

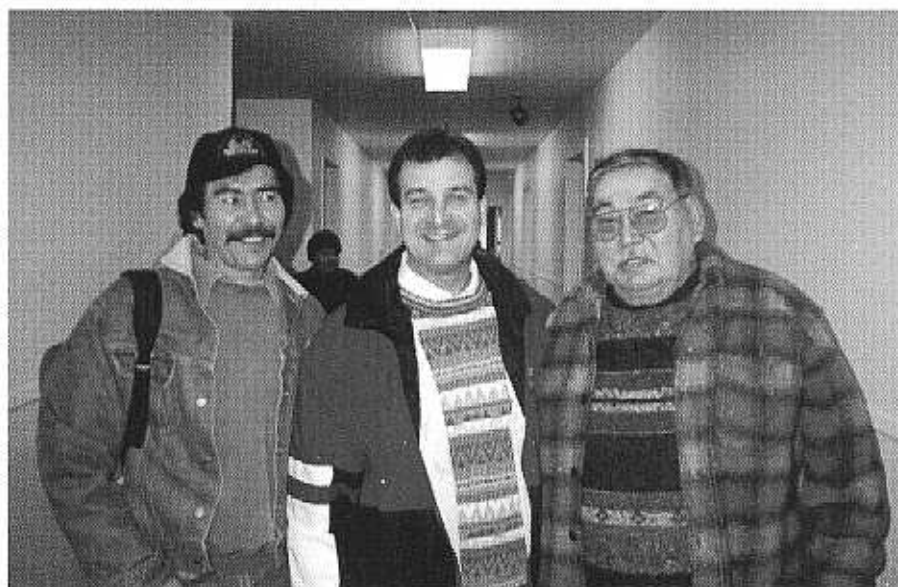


Uncertainty with negotiations eased by renewed federal mandate

Some weight has been lifted off a few shoulders, this week, as the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) receives approval to extend the federal mandate for negotiations.

DIAND, one of the key parties to the negotiating process for Land Claims and Self-Government Agreements, secured another two-year mandate to get negotiations completed. There are currently seven claims outstanding – Kwanlin Dun, Carcross/Tagish, Ta'an Kwach'an, Liard, Ross River, White River and Kluane First Nations.

Now that First Nation communities have overcome the federal mandate issue, they are faced with another obstacle, the Yukon Territorial Election. "While I would like to say that it is business as usual, we still need to wait until the territorial election is finished," says Tom Beaudoin, Director of Kwanlin Dun First Nation's (KDFN) Land Claims Department. "Even though the election has been called, all parties have continued



L to R - Chief Rick O'Brien, DIAND Minister Robert Nault and Elder Johnnie Smith.

to negotiate. But, depending on the outcome of the election, the process may be slowed some to enable the new government to either reconfirm its mandate or seek a new one."

With the federal mandate set to end on March 31 and the election call in the Yukon, all parties were working anxiously against the clock. Some were working on getting the federal mandate

renewed and others attempted to get as far as they could in negotiations.

"It was a pretty stressful time. Had the mandate run out, we could have been sitting in limbo. The leadership was working with the federal government and the negotiators were trying to clear up last minute details. We had even gone as far as talking lay-offs,"

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Chief discusses fishing and hunting issues with the Minister

The question of how certain elements of the Umbrella Final Agreement (*UFA*) affect individual First Nation communities has always generated much discussion. But, for the Kwanlin Dun First Nation (*KDFN*), some of the concerns are elevated by its unique urban location.

Renewed federal mandate

Continued from front page

department shut down, we could have lost some great resources. This could have set Kwanlin Dun back several months, trying to recruit new people and get them familiar with the process."

At a recent meeting, between Robert Nault, Minister of *DIAND* and the Yukon First Nation Leadership, Ed Schultz, the Grand Chief for the Council for Yukon First Nations echoed Beaudoin's concern. "On the issue of expiry of the mandate and its implications for personnel and resources for the First Nations, I have to be quite frank. I am very concerned that in the event there is no bridging (interim financial assistance) that there is the potential for the loss of experienced and knowledgeable personnel who are already at the table. I think it just compounds and contributes to making the process a little bit longer for these Nations. If I recall, the last time we went through this exercise, we lost a lot of talented people. They went off elsewhere and we never got them back. So, we spent a great deal of time reeducating our own negotiators and our own resource technicians and so forth."

Since the federal mandate has been extended, *KDFN* can proceed with negotiations and it is prepared to work around the results of the territorial election. As for the mandate itself, Beaudoin says, the land claims team will be reviewing the details and meeting with leadership and the community shortly.

At a recent meeting with Robert Nault, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, *KDFN*'s Chief Rick O'Brien spoke on various issues concerning the *KDFN* community but he also took the opportunity to provide the Minister with some examples on how the livelihoods of his people had been altered or impacted by the *UFA* — specifically in the areas of hunting and fishing.

O'Brien told the Minister, "Kwanlin Dun is in a unique situation. We're quite different from the other First Nations. We share our traditional territory with the City of Whitehorse. So, the fish and wildlife section of the *UFA* doesn't entirely work for us."

O'Brien stressed that there is a critical need to preserve, protect and enhance the means used for traditional pursuits and food harvesting among the *KDFN* people. "Our First Nation used to go fishing at Miles Canyon. There is evidence of it. There are pictures in the museum of our First Nation fishing at Miles Canyon. Now, we have no place to go fishing. Now, we have to go to other communities and that creates some hard feelings amongst them."

The hunting areas used in previous years, by the *KDFN* membership, can no longer be utilized or have been restricted due to increased development, said O'Brien. "With all the development going in or around Whitehorse, it is slowly eroding our rights to go hunting. We can't even go hunting or fishing at Marsh Lake any more. There are communities being developed there. So, it makes it harder and harder, for our Elders, to get out on the land; because, everywhere they go, there are people."

Through a traditional land use planning exercise, conducted by the Kwanlin Dun Land Claims Department in 1995 and 1996, a number of locations were identified as hunting areas used by the Elders and their ancestors. Some of the sites were Marsh Lake, the McClintock and Fish Lake.

Community participation has been effective in steering negotiations

Community participation, strong leadership, innovative negotiators and unrelenting teamwork have been the driving force behind negotiations in the past year.

While the Land Claims Department has several advisory groups, one of the main bodies is referred to as the Kwanlin Dun First Nation (*KDFN*) Land Claims Caucus. The 13-member Caucus includes beneficiaries who are shareholders of the land and resources negotiated under the *KDFN* Land Claims Agreement.

"For just over a year, now, the department has received input and direction from those who will be affected directly by the negotiating process," says Sharon Mankowske, *KDFN's* Land Claims Caucus Coordinator.

The Caucus, established in the Fall of 1998, took on the overall responsibility of the department which included setting the mandate for negotiations and providing direction to departmental negotiators, consultants and lawyers.

At the onset, the department received approximately 30 applications from beneficiaries interested in sitting on the Caucus. All of these applications were approved. However, due to personal commitments, many of the applicants have chosen not to participate. "No beneficiary has been denied the opportunity to be a member of the Caucus," said Mankowske. "To the contrary, we are always seeking out

beneficiaries to sit with us – to fill vacant seats or just because there is a definite need for additional resources."

Mankowske added that while the Caucus is limited to beneficiaries, the department is seeking individuals, with *KDFN* membership status, to assist in the self-government process when it occurs. These individuals are members of the *KDFN* community but have beneficiary status with another First Nation.

Although the department recognizes the desire of community members to sit with the Caucus, it has a set structure which is consistent with other Yukon First Nation communities. "We recognize that Kwanlin Dun is a unique and diverse community but,

at the same time, the Land Claims Agreement is to be negotiated for *KDFN* beneficiaries and the Self-Government Agreement is to include both beneficiaries and community members. It is unfortunate but we can't change that."

Other negotiating tables and working groups, of the department, include: Self-Government Main Table Negotiations, Land Claim Main Table Negotiations, Land Negotiations Table and various other working groups dealing with governance issues. If you are interested participating with the Land Claims Caucus or would like more information on other land claim working groups, please call our office at (867) 633-7812.



Land Claim Caucus members meet to discuss the issues at hand.

Climate changes revealing new insights into our ancient past

With each passing summer, the high mountain ice which preserved the artifacts of our ancestors, continues to melt away. Some say in five to ten years the remaining ice patches that cover the high country will be gone and a fundamental key to our heritage will vanish with it.

Here in the Yukon, the discovery of rare archaeological and scientific treasures have increased significantly over the past few years and this trend has not gone unnoticed by First Nation communities.

Three Yukon First Nations – Kwanlin Dun (*KDFN*), Champagne/Aishihik and the Carcross/Tagish (*CTFN*) have now formed a partnership to address the important work that needs to be accomplished for the preservation of their history and traditional lands. The First Nations have also held discussions with archaeologists and scientists about investigating alpine ice patches.

The chance-discovery of ancient caribou dung and an old hunting tool, in a snow patch three years ago, on Thandlat Mountain in the southern Yukon near Kusawa, initiated the Ice Patch Research Group. The group is made up of university researchers and government scientists. In the early stages of its work, it was joined by Champagne/Aishihik First Nation. The Yukon Department of Renewable Resources and the Yukon Heritage Branch have also been major players in the project. The group is investigating the ecological and

archaeological importance of the ice patches. Thandlat Mountain is located in the traditional territory of the Champagne/Aishihik First Nation.

Since the Thandlat Mountain discovery, rare archaeological and scientific treasures have been unveiled closer to home. The discoveries are providing scientists with new insight into ecological communities that have existed in the area over the past 8,000 years. The information may even yield clues on how climatic change impacts today's wildlife population.

"For the past two summers, many of these unique artifacts have been found right in our back yard," says Sharon Mankowske, *KDFN's* Band Resource Officer. "This is an exciting initiative and one that will let us learn more about our heritage. In many respects, the findings have brought to life, the stories of our Elders, when it comes to traditional hunting techniques. The findings have even given us a greater understanding on how the caribou has played an important role in our history."

The First Nation partners believe these artifacts must be quickly salvaged from the melting ice patches. As part of the artifact recovery effort, the First Nations will continue to work closely with the Yukon Heritage Branch which has been providing conservation or preservation services for these rare and delicate finds. The recovered artifacts are currently being stored at the Heritage Branch, in downtown Whitehorse.

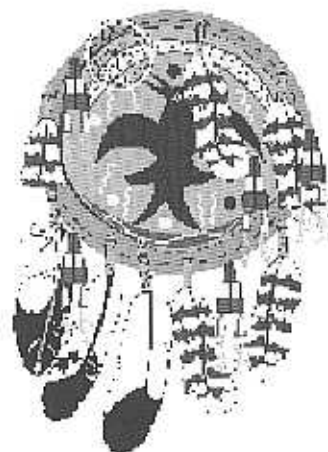
The First Nations are looking forward to the time when they will establish their own heritage centres, where these important artifacts can be preserved and displayed.

Did you know...

Did you know, during 1999-2000, for every loan dollar used in land claim negotiations, approximately \$7 more was generated, in the form of grants, by the same department?

Did you know, for every dollar generated, by the land claims department, 10% of those dollars go directly to the administration of the First Nation?

Did you know, during 1999-2000, the land claims department generated approximately \$2 million into the First Nation for increased programs and services, new initiatives, jobs, equipment, etc?





Message from the Chief



It has been one year since we were elected to Chief and Council. It has been a year of learning what is involved in being political leaders. We have been lucky to have two members from the previous Council who have helped educate us on the many issues facing the First Nation.

Over the past three months, we have put much effort into prioritising goals and objectives for the Kwanlin Dun First Nation (*KDFN*). In January, the Council went on a retreat with the program directors to begin developing a strategic plan. The output from this retreat was a purpose statement, also known as a mission statement, and four goals. The statement and its goals are shown on page six of this newsletter.

The Chief and Council see all of the goals as being important to Kwanlin Dun if we are to increase both our quality of life and standard of living. As outlined by the departmental reports in this newsletter, we are making inroads on several of these fronts. Working with the other Yukon First Nations, we were able to increase *KDFN's* Land Claims Compensation by over six million dollars. Other initiatives include, job creation, improved programs and services, enhanced community consultation and involvement, and site improvements such as the *KDFN* Baseball Diamond for our members.

As community leaders, the Chief and Council, make every effort to listen and act on community concerns. A recent example is the General Assembly for Housing whereby the membership was given the opportunity to influence policy. The members in attendance overwhelmingly voted in favor of flat-rate rent for all *KDFN* Housing, which was approved by CMHC and went into effect on December 1, 1999.

At the General Assembly, this summer, we will be looking for your feedback on the Kwanlin Dun Purpose Statement and Goals to determine if the Council is moving in the right direction.

In the short-term the Chief and Council is focussing on the "Excellence in Government" goal. Part of achieving this goal is preparing for a Kwanlin Dun Self-Government Agreement. We are now establishing administrative systems, such as *Decentralisation*, that will break ourselves free of the chains of the colonialist Department of Indian Affairs (*DIA*) Band model of government. Establishing new systems is very time-consuming and takes a lot of energy, but we are sure that when these systems are in place the Kwanlin Dun government will be more responsive to your needs.

Getting constitutional talks started is also a very important aspect of self-government. We are working to get these talks moving as soon as possible. We are currently waiting for the census work to be completed, as the information gained from it will positively influence the development of a *KDFN* constitution.

This newsletter provides you with details on how *KDFN* programs are delivered, as well as, plans to improve our First Nation's prospects. Although barriers stand in the way of accomplishing many of our goals, we are confident we can overcome them, with your help, and achieve great things for this First Nation.

Chief Rick O'Brien

KDFN Draft Purpose & Goals Statement

KDFN PURPOSE STATEMENT

The government of the Kwanlin Dun will work with the KDFN community to build a unified, healthy, prosperous self-governing First Nation for present and future generations.

PROPOSED GOVERNMENT-WIDE GOALS

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE AND COMMUNITY GOAL

To eliminate the health and safety crisis in the First Nation.

EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT GOAL

To attain transparency, accountability and achieve a balance of responsibilities among the people, the community and the government of the Kwanlin Dun.

PROSPERITY GOAL

To work with other governments, organizations and businesses to build a community which offers opportunity of choice and self-reliance for all Kwanlin Dun.

UNITY GOAL

To revitalize and respect our diverse traditional values and beliefs, in a contemporary context, thereby enhancing community identity and pride and equity and a sense of belonging for all Kwanlin Dun.

Advocating employment opportunities for KDFN

Everyone is aware of the difficulties one can face when looking for a job. Well, some of those barriers may soon disappear for Kwanlin Dun First Nation (*KDFN*) members.

The Economic Development Office, of the First Nation, is currently examining the possibility of creating a "job centre" which will coordinate everything from making the initial contacts with potential employers to matching the skills to and maximizing employment for community members.

"This project is still in the development stages," says Bert Perry, Director of Economic Development, "but, we definitely would like to see this service up and running by May of this year."

Currently the department is awaiting final approval of funding for the project. If successful, the job centre would be initiated as a one-year pilot project.

Although the job centre's primary function will be to strengthen employment opportunities for *KDFN* members, its purpose will also have significant effects not only for the community but also the individual. For example, by stimulating employment of *KDFN* members, it can also alleviate some of the demands on social programs and, at the same time, promote self-sufficiency and encourage self-confidence among the membership.

Pointing to a drawing on his desk, Perry demonstrated how the project would work. Initially, representatives, of the job centre, will seek out employment opportunities in a variety of fields. Those jobs and skill requirements will, then, be matched to community members with work experience in those areas.

To ensure the job centre has the adequate resources to fill the acquired jobs, the First Nation is presently preparing an inventory list of skills available among the membership. The project will also be independent but work closely with the *KDFN*'s House of Learning to ensure the most up-to-date information is available.

Perry says that eventually the services of the job centre may be bypassed by some individuals, especially, for those members securing seasonal employment. "Individuals working in seasonal jobs may have established their own contacts with employers, through previous work, and they would have the ability to approach employers directly and secure their own employment."

"By having the individual feel confident enough to contact the employer directly is a positive step. That is what this project will be about – fostering employee/employer relations, presenting job opportunities and putting the Kwanlin Dun people to work."

Program Highlights 1999-2000:

- A landscaping training project of the Kwanlin Dun Ball Diamond
- Summer employment 1 for Kwanlin Dun members
- Completion of Kwanlin Dun's first commercial establishment
- A committee for the *KDFN* Cultural Centre was established

What to watch for in 2000:

- A job centre for Kwanlin Dun members
- A landscaping project for the Whitehorse Waterfront
- Continued work on the Kwanlin Dun Development Corporation
- A draft design of the *KDFN* Cultural Centre, expected for community consultation, in August.

As Kwanlin Dun First Nation moves towards self-government, economic self-sufficiency and employment opportunities for its people must be a priority...Kwanlin Dun seeks to work with other organizations and businesses to build a community, which offers opportunities of choice and self-reliance for all Kwanlin Dun...

Adult education is on the increase

In a long blue building, tucked away on a small cul-de-sac in the Kwanlin Dun First Nation (KDFN) community, membership have found a passage to many training opportunities that they many not otherwise have had access to.

But, don't let the location of KDFN's House of Learning fool you, there is plenty of activity. "There are a number of programs being offered out of this building—education, training, recreation and the Elders program," says Tina Jules, KDFN's Director of Education. "And, we are now making the transition to incorporate human resource development (HRD) and the social assistance program. As well, we are currently working on amalgamating the Elders Program with Culture and Language. This will be called the Elders Culture and Language Program."

The House of Learning offers assistance to all ages, whether it is a child/ teenager attending public schools from kindergarten to grade 12 and adult education, including a number of Elders.

"Some Elders, in our programs, have not gone to school for decades — for some, it may be as long as four decades or more. It is sad that it has taken so long to create a place for these individuals. Now, they are here and in many ways they have become role models for other Elders and young people searching to get a better education," added Jules.

Conventional training/education tools are not always the most appropriate means for education, said Jules. "Sometimes we have to use materials that one would use in their every day life. For example, some of the Elders just want to be able to read their Bible or a piece of writing produced by a family member, such as a biography, poetry or legend. We have to be very open minded here. We do not want to discourage them."



Chief Rick O'Brien receives a lesson in new technology from our future leaders.

Jules added that requests for adult education has increased tremendously in the community and it is, at times, difficult to maintain the demand. "Just look at this last Upgrading Program. We had over 70 enquiries, 62 actual applications, however, we can only accept 30. That number, of course, has been increased and we now have 32. With limited resources, we do everything we can to meet the demand."

Another achievement of the education department is that it is working very closely with other departments, within Kwanlin Dun, to promote First Nation employment and assisting membership in their journey to self-sufficiency. "We receive training dollars from a variety of sources, but those dollars are for Kwanlin Dun members only and our goal is to provide them with the education, training and employment opportunities they need to make that journey to self-sufficiency."

Jules says, she is also proud of the fact her department has made progress in promoting First Nation employment in the KDFN community. "We

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Kwanlin Dun paves the way to self-sufficiency

The journey to self-sufficiency often presents many stumbling blocks. For some, it might even feel as though they are participating in an obstacle course, never knowing where to turn. One may have the desire to complete the task but they are lacking in education, experience or support systems to get the job done.

Well, Kwanlin Dun First Nation's (*KDFN*) Department of Education has commenced a program that may be the answer to your problem. The program is entitled, "Journey to Self-Sufficiency" and is aimed at helping get people out of the Social Assistance cycle and keep them out for life!

Journey to Self-Sufficiency is a three-year pilot project funded by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development's (*DIAND*) Gathering Strength initiative. The program will receive \$150,000 annually.

The program deals with a variety of issues faced by the *KDFN* membership and assists them in their journey. Some aspects of the program includes skill development in life management, upgrading, work experience projects and individual training plans (*ITP*). It also delivers workshops in self-employment, traditional life-styles, and career planning and gaining employment.

The journey to becoming self-sufficient begins with completing an *ITP*. The *ITP* will help an individual layout what they want to do and how to go about doing it. It is also designed to ensure that all the support systems are in place (funding, daycare,

transportation, etc).

If you would like more information of the Journey to Self-Sufficiency program, please contact Karree Vallevand at 633-7809.

Filling the cracks of the public education system

For one reason or another, there always seems to be a student who faces difficulties in the public education system. Now, Kwanlin Dun First Nation's (*KDFN*) House of Learning is attempting to assist students through these barriers and fill in the cracks.

In November 1999, *KDFN* initiated a new project called, "Filling in the Cracks" (*FITC*). This is a three-year pilot project funded through Gathering Strength-Education Reform and the Department of Education. The Community Development Fund also assists with the of wages for a Student Support Worker and honorariums for the Elder/Resource Worker.

FITC is a program designed to enhance education services provided to Kwanlin Dun children and youth enrolled in the Kindergarten to Grade 12 public education system so that it may reduce the number of students that are sometimes referred to as fallen through the cracks.

While the problems faced by students may vary, *FITC* has ensured there is something for everyone. As part of its initiatives, *FITC* has established a homework centre and tutoring service to allow students a quiet area to work on school assignments; developed literacy and cultural projects which could involve reading circles, novel studies, etc.; and, offers an Alternative Education Program to students having difficulty in the public education system.

If you would like to receive more information of the *FITC* program, please contact Logan Wedge or Jolene Smarch at 668-2823.

Adult education. . .

Continued from page 9

are proud to say that all the staff, employed here and in the other departments I oversee, are of First Nation ancestry, not necessarily Kwanlin Dun but First Nation."

Jules says the achievements of her department could not be accomplished without the hard work of her staff. "We realize our efforts can only be accomplished one step at a time but these individuals have excelled as a team and their hard work and dedication has definitely helped this department in reaching its goals."

Kwanlin Dun tenants get a break in their rent

Changes to rental rates, for the Kwanlin Dun First Nation (*KDFN*) Housing Project, have been met with mixed emotion.

"The housing department is very aware of the concerns expressed by members, particularly students and Elders," says Ray Santa, Director of *KDFN* Housing. "So far, we have dealt with the Elders and we are working with several departments within the federal and *KDFN* governments to see if something can be done for the students."

At a Special General Assembly on October 25th, 1999, the membership overwhelmingly voted in favor of establishing flat-rate rent for the Kwanlin Dun community. This change meant that rather than paying 25% of a household's gross income, for the rental of their housing unit, renters would now pay a set-rate of \$350 for *KDFN* members and \$550 for non-*KDFN* members.

Prior to the change in rent, Elders, who were *KDFN* members and 65 years old and over had their rent set at \$28 per month. Non-*KDFN* members, who were tenants of Kwanlin Dun as of December 1, 1999, and were 65 years of age or older,

also grand-fathered in at the \$28 rental rate. By Chief and Council resolution, rent for *KDFN* members, who are between the ages of 60 and 64 had their rent set at \$200 per month. The new rental rates, on all housing units, were implemented December 1, 1999.

"For the most part, the majority of the membership is pleased with the change in rental fees. However, for those who have expressed concern, we want to reassure them that we are taking their concerns very seriously and we are looking at ways to deal with this issue, but it may take some time," says Santa.

In order for rental rates to be amended, *KDFN* was required to secure special approval from the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (*CMHC*). As part of the process, *CMHC* reviewed the actual rent charged for its housing units over a five-year period and determined the new rental rates from that amount. This special approval is on a 16-month trial basis. At the end of trial period, the rent will be reassessed.

First Nation contractors benefit from housing contracts

First Nation employment was high on the agenda of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation (*KDFN*) Housing Program, during the last year.

"We are pleased to announce, during 1999/2000, that \$100,000 worth of renovations work completed on the housing units, was tendered to and completed by First Nation contractors, the majority of which were Kwanlin Dun members," says Ray Santa, the Director of *KDFN* Housing.

Over the years, many of the contractors have acquired an exceptional skill when participating in the bidding process. "They have a very sharp pencil," says Andrew Joe, Manager of Operations and Maintenance, "Their bids are quite close."

Some of these First Nation contractors are now approaching outside businesses to form partnerships so that they can be more competitive

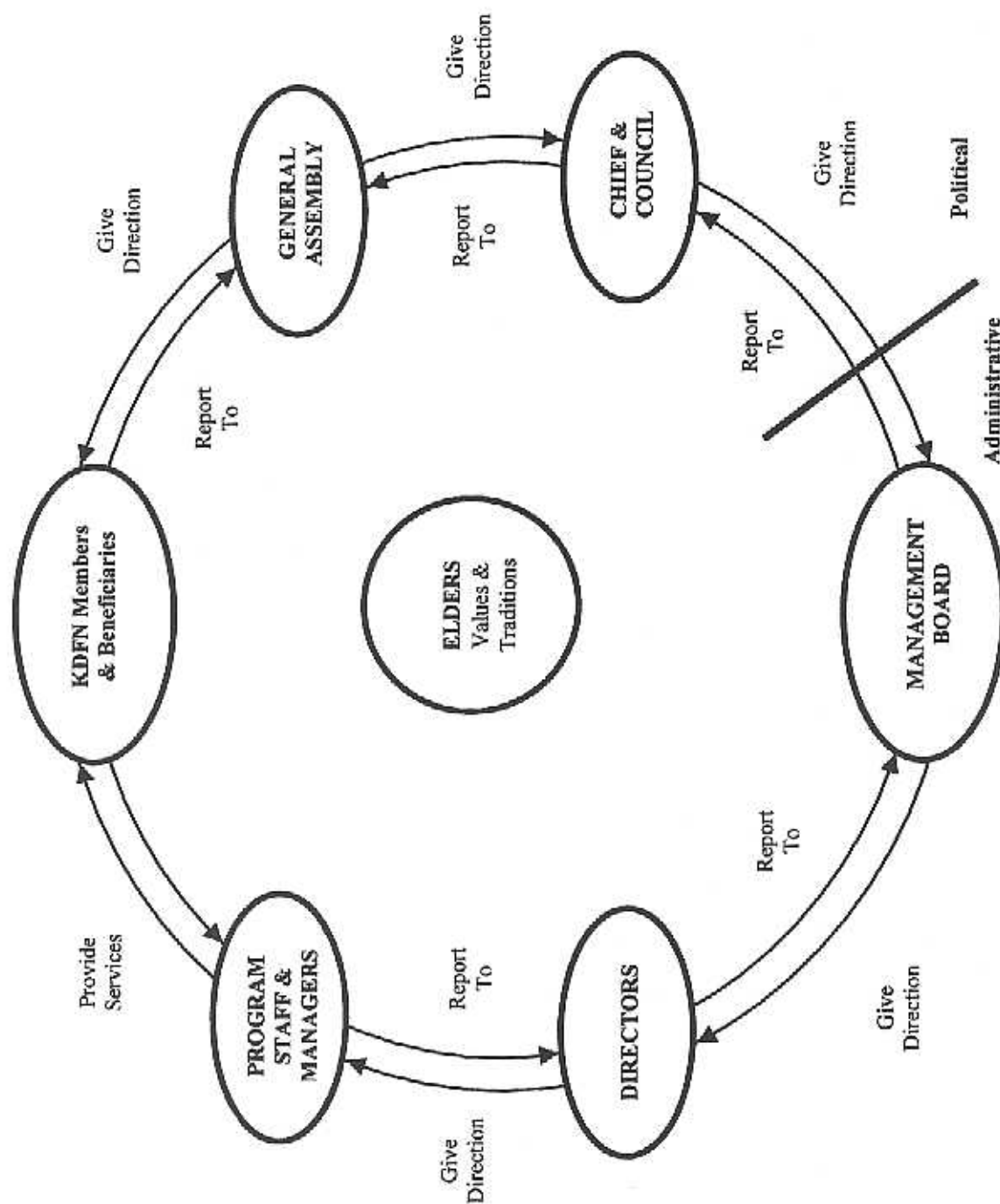
and offer additional services to the First Nation.

"It's quite exciting to see this economic opportunity for First Nation businesses. It is very positive and a trend that we are glad to be part of," concluded Santa.

Community Watch can stop vandalism

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation (*KDFN*) Housing Department and its tenants continue to be plagued by vandalism to its housing units. If you witness an action of vandalism on the units or you notice any suspicious movement in or around housing units, please contact the RCMP at 667-5555.

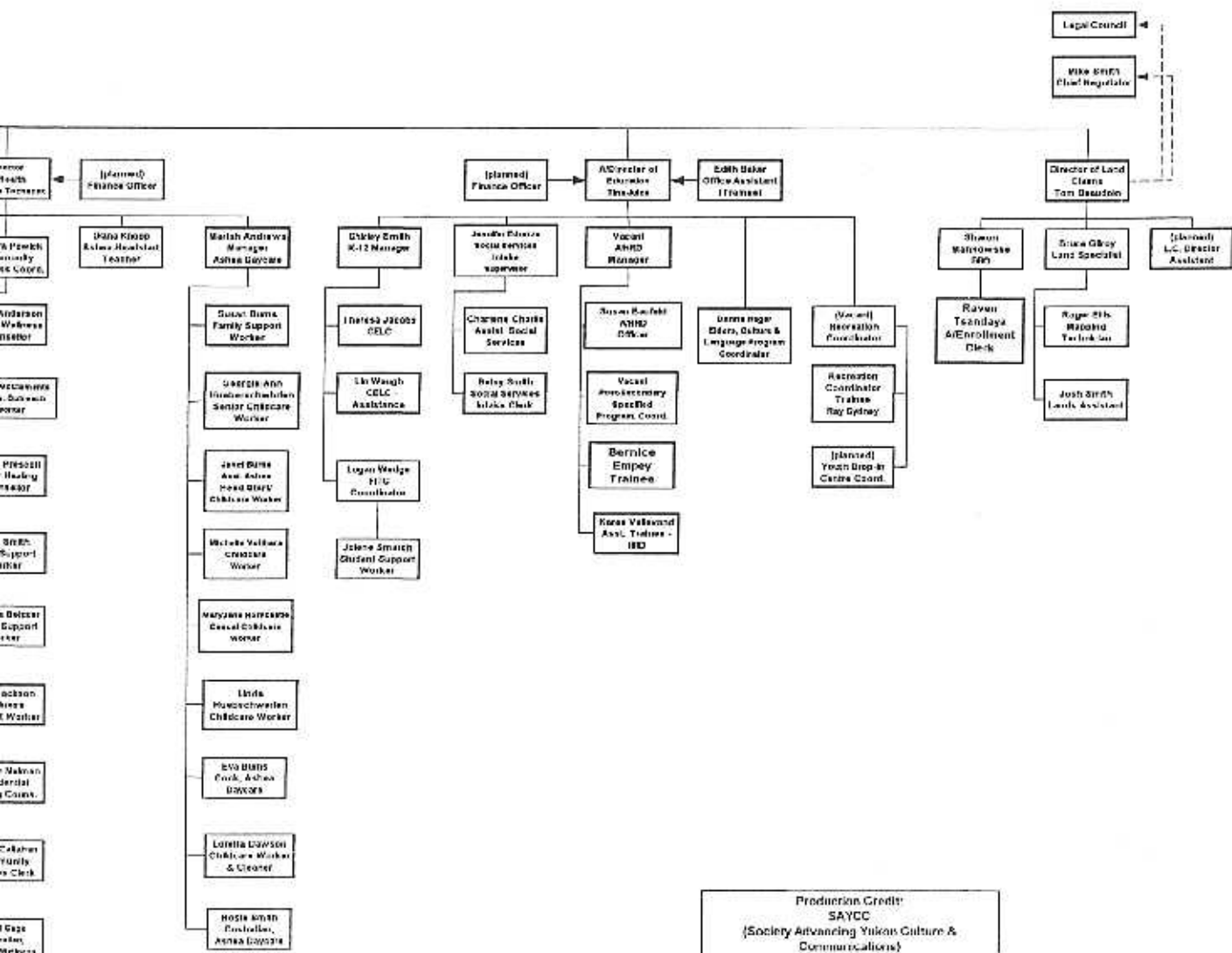
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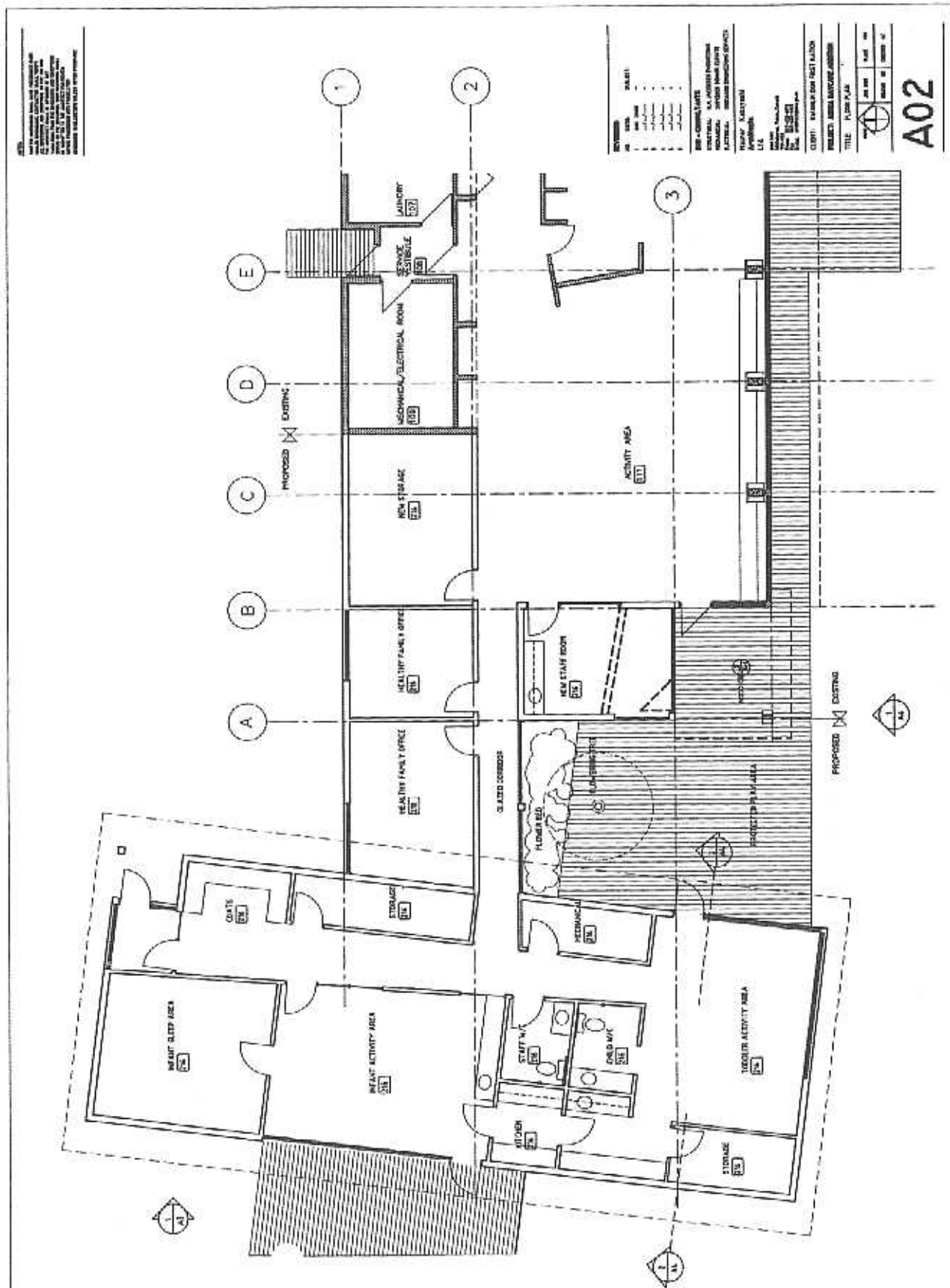
General Assembly



First Nation Organizational Chart



Ashea Daycare Addition



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Land development project receives raving reviews

The work is nearly complete on Kwanlin Dun First Nation's (*KDFN*) land development project involving the Crow Street and Swan Road areas of the City of Whitehorse. This project represents the first wholly independent land development project undertaken by *KDFN*.

The First Nation was involved in the project from the onset and included initiatives from project management to retaining the services of UMA Engineering Ltd. as the planning and engineering consultant. "Strong *KDFN* involvement was maintained continuously throughout the project — from site planning, preliminary engineering, detailed design, construction, and now into the operation and maintenance of the facilities," says Andrew Joe, Manager of Operations and Maintenance.

The site planning of the development has achieved exceptional reviews in relation to its building sites and the large green spaces. The site planning was a fundamental step in the development. This task was undertaken by *KDFN* with assistance from UMA's planners.

The facilities to service the 35 lot development include piped water and sewer, shallow buried power supply, cable TV and telephone, a sewage lift station and a recirculation and reheat system. The recirculation and reheat system is a unique feature of the development which provides freeze protection to the water

system by recirculating the water and injecting heat during the winter months.

KDFN also worked very closely with the City of Whitehorse to undertake a development that is consistent with the City's land development standards. This objective has been achieved, and perhaps exceeded, with the quality of the products and workmanship in the development.

The contractors involved in the project were Pelly Construction Ltd., Talmark Construction Ltd and Skookum Asphalt Ltd. Local assistance to UMA Engineering was provided by Niels Jacobsen, P. Eng and Lars Fossum.

This project was funded by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (*DIAND*) under its Green Plan Funding Program.

Emphasis on home ownership

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation (*KDFN*) Housing Department now manages 220 homes in McIntyre Subdivision, Crow Street and rural areas. Of the houses rented, a large percentage is occupied by non-*KDFN* members. At this time,

there are no plans for building additional houses. More emphasis will be put on establishing policies which will eventually allow *KDFN* members the opportunity to own their own home.

Rental arrears a serious problem

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation (*KDFN*) Housing Department continues to deal with a large amount of rental arrears. This arrears situation is in fact putting the Contract (operating agreement) between Canadian Mortgage and

Housing Corporation (*CMHC*) and *KDFN* in jeopardy. If you currently owe back rent, we would request that you come to the Housing Office to arrange a payment schedule.

Heating systems being upgraded

In recent months, the Kwanlin Dun First Nation Housing Department has been upgrading and improving heating systems in its housing units. As of March 31, 2000, 50

heating systems will be completed. If you would like to receive more information on this new initiative, please contact our office at 633-7833.

Program Highlights 1999-2000

- A new approach to improved efficiency and teamwork building has been implemented by incorporating Capital, Operation & Maintenance and Housing under the Director of Housing.
- Preliminary work began on the development of 10 campground sites at Jackson Lake. The site design includes a single-vehicle lane for access, fire-pits and five raised platforms for the comfort of Elders. The site takes advantage of the scenic landscape of a natural bowl formation in the earth. The vehicle lane will limit damage to the sensitive and small land selection known as Jackson Lake. Through an open tender process, the lowest bid was submitted by Northcan Environmental. Northcan Environmental has two Kwanlin Dun Band members working on site.
- Construction of an addition to Ashea Head Start is scheduled for early summer. A contribution of \$200,000.00 has been received from the Community Development Fund, Economic Development, YTG, and an additional contribution of \$250,000.00 from Kwanlin Dun Capital will be required to complete the project. The new addition will provide access to child care and/or programming for infants, toddlers and preschoolers and their families.
- Planning and Design for a new Administration Building, improved facilities at Jackson Lake and an Operation & Maintenance facility are ongoing. Prior to commitments to construction, costs for the Operation and Maintenance of the buildings and construction costs will be identified and analyzed. Further discussion regarding the Recreation facilities for *KDFN* must be included in this process.
- An expansion to the House of Learning is going through the Planning and Design phase. An application for Community Development Funding has been submitted and additional dollars are being sought. Upon approval, this construction project should begin late summer.

- Kwanlin Dun is near completion of the first phase of a project that provides internet and e-mail to all Kwanlin Dun employees and members of the community. A full Network system is dependent upon the installation of fibre optics and Kwanlin Dun must work around these limitations by working through the e-mail network. The significant advantages of the new technology are time management for sharing information, reduction of long-distance charges in some instances and access to Distance Education for Kwanlin Dun community members.

What to watch for in 2000-2001

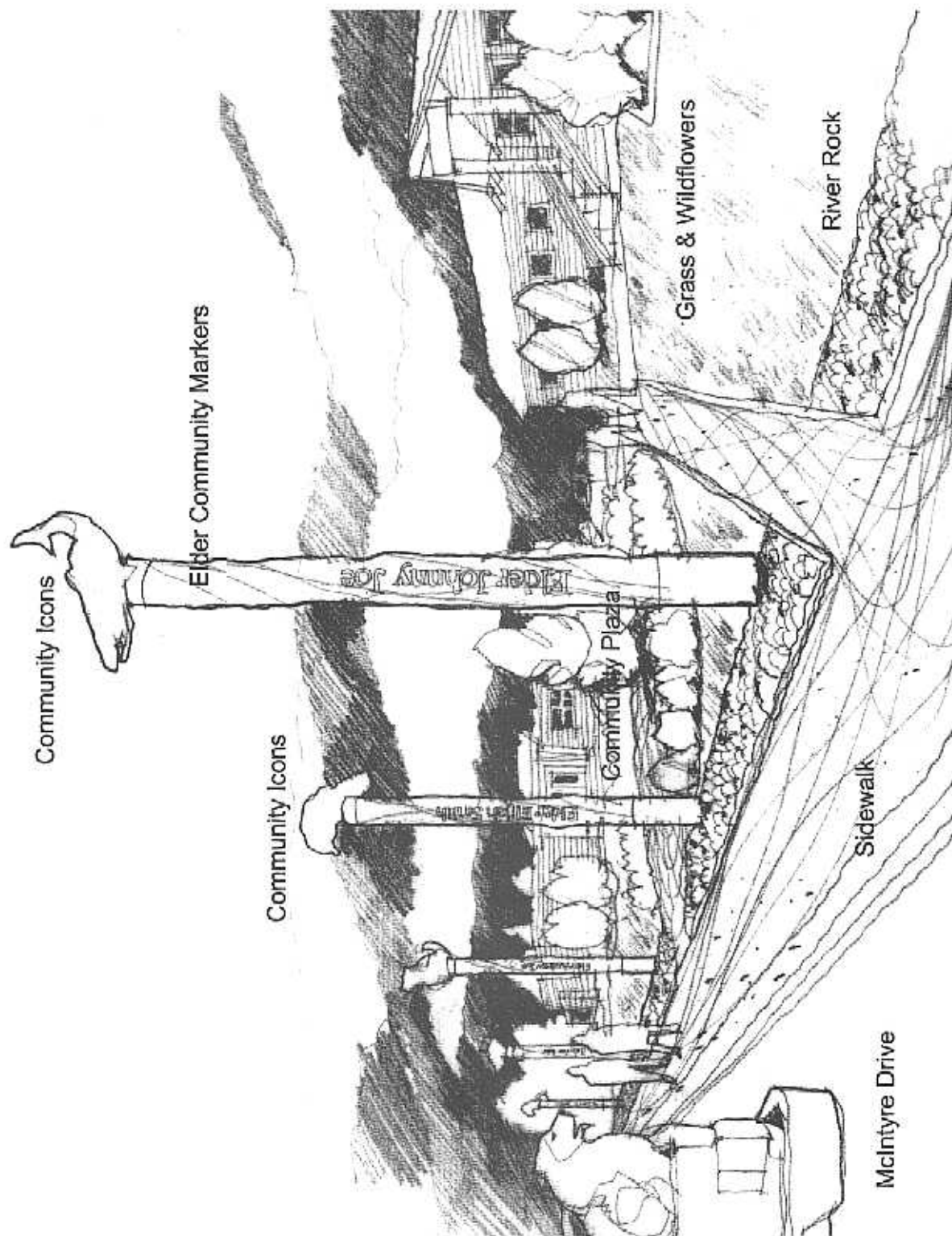
Site Improvements to the four main administration buildings: Nakwataku, the Band Office, the Health Centre and Ashea Head Start. This project includes electrical installations, asphalt, curbs/gutters, paving and landscaping. The project will be offered as an Open Tender process.

Ashea Head Start Infant Wing: The Infant Wing Building Committee will be making decisions regarding the project management and further information should be available to the public in June. Construction is expected to begin in late June, early July.

House of Learning Expansion: This project has a Planning and Design phase that requires completion. Funding from a number of sources must also be approved before a commitment to construction can be made. Should all aspects of this project come together, construction could begin in late July or August.

Housing Addition: Planning and Design is underway for the construction of a small addition to #77 McLennan, the Housing office. Upon approval of the construction budget, in the new fiscal year, construction will begin this season. The finished offices will house Capital and Operation and Maintenance staff.

Additional minor works will continue to be advertised by postings at the Band Office, House of Learning and the Housing offices. Some items may be advertised through the newspaper as required.



Kwanlin Dun First Nation Site Improvements

Kobayashi + Zedda
Design Group

Kwanlin Dun First Nation Phone Directory

Frequently called numbers:

General Inquiries/Reception	633-7800	
Director of Administration	633-7826	Garry Umbrich
Personnel Manager	633-7807	Marilyn O'Brien
Director of Finance	633-7806	Vacant
Director of Land Claims	633-7822	Tom Beaudoin
A/Secretary/Enrollment	633-7812	Raven Tsandaya
Lands Specialist	633-7811	Bruce Gilroy
Mapping Technician	633-7808	Roger Ellis
Band Resource Officer	633-7813	Sharon Mankowske
Lands Technician	633-7827	Josh Smith
Director of Economic Development	633-7824	Bert Perry
Nakwataku Potlatch House	668-2586	
Director of Housing/O&M/Capital	633-7846	Ray Santa
Office Clerk	633-7833	Millic Gage
A/Manager - Capital Projects	633-7834	Hazel Buffalo-Robe
Operations and Maintenance	633-7801	Andrew Joe
A/Director of Education	633-7839	Tina Jules
Office Assistant Trainee	633-7809	Edith Baker
HRD Officer	633-7850	Suzan Baufeld
HRD-Assistant Trainee	633-7840	Karee Vallevand
FITC Coordinator (K-12)	668-2823	Logan Wedge
Recreation - Trainee	633-7836	Ray Sidney
Elder's Coordinator	633-7845	Donna Hager
Social Services Intake Officer	633-7831	Jennifer Edzerza
Director of Community Justice	633-7851	Victoria Fred
Office Assistant	633-7850	Rosemary Waugh
Victim Services Coordinator	633-7852	Yvonne Smarch
Justice Support Worker	633-7853	Ed Gordon Sr.
Youth Justice Worker	633-7853	Peter Nemeth
Director of Health	668-7289	Michelle Tochachek
Community Wellness Coordinator	633-6149	Barbara Powick
Ashea Daycare Manager	393-3963	Mariah Andrews

Kwanlin Dun Justice Program making great strides

Efforts have been directed toward program stabilization, improving and expanding support services and building program relations, says Victoria Fred, Director of Kwanlin Dun First Nation's (*KDFN*) Community Social Justice Program.

"The department has been faced with many obstacles, since its conception in 1992. The problems have ranged from the ability to secure core funding for justice initiatives, the need to expand and improve services for community members, to promoting a better understanding of our program to our people and the community at large," said Fred. "But, we are making progress."

Fred took on the responsibility of the *KDFN* Justice Program in May 1999. Since that time, the department has been successful in obtaining a multi-year funding agreement to March 2001, initiating new projects for the Kwanlin Dun people, strengthening existing and formulating new partnerships with the greater Whitehorse community and conducting a relentless campaign to promote justice initiatives in the Kwanlin Dun community.

Although Fred is proud of the accomplishments of her department, she stresses that much of the program's success has been the direct result of community involvement. "Our achievements have not been without the assistance and the direction of the community," said Fred.

"We currently have two main advisory committees — the Justice Council and the Crime Prevention Team — and we have also received additional input, from community members, through a recent survey. These individuals have brought some valuable insight and contributions to the table, all of which have been a great asset to the program."

Fred added, that in addition to community participation, her department has been able to acquire a five-member team to serve the community. Four of the five members are from

the Kwanlin Dun community, which gives *KDFN*'s Justice Program an increased edge on reaching the grassroots people.

"By having our workers from the community, we have won half the battle. Our workers not only have the knowledge of community dynamics, but they have lived it. In the case of our clients, they are more apt to communicate and feel safer with a person that has some understanding of their individual situations."

Support services expanded for Kwanlin Dun families

Kwanlin Dun First Nation's (*KDFN*) Community Social Justice Program has incorporated new support services for Kwanlin Dun families.

"Recently, the Justice Program, has incorporated the use of family court circles to assist Kwanlin Dun members in their child protection proceedings. This new service is extended primarily to those involved in the Child Welfare Process," says Victoria Fred, Director of *KDFN*'s Community Social Justice Program.

Part of the services provided by the First Nation includes: assistance for the parents in retaining legal counsel, mediating relations between the social workers and parents, coordinating family support circles and preparing for family circles.

While the Justice Program is attempting to meet the needs of community, through this new initiative, some aspects of the process still needs to be negotiated. "Not all applications can be addressed in these family court circles, however, we continue to negotiate with the courts and legal services to address our people's needs," concluded Fred.

Taking the steps towards improving community safety

In the last year, Kwanlin Dun First Nation's (*KDFN*) Community Social Justice Program has established two main advisory committees to provide direction in its initiatives.

The first advisory committee is an eight-member Justice Council which was established in October 1999. This council is very unique in its make-up as it is reflective of all generations, including youth, and has a balance of both men and women. The members, of the council, also bring a wide range of ideas, knowledge and expertise when assessing the needs of and serving the *KDFN* community.

The second committee is the Crime Prevention Team, which was created in February 1999, but did not become active until September 1999. This team is made up of community volunteers and various *KDFN* departments – Justice, House of Learning, Community Wellness and Economic Development. This group's primary objective is to improve community safety.

"To assist the team in its mandate, the justice staff conducted a community survey in May 1999. There

was also information gathering through telephone calls and community meetings. From the information gathered, the team was able to develop a Community Safety Strategy. The strategy is intended to work toward creating a safer environment within the Kwanlin Dun community," said Victoria Fred, Director of *KDFN*'s Community Social Justice Program.

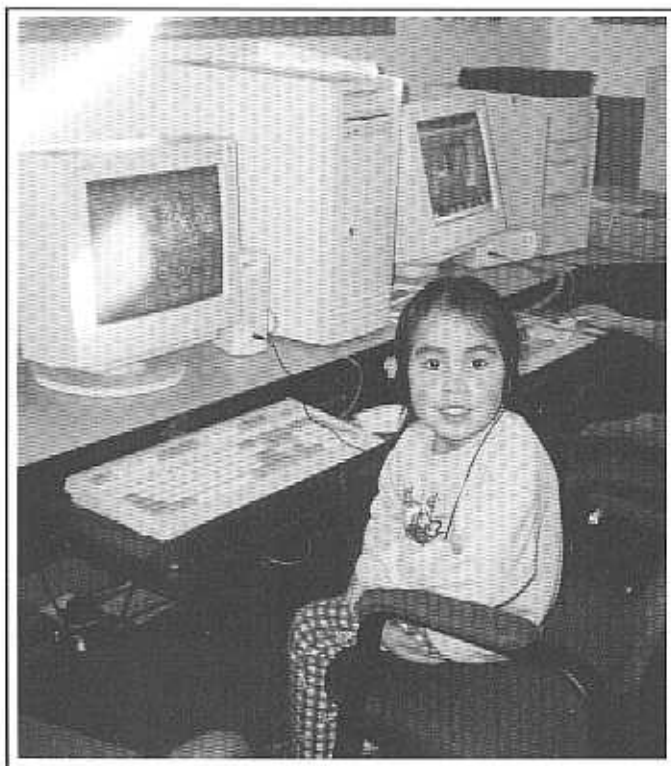
The Community Safety Strategy holds three main components: Neighborhood Watch, Block Parents and Community Watch Patrol. Fred says, these projects are still in the development stages and will not be implemented immediately. "We need to have further consultation with the community. We need to build awareness around the projects and, in some cases, we may even have to tailor certain elements of the projects to meet the needs of the community."

Program Highlights 1999-2000:

- ★ Incorporated the use of family court circles to assist *KDFN* members in their child protection proceedings.
- ★ Secured a multi-year funding agreement to March 2001
- ★ Established a Justice Council and Crime Prevention Team
- ★ Conducted a community survey on programs and services
- ★ Developed a Community Safety Strategy
- ★ Participate on the Youth Court Uses Committee
- ★ Participated on the Child Welfare Uses Committee
- ★ Participated in the Safer City Strategy

What to watch for in 2000-2001:

- ★ Improved support services for both the youth and families
- ★ Increased use of youth circles
- ★ Mediation and conflict resolution services to *KDFN* families



Community children get hands on experience in operating the latest computer equipment at the House of Learning.

Healing the effects of Residential School

Help is now available for victims of Residential School abuse.

The efforts of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation (*KDFN*) Community Wellness program has been expanded to improve the support services for community members and promote awareness of the effects of Residential Schools.

Through the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, *KDFN* was able to generate funding which enables members to address the impacts of Residential Schools on themselves and their families. To strengthen this initiative, three First Nation people were hired to deliver the services. The individuals are Andy Nieman, Therapeutic Healing Counselor and Evalina Beisser and Cecil Jackson as support workers.

The approach taken by the team can by no means be compared to the customary counseling practices used in mainstream facilities. Most of the activities are designed specifically to reach the grassroots people. Over the past few months, the group has introduced a variety of activities. For example, they have facilitated groups and circles; encouraged traditional pursuits and, held several trade fairs and community feasts. As well, in collaboration with C.A.I.R.S. Society is examining the possibilities of opening a Drop-In Centre in downtown Whitehorse.

If you would like more information on this project, please contact our office at 633-6149.

Program Highlights 1999-2000

- Many people attended treatment programs by way of *KDFN's* Alcohol and Drug Services. Congratulations to the participants for their commitment and hard work.
- National Addictions Awareness Week (*NAAW*) was a great success! As part of the festivities, approximately 300 people attended the community feast and 30 participated in the *NAAW* walk for sobriety. Participants walked down every street in the community, shouting and beating drums. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about addictions and working together to create wellness.
- A workshop called, "How to handle everyday anger in recovery," was organized for community members. Fifteen participants learned what triggers anger, the difference between passive, aggressive and assertive behavior and how to act assertively when dealing with everyday lives.
- An Elders' picnic for the women of *KDFN* was organized, in cooperation with the Justice Department. Elders discussed the impact of social issues facing women

today and how to handle them. The concerns raised dealt with parenting, relationships and working together. The general feeling participants came away with was that love and compassion is the greatest support we can give.

- A Relapse Prevention Workshop was held for the people of Kwanlin Dun. The workshop was so successful, the program is considering another one in early June. The participants had all been out of treatment for two years. The workshop focused on the understanding of the relapse process, recognizing individual high-risk situations and developing a plan to maintain sobriety.
- A community-based program dealing with after care and relapse prevention is now being coordinated. This will include the development of training and education sessions about substance abuse, after care support and relapse prevention, for community members involved in keeping the wellness path.

What to watch for:

- C.A.I.R.S. Gatherings
- Discussion groups for youth will be starting
- Fish camps will be opening
- Kits will be available for quitting smoking

The *KDFN* Community Wellness Program (*CPW*) team works with individuals to strive for healing and wellness. *CPW* does this by supporting the individual, the family, the extended family and the community based on a holistic approach. We provide counselling and support while respecting each person's values, beliefs and right to confidentiality. A person's healing path is a life long journey towards wellness. Wellness means respecting and nurturing ourselves; our bodies, our minds, our emotions, our spirits and our environment.

The Community Wellness Program can help the community with:

- Alcohol & Drug assessment and referral to treatment with aftercare counselling
- Child Welfare
- Residential School Syndrome
- Family Violence including: physical, emotional, sexual and mental abuse
- Anger Management
- Self-esteem Building
- Child & Youth support and counselling using art and play therapy

Healthy Generations Start with Our Children...

The Health Centre offers a variety of services to all generations. For families with young children, our programs include pre and post natal teachings and follow-ups, Healthy Babies, Healthy Generations (prenatal nutrition), immunizations and other supports for families.



Health Centre

Healthy Families Program offers home visits and programs such as Mother Moose which is a time for rhymes, songs, stories and a healthy lunch.



Kwanlin Dun First Nation Health Programs are committed to supporting families with the growth and development of children. The roots of health are planted in the early years. Through Health, we offer a variety of free and friendly service:



Ashea Head Start

Ashea Head Start, a First Nation preschool program that supports families, provides success and gives children a head start in education, health and nutrition.



Child Development Centre

Healthy Families

Child Development Staff work with families and children in homes, at the Health Centre, Asheia Head Start and other daycares.

"...Take the First Step"



Elder Margaret Peterson, her daughter Shirley Dawson and Grandson Jeremy.

The following speech was delivered by Kwanlin Dun member, Shirley Dawson, during the a community feast for Ashea Headstart.

Welcome elders, parents, teachers, invited guests and children. For those who do not know my son, his name is Jeremy. Jeremy has been participating in the Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) program since December of 1998. Becoming a parent of the AHS program has been very rewarding for Jeremy and myself. Through the Head Start Program, I am able to see my son's progress along side other children. First of all, I would like to say the Aboriginal Head Start Program allows all children of First Nation ancestry to develop culturally, socially and mentally in a safe and happy environment.

The most important learning tool that the AHS program has brought to my son, is the ability to learn and speak the native language and culture. Twice a week, the children of AHS receive native language lessons by a First Nation Instructor. The children also learn to play traditional hand games, sing songs and learn about the Wolf and Crow Clan System.

It is through the AHS classes that my son is able to interact with other children his own age

and learns to become outgoing and eager for social play. With the aid of a teacher, Jeremy is able to access a computer to help him learn and understand such things as memory games, puzzles and dinosaurs, just to name a few.

As a parent of the AHS program, I try to ensure that Jeremy received the full benefits of the Head Start Program by regular attendance. As a result of regular attendance, Jeremy is able to exceed in the areas of gross and fine motor, speech and language skills. My son and I have also had the opportunity to nurture long-term friendships with other children and parents within the program. The Head Start Program not only promotes cultural learning but it also follows the Canadian and Indian Food Guides and ensures each child is provided with a well-balanced diet.

Finally, I would like to say to those parents who may have a child or children at home to please take advantage of our wonderful Head Start program, offered through the Kwanlin Dun First Nation Health Program. The AHS program allows a child to experience the world outside of their homes in a safe and happy environment.

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