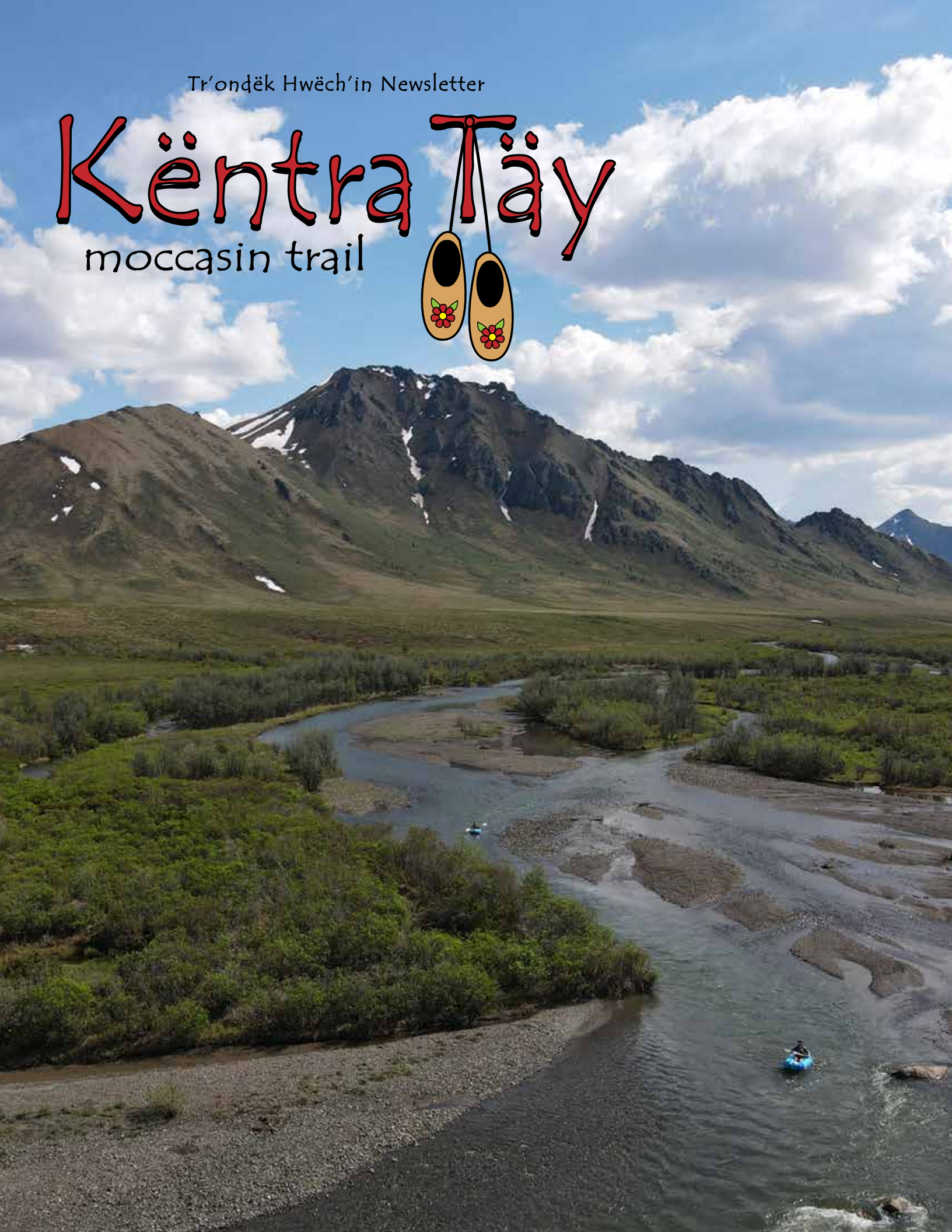


Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Newsletter

# Këntra Täy

moccasin trail



# Reconciliation through self-determination

The agreements strengthen our territory, and benefit us all



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@mappingtheway.ca



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YUKON FIRST NATION SELF-GOVERNMENT

*mappingtheway.ca*

L'AUTONOMIE GOUVERNEMENTALE  
DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS DU YUKON

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PLANNING A BBQ?

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867-993-5445



867-993-6552

[ci.mechanical@chiefisaac.ca](mailto:ci.mechanical@chiefisaac.ca)

After hours emergency line  
867-993-3736

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# Your development corporation working for you

**Summer is here!** We at 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.

Frances Aitken has been a busy bee out at **MacKenzie Petroleum!** Mackenzie was the successful bidder for the fuel supply contract at Coffee Creek until the end of 2022. The contract with Yukon Government continues to keep the team busy with daily fills on the George Black Ferry. If you see our team out on the road be sure to give them a wave.

As announced in January, MacKenzie offers all Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Citizens a discount of 3 cents per litre at the pumps. If you haven't already - go say "Hi" to Frances and the team out in Callison - they'd be happy to see you.

We recently launched a new company **Klondike Wholesale Inc.** in partnership with G-P Distributing. Klondike Wholesale offers preferred rates to all TH Citizens and Citizen-owned businesses. If you haven't put your order in yet, be sure to give them a call. See our website for full press release.

**Chief Isaac Mechanical** ("CIM") continues to be busy keeping us all safe and on the road. CIM was the successful bidder for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Maintenance contract and is working with the team at Assets to ensure all TH Vehicles are working when you need them to be. As you know, our team at the shop is always there to help. Give them a call to schedule you're next oil change.

We hope that all Citizens are enjoying this summer season and we look forward to seeing you in August when we present at the Citizen's Dinner hosted by our shareholder, the Tr'ondëk Hwech'in Trust. **Mark your calendars for August 26th!**

**Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates and our website for job opportunities.**

Mähsi Cho!



# KLONDIKE WHOLESALE

In May of 2021, Chief Isaac Group of Companies introduced its newest member, Klondike Wholesale Inc. ("KWI"). Klondike Wholesale is owned by Chief Isaac Incorporated and G-P Distributing. It's purpose is to contribute to the development of food sustainability in the Yukon with a focus on the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory.

*"Food security and supply for the North is becoming increasingly important. Part of that is ensuring Citizens and others have better access to affordable prices locally. G-P Distributing provides the expertise, supply chains and relationships that enable this to work. Klondike Wholesale will grow to become an important way to help us to fulfill our mandate of generating wealth and opportunities for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Citizens."* -Melanie Blanchette, CEO, Chief Isaac Group of Companies



Klondike Wholesale offers preferred rates to all Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Citizens and Citizen-owned businesses.



*"Our partnership with Chief Isaac allows us to share our food service experience and knowledge for the benefit of all Yukoners. In the future, Klondike Wholesale intends to open a warehouse in Dawson, owned and operated by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Citizens. This development demonstrates our ability to adapt and grow and we would like to share that experience and knowledge to the benefit of all Yukoners."* - Tyler Doll, Owner and General Manager of G-P Distributing

To place your order call 1-867-667-4500 Ext. 112 or email [orders@klondikewholesale.com](mailto:orders@klondikewholesale.com)



# We will miss you, Gina!

## Your presence will continue to have an impact on us moving forward

Earlier in 2021, Gina stepped down from the Board of the Chief Isaac Group of Companies after 6 years of dedicated service. During her term, she always made sure that the organization put the best interests of Citizens at the forefront of its decision-making. She also cared greatly about the team at Chief Isaac and once she became Chair, built a strong Board who shared her commitment to growing profitable businesses able to benefit Citizens.

Key to being able to do that successfully was forging a strong relationship with the TH Trust, Chief Isaac's sole shareholder. When Gina took on the position of Chair of the Board (and had to serve as acting CEO as well), Chief Isaac was facing a crisis.

Building on that strong relationship with the TH Trust, she reformed the Board and management team, determined

that the organization would be successful for Citizens again. She succeeded but there were some tough decisions to make. The Whitehorse office had to be closed and the focus of Chief Isaac brought back to Dawson and the Traditional Territory.



The Group focused on paying off its debts and doubling down on its fundamentally successful businesses and partnerships. The management team was empowered to make more meaningful decisions and this atmosphere of trust injected fresh vigour into all the businesses.



During her time on the Board there were several other major changes:

- The launch of Chief Isaac Summit serving Newmont with camp services
- The partnership with Manitoulin to turn around the profitability of Kluane Freight Lines
- The construction of the Eliza Building providing much needed accommodation for Dawson
- The expansion of Chief Isaac Mechanical with a second mechanic and a heavy-duty towing service
- The establishment of solid relationships with other Dev Corps across the Territory, the Yukon Government and industry leaders

Once Gina had safely seen through the restructuring of the organization, the Board and management team she was able to move on knowing that she had set Chief Isaac back on to firm foundations for the future.

The Board, management team and staff of Chief Isaac are immensely grateful for her hard work, dedication, vision, passion and commitment to building a strong business firmly focused on TH Citizens.

**Thank you, Gina and all the very best wishes for the future!**



CHIEF ISAAC'S TR'ONDĚK HWĚCH'IN

# Citizen Benefit Fund

Funded by our partners for the benefit of citizens

In the last quarter of 2020, Chief Isaac Group of Companies launched the new Citizen Benefit Fund. This fund is supported by contributions from our partners, including: Alkan Air, Wildstone Construction, Cyr Drilling, ALX Exploration, Challenger Geomatics, Horizon Helicopters and KBL Environmental. As of today, a total of 10 Citizens have benefited.

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** - up to \$3,000
2. **Health & Wellness** - expenses reimbursed up to \$250 or \$1,000 with programming
3. **Arts & Culture** - expenses reimbursed up to \$250 or \$1,000 with programming
4. **Youth Engagement** - expenses reimbursed up to \$250 or \$1,000 with programming
5. **Elders' Support** - expenses reimbursed up to \$250 (rent, utilities, home improvements)

Applications are assessed on financial need and the 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. Priority allocation will be given to Citizens who have not yet accessed the Fund and or pursuing education or training. Citizens should expect to only access the fund once.

Payments made from the fund are done so on a quarterly basis and application assessments will happen in the last month of each quarter. The next assessment will be for applications received before September 15th, 2021

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





# RECIPIENTS OF THE **Citizen Benefit Fund**



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



# CHIEF ISAAC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meet our directors



**Joe Fraser, Co-Chair**



**McGarry Selbee, Co-Chair**



**Kamal Basra, Director**



**Neil Fletcher, Director**



**Tiana Lemon, TH Youth Rep**

Our Board is currently recruiting for Directors and an TH Elder Ex-Officio. To apply please send your resume and cover letter to Maureen Birckel at

[maureen.birckel@thtrust.com](mailto:maureen.birckel@thtrust.com)



# CHIEF ISAAC'S SENIOR MANAGEMENT



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**Heidi Bliedung**  
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**Julia Spriggs, CPA**  
*Director of Finance*  
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Julia.Spriggs@chiefisaac.ca



**Frances Aitken**  
*Industrial Manager*  
867.993.3796  
Frances.Aitken@chiefisaac.ca





# SEWING THROUGH IT TOGETHER



Over a long winter of social distancing and postponed events, TH Sewing Club members kept each other in stitches while reconnecting with their culture and community.



The challenges we've faced in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic have been complicated and not always easy to address. While we all know to wear our masks, wash our hands and keep our distance, it hasn't been as clear what to do when it comes to fending off loneliness, connecting to each other, and keeping our traditions alive. Enter the Wednesday and Thursday night sewing clubs at the Chief John Jonas Centre. Almost every week over the winter of 2020 and early spring of 2021, a group of sewers came together—either online or in small groups—to eat, bead, sew, and share. Some were expert sewers and some have never sewn a stitch, but by the time the group paused to break for summer, they had all made spectacular work and gained a community of new friends. Over the next pages, you can see some of their amazing creations.

#### Old friends and new

*Above: Sewing Club members chat around the table at a special dinner marking the beginning of their summer hiatus. Left: Almost-finished moccasins by Linda Christiansen. Background: The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in logo, by Trudy Lindgren.*





Background: a mocassin in progress, by Glenda Naegeli.



**From start to finish**

*Many members of the sewing club spent the whole season working on a big project. Karli Schram (top) chose to work on a collar (middle) for her daughter, Vanessa Oliverio (bottom), who graduated from high school in May 2021. Congratulations to them both!*



**A little help goes a long way**

*There were plenty of mentors on hand to help new sewers, and some lifelong sewers even learned new tricks. Clockwise from above: Kris Janus and Marion Roberts help Glenda Naegeli with a difficult cut. Angie Joseph-Rear inspects a mocassin top made by Linda Christiansen. Dolores Scheffen works on a card holder. Margaret Titus with her many in-progress projects. Gladys Netro coordinated the clubs weekly meetings, making sure everyone was fed a good meal and had the supplies they needed for their projects.*



**Finished product**

*A card holder by Marion Roberts hits the shelves at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre.*



**Works in progress**  
*Left from top: Robyn Gillespie shows off her work on a pair of mitts. Allison Anderson works on a set of "peanut moose" earring. Trudy Lindgren hard at work on regalis for her grandson. Trudy's collection of nearly finished projects, including a painstaking recreation of the TH logo.*







**Laughs and stitches**

*Clockwise from left: Erika Scheffen makes a glittering cuff for a family member. Members of the sewing club share a laugh over dessert. recreation of the TH logo. Sandra Debastien works on a pair of mukluks. Wellness Programs Manager Erin McQuaig addresses the sewing club on their final gathering before summer hiatus. Finished mitts made by Linda Christiansen.*





# NOMINATION

# TR'ONDĚK KLONDIKE

*Sharing Our Stories*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE TR'ONDĚK-KLONDIKE WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION?

In February 2021 Canada submitted a new nomination for Tr'ondek-Klondike to UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). This new nomination of the Tr'onděk-Klondike heritage site has been accepted for evaluation. Over the next year experts will review the nomination. A decision by UNESCO's World Heritage Committee is expected in spring of 2022.

### BACKGROUND

The idea for a Klondike World Heritage site has been around since the 1970s. The idea gained momentum in 2013 when UNESCO designation became a priority during regional economic planning. Over the following four years a community-based initiative led to a formal nomination that Canada submitted in 2017. In May 2018 Canada withdrew the nomination from consideration. This decision was made after the evaluation of the nomination found more work was required.

### WE'VE BEEN BUSY SINCE THE SPRING OF 2018.

While the decision to withdraw the nomination was a setback, the local project team was

committed to reworking the nomination. In October 2018, the local project team hired an independent expert to visit and review Tr'onděk-Klondike. The goal of the review was to help decide whether to revise the current nomination, develop a new nomination, or end the project. Through this review, the local project team and four levels of government continued working together. The local advisory committee suggested a new nomination should place Tr'onděk Hwěch'in perspective at the center of the gold rush narrative.

### THE NEW IDEA

Over the winter of 2019, the project team worked on a new idea for a UNESCO World Heritage Site nomination. The focus of the new concept is the long-standing presence of Indigenous people in the Klondike, before, during and after the establishment of colonial administration. The new nomination includes the many layers of settlement and interaction at Fort Reliance, *Ch'ĕdāhdĕk* (Forty Mile), *Ch'ĕdāhdĕk Tih'ān K'et* (Dĕnezhu Graveyard), Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine, *Tr'ochĕk*, Dawson City, *Jĕjik Dhā Dĕnezhu Kek'it* (Moosehide Village) and *Tihe Zra,y Kek'it*

TR'ONDĚK-KLONDIKE

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Georgette McLeod leading a tour at *Tr'ochëk* (2012).

(Black City). Together, these sites tell a story of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in experiences of colonialism within their homeland.

This idea was shared with UNESCO's cultural heritage advisor, ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites). After a rigorous five-month review, ICOMOS determined that a new nomination, focussed on Indigenous experiences of colonialism, could be an important addition to the World Heritage List.

### WHAT IS THE NEW NOMINATION?

The new nomination is a serial property, which is a World Heritage site made up of different sites. The new nomination has eight parts: Fort Reliance; *Ch'ëdähdëk* (Forty Mile); *Ch'ëdähdëk Tth'än K'et* (Dënezhu Graveyard); Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine; *Tr'ochëk*; Dawson City; *Jëjik Dhä Dënezhu Kek'it* (Moosehide Village); and *Tthe Zra,y Kek'it* (Black City). These sites show the long-standing presence of Indigenous people in the area and their interactions with newcomers between 1874 and 1908. Each part of the site tells the story of different phases of the relationship between Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the newcomers who began arriving in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's territories in the later part of the nineteenth century.

Together, these eight sites total 334 hectares of land. Each site is a separate and distinct area. The lands and waters in between the sites are not included in the nomination.

### Who is the Project Team?

**Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage Advisory Committee** is non-regulatory. The Committee has representatives from community and mining industry organizations, governments, and residents. Representatives from the Dawson City Museum, Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, Klondike Visitors Association, Klondike Placer Miners Association, Yukon Chamber of Mines, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Yukon, Parks Canada, City of Dawson governments, and Dawson residents (up to four positions, with at least one Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizen).

**The Project Management Committee** is heritage staff from Tr'ondëk-Hwëch'in and Yukon governments.

Most of the eight component sites are on Trondëk Hwëch'in Settlement Lands. *Ch'ëdähdëk* (Forty Mile) and Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine are co-managed by Trondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon. The sites in Dawson City that contribute to the nomination are all Historic Sites under the care of federal, territorial, and municipal governments.

There are five component sites that currently have management plans: *Ch'ëdähdëk* (Forty Mile), Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine, *Tr'ochëk*, Dawson City, and *Jëjik Dhä Dënezhu Kek'it* (Moosehide Village). These sites will continue to be managed according to their plans with no additional constraints or changes. The sites that do not have management plans will continue to be managed according to existing legislation, including the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage Act, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Lands and Resources Act and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement and Self-Government Agreement.

All of the component sites of Tr'ondek-Klondike have already had mineral staking rights withdrawn or are on Category A settlement land, identified in the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement. There are no mining claims located within any of the component sites.

## DEVELOPING THE NEW NOMINATION

Drafting the new nomination began in the spring of 2020. The new nomination covers the important historical period from 1874 to 1908. This stretches from the construction of the first fur trading post in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in territory to when the colonial government and infrastructure was firmly established.

Contractors and heritage staff from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Government of Yukon worked together to draft a statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The OUV is the core of a World Heritage site nomination. The project team's goal for drafting the OUV was to tell a story that is true, relatable and easy to understand.

The draft nomination was shared with UNESCO's World Heritage Centre in September 2020. This technical review was to ensure critical information was captured in the nomination. The draft included the statement of OUV, the history of the site, and the argument for how Tr'ondëk-Klondike fills a gap in the World Heritage List. There are no World Heritage sites that tell this story of an Indigenous People who experienced colonialism, and most significantly, who continue to inhabit their homeland and practice their traditions and culture.

The nomination was finished in the fall of 2020 and submitted to the World Heritage Centre in Paris, France in January 2021. On March 1, 2021, the nomination was accepted by UNESCO and sent to an Advisory Panel for evaluation.

Funding was provided by Parks Canada, Government of Yukon, and Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in leading the project, providing in-kind support, heritage and cultural knowledge, and expertise.

## NEXT STEPS

Over the next 14 months, up to 10 experts will review the nomination and report back to the Advisory Panel, which reviews the nomination on behalf of ICOMOS. As part of the review, ICOMOS will send a world heritage expert to Dawson for an onsite evaluation. This visit

TR'ONDËK-KLONDIKE

**Outstanding Universal Value** means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity.

will look at the component sites to ensure the nomination's accuracy and completeness. It will likely occur in late summer or early fall of 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic may affect this site visit.

In spring 2022, the Advisory Panel will make recommendations to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. The World Heritage Committee will make the final decision at its annual meeting in early July 2022.

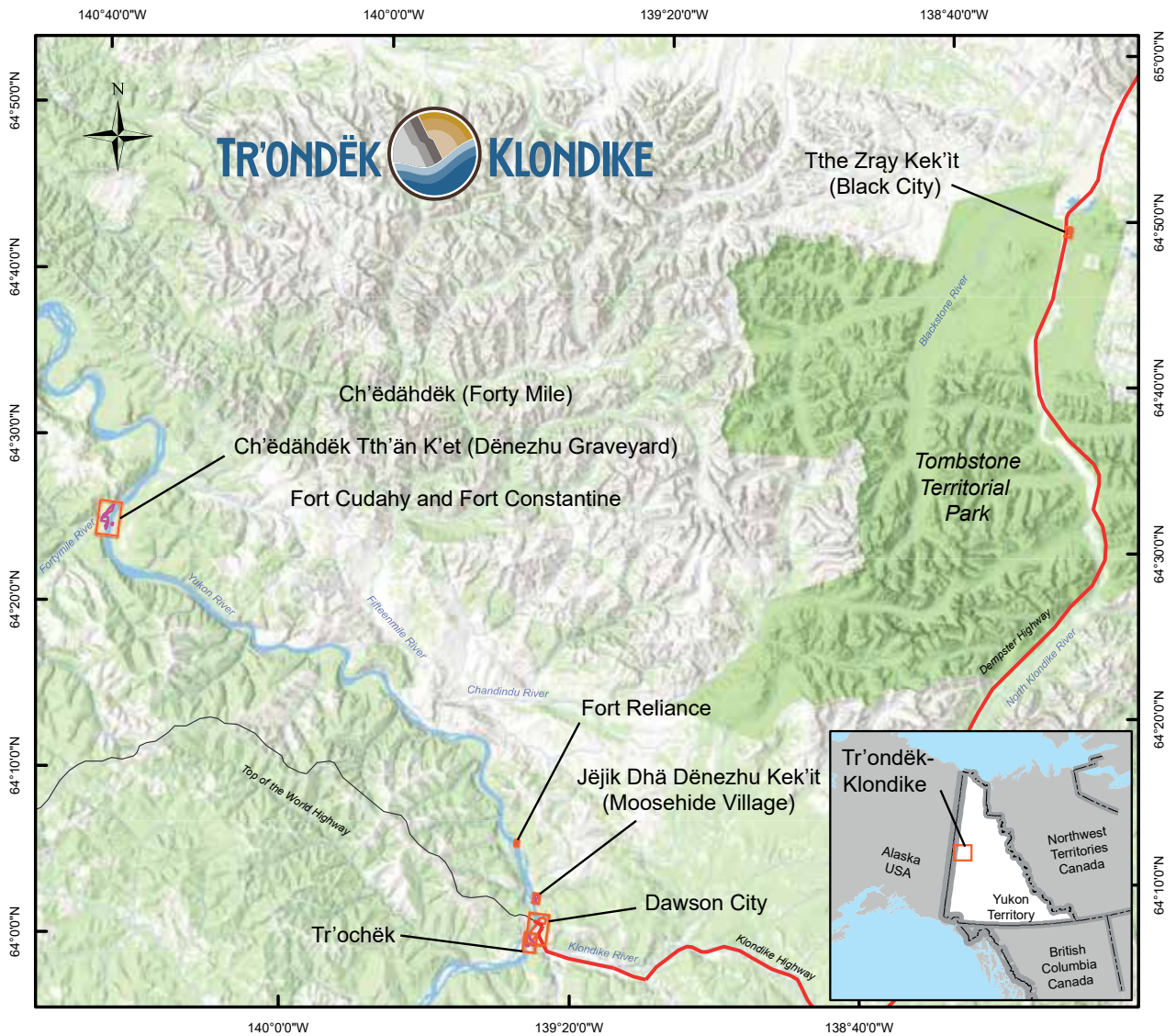
If Tr'ondëk-Klondike is successfully inscribed on the World Heritage List, staff from the four levels of government will form a Stewardship Committee. This group is responsible for developing and approving an Interpretive Plan and a Management Plan for the site. The local Advisory Committee will meet regularly with the Stewardship Committee to provide community perspectives, concerns and opportunities.

### For more Information

Tr'ondek—Klondike World Heritage  
Nomination  
P.O. Box 599  
Dawson City, YT  
Y0B 1G0  
worldheritage@trondek.ca  
867-993-7100 ext. 113  
[www.tkwhstatus.ca](http://www.tkwhstatus.ca)



Monitoring visit, *The Zragy Kek'it* (Black City).



Fort Reliance Component Boundary and Buffer



Components at the Fortymile River Boundaries and Buffers



Tr'ochëk Component Boundary and Buffer



Dawson City Component Boundary and Buffer



Jëjik Dhä Dënezhu Kek'it (Moosehide Village) Component Boundary and Buffer

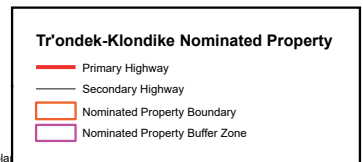


The Zray Kek'it (Black City) Component Boundary and Buffer



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 Yukon Albers  
 Projection: Albers  
 Datum: North American 1983  
 Date: 12/30/2020

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 Created By: Government of Yukon



Nominated Property Boundary and Buffer Zone.

# Land & Resources

### **Chinook Salmon –2021**

This year's chinook salmon season anticipates record low numbers and expects (again) one of the worst runs on record. Border escapement is unknown for chinook salmon in 2021 at the time of writing this update, but this number will be shared with you post-season, including the estimated number of spawners (escapement numbers minus Yukon First Nations reported harvest).

The Yukon River Salmon Agreement (YRSA) between Yukon and Alaska has an established an annual escapement target of 42,500–55,000 chinook spawners to ensure a healthy and renewable population of chinook. This year we saw continued low returns of chinook, which has concerning implications for the future health of salmon in the Yukon River and the next generation of TH citizen's ability to participate in subsistence harvesting practices.

We are working with neighbouring First Nation governments to develop strategies to address these continued low numbers. Your cooperation and support is appreciated, and we value any insight you would like to share with our department.

## **Klondike Stock Restoration**

### *Sonar*

With generous support from the Newmont Goldcorp Community Development Fund, the Pacific Salmon Foundation, and the Yukon River Panel Restoration and Enhancement Fund, we were able to purchase our very own sonar in 2019, which we operated for the first time in 2020. We are in our second year of operation thanks to funding provided by Yukon River Panel Restoration and Enhancement Fund, which helped us train and hire two sonar technicians. Thanks to Kim Joseph and Chase Everitt, as well as Tamara Stock-Dickson (AOC), who assisted with the operation of our sonar. Having our own sonar allows us to provide accurate in-season counts of chinook salmon for the Klondike River.

We are also excited to announce we have power to our sonar site. The installation of the two power poles was generously supplied to TH by Yukon Energy Corporation (YEC). This substantial financial donation has really helped the operation of the sonar by ensuring smooth and reliable operations for the sonar fish counting and data recording of daily chinook passage on the Klondike River. Mähsi cho to Yukon Energy!

### *Instream incubation*

At the time of writing this update, we are uncertain about how the chinook season will unfold. We are anticipating extremely low numbers, and it is not known if our instream incubation project will go ahead. Despite the unknowns, we obtained \$92,885 in funding from the Yukon River Panel Restoration and

Enhancement Fund to support this project and its important investigations. Later in the season we will provide a further update on what restoration activities we accomplished during the 2021 chinook season, as well as how many eggs we provided to Robert Service School's Salmon in the Classroom project. We hope our proposed restoration activities will go ahead as these projects contribute much needed information to support future plans of Klondike River stock restoration projects.

### *Salmon Stewardship & Harvest Management Plan*

In 2021, the TH General Assembly voted to extend their 2013 resolution regarding support for the voluntary closure of TH subsistence fishing of chinook salmon for one life cycle. The latest resolution continues to



# Natural Resources

support a one-year interim withdrawal of subsistence harvest of chinook. In order to be prepared for the expiry of this resolution, we are working on a Yukon River Chinook Salmon Stewardship Plan/ Salmon Harvest Management Plan. Unfortunately, COVID restrictions have caused delays in the progress of this plan. Continued resolutions of this magnitude emphasize the importance of having an adaptive management plan in place that has been contributed to, and supported by, TH citizens.

The 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 a conservation concern. And because the Salmon Stewardship Plan will be an adaptive

management tool, this Plan 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. Please help us develop this plan by providing your comments and input. This is our 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 us.

## *Fortymile Caribou Herd*

The caribou have arrived! Earlier this summer, we received reports of caribou on the Top of the World Highway, near the Alaska border.

We encourage citizens to harvest Fortymile caribou when they are available. The long-standing commitment to

conservation and withdrawal from subsistence harvest for decades has changed TH hunting practices and relationship with the herd. It is important for TH harvesters to reconnect with the herd and re-establish these harvesting practices.

Please remember that hunting in the summer can be challenging, especially as the heat can quickly cause meat spoilage. Be prepared, stay safe, and show respect while on the land.

Also, please report your harvest. Harvest data reporting and observations from citizens are essential for directing wildlife management decisions and provide us with indicators of what is happening on the land.

We wish everyone great success while out harvesting. **TH**





# Implementation

## Land Vision

Over the last six months, we have been engaging with citizens on the development of the TH Land Vision. This meaningful work involved our two storytellers, Mercedes Taylor and Kylie Van Every, going out into the community to share traditional stories with small groups of citizens and fostering discussions. From the sessions, a draft TH Land Vision has been written, based on the voices of our people. The Land Vision, once approved by the community and Council, will be a guidance document that will support TH Government's commitment to ensuring all policies, legislation, and procedures reflect the TH principle of Tr'èhudè—living in a good way.

A draft of the Land Vision will be made available to citizens to review and engage with in the coming months. There will be small workshops (COVID permitting) to present the work and gain valuable feedback from our community. We are very excited to share this with you.

Along with the draft Land Vision, citizens who want one will be provided a Land Vision storybook. The stories came alive in the story sessions and created a renewed passion in our community to hear more. We had many requests for copies of the stories, and are committed to fulfilling those requests. Our research analyst, Mercedes Taylor, has been going through the archives, pulling out stories, and putting them into a printable version. The storybook and the Land Vision will be illustrated by TH artists.

We anticipate the Land Vision storybook being available for citizens by the end of August or early September.

### **Ninànkāk hōzō wēk'ātr'ènòhcha** **We Take Good Care of Our Land**

The overall goal of the Land Stewardship Framework is to strengthen citizen voice and participation in the co-management of ancestral TH lands and put forward a clear vision for its care and stewardship.

This past year, citizens shared a great deal of their knowledge and guidance through the cultural mapping exercise, recorded video and audio interviews, online and email surveys, and door-to-door surveys. From this, we were able to share guiding values for the Dawson Regional Land Use Planning (DRLUP) Commission and drafted a Conservation Priority Map and high-level Settlement Land designations map to inform the DRLUP Process. Citizens also shared concerns and understanding of the importance of maintaining the health of wetland ecosystems for the Yukon Water Board Public Hearing on Placer Mining in Wetlands. Everyone's thoughts and words are very much appreciated.



# Implementation

It is an important time. Through the regional land use planning processes, our own internal work, and changes to quartz- and placer-mining legislation, we are charting a course for the future that will ensure the health and well-being of the land and waters for the plants and animals who depend upon it and the generations to come.

In the coming months, and until the end of November, the DRLUP Commission will be coming to the public, including TH citizens, to hear responses to the draft plan. There will be many opportunities for people to learn what is being proposed and opportunities to respond and comment.

Overall, the responses should reveal whether you feel the plan, as drafted, ensures the protection of TH traditional harvest rights, whether you see TH values for the care and stewardship reflected in the Plan, and if you feel there is enough land that is receiving full protection to ensure the health and well-being of future generations.

It will take a lot of patience and respect of differing views to come to a place that we can all live with. A good plan will give everyone certainty on the following:

- where certain activities can and can't happen;
- where mitigation measures are in place; and
- where we all get what we need—healthy land and water.

The plan will affect us all and all of our futures, so everyone's input is important. Mähsi cho for everything you have shared so far and for staying with the process.

The draft plan is online at [dawson.planyukon.ca](http://dawson.planyukon.ca). Also follow us on our Facebook page at Land Stewards or Instagram at TH Land Stewards for TH citizen specific events and opportunities for input.

## Climate Change

We were pleased to hire Jim Taggart as our new Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Coordinator (ESCCC) on a term position. He will be helping the TH Government integrate environmental and climate change considerations into practice, policy, and planning.

During the past several months, the ESCCC has been focused on the following:

- In conjunction with Housing and Infrastructure and CYFN, coordinating community energy audit/mapping in the City of Dawson.
- Assisting TH develop strategies for alternative energies.
- Assisting Housing and Infrastructure in reducing energy consumption and improving efficiencies in TH properties, including housing.
- Developing an enhanced waste reduction and recycling program.
- Commenting on proposals and plans from a climate change perspective.
- Engaging the Youth Council to encourage youth climate change advocacy and the creation of a TH youth climate action group.

At the time of writing, interviews are planned for hiring a Youth Advocate for Climate Change (YA). Reporting to the ESCCC, the YA will be responsible for being a youth champion on the issue of climate change at the community, territorial, and federal levels. This is an exciting opportunity for youth to get passionate and involved in the work being done to combat the climate change impacting our traditional territory and the North. **TH**



TR'ONDĚK HWĚCH'IN  
CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION CABIN

# Ninänkäk tr'ädätr'ëhoh'qy "We work on our land"

## Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Community Development Corporation

The Community Development Corporation (CDC) was created after a General Assembly resolution in 2018. The CDC is TH's organization to support citizen-owned businesses, develop workforce capacity, lead community projects, and create wealth for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and its' citizens, through community initiatives and implementation of agreements.

There are currently four TH Citizens on the CDC Board: Darwyn Lynn, Edward Whitehouse, Stephanie Van Fleet, and Pat Titus.

The Board members bring a wealth of education and experience to their roles. The CDC is looking for three additional board members, so if you are interested, please get in touch with Shari Borgford at (867) 993-7100 ext. 219.

Board membership is only open to TH citizens 19 years of age or older. They must also be living in the traditional territory and have no history of bankruptcy within the last seven years. Education or experience in Business or Community Development is also required.

The CDC Board is developing a Strategic Plan, which will set priorities for the next three years. Stay tuned for more information from the CDC as they open their office and begin operations. They will also be engaging with Citizens, as your needs and input will be key to the CDC's success.



*Members of the CDC Board (clockwise from top left): Stephanie Van Fleet, Edward Whitehouse, Pat Titus, and Darwyn Lynn.*



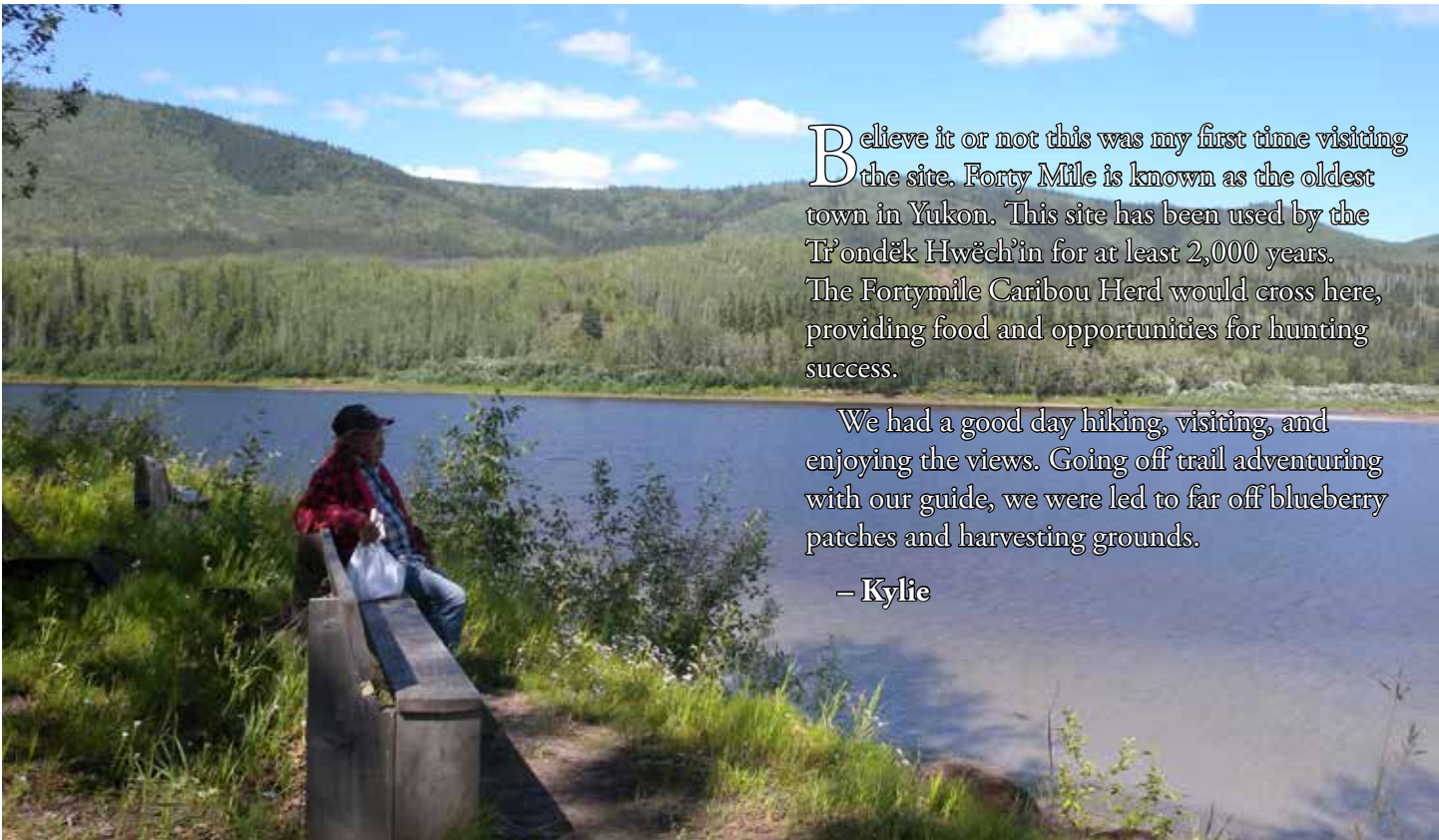
# How I spent my summer

*The Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre crew and Victor Henry went on a field trip to 40 Mile this summer. Here's what they had to say about their visit*

It was my very first visit to Forty Mile, I was really wishing to travel there by boat, but we went by truck and it was a long drive in. Once we arrived, the trail in was amazing. There were so many trees and plants that I didn't know where to look. I kept stopping just to take it in and to touch the trees and plants. I was enamoured. The horsetail was so big and everything was so lush and abundant.

Once in Forty Mile, we ate our lunch on the benches overlooking the river. The land all around was so beautiful. While on the trail toward the graveyard, I was able to harvest coltsfoot, yarrow, plantain, and wormwood. Still, there was so much to take in, this left me falling behind the others. If I had more time, I would have picked the blueberries, soapberries and Labrador. I was only able to pick a berry here and leaf there and was munching on them along the way. This spot was yet another slice of heaven. The long ago people had it going on.

– Fran



Believe it or not this was my first time visiting the site. Forty Mile is known as the oldest town in Yukon. This site has been used by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in for at least 2,000 years. The Fortymile Caribou Herd would cross here, providing food and opportunities for hunting success.

We had a good day hiking, visiting, and enjoying the views. Going off trail adventuring with our guide, we were led to far off blueberry patches and harvesting grounds.

– Kylie



# Heritage

Elder Victor Henry and the Dänojà Zho staff took a day trip to Ch'ëdä Dëk (aka Forty Mile) to rekindle our knowledge of this important Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in heritage site and spend some time together on the land. Ch'ëdä Dëk is situated at the confluence of the Yukon and Fortymile rivers and was an important Hän encampment for countless generations.

What made this location so attractive? It had a lot to do with access to good food and fresh water. Ch'ëdä Dëk was an important caribou harvesting area. The magnificent and plentiful Fortymile Caribou Herd crossed the river around this location in the fall as they made their way to the winter range. Grayling and salmon were plentiful, ducks and geese stop by, and the land is rich with berries, plants, and medicinals. Another key feature is the high, flat bank and river accessibility. Ch'ëdä Dëk is a beautiful place to set up camp.

In 1886, prospectors and gold miners overwintered at Ch'ëdä Dëk and the following year outside institutions, such as the North West Mounted Police, Anglican Mission and trading companies, arrived. In the blink of an eye, the newcomers turned Ch'ëdä Dëk into their own townsite known as Forty Mile. Ch'ëdä Dëk was suddenly populated by miners and housed rugged saloons, dance halls, theatres, a post office, blacksmiths, bakeries, barbers, distilleries, a dressmaker, and tinsmiths.

The Anglican Mission at Forty Mile built the first school. Reverend William Bompas operated the Mission School until 1901, when he moved to Carcross to build the Choutla Residential School. Hän children from Ch'ëdä Dëk and Moosehide Village were sent to this dangerous and notorious residential school far from their families and homeland.

The newcomer population at Forty Mile grew to over 80 cabins and 600 people. This population explosion forced the Hän to flee the area or move to the far perimeter of Ch'ëdä Dëk. Some families squeezed into small shelters next to the Anglican Mission house closer to the Yukon River. The rapid change to the Hän way of life at Ch'ëdä Dëk foretold of what was to come next, in 1896, at the Tr'ochëk fish camp, when the Klondike Gold Rush erupted, bringing with it 30,000 strangers into the Hän homeland.

When you visit Ch'ëdä Dëk today you can walk the trails, read interpretive panels, and enjoy the panoramic view at the confluence of the two rivers. The heritage buildings are well cared for by the government of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon and some remain open for viewing. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in caretakers are living on site watching over the land, river, and structures and are happy to welcome guests to this important Hän heritage site. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are holding this space safe for future generations.

– Glenda



# What's on the go at Dänojà Zho?



This spring and summer we've been riding a rollercoaster of planning and excitement followed by postponement and uncertainty. But our spirits are still up and we are looking forward. We are working to follow the advice that Elder Percy Henry gave us many years ago: “work hard and be patient.”

We are fortunate to be hosting the *Honouring Our Future: Yukon First Nation Graduation Regalia* exhibition. This stunning exhibition has over 45 handmade regalia from every community in the Yukon. As a special Dawson addition, DZCC installed five Head Start children's regalia to illustrate the connection

of early childhood education and positive outcomes in high school. It is an absolutely beautiful and inspiring exhibit. We will have a new art exhibition in the fall, so stay tuned for that as well.

Over the winter we worked with local film makers to revise the *Nihè dähch'è shò tr'inlay – Welcome film*. This new version has additional Hän language, improved maps and photographs, and updated information on the success of our community. The film is now complete and ready to view as soon as we can open the doors. We think you will love the changes.

In June, Elder Angie Joseph-Rear called for a gathering at Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre to remember the children who did not make it home from residential school and share support for our own survivors and their families. This gathering was attended by the community of Dawson and it was very moving to see the outpouring of care and support. The plaque that was installed on the dike walkway by the K'änächá Residential School Survivors group has become very well-known this summer and we often find flower bouquets and small tokens there. You can find it easily if you look for the orange ribbons tied to the brush next to it.

Earlier this summer, Elders, DZCC, and Heritage Dept. staff were invited to a camp hosted by Parks Canada. The goal of the camp was to take the TH 101 program a step forward and share a fuller understanding of the life experience and history of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. We discussed life in Dawson, colonization, reconciliation, and alternate view points for the Parks Canada staff as they prepared for their new program at the Commissioners Residence. The historic mansion has been selected as a venue for their new program to tell the truth of how Chief Isaac's people were treated and the impacts of the





Church, mining and colonization on this community. This is a big change for Parks Canada who have told the Gold Rush story from one point of view for so long. The DZCC staff attend the inaugural tour at the Commissioners Residence and were very impressed with their commitment to bringing the truth forward in a good way.

There are still a few visitors coming into Dawson this summer and we encourage them to walk to the confluence of the Yukon and Klondike rivers and check out the information panels on Tr'ochëk Heritage Site. We also have an exhibit at the Dawson Visitor Information Centre so be sure to stop in if you are out and about.

We are prepping teas for our gift shop. One of our teas is called Hammerstones, which has the plants red clover, peppermint, nettle, and raspberry. This tea is nutritional full of minerals and vitamins, and tasty. A favourite for our guests.

One of the tours Kylie hopes to conduct this year (COVID permitting) is a hike up Crocus Bluff. One cool fact about this site: "There is a small archaeological site located at the top of Crocus Bluff where the viewing platform is." Some information to be shared would be the artefacts found in this archaeological site and how this site was also used as a lookout for the Hän people while hunting and fishing.

The plan is also to share a few of our traditional stories. Have you ever heard the story "Tsa' Wezhaa and the Raven"? Here's a brief part of it: "They were stopping someplace on the river overnight, and they sleep on the little bluff. Well, he [Tsa' Wezhaa] was going along the river with this Raven and this Raven said...." To hear the rest, you will have to join the tour (if not this year then next).

Do you have beaded items you would like to sell? We would like to buy! Please call Kylie at 8679937100 ext. 500.

We hope to see you at the Zho very soon. In the meantime, follow us on Facebook! **TH**





# Full Circle

Madison Gard is a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizen and Tr'inke Zho toddler teacher. Madison was raised on her traditional territory until 2012. After spending her teen years in Alberta, Madison returned to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in territory in 2019 to reconnect with her community. She is also an AHS graduate of 2004!

In 2021, Madison was awarded the permanent Toddler Teacher position in which she became a valued educator at Tr'inke Zho. It brought great responsibility, and Madison rose to the challenge and took university level classes to better herself at her job. She demonstrated poise and intellect while taking her courses and was successfully awarded a level one certificate in early

childhood education through Yukon University.

Madison makes a conscious effort to incorporate traditional knowledge and practice with the young children of Tr'inke Zho in a genuine and meaningful way. Madison teaches Hän language, facilitates culturally relevant crafts, and always makes time for her group to connect with the land. Madison is safe, reliable, and caring. Every child at Tr'inke Zho has a personal relationship with Madison, and we believe that reflects the honest work, care, and efforts Madison puts into her career at Tr'inke Zho.

We are so proud of Madison, and we lift her up now and always in her pursuit of serving and bettering her community. Well done, Madison! **TH**





**Top:** We have launched a business directory, found at <https://www.trondek.ca/thbusinessdirectory>.

If you own a business and want access to information about contracting and purchasing opportunities, please get in touch. TH Government gives preference to citizen-owned businesses for contracts, and having your information on the directory will assist with this. In addition, others seeking to utilize Indigenous businesses can access the business directory.

Contact Shari at (867) 993-7100 ext. 2109 or [shari.borgford@trondek.ca](mailto:shari.borgford@trondek.ca) to get your business on the registry.

**Middle right:** Debbie Nagano and Jody Beaumont were recognized with the Outstanding Achievement in the Profession of Landscape Architecture award for their participation on the Top of the World Highway Interpretive Plan. The two sat on the Top of the World Advisory Committee on behalf of TH. Well done, you two!



**Bottom Right:** Our Heritage Site crew worked with our partners at Yukon Parks to build a new staff cooking facility up at the Tombstone Park Interpretative Centre. Looking good!

**Bottom Left:** A page honouring TH is up on Suzanne Crockers First We Eat film social media and website. Check it out!





# 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.

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PLEASE CONTACT

**867 993 3916**

FOR CHICKEN, TURKEY, RABBIT OR PORK PURCHASES