

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Newsletter

# Këntra Täy

moccasin trail

Fall 2020





# *Are you a TH Citizen and interested in hunting on the land?*

Through the TH Nutritional Program, we are encouraging Dawson TH families to spend time on the land. If you are interested in hunting moose, caribou or small game, our Nutritional Program is seeking traditional wild meat to serve to families with children 0-18 years and to incorporate in our hot lunch program for K-12 students. Please contact Ashley Bower-Bramadat at [ashley.bower-bramadat@trondek.ca](mailto:ashley.bower-bramadat@trondek.ca) or 993-2912

~ WE WILL OFFER PAYMENT FOR TIME AND GAS ~



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Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in  
Sewers Wanted  
●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

The Dänojä Zho Cultural Centre is purchasing beadwork for our gift shop and new online shopping site. Call Kylie at 993-7100 ext. 500 or email [cultural.centre@trondek.ca](mailto:cultural.centre@trondek.ca) for an appointment.

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Not sure what to make? Call us, we can help!



tr'ondëk hwëch'in

RECLAIMING OUR OWN  
**TRADITIONS** (ROOTS)



a healing group  
for young adults

**You're invited to join us**

EVERY TUESDAY AT THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT/ WELLNESS CENTRE\*

\*UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED OR RE-SCHEDULED BY STAFF

**5:00-8:00 P.M.**

Join us for **Reclaiming Our Own Traditions (ROOTS) Support Group**, a weekly support group forming a safe space for young adults affected by intergenerational trauma. This group will offer participants a chance to share, strategize, and heal. We look forward to seeing you there! For more information email [Gladys.Netro@trondek.ca](mailto:Gladys.Netro@trondek.ca) or call 867-993-7100 ext. 165.



TR'ONDËK HWËCH'IN  
K-12 EDUCATION

*'O dänöhjel*

*Welcome back  
to school!*

HỌZỌ ẸK'ÀTR'ÈNÒCHA



WE TAKE GOOD CARE OF EACH OTHER



# THE TH EDUCATION TEAM:

**Caley Boulter** Director of Human Resources, Education & Training 993-7100 ext. 112 **Ashley Bower-Bramadat**

Acting Education Manager & Elementary CELC 993-7100 ext. 190 ashley.bower-bramadat@trondek.ca

**Aurora Knutson** High School CELC 993-7100

ext. 191 aurora.knutson@trondek.ca **Jen Kehoe**

K-12 Educational Support Worker (867) 993-3997

jen.kehoe@trondek.ca **Nora VanBibber** Nutritional

Program Coordinator nora.vanbibber@trondek.ca



Mähsi' cho to **Georgette McLeod** for her guidance,

hard work and knowledge that she provided while in the

Education Manager position. Georgette has returned to the Hän Language Administrator position with the Heritage Department. Fortunately, the TH Education team will still work closely with Georgette to incorporate the Hän language into the many cultural programs and camps that are offered to RSS students.

## SUPPORTING STUDENTS:

We would like to welcome our newest member of the TH Education Team, Jen Kehoe the K-12 Education Support Worker (ESW). The ESW's role in the school is to support TH students & their families to ensure that their educational learning outcomes are successful. TH students' educational successes, academic achievements, grades, and attendance, will be monitored, as well as consultations with RSS teachers & staff regarding the student learning plans & individualized educational programs.



The ESW also supports the overall social, emotional, & personal well-being of the TH students by offering positive role modeling through encouragement, listening, and building appropriate relationships with students and their families. The ESW will also encourage parental involvement in their children's education by organizing student-parent-teacher meetings to receive regular updates on their child's learning needs and successes. The ESW can advocate on behalf of TH students (with the permission of their parents) to

refer students to programs & services delivered in the community to specifically support their learning needs, such as; tutoring, counselling, assessments, cultural/recreational programs & other agencies who offer services to support the overall wellness of a student.

# CULTURAL INCLUSION:

The role of a CELC (Community Education Liaison Coordinator), is to work with Robert Service School teachers and staff to plan and coordinate cultural opportunities on the land and in the classrooms. CELC's work with teachers to provide support for cultural programming in many ways, for example; connecting with Elders and knowledge holders, sharing and gathering resources, accessing support from other TH departments, connecting teachers to TH resources, providing cultural supplies for programming, booking TH sites, providing extra TH vehicles for larger classes, and more.

Some of the cultural programming that has been done with classes includes; bush skills, berry picking, cooking traditional foods and hosting an elders lunch, ice fishing, trapping talks, caribou butchering, raising salmon in the classroom and a salmon release, mitten making, jigging, Hän Language lessons, storytelling, lots of beading, martin skinning demonstrations, snowshoe making, over-night culture camps at TH traditional sites, many day trips and so much more!



The TH Education team also works closely with the TH Heritage department, to organize and host a Cultural Orientation day for all RSS staff at the beginning of every school year. Every year the Cultural Orientation has a different theme, this years theme is the significance of caribou and how every part of the caribou can be utilized in a good way; teachers will learn how to better connect these teachings of the caribou to the curriculum.

There are three Culture Camps that are accredited, First Fish, First Hunt and Fall Harvest Camp; students from Grade 9-12 may attend these camps to earn four credits towards High School Graduation. These camps are organized by the Heritage department with support from Education, Fish & Wildlife, Lands & Resources, Assets, Wellness, Youth Services, Elders, Knowledge Holders, the Canadian Rangers, and many more amazing resource people.



**OUR OFFICES ARE LOCATED IN THE SCHOOL, FEEL FREE TO GIVE US A CALL IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.  
MÄHSI'**

# NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM:

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in received funding from Jordan's Principle to support First Nations children (0-18) in rural communities to implement a nutritious breakfast and lunch program. Jordan's Principle funding will be supporting First Nations nutritional programs across the Yukon until the program is complete in 2022, with the possibility of continuing based on additional funding. This funding is for rural First Nations children, however there is enough funding to provide a nutritious breakfast and lunch to all students at

Robert Service School. Nora VanBibber is the

Nutritional Program Coordinator and will be working with two cooks to provide food at the school starting on September 3rd.

Please see the Nutritional Program letter for more information.



# COVID-19:

Robert Service School identified through consultation with staff, parents and School Council that our Safety Plan comes from a perspective of caring for each other. The Hän phrase *həzə tək'atr'èndəcha* – we take good care of each other, has been echoed throughout the school through actions of respect, accountability, tolerance, open, clear and direct communication. RSS understands that anxiousness is a major concern amongst the school community, staff, students, parents and care givers, and communicating actions is a major process in reducing anxiousness. The health and safety guidelines try to concisely outline our efforts. RSS Staff will be regularly reviewing the health and safety measures at our school with students to ensure safe and healthy habits. There may be adjustments to the plan as we progress. Full details of Robert Service School's COVID operational plan was mailed out to all parents at the beginning of the school year and all updates to the plan will be provided when available. We wish you a happy and healthy school year!



TH SCHOOL SUPPLY BURSARY APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE  
ONLINE AT [WWW.TRONDEK.CA/EDUCATION.PHP](http://WWW.TRONDEK.CA/EDUCATION.PHP)



# Your development corporation working for you

For those of you who missed the Chief Isaac presentation at the General Assembly this year, we wanted to update you on some positive news.

Last year we employed 160 people and 40 of those people were Citizens. We paid \$2.6m in wages and we spent \$2m with local businesses. We made \$1m in profit. It was a good year with Coffee Creek open for a long season and all our staff worked very hard to make it a successful year.

This year with all the complications that Covid-19 brings and the shorter season at Coffee Creek we can't expect such a good year but the team has been working on growing the business despite that. We have recently employed a second mechanic at Chief Isaac Mechanical because it's so busy. James Henderson our new mechanic is married to a TH Citizen.

We've recently launched the **Chief Isaac Citizens' Benefit Fund**. This money available to Citizens and funded by our business partners.

**Our Board members have changed.** We've increased Citizen-representation on the Board and broadened the skills.

**Melanie Blanchette is our new CEO** who started in June this year. She is working hard to implement the recommendations made by the Strategic Review we carried out recently.

**We're hiring.** As we grow we need more committed members of our team and we'd really like to see more Citizens working for us. Take a look at the positions we have open at the moment and send us your resume to [info@chiefisaac.ca](mailto:info@chiefisaac.ca)



# INTRODUCING THE **Citizen Benefit Fund**

## Funded by our partners for the benefit of citizens

Chief Isaac Group of Companies has launched a new Citizen Benefit Fund. This fund is supported by contributions from our partners, including: Wildstone Construction, Cyr Drilling, ALX Exploration, Challenger Geomatics and KBL Environmental.

Individual Citizens can apply for funds and organizations run by TH Citizens or that support TH Citizens can also apply. The funds can be used for several different areas:

1. **Education & Training** - for education or training opportunities that build capacity in our community.

2. **Health & Wellness** - for activities that promote a happier and healthier way of living. This includes physical, mental and spiritual health.

3. **Arts & Culture** - for events or activities that are rooted in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in culture.

4. **Youth Engagement** - for activities that encourage community engagement and development of Citizens aged 15-24.

5. **Elders' Support** - financial support for citizens aged 55 or older.

Applications are assessed on the financial and community impact they make. The assessment is made by the Citizen Benefit Fund's Committee made up of TH Citizens', Chief Isaac staff and Chief Isaac's partners.

To apply email [citizenfund@chiefisaac.ca](mailto:citizenfund@chiefisaac.ca)

# CHIEF ISAAC'S Board of Directors

## Meet our directors and CEO



**Gina Nagano**  
*Chair*

Gina is a Citizen who was born and raised in the Traditional Territory. She served for 21 years as an administrative and operational RCMP officer and then with the Federal Department of Justice

Gina now runs her own social justice consultancy and sits on the Boards of several Yukon organizations, including Yukon Energy and the Yukon Housing Corporation.

She has been a Board director of Chief Isaac for 5 years and lives in Whitehorse..



**Joe Fraser**  
*Director*

Joe is a Citizen who was born and brought up in the Traditional Territory. Qualified in civil engineering, he has over 20 years' experience in the mining and construction industries, half of those in leadership positions with teams of up to 100 people. Joe's experience has included the Diavik mine as well as hydro dam and gas infrastructure projects. He is known for his vigilance concerning safety and quality.

Although he has worked all over Western Canada during his career, he still lives with his family in Dawson City.





**Kamal Basra**  
*Director*

Kamal has a long and distinguished career of over 20 years in finance and wealth management. In 2009 she co-founded her own specialist investment firm to provide financial expertise and advice to women and their families. She's also an active Board member of NGOs and charities, and offers mentoring and free advice services to vulnerable women.

In 2015 she set up the Kamal Basra Undergraduate Bursary for Aboriginal Students in Science at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, BC as well as the Kamal Basra Sophia Financial Bursary for Single Mothers at Vancouver YWCA



**Neil Fletcher**  
*Director*

Before moving to the Yukon, Neil lived in London where he had a 20-year career in marketing and communications. He ran his own consultancy there and held senior management positions with Rolls-Royce, Sky TV and the UK Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

Neil lives in the Traditional Territory, downriver from Dawson City where he runs his own management consultancy.

He's worked for Chief Isaac as a consultant for two years and recently carried out the stakeholder review on behalf of the TH Trust.



**Melanie Blanchette**  
*CEO*

Melanie brings a Northern perspective and a range of experience and transferable skills to Chief Isaac. She has spent the majority of her career working and living within the Territories and Inuit Nunangat. She brings a passion for community development with a particular focus on initiatives designed to impact rural and Northern communities.

Leveraging an ever-expanding portfolio of qualifications in human service work, Melanie has the ability to "wear many hats" in her efforts to meet and exceed professional goals. The scope of her experience has spanned virtually all aspects of community development and social services and have included non-profit management, public service, policy analysis and change, start-up and turnaround challenges, as well as team-building, executive leadership, public relations and communications.



# Children's Programming

### Full Circle

For a second summer in a row, we had ten individuals working who went to the Zho as children. What success! These amazing individuals mentored and cared for the youngest generation: Kalilah, Jamie, Cassidy, and Madison, along with our summer youth students, Christopher, Ryan, Orion, Kaya, Laylah, and Katie. I am so proud to see this full circle. We had a very short summer student program of only five weeks, but were happy the youth were able to be a part of their children's house.

### Programming

For the first time ever we were not able to go to our beloved Moosehide. This summer our programming was completely different. We thank Allison who sent us weekly digital Hän language lessons. The children listened to the lessons over the computer and practiced in our daily circles. We also participated in

the Dänojà Zho Canada Day radio show by sending in a recording of our Hän phrases.

Mäshi cho to Glenda and Kylie at Dänojà Zho for the amazing event in which the preschoolers and summer-day-camp kids placed soil in a box for wildflowers. The children also painted rocks with Hän sayings on them. The children learned that the box of wildflowers will remind people to be kind, that culture is important, and to respect our Elders as they were once little kids. We also tied ribbons to trees to remember and honour Elders JJ Van Bibber, John Semple, and Julia Morberg. It was nice to remember and share stories and allow the children to create connections with the Elders. JJ's great-granddaughter and great-great-granddaughter attend Tr'inke Zho, as do members of Julia and John's family. Julia was also our Hän language teacher for many years. My office still holds many treasures that John bought the children's house over the years. One child said, "Elders made us."

### Aboriginal Head Start

We are still planning to celebrate our seven 2020 Aboriginal Head Start graduates. We hope to have a grad ceremony this winter. This fall, we welcomed nine Head Start preschoolers and secured funding for hiring hunters to harvest a moose. We look forward to sharing the meat with our families and Elders. If you ever need any moose meat, just let us know.

### Mähsi Cho

To all who donate their time, skills, treasures, and smiles to our program. We thank Diana McCready, who donated her 15-year-old-plus share-a-bear collection. To Irwin and Emily Gaw for the donation of a big net of soccer balls (again!) and always encouraging and welcoming us to play at Crocus Bluff, the best soccer field in the Yukon. To Janet Bell for the endless supply of arts and crafts and clothing. Liam Henry for all his books, blocks, toys, and the biggest teddy bear the daycare has ever had. Mäshi cho everyone; we appreciate you all! **TH**



Above: Looking up at the 2020 Orange Shirt Day ballon escape.

# Dänojá Zho Cultural Centre

by Glenda Bolt

The Dänojá Zho Gift Shop is going online. The Yukon First Nation Culture and Tourism Association launched an online store to sell Yukon First Nation arts. The new Yukon First Nation arts brand increases the visibility of Yukon First Nation art in the marketplace. The Yukon First Nation arts brand promotes and celebrates art made by Indigenous artists in the Yukon.

Dänojá Zho Cultural Centre is thankful to have the opportunity to sell local Indigenous art on this site. You will now have the option to shop from home in a safe and convenient way. During uncertain times when online shopping is popular, we want to make this transition easy and simple for our buyers and artists.

There is a connection between artist and buyer with product cards that will help educate the consumer (e.g., “what is quill work?”).

The YFN arts brand was created to distinguish and increase visibility of Yukon First Nations art in a thriving Indigenous arts marketplace. It provides branded tags, bags, boxes, and stickers that communicates authenticity to visitors and buyers.

The YFN arts store is a place for Indigenous artists from Yukon to sell their work while being supported by the YFNCT and participating cultural centres like Dänojá Zho.

To participate, artists can register for the YFN arts brand and then contact Dänojá Zho or YFNCT to arrange a time to drop off their work.

You can visit our online store at [YFNArts.ca](http://YFNArts.ca) and register for the brand at [YFNArts.ca/pages/register](http://YFNArts.ca/pages/register).

Danoja Zho Gift Shop is open Monday–Friday, 1 p.m.–4 p.m. **TH**



# Fish & Wildlife

## Chinook Salmon – 2020

This year's chinook salmon season brought record low numbers and one of the worst runs ever. This year's border escapement was estimated to be only 33,000 chinook; however, this number will need to be revised post-season to reflect the calculated number of chinook spawners that made it to their spawning grounds. The Yukon River Salmon Agreement (YRSA) between Yukon and Alaska has set a target of 42,500–55,000 chinook spawners annually to ensure healthy and sustainable stocks. This year border escapement targets were not met which has concerning implications for the health of returning chinook in the Yukon River.

While some fishing did occur across the border, it's important to note that strong limitations were placed on subsistence fishers in Alaska and substantially less salmon were harvested in the state this year compared to other years. This indicates the chinook returning numbers from this year were very low, as opposed to chinook harvest numbers affecting the border escapement estimates.

## Chum Salmon – 2020

The 2020 projections for the Yukon River chum salmon run is very poor. Border escapement targets, as identified under the Yukon River Salmon Agreement (YRSA), between Yukon and Alaska has set escapement targets of 70,000–104,000 chum annually; however, initial numbers indicate this target will not be achieved. In response to the extremely low projected numbers, TH Council passed a resolution requesting TH citizens voluntarily refrain from subsistence harvest of chum this season. All commercial, sport, and recreational fishing for chum was closed for 2020.

## Klondike River Stock Restoration

A successful funding application to Yukon River Panel Restoration and Enhancement Fund in 2020 provided \$93,010 to assist TH on this project. While some aspects of

the project were carried out and will contribute to the overall success of this project, the stock restoration trials could not go ahead due to poor returning numbers of Klondike River chinook salmon. We plan to resubmit a funding application and continue our efforts next year.

## Salmon Stewardship & Harvest Management Plan

In 2013, the TH General Assembly passed a resolution regarding the voluntary closure of TH subsistence fishing of chinook salmon for one life cycle. This resolution will expire in March 2021. In order to be prepared for the expiry of this resolution, TH Fish and Wildlife has begun work on a Yukon River Chinook Salmon Stewardship Plan/Salmon Harvest Management Plan. Unfortunately, predictions for the chum salmon season in 2020 are very poor, as well, and a TH Council resolution was passed requesting the voluntary

withdrawal of subsistence harvest of chum salmon for the 2020 fishing season. Resolutions of this magnitude emphasize the importance of having an adaptive management plan in place.

A Salmon Stewardship Plan will provide a framework for a TH-based approach to harvest based on what citizens feel is an ideal strategy for subsistence harvest during years when population numbers are considered to be a conservation concern. And because the Salmon Stewardship Plan will be an adaptive management tool, it will also include harvest strategies during times of adequate returns, as well. Information to guide this plan will be provided by citizen input and direction; Salmon Stewardship Plan surveys have been circulated to citizens for input this summer and fall. Please help us develop this plan by providing your comments, filling out a survey, or attending upcoming Salmon Stewardship Plan focused meetings and discussions. The development of a Salmon Stewardship & Management Plan is TH's opportunity to redefine what you want your relationship to salmon and salmon harvest to look like. If you would like to share your ideas, views, comments, concerns, or stories, please contact the Fish & Wildlife branch. A "What We Heard" document will be circulated and discussed at consultation meetings as well as provided to all Councils (THC, Elders Council and Youth Council) for their input and support of this plan.



## Summarizing Traditional Knowledge for Caribou Conservation

Our ancestors depended on caribou (wëdzey) for millennia, and our well-being continues to rely, in part, on the health of our local caribou herds. The caribou, in turn, benefit from having healthy, empowered First Nations communities within their range. Therefore, the health and well-being of caribou and TH citizens are intrinsically linked and must be managed together (a concept that is not currently recognized by western resource management). In our traditional territory, conservation goes hand in hand with subsistence. Subsistence activities promote healthy lifestyles and continued connections with the land and wildlife. These connections are reflected in a living body of traditional knowledge that continues to be developed over generations and is based on a foundation of respect and reciprocity. It is therefore imperative that as partners in co-management under the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement, our traditional laws and customs must be reflected in conservation initiatives in a meaningful way.

To help make caribou traditional knowledge (TK) more accessible and useable for staff and citizens, Fish and Wildlife staff successfully applied for funding from the federal government. These funds will be used to hire a contractor to pull together caribou TK materials gathered in the past and held by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in government and other organizations, then analyze and summarize those findings in an engaging and easy-to-

read report, as well as develop community engagement materials targeted at citizens, Elders, and youth. These project deliverables will be used to contribute TK to conservation planning for caribou herds in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory. The project will enhance meaningful participation and reconciliation by ensuring caribou TK is included in co-management initiatives, development assessments, regional land use planning processes, and subsistence harvest management.

This project will support the engagement and leadership of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in the conservation of caribou and their habitats:

- The resiliency and continuity of past and present relationships between TH citizens and caribou contained within these traditional knowledge records will be explored and clearly articulated.
- TH management and leadership will use the results of this project to help ensure Constitutionally-protected subsistence harvest rights are protected and stewardship responsibilities are fulfilled as outlined in the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement.
- TH citizens will gain greater awareness and appreciation of how their relationships with caribou play an essential and ongoing role in caribou conservation within TH Traditional Territory.





## The Fortymile Caribou Harvest Management Plan

The Fortymile Caribou Harvest Management Plan was endorsed by the Fall General Assembly. This is a great achievement in the management of the Fortymile caribou herd and a concrete step towards co-management of fish and wildlife within our traditional territory. We recognize the years of hard work and efforts, as well as the sacrifices, that have brought us to this moment. This is a great success story and testament to conservation efforts committed to by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens over the past decades.

While it has been a long time in the making, this is only the beginning of an ongoing journey of caring for Fortymile caribou, both in Canada and range wide. It is Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's responsibility to consider and protect the subsistence harvest rights of our citizens, and this continues to be our priority as we implement the Harvest Management Plan.

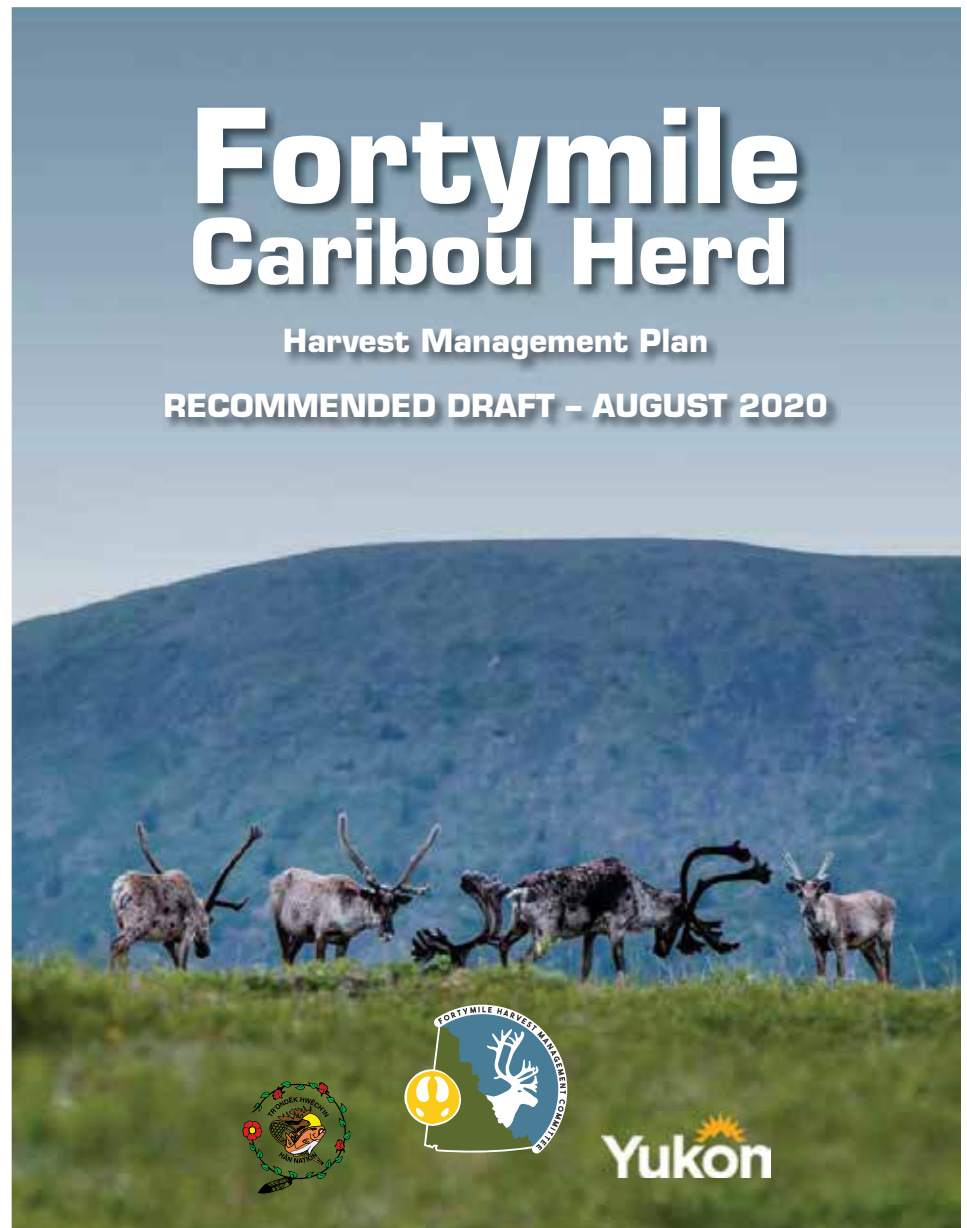
So how does the Plan changes things, and what does it do? A Harvest Management Plan is about setting expectations and working towards common goals and objectives as per objectives set out in Chapter 16 of the TH Final Agreement. The plan brings YG and TH formally together to co-manage the herd, and lays a path forward to effectively push for Yukon interests in range-wide herd management; care for the caribou (including monitoring, research, and education); protect subsistence harvest rights; and provide sustainable harvest opportunities for

Yukoners (licensed and subsistence harvest).

The Plan defines how licensed harvest of Fortymile caribou will be managed in Yukon, setting recommended harvest seasons, licensed hunt structure, and zoning. It provides a mechanism for TH and YG to negotiate acceptable parameters, including harvest numbers, for a licensed hunt each season through the approved Implementation Plan.

We recognize the Plan will not be a one-size-fits-all solution and

there may be growing pains with the introduction of licensed harvest of Fortymile caribou in TH Traditional Territory for the first time in over three decades. We will need to listen, learn, and adapt, using adaptive management tools to address issues as they arise. Having a plan provides TH assurances the herd will be managed with both Parties at the table, setting expectations together, defining priorities, and working towards common goals and objectives for the herd. **TH**



# Land & Resources

Spring and summer are busy seasons in TH Traditional Territory. Lands staff conduct routine monitoring; contribute to research work; comment on environmental impact assessment, mining, and resource permits and issues; and generally ensure the land is well taken care of.

This year we managed this work with the added challenge of COVID-19. Some of our normal activities were cancelled, such as water sampling due to the Vancouver lab being shut down. Nevertheless, from mid-March to mid-September, while working from home, our team continued land patrols and responded to YESAB requests (37), Decision Document consultations (14), Class 3 Operating Plan consultations (5), Yukon Land Use Permit consultations (8), Yukon Scientist and Explorers License applications (7), Class 1 Mining notifications (22), Yukon Water Board interventions (9), and Forestry requests (8).

Our GIS Coordinator role was vacant for several months but has now been staffed by William Woodley. We look forward to learning from his previous experience in Inuvik.





**Left:** James Roberts at the Fish & Wildlife Sonar.

**Right:** James Roberts, Tom Turoczi, and Darren Bullen on a collaborative stewardship patrol with Yukon Government officials.

## Land Use Planning

### *Tr'ondëk Subdivision (C-4) Update*

TH Natural Resources has been working on implementing the Tr'ondëk Subdivision Lot Allocation Policy, as approved by Council. Citizens with Expressions of Interest on C-4 were given an opportunity to realize their interest, and three citizens pursued this avenue and entered into residential leases. Subsequently, Natural Resources implemented a lot lottery to provide other interested citizens with an opportunity to acquire lots and enter into residential leases. Nine citizens responded to this process and we are working to finalize residential leases with these applicants. Stay tuned for the next phase of lot allocation on the Tr'ondëk Subdivision, where citizens can apply to enter into residential leases over the counter at the Natural Resources office. Staff are currently working to approve a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in over-the-counter lot allocation procedure to enable this next phase.

### *C-3B & C-42B Update*

TH Natural Resources obtained YG Regional Economic Development funding to complete an environmental site assessment report and a heritage resources impact assessment report for Settlement Land parcels C-3B and C-42B. These pre-development studies are required before work starts on detailed engineering and tender-ready designs.

A crew is on settlement land parcel C-3B this fall drilling monitoring wells. The goal is to install groundwater monitoring wells to test for possible contamination and risks to public health.

Please note that in order to enable the planning process to move forward and the eventual disposition of lots, there is a moratorium on further Expressions of Interest on these parcels.

### *Expressions of Interest and Land Grants*

Citizens regularly come into the Land and Resources office looking

to make a “land selection,” a “land claim,” or check on the status of their “land claim.” Although the Land and Resources Branch has in the past used these terms to describe citizen applications for use of land in the traditional territory, these terms do not have a legal meaning in the current Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in *Lands & Resources Act*. Currently, the kinds of land applications which can be made through the Land and Resources office are as follows:

### **Expression of Interest (EOI)**

Under sections 25-26 of the *Land and Resources Act*, an EOI can be registered on most settlement land parcels. Sometimes this has been referred to as “putting your name on a parcel.” If you have an EOI on a settlement land parcel or a portion of the parcel, then you are on a list of citizens to be consulted on matters relating to that parcel. You also have priority access to lots which may be developed on that parcel in the order of when your EOI was registered and as laid out in the lot assignment policy.

An EOI does not give anyone the right or ability to build, develop, or alter the settlement land. Non-citizens can also register EOIs. A person can have EOIs on multiple parcels; however, no one can maintain an EOI or an application for use of a lot or portion of a parcel if another application for the same person for the same use within the same parcel has been approved. EOIs can be cancelled and are heritable so can be passed along to lawful heirs.

At some time in the next year or so, TH staff will begin a process of clarifying our current EOI list so you may hear more about this.

### **Traditional Pursuits Allocation**

Citizens can apply for a Traditional Pursuits Allocation on settlement land that is not within the Central Tr'ondëk Land Management Area (which encompasses the City of Dawson, West Dawson, Sunnyside, and out the Klondike Highway to Henderson Corner).

As per section 33 of the TH *Land and Resources Act*, an allocation provides for exclusive use and enjoyment of an area of settlement land for the purpose of conducting traditional activities on the land. Citizens can transfer their allocation, but if this is to be outside the family, there must be Council consent. Allocations are also heritable.

These applications have historically been evaluated and approved by the Natural Resources Advisory Committee. As the Natural Resources Department has not been able to keep this citizen body active or reaching quorum, there is a large

backlog of Traditional Pursuits Allocation applications. Land and Resources is investigating other options for reviewing and approving Traditional Pursuits Allocation applications to help citizens get out on the land.

Land grants under the TH *Land and Resources Act* are defined as “an allocation or a permit, lease, quarry concession, easement, right of access or other right or interest issued or provided under this Act in, to or for the use or occupation of land...” Section 27 of this Act declares “a person may apply for a grant in respect of a parcel at any time on or after the date at which a land use plan for that parcel is in effect.”

The TH *Land and Resources Act* also instructs us to take “into account the needs of present and future generations of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, so as to (a) provide for the sustainable use of the land; (b) promote a healthy lifestyle for citizens; and (c) preserve the peaceful enjoyment of the land by citizens.”

We are working to follow these differing directives and create land use plans for certain parcels to enable fair and equitable citizen access to land. The role of TH Land Use Planner Coordinator was created in 2017 to facilitate this.

In some cases, TH Land Use Permits have been issued to enable certain activities. A person who holds a permit does not have an interest in the land, but may occupy or use the land and, for that purpose, has a non-exclusive right of access to the land.

### **Lease**

Leases are only available on

settlement land parcels where TH Council has approved a lot allocation policy with application and evaluation criteria. Currently, the only land where residential leases can be acquired is the Tr'ondëk Subdivision (C-4). These provide long-term secure and exclusive use of a residential lot, with similar rights and responsibilities to ownership of titled land.

## **Collaborative Stewardship Initiative**

The busiest mining district in the Yukon falls within TH Traditional Territory. Effective compliance monitoring is key to managing the impacts of mining; however, both TH and Government of Yukon have limited staff and a large area to cover in a short season.

Starting in 2020, TH is participating in the new Collaborative Stewardship Initiative with Energy Mines and Resources – Compliance Monitoring and Inspections (EMR-CMI). The goal of this initiative is improving how YG and First Nations work together in the field to increase land use compliance and monitoring capacity.

The long-term goal of this project is combining resources, sharing information, increasing understanding of each other's work, and improving monitoring capacity and compliance. TH and YG jointly created a fieldwork plan in the spring, identifying key areas and operations to visit. Several sites of interest in TH Traditional Territory were visited by TH Natural Resources staff with YG CMI staff over the



**Top Left:** Alice McCulley and Clinton Creek with Tetra Tech engineers.

**Top Right:** Staff were part of a youth paddling excursion down the Indian River.

**Right:** Patrolling the Ridge Road.

summer. These included multiple visits to California Creek, Swede Creek, and Adam's Gulch. Outcomes from 2020 and 2021 test seasons will inform plans to establish long-term funding, potential regulatory change, and shared responsibilities.

## Clinton Creek

The abandoned asbestos mine is a familiar place for many TH citizens and Dawsonites. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, there were no site visits organized this summer to see what's left of the mine and learn about the options for remediation. TH is a project partner in the remediation project, alongside the Yukon's Assessment and Abandoned Mines Branch and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

TH staff participated in data collection at the site this year and will continue through the winter. This will help project partners better understand the movements of the waste rock and tailings piles, as well as the health and safety risks associated with the site. This information will assist the three governments in evaluating different closure options against the overall closure objectives. Once a closure plan is decided, it will go through the YESAB and regulatory process.

As soon as people can meet again, there are plans for a community meeting to discuss the abandoned mine and the closure options being considered.

## Wetlands

TH Land and Resources has continued promoting wetland

protection and conservation. We've been successful in our request to the Yukon Water Board to hold a hearing in the public interest on the issue of placer mining in wetlands. This was scheduled for the spring but postponed until October 2020 due to the pandemic and will be held in a virtual format. We created a written submission and convened a team of citizens, academics, and technical experts to present at the "virtual" hearing in October. We've also been working with our NND and VG neighbours on joint participation.

To improve our ability to identify, manage and protect wetlands, Lands staff took an online training course—Wetlands 101: An Introduction to Boreal Wetlands—while working from home in April. **TH**

# Implementation

Implementation has a number of exciting social initiatives underway and working with other TH government departments in developing models that honour our rights as outlined in the Self-Government Agreement.

Over the coming years, TH will draw down aspects of justice administration under section 13.6 of the TH Self-Government Agreement. The short term focus is on the following:

- The implementation of a TH-led Community Safety Officer Training Program.
- Increased access to culturally driven restorative justice.
- The adjudication and enforcement of TH Laws.
- The restoration and revitalization of TH traditional laws.

The Justice Committee Working Group, Wellness, and Implementation will engage the community to ensure justice initiatives reflect TH values and needs.

Implementation and Wellness are developing a Child Welfare Model that ensures all TH children and families are provided culturally appropriate care, and community support networks are established that promote child and family wellness. Once we finalize agreements with Canada and the Yukon, TH will have jurisdiction over TH child protection, adoption, and care.

We're also working with Housing, Wellness, and Education to address a number of social-welfare gaps. These "gap closing" initiatives include the following:

- The creation of a Youth Transition House.
- Increased capacity for cultural programming at R-22, such as building new communal space.
- Hiring a new Educational Support Worker;
- Increased financial contributions for TH students pursuing post-secondary education.
- Creating a mentorship program at TH government.
- Designing and constructing housing units for single-parent TH families.

Finally, Implementation and Human Resources and Education have been part of a collective review of the Yukon Education Agreement, initiated via section 17.7 of the SGA. The focus has been on the success of the agreement and updating the agreement where necessary based on current community priorities.

## Governance

Implementation is focussing on revisions to the TH Constitution and a new Governance Act. This work has been supported by the Constitutional Review Committee and is guided by TH values. These two documents guide the vision and operation of the TH government. Incorporating TH cultural values into the Constitution and Governance Act means these cultural values will trickle into all manner of our government.

## Land

Implementation and the Land Stewardship Framework continues supporting TH citizens' meaningful participation in the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan, as intended under Chapter 11 and 12 of TH Self Government Agreement.

Land use planning is the main way for citizens to share their vision for the care and stewardship of TH ancestral lands. Since Feb. 2019, we have gathered citizen knowledge and use of the land through a cultural mapping exercise. We now have 40 maps, with representation from all the major family groupings within Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Mähsi cho to all who contributed so far. These maps, along with others shared by citizens in the past and knowledge from technical staff and biologist partners, have come together to form a draft Conservation Priorities Map.

Our conservation priorities are critical inputs into the Dawson Planning process and is anticipated by the Commission for early December.

The map is very much in draft form, and it is important we hear back from you if what you have shared appears in the material. Whether you have contributed to a map or not, we need to know if what is important to you is accurately reflected and, most importantly, we have missed something.

Starting October, we will reach out to citizens by my email, phone, social media and mail to walk through the maps and hear your thoughts.

The DRLUP Commission also needs to hear from TH on how it intends to manage settlement land in the planning region. Similar to conservation prioritizing, guidance has already been provided to the TH government on what citizens would like to see for the management and use of settlement land. As part of our outreach, we will also be seeking direction on general designations for each parcel.

The ask is very straight forward and the maps are clear. Do you support the designation? If not, what use do you feel it should be assigned?

Responses to both mapping reviews will be incorporated before the final draft recommendations are shared back with citizens. Hopefully we can reach a consensus on a shared vision for TH traditional lands that you feel comfortable with forwarding to TH Council for approval and submission to the DRLUP Commission in December 2020.

We have created a TH citizen only website to share confidential information and are appreciating citizens signing up. It's nice to have one place online where we can share information with you and keep you involved in the land stewardship planning process. We have also created a help video to sign up to PlaceSpeak/TH LSF and have posted that video on our Land Stewards Facebook page. Scroll down to find the link or use this one: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnClMvLsUlg>.

Mähsi cho for your commitment to ensuring TH ancestral lands are properly cared for—now and for future generations. Please do not hesitate to call with questions, comments or input: 993-7100 ext 218. **TH**

# New Faces

Jennifer Klemm (right) is the new Family Wellness Program Coordinator. She is a long-time Dawson resident with a background in program coordinating for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, nutritional therapy, counselling, and child psychology. She is currently pursuing a degree at Yukon University with the goal of obtaining a bachelor's of social work. She is excited to embark on this new journey with the Family Wellness Team and looks forward to meeting many new people in our diverse community.



Robin Westland (left) has been hired as the Social Policy Advisor in the Implementation Department.

She was in Dawson for most of 2016 and worked with TH on the (then) Kaminak Coffee Gold file. She left for school but always hoped to return ... and now she has!

Her background is in the geological sciences, while her doctorate degree is in the humanities and social sciences. She is passionate about the earth and honoured to be supporting Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and their right to integrate their cultural and spiritual relationships with the land into all manner of social policy and implementation. **TH**





# Youth Centre

When we closed the Youth Centre due to COVID-19, we found creative ways to offer youth programming around town. The Youth Services team came up with online and at-home activities and organized a Photo Scavenger Hunt, where teams consisting of folks from the same bubble were given a list of 100 things to photograph—the harder the photo was to take, the more points you were awarded. The winning team won a \$100 gift certificate to a local business of their choice.

We also hosted a socially distanced Easter egg hunt and during the warmer summer weather we ran off-site, outdoor programs for the youth around town. Being outdoors meant the youth and youth staff could safely keep physically distant. Edward Whitehouse generously donated the use of his family's settlement land in West Dawson for fires and hangouts.

Another highlight included a three-day canoe course taught by the folks from Castlerock Canoes. Youth developed their paddling skills in a pond and on the third day paddled the Klondike River from Rock Creek to town. Over the Labour Day weekend, BYTE Empowering Youth came up from Whitehorse to host a Healthy Minds workshop for youth at the TH Hall and a skateboard workshop and competition at the skate park. There was an excellent turn out, and competition winners went away with some awesome prizes.

We're very pleased to announce that the Youth Centre is open again. We will be closely following the COVID precautions recommended by the Yukon's Chief Medical Officer. Only 10 people will be allowed inside the building at a time and everyone will be required to wear masks while inside. There will be no food sharing and staff will be taking extra precautions to sanitize the space frequently. Youth accessing the space must be registered with us. We're very excited to be seeing everyone again! **TH**



**Top:** A competitor in the skateboard competition shows some style.

**Middle Top:** The Youth paddling-skills program concluded with a trip down the Klondike River.

**Middle Bottom and Bottom:** Enjoying the Healthy Minds workshop.



# Citizenship Registrar

**D**rin Hozo! Shozrè' Babe Titus. Nàts'ën dihch'è. Tr'ondèk Hwèch'in ghà tr'édähok'ay as the Registrar Officer. (Hello! My name is Babe Titus. I am crow clan. I work for Tr'ondèk Hwèch'in as the Registrar Officer).

I started this position in July 2019 and since then it has been a whirlwind of learning, changes, and progress. A lot has occurred within a short time, including legal changes in Federal Transfer Payments to be based on citizenship rather than status, changes within the CIRNAC Registry (some know it as the "Indian Registry" but we do not call it that) as to who is eligible for status, the first allocation of TH Trust disbursements to citizens, the allocation of COVID-19 emergency help for citizens, and advances within our own government in records management and information and privacy procedures.

All of this progress has provided benefits to our government and citizens, but it has also led to a flurry of activity to ensure our records are complete, accurate and regularly maintained. This focus on records management allows me to see who has been approved by the Citizenship Committee to be eligible as a TH citizen; who has their CIRNAC Status registered under TH Government; and who has an incomplete application for citizenship, or incomplete CIRNAC Status registrations or transfers that still need to be assessed by the Citizenship Committee. Another area of focus has been upgrades to our data management system and software. This ensures our electronic records are complete and accurate, which is especially important for government reports, providing notices to citizens, confirming funding allocations to citizens, and responding to statistical inquiries. This initiative is very detailed and requires continuous training in records management, Excel, and ASAP software for which I am grateful to receive.

Some other initiatives that I have on the go:

- Sending out notifications to every citizen before the next TH Trust disbursement so they know their

Citizenship Identification Number and have an opportunity to update their mailing address before the cheques are disbursed.

- Assisting citizens in accessing their Jay Treaty letters for U.S.-Canada Border crossings.
- Assisting citizens who need to rebuild their identification, in accordance to the law.
- Assisting citizens in completing their applications for citizenship to be assessed by the Citizenship Committee.
- Providing administrative assistance to the Citizenship Committee in accordance to the Constitution – Citizenship Code.
- Providing assistance to CIRNAC in helping citizens complete their CIRNAC Status Registrations and obtain their CIS identification cards, which will be



phased out shortly and replaced with SCIS identification cards.

- Working with other governments to locate and transfer all TH citizens who have their CIRNAC Status registered with another First Nation Band or government.
- Working with other departments to provide information, statistics, and data required for various reports, programs, and benefits.
- Upgrading our citizenship card printer. The one we have is so old it is no longer compatible with our government's IT infrastructure. I am currently researching different types of card machines in order to produce more citizenship cards, which can now be used by Air North as valid identification for flights within the Yukon.
- Reformatting all Committee resolutions, determination letters, and application forms so they conform to the enrolment guidelines in accordance to the Constitution – Citizenship Code.

## An Overview of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Citizenship Enrolment

I am often asked if being registered by CIRNAC as Status means a person is automatically enrolled as a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizen. The answer is *no*. A person registered as Status through a CIRNAC Regional Office (or through an Indian Registrar Administrator) is only being registered as Status and is NOT being enrolled as a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizen.

To enroll as a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizen, a person must

contact the Registrar Office and request an enrolment application form. They must fill out the form entirely and include a long form birth certificate that provides the names of both of their parents. They must then return the form to the Registrar Office. Application forms can be accepted in-person, by mail, or by email.

The Registrar Office then processes the application as per our TH Government Records Management procedure and prepares the application for presentation at the next Citizenship Committee meeting. As per the TH Constitution – Citizenship Code, the Citizenship Committee assesses and determines the eligibility of the applicant for TH citizenship.

If the application is approved, a letter will be sent to the applicant informing them of their enrolment as a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizen and a reminder to complete their registration for, or transfer of, their CIRNAC Status.

If the application is denied, a letter will be sent to the applicant informing them of this decision and the process for appeal.

If the application is incomplete, a letter will be sent to the applicant informing them that eligibility could not be determined at this time due to a lack of assessment criteria.

As per the TH *Information and Privacy Act*, as well as the Constitution – Citizenship Code, all applications for a person aged 17 years and under, or for a dependent adult, can be completed and signed by their legal guardian. In this

circumstance, information about the assessment and determination of eligibility by the Citizenship Committee can be released to the legal guardian. Applications for a person aged 18 years and older are confidential. Any information regarding this application can only be released to the applicant, or requires the explicit and written consent of the applicant to be released at any and each stage of the process.

Once you or your dependents are enrolled as a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizen, you will be asked to obtain or transfer your CIRNAC registration as Status to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. You are not required to obtain your CIRNAC registration as Status if you do not already have it, but you are required to transfer your CIRNAC registration as Status if you have it with another First Nation Band or Government.

For any enquires, or to submit an application form, below is my contact information.

### **In Person:**

Chief John Jonas Centre  
1242 Second Avenue  
Dawson City, Yukon

### **By Mail:**

TH Government  
ATTN: Registrar Officer  
PO Box 599  
Dawson City, Yukon, Y0B 1G0

### **Email:**

citizenship.registrar@trondek.ca

### **Phone:**

(867) 993-7100 extension 101

### **Fax:**

(867) 993-4485

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

## Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Natural World & Wildlife Photo Contest

From March through August of 2020, TH citizens and their spouses were encouraged to get outside with a camera to take photos of landscapes or wildlife in their traditional territory and submit their best shots for our first-ever Natural World and Wildlife photo contest. We received so many wonderful entries and our judges had a tough time picking the winners! Below are their top 12 picks, which will be featured in a commemorative 2021 calendar. If you're interested in buying a copy, reach out to our Justice Coordinator, Brenda Warren, at (878) 993-7100 ext. 167 or email Brenda.Warren@trondek.ca. Proceeds from sales will go towards prize money for future contests. Congratulations again to all our winners!



### FIRST PLACE

Alice McCulley's beautiful shot from Tombstone Territorial Park took the top prize of \$500 cash!





**RUNNER UP:** Evan Warren took second *and* third place for this pair of wonderful wildlife shots.



**HONOURABLE MENTIONS:**

**Top row**  
(from left):  
Evan Warren,  
Leanne Ellis,  
Leanne Ellis

**Middle row:**  
Leanne Ellis,  
Ben Pierson,  
Alice McCulley

**Bottom row:**  
Leanne Ellis,  
Ben Pierson.  
Alice McCulley





**Top right:** Exciting news from the TH Finance world: we now have a wireless debit machine! If anyone would like to make rent payments (or payments of any kind) this way, Dave can meet them downstairs or in the lobby. Please note this is for debit only. We don't take credit cards.

**Top left:** Congratulations to Martha and Brian Kates, who celebrated 55 years of marriage this October. Many, many happy returns of the day, you two! We can't wait to see you up this way again!

**Bottom left and bottom right:** Orange Shirt Day was recognized at the TH government with a walk down the dyke to a bonfire by the farmers' market. The route was festooned with art created with youth at the school.





# YUKON FIRST NATION SELF - GOVERNMENT

*mappingtheway.ca*

**YUKON FIRST NATIONS** are at the forefront of Aboriginal land claims and self-government in Canada.

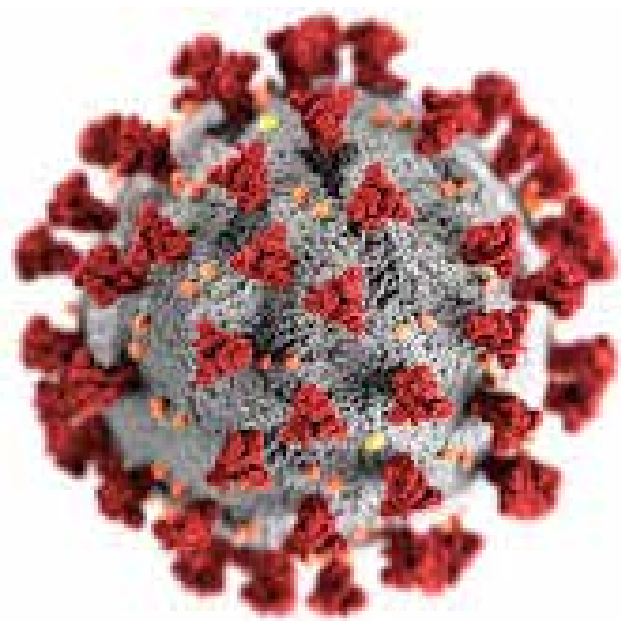
11 First Nations have settled their land claims and are self-governing. This represents approximately half of all such agreements in Canada.

Settling these agreements in Yukon involved decades of hard work, innovation and commitment by leaders and visionaries.



Yukon Archives, Judy Gingell collection, 98774, 1  
Yukon First Nation delegation in front of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, Ontario, in 1973.

**Visit *mappingtheway.ca* to learn about the journey to Yukon First Nation self-government and land claim agreements, and the benefits they bring to all Yukoners.**



# COVID-19

The TH offices are now open for business, but you might notice a few differences, including many different adaptations aimed at keeping employees and visitors safe. Each building has its own rules. Please find out what they are before visiting.

There are a few simple rules we're asking visitors to abide by in the administration office. (See opposite page.) There are hand sanitizers around the office, barriers installed in some offices, and employees are wearing masks when outside their work space.

One thing that hasn't changed: we're still the happy bunch you remember us to be and here willing to assist where we can. We're all in this together. We look forward to seeing you.







## **COVID-19 rules for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Administration Offices.**

**We're doing this for our safety while you're in  
the building.**

- The offices are open by appointment only until further notice. Please phone ahead before coming to visit.
- Sanitize or wash your hands when you arrive.
- Always use your personal mask.
- No loitering in the hallways. Please use offices to meet.
- Stay 2 metres (6 feet) apart.
- Follow the arrows to where you need to go. ONE WAY ONLY.
- Leave the building through the nearest exit.

Thank you for your cooperation.



# TH Tenants GOING AWAY?

## PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR RENTAL UNIT!

### LET TH HOUSING KNOW:

**WHEN** you will be away

**WHO** will be house-sitting or monitoring your home.

### WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN AVOID:

**BOILER OR FURNACE TROUBLE**

**FROZEN AND BURST PIPES**

**WATER DAMAGE**

**SAFETY ISSUES (E.G. IN A FIRE, WHO'S INSIDE?)**

You are welcome to email your notice of absence to: [dalores.roberts@trondek.ca](mailto:dalores.roberts@trondek.ca)

Questions? Contact the Housing Office during business hours at 993-7100 ext. 119.

*~ Mâhsi cho! ~*



PLEASE CONTACT

**867 993 3916**

FOR CHICKEN, TURKEY, RABBIT OR PORK PURCHASES

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

to the WINNERS of

**SCAVEGANZA 2020**

1st place

Team Wierda/McLeod

