



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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2021 Dákù Nän Ts'èddhyèt Festival Begins this Friday

Our House is Waking Up the Land

Dakwäkäda (Haines Junction) – This week, June 4 through 6, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) is proud to announce the virtual Dákù Nän Ts'èddhyèt celebration of drumming, song and dance. The festival will live-stream to three locations, Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, Takhini Hall and Shadhäla or the event can be viewed online from anywhere.

“The festival name translates to ‘our house is waking up the land’. Just as the land comes to life each spring, so too is our culture awakening after difficult times. The theme for this year’s festival is ‘The Trails That Connect Us’,” says *Kaaxnox, Dän nätthe äda* (Chief Steve Smith). “Last year we weren’t able to have celebrations or gatherings due to COVID, and we aren’t out of the clear yet. So this year, we had to get creative. Traditionally our trails have brought us together by travelling the land on foot, or by canoe on rivers and lakes. Over the past year, we have developed new, virtual ways to remain connected to our family and friends.”

“We are grateful that in the Yukon we can begin safe in-person gatherings, so we can share our culture together once more. This is the fourth festival we’ve held since launching Dákù Nän Ts'èddhyèt in 2015, but the first time we have connected with one another in such unique ways” says *Kaaxnox, Dän nätthe äda*.

The event features Indigenous performers, such our co-hosts the Dakwäkäda Dancers, pre-recorded performances, and a variety of in-person and online workshops. The festival live stream begins this Friday from 4:30 to 6:00 pm and on Saturday from 1:15 to 9:00 pm. This free event can be viewed online, at one of the live-stream locations or at Da Kù Cultural Centre, with a maximum capacity of 200 people. Please wear a mask and continue to maintain 6-feet of physical distance at any one of our locations.

CAFN and our host dance group, the Dakwäkäda Dancers, look forward to sharing this exciting celebration of drumming, song and dance. Come help us wake up the land.

For more details and the festival program, please visit <https://cafn.ca>, <http://njustore.ca>, or like us on Facebook [@DakuNanTseddhyet](#) #DKNT2021.

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For more information:

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Background:

- *Dákù Nän Ts'èddhyèt*, translates in *Dákwänjē* (Southern Tutchone) as “our house is waking up the land”. Just as the land comes to life each spring, so too is our culture awakening.
- The first biennial *Dákù Nän Ts'èddhyèt* festival was held in 2015 and continued every two years since then in 2017, 2019 and 2021.
- Our 2021 theme, “The Trails that Connect Us”, includes connecting together through traditional drumming, song and dance performances while integrating a virtual option for guests to participate from home or at one of CAFN’s live-stream locations.
- The live-stream locations are at Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, Takhini Hall and Shadhäla.
- Each venue will have a large projector that displays the live performances with seating and free workshops.
- Performance schedules will be posted this week on cafn.ca, njustore.ca, and the [@DakuNanTseddhyet](https://www.facebook.com/DakuNanTseddhyet) Facebook page.
- Gúnta Business, a Yukon First Nation owned and operated consulting business is running all of the video and live-stream equipment.
- Friday, June 4 at 3:30 pm the procession begins with a sacred fire.
- Living streaming begins after the welcoming prayer at 4:30 pm.
- The Chiefs opening remarks are at 4:45 pm from Da Kù Cultural Centre, followed by opening remarks from Council members.
- Performances by Dakwäkäda Dancers, Tagish Nation Dancers, Dakhká Khwáan Dancers, Daghaalhaan K'e, Diyet and the Love Soldiers, Marissa Mills, and Rising Sun.
- Pre-recorded performances by Pavva Iñupiaq Dancers, Nyla Carpentier, and New Dawn Drummers
- Fashion show featuring parkas made during the 2021 Parka Entrepreneurship program and graduation regalia.
- Archival stories played for guests and streamed.
- Saturday beading workshop with Naomi Crey, Genealogy workshop with Sheila Greer, more workshops to be confirmed.
- Closing remarks take place Saturday, June 5 at 7:30 pm and the live stream continues until 9:00 pm.
- There will be no content live-streamed on Sunday, June 6.
- Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada has contributed funding to the festival.
- CAFN’s streaming locations will be fully staffed.
- All COVID-19 safe event practices in place.