

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Newsletter

Këntra Täy

moccasin trail

Spring 2021





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 or 993-2912

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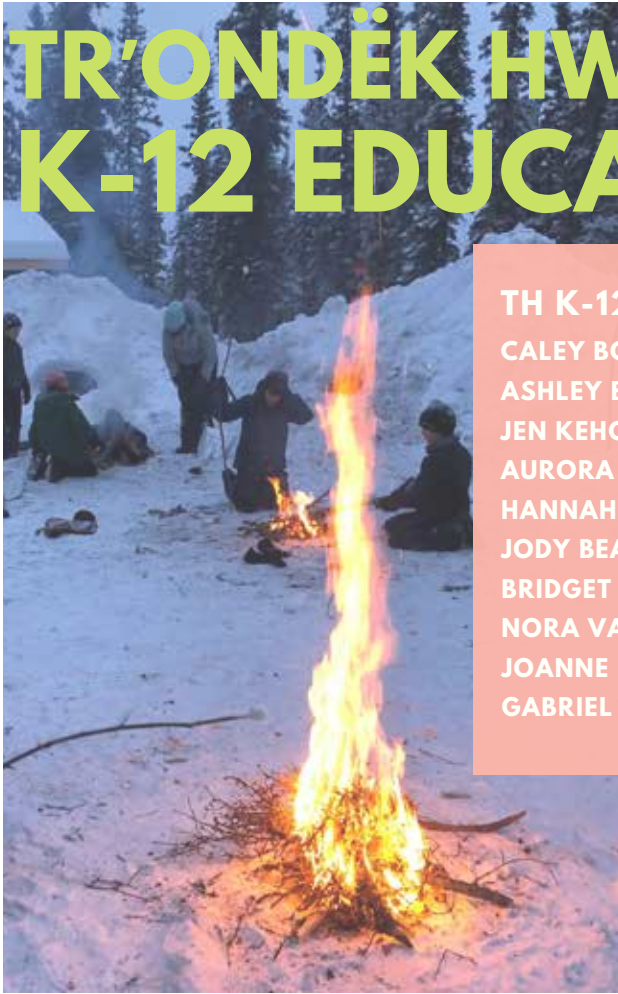
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TR'ONDËK HWËCH'IN K-12 EDUCATION UPDATE



TH K-12 EDUCATION TEAM

CALEY BOULTER – DIRECTOR OF HR, EDUCATION & TRAINING

ASHLEY BOWER-BRAMADAT – EDUCATION MANAGER

JEN KEHOE – K-12 EDUCATION SUPPORT WORKER

AURORA KNUTSON – HIGH SCHOOL CELC

HANNAH FINDLAY-BROOK – ELEMENTARY CELC

JODY BEAUMONT - CULTURAL EDUCATION ADVISOR

BRIDGET O'CONNELL – AFTER SCHOOL TUTOR

NORA VAN BIBBER - NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR & COOK

JOANNE FARR - NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM COOK

GABRIEL GOSSELIN - NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM COOK

Cultural Programming

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, including; connecting with Elders and traditional knowledge holders, sharing and gathering resources, accessing support from other TH departments, connecting teachers to TH resources, providing cultural supplies for programming, prepping the TH sites, providing TH vehicles, gear and equipment for camps, and more. Some of the cultural programming that has happened from the beginning of this school year includes:

- Multiple Culture Camps and field trips
- Grade 6 40 Mile Camp
- Grade 5 Residential school unit and talks
- Storytelling with Elders
- Beading and crafting
- Tr'ochek, Ridge Road & Tombstone Field Trips
- Moosehide Fur Trading Activity
- Berry Picking and Harvesting & Fishing
- Fall Harvest Camp at 40 Mile
- TH Farm Trips and Canning Workshop
- Grade 11 Residential School Unit Camp

Upcoming Programming in the School:

- Caribou talks
- Han singing, dancing and Jigging
- More on the land Culture Camps
- Cross country ski/snowshoe trips
- Snowshoe baseball
- Trapping unit talks
- Ice Fishing in Spring & Canoeing in May
- The Blanket Exercise
- Mitten & Snowshoe making
- Self Governance Workshop
- Digital Storytelling project and camp
- Carving Workshop
- First Trapper Camp
- Native Grad Regalia Sewing Group
- And much more!!

Culture Camps!



Fall Harvest Culture Camp was a success, Mäshi cho to RJ Nagano on getting a moose and donating it to the camp for the youth to practice harvesting the animal from start to finish in a respectful way. Mähsi cho to all of the Rangers and the hunters for taking everyone hunting up the Hart River during First Hunt, it was quite the adventure and hopefully we'll find those caribou next year! These two camps are accredited and the participants will receive two credits towards Graduation for successfully participating in the camp. A big mähsi cho to all of our dedicated elders and knowledge holders that attend these camps to pass on their teachings to the youth, we couldn't do it without you!

Through all of these cultural initiatives, we work closely with the school staff to ensure TH students are receiving the proper support to keep up with the learning outcomes and are on track to graduate. Our cultural programming incorporates the curriculum into as much as possible. Students enjoy being out on the land, learning hands on, engaging activities that teach also them about their culture and history. TH Education promotes on the land opportunities for youth to build on their skills & strengths.



STUDENT SUPPORTS



Jen has been supporting First Nation students at RSS from Kindergarten to Grade 12. She has worked closely with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Wellness department, Mental Wellness and Substance Use Counsellors, RSS school Counsellor, TH Education Team and RSS Staff to liaise between families, students and supports in the community to assist students in their educational needs; including advocating for students in their unique learning needs, learning outcomes and attendance, supporting students social-emotional wellbeing, building community within the school, providing a safe space for First Nation students at RSS, developing trusted and healthy relationships with students and working with the CELCs to connect students to their culture and identity. She has been a support staff at TH Culture Camps this year, day trips and afterschool programming for TH youth & attended a seminar on First Nation youth resiliency & understanding the whole child through YFNED. Please reach out to Jen if you would like to discuss the educational needs of your child/ren.
jen.kehoe@trondek.ca or 993-7100 ext 189

Introducing New Staff!

Jody Beaumont, Cultural Education Advisor. Jody has joined the TH Education Team for a one year term to focus developing culturally grounded frameworks including the accreditation of culture camps, a Hän Language curriculum and a framework that will guide the school in developing a learning environment that reflects Dënezhu approaches to education.



Hannah Findlay-Brook, Elementary CELC. We are happy to have Hannah join the TH Education team, she will be based out of the school and will be working closely with Ashley and Aurora, assisting with all Culture Camps and coordinating cultural programming for Kindergarten to Grade 7.

Bridget O'Connell, After School Tutor. We are pleased to have Bridget as a Tutor, Bridget is an EA at RSS & already has strong relationships with many students & a great understanding of the curriculum & learning outcomes that students need to meet. To inquire about tutoring sessions for First Nation students please contact bridget.oconnell@trondek.ca



NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM

The Jordan's Principle Nutritional Program funding has been providing funding for a breakfast and lunch program at Robert Service School for grades K-12 students. We have 3 cooks on staff with Nora VanBibber as the Nutritional Program Coordinator. The Nutritional Program runs 3 days a week providing approximately 360 meals per day which adds up to approximately **1,080 meals per week!** Nora, Gabriel, Joanne and



the occasional AOC cook all work very hard to prepare meals and deliver to Robert Service School every week. We appreciate all their hard work and time that goes into feeding our youth!



The Nutritional Program also supports First Nation Families with children 0-18 years old with holiday hampers. Before Christmas we were able to distribute locally purchased food hampers to all our First Nation families for the Christmas holiday season with the help from our TH Education Department and special shout out to Santa's helper, Nathan Dewell.



MÄHSI CHO!
MÄHSI CHO!
MÄHSI CHO!



Your development corporation working for you

We at the Chief Isaac Group of Companies have been busy over the past quarter and are happy to share with you what we have been up to.

Tr'ondëk Heavy Equipment recently purchased a **35 Tonne recovery vehicle**. This piece of equipment allows us to provide a unique and necessary service to the region.

MacKenzie Petroleum has a new manager, Frances Aitken, who is also overseeing the operations of all our companies in the Callison Industrial Subdivision. MacKenzie was the successful bidder and is now **Yukon Government's fuel provider** for the Dawson Region for the next three years. MPL was also the successful bidder on the TH contract and is currently working collaboratively with your TH Government to be able to provide **Citizens a discount at our pumps** for the duration of our contract. Given our recent growth we also purchased a larger fuel truck to respond to current demand and position ourselves to supply an ever growing need. Pop by and visit the new team and see how things have really changed!

In response to an Expression of Interest for office space from the Yukon Government, **Chief Isaac Inc.** is currently in the preliminary planning stages of potentially constructing a new **commercial building** on 2nd Ave and King St.

CIGC is working diligently on **maximizing opportunities** for our companies, our community and our Citizens. We are active in continued conversation and exploration of all potential projects in the Region. We are focused on positioning our companies to be fully engaged with what is happening in both the Region and throughout the Territory and happy to keep you informed along the way.

We've recently launched the **Chief Isaac Citizens' Benefit Fund**. This money available to Citizens and funded by our business partners. For more details on recent recipients keep reading!

Mähsi Cho!

RECIPIENTS OF THE Citizen Benefit Fund

Funded by our partners for the benefit of citizens

October to December of 2020 was the first quarter of accepting applications for this fund. We are excited to announce the first two recipients of Chief Isaac's Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Citizen Benefit Fund. Congratulations to both of you!



SHAUNA KORMENDY
MSW, RSW, PhD Candidate

Awarded funds for **Education & Training**

RICHARD SEMPLE
TH ELDER

Awarded funds for **Elder Support**
No photo available



This fund would not be possible without the generous contributions from the following partners, Mähsi!



CHIEF ISAAC'S SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Meet our senior management team

Chief Isaac Group of Companies has been working hard to create a diverse and cohesive management team that is dedicated to the success of our companies, our community and our Citizens. We are happy to say that we now have a fully staffed team and we are excited to see what they can accomplish.



Melanie Blanchette

Chief Executive Officer

807.633.2371

ceo@chiefisaac.ca

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.





Heidi Bliedung

Director of Operations

867.993.3556

Heidi.Bliedung@chiefisaac.ca

Heidi has been managing our operations since April of 2018 and has recently been promoted to Director. She looks after our catering, property management, security and custodial businesses as well as the Eliza Building and our other real estate assets in the Traditional Territory. She also oversees Chief Isaac Summit (our camp services partnership with Summit Camps) and Klondike Wholesale (our groceries and consumables partnership with G-P Distributing).



Julia Spriggs, CPA

Director of Finance

867.334.8748

Julia.Spriggs@chiefisaac.ca

Julia has been our Director of Finance since the end of 2018. She worked in public practice for three years as an external auditor to companies across a multitude of industries such as manufacturing, aviation, tech, First Nations, municipalities and non-profit organizations. She was born and raised in the Traditional Territory and is passionate about her community. Julia is responsible for all financial reporting across the group of companies.



Frances Aitken

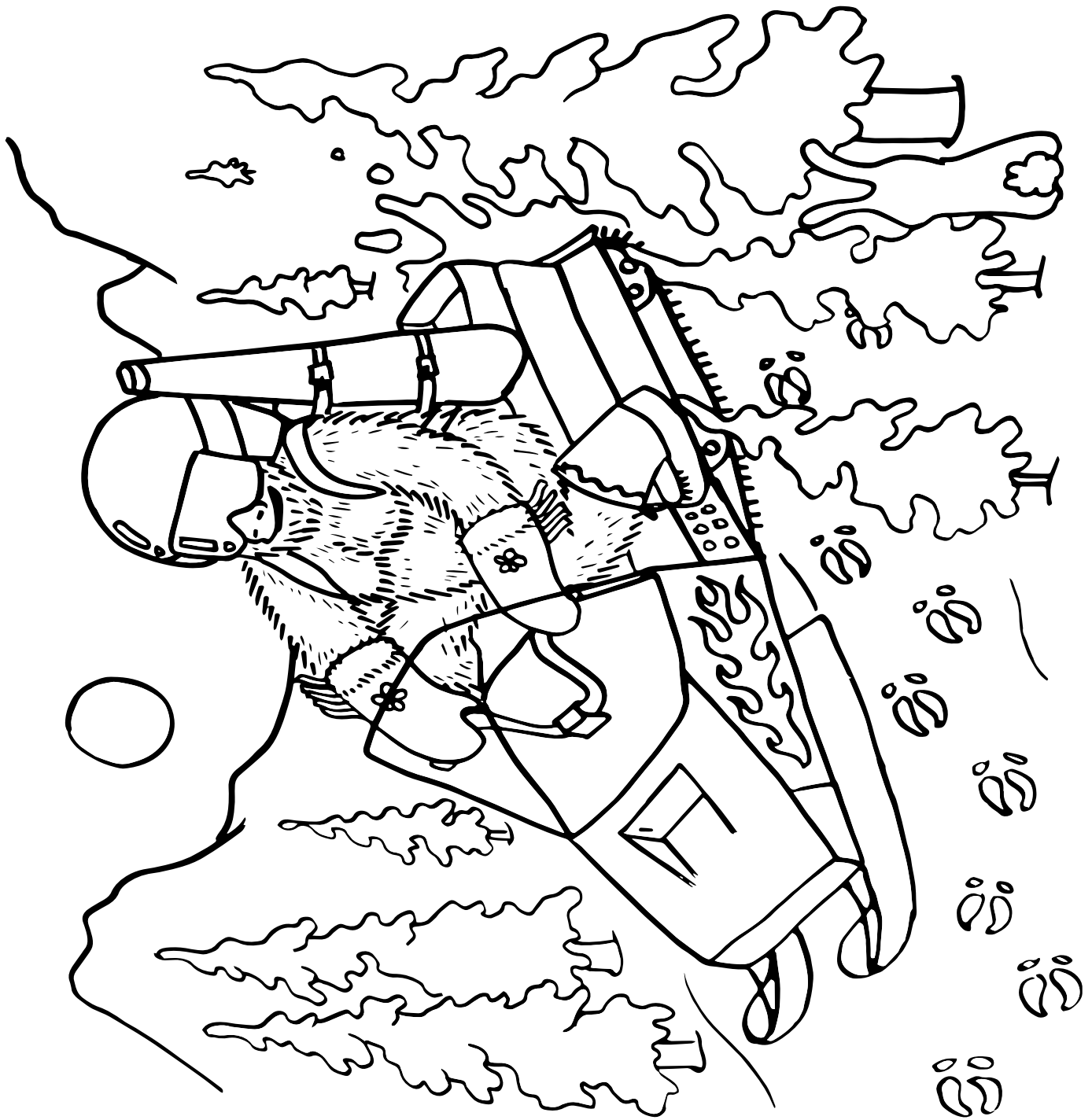
Industrial Manager

867.993.3796

Frances.Aitken@chiefisaac.ca

Frances is a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Citizen who's lived in the Traditional Territory since the age of 5 and the newest addition to our team. Having started her own tourism business at the age of 18, she is a firm believer in the important link between economic development and First Nation culture. Her experience also includes working in admin roles in Vancouver, for the TH Government in their finance team and running her own bookkeeping business. Frances is responsible for managing and growing our Chief Isaac Mechanical, Tr'ondëk Heavy Equipment and MacKenzie Petroleum businesses as well as overseeing the Chief Isaac staff at Manitoulin in Dawson.





Colour Me!

Thanks to Tamika Knuston for sharing her talents and this skidoo-driving Sasquatch. In the mood for colouring? Send us the fruits of your labour and we'll publish your work. The best ones will get a neat gift, too!

Children's Programming

Full Circle

We extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Mary Haydon, who made a gift to Tr'inke Zho in memory of her son, Daniel Robert Haydon.

Chief Joseph, on behalf of Mary, presented us with the gifts: a framed Certificate of Appreciation along with a donation of \$500 and a beautiful framed poem with artwork from Mary. We proudly display and cherish these gifts.

The \$500 will go towards the purchase of outdoor active toys, which we thought would be fitting as Daniel was known as "Tarzan" from a very young age.

Programming

Preschoolers learned to skate this year with eight lessons taught by the City of Dawson. We bought skates and helmets with COVID funding (the arena no longer provides them) so each child could have their own for



the winter season to use with their family.

We are so excited Cole Webber is our Youth After School Leader. He moved back home to graduate and attended Tr'inke Zho since he was an infant.

COVID Funding

We recently received COVID funding from the federal government to assist with the additional costs of operating the daycare under the strict Yukon Government COVID guidelines. The money will help cover wages of additional staff we need since children from different age groups can no longer mix. It will also be used for upgrades to the building, PPE supplies for staff and, specific cleaning supplies now needed to clean wooden toys, air purifiers, skates and helmets, and replacing older items, such as chairs, for easier cleaning.

The Yukon Government still provides funding for a full-time cleaner during the day till the end of March.

Aboriginal Head Start

Congratulations to Caroline Rever for completing her Early Childhood Education Diploma. She persevered over 20 years to complete her diploma through distance education. Aboriginal Head Start now has two level 3 educators working with the children. This has been a strategic goal for the AHS program and shows much commitment.

Grad update

We are still planning a 2020 grad ceremony to celebrate our seven grads, Arlynn, Nahanni, Bethany, Autumn, Jadon, Ts'ela, and Nathan. We are looking forward to celebrating their academic achievements and congratulating them on all their hard work in Kindergarten.

Class update

This year we welcomed four new students into Head Start: Charlie Flynn, Khloe Kormendy, Aubrey Taylor, and Casey Zarowny. This year has been totally different than past years, with us learning to deal with COVID restrictions. It has been tough not having field trips,

family picnics, dinners, or guests and volunteers as part of our programming. Nevertheless, we have been busy with regular programming, including Hän language lessons, tracing, counting, weekly crafts, and walks.

Funding

This year Health Canada released funding from the IELCC (Indigenous Early-learning Child Care) and COVID-19 response funding to childcare centres across Canada. With this money we helped fund Hän language

through wages and increased language resources. Money was also used to help cover wages for on-call staff because educators can be absent longer due to stricter COVID guidelines. Additionally, some of the funding will be used for ice-fishing supplies, Red Cross life jackets, and bike helmets. With the COVID-19 response funding we purchased PPE, cleaning supplies, home based educational toy kits, winter and spring outdoor gear, family garden supplies, skates, helmets, and a HEPA Air Purifier system for the classroom. **TH**

REMINDER

Only TH citizens are allowed to harvest timber on settlement land. If you see anyone illegally harvesting timber, please contact Darren Taylor or James Roberts.

(Right: James Roberts stands next to one of two signs on the Brewery Creek Road that highlight settlement-land areas. One sign is at the entrance of R-22 and the other before the Lee Creek Bridge.)



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Land & Resources

What a few months it's been. Our year of boating the river, flying in helicopters, driving on quads, and paddling in canoes was capped off with the TH Land and Resources entering a boat in the Dawson Christmas boat parade for the first time in many years. "Captain" James Roberts was our chief decorator and parade chauffeur.

We have a strong team that works well together and are aiming to tackle a lot of big issues in 2021 that will improve citizen access to land. It's a long, slow road, but we're driving/quadding/flying/boating it together.

On The Land

It was a busy and strange year with COVID-19. At times, Lands and Resources Officers worked from home and did their best with given the restrictions in place. We're in this together. Stay one caribou apart and wear your mask.

Lands and Resources Officers are still doing patrols and have found non-First Nation people cutting firewood on TH settlement land. This behavior is not acceptable, as wood permits issued by Yukon Government, Forestry branch, show all TH lands.



use novel technology that comes with using an online platform. Additionally, an online GIS platform allows for a greater number of employees to try their hand at manipulating spatial data and creating maps which will boost overall GIS capacity

Do you know you can explore the world using satellite imagery right from your own personal computer or mobile device? Google Earth is a free to use program on both PCs and mobile devices and has medium to high resolution imagery across the Yukon.

GeoYukon (<https://mapservices.gov.yk.ca/GeoYukon/>) is a free online GIS tool developed by the Yukon Government. You can use this tool to overlay social, economic, or environmental layers before exporting a complete map. And if you're feeling extra techy, you can download some of their spatial data as .kmz files and open them in Google Earth.

Fun fact: Mapping lost archaeological sites has traditionally been a challenging and labour intensive task; however, with the help of Lidar instruments (Light Detection and Ranging) scientists around the world have begun discovering a multitude of previously undetected sites. Lidar works by using pulsed lasers to measure distances. These lasers, coupled with precise GPS data, can provide hyper-accurate three-dimensional information about the earth's surface. So accurate, in fact, archaeological sites can be revealed even beneath a thick canopy of trees and shrubs.

TH woodlots for citizens (personal use firewood or commercial) are available throughout the winter with a permit. Having woodlots available for TH citizens is essential. In addition, we make site visits to the woodlots on Settlement Land as much as possible to ensure citizens have easy access or to follow up on any concerns in the area.

Yukon Government Forest Management Branch consults with TH on timber harvest plans and forestry permits on public land. We working hard to make the best land management choices to help our citizens and community.

Daily patrols are ongoing, and we see many exciting things on the land: changes in wildlife,

citizens enjoying the land, and occasionally concerns. We handle these professionally.

Assets has two new skidoos—Skandic 900 wide tracks—for patrols along the river and on the land where there are no plowed roads.

If you have any concerns or questions feel free to call and we will do our best to accommodate.

GIS

We've had a busy several months in the world of geographic information systems (GIS) as we've begun migrating to an online environment using ArcGIS Online. This migration will enable us to efficiently store our data, collaborate easily within the different departments, and

While the costs of Lidar are still high, their use in the Yukon is already underway and have begun to reveal a rich history hidden beneath willow and spruce.

Tr'ondëk Subdivision (C-4) Update

As a part of the Homeownership Program, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is making residential lots available to citizens on the C-4 Tr'ondëk Subdivision. You may be interested this opportunity if you want to build your own home on settlement land. Please reach out to Land Use Planning Coordinator Alex Hallbom at (867) 993-7100 extension 210 or at alex.hallbom@trondek.ca for more information or for an application.

There is no rental cost for leasing a residential lot on the C-4 Tr'ondëk Subdivision, but if you are allocated a lot you are required to do the following:

- Execute a lease with TH within 60 days of allocation, which shall be registered with the TH land registry system;
- Obtain general liability insurance concerning the land and provide evidence of same to TH within 30 days of allocation, with the policy to list TH as an additional insured;
- Prior to building, furnish proof of course of construction insurance to TH, provision of plans for any construction to TH for approval, and development and building permits issued by YG and City of Dawson;
- Build a residential home on the land compliant with zoning requirements (City of Dawson and YG) within two (2) years of the allocation;

- Reimburse TH Finance Department within 60 days (upon receipt of annual invoice in July) property taxes related with the lot;
- Pay to the City of Dawson directly all municipal utility fees related with the lot; and
- After completion of the build, provide evidence of insurance on the home and otherwise abide by the terms of the lease at all times.

Staff have been working to secure alternative sources of financing for citizens to build homes on leased land on the Tr'ondëk Subdivision. At present, leaseholders cannot take out conventional mortgages, as banks cannot seize Settlement Land if the mortgage is not paid. To date, discussions with the Bank of Montreal have failed to result in an agreement. TH staff are presently reaching out to additional banks in order to secure other avenues for financing.

C-3B & C-42B Update

TH Land and Resources Branch 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.

In the last newsletter, we noted there would be a drilling crew on C-3B in fall 2020 to install groundwater monitoring wells to test for contamination and risks to public health. Technical issues have led to this work being rescheduled for spring 2021.

Expressions of Interest and

Land Grant Applications

Land and Resources Branch staff are aware that access to Settlement Land is a cause of concern for citizens. To address this issue, we are working on the following initiatives to resolve issues impeding the land-allocation process:

- **Land Applications Issues Paper**
The Lands Branch has completed a comprehensive review of the issues currently impeding the land-allocation process on Settlement Land. We established a working group who will meet regularly to discuss and resolve outstanding issues identified in the issues paper.
- **Settlement Land Designations**
In 2020, Land and Resources conducted preliminary high-level planning for Settlement Land as an input to the Dawson Regional Land Use Planning Process. This process led to a system of Settlement Land “designations.” (You may have been contacted by TH Land Stewardship Framework staff to provide your input into this work.) This work sorts Settlement Land into various categories and provides management direction for each category. The Settlement Land designations work is not yet ready to be implemented, but Land and Resources will be working to incorporate the citizen feedback from this process into our work.
- **Land Registry**
Records relating to citizen interests in Settlement Land are currently stored in an inconvenient format. Staff can not easily determine what applications are in progress for a given parcel. In recent years,

staff have digitized older paper copies of expressions of interests and land-grant applications. In fall 2020, staff began working with an IT consultant to develop a searchable database for Settlement Land which will allow us to more efficiently provide services to citizens.

YESAB

In the past year, we've again been busy providing input to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB)—almost 50 sets of comments. We anticipate 2021 will be jam-packed with more YESAB work.

Last year, four times the Dawson Designated Office recommended rejecting project applications to preserve TH cultural values, traditional pursuits, and community well-being. We find it heartening that TH's concerns and interests were supported by these YESAB determination. Most notably, this list of projects includes a proposed placer mine on California Creek, where the Decision Body, Yukon's Mineral Resources Branch, also agreed that mining in the area would result in adverse impacts on the use and enjoyment of surrounding Settlement Land that could not be mitigated.

We look forward to continuing to support the interests and values of TH citizens and balancing these with economic developing in our traditional territory.

Wetlands

In collaboration with Implementation, the Natural Resources Department has promoted wetland protection and

conservation. We participated in the Yukon Water Board Hearing in the Public Interest on placer mining in wetlands last October. In addition to our legal and technical presentations, Chief Roberta Joseph spoke about the importance of wetlands, as did Darren Taylor, Director of Natural Resources, and a number of interested and concerned TH citizens. Our neighbours, the Big River People at the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun, and the People of the Lakes at Vuntut Gwitchin (see the water theme here?) also presented

In addition to our oral presentations at the hearing, we also responded to a technical information request and provided a detailed written submission that was delivered to the Yukon Water Board in December. If anyone would like to know how to access these public documents, please contact Kirsten Scott, ext 105.

We are awaiting the outcomes of this hearing and expect to know the Yukon Water Board's recommended next steps in early 2021. **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 admitted 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 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 on 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.

Justice

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government is pursuing a phased drawdown of Administration of Justice (AJA). This is an exciting opportunity for us to design and implement AJA in a manner consistent with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values and principles.

TH has the following short-term AJA priorities:

- Establish a TH Court with jurisdiction for prosecutions of offences under a TH law or violations of TH laws and child protection matters relating to TH citizens, including apprehension, placement and custody orders.
- Community Safety Officers.
- Development of alternatives to incarceration, including on-the-land healing.
- Partnership with RCMP.
- Development of TH charter or interpretative law.
- Mediation and arbitration.

To ensure that our AJA mandate reflects the goals and needs of our Citizens, we will be establishing an Administration of Justice Committee. If you are passionate about justice matters, and wish to take part in this important process of AJA drawdown, we encourage you to apply to Council at your earliest convenience!

TH Land Vision

We are pleased to be involved in a fun and important Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government initiative: the development of a Land Vision. The Land Vision is a key component of the Land Stewardship Framework (LSF) and will support our government by outlining the cultural values and principles that guide government operations. The Land Vision will be based on citizen voices and perspectives and rooted in the traditional stories of our people.

To develop the Land Vision, TH is holding "story sessions" with Citizens. These will be relaxed, low-pressure conversations, focused on a particular story. We will listen to the story together and consider the story together, just as our ancestors did. There will be no right or wrong answers, only the opportunity to safely share. These are our stories; let's celebrate them.

We will ask very broad questions, such as, "What about this story stood out for you?" or, "What do you think of the characters in the story?" We will use your answers to help us create the Land Vision.

We sent you a formal invitation in January, inviting you to attend a session, and have also been reaching out to Citizens via telephone and email to encourage their participation. If you haven't heard from us, please know the oversight was not intentional. We are aiming to contact all TH citizens in the traditional territory, as well as those throughout the Yukon.

On the next page is an example of one of the traditional stories we will be working with: *Tsà' Wëzhaa and the Raven*.

If you would like to take part or would like more information, please contact Kylie Van Every (Kylie.VanEvery@trondek.ca) or Mercedes Taylor (Mercedes.Taylor@trondek.ca.) **TH**

Tsà' Wëzhaa and the Raven

From Craig Mishler and William E. Simeone's Han: People of the River, Hän Hwëch'in, An Ethnography and Ethnohistory, (Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 2004)

“They were stopping someplace on the river overnight, and they sleep on the little bluff. Well, he [Tsà' Wëzhaa] was going along the river with this Raven. And this Raven said, “Whatever you do to me, don't ever try to do anything to me. If you ever try to kill me or do anything to me, you won't see no more human being[s],” he said. “You won't see no more people.”

So one night he [Tsà' Wëzhaa] just try him [Raven] out. He pretend he was sleeping, and they sleep on the bluff on the hillside like this, you know? (gesturing) He pretend he's stretched out like this, and he kick that Raven, and he roll over the hill, you know, and he just splash all over.

So he start off. Next he hear sound like a big village, you know. He hear lot of people. When he stop there he don't see nobody. He could see people live there, but he don't see nobody. But he could see some fish laying on the beach, you know? Some fish laying on the beach.

Next, he'd start up again. Next he'd hear lot of people again. When he come to that town, same thing. He don't see no people, but he see lot of them fish laying on the beach.

So he went back up. He went back up to where he killed that Raven. And he start picking [up] that little piece [piece by piece]. He put it in.

He got his canoe on the beach, so he put one little piece [in the canoe], and pretty soon he's [Raven is] coming back to life.

He say, “How do you feel?”

He [Raven] keep telling him, “Not yet. You still got to find some more pieces of me!” (laughs)

So he do that and pretty soon he got almost all the pieces back, and he say he feel better now.

So he put Raven in the canoe, and they went back down, And he asked him. He (Raven) said, “Like I told you, you won't see no more people, human being[s].”

What did you see every time you come to the village?”

“Oh, all I see is fish laying, lot of fish laying on the beach.”

So he start up with him.

“I'll start up with you,” he said. “I'll start up with you.”

And he start up with him.

When they come to the village, it's same thing. So quiet, and here them fish (are) laying. He said, “Jump out of your canoe and jump on the first fish that's laying there.”

He jump on there. He keep jumping on there. Out of them big fish come the people, you know? They jump out of it?

That's what Raven done for [him] trying to be mean to Raven but I don't know if Raven killed people them days.

Raven, they're bad animal in the old days, you know. They do a lot of things, and that's all I know about that story. **TH**



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.

Welcome back to the new Wellness Director, Allison Kormendy. She is a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizen from her father and Yup'ik from her mother. She was born and raised in Dawson City and is a Registered Holistic Nutritionist. For the past one and a half years she has been working with the First Nations Health Program (FNHP) and Yukon Hospitals to update and improve delivered wellness programs and create cultural protocols and policies, along with front-line patient care and implementing the FNHP program in the Dawson Hospital. She has also worked with Tr'ondëk Hwëchin Government since the age of 12 in various positions and spent seven years as the Community Health Representative, where she served as Acting Director for Wellness on numerous occasions.

Working within the Wellness Department was and is where her heart lays, and she has managed, developed, implemented and delivered many community-based programs ranging from daily preventative care to land-based camps in efforts to address community and individual struggles and trauma and to provide on the land activities for all. She has experienced that focusing on strengths and holistic well-being is helpful in attaining a balanced lifestyle. Leading, directing, and managing holistic programs and policy development are some of her strengths from previous positions and from her personal Indigenous holistic business.

In her new role as Wellness Director, she understands that a clear vision and structure, along with support and compassion, is crucial for program and service success. Some tasks ahead include evaluation of existing programs and services to ensure they are meeting the current needs of the citizens and community and developing new initiatives as needed. She believes empowering and supporting each other is key to a happy and healthy community. Being raised with traditional knowledge, she knows our ways, our food, our medicine, and our teachings are essential in healing the traumas our people have faced and the illnesses that can stem from them. With the right information, assistance, and determination well-being is attainable for our people and communities at large.

She looks forward to getting to know the staff and the citizens and helping create a supportive environment to live, work, interact, and grow. She's excited to implement new processes, services, and programs to best assist our community today which include but is not limited to exploring holistic case management models to provide quality care to our citizens.

New Faces





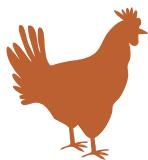
Blackbird L'Hirondelle is the new Family Counsellor for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

Blackbird has Cree, Metis, and English heritage and comes from a long line of healers on her Cree side.

Blackbird's experience and practice in counselling draws heavily from the work of Peter Levine and his development of somatic experiencing. This technique relies on the body's inner wisdom to source the places where trauma still lives and to release it through cathartic movement and sound.

She is also trained as an expressive arts therapist and uses visual-art making—especially with children—to invite clients to access their subconscious and the world of symbolism.

Blackbird facilitates healing—both physical and mental—through art, nature, and connection to Great Spirit.



CHICKENS AND VEGETABLES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

CALL DERRICK HASTINGS, TH FARM MANAGER
AT 993-3916



Your 2020 Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Award Winners

We may not have been able to gather in person to recognize this year's honourees, but that doesn't mean we can't celebrate their achievements. Here are 2020's winners, along with a little bit about why there were selected. Mähsi cho to everyone who voted and congratulations to our winners!

Elder of the Year

Angie Joseph-Rear

"Angie demonstrates extraordinary patience as a teacher, at on-the-land camps, in Robert Service School programs, in TH 101, with the Hän singers, and when sharing the Hän language. She has played a pivotal role in our journey of self-government over the years, and currently sits on the Dawson Land Use Planning Commission, working hard to ensure the proper implementation of the Final Agreement. One nominator wrote: 'Nothing holds her back. She's always ready to share and teach, and if you join her for a cup of tea, before long you will be gifted with a little part of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in history.'"



Citizen of the Year

Jason Van Fleet

"All over town, we can see the results of Jason's entrepreneurial efforts, marked by a careful attention to craftsmanship and community values. In spite of being so busy, our Citizen of the Year has found time to reconnect to his culture, actively seeking out traditional knowledge and getting involved in camps and events. We are all excited to see what the future holds for this inspiring member of our nation."



Youth of the Year

Rachel Kormendy

“Rachel represented Dawson and the Yukon at the 2019 Canada Games, won player of the year at the 2018 Wickfest Female Hockey Festival, and was slated to compete for Team Yukon at the 2020 Arctic Winter Games. In nominating her for Youth of the Year, one citizen wrote, ‘She plays with exceptional grace and skill, and incredible restraint depending on her opponent. She is a generous line mate, always looking to set up those around her and bring out the best in her team. She is humble and generous. The entire league of Ice Queens looks up to her and aspire to learn from her.’”

Volunteer of the Year

Victor Henry

“This year’s Volunteer of the Year is so often out in the community lending a hand that we notice when he is missing. Quietly and without complaint, he finds ways to make himself useful every day, whether it’s brightening someone’s day with a laugh or pitching in to make sure a gathering or special event runs smoothly. As one nominator wrote, ‘he makes the community a better place, He is actively involved in everything and always willing to help out—snow shoveling, setting up Christmas lights on the dike, or butchering road kill with the youth, all with a friendly face, a smile and a hello.’

Another of the many nominators wrote, ‘he is always helping the staff at the Cultural Centre. If a fire needs to be had for a ceremony or if traditional supplies are needed from the land, he is there and willing to drop everything to help. He continues to attend almost every function and continues to be an avid member of the Hän singers to keep our songs alive and teach our young boys traditional dance.’”



Group of the Year

Dawson RCMP Detachment

“Our Group of the Year are great partners to Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in, and are a regular and constant presence at our community events. To quote one nomination: ‘They demonstrate high regard and respect for TH Government and culture, and reliably pitch in at cultural events, whether it’s helping out and hunting camps, serving citizens at community dinners, or calling bingo for our Elders Birthday parties and GAs.’ When TH needed help enforcing quarantine and self-isolation requirements, they stepped up to keep us safe.’”





Role Model of the Year

Louise Drugan

“This year’s Role Model of the Year has transformed herself inside and out, astounding all who know her with her determination, hard work, and optimism. As one nominator wrote: ‘You may have seen her posts on Facebook or Instagram, where she inspires us daily with reminders to focus on the positive, invest in ourselves, and make small decisions that form the steps in the direction we want to go. Above all, she shows us that we can care for ourselves while still caring deeply for others.’”

Employee of the Year

Aaron Woroniuk

“Without Aaron, it is difficult to imagine how we would have kept operating throughout this challenging year. When the call to work from home came in, this employee sprang into action, setting us up to work from home in remarkable time, patching together a network that let us stay in touch while staying safe. He climbed up in roofs, copied files to laptops, and answered our million questions about why our computers were doing strange and mysterious things.[...] doing it all, as one nominator wrote ‘tirelessly without complaint. He is always available to spring into action to further TH Government initiatives.’”



Employee of the Year

Kay Linley

“Kay is exceptionally devoted to her work, and over the years has become a wealth of knowledge, both traditional and current. She puts her heart and soul into advocating for TH citizens and traditional territory, and as one nominator said, She is incredibly hard-working as so dedicated to TH issues and files. She takes time to share her knowledge and act as a mentor.” In early 2021, Kay left TH to pursue other opportunities. We will miss her contributions here and are certain she will succeed in whatever she takes on next.





Top: Mähsi cho to Mary Haydon, who made a generous donation to the Mens and Womens Shelters in memory of her son, Daniel. This money will go towards providing necessary programs and services in our community, assisting those who need a helping hand.

Top left: Our annual award ceremony went virtual this year. Unable to gather in person to recognize those people who went above and beyond in 2020, we instead took to Facebook to share the news. Congratulations to everyone who received an award.

Bottom left: Hats off to Franny Krivensky, who recently celebrated 20 years as the director at Tr'inke Zho. Generations of children are living their best lives thanks to Franny. (And some of them are even returning to work for her!) Thank you, Franny!

Bottom right: In the last newsletter, we misidentified the photographer who took the wonderful picture of the fireweed (below). Christine Blanchard-Fraser, in fact, took the photo. We apologize for the error.





Congratulations to our Winter Natural World & Wildlife Photo Contest Winners!

Mähsi cho to everyone who sent in photos. The winning photo (above) was taken by **Evan Warren**. The second- and third-place photos (left and below) were taken by **Sheila Vittrekwa**.



Honorable mentions are on the opposite page and are credited as follows:

1. Tamara Dickson

2. William Henry
3. Evan Warren
4. Evan Warren
5. Tamara Dickson
6. Ben Peirson
7. Ben Peirson
8. Ben Peirson
9. Sheila Vittrekwa

The contest was judged by an independent jury comprised of Dolores Scheffen, Deena Titus, and Sophie Noel. Congratulations to our winners!







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: chelsea.charlie@trondek.ca

Questions? Contact the Housing Office during business hours at 993-7100 ext. 243.

≈ Mâhsî cho! ≈



SAVE THE DATE!

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Trust's Annual General Meeting for TH Citizens

WHEN: Saturday, June 12, 2021 – 9:00 am

WHERE: TH Community Hall

**Reports from the Trustees, Protector, Auditor, Investment
Manager, Businesses, Door Prizes, Major Prizes**

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner will be provided

**Elder's Only meeting will be held Friday, June 11 –
9am**

**More information on Elder's rides and daycare to
follow**

**For more information contact: Maureen Birckel
Email: maureen.birckel@thtrust.com
Cell: 867-334-5061**



PLEASE CONTACT

867 993 3916

FOR CHICKEN, TURKEY, RABBIT OR PORK PURCHASES