project Kwanlin Dün is leading to document and interpret the Kwanlin Dün community's history along the Whitehorse waterfront.

## How did we get here?

The first phase of the project, completed in 2014, produced a bibliography of known historical resources relating to Kwanlin Dün history along the Whitehorse waterfront.

## What we heard:

The current phase of the project reconfirms the deep connection Kwanlin Dün people have

to the Whitehorse waterfront and the Yukon River.

Their stories clearly establish a "landscape of stories" which people are keen to share within the community and with visitors from around the world.


## Next steps:

Project work including interviewing Elders and community members and consultation with the Kwanlin Dün community will continue through 2015 to ensure that all members have an opportunity to contribute to developing a history of Kwanlin Dün along the Whitehorse waterfront. Those community members with photographs and stories to contribute to the project are encouraged to get in touch with project staff.

*For more information, please contact Tammy Joe in KDFN's Lands and Resources department at 633-7866 or by emailing [tammy.joe@kdfn.net](mailto:tammy.joe@kdfn.net).*

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## RETURN Address:

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