

# Kwanlin Dän Ch'a

KWANLIN PEOPLE OF WHITEHORSE, HOW ARE YOU?

YÚK'E | WINTER

Dianne Smith and Josephine Holloway make an offering alongside Bradley Bamforth at the Sacred Fire on September 30 for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

Photo courtesy of CYFN/Alistair Maitland



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# Who you gonna call?

For emergencies  
always call..... **911**

KDFN Community Safety Officers:  
**867-332-9551** (If there's no answer,  
please leave a message.)

KDFN Tips Line, for reporting  
community concerns anonymously:  
**867-456-TIPS(8477)**

Messages are checked daily.

RCMP in Whitehorse (non-emergency):  
**867-667-5555**

## Mental Wellness Supports

KDFN's Natsékhi Kù Health Centre:  
**867-668-7289**

Yukon Mental Wellness Services:  
**867-456-3838**

The Canadian Mental Health  
Association, Yukon Division:  
**867-668-6429**

National Indian Residential School  
Crisis Line: **1-866-925-4419**

Hope for Wellness National Crisis Line:  
**1-855-242-3310**

## Animal Control

City of Whitehorse Bylaw Officers: **867-667-2111**

## Child and Family Supports

Child & Family Liaison: **867-332-2414**

Yukon Government Social Workers - 24/7: **867-667-3002**

## COVID-19 Info and Services

Natsékhi Kù Health Centre COVID-19 Info Line  
(weekdays 8:30 am to 4:30 pm): **867-335-5051**

Yukon's Health Information Line (anytime): **811**

Book a COVID-19 vaccination: **1-877-374-0425** or  
[www.yukon.ca/this-is-our-shot](http://www.yukon.ca/this-is-our-shot)

If you think you have COVID-19 (you have symptoms or you've  
had close contact with someone who has tested positive) call  
KDFN's COVID-19 Info Line and a nurse can help advise you on  
next steps: **867-335-5051**

## Substance Use Support and Harm Reduction

KDFN's Natsékhi Kù Health Centre: **867-668-7289**

The Whitehorse Outreach Van (Naloxone kits and other  
supplies): **867-334-1647**

KDFN Community Safety Officers (Naloxone kits): **867-332-9551**

Yukon's Supervised Consumption Site at **6189 - 6th Avenue**.  
Open weekdays 12 am to 9 pm

If someone you care about is in distress. Speak with a  
counsellor with Wellness Together Canada: **1-866-585-0445**

The National Overdose Response Service hotline is  
confidential, nonjudgmental support for you, whenever  
and wherever you use drugs: **1-888-688-NORS (6677)**

Hope for Wellness National Crisis Line: **1-855-242-3310**

A smudge stick.  
Photo courtesy of *CYFN/Alistair Maitland*



CUT OUT THIS PAGE AND KEEP ON YOUR FRIDGE FOR QUICK REFERENCE.

# A Message from the Chief...

## Dännch'é!

Welcome to the first KDFN newsletter of the new year.  
Our days are getting longer and the sun is coming back.  
It's time to turn our faces to the light.

Sadly, we are facing two public health crises in the Yukon  
with COVID-19 and the substance use emergency. The two  
are intertwined. This virus has kept people apart, made us  
lonely, and caused some to turn to unsafe ways to find relief. It's  
also contributing to mental health issues, big and small, for many.

We see the ongoing pandemic affecting the supply chains to our  
local shops, and it's also affecting how and where people are getting  
street drugs.

On behalf of Council, I would like to send condolences and prayers to  
the people who have lost a loved one. Families and communities in the  
Yukon are hurting and it's time to take action.

Of course, drug dealers who prey on our citizens are not welcome in  
our community. But we know that the dealers are only one part of the  
problem. Yukon First Nations people have a long history of trauma,  
and it will take generations to heal. This is not about judgement or  
punishment. We need to support KDFN citizens where they're at,  
whether they're ready to stop using or not.

That's why Council is supporting new treatment and harm-reduction  
programs now. Read about them on page 28. And that's why I've  
spoken out in support of decriminalising possession of small amounts  
of drugs for personal use. Addiction is a mental health disorder, not a  
criminal behaviour.

I want to see our people supported. That support needs to come from  
our governments – First Nation, Yukon and Canada— and it also needs  
to come through communities, families and friends.

**Let's come together to help bring everybody into the light.**



“

*I encourage you to  
reach out for help  
if you need it.  
You are not alone.”*

**Chief Doris Bill**





# SHOUT OUTS

Do you know a citizen or group that deserves a shout out? We're looking to celebrate successes, big and small, online and in every issue of the KDFN newsletter. Get in touch with our communications team by calling 867-334-2012 or emailing [communications@kdfn.net](mailto:communications@kdfn.net)

## Language Learners

Through a partnership between KDFN and the Yukon Native Language Centre, four KDFN citizens are on a work study program where they're paid to learn their language.

Michelle Charlie, Cory Holway and Kathleen Dawson are learning Southern Tutchone. Kitana Sterriah is learning Northern Tutchone.

We can't wait to see how you use this knowledge in the future!

## Health care heroes

In December 2021 and January 2022, KDFN's health and wellness team offered three vaccine clinics for citizens, members of their households and employees.

A big thank you to all of the health care staff and everybody working hard to get Yukoners vaccinated, and thanks to everyone doing their part to keep themselves and others safe.

## Young artists at work

You may have noticed some flashy new artwork on the KDFN holiday greeting cards this year. The young creative minds at Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre let us use their designs for the cards. There were nine different artworks in total.

Great job, kids!!

## And the winner is...

KDFN's Youth Rec team put on a contest for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (a.k.a Orange Shirt Day), and Jayden sent in the winning submission! We had his entry printed on orange hoodies for him and his family.

Way to go Jayden!



## Finding Peace...

As part of the Finding Peace project, a statue of a woman playing a drum was installed on the Whitehorse waterfront at Rotary Park in September. It's intended to raise awareness of the ongoing issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in the Yukon and northern British Columbia, and honour the victims and their families.

The project was driven by families who had lost loved ones, in partnership with the Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle, the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society, KDFN, Teslin Tlingit Council, City of Whitehorse and the Yukon government.



*To no longer stay out of sight and out of mind. This monument is for the mothers, the aunts, the sisters, the daughters, and the friends that we have lost. Each had their own goals, dreams, and experiences. Each had contributions to make to our world. We remember them. We honour their lives. And we raise awareness with the public and the people we love, so no more women and girls will be lost."*

Chief Doris Bill at the statue unveiling

## Welcoming a new Whitehorse City Council...

In November, KDFN representatives were invited to the new Whitehorse City Council's swearing-in ceremony. Sean Smith and Elder Dianne Smith offered a prayer, Ray Sydney drummed and Elder Judy Gingell welcomed in the new mayor and councillors.

Whitehorse Council meets on Monday evenings. Elections take place every three years.

Photos: *Whitehorse Star/Vince Federoff*





## Council Door Preview...

KDFN citizen Terrence Cory Shorty has been hard at work painting the Council doors in the new Kashgêk' Building.

We'll be featuring the final design and some more info on the artist online and in the next newsletter. We can't wait to see the finished product.

And we cannot wait to welcome citizens in to tour the building. Stay tuned for upcoming tour times.



## Behind the camera in Beijing

KDFN citizen Wayne Vallevand is back on the road at the Winter Olympic Games in Beijing, China. This summer he went to the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan as a camera operator for CBC. You can find a profile on him in the Fall 2021 issue of Kwanlin Dän Ch'a.

Keep up the good work!

**Do you know a citizen or group that deserves a SHOUT OUT?**

# Citizenship MATTERS

## HEY PARENTS!

Register your child as a Kwanlin Dün First Nation citizen and beneficiary.

For more information, please contact Kwanlin Dün's Citizenship Registrar at 867-633-7800 Ext. 131 and leave a message, or email [citizenship@kdfn.net](mailto:citizenship@kdfn.net)

# Remembering Elder Áyenjiátà—Louie Smith

KDFN Elder Áyenjiátà—Louie Smith passed away in early January at age 89.

He was well-known for generously sharing his knowledge with anyone who wanted to learn. He delighted people with his fiddle playing, his humour, and his stories.

Áyenjiátà—Louie Smith was an integral part of KDFN's Elders' Council. And a key resource about the old ways, the stories and the history of Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Yukon.

Áyenjiátà—Louie Smith, of the Crow Clan, was born in 1932 on the Teslin River at Tat'lane—Dog Salmon Slough. His mother, Tàshura—Mary Smith, was from the Big Salmon area and was the daughter of Big Salmon Charlie. His father, Tl'ukshan—Charlie Smith, was from the Lake Laberge area. The family set fishnets at Dog Salmon Slough in summer. They also had a cabin at T'aw Tà'är—Winter Crossing and a home in Whitehorse.

Áyenjiátà means "Experienced Daddy" in Southern Tutchone. Louie learned many skills throughout his long life—trapping, hunting and fishing with his parents, later working as a labourer on the Whitehorse waterfront and in highway construction. He and his brothers all played fiddle and guitar. They held dances at his father's home in Whitehorse.

From his earliest years, Louie listened to his father and other Elders tell traditional stories in their languages, along with the history of the region and their travels.

Over the years, he held many jobs. He worked at the White Pass and Yukon Route company repairing the railroad tracks in the 1960s, and for the Kwanlin Dün First Nation in community services for 17 years.



This short biography appeared in *Dă Kwändur Ghà Kwadindur—Our Story in Our Words*. The information was taken from the Ajänath'a, a Kwanlin Dün Elders Portrait Project.

# Helping to reconnect Elders in care through traditional drumming

KDFN citizen Doronn Fox made drums for Elders in Whitehorse's long-term care homes

By River Gatensby

For KDFN citizen and beneficiary Doronn Fox, drums are powerful "connectors to our ancestors". They can bring joy, revive memories and reconnect people to their culture.

"The drum is about your heartbeat. It's about being in your mother's womb, and it's about connecting with your ancestors," says Doronn. "When you hit that drum and sing songs you can totally disconnect from the world outside—it's like talking to your ancestors."

That's why he jumped at the chance to handcraft drums for workers and Elders in Whitehorse's long-term care homes in 2021.

"Some of these Elders don't have their family; they don't have their people or their community," says Doronn. "They want something tangible that is a part of their culture."

The drummaking project began when a friend reached out and asked him to make drums for Copper Ridge Place. Then, the other care homes found out and it grew from there. He ended up making 8 drums—4 handgames drums and 4 ceremonial drums—for each home.

"The care homes also use the drums when Elders and older people pass away, when they're leaving the building or when there's sickness," he says. "You need a ceremonial drum for those things."



In the fall of 2021, Doronn hand-delivered the drums to Copper Ridge Place, the Thompson Centre and Whistle Bend Place with Elder Shirley Adamson. She was there to support him. According to Doronn's teachings, you need opposites in ceremony. In this case, Shirley is from the Wolf Clan and a woman, and Doronn is from the Crow clan and a man. At each spot he explained how to properly handle and care for the drums.

Doronn learned how to make traditional drums from many Elders across Turtle Island (North America). And now, it's important to him to pass on the teachings with every drum he makes.

He is also very proud of his work with youth. Throughout his career, Doronn has dedicated himself to helping communities in need. He spent years travelling to different places in North America with his business Tsalazra, which means baby gopher in Northern Tutchone. He helped different nations suffering with problems, such as "youth in crisis, opioids, alcoholism, uninvolved youth, combating educational divides, remote learning..." as he described.

In late 2019 he closed his business due to his daughter's diagnosis with leukaemia. After a year being in Vancouver with his daughter, he focussed his efforts on Yukon-based cultural needs.

Now, he's pleased to see the joy and vitality his drums have brought to a wide range of cultures, with his personal connection to the Yukon.

"The Elders love it," says Doronn. "We get calls all the time from every one of the homes saying the Elders are loving the drums. They ask questions and want to learn more."

“

***The drum is about your heartbeat. It's about being in your mother's womb. It's about connecting with your ancestors."***

Doronn Fox



# What's happening @YOUTH REC ?

Skating, drum-making, climbing, reading, playing and more...

In September, Youth Rec partnered with Nations Skate Youth to run a workshop where youth built their own skateboards and tested their new rides at the downtown skate park!

Doronn Fox and Elder Shirley Adamson led several workshops where youth made their own singing drums, hand games drums and drum bags. As part of the workshop, youth learned traditional teachings and participated in ceremony.

In partnership with Skills Canada and Head to Toe Salon, youth learned how to design their own acrylic nails and how to style their hair, including: how to dye hair extensions, put feathers in their hair, use a hot iron, and how to braid.



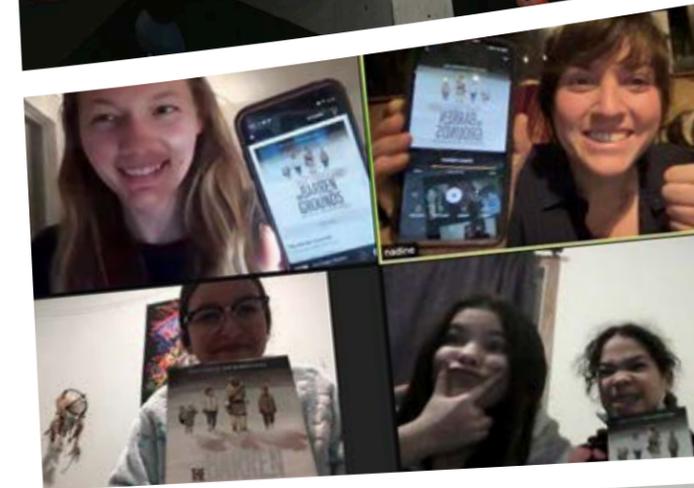


In partnership with Climb Yukon, youth learned climbing skills and techniques on the bouldering wall at Porter Creek school. Youth excelled at this sport and are excited to continue when COVID-19 guidelines allow.

In the Fall, all in-person programs were paused due to public health measures. We look forward to seeing everyone again in-person when it is safe to do so! In the meantime, Youth Rec has moved all programming online. We are excited to share that online programming has been very popular, often filling up to full capacity!

We had a virtual Halloween costume contest and families dressed up together for the occasion. We were thrilled by the number of submissions for this contest and to see everyone's smiling faces in their photos. We started a virtual book club, reading *The Barren Grounds* by Richard A. Davidson, a member of Norway House Cree Nation. Club members met once a week to discuss the story and enjoy each other's company.

Also, Rec staff created a weekly Activity Kit to deliver to youth. Activity kits included beading supplies, art projects and more! In December, we turned up the Christmas Cheer by dressing up like Santa and their elves to deliver a Christmas Cookie decorating kit. We cranked the Christmas tunes, danced away and shared some holiday fun!



## What's to come for Youth Rec this year?

Online programming remains in full swing. We will resume in-person programs when COVID-19 guidelines allow. All programs require registration and spaces are limited. Please call 867-332-3060 for more information.

**WE MISS YOU ALL!**



# Meet KDFN's Healthy Babies, Healthy Generations Team!

Bringing a new baby into the world is a big job. This team of nurses and support workers can help new parents-to-be stay as healthy as possible before, during and after pregnancy.



**Stephanie Coombes, Nurse**

My name is Stephanie Coombes and I moved to the traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council five years ago. Before that, I worked as a nurse in Labrador and Nunavut.

I have a strong background in prenatal and children's health. I am passionate about public health and the connections between health, communities, nutrition and climate change.

I love spending time outside with my family, either paddling in the summer or skiing in the winter.

I am so excited to be on this team and can't wait to be working with everyone.



**Andrea Oldridge, Nurse**

Hello, my name is Andrea Oldridge and I have been working at Natsékhi Kù Health Centre for over a year now as a nurse in the Healthy Babies Healthy Generations program.

I have worked in most areas in maternal and family health, with the last number of years in a public health role, which I am passionate about.

I was born and raised in Whitehorse, and I am excited to now be raising my own children here. I love to spend time out on the land with my family. We enjoy being out in all seasons.

I am looking forward to continuing to meet and work with many of you.



**Joicy Joy, Family Support Worker**

My name is Joicy Joy (she/her). I am originally from India and have been in the Yukon for five years. My education background is nursing from back home and I did social work in B.C. before I moved to Whitehorse.

One of my passions is working with families and children. Prior to joining the KDFN health team as a Family Support Worker in the HBHG program, I worked with the Boys and Girls Club and Kaushee's Place (Women Transition Home).

In my spare time, I mostly stay home with my three-year-old son Ayden and spend quality time with my family. I love cooking, reading, walking in nature and learning new things. One of the things I am doing this season is learning to ice skate with my son. So, if you see someone laying down on the CGC public rink laughing, that's me.

Looking forward to meeting you and all the amazing people in this community. If you see me, feel free to say hello!



**Marija Pavkovic, Nurse**

Hello, my name is Marija Pavkovic. I've been a nurse for 11 years and I've worked in various jurisdictions across Canada, such as Ontario, Alberta and Nunavut.

I moved to the Yukon three years ago. Last year, I finished a Masters of Public Health specialising in Health Promotion. My work experience has primarily been in public health, working with Indigenous communities. And my most recent role has been managing the Yukon Immunization Program.

I grew up in a small village in Croatia and came to Canada when I was six years old. I enjoy cooking, hiking, fishing and camping.

Call or text 867-335-4477 to contact the team.



# Our land, our way



*Kwanlin Dün First Nation will continue to grow and protect and thrive on the lands of our ancestors. As they used our land to live and work and raise families for generations, so will we for generations to come.*

Chief Doris Bill

KDFN is working to manage, develop and protect our lands for the benefit of Citizens now and for future generations to come.

Over the next few pages, you'll find brief overviews of some projects KDFN's lands team is working on and why they matter to you. We'll go over some local area plans, residential developments and other work that's underway to get Citizens and Beneficiaries back on the land.

We're also working with Chu Níkwän LP (CNLP), KDFN's development corporation, on other residential, commercial and industrial development opportunities in Whitehorse.

See page 40 to see what else CNLP has been up to.

Just a reminder that all land applications are open for public review and comment before any final decisions are made. Visit our Public Notice and Comments page at [kwanlindun.com](http://kwanlindun.com) to have your say.

KDFN's Heritage, Lands and Resources office is located in the new Kashgêk' Building in McIntyre. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, all KDFN offices are closed to the public without an appointment. To book an appointment call 867-633-7800, Ext. 128 or email [Michele.Taylor@kdfn.net](mailto:Michele.Taylor@kdfn.net).

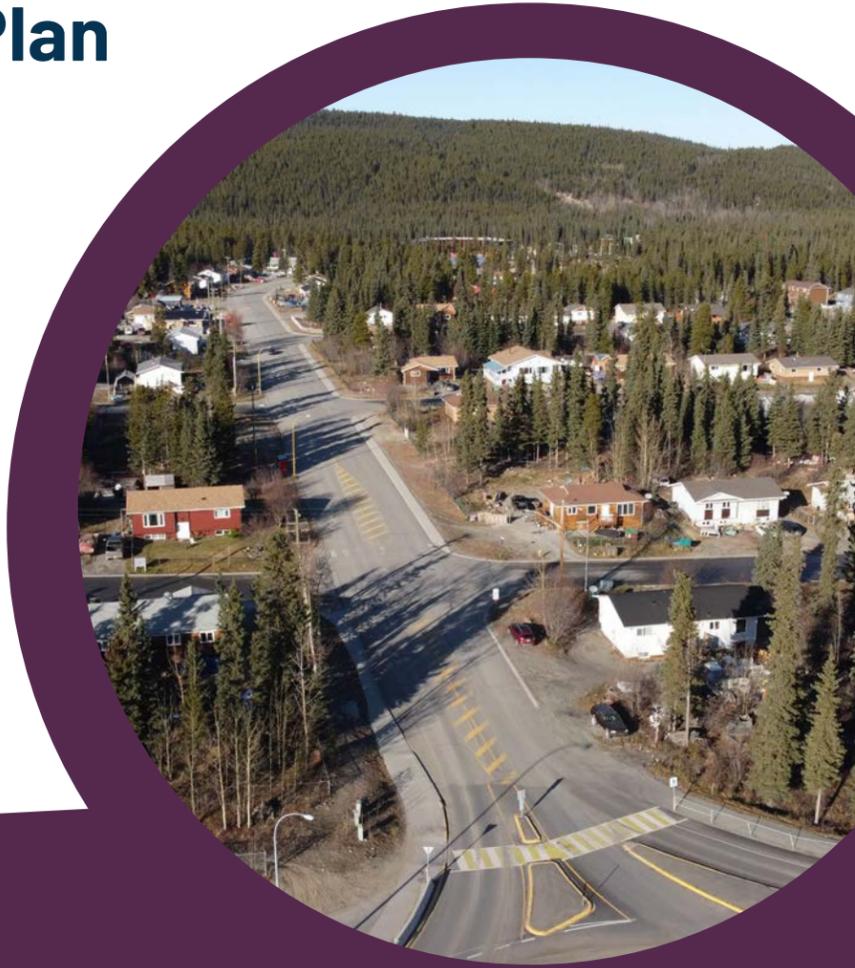
## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

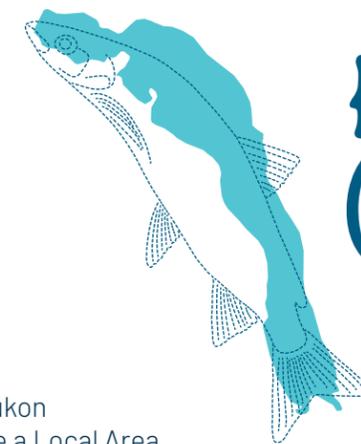
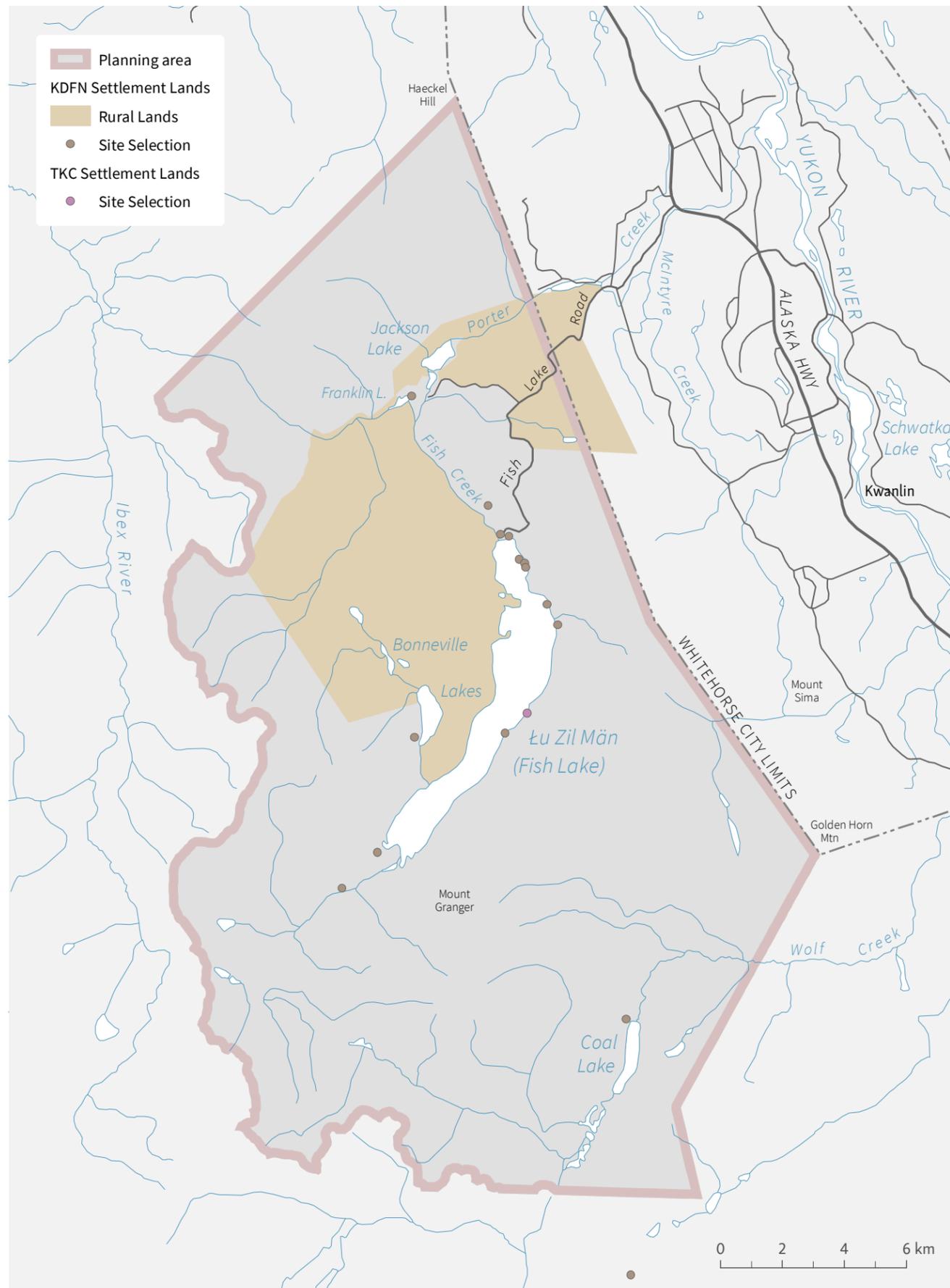
# McIntyre, Crow and Swan Neighbourhood Plan

KDFN is planning for the future of the McIntyre subdivision, including Crow and Swan streets. This plan will guide how the neighbourhood grows, including housing, community needs and government services.

A committee of Citizens will lead the plan's development. Through winter and spring 2022, there will be opportunities for KDFN Beneficiaries and Citizens to give input to the plan. Stay tuned for ways to be involved.

Visit [kwanlindun.com/neighbourhood-plan](http://kwanlindun.com/neighbourhood-plan) or contact KDFN's planning manager Roy Neilson at 867-332-1717 or [Roy.Neilson@kdfn.net](mailto:Roy.Neilson@kdfn.net)





# Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake)

## LOCAL AREA PLAN

### PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

We're working with the Yukon government (YG) to create a Local Area Plan for Łu Zil Män—Fish Lake. This plan will guide how 460 square kilometers of land is managed, used and protected.

Łu Zil Män—Fish Lake is located in KDFN's Traditional Territory. For millennia, First Nation families and their ancestors have fished, trapped, hunted and gathered in this area.

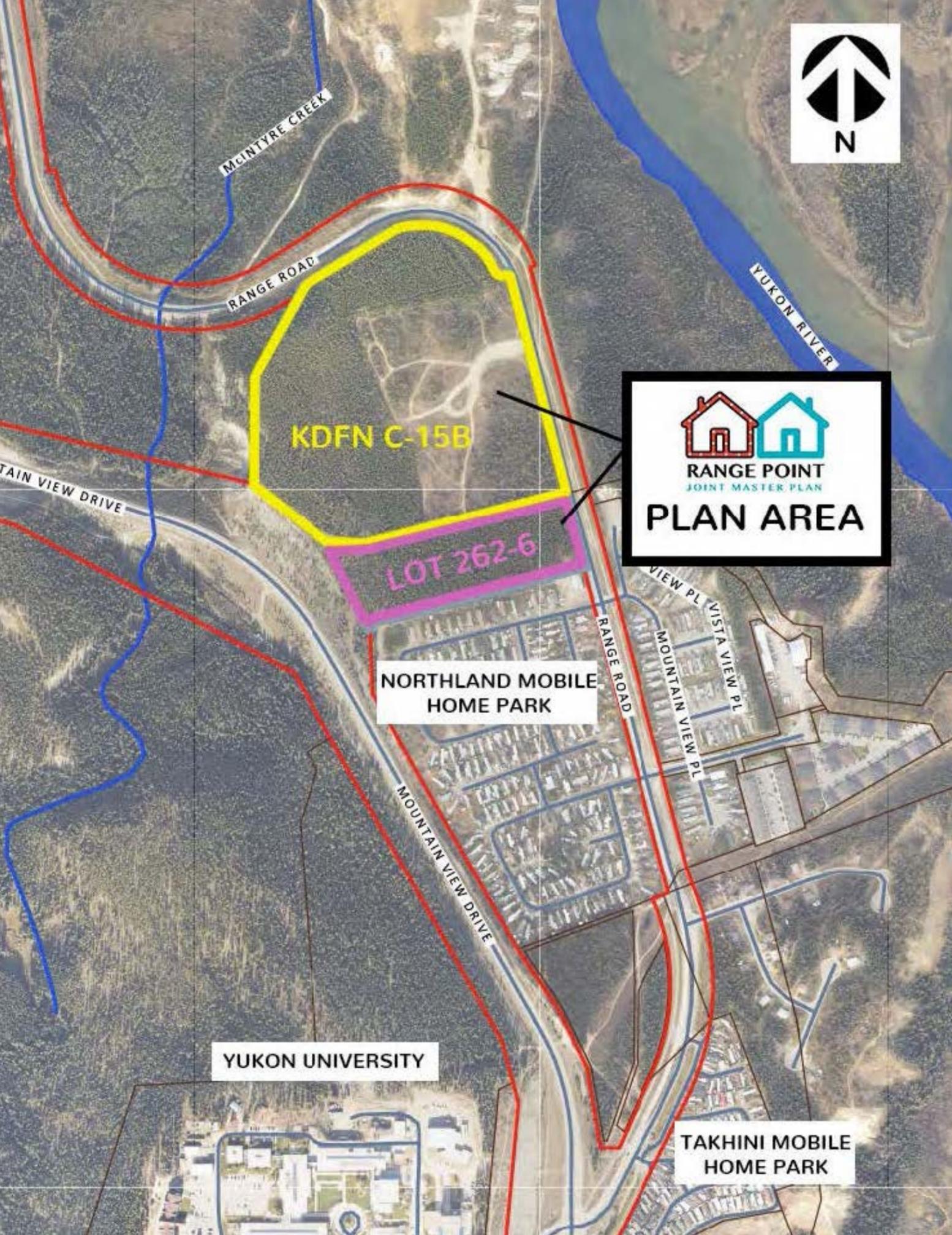
Łu Zil Män—Fish Lake's beauty and prime location make it a popular spot for recreation and commercial activities, such as hiking, biking, dog mushing, horseback riding, ATVing, snowmobiling, skiing, boating and fishing. Over the years, we've seen some of these uses impact the land and the treaty rights of KDFN Citizens and Beneficiaries.

For example, overuse or misuse can:

- disturb fish and wildlife in the area;
- harm heritage sites and culturally important areas; and
- create excessive unwanted noise, litter, and waste.

In 2021, a committee with equal representation from KDFN and YG was formed to guide the plan's development. This committee will reach out to KDFN Citizens and Beneficiaries for input in 2022. Stay tuned for opportunities to give input in the process.

Visit [yukon.ca/fish-lake-local-area-planning](https://yukon.ca/fish-lake-local-area-planning) or contact KDFN's planning manager Roy Neilson at 867-332-1717 or Roy.Neilson@kdfn.net



## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

# Range Point Joint Master Plan

KDFN is working with the Yukon government and the City of Whitehorse to plan for a new residential neighbourhood called Range Point.

Through community land planning KDFN Citizens and Beneficiaries decided that Range Point would be developed to generate revenue for our Nation. That means these residential parcels of land will be first offered to KDFN citizens and beneficiaries, and then to anyone who wants to live there. And the money earned will be used to fund other programs and services for KDFN Citizens and Beneficiaries, including programs that would help KDFN people own their own homes.

In November 2021, we asked Citizens and Beneficiaries for feedback on three neighbourhood ideas. We're reviewing the feedback and plan to share the final concept in spring 2022.

Visit [kwanlindun.com/range-point](https://kwanlindun.com/range-point) or contact KDFN's planning manager Roy Neilson at 867-332-1717 or Roy.Neilson@kdfn.net



## LAND ADMINISTRATION

# Processing historical submissions for Settlement Land

Since KDFN's *Lands Act* came into force in October 2020, we've been working through 400 pre-existing applications for residential or traditional use of Settlement Land. We call them historical submissions. These submissions came from Citizens and Beneficiaries over the years, and now the *Lands Act* guides how we process them.

So far, we've met with 60 historical submissions holders and 30 families to talk about their land parcel and explain how submissions will be processed.

Processing these historical submissions will help KDFN people get back on the land. Citizens and Beneficiaries can live, harvest and fish on our land. Families can build homes, cabins and camps for future generations.

If you have a submission, you can book an appointment to review it with KDFN Senior Lands Officer Jimmy Kennedy. He can be reached at 867-334-2746 or [lands@kdfn.net](mailto:lands@kdfn.net)

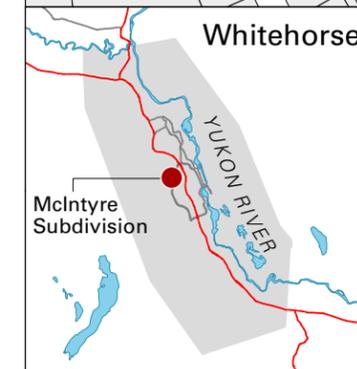
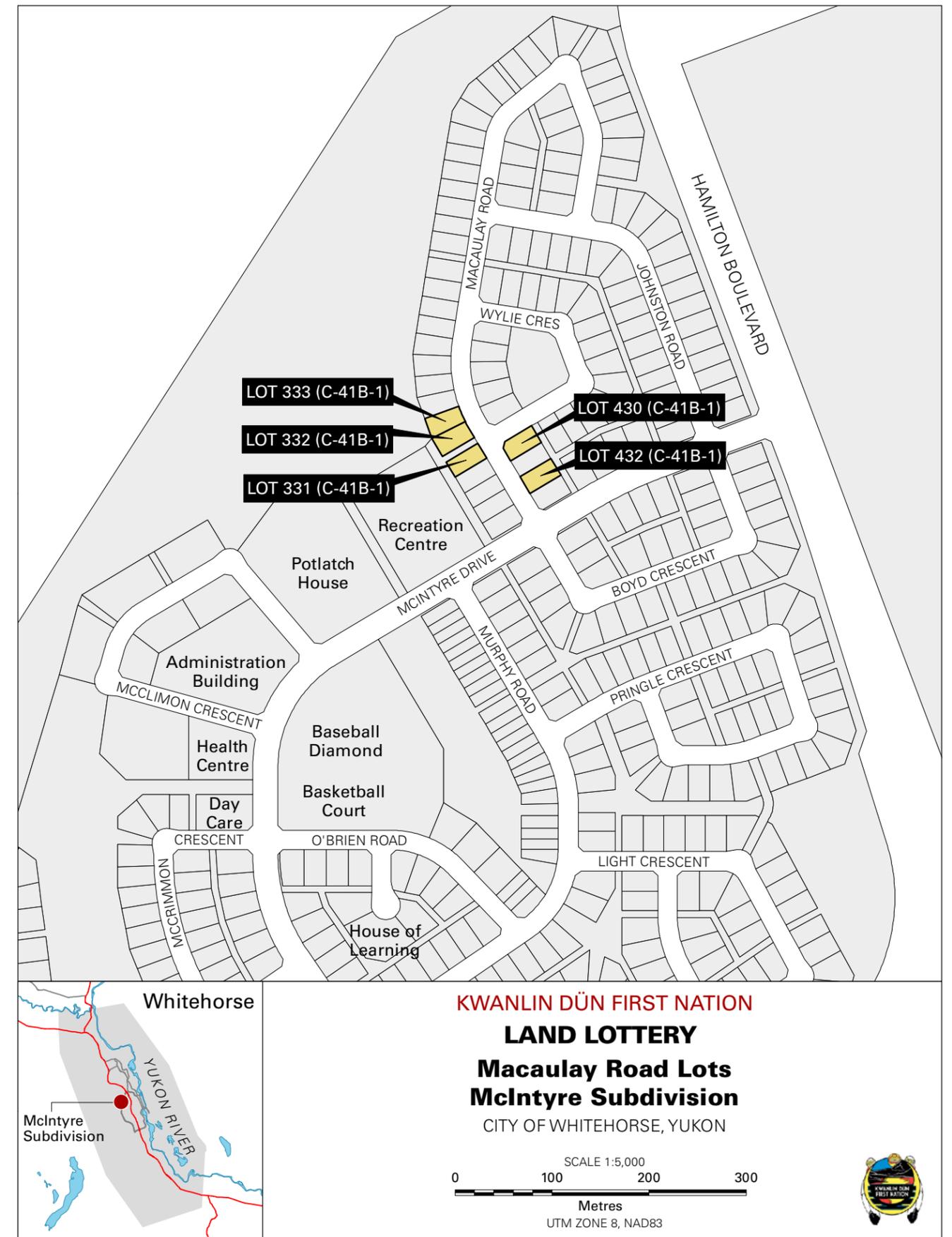
## RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

# Macaulay Road Lottery

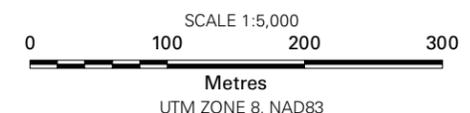
In spring 2022, KDFN plans to hold a lottery for five, 2-bedroom houses located on Macaulay Road in the McIntyre subdivision.

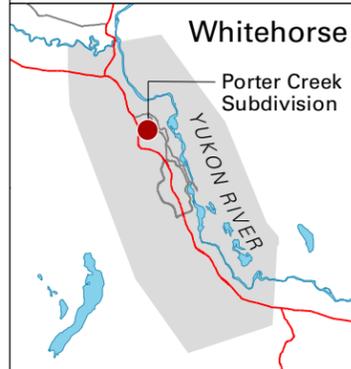
As part of KDFN's housing strategy, Council determined these houses will be available to Citizens and Beneficiaries who are first-time homebuyers. They will be offered at a price well below market value.

Look for more details on financing, how to qualify and how to apply to the lottery in spring 2022. We will share more information as it becomes available.

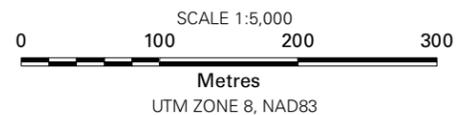


**KWANLIN DÜN FIRST NATION**  
**LAND LOTTERY**  
**Macaulay Road Lots**  
**McIntyre Subdivision**  
 CITY OF WHITEHORSE, YUKON





**KWANLIN DÜN FIRST NATION  
LAND LOTTERY**  
**Lots 1348, 1433, 1454, 1464, 1469**  
**Porter Creek Subdivision**  
CITY OF WHITEHORSE, YUKON



DATE: 2021-06-16

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## RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

# Porter Creek Land Lottery

In November 2021, KDFN held its first land lottery. Thirty Citizens and Beneficiaries entered the draw for five residential lots located on KDFN's Settlement Land in Porter Creek.

The five winners were Kailen Gingell, Bruce Campbell, Shirley Dawson, Doronn Fox and Kaiden McIntyre. They have signed agreements with KDFN. The agreements include a commitment to build a home within 3 years.

Contact KDFN's lands and resources manager Daniel Beaudoin at 867-335-6336 or [Daniel.Beaudoin@kdfn.net](mailto:Daniel.Beaudoin@kdfn.net)





Yukon Conservation Officers donated a whole moose to the Jackson Lake 5-week Healing Men's Camp that took place in the fall. Elders came to share their knowledge about fleshing, knife-making and preparing the meat for eating, and the hide for tanning.

Camp participants also learned how to create their own hand drum under the guidance of cultural practitioner Joe Miigwans.

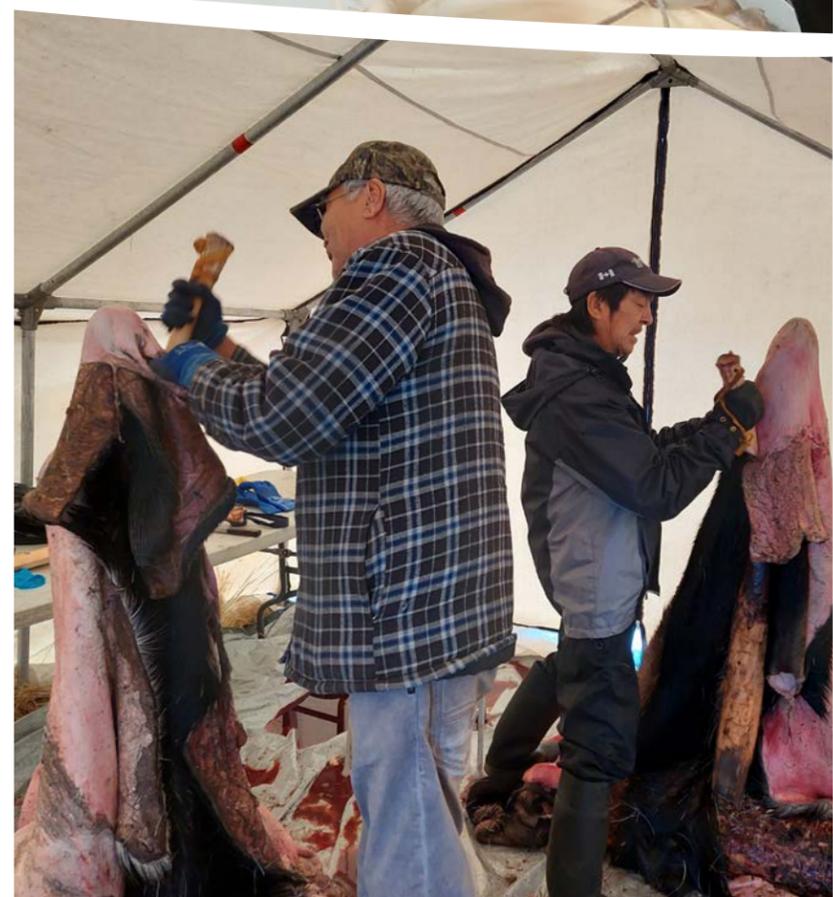


## KDFN and Yukon joint stewardship project

The Collaborative Stewardship Initiative links First Nation lands departments with the Yukon government's Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections offices so they can learn from each other. About once a month, First Nations and Natural Resource Officers participate in joint fieldwork.

TOP: In December 2021, Heritage, Lands and Resources staff joined Jake Montgomery from the Yukon government's Major Mines and Monitoring unit to learn more about the water lab and the water quality monitoring regime. A second visit to the lab is planned for later this winter.

RIGHT: In the fall, KDFN Land Stewards inspected two commercial timber harvest sites alongside Yukon Natural Resource Officer Corey MacKie.



# New health and wellness programs to support citizens suffering with substance use disorders

## KDFN is recruiting nurses and support workers for Sarah's House

Sarah's House, located at 17/19 Murphy Road in McIntyre, will be a residence for men who need support managing their day-to-day health needs and chronic alcohol use.

Residents will get medically prescribed doses of alcohol through a Managed Alcohol Program. This will be the first residence with this program in Canada's north.

The intent is to:

- stabilise drinking patterns;
- eliminate the need for binge drinking;
- help decrease alcohol consumption over time; and
- reduce some negative impacts of chronic alcohol use.

The residence is named for Sarah MacIntosh, who used to live in the home with Wendy Carlick. Both women were well known in the community for their kindness and compassion. In 2017, they were murdered. KDFN worked with the MacIntosh family to name the home after Sarah to honour and remember the positive impact she had on the community.

Call the Natsékhi Kù Health Centre for more information 867-668-7289.



*This is about saving lives. We've reached a critical time in the Yukon and our people need to be supported where they're at and whether they're ready to stop using or not."*

KDFN Chief Doris Bill

## KDFN is investing \$500,000 in addictions and trauma treatment

Get funding for a private trauma and substance-use treatment program in Canada. To be eligible:

- You must be a KDFN citizen, spouse, or immediate family member
- There is no other way for you to get funding for treatment.
- You need to complete some pre-program work to prepare for the treatment program
- You need to attend a minimum number of counseling sessions.

Call the Natsékhi Kù Health Centre to apply 867-668-7289.

## Nurses at the Natsékhi Kù Health Centre can now test drugs for fentanyl and benzodiazepines

How does it work?

- Bring in a small amount of a street drug, such as heroine, cocaine or methamphetamine, to be tested.
- Offered when the Health Centre is open.
- This service is completely anonymous and no client names are recorded or released.

Other supports available through the Health Centre and the Whitehorse Outreach Van.

- safe needle exchange;
- Naloxone training and kit distribution;
- drug use harm reduction education and referrals;
- drug testing and safe drug disposal; and
- dispensing Suboxone (a prescription treatment for people addicted to opioids).

Call the Natsékhi Kù Health Centre for more information 867-668-7289.



# Reconnecting the Broken Salmon Trail

## KDFN is working with our partners at Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council to plan for the future of Southern Lakes Salmon.

Unfortunately, recent surveys show Chinook salmon numbers are in a long-term decline, and our headwaters at the Southern Lakes are feeling the impacts.

We don't expect things to turn around in the short run, but we continue to work with Yukon First Nations, Alaskans, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Yukon River Panel process to ensure KDFN perspectives are heard.

## Walking with Salmon and Caribou

Despite the setbacks from COVID-19, we were fortunate to co-host an online and in-person meeting called Walking with Salmon and Caribou in November 2021.

Elders shared many stories about how bountiful the salmon were in the areas around Marsh Lake, the McClintock River and Michie Creek.

The Elders also reviewed the draft management plan called "Re-Connecting the Broken Salmon Trail – Southern Lakes Community-Based Salmon Plan." This document has been developed over the past two years, and there are plans to meet with more people and share the draft to gather more comments.

If you would like a copy of the draft plan or would like to know about our upcoming meetings in Whitehorse, please contact:

Brandy Mayes, Operations Manager in KDFN's Heritage, Lands and Resources Department, at [Brandy.Mayes@kdfn.net](mailto:Brandy.Mayes@kdfn.net) or call 867-336-3316.



# Here for caribou

## Southern Lakes Caribou Relationship Planning By Brandy Mayes

Over the last few years, the Kwanlin Dün First Nation has been a part of the Southern Lakes Caribou Relationship Planning process with eight other governments.

This plan comes from the successful Southern Lakes Caribou Recovery Program that was in place since the early 2000s. At that time, there were estimated to be less than 1,000 caribou remaining. This is a drastic decline from the stories we hear from Elders and those that came before us.

Our sacrifices and stewardship over the last few decades have been working. We are seeing positive signs of caribou on the landscape in greater numbers.

We have one of the few recovering caribou herds in the world. But we are at a critical point as caribou still face many stresses that can limit their successful recovery.

These stressors include:

- highway mortality;
- habitat loss due to residential or industrial development;
- predators; and
- unreported and unregulated harvest.

Our Nations are concerned that if we are not careful, all of our past sacrifices and recovery efforts will be erased.

KDFN, in partnership with the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Teslin Tlingit Council, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Taku River Tlingit, Government of BC, Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada

(Parks Canada) have been working to ensure the continued recovery of the herd and to reestablish our relationship with caribou.

With COVID-19 restrictions making public meetings difficult, we have been doing our best by talking with Elders, meeting online and keeping conversations going over the last few years. What we realize more than anything, is that we have lost or are slowly losing our connection to caribou. We need to reestablish this relationship with caribou and speak for the caribou. What would the caribou want? What does reestablishing this relationship with caribou mean to us as Kwanlin Dün?

Elders, youth, citizens, and leadership need to have a voice and help us make important decisions about the future of our relationship with Southern Lakes caribou. The planning efforts have identified ceremony, harvest, youth education, communications, traditional knowledge, and research and monitoring as important.

In 2022, we will have a draft caribou plan for review. We will have a website, newsletters, videos, and when possible, we will host meetings to spread the word and gather your perspectives on Southern Lakes caribou. We need to make sure the plan reflects the relationship the Kwanlin Dün would like to have with caribou now and in future generations.

To stay informed and get involved please reach out to Brandy Mayes, Operations Manager at KDFN Heritage, Lands and Resources, at [Brandy.Mayes@kdfn.net](mailto:Brandy.Mayes@kdfn.net) or 867-336-3316.



In the fall youth, Elders and KDFN staff members went out on the land for a moose hunt.

# Mountain sledding

## Brandy Mayes shares her story of learning how to mountain sled in the backcountry and some safety tips for avalanche-prone terrain.

By **Brandy Mayes**, Heritage, Lands and Resources Operations Manager

I am an avid mountain snowmobiler and have been for years. It's fun and exhilarating. It keeps me in shape. It has taken me to some of the most beautiful places I could never get to on foot. My love for mountain sledding has also given me valuable experience to bring to my position as a land steward with Kwanlin Dün.

My first machine was an Arctic Cat 700 CrossFire. It had big power, and I learned that the hard way! I went out riding at Fraser, or you may know it as Skagway summit. I got on my machine, hit the throttle and sped off way too fast. I hit a snow drift and wiped out in front of about 50 other riders.

Embarrassed, I got up, shook off the snow and told myself: "I can do this".

On that first day of riding I also drove into a crevasse, rolled my machine down a mountain and got stuck too many times to count. I couldn't move for three days after.

I was inexperienced, unprepared and definitely not in shape for riding such a big powerful machine. I didn't understand snowpack, avalanches and all the risks that go with it. Good thing I was with patient, experienced riders.

From that day on, I took this sport seriously and gained a whole new level of respect for the mountain environment. Being safe out in the backcountry means more than just relying on technology—you need knowledge and practice.

"It's OK, I have one of them new beacons."

"Our group all wears avalanche airbags, so we're safe."

"We don't need avalanche gear. We're just going to play around the cabin."

Unfortunately, these comments are still heard far too often in our sledding world. We can get information on avalanche dangers, weather conditions, tips on rider safety, and much more online. These are great tools, but they cannot replace the knowledge, training and experience we should have before venturing into avalanche terrain.

Many of us grew up on sleds and learned for years in our backyards, on the family trapline and on local trail networks. If you're in this group, chances are you started on smaller snow machines, gaining experience and time in the mountains before purchasing that hot-rod machine that will take you anywhere you want to go.

Mountain snowmobiling is gaining popularity so quickly and many new riders are going out and buying the biggest and baddest new sleds without really gaining experience and respect for the mountain environment that they plan to head into (like me). This can end them up in potentially very dangerous territory.



## Safety First

Never ride in the mountains alone and always have an emergency plan.

Big machines mean big power, which can easily trigger an avalanche. Do you have the proper equipment if an avalanche occurs? Do you know how to use that equipment?

To get a basic understanding of what is really going on in the mountains, training is key. Take the time to play in the snow, get a feel for it, get to know your machine. Over time, you'll get better at making educated decisions in the backcountry.

### When heading out into avalanche-prone terrain, here's a list of some things you'll need:

- an avalanche transceiver (this emits a beacon to other riders so they know where you are if you need to be rescued);
- a snow shovel;
- an avalanche probe (a folding stick that helps you pinpoint the exact location and depth of someone buried under snow);
- your helmet;
- a backpack with dedicated rescue-gear storage;
- navigational tools;
- a communication device;
- first-aid equipment;
- a headlamp;
- extra food and water;
- extra layers;
- a space blanket;
- a lighter and water-proof matches.

**REMEMBER:** It's not good enough to just have an avalanche transceiver on you if you can't operate it. You must know how to use it and keep up its regular maintenance. Practice with the device regularly and understand its many functions. Your life, and the lives of those you're with, depend on it.



*Play safe and  
enjoy the snow!*

## Maintenance and pre-ride inspection

Keep up with regular maintenance and always do a pre-ride inspection of your machine. Refer to your owner's manual for details.

## Take the initiative to help

Mentorship and peer-to-peer education are key. Take the training available and help others do the same. Let's share our knowledge

Keep your guard up, **practise, practise, practise** and don't ever quit learning about the snowpack, the terrain you frequent most and the tools that help keep us safe.

Just because you think an area "has never slid before," or you don't see signs of activity, it's still best to be able to make that decision for yourself—and this takes training and time.

## Care for the land, animals and take care of yourself

We all need to be stewards of this majestic land. It is a gift to us all. So, please help preserve its natural splendor.

- Always take out anything you bring in.
- Remove trash and spilled or dropped foods.
- Do not harass wildlife. If you see caribou, please stop, turn off your machine and wait for them to move on and leave the area.

# Backcountry Safety Tips

Travelling through the Yukon's backcountry can be unpredictable. Follow the **4Ps** from KDFN Land Steward Officer Bruce Wilson to help make sure you're up to the challenge.

## PLAN

- Never travel alone.
- Know your limitations and consider hiring a guide if necessary.
- Tell people where you are going and when you're expected back. It's best to have a check-in person and a backup check-in person. Tell them what to do if you're not back when expected.
- Plan your route and camp locations. Use visitors centres and environment offices for maps or guidebooks.
- Plan your time. When should you hit key markers on your trip? When do you plan to be back home?
- Plan your water. Will you bring it or filter it? Either way, make sure you have more than you think you'll need.
- Plan your meals and make sure you have more than enough food.
- Plan what fuels you'll need and make sure you have more than enough.
- emergency procedures.

## PRACTISE

Have appropriate and up-to-date training and skills in things like:

- first aid;
- tying knots;
- using your gadgets;
- deterring bears and other wildlife; and
- starting a fire without a flame.

## PRE-TRIP

- Pack appropriate essential gear and emergency gear.
- Don't forget the communications equipment you'll need, such as an inReach, GPS, satellite phone and cell phone. The more options you have the better.
- Test your gear, devices and equipment before you go. Make sure you know how to use them.

## PREPARE FOR THE UNEXPECTED

- You may encounter:
  - Steep terrain.
  - Adverse weather, such as extreme cold, rain, snow or sleet.
  - Wild animals.
- You may have an accident.
- You may need to stay out longer than you planned.
- You may need to call for rescue.

Learn more about backcountry safety at [yukon.ca/travel-safely-yukon-wilderness](https://yukon.ca/travel-safely-yukon-wilderness)



# ESSENTIAL GEAR FOR THE BACKCOUNTRY



Having the proper survival gear with you could save your life if you run into trouble in the backcountry. At a minimum, regardless of your abilities and no matter the length of your outdoor adventure, you should always be equipped with the **10 ESSENTIALS**:

## 10 ESSENTIALS

- Navigation
- Headlamp
- Sun protection
- First Aid
- Knife
- Fire starter
- Shelter
- Extra food
- Extra water
- Extra clothes



Below is a list of gear that KDFN Land Steward Officers carry on every field outing. Adjust the list to your preference depending on the season and weather. For instance, you might want to pack hand warmers for winter weather and a mosquito net for summer weather.

**\*\*Starred items should be carried on your person at all times when in the bush.**

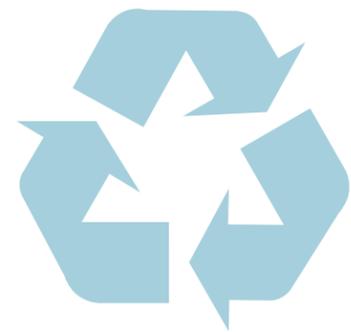
This list corresponds with the picture and is left to right starting at the top.

- Bear spray\*\* (can freeze and be rendered ineffective in cold weather, try to keep warm)
- Bear spray holster\*\*
- Air horn\*\* (can freeze and be rendered ineffective in cold weather, try to keep warm)
- Bear bangers\*\*
- Waterproof matches
- Compass
- Carabiners
- Emergency phone numbers (keep up to date)
- First Aid kit Level 2 (check expiry date and replace if necessary)
- Battery booster/gadget charger (try to keep warm in winter)
- Cell phone (try to keep warm in winter)
- inReach\*\* (2-way communicator with location capability)
- Charger cords
- Binoculars
- Whistle\*\* (must be pealess meaning there should be no little ball inside the whistle because it can freeze to the inside wall and be rendered ineffective)
- Headlamps
- Field guide/First Aid manual
- Fire starter
- Water (can freeze in winter so hot tea is ideal)
- Duct tape
- Ribbon (mark your trail as you go so not to get lost)
- Maps (paper maps are always a good backup for electronic maps)
- Satellite phone
- Masks
- Sanitary hand wipes
- Alcohol wipes
- Water filtration tablets
- Emergency blanket
- Utensils
- Bug spray
- Rope
- Knife
- Garbage bags
- GPS
- Batteries (buy name brand for quality assurance)
- Glow sticks
- Comfort blanket
- Rain ponchos
- Water filtration system
- Emergency food rations (non-perishable, high energy, compact)
- Waterproof field book
- Flares (not pictured)
- Sunscreen (not pictured)
- Mini cooking pot (not pictured)



# Going green at home

**KDFN Land Steward Officer Bruce Wilson offers some info and tips on small things you can do to help preserve resources.**



We all live up here in the North for the natural beauty and clean air. Let's do our part to help preserve the environment by practicing the three Rs:

**Reduce** vehicle idling time, household electricity use, shower time, cell phone use, food waste.

**Reuse** food containers, water bottles, clothing, toys, glass jars, boxes, gift wrap.

**Recycle** Turn something old and useless (plastic milk jugs) into something new and useful (picnic benches, playground equipment, recycling bins).

### OTHER POTENTIAL Rs COULD BE:

**Refuse** - avoid buying wasteful, excessively packaged, non-recyclable products.

**Repurpose** - Instead of being recycled, can it be made useful another way?

**Repair** - Fixing something could be much less costly and better for the environment.

**Rethink** - Consider ways to conserve and reduce waste.

## WHITEHORSE WASTE/RECYCLING LOCATIONS AND SERVICES

### Raven Recycling, 100 Galena Rd.

- Items accepted 24/7- Mixed paper, white paper, cardboard, mixed plastics, tin cans, wax containers, refundable donations.
- Items accepted 9am-5pm Mon-Sat- Bottles and cans, scrap metals, e-waste, textiles, aluminum, small batteries, car batteries, cardboard egg cartons, clean scrap lumber and pallets (Raven uses to heat the facility).
- Items not Accepted- Styrofoam, glass, contaminated items (please clean, rinse and sort items to keep costs down).

### Urban Auto Recycling, 171 Industrial Rd.

- Full-service auto recycler that will tow, depollute, crush and bale, arrange transport for recycling, and provide proof of recycling. Approximate cost \$450-\$500 per vehicle.

### City of Whitehorse Landfill, mile 919.72 Alaska Hwy.

- Items Accepted for a Fee- animal carcasses (small \$7, large \$25), appliances (\$45), couches and recliners (\$10), bedsprings and mattresses (\$15). Watch for annual events to save money.
- Items accepted at no charge- Tires with rim diameter of 39 inches or less, rims removed. Larger tires for a fee.
- On Household Hazardous Waste Days (April 29th and 30th, and September 10th in 2022) residential household hazardous waste, including chemicals, oils, fluids, and filters can be dropped off at the landfill free of charge.
- On Cleanup Days (May 19th to 23rd, and December 26th in 2022)- Tipping fees are waived for a number of items including mattresses, furniture, residential garbage and yard waste. (Tipping fees still apply for metal and appliances.)

## BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING:

- Reduces landfill waste
- Cuts methane emissions from landfills
- Adds nutrients and improves soil health
- Conserves water
- Upcycles those materials into a productive, environmentally beneficial product.

## EARTH DAY AND OTHER DATES TO WATCH FOR

Earth Day is coming up on Friday, April 22. The theme this year is "Invest in our planet".

You can participate in acts of "green" by minimizing household electricity usage, riding a bike instead of a car, and packing reusable shopping bags to name just a few.

On January 1, 2022, single-use plastic bags were banned in the Yukon. And on January 1, 2023, all single-use paper bags will be banned in the Yukon as well.



**KDFN TENANTS,**  
be sure to bag all household garbage, and place all bags in your bin. If garbage gets out of control, it can get unsightly and smelly, and it can attract wildlife to our subdivision. This can be dangerous for residents and also for the animals.

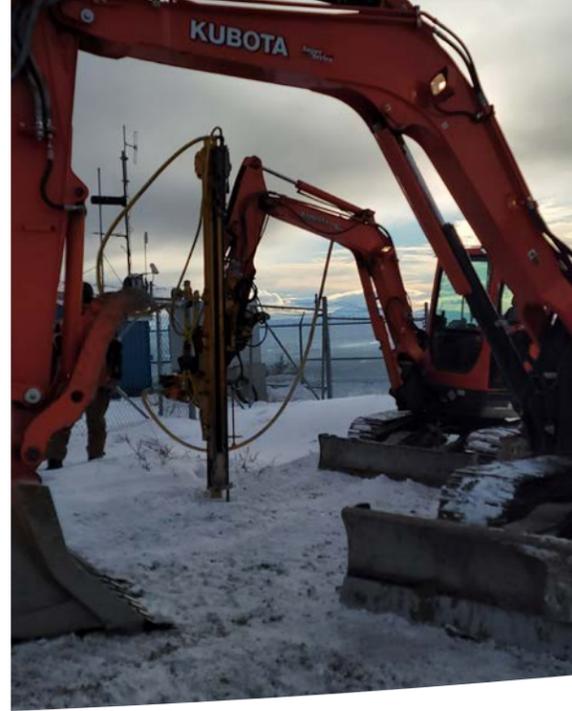
# BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE OF KDFN: Chu Níikwän LP has been working behind the scenes

Chu Níikwän Limited Partnership (CNLP) is Kwanlin Dün First Nation's for-profit development corporation. We operate at arms-length from KDFN, and we report directly to Council, as our shareholder.

CNLP was created to generate wealth for KDFN by investing in projects and developments. So, we create specialized companies to take on certain projects. For example:

- Canyon City Construction LP is our construction and gravel sales company;
- Whitehorse Properties LP is our property management and lease-hold company; and
- Eagle Hill Energy LP is our wind-energy generation company.

Here's a recap of some projects we've been working on....



## MCINTYRE GAS BAR

The new gas station on the north corner of Hamilton Boulevard and McIntyre Drive is almost complete. We've signed a long-term operating lease with Petro-Canada to operate the station.

## LANDSCAPING THE NEW KASHGÊK' BUILDING IN MCINTYRE

Over the summer of 2021, Canyon City Construction LP completed many of the hard landscaping finishing details, including sidewalks, concrete platforms, and installation of the basalt columns.

## GRAVEL SALES

In 2021, Canyon City Construction LP supplied roughly 45,000 cubic metres of gravel to many jobs around Whitehorse. We also added new equipment to our fleet for construction and gravel sales.

## WIND ENERGY TO POWER YUKON HOMES

With funding from the federal and Yukon governments, Eagle Hill Energy LP is installing four modern wind turbines on Haeckel Hill. Electricity generated from these turbines will feed into the Yukon grid. Site preparation work started on Haeckel in the fall of 2021. It's anticipated the turbines will begin generating energy in 2023.

## YUKON ENERGY CORP'S BATTERY PROJECT

Canyon City Construction LP started clearing and developing lots on Robert Service Way to enable Yukon Energy to prepare its lot for its energy storage project. Through this project, a 7-megawatt battery will be housed on KDFN and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's overlapping traditional territories. It will be the largest grid-connected battery in the North, and one of the largest in Canada. The initial clearing also opened a few other lots that will be available to lease in the future.

## COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL LEASING

We lease commercial land and buildings in Whitehorse. We've also been working hard to get more land prepared for leasing in Sima, Kulan, Robert Service and Lot 226.

In all our projects, we strive to create opportunities for KDFN Citizens and Yukon First Nations. We'll have more employment opportunities for our community throughout 2022, so keep an eye out for job ads.

Find out more about CNLP at [cnlp.ca](http://cnlp.ca)





## Down at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre

Over the fall we were able to host some amazing events and workshops. Here's a snapshot of what we've been up to down at the KDCC.

### REFURBISHING OUR MOIETY PANELS

This summer we spent time refurbishing the moiety panels at the front and back of our building. These panels depict Wolf and Crow, the two clans of Kwanlin Dün First Nation. We inherit our clan from our mother and follow the matrilineal line.

To keep the panels looking fantastic for as long as possible we have used the highest quality linseed oil varnishes and paints. We also added hand-carved elements to the panels thanks to Ben Gribben.

Original artwork done by Justin Smith.

Contractor: Tuya Construction

Special thanks to: Randy Merkel and Gisli Balzer



### NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

The Council of Yukon First Nations hosted a walk and sacred fire for Canada's first National day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day.

### SISTERS IN SPIRIT WALK AND VIGIL

Sisters in Spirit hosted a silent walk, prayer, and ceremony in solidarity to raise awareness about the Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse people who have been and continue to be murdered or disappear.

### ANCESTRAL HIGHWAYS

The Ancestral Highways exhibit featured works from KDCC's 2021 Shakaat Artists-in-Residence. Between July and September these artists worked in our Culture Cabins and created a variety of works in many different mediums. The exhibit ran from October 18th to December 10th in our gallery.

### WORKSHOPS

We also hosted a fish skin tanning workshop with Cheryl McLean, parka making with Dorothy Wright, and beaded poppy with Stormy Bradley.

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- February 14:** Valentine's Day
- February 19:** 17th anniversary of KDFN signing its Final and Self-Government agreements.
- February 19:** Random Acts of Kindness Day... Pass the kindness along.
- February 23:** National Anti-Bullying Day... Wear pink to show your support.
- February 25:** Yukon Heritage Day
- March 7 to 18:** Spring Break for Whitehorse schools
- March 15:** Deadline to apply for KDFN Post-Secondary Funding
- April 15:** Good Friday
- April 17:** Easter Sunday
- April 22:** Earth Day
- April 27:** Administrative Professionals Day
- May 5:** Red Dress Day
- May 8 to 14:** National Nurses Week
- May 23:** Victoria Day



Mike Stanley caught the Northern Lights over the new Kashgêk' Building on a magical night in November.

## STAY UP TO DATE WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING AT KDFN!

Sign up to receive emails at [kwanlindun.com/email](http://kwanlindun.com/email)

Or send an email to [communications@kdfn.net](mailto:communications@kdfn.net)

We're online at [kwanlindun.com](http://kwanlindun.com)

 Find us on Facebook!



**DESTINATION ADDRESS**