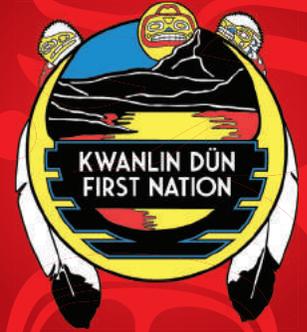


Kwanlin Dän Ch'a



Kwanlin People of Whitehorse, How are you?



Natsékhi Kù Health Centre staff took turns preparing hundreds of frozen meals for community members who were self-isolating due to COVID-19.

Here, Eva Burns (left), the Health Centre Cook, is working with Linda Huebschwerlen, the Elders Day Program Coordinator.

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Message from the Chief



Chief Doris Bill

Photo: Alistair Maitland

Welcome to another edition of Kwanlin Dän Ch'a. I hope this message finds you well and safe at home with your families. There is no doubt the COVID-19 situation has affected our everyday lives and altered how we conduct our affairs. But rest assured, your government is actively engaged in the process; we continue to receive the most current information, and we are continually assessing the situation in hopes of reaching some sort of normality. I would like to thank our citizens for following the public health measures and for continuing to do so as we move through these difficult times.

For the health and safety of our community, please remember:

- Stay six feet away from everyone who is not a member of your household
- Wash your hands frequently and use hand sanitizer
- Stay home if you are sick
- Do not gather in groups of 10 or more and always stay six feet apart from others
- Limit travel to rural communities
- Self-isolate for 14 days when returning to Yukon from travel, or if you have been in contact with someone with COVID-19

I would like to pass on congratulations to those successful in the recent election and share my appreciation for the many others who put their names forward to serve our community. Regardless of the outcome, you are all leaders and have much to offer in our journey ahead.

Since the election, COVID-19 has been a priority and caused the new Council to hit the ground running. Thanks to a joint meeting of incoming and outgoing Council members during the transition period, we were able to move quickly on supports for the community. Despite any challenges that arise, the work of our government continues.

Work is underway on the construction of the Community Hub and new houses in the McIntyre subdivision. The demolition of Kasg'ek Kù, the old Administration Building, is complete and the foundation for the new building is in place. As this year marked KDFN's 15th anniversary of self-government, we can all reflect on the many great leaders that made history in this building and look forward to future generations leading the way in our future headquarters.

Citizens will soon be updated on the Lands Act. A number of fact sheets are being prepared to assist citizens in gaining an understanding of its importance and how the Heritage, Lands and Resources department can help citizens navigate the application process.

For the interim, doors remain locked at KDFN offices to ensure physical distancing, but staff are available by phone or email to assist you. You can also reach out to our COVID-19 email at covid19.relief@kdfn.net. Citizens are encouraged to monitor the KDFN website and Facebook page for up-to-date information.

Unfortunately, to comply with the Chief Medical Officer of Health's recommendations, and to ensure the health and wellness of our community, all events have had to be postponed until further notice. It is our greatest hope that we will come together soon, but in the meantime, we must do our part to keep everyone safe.

Look out for one another. Stay home and stay well.

Shaw Níthän

15 years of self-government

by Alexander Gatensby

After decades of negotiation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation signed its self-government agreement on February 19, 2005. It went into effect on April 1 of that year. Now, fifteen years later, Kwanlin Dün celebrates this milestone anniversary as a proud self-governing First Nation.

Celebrations were planned for two days in early April, but they were unfortunately postponed until further notice due to COVID-19. That doesn't mean that citizens can't reflect or celebrate from home. We've come a long way since 2005, and that progress is something to be proud of.

Councillor Jessie Dawson has been a long-time leader in our community. She was on Council and signed the Self-Government Agreement in 2005. "It was a real learning process for me as a leader," she said. "When I started out, we were still an Indian Act band. To see where we are now is amazing. We're going in the right direction."

Rick O'Brien was in the room to witness the document being signed. "We've come a long way in a short time," he said.

O'Brien reflected on the many changes in the way KDFN operated before and after the process of becoming a self-governing First Nation. He said the main difference is that we now have the ability to legislate our own laws, and have a say in how our land is developed. Previously, all projects had to go through a lengthy process and be approved by the federal and territorial governments.

Services have gone through a lot of changes over the years, too. KDFN used to have a single vehicle doing many important jobs such as garbage pick-up and wood delivery. Years ago, citizens would also have to pack water from a pump-house, before KDFN moved to where it is now.

"I want to thank all of the leaders who have brought us to this point," spoke Elder Ann Smith, an active community member.



Chief Mike Smith in February 2005 holding up the Kwanlin Dün Final Agreement after the official signing of the Kwanlin Dün Self-Government Agreement and the Kwanlin Dün Final Agreement.

"I think it's good that we're moving. Things are always changing within Kwanlin Dün."

Over time, Kwanlin Dün hit a number of milestones, like relocating the community to McIntyre, and the construction of recreational facilities such as the skating rink and baseball field upgrade. Notable is the construction of the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre where many events and gatherings have been hosted.

KDFN has a lot to look forward to such as the new Community Hub and Multi-Purpose Gymnasium. Recent elections displayed the nation's many strong leaders and citizens' ongoing dedication to self-government.

"I believe very strongly that the youth need to be involved in our future," said Elder Ann Smith. "In order to keep the ball rolling, we need to keep making opportunities for the next generation."

We encourage you to reflect. How have things changed for you over the past 15 years as a KDFN citizen?

We look forward to celebrating this major milestone with you in the future.

After the election: Interviews with Chief and Council

by Alexander Gatensby

Photos: Alistair Maitland

On March 18, 2020, KDFN held elections for a Chief and six Councillors. Although there were challenges posed by COVID-19, the election went ahead using recommended public health measures. The results included the re-election of Chief Doris Bill, returning for her third term, and the re-election of three Councillors: Charles Chief, Raymond Sydney and Jessie Dawson. There were also three newly-elected Councillors: Rosemary Waugh-Wilson, Jess Ryder and Charlene Charlie.

Here is a brief overview of our Council, including thoughts they had to share after their election success:



Councillor Charlene Charlie

Charlene is of the Raven Clan. She supports traditional practices and always does her best to help with important community events such as potlatches. She ran for Council because she wants to see the people of Kwanlin Dün move forward positively and wants to see all of our citizens employed. “I will try and do my best to make a positive difference across all of our people.”



Councillor Charles Chief

Charles is of the Wolf Clan. He ran for a second term on Council because his first term gave him a good understanding of how KDFN operates – and now feels he can help citizens understand KDFN operations better. Charles is a supporter of citizens getting out on the land, and wants to keep the KDFN community educated and employed. “I feel that we need a healthy, skilled, knowledgeable, self-sufficient and united nation to make progress in the future,” he said. “Rooted in our spirituality, pride and cultural values as First Nation People, our leaders need to be progressive, loyal, honest, and accountable for their decisions.”



Councillor Jessie Dawson:

Jessie was re-elected to her Councillor post after two decades of service on Council. She is of the Wolf Clan and a Citizen and Beneficiary of KDFN. Through the years, Jessie witnessed the historical transition from the Indian Act process to self-determination. While she acknowledges there still remains much work to be done, she is confident the First Nation is on a solid path forward. “Economic prosperity is key for the future of our people, but it is equally important that none of our citizens are left behind and citizens remain engaged,” said Jessie. “There is no doubt it’s been a true learning experience, but my truest joy has been the lessons taught and wisdom shared by our people – young and old alike.”



Chief Doris Bill

Doris continues to serve in her role as Chief for a third term. She is of the Wolf Clan and a KDFN Citizen and Beneficiary. Over her six-year tenure, she has been a strong advocate for safety and wellness for First Nations people. She has also demonstrated an unwavering commitment to establishing a process that enables KDFN citizens to realize the full potential of their Final and Self Government Agreements. “The work accomplished thus far has been challenging but rewarding at the same time,” she says. “And none of it would have been made possible without the support and guidance of our people. It is remarkable what we can accomplish when we work together. I look forward to the journey ahead.”



Councillor Ray Sydney:

Ray will be serving a third term as KDFN Councillor. He is of the Wolf Clan and is a Citizen and Beneficiary of KDFN. He is a strong advocate for culture, tradition and language. Prior to serving on Council, with his background in law enforcement, Ray worked for the KDFN Justice Department assisting citizens in conflict with the justice system. He brings valuable expertise to the Council table and, during his last term, Ray was appointed to the Yukon Government’s Advocacy Committee on the Child and Family Services Act Review. Ray looks forward to “a journey ahead, together.”



Councillor Jess Ryder:

Jess is of the Wolf Clan. He is most recently known for his work as a Community Safety Officer, but has worked in many positions with the KDFN government. Jess is an advocate for learning on the land and is driven to be a positive influence for the youth and Elders of our community, guiding them with positivity and respect. “I want to make sure we have a safe community for the youth,” he said.



Councillor Rosemary Waugh-Wilson:

Rosemary is of the Wolf Clan. She ran for Council inspired by her mother’s drive to support those around her. As a Councillor, she is very passionate and committed to supporting youth. Rosemary plans to use her education in finance to her advantage to be the best support possible for the community. “I’m honoured to be selected for Councillor,” she said. “I’m learning and I want to do my best to support our citizens.”

Health staff go the extra mile during COVID-19

For more information,
please contact the
Health Centre at
(867) 668-7289
or
health.reception@
kdfn.net

Shortly after the Yukon government declared a Yukon-wide public health emergency on March 18, Chief Doris Bill announced that all KDFN offices would be locked shut – including the Health Centre. But just because the doors were closed didn't mean the staff at the Natsékhi Kù Health Centre went quiet. In fact, the opposite was true. They acted quickly to adapt to the public health emergency by finding creative ways to offer their essential and non-essential services – and provide COVID-19 health support.

"First thing we did was reach out to everyone," says Renee Roy. "We called and also went door-to-door, knocking with our feet and then backing up, to make sure people had the Internet and access to radio and phones. Plus, we gave out flyers with the [public health] recommendations and asked if they have questions." Thanks to a Yukon government initiative, hundreds of cell phones were distributed to women who are at risk or are in domestic violence situations.



Health Centre staff
practice physical
distancing.

Elders, she says, were the main priority, making sure they had everything they needed – including meals and medications. Nurses still provide home visits to support those in need. Many programs, like the Meals on Wheels and medication pickups, did not stop.

Then they set up a COVID-19 Relief telephone line and email address. Anyone with questions, concerns or needing support around COVID-19 can email covid19.relief@kdfn.net or call the Health Centre. The COVID-19 phone line has been temporarily suspended due to a decrease in call volume.

Homeless citizens were also a priority and health centre staff worked closely with the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter to try and find more safe housing for citizens. Carol Shorty, Outreach Support Worker, went downtown to talk to as many people about the importance of following public health measures like washing hands and physical distancing. This also meant handing out cups with initials written on them so people could avoid sharing drinks. "It's tough to get the message across because some aren't watching the news and listening to the radio," says Shorty. "It's a slow process but it looks like it's happening."

Using social media and the KDFN website, Health Centre staff have been working hard to get important information out to the community. They have been busy posting about public health safety measures, proper mask-wearing, FAQs about the virus, and ways to protect yourself and the community.

As citizens started returning from out-of-territory, Shorty and other health staff got busy doing groceries and making hundreds of frozen meals to deliver to people undergoing two-week self-isolation. "We've been taking turns at the Health Centre cooking soups, sauces, stews, chicken pies, lasagna, and giving them out to the community, to anyone who needs them," she says.

Health Centre staff have suspended all their programming – and have been on rotation working from home and working from the Health Centre. When working from home, staff spend their time making phone calls – for tele-appointments or to check in on people – as well as taking online training to be able to start offering new and important services.

"I do a lot of phone calls, and just chit chat for a while," says Shorty. "You just have to encourage people to keep up the good work, especially when you're someone in a hotel room alone 24/7. It's been kind of difficult but people are coping."

At the Health Centre, they are still offering vaccinations by appointment, other essential appointments, emergency drives, plus cooking meals, and offering COVID-19 screening. Once screened, citizens can go inside the Health Centre for appointments, but only one person or family can be inside the Centre at a time. Nurses at the centre have been available for health consultations on the phone during regular hours – and also saw people in person, outside the building, for COVID-19 screening. "People had to wait outside, spaced out. We set up chairs, but it was getting frustrating for some people," says Renee Roy. "We encouraged people to use the phone."

The phone check-ins were also useful for updating mailing addresses so that people could receive applications and cheques from Federal relief funds. With specific funding coming in for children, Roy says she and the dietician worked at delivering online grocery lists, menus and recipes, encouraging parents to spend this money on healthy food they could prepare with their school-aged children at home. It's turned into a social media campaign where people are now sharing traditional recipes and photos of themselves preparing them. Recently, Elder Diane Smith's Cranberry Jam was featured.

The Wellness team has had to cancel the Jackson Lake Spring Camp and started doing much of their outreach work by phone. "There was a lot of rise in anxiety about COVID-19," says Roy. "They've been spending a lot of time on the phone, reassuring people that we're all in this together and that it's hard to feel so uncertain all the time."

Although most driving services have been suspended, Shorty and other staff are still called to drive people for emergencies.



Elder Support Worker Denise Peter checks in on Elders in the community.



Dr. Zhang in her office at the Health Centre where she continues to work one and a half days a week.

"As a last resort, I will take the Elder bus and everyone puts a mask on and I take them to their appointment," says Shorty. "Then we wash down the vehicle with Virox (disinfectant) and go from there."

Usual programming for the Healthy Babies, Healthy Generations program have been put on hold. Instead staff have put together packages filled with activities and information and are distributing these to families with children 18 months and younger – as well as for expecting parents in the community. "Despite the circumstances we can use this in a really positive way," says Roy. "Take the time to spend time with our kids, make food with them, create some real teachable moments."





**Due to COVID-19, the House of Learning
(Kenädän Kù) is currently closed to
in-person meetings.**

See below for a list of services still available
through Education and Employment:

Adult Education Supports Available:

Online/correspondence training opportunities

Contact Mark Smith by email: mark.smith@kdfn.net
(867) 334-1352 | ext. 512

Employment Supports Available:

Resume, cover letter, job search and employment
supports by phone

Contact Gayle Ball by email: gayle.ball@kdfn.net
(867) 334-5598 | ext. 505

ISET Employment and Training Supports Available:

Funding for work gear and short online training courses

Contact Bryan Unruh by email: bryan.unruh@kdfn.net
(867) 335-6569 | ext. 516

Post Secondary Supports Available:

Applying for fall semester courses

Email: post.secondary@kdfn.net
Main Reception desk (867) 633-8422 ext. 501



The secure mail drop-off box just outside the main doors at Kenädän Ku House of Learning.

Income Support during COVID-19

- Income Support at Kenädän Ku House of Learning (HOL) would like people to use their secure mail drop-off box just outside the main doors.
- All SA Benefit cheques will continue to be mailed out — but recipients still need to provide your monthly paperwork (CRC) by the 15th of each month. Utility bills, wood receipts and fuel bills should go into the secure dropbox outside the HOL doors to avoid a delay in benefits.
- Income support applications and forms are available outside the HOL.
- The City of Whitehorse has free transit until September 30, 2020.
- If you received a package of new Income Support / SA Benefit forms, please fill them out, put them in the provided envelope, and drop them off in the HOL drop-box.
- Please remember to call us if your phone numbers and/or mailing addresses have changed.

Employment and financial support during COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, KDFN citizens can get special employment support at the Kenādän Ku House of Learning and workers can apply for emergency financial support at Service Canada.

The doors might be closed to the public, but House of Learning staff are available for phone, email, and even internet meetings for KDFN citizens who need employment, education or training support.

The Government of Canada has introduced the new **Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)** as part of Canada's Economic Response Plan. Online and telephone applications are available. Visit **canada.ca** to learn more.

The CERB will provide a taxable benefit of \$2,000 a month for up to four months to:

- workers who must stop working due to COVID-19 and do not have access to paid leave or other income support.
- workers who are sick, quarantined, or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19.
- working parents who must stay home without pay to care for children that are sick or need additional care because of school and daycare closures.
- workers who still have their employment but are not being paid because there is currently not sufficient work and their employer has asked them not to come to work.
- wage earners and self-employed individuals, including contract workers, who would not otherwise be eligible for Employment Insurance.

Important information for workers who have lost their jobs or are unable to work:

Workers should continue to apply for Employment Insurance benefits.

Individuals who have already applied for Employment Insurance will be automatically enrolled for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit will be accessible through a secure web portal starting in early April. Applicants will also be able to apply via an automated telephone line or via a toll-free number.

Visit the Canada Revenue Agency website at **canada.ca** for additional information on how the **CERB** will help workers.

Remember, the CERB benefit is taxable income.

Employment Insurance and Pension applications can be made online at: www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/portfolio/service-canada.html

For Employment Support please contact Gayle Ball at (867) 633-8422 ext. 505 or gayle.ball@kdfn.net. For other support, please call (867) 633-8422 ext. 501 or email education.reception@kdfn.net to be connected with the appropriate staff member.

KDFN offers COVID-19 relief measures

Since the Yukon declared a public health emergency on March 18, KDFN has taken a number of precautions to ensure the safety of citizens. On March 27, Kwanlin Dün Council passed relief measures for all KDFN citizens. These relief measures are as follows:

\$600 made available to citizens ages 19+

- In the form of either a cheque or a direct deposit
- Elders' cheques mailed out before Easter
- Cheques for citizens aged 19 - 59 went out by the middle of the month of April

\$915 made available to citizens ages 0 - 18

- Cheques or direct deposits were made out to the child's parent/guardian
- Cheques were dispensed in four \$228.75 cheques or direct deposits, amounting to \$15/day for KDFN children
- Cheques were sent out to parents/guardians every two weeks for two months starting mid-April

Rent waived by KDFN Housing in April 2020.

- Residents of KDFN Housing paid \$0 rent in April

\$450 April rental reimbursement for citizens with non-KDFN rental/mortgage agreements

- Receipts for this rental/mortgage reimbursement had to be submitted by May 31, 2020.

If you have not received your relief money, Kwanlin Dün may not have your address.

To update your contact info and mailing address, to send in your rental receipts, or if you have any questions, contact:

Email address: covid19.relief@kdfn.net

Physical address:

Kwanlin Dün First Nation COVID-19 Relief
35 McIntyre Drive
Whitehorse, YT
Y1A 5A5

Due to a significant drop in call volume, the COVID-19 relief phone line is temporarily out of service.

If you think you may have missed out on the April relief measures, please email covid19.relief@kdfn.net



KDFN Post-Secondary Education Program

The Financial Assistance Deadline for the Fall 2020 Semester is

WEDNESDAY JULY 15, 2020



PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY



COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS

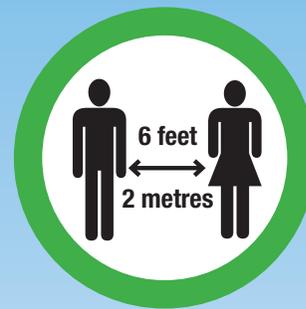
Fever · Cough · Difficulty Breathing



Wash Hands often
Use Hand Sanitizer



Stay at
Home



Keep 6 feet apart
from other People



Do not Touch
your Face



Do not Travel
Avoid Public Places



No Parties or
Gatherings

IF YOU HAVE FLU SYMPTOMS, CALL **333-9550** OR **811**

Kwanlin Dün First Nation gets a new website

For the first time since 2008, Kwanlin Dün First Nation has launched a new website.

This new website was developed over the last year and a half by a committee of KDFN employees from across the government. Its visual imagery was guided by the Youth Advisory Committee to Council.

It couldn't have arrived at a better time.

While there are many ways that we stay connected in our community, online tools have become more important than ever since the COVID-19 outbreak and in a world of physical distancing.

When you navigate to kwanlindun.com, you will find a modern, easy-to-use website that pays tribute to our heritage and has more information about the services and gatherings we organize.

Some of the new website's highlights include:

- An organized and comprehensive events calendar that keeps you in the know
- Updated departmental information
- An easy-to-use government staff directory
- Employment information
- Kwanlin Dun imagery that reflects the pride we have for our community

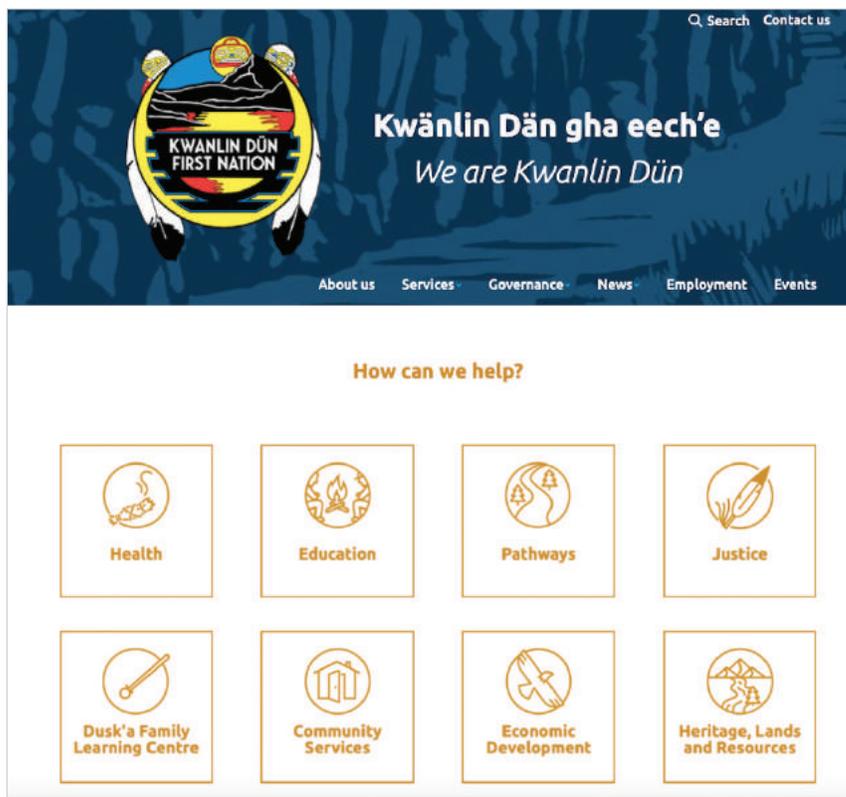
We asked our front-line workers about the things they hear about the most from citizens in the community. Then, our government experts worked with a writer to create easy-to-read web pages.

Once the content was ready, it was placed in a modern and vibrant website custom-built by professional designers. Staff from across the KDFN government will be trained to use and update content relevant to their program areas.

While we are very excited for the new kwanlindun.com website, it will take a little while for us to tap in to its full capabilities. It is common for new websites to have small errors that need to be fixed. It will also take some time for us to upload all of the information this site needs. Please be patient with us as we find and fix those errors.

This website was designed to grow alongside the KDFN government's needs. Stay tuned for additional capabilities as they come online.

For more information, contact Communications Manager Chris Madden at (867) 633-7800 ext. 112 or chris.madden@kdfn.net






NEW
PAINTED MEDIAN
to reduce width of
driving lanes and
slow down
traffic

**CROSS
WALK SIGNS**



Watch
and yield to
pedestrians
and cyclists.

Project Contact
Sabine Schweiger
(867) 668-6852

**Please don't exceed
the posted speed limit.**



Road Changes to McIntyre Drive

This June, road crews will be installing new pedestrian crosswalk signs and painting new lines on the road surface of McIntyre drive. This project aims to slow down vehicles and help foster a shared sense of safety when travelling our main corridor.

Speeding is a problem on McIntyre Drive. Even though the posted speed limit changed from 50 km/hr to 30 km/hr several years ago, many continue to drive at dangerous speeds through our community. A traffic study last year found that most drivers exceed the speed limit. This endangers the many people walking and biking on our main road. KDFN's Community Safety Officers brought this issue forward to the City of Whitehorse, and they formed a project partnership, along with traffic engineers from Stantec, to develop a multi-year series of road improvements.

"The road is too wide and feels too fast," says Sabine Schweiger, Environmental Coordinator at the City of Whitehorse and lead on this project. "The aim is to reduce vehicle speed via infrastructure changes and provide a safe travel environment for all modes of travel."

New road paint will mark clearly the lanes for vehicle traffic and indicate a centre median, thus narrowing the road space and slowing traffic down. This will be done in two locations: at both ends of McIntyre Drive where it meets Hamilton Boulevard. The crosswalk signs will go in near the baseball field.

A variety of ideas are being discussed for future years, like installing sidewalks on the side of the road with bus stops, curb extensions at bus stops and crosswalks, parking or bike designations, to name a few.

"This road needs care," says Schweiger. "Making it look cared for goes a long way for people to take pride and ownership and shared responsibility."

For more information, please contact Sabine Schweiger, Environmental Coordinator at the City of Whitehorse, at (867) 668-6852 or sabine.schweiger@whitehorse.ca

SPEEDING it's not worth the risk!

Our children are the most vulnerable.

Even when you are driving 30 km/hr, there is still a 10% chance of death, and children will most certainly be injured.



Demolition of Admin Building paves way for the future



The old Administration Building was demolished this May.

Work on the new KDFN Community Hub is on schedule. Over the month of May, crews completed the demolition of Kasg'ek Kù, the old Administration Building. Construction continues on its replacement, the Community Hub, due to be completed April 2021. The projects require considerable investment: the Community Hub will cost \$24.6 million and the Admin building demolition comes in at \$100,000.

For the tear down of the old building, KDFN crews from Community Services department used a method called “selective demolition.” This means any materials that could be salvaged for reuse or recycling were carefully removed and set aside. For example, the metal roofing was removed on May 11 and all windows were cut out on May 15. By May 25, the building was completely removed, and the site backfilled to the level of the surrounding grade.

Many citizens are reflecting on the history of the Admin building. “It’s kind of sad,” said Jeanine George. “That building’s been there forever. I remember going there as a little girl.”

The old Admin building was built in three phases over a decade starting in the mid-1980s. The original building consisted of

just the kitchen and two side wings. In the mid-1990s, the front lobby was built. In the late-1990s, the Council Chambers went up.

When Lester Wilson started working there in the early 1990s, there were no computers and he was one of only two staff in the Lands department. A total of 15 people worked there. “When the office first opened, McIntyre was a brand new subdivision with brand-new homes, paved sidewalks. It was a dream come true. People called McIntyre Beverly Hills,” says Wilson. “The new building is gonna get everybody back together again under a new roof. I’m really excited.”

Others in the community are piping up on social media with stories, memories – and goodbyes. “So much history in that building – so much of the work that shaped KDFN’S Land Claims happened in that dark basement,” comments Rae Mombourquette on a Kwanlin Dun Facebook post. “I remember walking down there as a teenager, maybe 13; maps covered every table and people poured over them setting boundaries and lands-set-aside. Looking forward to the history that will happen in the new administration building.”

For more information, please contact Larry Turner at (867) 633-7833 ext. 403 or larry.turner@kdfn.net

Changes to Spiritual & Mental Wellness programs

After extensive evaluation and community and stakeholder feedback, the Health and Wellness department has made some important changes to the Spiritual & Mental Wellness program. The most significant change is the development of a standalone wellness team that is focused solely on Kwanlin Dün citizens. The new manager will oversee this Kwanlin Dün Wellness Team as well as the Land-Based Healing Team at Jackson Lake.

“We are very excited to staff the teams and move forward with supporting the Kwanlin Dün citizens and Yukon in unique ways,” says Christina Sim, Director of the Health and Wellness department.

The Kwanlin Dün Wellness Team will consist of one Cultural Practitioner, one Cultural Counsellor, one Elder in Residence, and two Clinical Counsellors. They will support the community in a variety of ways – providing community outreach, on-the-land sessions, crisis response, supporting KDFN events, one-on-one sessions, family therapy, cultural teachings, cultural activities, local and out-of-territory treatment intake support, and additional mental health referrals when appropriate.

The Land Based Healing Team will consist of one Cultural Practitioner as well as a variety of clinical staff who will oversee the Land-Based Healing Camps at Jackson Lake and After Care. This team will offer its services to Yukon First Nation citizens through our continued partnership with Yukon Government and Health Canada.

“We took all of the feedback we received very seriously and are proud of the many changes we are implementing,” said Christina Sim. “Kwanlin Dün was encouraged to continue to lead the way in land-based healing for Yukon First Nation citizens and we are very excited to have signed a new five-year agreement with Canada.”

The Land-Based Healing team will operate year-round and provide a variety of models that serve several different client groups. Examples include: six-week trauma healing camps for men and women, one-week retreat camps for past participants, family camps, youth and elder camps, and family intensives.

The Land-Based Healing Team has also developed a new Provider Skills Program that offers staff from rural communities skill development out of Jackson Lake. These Provider Camps are aimed at helping those working in other First Nation communities to be able to provide support and after care to their community members who return from Jackson Lake, Yukon MWSU, or out-of-territory treatment programs. Some participants of the Provider Camps will be invited to mentor in our six-week trauma camps and bring those skills back to their own communities for providing much needed after care.

Circumstances with COVID-19 have put all Land-Based Healing Camp programming on pause, however we continue to strategize on how we can offer healing camps while ensuring the safety of staff and participants. Teams continue to be available by phone for anyone needing support.

*For more information, please contact
Christy Sim at
christina.sim@kdfn.net*

*Smudging is a part
of many healing
ceremonies.*



Our community needs lateral kindness

by Aurora Hardy

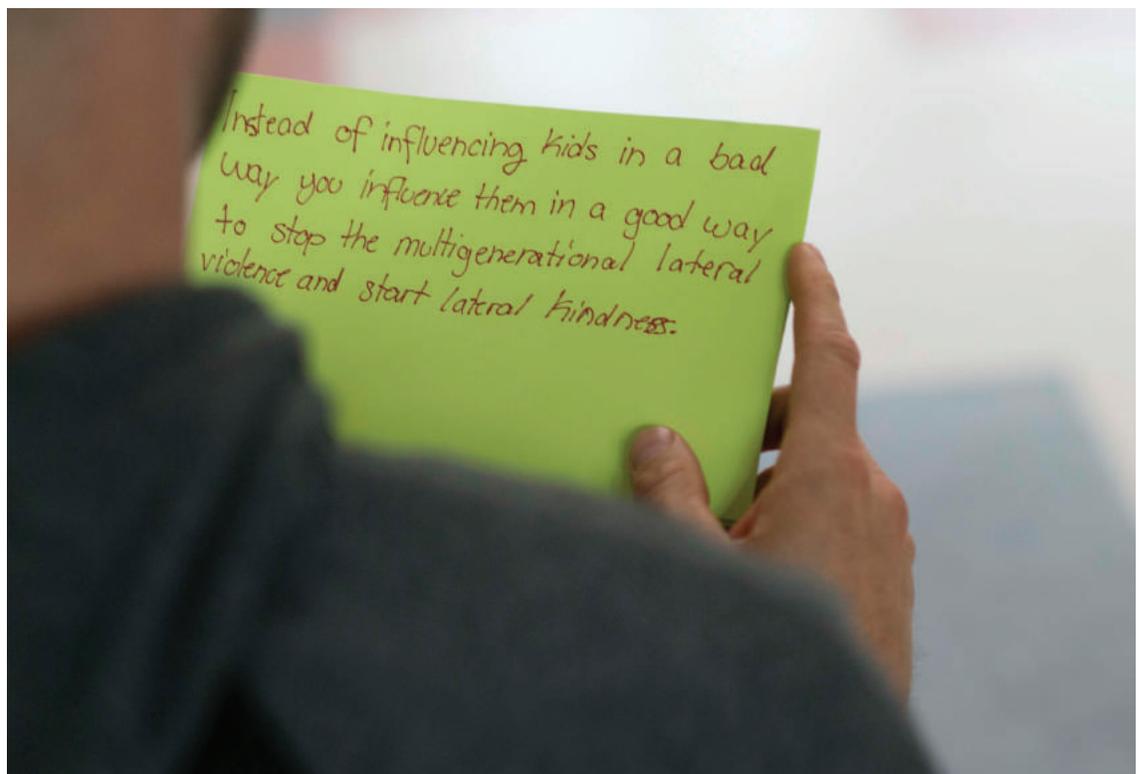
“When a powerful oppressor has directed oppression against a group, members of the oppressed group feel powerless to fight back and eventually turn their anger against each other.”

Definition of **Lateral Violence** from The Native Women’s Association of Canada

In Indigenous communities, lateral violence – or peer-on-peer violence – is a byproduct of colonization, racism, intergenerational wounds, oppression, and deep-rooted trauma surrounding Residential Schools. This type of cruelty is rampant within our community. Examples include gossiping, shaming, bullying, belittling, ignoring, and icy glares from people of all ages.

It weighs people down, causes stress, affects mental health and self-esteem, and drives some to self-destructive behaviour. This does not have to be the legacy we

create for the next generation. Lateral violence has no place in our community – it is a cycle that needs to be stopped. Our youth, Elders, leaders, neighbours, and communities’ most vulnerable are affected. Even KDFN staff have expressed that they have experienced lateral violence on a daily basis. When someone is hurting, they often take it out on those around them – instead of expressing frustrations in a calm and helpful way. Lashing out on someone or posting hurtful things on social media only continues the cycle of lateral violence.



Everyone has a role in creating change and spreading lateral kindness. A fundamental teaching of Kwanlin Dün people is respect – for ourselves, others, Elders, and the land. We need to respect everyone regardless of age, gender, job title, or appearance. There are so many ways we can create lateral kindness in our community: offer to help someone with something, support each other and be compassionate, give compliments, speak kind words about someone who is not there, and offer to listen when someone had a bad day.

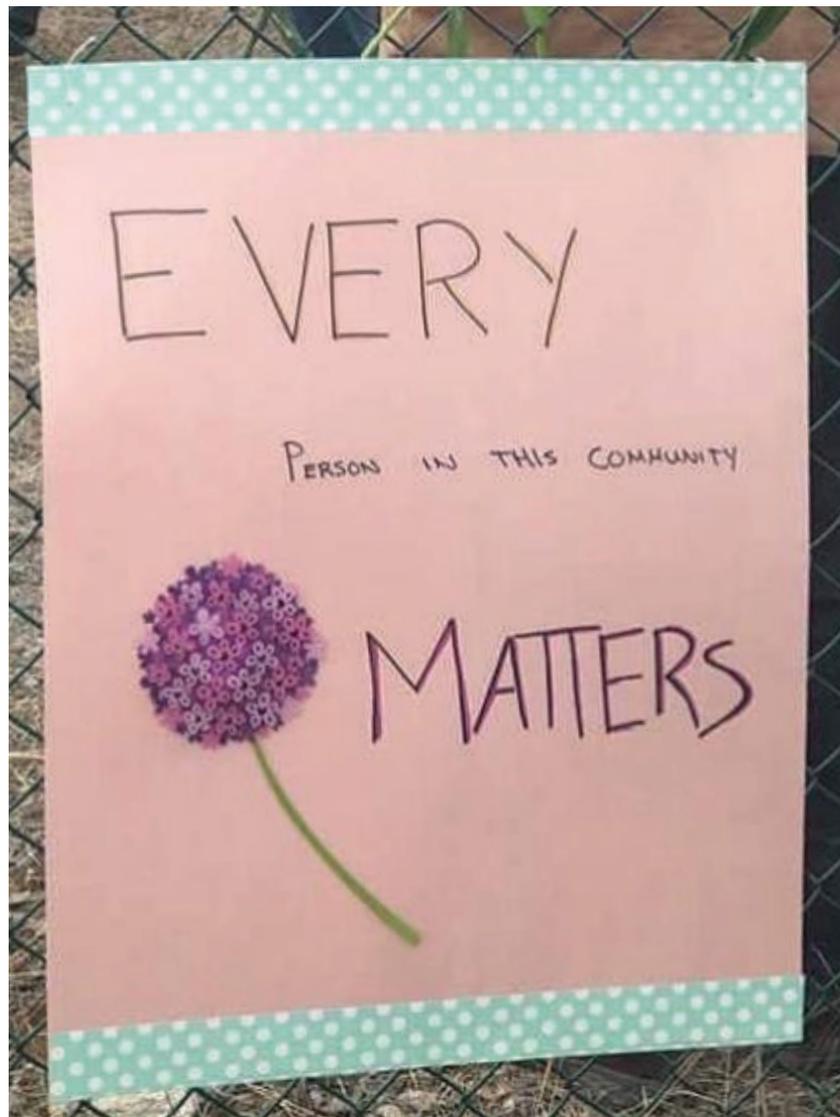
During times such as this, there is a lot to think about and it's perfectly acceptable to feel scared or overwhelmed. There are resources available, so reach out when you need help.

Kwanlin Dün Health Centre
Mental Health Services 867-668-7289

Crisis Services Canada
 1-833-456-4566 Text 'Start' to 45645

Kids Help Phone 1-800-668-6868
 Text CONNECT to 686868
 Live Chat: www.kidshelpphone.ca

First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness
 24/7 Help Line: 1-855-242-3310



Youth speak up about lateral violence

In the words of past participants of the Youth for Lateral Kindness workshops:

- When we hurt one person, we hurt their family unit, which hurts the community. Once you say it, you can't take it back.
- Do not keep it to yourself: When it happens, talk to someone you trust about it. A lot of what weighs you down isn't yours to carry.
- Our young people are watching more often than not. Since this is learned behaviour and they don't know any other way, they will continue the pattern.
- If you hear something private about someone, don't gossip about it.
- Pray for those that are laterally violent to stop transferring their trauma to others, and to transform it, so we can grow together. If lateral violence is not transformed into kindness, it is transferred.
- Speak with awareness and intent to empower, not to overpower others. Words are powerful, you can choose to use them to hurt or help.
- Give out positive power and energy. Love and be kind to each other.



The CDC team in a virtual meeting, still working under new conditions. In this photo is Debra Kapaniuk, Psychologist; Katie Cheung, Physiotherapist; Julie McVicar, Occupational Therapist; Marguerite Kuiack, Developmental Therapist; Leona Corniere, Program Coordinator; Emily Tredger, Speech Therapist; and Tashina Carlick, Early Childhood Therapy Assistant.

25-year collaboration with Child Development Centre

Kwanlin Dün and the Child Development Centre have been working together for a long time to support children. Twenty-five years ago, the CDC started out with having one-and-a-half employees working with KDFN, based out of the Health Centre and only seeing a small number of children. Now they have seven staff working out of the Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre, where they assist over 40 kids in the Kwanlin Dün community.

"At the time, we recognized that we had this service and not many people in Kwanlin Dün were accessing it," explained Alayne Squair, Executive Director of the CDC. "We worked with Kwanlin Dün to see what would work best, and made the decision to move some of our people into Kwanlin Dün."

Now, they have a small team which includes: Marguerite Kuiack, Developmental Therapist; Emily Tredger, Speech Therapist; Katie Cheung, Physiotherapist; Julie McVicar, Occupational Therapist; Tashina Carlick, Early Childhood Therapy Assistant; Debra Kapaniuk, Psychologist; and Leona Corniere, Program Coordinator.

The services they provide depend on the needs of the children and families who reach out. For some families, that may mean meeting with them in person, and doing direct intervention on, for example, their speech. With other families they may connect over the phone, talk to the parents and walk them through how to deal with their children's behaviour. The frequency of contact depends on the family, and can vary from often, to once every six months or so.

When a child is transitioning into Kindergarten, the Child Development team can meet with the family and the school, to make sure everybody is on the same page with any need the child has. If invited, they will also attend Healthy Babies, Healthy Generations lunches and meet with parents that way.

"We meet with families and talk about what's happening for their kids, what things are going well, and what things they have concerns about," said Squair. "From there, we come up with a plan on how we can best support them."

For more information about services the Child Development Centre provides, or to make a referral, call (867) 456-8182.

School package deliveries

In partnership with the Yukon Literacy Coalition, the Kenädän Kù House of Learning staff delivered packages to school students whose tutoring programs have been cancelled due to COVID-19.

In these packages, KDFN tutors included tutoring tips for parents, as well as books and activities for students. KDFN CELC Chris Gleason delivered the packages. The Yukon Literacy Coalition bags contained drawing materials and a book or other items – and even a recipe and the ingredients to make pancakes!

Gleason also delivered some of the student school packages for Elijah Smith Elementary School.



KDFN passes Nän K'uk - the new Lands Act

For more information on the Lands Act or Historical Submissions, visit kwanlindun.com or contact the Heritage, Lands and Resources department at (867) 633-7800 ext. 128 or by email lands@kdfn.net.

On March 3, KDFN Council passed the new Lands Act. The Act was guided by KDFN's Traditional Territory Land Vision, and follows the direction from KDFN Council, Beneficiaries and Citizens to meet residential needs on settlement lands.

The new Act will come into force later this year. It gives KDFN authority to manage, protect and enforce laws on settlement land. During the first year of the Act, the Heritage, Lands and Resources department will focus on resolving current occupancy and historical submission applications, as well as hold a lottery for residential lots in Whitehorse, depending on COVID-19 measures in place.

Current occupancy and historical submissions for land

As directed by Council, the priority for the Heritage, Lands and Resources department is to process the applications of Beneficiaries and Citizens who are current occupants or have historical submissions for land. These submissions may be for either residential or traditional use of settlement land. They are also known as land set aside, band council resolutions, or site specific selections. There are over 350 historical submissions on record.

The department will assist individuals during the application process based on their interests and needs – and will process applications and grant land use to the greatest extent possible. Current occupancy and historical submissions for land will be processed in chronological order based on when the submission was first made. Where there is more than one interest in the same area, interests will be processed at the same time.

Costs

KDFN Beneficiaries and Citizens will not pay a fee for traditional, residential or recreational use applications. Beneficiaries and Citizens get the land at no cost but are responsible to pay any costs associated with developing the land and building their homes. KDFN and the Government of Yukon have programs to assist with housing and land development costs.



Looking south down Lhu Zila Män (Fish Lake).



Michie Creek salmon monitoring project

KDFN has been monitoring Chinook salmon migrations into Michie Creek for over two decades. The primary focus of the project is to maintain the salmon's continued access to their primary spawning location at the outlet of Michie Lake. Over the years many barriers, such as beaver dams and logjams, have been breached. Last summer was particularly bad for beaver dams due to low creek flows. KDFN crews were kept busy in August removing several new dams. Migrating salmon also had to contend with high water temperatures on the Yukon River throughout the summer.

Making matters worse is that only 282 salmon migrated through the Whitehorse Rapids Fish Ladder in 2019. Usually about 1,200 salmon are counted. A count this low has not been experienced since 1978. We are expecting a larger return in 2020 and

will be once again continuing our efforts to allow salmon access to spawning habitat at the outlet of Michie Lake. The high snowpack this spring will hopefully improve flows in the creek and hamper the beavers building dams.

Additional research is being conducted as part of this year's project to assess Chinook egg-to-fry survival. Research is also looking at development timing – comparing Michie Creek to other streams that are being considered for restoration. These include KDFN's salmon restoration project on the Ibx River, Teslin Tlingit Council's project on Dead Creek, and Tr'onðëk Hwëch'in's project on the Klondike River.

This Project is Funded by Yukon River Panel and supported by Whitehorse Fish Hatchery and Nic DeGraff of Can-nic-a-nick Environmental Sciences.

Above left:
Log obstruction, Michie Creek.

Above right:
Bruce Wilson, KDFN Land Steward Officer removing a log obstruction in Michie Creek. Michie Creek Salmon Monitoring Project 2019.

For more information please contact Operations Manager of Heritage, Lands and Resources Brandy Mayes at (867) 633-7800 ext. 144 or brandy.mayes@kdfn.net



Chinook Salmon restoration on the Ibex River

Last summer, KDFN initiated a Chinook salmon restoration project, which began with a small instream egg incubation trial on the Ibex River and is growing into a bigger study. The project is looking at how to perform successful egg transplantation in the Ibex River and other Chinook spawning areas in nearby watersheds. It involves partnerships with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc., fisheries biologist Nick de Graff, Yukon Fish and Game, and Patagonia.

Using methods developed by other Yukon First Nations (Teslin Tlingit Council and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in), the team captured three spawning fish from the Takhini River in late August 2019. Less than a thousand eggs and a small amount of milt were collected, transported to the Ibex River, fertilized onsite, and planted into the Ibex River. When planted into the stream, the eggs were placed in different incubators to contain the eggs and allow for survival and timing of development milestones (hatching and emergence) to be determined. This information is useful in figuring out future methods for restoring Chinook stocks in the Takhini River and the quality of the Ibex River as spawning habitat.

The monitoring to date has determined that the eggs planted in the Ibex River hatched during late February. As of early May, the eggs have developed into alevin. Continued monitoring will be done and it is expected that the alevin will emerge as fry during mid-June.

KDFN recently received funding for this project from the Yukon River Panel to continue with a second year of the project over 2020/2021. For the coming year, the team will collect an increased number of eggs (up to 12,000) from up to four female Chinook on the Takhini River and planted in the Ibex River. Eggs will be planted into more than one site to understand how survival may differ between areas. A small number of eggs will also be planted back into the Takhini River to understand how



Chinook salmon alevin from the Ibex River, May 8, 2020.



Salmon fry at Elijah Smith Elementary School.

survival and egg development differ not only from the Ibex River, but also other Chinook spawning areas in the Teslin and Klondike river watersheds.

Last October, a portion of the Chinook salmon eggs from this project were transferred to the Stream to Sea program's classroom incubator at Elijah Smith Elementary School. Tracy McFadyen's Grade 5 class has been learning about their development and caring for them with the support of DFO and KDFN's Cheyenne Bradley. These Chinook fry were released in the Ibex River in May. Plans for the class field trip to release the fish and study the Ibex habitat were cancelled due to COVID-19 school closures, but Elijah Smith Elementary School looks forward to planning another opportunity in the upcoming year.

Opposite page

Top: Cheyenne Bradley (KDFN/DFO), Bruce Wilson (KDFN) and Trix Tanner (DFO) preparing egg incubators on the Ibex River, August 2019.

Bottom left: Cheyenne Bradley (KDFN/DFO) checking on Chinook egg development, February 5, 2020.

Bottom right: Cheyenne Bradley (KDFN/DFO and Bruce Wilson (KDFN), Ibex River ice removal, February 5, 2020.

Southern Lakes Community-based Salmon Plan

“ When we talk about being caretakers of the salmon, that extends to the waters. When I think about this plan and the three Southern Lakes First Nations coming together like this to talk about protection of the salmon, it’s very powerful. It’s time, and I’m so glad to see this happen.”

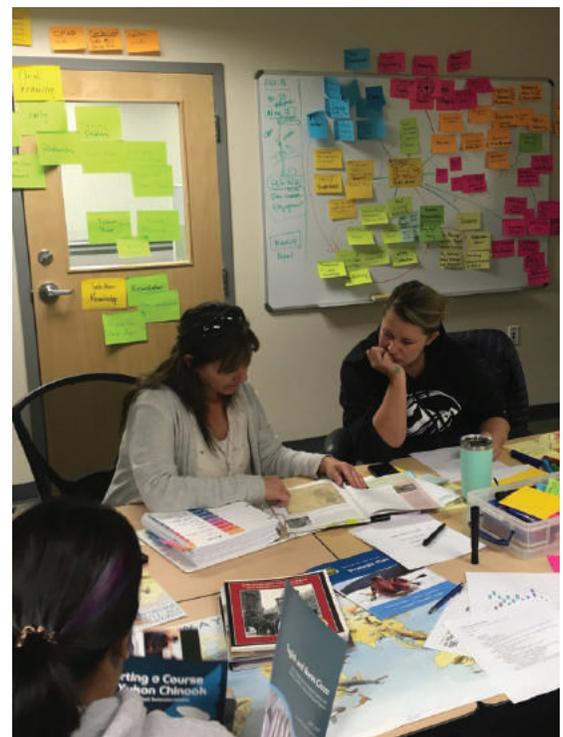
- Workshop Participant

For more information please contact Operations Manager of Heritage, Lands and Resources Brandy Mayes at (867) 633-7800 ext. 144 or brandy.mayes@kdfn.net

Long-term declines of Yukon River Chinook salmon and major impacts such as the Whitehorse Hydro Dam have led to harvest restrictions and significant sacrifices on the part of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation. Because of this, it is difficult to maintain community salmon culture and pass along the knowledge from Elders to youth in our community. We are salmon people and have a rich history of salmon culture and fishing within our traditional territory. Places like the Michie and McClintock Rivers were always important gathering places for fishing and community. As this is no longer the case, KDFN, alongside

the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Ta’an Kwäch’än Council – and funded by the Yukon River Panel – are working to re-establish the connection to salmon through a Community-based Salmon Plan.

Over the last year, staff from the Heritage, Lands and Resources department have been working with a technical working group made up of representatives from all three First Nations to develop the framework for the Salmon Plan. The group is made up of Brandy Mayes (KDFN), Cheyenne Bradley (KDFN), Karlie Knight (CT/FN), and Kristina Beckmann (TKC).



The working group has also been sharing technical information, developing communications materials and, on February 3, they hosted a “Weaving Salmon Connections” workshop at the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre. The purpose of the event was to come together as three Nations to celebrate salmon and share what has been done on the Community-based Salmon Plan to date, to discuss the plan itself, and identify the themes and priorities for the plan. Approximately 35 individuals, including Elders and youth participants, from the three Nations attended the event alongside 20 educators.

Much of the information compiled by the technical working group over the first year is helping KDFN government and community to shape the values and priorities in the plan. Many of the salmon-related values and perspectives brought forward by participating First Nations citizens acknowledge “the way it was” prior to borders or the numerous impacts that affected their salmon run. There is also a desire to have a salmon plan that acknowledges First Nations rights, agreements, self-determination, and a

culturally and spiritually interconnected relationship with salmon. These indigenous perspectives need to stand side-by-side with western-based scientific and management perspectives.

The three First Nation governments will continue to focus on additional community engagement, implementation strategies, and production of the final plan. This will be challenging given the uncertainty around COVID-19 and the inability to conduct community engagement in the short term. Regardless, the technical working group is committed to working towards completion of the plan within the 2020-2021 fiscal year. This will require strength, adaptability and resiliency, all of which can be drawn from the characteristics of Yukon River Chinook salmon themselves.



Opposite left: Citizens from KDFN, TKC and CT/FN gathering around a theme-based board to give input into the Southern Lakes Salmon Community Based Salmon Plan (SLCBSP). Weaving Salmon Connection Workshop, February 3, 2020 at Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.

Opposite right: Members of the technical working group.

Photos: Dennis Zimmermann

This schematic illustrates some citizen values that have been brought forward through this plan. It demonstrates the way that salmon connect to everything and need to be viewed in a holistic way.

Updates and Info: Hunting on KDFN Traditional Territory

For more information, please contact the Heritage, Lands and Resources department at (867) 633-7800 ext. 128 or lands@kdfn.net.

Beneficiaries' Right to Hunt

Kwanlin Dün Final Agreement (K DFA) beneficiaries may harvest all species of wildlife (except bison or elk) and fish in all seasons with no bag limits within the Traditional Territory of Kwanlin Dün First Nation. They do not require the permission of the Government of Yukon or any other Yukon First Nation to do so.

K DFA beneficiaries may also hunt within the Traditional Territories of other Yukon First Nations with the permission of that Yukon First Nation, provided the area is not one of overlapping Traditional Territories. If it is an overlap area, K DFA beneficiaries may only hunt there if the affected First Nations have come to an agreement about granting permission to hunt, and that permission is indeed granted.

K DFA beneficiaries may only hunt bison and elk with a hunting license and permit from the Government of Yukon. When hunting with a Yukon hunting license, K DFA beneficiaries are not restricted to KDFN Traditional Territory but may hunt throughout the Yukon, but not on another Yukon First Nation's Settlement Land without written prior consent from that First Nation.

KDFN must provide proof of beneficiary status to beneficiaries who intend to exercise their K DFA hunting rights. Beneficiaries who were younger than 55 as of April 1, 2005 may be required to show this card to a conservation officer.

Non-First Nations and Non-K DFA Beneficiaries

From the KDFN Interim Hunting/Fishing Policy – Within Traditional Territory (not including Category A Settlement Land)

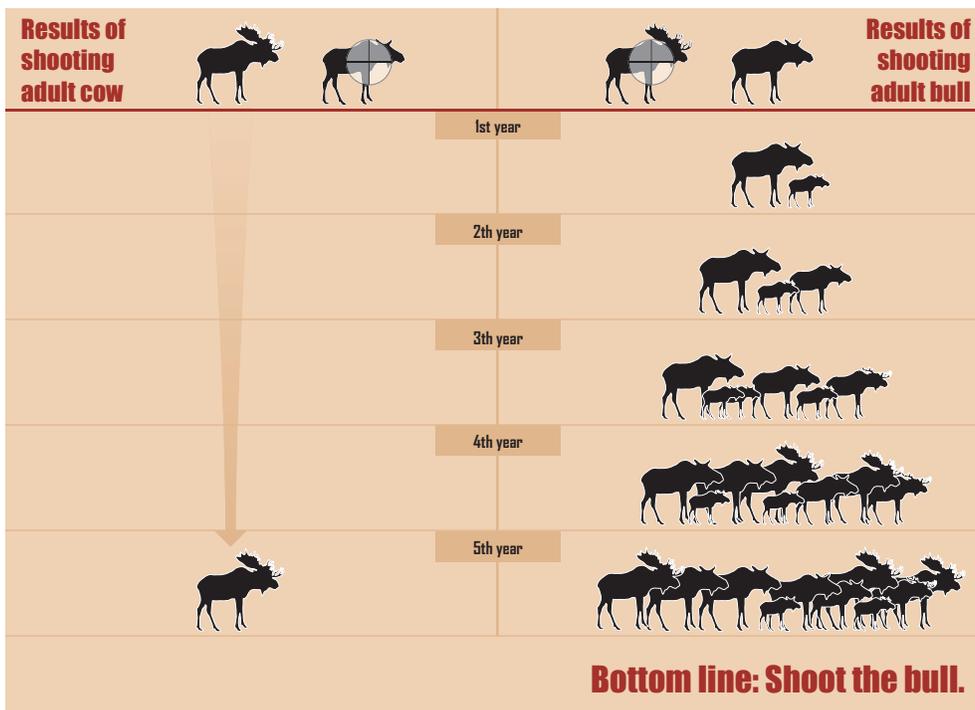
Until further notice, we are asking **Non-First Nations and Non-K DFA Beneficiaries** to hunt and/or fish under the general laws of application while they are in the Traditional Territory of KDFN.

Hunting and fishing under general laws of application means that the individual needs to obtain a Yukon hunting and fishing license and must follow the rules and regulations outlined in the Wildlife Act and the Yukon Hunting and Fishing regulations.

Rationale:

- To date, proper wildlife assessments have not been completed within the KDFN Traditional Territory. It would not be proper management practice to allow hunting in certain areas until KDFN completes this.
- KDFN has not yet developed a Wildlife Act and regulations.
- KDFN cannot give hunting and fishing consent to non-beneficiaries and non-First Nation people in overlapping Traditional Territory areas.





Hunting with Principles

When it comes to hunting, we all have to do our part to maintain healthy wildlife populations. Healthy wildlife populations have sustained Kwanlin Dūn since ancient times and hunting and fishing remains very important today. But in recent times, moose have been harvested at unsustainable rates. There is also a growing concern about the health of sheep populations.

Our Land Vision reminds us of our shared values around wildlife stewardship and our relationship to the land. The Land Vision was passed by Council in 2016 and was finalized in 2019. Let's remember these values and principles when we're out hunting. A goal of the Land Vision is: "To conserve areas of high ecological value and maintain the health of wildlife populations."

Some of the Guiding Principles of the Land Vision are:

- **Respect:** The land and all animal life must be respected. Decision-making and the use of land must reflect a respectful relationship with the land.
- **Caring for the Land:** People have a responsibility to care for and protect the land.
- **Considering Future Generations:** All land use and decision-making must take into consideration the ability of future generations to continue to benefit from the land.

Attempts are being made to recover and better manage some of these impacted wildlife populations throughout the Traditional Territory, particularly near developed areas and in those areas accessible by road. You can do your part by making responsible choices when you hunt.

Southern Lakes Woodland Caribou Moratorium

The KDFN government asks citizens to continue **to not harvest caribou** in the Southern Lakes region. This moratorium stands until a framework and process is developed that ensures planning and management are guided by First Nations' traditional knowledge, values, culture and history.

Staying safe in bear country

Our Elders tell us bears are sacred. We respect them, and share the land, air and water with them. They are our spirit brothers and sisters. They are the protectors of the animal kingdom and they keep the land healthy. In respecting our grandmothers and grandfathers' words, let's do our part so we can all roam together in harmony.

*For more information
please contact
Land Steward Officer,
Bruce Wilson at
(867) 633-7800
ext.151 or
bruce.wilson@kdfn.net*

Travelling safely in bear country:

- Always travel with bear spray – and know how to use it. Instructional videos are online or call your Land Steward Officers for a demonstration.
- Carry bear spray in a harness on your body so you can get it out quickly. Do not carry in your backpack.
- Know the signs of bear activity: dug up stumps, roots or rotting wood, scratches on trees, and scat.
- When travelling by bike on trails, slow down so you don't surprise a bear.
- When walking on trails, travel in pairs or groups and make noise.
- Pay attention and listen, do not wear headphones when on trails.
- Keep your dogs on a leash if not a trained bear dog.
- Practice good housekeeping: pack out what you brought in including apple cores, banana and orange peels.
- A fed bear is a dead bear.
- Do not stop and view bears on the side of the road.

What to do if you come across a bear:

- If you encounter a bear, back away slowly, talk to the bear (do not yell), and let the bear know you are leaving.
- If a bear charges, use your bear spray. Bear spray works best at very close range. It will not work farther than about 30 feet, and some brands, 15 feet. Read the instructions on the can.
- If you see a bear and it hasn't seen you, assess whether it is far enough away that you can carry on without disturbing it. If you are unsure, go back the way you came.

Managing attractants:

- Keep your camps and area around cabins clean of garbage, carcasses and fuel, yes fuel.
- When camping, store food in a bear safe container or in a vehicle. Never leave food or beverages on a table and do not store food in your tent.
- Cover your quads and snowmobile seats with plastic or tarps when not in use, seats are an attractant due to the formaldehyde in the vinyl covering.
- Keep garbage and compost in a bear resistant bin or locked building until garbage collection day, or until you can take it to the landfill.
- Electric fencing makes sure a bear can't get your chickens, meat caches, smokers and other attractants. Call WildWise Yukon at (867) 335-5212 for more information.





Photo: John Meikle



Hunting and Fishing:

- Share the river with the bears. Fish during the day and leave the river to the bears at night.
- Discard your bones and fish scraps into the water away from your camp.
- If a bear is present, leave the area.
- Keep your smoke house clean and never leave unattended when in use.
- Hunt early. Don't dress your kill at night.
- If you find a bear kill site, leave the area.
- Do not shoot a game animal if a bear is present.
- Promptly field dress a game animal after the kill. If possible, avoid opening the gut cavity until after you have salvaged all other edible meat to limit odors.
- Try to pack all the meat out in one load. If this is not feasible, place the remaining meat in game bags and hang from a tree, or cache them in an open area at least 100 yards from the kill site.
- When you are packing out game meat and have finished hunting for the day, make lots of noise.
- Treat clothes soaked with blood or guts the same as any other attractant. Leave soiled clothes with the meat cache.
- Stay alert, avoid drugs and alcohol.

COVID-19:

Due to COVID-19, KDFN Land Steward Officers, Yukon Conservation and WildWise Yukon are not offering in-person bear spray demos until it is safe to do so. Sorry for the inconvenience at this time. For online video bear spray demos go to:

<https://yukon.ca/en/stay-safe-bear-country#what-to-do-if-you-encounter-a-bear>



WE ARE HERE TO HELP

COVID-19 Email Support:
covid19relief@kdfn.net

Above: Health Centre staff practice physical distancing.

RETURN ADDRESS:

Kwanlin Dün First Nation

www.kwanlindun.com

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DESTINATION ADDRESS