

# Council's Report to Kwanlin Dün Citizens



**2016 to 2018**

*YOUR GOVERNMENT AT WORK*



***We are working hard to  
build a strong, safe and  
vibrant community.***



## ***Kwanlin Dün First Nation is dedicated to improving the lives of its citizens.***

This booklet may be small, but it is packed with big results. It highlights KDFN accomplishments from 2016 through 2018, which was the second half of the previous strategic planning cycle.

The 2014-18 Kwanlin Dün First Nation Strategic Plan, approved by Council, guided the work of all KDFN government departments. The plan was based on six pillars.

The first half of this booklet highlights our greatest initiatives, pillar by pillar. The second half provides a more complete list of work carried out, department by department.

Accomplishments listed in this booklet are in addition to the regular programs and services provided by each department.



## ***Our People & Community***

Community wellness, health, jobs, education, safety, justice and housing.

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## ***Our Children & Youth***

Support pre-school and school-aged children and youth to complete high school (or GED) so they have the education and skills to find meaningful social and economic opportunities while maintaining a connection to the land, culture, traditions and language.

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## ***Our Culture & Elders***

Elder support, citizen engagement in and government promotion of KDFN culture, history, heritage, traditional knowledge and language.

**What we accomplished:**

- Community Safety Officer program launched.
  - Nàkwät'à Kù Potlatch House renovated and retrofitted.
  - Cultural and clinical Jackson Lake Healing Camp programs amalgamated.
  - Non-Insured Health Benefits Navigator program – serving all Yukon First Nations – introduced.
  - Naloxone kits and sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment introduced.
  - Successful temporary shelter opened downtown.
  - Family enhancement team established in McIntyre.
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**What we accomplished:**

- Youth Recreation team established.
  - Land-based after-school program offered.
  - Language revitalization funding awarded to Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre for publication of Southern Tutchone children's books and videos.
  - Lateral Kindness workshops, the Lateral Kindness initiative and new youth programming offered.
  - After-School reading program offered.
  - Fathers' group established.
  - Healthy Babies Healthy Generations program expanded.
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**What we accomplished:**

- New sewing program initiated.
- New Elder day programming launched.
- The Waterfront Heritage Project expanded with manuscript development well underway.
- Elders and youth brought together for spring camps in 2017 and 2018.
- Language Revitalization Working Group (community committee) commenced.



## ***Responsible Economic Development***

Create jobs, support tourism, artists and entrepreneurs, and protect the environment with economic development projects that follow a land-use regulatory regime.



## ***Our Land & Resources***

The development of a strong land planning and management framework and the implementation of land and resource provisions of the Final Agreement.



## ***Governance, Leadership & Strong Government***

An effective, motivated, safe and healthy workforce employed by a fiscally-responsible government that engages citizens on all important matters.

### **What we accomplished:**

- Chu Níikwän Development Corporation partnerships and investments expanded.
- High-end residential properties in Whistle Bend developed.
- Investment into wind energy projects initiated.
- Yukon Asset Construction Agreements established including opening two new gravel pits and clearing and grubbing Whistle Bend, plus the demolition of the St. Elias group home.
- Kulan Lot 1622 and Lot 226 revitalized and readied for development.

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### **What we accomplished:**

- High-level Land Vision for KDFN traditional territory completed.
- First parcel of settlement land registered in the Yukon Land Titles Office.
- Kusawa Park Management Plan completed.
- Local Area Plan for Marsh Lake completed, awaiting final approvals.
- Local Area Plan for Fish Lake initiated.
- KDFN Community Lands Plan drafted and citizen consultation initiated.
- Chiefs of KDFN, TKC and CTFN signed a charter for Southern Lakes Indigenous Land Use Planning, now known as the *How We Walk with the Land and Water* initiative, in preparation for Chapter 11 regional land use planning.

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### **What we accomplished:**

- Occupational Health and Safety: COR certification achieved, the first Canadian First Nation to do so.
- Several pieces of legislation and policies brought to citizens for consultation and enacted.
- Co-chaired the development and implementation of the Safe at Home Action Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness in Whitehorse.

## LEADERSHIP:

# COUNCIL

*(includes Chief-led and Elder-led initiatives)*

## INITIATIVES:

### ***Safe at Home: a Community-Based Action Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness in Whitehorse***

Released in partnership with the City of Whitehorse, the Government of Yukon, the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, various not-for-profit organizations, and individuals with lived experience in October 2017.

### ***Intergovernmental Forum with the City of Whitehorse***

First took place in September 2016. Forums have continued since then to deal with issues of common interest. Discussion subjects include poverty, municipal infrastructure, illegal dumping and the City of Whitehorse Official Community Plan.

### ***Southern Lakes Indigenous Land Use Charter***

Signed by chiefs from Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Carcross/Tagish First Nation in Fall 2017. This has evolved into the How We Walk with the Land and Water Indigenous land relationship planning process.

### ***Youth Advisory Committee to Council (YACC)***

Established in 2017 to help guide Council on youth-related initiatives and as a means for youth to have their voices heard. Group has met regularly with Council and other officials, including Minister Carolyn Bennett, and co-hosted the Millennial Town Hall.

### ***Millennial Town Hall***

Held by the KDFN Youth Advisory Committee to Council, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, the Government of Yukon and Shākāt Journal in February 2018 at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre to discuss issues important to youth.

### ***Intergovernmental Agreement with the Government of Yukon***

Was drafted.

### ***First Nation Market Housing Fund***

Makes home ownership funding options available.

### ***Forward Together: Yukon Mental Wellness Summit***

A two-day summit attended by over 200 people in June 2016 hosted by KDFN. Another follow-up summit was held in 2017 to review the Yukon Mental Wellness Strategy 2016-2026.

### ***Donations/First Nations Artwork and Crafts Committee***

Funded numerous projects for both the Recreation and Community categories.

### ***Wills and Estates Planning for Elders***

Established to help Elders ages 65 and older to write a will. Now an ongoing program available to all KDFN Elders.

### ***Shākāt Journal***

A youth-led magazine that addresses a wide range of youth and Indigenous issues, was launched in September 2017 with support from KDFN.



DEPARTMENT:

## **ADMINISTRATION**

*(includes ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)*

INITIATIVES:

### **2018-2022 Strategic Plan**

With the 2014-2018 strategic planning cycle at its end, Council, departments and citizens came together several times beginning in November 2017 to develop a strategic plan that will guide the direction of Kwanlin Dün First Nation's government through 2022.

### ***Chu Níikwän Development Corporation***

Provides oversight for all of KDFN's business investments and holdings. This for-profit development corporation started building business partnerships and developing investment projects in 2016. Projects included the renovation of the old F.H. Collins Secondary School Technical Education Wing, development of two gravel quarries, grubbing and clearing for Phases 3, 4 and 5 of Whistle Bend, construction of high-end residential homes in Whistle Bend, demolition of the St. Elias group home on Wood Street, investment in a subdivision wind energy project, and others.

### ***Yukon Asset and Construction Agreement (YACA)***

Brought many employment and training benefits to Chu Níikwän and KDFN. Benefits to KDFN include: upgrades to the Jackson Lake Healing Camp, purchase of an Elders bus in 2017, heavy equipment purchases to increase capacity of development corporation, gravel pit development at the Carcross cutoff, numerous employment opportunities for KDFN citizens within the Yukon government, demolition and other work at the F.H. Collins site, demolition of the old and construction of the new St. Elias group home. Additionally, there has been lot clean-up, clearing and preparation projects including Kulan Lot 1622, Lot R-16 on the Alaska Highway as well as Lot 226. Proceeds from YACAs financed the construction of KDFN's first for-profit residential land lease at 606 Jarvis (to be completed in 2019).

### ***Preparing for Land Development***

Lots 226 and R-16A are cleaned up and Lot 226 is ready for long-term leasing. Environmental cleanup cost a combined \$250,000. The first commercial lease of KDFN settlement land was signed in Fall 2018 for a small corner of Lot 226.

### ***Kulan Lot 190B***

A prime parcel from KDFN's land inventory was cleared, leveled, fenced and leased to Yukon Energy in 2017.

### ***Mentorship programs***

Established in 2016 and 2017 including training programs for a Communications Assistant Trainee and an Executive Assistant Trainee, giving two young citizens excellent office experience and real-life employment skills while working for their First Nation.

### ***New playground in McIntyre***

Installed on McIntyre Drive in late 2018. The playground, funded in part by the Government of Yukon's Community Development Fund, was selected by citizens and youth from three design options in Summer 2018.

### ***Upgrades to McIntyre Field***

Made possible thanks to a grant from the Jays Care Foundation. The community baseball field in McIntyre received improvements to its fencing, backstop, bleachers and playing surface. A storage shed and portable washrooms were also installed at the site.



DEPARTMENT:

## **EDUCATION**

*(includes Pathways)*

### INITIATIVES:

#### ***Pathways to Empowerment***

Implemented in 2017 as the new Income Assistance program after five years of review. It's designed to individually support people to move forward on their paths to achieve the goals they set for themselves.

#### ***Government Education Accord***

In development with a Draft Accord, was recently updated for council. Accord developed through community consultation on Education in July 2016, and a meeting with Council in February 2017. Work continues after a meeting with the Yukon government in 2018.

#### ***Training courses***

Offered at Kenädän Kù House of Learning including 32 workshops, courses and training opportunities between 2016-2018. This includes the Employment Readiness Bootcamp in April 2016, 2017 and 2018.

#### ***Skills for Life, Land and Work***

A course offered to unemployed KDFN citizens in late 2017 and late 2018. This three-month program aims to strengthen workplace essential skills, personal wellness, and traditional and on-the-land skills; develop a personalized action plan; and gain work experience through a volunteer work placement.

#### ***Post-Secondary funding***

Had a total of 36 students funded in 2016-2017 and 25 students funded in 2017-2018. This funding enables our citizens to attend diploma, and degree and certificate programs at an accredited institution of learning.

### ***New After-School Reading program***

Implemented in 2018 as an expansion to the tutoring programs offered to elementary school students. Since its inception, 14 students have benefitted from this program.

### ***Evaluated Adult Learning***

Completed to assess adult programming by surveying the community widely.

### ***Gúyàt nàáts'edlü (Sewing with Beads)***

Established in the winter of 2017. This weekly sewing circle brought together Elders and adult learners thanks to a partnership between the Education and Health departments and the Government of Yukon.

### ***Funding for Dusk'a Head Start language program from the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge***

After their visit in September 2016, William and Kate announced their financial support of the creation of a new Southern Tutchone storybook plus 30 laptops that teach the language.

### ***Funding for Dusk'a Head Start language program from the Government of Yukon***

\$9,600 in support from Yukon Historic Resources Funds supported the production of six bilingual Southern Tutchone books for children. Three hundred books were printed and distributed to all Southern Tutchone-speaking communities.

### ***Prime Minister's Certificate of Excellence for Erin Pauls***

Awarded to the manager and team of Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre in 2017. This award is considered the highest honour for teachers and early educators in Canada.

### ***Aboriginal Labour Force Alliance (ALFA) program***

Provides funding for unemployed KDFN citizens to receive employment training and safety gear, and employers to receive wage subsidies. The program was implemented in April 2019 as the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) program. Adult education continues to work toward the draw-down of the ALFA program.

### ***Polar Medal for Darlene Scurvey***

Awarded by Governor General David Johnston in June 2017 to recognize people who provide “extraordinary service” in Canada’s North. As an early childhood educator at the Dusk’a Head Start Family Learning Centre, Darlene works with Elders and preschoolers to facilitate language instruction, as well as social and cultural interaction.



### ***Income Assistance reciprocal agreement***

Signed by Kwanlin Dün, the Government of Yukon and Indigenous Services to recover assistance given to non-Kwanlin Dün citizens in the community.

### ***Funding for Renovations***

Awarded to Dusk'a through the Capital Development Agreement to do a number of renovations inside and outside of their building, totaling \$109,017.

### ***Movember Circumpolar***

Funded activities for KDFN men aged 19 to 30, including river rafting, mountain biking, a moose and bison hunt, and hand games during 2017. Movember Circumpolar is a partnership of organizations from across the circumpolar North that promotes mental wellness through land-based activities.

### ***Employment Support Sessions***

Offered at the Kenädän Kù House of Learning including information sessions on applying to both the Whistle Bend Continuing Care Facility and Yukon government, an information session on the Yukon College Health Care Assistant program, and a session on the Canadian Armed Forces programs.

### ***Spring into Work Job Fair***

Held in April 2017 with 5 employers and approximately 66 people in attendance. Approximately 60 people attended the 2018 Spring into Work Job Fair, directly resulting in employment for several citizens.

INITIATIVES:

***Contract for new Community Hub (Administration) Building***

Awarded in 2018 for the design of a new structure to replace the existing Administration Building.

***Servicing and site preparation for New Multipurpose Community Building***

Completed in 2018 with building construction set to begin summer 2019.

***Renovated Potlatch House***

Completed in 2017 to improve safety and functionality of the building. Canyon City Construction and many KDFN citizens were employed with \$75k funding from the Community Development Fund and \$375k funding from CanNor.

***Complete service of all furnaces/wood stoves in KDFN housing***

Completed in 2018 and baseline data collection was entered into new housing software.

***Fuel tank upgrades***

Involved the removal and replacement of approximately 50 fuel tanks with double walled tanks at all houses in 2018.

***New plow truck and plow***

Purchased in 2018 to increase snow clearing capacity.

***New garbage truck***

Purchased in 2018 to replace an older, larger and less efficient vehicle.

### ***Community Services Office Renovations***

Completed in 2018 to provide a safer work environment and better services for the public.

### ***Repairs and renovations to KDFN housing stock***

Included a complete assessment of all roofs in 2018 and the awarding of contracts to replace roofs and eavestroughing. A total of 20 rental units received full interior renovations in 2018.

### ***Gas tax funds for infrastructure upgrades***

Allowed buildings around community to receive new furnaces, new interior and exterior LED lighting in 2017, which improved safety, comfort and efficiency.



INITIATIVES:

***Men's and Women's Programs***

Introduced an equine therapy component to the Women's Program in 2016. The 28-day Men's and Women's Programs, held at Jackson Lake Healing Camp, were a success with 12 men and 8 women participating in 2016, 15 men and 14 women in 2017 and 9 men and 11 women in 2018.

***New youth program at Jackson Lake***

Initiated in 2016. A one-week session was offered four times a year and involves cultural activities like sweat lodges, setting fish nets and tool making.

***March Camp at Jackson Lake***

Offered over a week in March 2018 so that over 50 youth, adults and Elders could participate in cultural and land-based activities.

***Training in Community Safety***

Enrolled 14 KDFN citizens in a five-week training program to earn an Associate Certificate in Community Safety from the Justice Institute of British Columbia.

***Community Safety Well-Being Plan***

Continued to be implemented as new road signs were installed, a new Community Safety office opened, a new TIPS line launched, and two new patrol cars purchased. Four CSOs were hired and began patrols in June 2017.

### ***Bringing Our Voices Together in Wellness Gathering***

Was a three-day knowledge exchange summit on mental wellness attended by 250 people representing Indigenous groups from across Canada.

### ***KDFN Child and Family Services program***

Was improved and updated. The MOA review project is underway and the report was completed in January 2018.

### ***Pilot land-based after-school program***

Built connections between youth, Elders and land-based cultural teachings for a two-week after-school pilot program.

### ***Family enhancement team***

Was established in McIntyre in partnership with the Yukon government. This six-person team including two child protection workers, one family enhancement worker, one child-in-care worker, one case aide and a supervisor began working closely with the Justice director out of offices in McIntyre in late 2018.



## **LANDS AND RESOURCES**

*(includes Heritage)*

### INITIATIVES:

#### ***Kwanlin Dün Traditional Territory Land Vision***

Approved by Council in May 2017. This key document will steer future planning and development on all KDFN settlement lands and surrounding public lands. The Land Vision lays out clear values, principles and goals reached by the community through consensus.

#### ***Kusawa Park Management Plan***

Drafted by the Kusawa Park Steering Committee whose recommendations were presented to respective governments in January 2016 where it awaits final approval. This plan is under joint review by the Government of Yukon, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.

#### ***Southern Lakes Strategic Forest Management Plan***

Developed over eight years by a joint planning committee made up of Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, and the Government of Yukon. The draft recommended plan was submitted in 2018 and will undergo final review in 2019 as required by the Forest Resources Act.

#### ***Elders on Joe Mountain***

An excursion whereby a group of KDFN Elders travelled to Joe Mountain by helicopter in June 2016 to share their knowledge about the cultural significance of a proposed mineral exploration site for a YESAB submission.

#### ***Storyweaving Workshop***

Held in March 2017, where 11 people, including Elders and youth, participated in an intense two-day workshop to draw out the old stories and create new elements.

### ***Whitehorse Waterfront Heritage Project***

Advanced after several years of collecting stories, videos, photographs and archived materials as part of the implementation of the KDFN Final Agreement. A manuscript is under development with an expected release in 2020.

### ***Fish Lake Local Area Plan***

Initiated and is in the process of developing a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Yukon. Citizens gathered at Fish Lake over three days in July 2018 for the Lhu Zila Män (Fish Lake) Summer Camp to gather knowledge, values and vision in preparation for a Local Area Plan.

### ***Amendments to Yukon Land Titles Act***

Allowed KDFN to receive, in Fall 2018, the first Certificate of Title for Category A Settlement Land from the Yukon Land Titles Office. These changes were implemented by the Government of Yukon, allowing Kwanlin Dün and other Yukon First Nations to register settlement lands in the Yukon Land Titles Office. This enables the registration of leases while maintaining Aboriginal rights and title forever.



### ***KDFN Community Lands Plan***

Initiated to consult with citizens and develop a plan for KDFN Community Lands within the City of Whitehorse. The Lands Plan will provide a guiding framework for the planning and development of KDFN settlement land in Whitehorse, and will be the formal input into the City of Whitehorse's Official City Plan. Completion is expected in the fall of 2019.

### ***Waterfront Tour for City of Whitehorse Staff***

Held in the summer of 2017, where over 20 City of Whitehorse employees partook in a full-day tour to learn more about KDFN history and traditional use of the waterfront.

### ***Lands and Resources Operations Team***

Formed in 2018. Supports the mandate of Heritage, Lands and Resources department by providing baseline settlement land parcel information to Lands Administration and Management systems.



INITIATIVES:

***Healthy Babies, Healthy Generations***

Program offering maternal, paternal and child support, was expanded, allowing two staff, a nurse and a support worker to run the program for around 250 participants.

***Temporary Shelter***

Opened for three months in Winter 2017. The Natsékhi Kų Health Centre operated the temporary shelter out of the former St. Elias Group Home in downtown Whitehorse. It made available an additional ten emergency shelter beds to vulnerable people at risk and saw a total of 822 people staying.

***Health Canada funding commitment***

Received by the Jackson Lake Wellness Team with a value of \$500,000 per year ending March 2019.

***Elder Day Camp***

Launched in March 2017, for a three-day gathering held at Jackson Lake. Packed with traditional activities and with around 15 to 20 Elders participating daily, it was a huge success.

***KDFN Fathers' Group***

Launched in 2017, allowing fathers (or other male caregivers) to gather twice a month to enjoy activities, share meals and offer support.

INITIATIVES:

**Chapter 22 Review**

Chapter 22 review of KDFN Final and Self-Government Agreements is underway.

**Draft Citizenship Act**

Act is tabled in Council and is under community consultation.

**Legislation**

Enacted includes: Act to Amend the Election Act, Act to Amend the Governance Act, Act to Amend the Referendum Code, Supplementary Act to Amend the Referendum Code, Judicial Council Act, Establishment of the Compensation Board Regulation, and the Compensation Board Qualification Regulation.

**Policies and Terms of Reference (ToR)**

Approved include: Amendments to the Council Benefits and Compensation Policy, Amendments to the KDFN Post-Secondary Education Program Policy, Cell Phone Policy, Panorama Security Policy, First Nation Market Housing Policy, Amendments to the Occupational Health & Safety Policy Manual, HIPMA Policies, Vehicles Policy, Amendments to the Housing Rental Policy, Computer and Electronic Device Use Policy, Amendments to the Records Management Policy, Amendments to the Transitory Records Policy and the Nàkwät'à Kù Potlatch House Rental Policy.

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) and Regulations**

Developed in 2017 and 2018, and passed first and second reading by Council.



DEPARTMENT:

## **FINANCE**

*(includes Human Resources, IT,  
and Occupational Health and Safety)*

INITIATIVES:

### ***KDFN Beneficiaries Trust***

Created in December 2016 after several years of consultation. The trust holds the funds that will be built up through sound investments for the future benefit of Kwanlin Dün beneficiaries.

### ***Inventory of Records***

Completed in 2017, where close to 700 boxes of records were sorted, cleaned up and reduced to less than 300 boxes.

### ***Lateral Kindness Initiative***

Led by six youth and their mentors who facilitated a total of three workshops in 2016. This led to the creation of Youth for Lateral Kindness, which continues to facilitate workshops and Blanket Exercises throughout the Yukon, holding a total of 18 workshops in 2017 and 2018.

### ***Certificate of Recognition (COR)***

Awarded in August 2016, for achievement in safety excellence becoming the first Canadian First Nation government to achieve this status. COR is a nationally recognized program, developed by the Worker's Compensation Boards of different provinces and territories across Canada.

### ***Finance Trainee Mentorship program***

Created in 2018, which offers two one-year Finance job-training positions for First Nation youth.

*KDFN is committed to making a difference in the lives of its citizens. Thank you to citizens for your contributions at General Assemblies, meetings, consultations and community events. Together, we are making great things happen.*

**Shǎw níthän | Gùnáłchîsh | Mǎhsi'cho**



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