COUNCIL'S REPORT
to Kwanlin Dün Citizens

2020 | 2022

YOUR GOVERNMENT AT WORK

LEFT TO RIGHT:

Chief Doris Bill, Councillors Charlene Charlie, Charles Chief, Jessie Dawson, Jesse Ryder, Ray Sydney and Elder Councillor Judy Gingell.

Not Pictured: Rosemary Waugh was elected in 2020 and resigned the position in May 2022 because of health reasons.

COUNCIL'S LATERAL KINDNESS PLEDGE

Lateral violence is directed at the people around us. It includes gossip, put downs, backstabbing, undermining, blaming, bullying, and shaming.

It is a pattern of behaviour that comes from our experience of racism and oppression. It is not who we are.

We will replace Lateral Violence with Lateral Kindness.

We will speak out about it. When a case comes forward, we will respond through a safe and fair process. We will listen to all parties with love and understanding.

When someone does something good, we will acknowledge it. We will lift each other up, compliment each other, and give each other support.

By doing this, we will give our children the future they deserve.

*We are working hard to build a **strong**, **safe** and **vibrant** future for Kwanlin Dün.*

THEME 1:

COVID-19 RELIEF & SUPPORT

A Yukon-wide public health emergency was declared on March 18, 2020. KDFN Council's first order of business was to plan the government's response and put measures in place to keep Elders, Citizens, employees and our community as safe as possible.

Since the pandemic began in March 2020, KDFN has spent $1,654,730 on relief measures. This includes $1,177,618 in direct payments to Citizens.

- Citizens received $1,200 (two direct payments of $600) from KDFN.
- 2020 and 2021 holiday gift card amounts increased.
- Post-Secondary students received $1,800 for full-time students and $1,200 for part-time students in 2022.
- 2020 and 2021 holiday gift card amounts increased.
- In 2020, KDFN partnered with the Yukon government to buy laptops for students in K to 12.
- In April 2020, rental fees were waived for KDFN tenants, and funds were sent to Citizens who could provide a receipt for paid housing costs up to $450.

Citizens who did not have up to date information or did not meet the deadline may not have received the payment.

- Food security hampers were provided to vulnerable families.
- Emergency food baskets were available for families who were required to isolate.
- Natsékhi Kų offered dozens of COVID-19 vaccine clinics, and helped people access the main Whitehorse vaccine clinic.
- Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre and Youth Recreation offered online programming and take-home activity kits.
- The 2020 General Assembly was offered online. The 2021 General Assembly was offered in person and online.
- Chief Bill and TKC Chief Christina Kane released a joint statement on COVID safety and Indigenous people in April 2021.

THEME 2:

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR FIRST NATION AND OUR TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

KDFN is creating a strategic approach to land development to ensure KDFN's interests are preserved and protected for future generations.

- Neighbourhood planning underway for the McIntyre subdivision, including Crow and Swan streets.
- Constructed and officially opened the new Kashgêk' (Community Hub) building.
- Planning and design work completed for the new Education Hub in McIntyre.
- Planning and design work completed on 13 tiny homes to be built in McIntyre.
- Planning and prep work for solar panels to be installed on 69 KDFN homes in fall 2022 and 2023.
- Planning and design work underway with the City of Whitehorse for traffic calming and improvements to McIntyre Drive.
- Collaborating on land use plans for Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) & Marsh Lake to ensure that community values are integrated and respected.
- In 2020, the KDFN Community Lands Plan was adopted to guide development and use of Settlement Lands in the City of Whitehorse.
- In fall 2020, KDFN implemented the Historical Submission Policy. Work on processing historical submissions continues to this day.
- Continued preparing for regional land planning with our partners TKC and CTFN through How We Walk with the Land and Water.
- Initiated the creation of a development authorization rule to support land use controls on residential lands, including discussions with the Yukon in regard to its planning and zoning regime and application of the Laws of General application.
- Initiated engagement with Yukon and Canada regarding designation of parcels as 'developed' to manage access rights.
- Southern Lakes Forest Management Plan released in partnership with Carcross/ Tagish First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and the Yukon government. This plan balances land and resource use and protection.
- KDFN Heritage is working to document and record heritage sites and values on settlement lands and since June, 2022 has recorded and mapped 12 archaeological sites and numerous trails and camps.
- KDFN is working with the Yukon government and other First Nations to preserve and protect alpine hunting blinds and surrounding areas from free mineral staking.
- KDFN initiated a program to clean up sites and remove abandoned vehicles from Settlement Land. Sixteen vehicles were removed and recycled in summer 2022.

THEME 3:

HONOURING OUR STORIES, ELDERS, AND KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS

- In December 2020, we launched the award-winning book Kwanlin Dün Dä kwändur ghày ghakwadîndur, Our Stories in Our Words.
- Community research is underway on KDFN's traditional laws in relation to justice. This is happening in partnership with the Indigenous Law Research Unit at the University of Victoria.
- The Elders' Council gathered in June 2022 for the first time since the pandemic began.

- Elders-in-residence continue to provide valuable contributions to the Dusk'a Head Start Early Learning Centre and the Natsékhi Kų Health Centre.
- Elders continue to work with Human Resources on hiring for the First Nation.
- In June 2022, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.
- KDFN is creating an archival database of oral histories, knowledge and heritage resources, and developing policy and procedures to protect these resources.
- KDFN is working to rename important sites to better reflect our culture, values, and history.
- KDFN is creating a heritage committee to ensure heritage concerns and initiatives are guided by knowledge keepers and reflect the community.

KDFN hosted an Elder Appreciation and Celebration Week in July 2022.

THEME 4:

TAKING CARE OF THE LAND, WATER, AND ALL THINGS ON OUR TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

- KDFN's team of Land Steward Officers use Indigenous knowledge and practices blended with western science to monitor and care for our lands and waters.
- In July 2020, KDFN Chief Doris Bill and TKC Chief Khristina Kane called on Yukoners and visitors to walk gently on Settlement Lands and leave no trace.
- FireSmart teams worked to reduce the fire risk on our Traditional Territory.
- KDFN initiated a program to clean up sites and remove abandoned vehicles from Settlement Land. Sixteen derelict vehicles were removed and recycled in 2022.
- KDFN and C/TFN are collaborating on wildfire risk modelling and actions for the Southern Lakes region.
- KDFN is working with the Yukon government to withdraw a significant amount of Category B Settlement Land from mineral staking.
- KDFN is working with the Yukon government and other First Nations to preserve and protect alpine hunting blinds and surrounding areas from free mineral staking.
- KDFN is working with partners to protect Southern Lakes Caribou. As the herds continue to recover, we ask Citizens not to harvest caribou and work with partners toward a management plan.
- KDFN is a partner in the Southern Lakes Wolf Monitoring program, which tracks population numbers, movement, eating habits, reproductive rates and pup survival.
- KDFN partnered with the Yukon government on moose survey for the Teslin River moose management unit, Sifton-Miners MMU, and Whitehorse South (Fish Lake MMU, Wheaton Valley MMU, and Mt. Lorne MMU).
- KDFN is working with the Yukon government and TKC to better understand documented and oral history of the current Whitehorse hospital area.
- KDFN is working to document and record heritage sites and values on Settlement Lands. Since June 2022, we have recorded and mapped 12 archaeological sites and numerous trails and camps.

KDFN runs the Takhini River Sonar Station, which monitors salmon migrations.

WORKING FOR THE FUTURE OF SALMON

- KDFN works with other governments and organisations on planning for the future of Chinook salmon. We monitor salmon migrations in our Traditional Territory at the Takhini Sonar Station. As surveys find the salmon populations are low, we ask Citizens and Beneficiaries not to harvest.
- KDFN has formed a technical working group with Yukon Energy, TKC, and C/TFN to support potential improvements to Whitehorse Fish Ladder that would make it easier for fish to pass through. The group is also evaluating the effectiveness of the Whitehorse Rapids hatchery.
- In 2021, Council gave away salmon to Elders. In 2022, salmon was given to KDFN Citizens.

TIMELINE:
KDFN MAKES HISTORY IN LAND MANAGEMENT

2018

A piece of KDFN Settlement Land is registered in the Yukon's Lands Titles Office, a first in the Yukon.

2020

Nan kay shäwthän Däk'anúta ch'e (We look after our land) (KDFN Lands Act and Regulations) comes into force empowering the First Nation to manage, protect and enforce laws on Settlement Land. It also unlocks new ways for Citizens and Beneficiaries to benefit from Settlement Land.

2021

Held KDFN's first land lottery for 5 residential lots on Settlement Land parcels in Porter Creek.

2022

the Macaulay Road Home Lottery for 5 newly built homes creates homeownership opportunities for Citizens and Beneficiaries.

2022

KDFN is working with partners to plan for a new residential subdivision called Range Point (C-15). These lots will be offered to KDFN Citizens and Beneficiaries first, and then be open to anyone who wants to live there.

THEME 5:

BUILDING COMMUNITY-BASED SAFETY PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

- KDFN has increased the number of Community Safety Officers on staff to 6 full-time and 1 auxiliary on-call. They patrol KDFN lands in Whitehorse, provide services, and are available to support Citizens in McIntyre and other KDFN areas.
- In July 2020, KDFN signed a Letter of Expectation with the RCMP for a future of better, more culturally appropriate policing.
- The 3 RCMP officers stationed in McIntyre work closely with KDFN Community Safety Officers to improve safety and fill gaps.

KDFN supported the Yukon's inaugural Community Safety Conference at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre in August 2022.

THEME 6:

GROWING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIFE-LONG LEARNING

- Young learners thrived at Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre. Despite pandemic restrictions, programming continued safely.
- Dusk'a Head Start Family Learning Centre opted into the new universal child care program with funding from the Government of Yukon, which benefits KDFN families through reduced monthly fees and Dusk'a with enhanced funding for operations and wages for Early Childhood Educators.
- Increased school supply bursaries to $200 for Citizens in Kindergarten to Grade 12.
- Increased high school graduation bursaries to $500 for Citizens anticipating to graduate Grade 12 intended to assist with the costs of graduation celebrations.
- Creation of a new graduation $500 bonus for Citizens who have graduated Grade 12.
- KDFN expanded its team of Educational Support Coordinators and expanded cultural programming in 8 Yukon schools.
- KDFN worked with the Yukon Native Language Centre to support four Citizens to learn their language through a work-study program.
- Increased both the amount and the length of time Citizens can receive tuition, school fee, and living allowances for post-secondary studies.

- Though pandemic restrictions delayed or changed how programs were delivered, many Citizens participated in skill-based programming offered in McIntyre. Citizens learned basic skills in carpentry, electrical and plumbing by actually working on a KDFN home through the Housing Maintainer program run in partnership with Yukon University, and supported by the Yukon government.
- KDFN and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council learners improved their skills in traditional crafts – beading, sewing, carving and formline design – during the Yukon First Nations Art Program. This was run through a partnership between KDFN, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Yukon University.
- KDFN hires students every summer to work with Land Steward officers conducting field work and learning about fish and wildlife on our Traditional Territory.

THEME 7:

ENCOURAGING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES & COMMUNITY CONNECTION

- The team at KDFN's Natsékhi Kų Health Centre in McIntyre stepped up to continue delivering services during the pandemic.
- Supported KDFN families through the Healthy Babies, Healthy Generations program
- Elders and vulnerable Citizens were supported through home care visits
- KDFN supported sacred fires in McIntyre at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre to support wellness
- Reduced the financial barriers to accessing trauma and substance use treatment by allocating $500,000 for KDFN Citizens and their immediate family members to access private treatment centres outside the Yukon.
- Renovated two homes in McIntyre to be used as a Residential Managed Alcohol Program called Sarah's House.
- Offer nursing services and safe-use supplies through Natsékhi Kų Health Centre, the downtown Emergency Shelter and the Whitehorse Outreach Van.
- Continue to offer culturally appropriate camps through Jackson Lake On-the-Land Wellness Facility.
- Non-Insured Health Benefits Navigator provides information and support to Indigenous Yukoners accessing health services.

KDFN supported residential school survivors to travel to Edmonton to hear the Pope's apology in July 2022.

THEME 8:

SUPPORTING KDFN CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

- KDFN's Child and Family Services team has more than doubled. This team supports families and has a focus on prevention, including Family Circles. This has allowed the Yukon Family and Children's Services social work team to transition back to its main downtown office in December 2021.
- KDFN participated in developing the Yukon's new amended Child and Family Services Act. This Act legislates the consultation with Yukon First Nations when making decisions about First Nation children, and it has an increased focus on connection to families, community, and culture.
- Youth Outreach programming expanded to offer more on-the-land programs for youth, more one-on-one engagement, and encouragement to make positive changes in their lives.
- Youth Recreation programming expanded to offer camps, in-person and at-home activities, and day passes to the Canada Games Centre and Mount Sima.
- Each year, KDFN youth gain valuable skills through a moose hunt and land-based learning experience.
- Planning is underway for a KDFN youth and family drop-in centre, which will be located in the McIntyre subdivision.
- KDFN has been providing alternative hunting opportunities for Citizens by organizing a draw for three YG elk hunting permits in 2021 and 2022.

THEME 9:

ACCESSING THE POTENTIAL OF OUR AGREEMENTS TO GENERATE WEALTH

Through the development corporation Chu Níikwän LP, KDFN is involved in residential and commercial projects that benefit Citizens and the First Nation.

- The new Petro-Canada gas bar opened in McIntyre in spring 2022.
- In April 2022, the Eagle Hill Energy Project was announced. Through this project four modern turbines will be installed on Haeckel Hill–Thäy T'äw that are expected to feed enough electricity into the Yukon's grid to power 650 homes over its 20-year lifespan.
- KDFN made commercial land available to Chu Níikwän to generate revenue (Lot 226, C-34, C-9, Kulan, Sima, residential C-112, C-15)
- In June 2022, Chu Níikwän announced that Northwestel is planning to build its headquarters on a parcel of KDFN Settlement Land located in Whitehorse's industrial area.

KDFN is

committed to making a difference

in the lives of its Citizens.

www.kwanlindun.com

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