

# Dàkwäni

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING



*Team Togo on the morning of February 4 at Da Kù Cultural Centre prior to the vaccine clinic.*

ÄDÄLÄT - SPRING 2021

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Chief and Council News

CAFN COVID-19 Timeline

Äshäw Land Claims Benefit

Restore Äshèyi Update



CHAMPAGNE AND AISHIHIK FIRST NATIONS

CAFN.ca

## DAKWÄKÄDA COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICS

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) hosted Yukon's mobile vaccination clinics at Da Kù Cultural Centre on Feb 3-4 (first dose clinic) and March 10-11, 2021 (second dose clinic). Citizens and community members demonstrated their gratitude by welcoming Team Togo to Dakwäkäda as they arrived on February 3 and at Da Ku on March 10. About 20 volunteers, lit up the Alaska Highway with 140 ice candles while ringing bells and celebrating the team's arrival.

*continued on page 2*

# PLANNING AND RECOVERY

## COVID-19 UPDATE



Ice candles lit up along the Alaska Highway on Feb 2, 2021 (photo by Micheal Schmidt).

March 11, 2021 marks the day that the world-wide pandemic was first announced one year ago. With Canada's territories recognized as a priority for immunizations in Canada, the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine made its way to the North by the end of 2020. As of Tues March 27, 2021 67% of Yukoners have received their first shot. The vaccination rates by age category are: 18-29 - 51%; 30-39 - 61%; 40-49 - 67%; 50-59 - 70%; 60-69 - 78%; 70+ - 87%. The average age of Yukoners' infected with COVID is 33 years old. Half of the cases are people aged 20-39. It is not, and never was, an old persons disease.

Council continues to support the vaccine approval process by Health Canada, and respectfully supports all Citizens to make their own informed decision about the vaccine based on reliable information.



Team Togo is welcomed by the community on Feb 2, 2021 (Photo by Micheal Schmidt).



Dakwäkäda Dancers welcome Team Togo to Da Kų Cultural Centre for the 2 dose clinic on March 10th, 2021 (photo by Micheal Schmidt).

*"Our goal is for every Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Citizen who would like to be vaccinated, receive their first and second dose. We have worked very hard to guarantee that there are no barriers to our people. Our staff are working around the clock to assist with inquiries, appointment bookings and busing to and from the clinic. Dän k'e (our way) is to take care of one another. This is about keeping our Elders, vulnerable Citizens, families and community members safe. Sometimes we must do what we have to do for the greater good. DÚCH'J SHJ (I really should/will do it)." - Kaaxnox, Dän Nätthe Äda (Chief Steve Smith)*

### **KWANISCHISS – SHÄW NITHÄN – GUNALCHISH**

**February 3 -4, and March 10-11, 2021 at Da Kų Cultural Centre were remarkable and historic moments within the community. CAFN is thankful – Kwanischiss – to the mobile vaccine clinic, Team Togo and the entire Yukon crew who delivered the COVID-19 vaccine. In Dakwäkäda/Haines Junction 658 (84%) of people received their first dose and 591 (75%) of people received their second.**

CAFN is grateful for Team Togo's calm, kind and efficient delivery of the vaccine to all community members. The genuine care and dedication put forward during this time is sincerely appreciated. CAFN would also like to send gratitude towards every individual from Dakwäkäda/Haines Junction, Tthe Yanlin/Canyon, Shadhäla/Champagne, and

*continued on page 3*



*The second vaccine clinic on March 10-11, 2021 - The Dakwākāda Dancers perform a special welcome for Team Togo to Da Kų Cultural Centre (photo by Micheal Schmidt).*

- Citizen support at the clinic: Tracy Kane, Trish George and Richard Smith
- COVID Coordinator, Kari Johnston
- COVID-19 Coordinating Committee

CAFN encourages Citizens to learn from reliable sources in order to make informed decisions about the risks and benefits of getting or not getting the vaccine. There is a lot of misinformation, especially on social media, so please learn from reliable sources like: Yukon.ca, Canada.ca and WHO.int.

Takhina/Takhini River Subdivision for coming into town and graciously welcoming Team Togo to our community and participating at the clinics.

CAFN is also thanking the many community partners who worked tirelessly to make the clinic accessible to as many people as possible:

- The Village of Haines Junction
- Haines Junction Interagency Committee and community partners
- Canadian Rangers
- Government of Yukon
- Haines Junction Health Centre

Special thanks to Nurse-in-Charge Meghann Willard who answered CAFNs MANY questions about the Moderna vaccine.

Most importantly, we thank CAFN team members for dedicating a tremendous level of time, effort and genuine care to make sure Citizens were well-informed and could access the vaccine. These individuals continue to work to immunize every adult Citizen in the Yukon that wants to receive the vaccine.

- CAFN staff
- Community Wellness staff
- Dän Ts'än Shānindhän (Caring People) checkpoint team

There will be a third COVID-19 vaccine clinic hosted in Dakwākāda/Haines Junction on April 13 between 2:00 pm – 5:00pm at St. Elias Convention Centre in case anyone missed their first or second doses. Please keep practicing the Safe 6 and wearing a mask in public. Everyone must remain vigilant until the pandemic is no longer a threat.

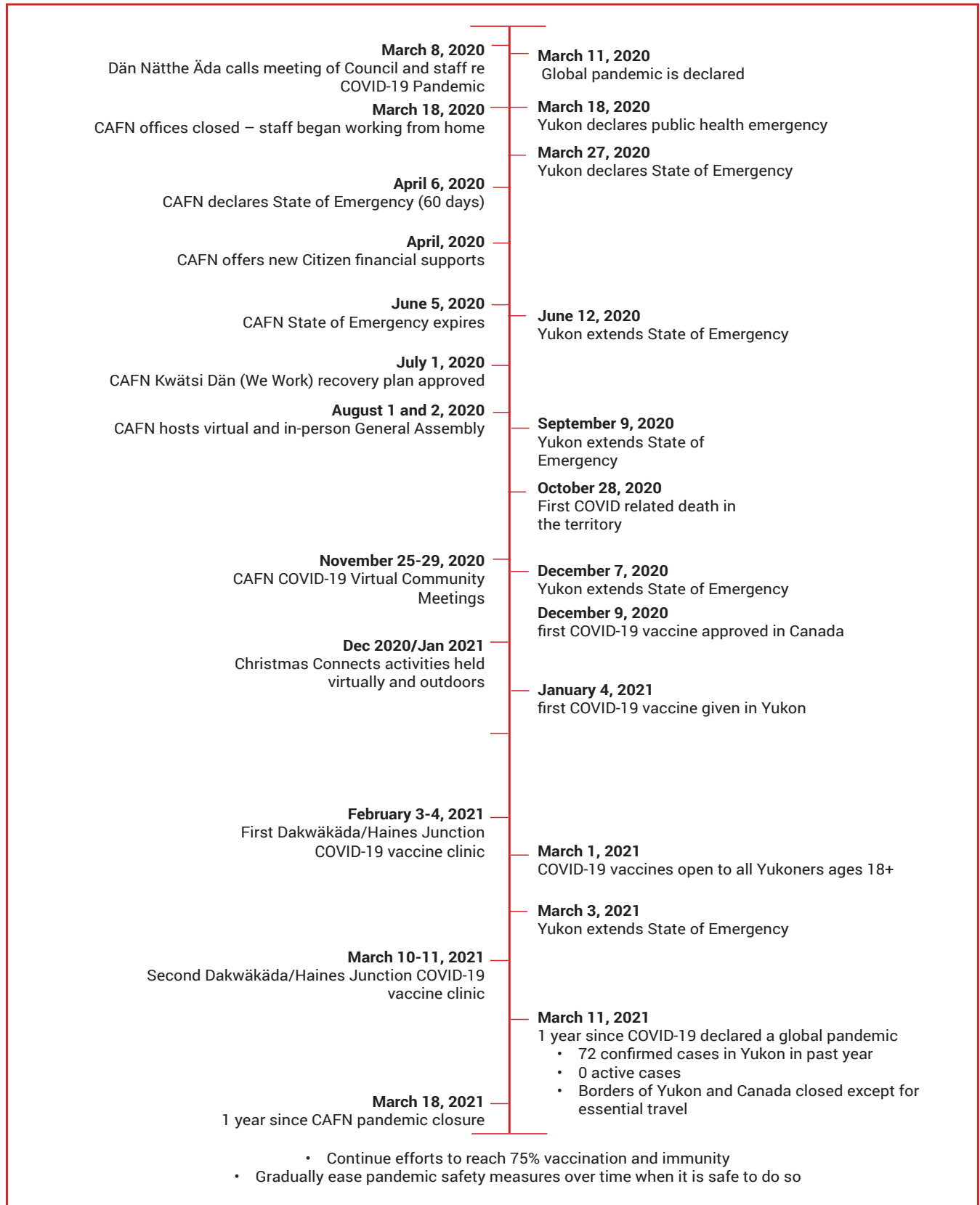
To learn about the Government of Yukon's path forward plan, a phased approach to lifting COVID-19 restrictions, please visit: [yukon.ca/en/path-forward-next-steps](http://yukon.ca/en/path-forward-next-steps).

**DÚCH'Ī SHĪ**  
**Nda sǎgǎl yè dān ghāts'ungwāt āyèt**  
**kwāka Dádān shāwghāduch'e nī.**  
*I'm getting the medicine needle because*  
*I care about our people.*



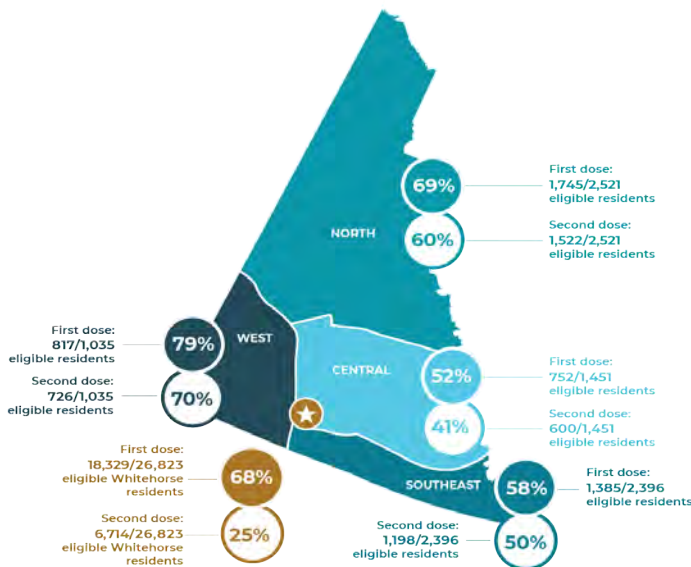
[cafn.ca/covid-19](http://cafn.ca/covid-19)

# CAFN COVID-19: LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD





The Dakwākāda Dancers perform a special welcome for Team Togo at Da Kų Cultural Centre (photo by Micheal Schmidt).



**NORTH:** Dawson City, Old Crow, Mayo, Keno, Stewart Crossing

**WEST:** Haines Junction, Champagne, Burwash Landing, Destruction Bay, Beaver Creek

**CENTRAL:** Faro, Carmacks, Braeburn, Pelly Crossing, Ross River

**SOUTHEAST:** Watson Lake, Teslin, Johnson's Crossing, Swift River, Tagish, Carcross

## Updated Safety Measures at CAFN offices

Kwātsi Dān (We Work): STEP 3 Recovery  
As of March 25, 2021 Council agreed to the following COVID-19 safety measures at CAFN:

- ✓ Continue practicing the Safe 6 + 1.
- ✓ CAFN offices remain closed to the public.
- ✓ Masks are required in all CAFN common areas.
- ✓ Up to 50% staff may work in CAFN offices, with priority to staff who provide essential services.
- ✓ Limit travel to communities.
- ✓ Enhanced cleaning measures continue in all CAFN spaces.
- ✓ The Youth Centre is now open.
- ✓ The Shawkwunlee Daycare continues to operate.
- ✓ Organized indoor and outdoor gatherings are permitted within Government of Yukon guidelines.
- ✓ Language immersion classes may be held in-person at Da Kų with COVID-19 restrictions.
- ✓ Da Kų Cultural Centre and community halls and may be used for CAFN programming.
- ✓ Bus Services continue with small numbers, family bubbles and safe spacing.
- ✓ Planning to safely hold funerals is under review.



# DÄN NÄTTHE ÄDA DÄKWÄL MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

## Dànách'é.

As we enter spring this year, we are at an important milestone. On March 11, 2021, it is one year since COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic. And on March 18, it is one year since CAFN began our lockdown to prevent the spread of the virus.

### COVID-19 Update

Since the pandemic began, it has been our top priority to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our communities, to limit the risk to our Elders and most vulnerable, and to prevent the death of any of our people. Throughout this year we have prioritized maintaining services for our Citizens and helping Citizens who are struggling due to the pandemic.

It has been a difficult year and some pandemic safety measures have come at a cost. We still must keep our gathering sizes small, and cannot yet come together for potlatches and other large gatherings, which are an important part of who we are as Southern Tutchone *dän* (people). However, we are grateful to be in the Yukon where the number of cases of the virus has been very low, and we are optimistic as we enter a new phase of the pandemic – the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine across the Yukon and Canada.

CAFN people have pulled together and stayed strong. We have supported each other, our Elders and the most vulnerable.

We now look forward to gradually reducing measures over time. But it will take time for Canada, our neighbors in Alaska, and the rest of the world to catch up to where we are at in the Yukon today. Our safety measures have paid off, but we aren't out of the woods yet. Vaccines are still being administered with the goal of 75% herd immunity.

With no active COVID cases in the Yukon for several weeks, CAFN has relaxed some safety measures and is beginning to cautiously hold small gatherings. We will still proceed with an abundance of caution as we monitor the situation and continue to learn. We carry on with review of our CAFN safety measures every two weeks and will continue to gradually reduce them when it safe to do so.

At this time, COVID-19 rates outside the Yukon are still high, and new variants are emerging that the world is working to respond to. So we must stay vigilant, safe and smart.

***Dúch'j Shj - We will always do what we must do to ensure the safety of our people. CAFN is following the science and cooperating strongly with Yukon and Canada. Please continue to practice the Safe Six and wear a mask in public. And we encourage you to learn about the vaccine and make a well-informed decision.***

### **Kwänischiss- shaw nithan - gunałchish.**

Gunałchish – thank you – to the provinces in Canada which chose to give up a portion of their vaccines last month in order to allow Yukon and the North to receive our full allotment of vaccines and stay on track with our vaccination schedule, in spite of production delays by Moderna. The Yukon, NWT and Nunavut have been prioritized to receive enough vaccines to be fully vaccinated ahead of the rest of Canada due to our remote and vulnerable communities.

We hold up our hands to all our Citizens and staff. You have worked so hard and done so well. The fight isn't over, but the light is coming back and, little by little, we are beginning to emerge from the pandemic. Have patience and stay strong. We are not there yet, but we are getting there together.

---

*continued on page 7*

## Christmas Connects 2020

CAFN's 2020 Christmas Connects activities brought our community together in many new and innovative new ways! We thank everyone who participated, and all of the staff who worked hard to help host the events. Christmas Connects activities are an important way we reach out and support one another over the holidays, which can be a tough time for many.

## Dákwänjē

Congratulations to our full-time language learners, many of whom recently received their language certificates, and are now completing their third and final year in the program while they also study to earn their teacher certification. Shāw nithän! Keep up the great work!

We are also excited to be accepting applications from prospective students to join the new cohort beginning this fall.

## New Activities in Kwanlin

Thank you to Deputy Chief McLaren and Councillor Barb Joe for hosting new activities and events for our Citizens who live in Kwanlin (Whitehorse). We have been able to offer a wide range of programs in the communities in our CAFN Traditional Territory for many years, and are now glad to extend a couple more opportunities to our Citizens in Whitehorse.

## Executive Council Office Update:

Our Executive Council Office (ECO) staff members work closely with the CAFN Council to carry out the priorities of our government. In recent months, we have had some changes and people entering new roles.

At present, I have taken on some of the responsibilities of the Executive Director while Fran Asp is on leave. We wish her all the best while she recovers. I am also pleased to introduce my Executive Assistant Kierra Wood. She joined CAFN a few months ago and is based in our Dakwākāda office.

## Our Council Vision for 2018 through 2022 is:

**Dän Shāwthan ghàách'e, who speak for the nation, the land and water, and for each other.**

**We are Dän Shāwthan, responsible for:**

- The Nation (through better governance);
- Each Other (through connection and self reliance); and
- The Land and the Water.

**Our Priorities are:**

1. Healthy Citizens and Communities
2. A Strong Culture and Language
3. Economic Opportunities
4. Stewardship of the Land, Water and Animals
5. Good Governance

Our current senior directors are Jennifer Lee for Citizen Services, and Joe MacGillvray for Government Services. We continue to work to fill the Senior Director of Nation Services position.

Lastly, *gunalchish* - many thanks - to Diane Strand, who served as our first Senior Director of Citizen Services, and finished her work with CAFN last fall. We are grateful for all your efforts on behalf of our nation and people.

*Gunalchish,*  
*Kaaxnox, Dän nātthe äda*  
Chief Steve Smith

# UPDATE ON CAFN ÄSHÄW (ELDERS) LAND CLAIMS BENEFIT

All CAFN Elders living in Canada have received monthly Land Claim Benefit cheques since before CAFN signed its agreements. CAFN chose to continue issuing these benefits to Elders, while all current CAFN Elders also receive benefits through CAFN's Final and Self-Government Agreements.

Over time CAFN programs and services for Elders and others have expanded and improved significantly in the past 25+ years of Self Government.

The current Elders Land Claims Benefit is delivered at a rate of \$250/month CAD for all Elders age 60 and older living in Canada.

## 2019 and 2020 General Assembly Resolutions

In 2019, the General Assembly (GA) approved a resolution to increase the monthly amount to \$375, and extend benefits to all CAFN Elders living outside Canada, and make the benefit needs-based (Elders with an annual income of less than \$35,000 CAD). This was very complex and was taken to a vote.

During the 2020 General Assembly, a new resolution was presented and passed. The new resolution would increase the monthly benefit to \$375, extend the benefit to CAFN Elders outside Canada, and eliminate the needs-based requirement for annual income of \$35,000 or less. The resolution passed again by a very close vote.

## What is the status today?

As of 2020, CAFN has 240 Elders. By

2028 it is projected there will be more than 400 CAFN Elders.

After reviewing the financial analysis and projected costs to implement the resolution, Council decided that the GA Resolution 2020-04 Äshäw (Elders) Benefit - to increase the benefit to \$375 per month and provide benefits to every CAFN Elder in the world - will not be accepted at this time.

Council determined that this resolution would adversely affect other CAFN programs and impact all Citizens, not only Elders. The cost associated with the recommended increase would be about \$1 million per year in 2021, and grow to around \$1.8 million per year by 2028. The current cost to deliver the program is about \$500,000 per year.

Further analysis will be done and presented to the 2021 General Assembly.

Council's responsibility to accept or not accept General Assembly recommendations comes from the CAFN Constitution and, in this case, Council has decided to take a balanced approach in the effort to better reflect the needs of every Citizen.

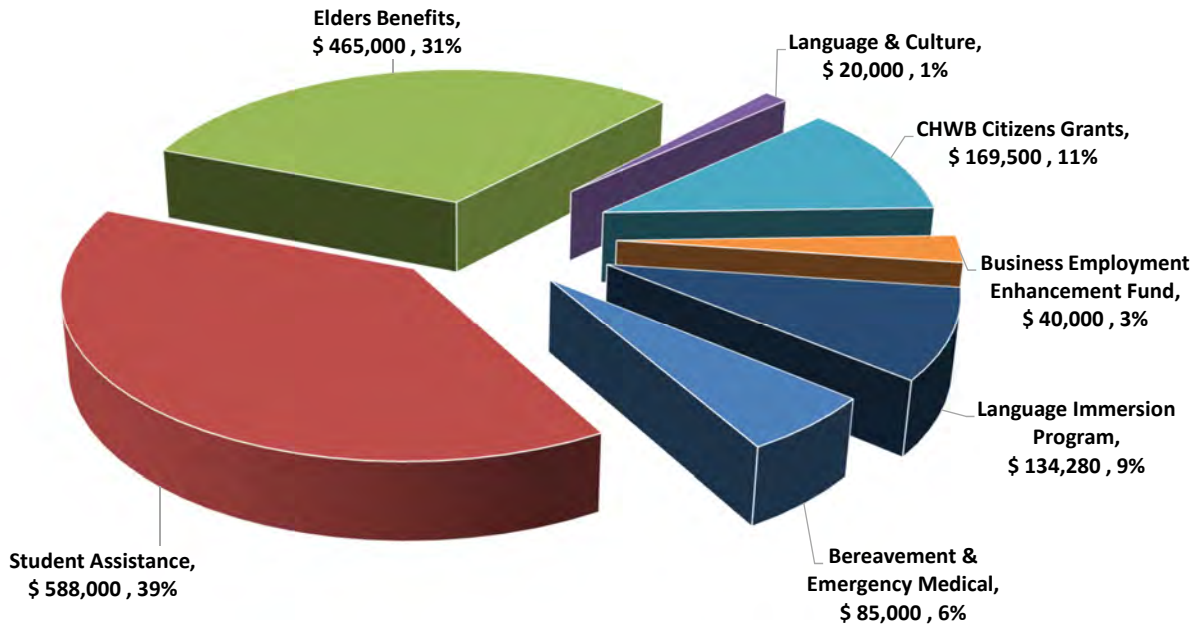
Council has agreed to bring this topic back to the 2021 General Assembly for a more in-depth discussion. At this time, Elders who currently get the \$250 benefit will continue to receive it. Council decided to suspend any new Elders payments until the analysis is complete and reviewed by the 2021

*continued on page 10*

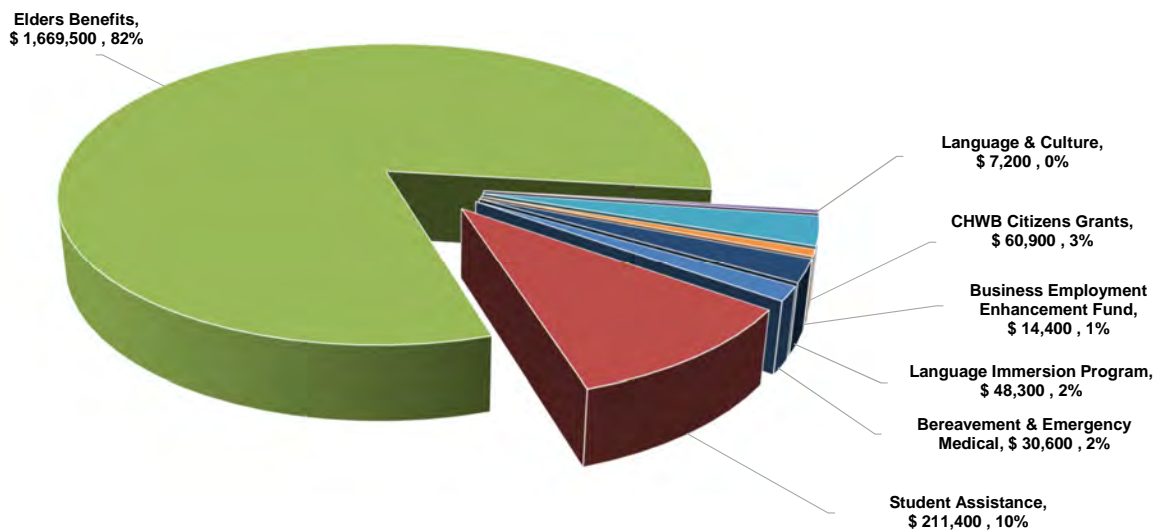
## Summary of key info:

1. Council has decided not to accept GA Resolution 2020-04 Äshäw (Elders) Benefit increasing Elders benefits from \$250 to \$375 per month, and provide benefits to every CAFN Elder in the world.
2. Council looked at the costs to implement the resolution, and found it to be too costly. There are limited funds and this decision impacts all Citizens.
3. Council wants to take a balanced approach that reflects the needs of all Citizens. There must be balance in the way we take care of each other. Dän k'e – our way is to ensure consideration of all Citizens and looking out for future generations.
4. Council agreed to bring this topic back to the 2021 General Assembly for more discussion and clarification.
5. In the meantime, Elders who currently get the \$250 benefit will continue to receive it. New applications are not being accepted until after the 2021 GA.
6. All Citizens are our priority. Council looks forward to talking more with our people at the GA.

**Budgeted Compensation Fund Expenses 2020/21 - \$1.5 Million**

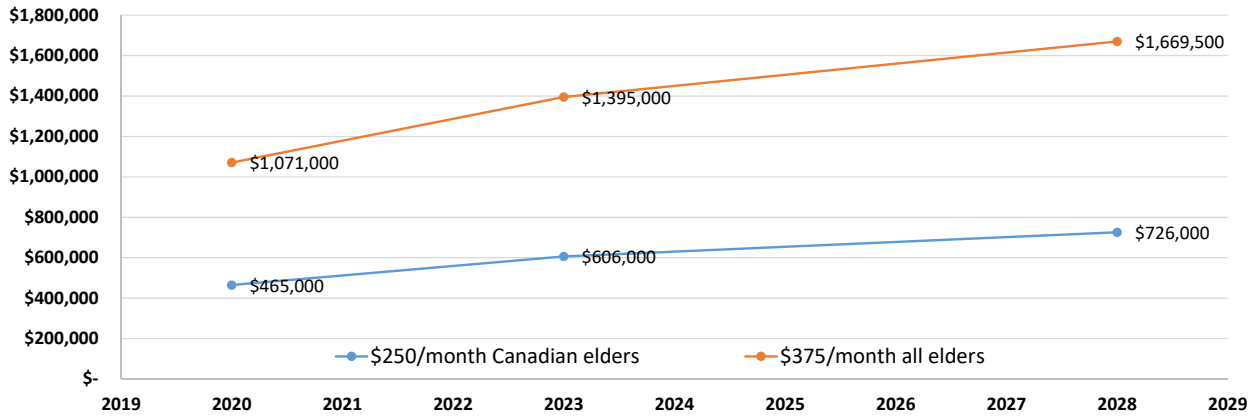


**Projected Compensation Fund Expenses 2027/28 - \$2.04 Million**  
at \$375 Cdn per month for all Elders in world



## Elders Land Claim Benefit Comparison

Canadian Elders at \$250  
All Elders at \$375



General Assembly.

The principle of *Dän k'e* - our way - is to ensure that we consider all Citizens and look out for our current and future generations. There must always be balance in the way we take care of each other. This is in keeping with our values as *Dän Shawthän* (good Southern Tutchone people).

### Where does CAFN get money for the Elders Land Claim Benefit?

Funding for the Elders Land Claim Benefit is through our annual CAFN Trust spending policy allocation (compensation fund), which is also used to deliver: the Community

Health and Well Being Fund, emergency and bereavement support, post-secondary student support, language immersion, and the Business Employment Enhancement Fund. The total Trust spending allocation for 2020-21 was \$1.4 million.

Council's decision is in keeping with the 2018-2022 CAFN vision; values and priorities: *Dän Shäwthan*, equitability, open communication, using personalized approaches, and respect.

### ORIGINAL ELDERS BENEFIT

In a 1984 Agreement in Principle, Canada provided money to Yukon First Nations for "Interim Benefits for Yukon Indian Elders." The agreement was negotiated in recognition that the land claims agreements were taking a long time and that some of the Elders who inspired land claims might not live to see its benefits. Yukon First Nations arranged for a set rate to be paid to each Elder age 60 and older. CYI administered the program until each Yukon First Nations effective date, when it became the Self-Governing Yukon First Nation's responsibility to continue, modify or discontinue. It was not intended to be a long-term payment, but CAFN and several other First Nations continued the benefit. These funds were treated as an advance on compensation and were deducted from the compensation payments made to CAFN after settlement, reducing the capital that CAFN had to generate investment returns. Under the original intent of the benefit, no one would qualify today.

# DÄN NÄTTHE DÄTTH'I DEK'I

## CHIEF AND COUNCIL UPDATE

### THE FOLLOWING ARE SUMMARIES OF DECISIONS MADE BY DÄN NÄTTHE DÄTTH'I (THE CAFN COUNCIL) FROM OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER 2020.

#### 2020-21 Supplemental Budget

Council reviewed supplemental budget requests from each department and approved the CAFN supplemental budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

#### Deputy Chief

Council appointed Councillor Marie McLaren as Deputy Chief for a one-year term to October 31, 2021.

#### Human Resources Manual

Council approved the revised CAFN Human Resources Manual, effective October 15, 2020.

#### Government Administration Act

Council approved the third and final reading of amendments to CAFN's Government Administration Act (GAA) on November 12, 2020. Council work to amend the GAA has been ongoing over the last twenty (20) months. The GAA was originally enacted in 2007 and amended in 2012. The Act is in place to make sure that the First Nations Council administers its duties under the Constitution in a way that reflects the values of good governance and transparency. Citizens were invited to provide input on the amendments this September and October.

The GAA provides for: the establishment of government departments under the leadership of directors/senior directors, hiring of staff, procurement of expert services, and the formation of boards, committees or councils.

The Act also addresses matters such as the delegation of powers and duties, and remuneration to members of the First Nations Council (including the Chief). The specifics about Council Remuneration are outlined in a regulation which will be passed under the Act. Other regulations are also passed under the Act including the Election Regulations, the Conflict of Interest Regulations and others (which are in development).

#### Council Remuneration Regulation

The CAFN Council reviewed and approved the Regulation Respecting Remuneration for members of the First Nations Council. The regulation came into force on November 12, 2020 under the 2020 CAFN Government Administration Act. Please watch for more information on this in the new "Council Corner" of the newsletter.

#### First Nation School Board

Council agreed to support the CAFN Education Department's initiative in working towards turning expanding our local school council(s) into a First

Nation's School Board.

#### Kluane National Park and Reserve Cooperation Protocol

CAFN Council agreed to sign a Cooperation Protocol with Kluane National Park and Reserve, and appointed Executive Director Fran Asp and Senior Director of Nation Services Jennifer Lee to participate on the Kluane National Park and Reserve Cooperation Protocol Committee.

#### Amendments to the CAFN Self-Government Agreement

Council approved amendments to Section 15 of CAFN's Self-Government Agreement, with regard to the GST input tax credit refund, and taxation of funds from registered pension plans. The changes will benefit CAFN government and Citizens, and will come into effect on the date of the Government of Canada's consent by Order in Council.

#### Board and Committee Appointments

Council appointed and nominated Citizens to boards and committees as follows:

Trina Pauls was appointed to the Yukon First Nations Education Directorate Youth Council as a CAFN

---

*continued on page 12*

representative.

Council nominated Ron Chambers to the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee Alsek River Drainage Basin for a five-year term.

Council reappointed Elaine Chambers to the Dakwākāda Capital Investments Limited Partnership Board for a three-year term to December 31, 2023.

### **Elders Benefits**

Council decided not to accept GA resolution 2020-04 Elders Benefits as presented and agreed to bring the topic back to the 2021 General Assembly for further clarification and discussion. Please see more information in the article in this newsletter.

### **Purchase of Equipment**

Council authorized the purchase of heavy equipment for \$538,000 to be used in support of the CAFN municipal program.

### **Cost of Living Increase**

Council approved a 2 percent increase of employee wages to account for inflation, effective April 1, 2020.

### **Kwātsi Dän (We Work) COVID-19 Safety Measures**

In November and December 2020, Council approved moving and maintaining more proactive COVID-19 safety measures in keeping with Step 1 of the Kwātsi Dän plan. These measures continue to be reviewed

and updated as needed in 2021.

### **Rapid Housing Initiative Proposal**

Council agreed to support a contribution of up to \$1.4 million to advance housing for vulnerable Citizens in Whitehorse and Haines Junction. These funds will be used if CAFN's proposal to Canada's Rapid Housing Initiative for additional funding is approved.

### **Strategic Metals Exploration Agreement**

The CAFN Council authorized the amendment of amending the Strategic Metals Exploration Agreement in order to change the due date of payment for the Exploration Costs from January 31 to March 31 of each year. Council appointed the

Manager of Economic Development Heather Callaghan and Director of Heritage, Lands and Resources Tom Buzzell to the Strategic Metals Advisory Committee.

### **Upcoming Council Meetings:**

Thursday April 22th

Thursday May 20th

Friday June 25th

## **Introducing Council Corner!**

Council is bringing forward a new initiative called, Council Corner to CAFN's quarterly newsletters. Council Corner will present how Chief and Council operate and the duties they perform for Citizens through a comic strip series. This will be an educational and informative series showcasing the evolution of self-governing practices within Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.

### **CALL OUT**

**We are looking to contract an indigenous artist to design the comic series. For more information please contact Communications Officer, Jenna Henderson at: [jhenderson@cafn.ca](mailto:jhenderson@cafn.ca) or 867 334 6264.**

*Stay tuned for the first edition in the Summer/Fall 2021 newsletter!*

# CHRISTMAS CONNECTS 2020

Christmas Connects was a little different this year- but that didn't stop CAFN from bringing joy to the community and our Citizens! CAFN's hard-working and innovative staff pulled together virtual events and safe outdoor activities. Events included a house decorating contest, a Christmas video from Chief and Council, the Chief's Gingerbread house contest, virtual bingo and ice fishing. Citizens may have been physically apart this year, but it is through everyone's commitment and dedication that we were able to get through this together. **Thank you to all our Dän Sòóthan - Good People.**



Odessa Epp's winning house decorations.

## 2020 CAFN HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS:

Takhini River Subdivision –  
**Sylvia Kolack and Lexie Dawn**

Shadhala/Champagne – **Odessa Epp**

Kwanlin/Whitehorse – **Angie Wabisca**

Dakwakada/  
Haines Junction – **Carol Buzzell**

To view all of the entries please visit: <https://cafn.ca/cafn-2020-holiday-house-decorating-contest/>

## 2020 CHIEF'S GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST WINNERS:

Best in Class age 0-9: **Mayzie Campbell**

Best in Class age 10-15: **Hope Nicholas**

Adult: **Odessa Epp**

### Kids Age 0-9



CANYON-HAINES JUNCTION:

1st **Nevaeh Joe**  
2nd **Copper Sheardown**  
3rd **Baby Mary Smith/Menicoche**



CHAMPAGNE/TAKHINI:

1st **Brielle Epp**  
2nd **Jayla Epp**  
3rd **Bentley Hoehn-Nicholas**



WHITEHORSE:

1st **Mayzie Campbell**  
2nd **Emalys Grenier**  
3rd **Maddison Cresswell**

### Youth Age 10-15



CANYON-HAINES JUNCTION:

1st **Lily Menicoche/Smith**  
2nd **Reid kids**  
3rd **Chad Itsi**



CHAMPAGNE/TAKHINI:

1st place tie! **Hope Nicholas**  
and **Kael Epp**

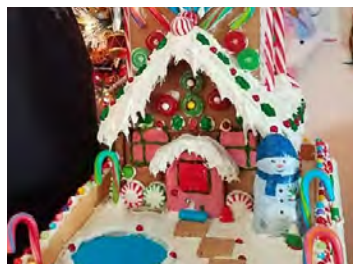


WHITEHORSE:

1st **Presley Jobin**  
2nd **Patrick Johnston**  
3rd **Bethany Jim**

### Adult Open

1st **Odessa Epp** | 2nd **Donna Chambers** |  
3rd **Keona Sheardown**



### DEMO:

**Chief Steve Smith's** Gingerbread House



To view all of the entries please visit: <https://cafn.ca/2020-chiefs-gingerbread-house-contest/>

# RESTORE ÄSHÈYI



CAFN continues to work on solutions to reduce the impacts of the Aishihik Generating Station (AGS).

## Long-Term License Process

In mid-November 2020, CAFN hosted two virtual engagement sessions to share information with CAFN Citizens on the project status of the Aishihik Generating Station (AGS) relicensing activities; and to gather Citizens' feedback to strengthen CAFN's response. The sessions took place on the afternoon of Tuesday, November 10 (35 participants) and evening of Thursday, November 12 (33 participants).

Three presentations were provided to Citizens:

- an overview of AGS work in 2020 and matters related to negotiations;
- a summary of YEC's application and CAFN government's

proposed submission; and

- an opportunity to review the findings from the traditional knowledge study.

The presentations were followed by questions and answers. While many of the questions and concerns raised by Citizens centered on the political and strategic initiatives, the feedback from these sessions also helped guide the current YESAB submission from CAFN, and inform ongoing planning and negotiations.

Many thanks to all the Citizens who contributed to these sessions. Your feedback was incorporated into CAFN's submission to YESAB, which was submitted December 4, 2020, and is accessible at <https://cafn.ca/aishihik-relicensing-2019/>. YESAB is currently reviewing information and has requested more information from YEC. This process is expected to continue into the spring.

## Negotiations Update and Citizen Meetings

We continue to engage with Yukon Energy (YEC) and the Government of Yukon to negotiate an agreement for a better future for Äshèyi. Our agreement must deal with environmental protections and reducing impacts, and also promote reconciliation by acknowledging the past and charting a more fair and respectful future.

Yukon government and YEC have participated in intensive negotiations with us in recent months to try to come to an agreement. CAFN negotiators and technical teams are building on all the work we have done over the years to push for an agreement that will be acceptable to CAFN Citizens.

---

*continued on page 15*

In February and March 2021, CAFN held Citizen meetings to introduce the key concepts for a proposed agreement with the Government of Yukon and YEC. Presentation of the agreement was followed by opportunity for Citizens to share their questions and comments. Council will use all the Citizen input gathered to guide its decisions on next steps for negotiation of an agreement with YG and YEC. CAFN thanks all Citizens who participated during these meetings and looks forward to updating you on next steps.

Though our negotiations with Yukon government and YEC continue, and we are optimistic we can make good progress, we also need to fully participate in the YESAB review and Water Board hearings to make sure CAFN's story is told and our rights are protected.

For more information, please contact:  
 Tom Buzzell or Ken Joe  
 (867) 634-4200  
 tbuzzell@cafn.ca or kjoe@cafn.ca



Participants at the November 10 and 12, 2020 virtual meetings.



Participants at the March 3, 2021 virtual meeting.

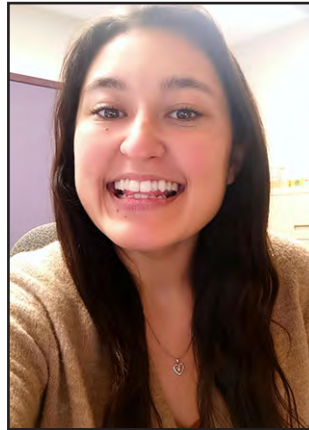
# NEW FACES



**BRYAN LEVIA, MANAGER OF  
LAND & PLANNING**  
**BLEVIA@CAFN.CA**  
**(867) 634 4200 EXT. 257**  
**CELL (867) 323-2269**

---

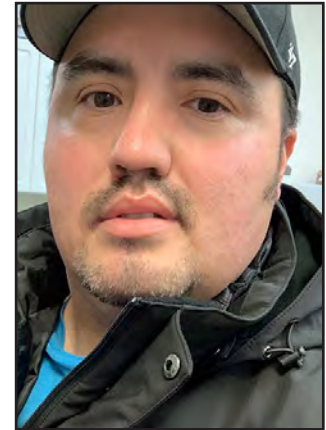
Bryan moved to the Yukon from Flin Flon, Manitoba in 1993. He started at Yukon Environment in 1994 as the Waste Management Coordinator working under the new (then) Environment Act. He changed jobs from the Monitoring and Inspections section of the Environmental Programs Branch to conducting inspections, managing hazardous materials and spills, and monitoring impacts to the environment. In 2013 he was hired as the Senior Natural Resource Officer at the Haines Junction office of Energy, Mines and Resources where he remained until his retirement from the Yukon Government in October 2020. He looks forward to his 5-year term with CAFN and learning more about the land and people of the community.



**KIERRA WOOD**  
**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO  
THE CHIEF**  
**KWOOD@CAFN.CA**  
**(867) 332-7140**

---

Kierra Wood recently started working for CAFN as Chief Smith's Executive Assistant. She is a member of Highbar First Nation, who are Secwépemc (Shuswap) people and are located in the interior of BC on the mid-Fraser River basin. As a member of a self-governing First Nation she is incredibly honoured to be working for CAFN, and to have the opportunity witnessing Dän K'é in action. She is thankful to the community for welcoming her and looks forward to working with and for the Citizens. Kukwstèstelp.



**JOSHUA DARBYSHIRE**  
**HEAD COOK TAKHINI RIVER  
SUBDIVISIONS**  
**TAKHINICOOKS@CAFN.CA**  
**(867) 667 6701**

---

K'äyeda (Joshua) Darbyshire, is the son of Earl and Donna Darbyshire and a decedent of the Kane family. He is a member of the Crow clan. He is an honor student in the Culinary Arts program and pursuing his Red Seal. He became a chef because he loves mbät ka and creating food ideas that keep him up at night. K'äyeda is ecstatic to be working with first nations and be able to provide nutritious, healthy, and fun meals for our youth and future leaders of our great nation. Sòóthän Netthu! (good eats)

---

*continued on page 17*



**ROBERT VAN LIESHOUT**  
**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY**  
**WELLNESS**  
**[RVANLIESHOUT@CAFN.CA](mailto:RVANLIESHOUT@CAFN.CA)**  
**(867) 634 4200 EXT. 269**

---

Robert has worked in the field of health & social services for the last 30 years in different capacities. He is a trained Psychiatric Nurse, has worked in hospitals, care centres & refugee camps in the Netherlands. In 1999 he moved to Vancouver with his wife Diyet who is a Kluane First Nation from Burwash Landing. In 2005 they moved to Burwash Landing and have been in Kluane Country ever since. Prior to working with CAFN he was at the Health and Social Services Department at KFN for 12 years as their Wellness Manager and Acting Director. Robert is also a musician who plays nationally and internationally with his band Diyet & the Love Soldiers.

Please also welcome:

**LIZ JIM, ACCOUNTS**  
**RECEIVABLE CLERK**  
**EMAIL [LJIM@CAFN.CA](mailto:LJIM@CAFN.CA)**  
**(867) 634 4200 EXT: 273**

---

**MIRANDA WILLIAMS**  
**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK**  
**EMAIL [MWILLIAMS@CAFN.CA](mailto:MWILLIAMS@CAFN.CA)**  
**(867) 634 4200**

---

# PROPERTY SERVICES

CAFN's Property Services Department has not slowed down during the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of CAFN's offices to the public. We have staff working on a rotational basis to meet the health and safety recommendations to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. The pandemic has had an impact on the availability of our contractors and construction materials, personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies. This department's staff are in the field making sure that essential services continue to be delivered on a regular basis.

Tyler Ross has re-joined the Property Management maintenance team. Tyler was previously employed with CAFN during the renovation of the Healing House. These renovations were part of a Housing Internship Initiative for First Nation and Inuit Youth under the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The program offers work experience and on-the-job training in the housing industry. Tyler's participation in the program brought him national recognition for his efforts. Way to go Tyler!

See the story here:  
<https://www.placetocallhome.ca/en/stories/041-housing-grad-transforms-community-office>

Thank you to all of the other 2020 summer students who kept our fleet vehicles clean, gave us office support, painted a replacement cemetery sign for Champagne, and cleaned rental units after tenant move-outs.

A big thank you to our summer student, Cara McQuaig, for helping our Housing Coordinator update and



*This image shows new sod in place at Da Kų Cultural Centre.*

maintain important files – she was a true pleasure to have in the office!

**Troy Johns** has left his position as CAFN's Building Engineer at Da Kų. We want to thank him for his valuable contribution over the years. We will miss him and wish him success in his new position with the Government of Yukon's Property Management division in Dakäkädä (Haines Junction).

**Glen Carpenter** was hired in September as our new Building Engineer at Da Kų Cultural Centre. He brings with him a great deal of knowledge and is working hard to make both Da Kų and the Language Hub operate safely and efficiently, while also studying advanced building engineering. Great work Glen!

Last August, landscaping work began on the south side of Da Kų. The work

included walkways, paving stones, and new sod. The crew did a fantastic job. We're proud to work towards improving our beautiful cultural Centre and making it as welcoming as possible!

**Jeff Hunter**, CAFN Capital Projects Manager has a great deal of projects underway and many more for the next few years. This includes 16 new CAFN homes that will be completed in the next six months.

## Highlights:

- The new modular language classroom was delivered to Dakäkädä last September at #24 Allen Place. We are awaiting electrical hook-up before the classroom can welcome students.

*continued on page 19*



*Four new two-bedroom homes in Takhini.*

- Four new two-bedroom single family homes were completed in Takhini River Subdivision with only site work remaining. The new tenants are ready to move in.
- Four new two-bedroom, and three-bedroom duplexes are being constructed in Dakäk wäda at the end of Joe Street and will be completed by June 2021.

Two new two-bedroom, and two new three-bedroom single family houses are under construction in Takhini and will also be completed by June 2021

With support from CMHC's Housing Internship Initiative for First Nation and Inuit Youth, CAFN was able to hire Nicholas Williams for a carpentry training opportunity. He is working on the 4 new duplex housing units in Dakäk wäda until March 31, 2021.

Curtis Hoehn-Lyon was hired as a Water Operator in Takhini this past fall. Curtis will be working at the water treatment plant and providing water delivery to Takhini and Champagne. Welcome Curtis!

Jon Widney has re-joined the Property Services Department as our new Municipal Services Manager. Jon brings a great deal of experience in water treatment systems and municipal operations. Thank you Jon!

Work on the new Marshall Creek Subdivision in Dakäk wäda started last August. The contract for the construction was awarded to CastleRock Enterprises Ltd. and will continue through 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic kept Property Services and CAFN's



*One of the four new homes under construction in Takhini River Subdivision*

Occupational Health and Safety Officer, Charlene Hume, busy last year. One of their many tasks was to make sure we had personal protective equipment (PPE) to keep our employees and our workplace safe. CAFN now has a good supply of stock for the fleet vehicles, CAFN offices, Youth Centre, Da Ky, the Daycare, the Takhini Community Centre, and for all front-line workers.

A vehicle contractor, Sale Salvage, was hired last August to remove unwanted cars and light trucks from Dakäk wäda, Takhini, Canyon and Champagne. Several vehicles were removed from Takhini, and a contract is in place to have vehicles removed from the remaining communities.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, call at 867 634 4200, or email: [psstaff@cafn.ca](mailto:psstaff@cafn.ca)

Requests for repairs or maintenance for CAFN rental homes or any community buildings can be emailed at [workorders@cafn.ca](mailto:workorders@cafn.ca)

# DÄN TÄN GÀ DĪJÄL

## WE ALL WALK ALONG THE TRAIL OUR WAY



Artist: Frances Oles

### Traditional Story

Making traditional snowshoes requires teamwork and trust. Everyone has a role to play – men, women, and even children! Traditionally, children would hold the hide while an adult would stretch and cut the babiche. While women prepared the babiche for the webbing of the snowshoe, men were out looking for a suitable birch or spruce tree to make the frame. To make the babiche, people had to trust that their partner would work carefully so no one was hurt.

This time spent together was a great opportunity to share stories that were remembered and passed on from generation to generation, including the knowledge of how to make a snowshoe.

Snowshoes are an essential tool for winter survival and travel, and for that we can thank Ji – Spruce Grouse – for sharing this knowledge with us a long time ago. Please enjoy this story of how Spruce Grouse taught humans how to make snowshoes.

Gunałchish  
Department of Heritage, Lands and Resources

### Spruce Grouse and the Snowshoe

As told by Marge Jackson, Chùschwa, in "Song and Stories from My Country" (2006)

A true story, a long time ago. And nobody don't know how to fill them up, the snowshoes, eh?

And they are sitting around, under a tree there. Grouse on a tree.

And somebody, gonna, started fixing the snowshoes.

And one mistake? He'd tell you!

gko, gko, gko, gko [grouse beating his wings]

If you make a mistake, you put it the other way again. You started to work on it and work on it. They don't say nothing, if you make a mistake,

he started making noise again. That's the way they make it. One whole snowshoe, they fix it.

And just when you're gonna, the sound there? That's how they know it, how to fix a snowshoe.

Grouse, a long time ago. You see, a lot of things, he help you. That grouse do anything, too. Quickly, too. Gee!



Marge Jackson on "Songs and Stories from My Country" CD Cover (2006)

# SKI TRAILS

## Mush Lake Road

Volunteer Maintained Cross-country Ski Trail

Please respect the hard work of local volunteers and do not snowmobile, walk, ride bikes, or dog sled on set ski trails.

Snowmobiles are not permitted on the Mush Lake Road, except for Champagne and Aishihik First Nations beneficiaries exercising their subsistence harvesting rights

To report emergencies and violations, call



1(877)852-3100



Google Earth

Image © 2019 DigitalGlobe  
Imagery Landsat, Copernicus  
© 2018 Google

## Parks Canada Yukon Ski trails in Kluane National Park & Reserve

Several community members are volunteering to groom and set ski trails in Kluane National Park this winter. Parks Canada is asking CAFN harvesters to avoid driving over the ski tracks, if possible. In most cases the ski trails are being set on one side of the road/trail, and there should be enough room for harvesters to snowmobile and others to walk, snowshoe, and bike on the other side.

Tracks are currently set along the Mush Lake Road (from Dezadeash Lake Lodge to Alder Creek), and additional trails will be set around Kathleen Lake (Campground, Day Use Area, and on a portion of the Kings Throne/Cottonwood Trail) later this winter. As always, please contact Park Wardens if you encounter any illegal activity in the Park: 1 (877) 852-3100.

# LIVING HERITAGE - ÄSHÈYI GÀW

## Zooming in on cultural centres and their stories - Äshèyi Gàw

Gàw (drums) play an important role in Yukon First Nations culture, including that of the Shädhela yè Äshèyi Kwädän (Champagne and Aishihik people). They guide our most sacred ceremonies, inspire our songs and dancing, and provide support for individuals seeking connection.

This beautiful gàw (drum), which has Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) affiliation, is well travelled. Two anthropologists, Catharine (Kitty) McClellan and Frederica (Freddie) de Laguna, who worked with Elders to document CAFN history and culture, are also part of the story of this gàw.

Today the gàw is in the collections of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, Ill. The beautiful curved däshan (drum stick) associated with the gàw, also in the museum's collection, is in the shape of a bird's head. Museum records indicate the däshan was made by Kàmbada (Chief Albert Isaac). Both items were gifted to the museum by McClellan.

The drum was originally kept by de Laguna in Alberta from a Blackfoot person. De Laguna used it for a period of time before gifting it to McClellan in 1962, shortly before McClellan travelled to the Yukon. She spent the next winter living with the Äshèyi kwädän (Aishihik people) at Äshèyi keyi (Aishihik Village). It's one of the oldest traditional villages in dákeyi (our country, i.e., CAFN Traditional Territory) and is still considered "home" for many Champagne and Aishihik citizens, where they honour and maintain their ancestral connection to the land.

This drum was painted during the time McClellan spent at Äshèyi, by Kakàna (Skookum Smith). It shows Ts'úrk'l (Crow) flying over Tatay Dh'l (Radio Mountain or Beam Station Mountain). This mountain, situated north of the village, is associated with the Kajät (Crow) clan.

Today, CAFN citizens continue to make and use hand drums like this one. Drums are an important part of the biannual Dá Kù Nän Ts'èddhyèt (Our House is Waking up the Land)



*Billy Sam (left) and Skookum Smith (right) with the drum at Äshèyi (Aishihik), 1963. Photo credit: Canadian Museum of History, Catherine McClellan Fonds, S71-895, with permission.*

Festival at Da Kù Cultural Centre in Dakwäkäda (Haines Junction, Yukon). This festival celebrates Dän K'e (Our Way) through drumming, song and dance, workshops, and much more. The 2021 festival takes place on the weekend of June 4-6, 2021, with both virtual and live components. Be sure to check [www.cafn.ca](http://www.cafn.ca) or search #DKNT2021 on Facebook for more details.

Shäw níthän nän'j' 'o - We look forward to seeing you!

*It's up to me, no it's up to us.  
Together it gets better on every letter.  
I speak, the drum I trust.*

Lyrics, 86 Heaven. 86 Heaven is rap artist and CAFN citizen Warren Strand (Yäwatà), who lives in Dakwäkäda (Haines Junction), Yukon

*Chief Smith drumming at dance fest. Communications to select photo & develop caption – based on 2019 Dance Fest photo collection (contact Krista to access).*



*Drum painted with image of Ts'úrk'í (Crow) flying over Tatay Dh'ál (Beam Station Mountain), with drumstick carved by Chief Albert Isaac. Photo credit: CAFN Heritage.*



## **DAKWÄKÄDA CAPITAL INVESTMENTS** **WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION**

The DCI team is working closely with the entities as they start to develop their 2021 Business Plans and Budgets. The Finance team is working with KPMG to ensure they can finish the 2020 year-end audit and review by end of Q1 2021. Business Development winter activities will be focused on several deals which would (i) compliment existing opportunities, (ii) further build partnerships with Nations outside of the Territory and (iii) diversity Dakwäkäda's portfolio.

### **Mac Plastics Integration**

As we are now in Q4 and in the home stretch, the Mac team continues to work on implementing the Transition Plan by the end of December 2020.

Processes continue to be defined and team members are engaged in streamlining the business and ensuring success in execution of the business plan. This year has been challenging but has seen the benefits of further development and continuous improvements.

As we close November, Mac Plastics hopes to finish the year strong. We are working on the strategic direction as the Company moves forward with controlled growth and new product development in mind; all of which will be outlined in the 2021 business plan and budget.

COVID-19 still leaves Mac Plastics without a clear understanding of how restrictions and pending vaccines will come into play on the economy.

### **Mac Plastics Ltd.**

Mac Plastics remained busy in both Skylights and Plastic during the final quarter of 2020.

The Plastic division has been busy manufacturing sneeze guards along with their regular custom orders. We have modified our original sneeze guard designs to meet our customer needs, further illustrating the Plastics team ability to design and manufacture custom solutions. Additionally we have been making boxes out of plastic as props for an escape room business, and dividers for companies to help protect their employees and stay open for business.

### **Castle Rock Enterprises LP (CRELP)**

Castle Rock Enterprises snow removal services are now available for Whitehorse commercial and residential services.

**\*ALL CURRENT PROJECTS ARE IN WINTER MODE UNTIL SPRING 2021\***

Note: The Marshall Creek Expansion Project began August 19, 2020 and will continue to October 2021, with a winter break and a Spring 2021 start up.

CRE has hired 4 CAFN Citizens for general labor positions and we are pleased with their performance and are proving to be a valuable asset to the construction team.

We are accepting resumes for spring 2021 hiring opportunities for CAFN Citizens. Forward resumes with references to [apply@castlerockent.com](mailto:apply@castlerockent.com). No phone calls please.

---

*continued on page 24*



**RAB Energy LP (Northern)**

Northern Windows and Doors Commercial's division is currently working/finishing the following projects:

- City of Whitehorse operations building
- Nissan Dealership
- KDFN Community Hub
- Old Crow Community Center

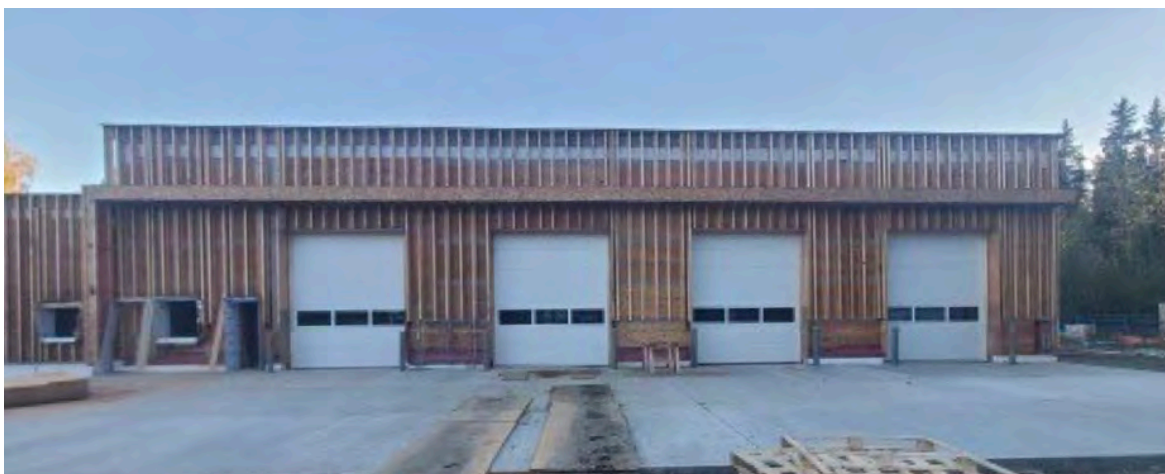
The Overhead Doors department is working on the Mayo Fire Hall

The PVC and Doors divisions are still working hard on manufacturing for Yukon and Alaska!

**RAB Energy Alaska Inc. (Capitol Glass)**

Even if we are entering our slowest time of the year, the RAB Energy Alaska team is focusing on keeping sales up. Despite the effect of COVID-19 on some product lines,

others are rising and shining. The management team is putting all efforts on limiting the exposure to COVID-19 for all employees and clients by implementing all mandatory safety measures.





## New Online Website

Da Ky Cultural Centre has some exciting news! Our team has been working very hard on a project since Da Ky Cultural Centre the summer of 2020. We are excited to announce that we have launched our new online website! Please check us out here: [www.njustore.ca](http://www.njustore.ca). You can support our local Yukon artists without leaving the comfort of your own home. We offer curbside pick-up, shipping and you can book by appointment to see our lovely products in person (following Covid-19 procedures only 2 people are allowed in store) between the hours of Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm. We have new stock being added every day so keep an eye out and follow our social media accounts FB (icon) page Njustore/Instagram(icon) Njustore\_

## Da Ky Nän Ts'éthèt Dance Festival

CAFN would also like everyone to **SAVE THE DATE** for the Da Ky Nän Ts'éthèt - Dance Festival June 4 – June 6!

This event will be primarily hosted online. Please stay tuned for more details through our social media channels.



## Njù Store

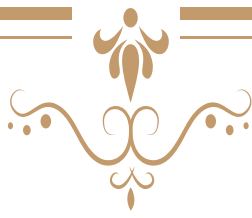
Njù Store would like to announce our new product **Dłų ndų chu (Mouse Eye Water)** which is our very own blend of coffee!

It is an amazing blend from Ecuador, Brazil and Colombia. Perfect for your morning cup of coffee, when on the land to keep you warm. Makes a perfect gift for the coffee snob in your family!

- ✓ Organic
- ✓ Members of the Cooperative Coffees Climate, Carbon and Coffee initiative
- ✓ Locally Made
- ✓ Committed to the farmers and communities

### This coffee is available at the

Njù Store in the Da Ky Cultural Center. You can reach us at:  
 867-634-3300  
[njustore@cafn.ca](mailto:njustore@cafn.ca)  
<https://njustore.ca> - under the Da Ky Brand tab



2019/20 Post-Secondary academic scholarship recipient list as per bursary/scholarship/award:

### Overall Academic Achievement Award

- ◆ Highest overall GPA - Bachelor/Master/ Doctorate Program..... **Yataya Van Kampen** \* Sociology
- ◆ Highest overall GPA - Diploma/Univ Transfer/ Assoc. Degree Program **Zabrina Leslie** \* Renewable Resource Mgmt
- ◆ Highest overall GPA - Language Immersion..... **Liza Jacobs**

### CAFN Priority Fields of Study Scholarship

- ◆ Economic Development & Tourism **Dustin McKenzie-Hubbard** \* Appliance Service Technician
- ◆ Health & Social ..... **Alaura Bouvier** \* Nursing

### CAFN Trust Bursary

- ◆ Finance, Commerce, Public Administration (Business related field) ..... **Justice Billy** \* Business Administration

### DCI Bursary

- ◆ **Courtney Wilbur** \*Juris Doctorate - Common Law degree program
- ◆ **Mariah MacDonald** \*YNTEP
- ◆ **Heather Jim** \*Adult Language Immersion Program
- ◆ **Sarina Primoic** \* Adult Language Immersion Program

*Congratulations from all of us at CAFN!*



## What's happening at Shawkwunlee Daycare:

At Shawkwunlee Fridays are fun and we focus on outdoor education. The children also participate in a lot of outdoor programming throughout the week. We have been exploring our neighborhood while learning about respecting our environment and the animals around us. The Toddlers and Preschoolers are learning colors and the names of northern animals in Southern Tutchone. Our staff is looking forward to taking language lessons with Luke Campbell this year so we are better able to teach our children.

Units of study this fall and winter have been an introduction to loose parts, Yukon wildlife, outer space, planets and more recently we are learning about East Indian culture.

Along with our units of study we are learning to practice COVID-19 safety:

- washing our hands while we count to twenty when children first arrive and throughout the day;
- staying in our groups, physical distancing (between teachers and more spread out/ smaller group activities for the children);
- taking our temperature each day upon arrival;
- staying home when sick;
- adults and children over the age of 5 wear masks in all common areas.

*continued on page 27*

## **KWANLIN AND OUT OF TERRITORY HONOR ROLL STUDENTS:**

### **GRADE 8**

Kiersten O'Brien-Jackson  
Kieris Baker-Patterson

### **GRADE 9**

Zoralena Martin  
Gabriel Thirkettle  
Phoenix Widney

### **GRADE 10**

Terence Jager  
Kyle Maloney  
Trina Pauls  
Cameron Sidney

### **GRADE 11**

Zander Leslie  
Zerryn Martin  
Cassidy Sturko  
Kyler Thirkettle

### **GRADE 12**

Sean Barnaby  
Frankie Chartrand  
Anya Jim  
Erin Jim  
Graham MacDonald

## **DAKWÄKÄDA HONOR ROLL STUDENTS:**

### **GRADE 8**

Keona Sheardown  
Marley Kinney  
Drake Workamn-Etzel

### **GRADE 9**

Justin Johnson  
Cameryn Hume  
Lahela Reid

### **GRADE 10**

Jackson Sheardown  
Denise Griffith  
Austin Kirk  
Lauren McKinnon

### **GRADE 11**

William Garham-Hume  
Brodie Graham-Hume  
Dalton Moore  
Jonas Schaerig  
Ecko Kirk

### **GRADE 12**

Cara MacCuaig  
Amber Kirk  
Douglas McKinnon

We have also been fortunate to have a full time COVID-19 cleaner at the daycare. She ensures additional cleaning is done on a daily basis so everyone can remain healthy.

### **St. Elias Community School & Takhini River Students Food Program Updates**

We are very happy to share with you that the school food programs in both Haines Junction and Takhini are moving forward exceptionally well and with great success!

We began the program at the St. Elias Community School in September.

*continued on page 28*

## **Deadline for 2020/21 Post-Secondary Scholarships is October 31, 2021**

Please submit to:

Florence Kushniruk,  
Post-Secondary  
Program Officer,  
***Dän kets'edän yū (They are Learning) Education***  
Champagne Aishihik  
First Nation Government  
Box 5310  
Haines Junction, YT Y0B 1L0  
Phone: (867)634-4200 ext. 254  
Cell: (867)332-4993  
Fax: (867)634-2108  
[www.cafn.ca](http://www.cafn.ca)

We are serving a mix of nutritious, hot breakfasts and lunches to over 100 students daily. In Takhini, we have begun serving an average of 28 bagged lunches per day.

Students, families and staff have all shared their happiness with the nutrition that the lunches are providing. They are not only contributing to good health, but nutritional education along with an augmented mental focus and clarity while in class.

We look forward to continuing to serve our community throughout the rest of the year and helping to support healthy growth and development of our students.

During the fall of 2020, Citizens were invited to tour Yukon University. The interest and participation was high and we are planning to do it again in 2021.

Post-secondary Education Orientation nights were held in Dakwākāda and Kwanlin for our grade 12 students and their families. A package breaking down each step on how to apply and what to expect was distributed to students.

The Kwanlin Education team launched Dän n̄tashānadā | (People always gathering together), a new space for parents and guardians to acknowledge and support their key role in ensuring educational success for CAFN children. Chris Gleason and Shayla Battaja-Green, Education Advocates of the new Yukon First Nation Education Directorate,

*continued on page 29*



*Daycare students having fun sliding down the hill.*



presented the new Directorate and explained how they will serve Citizens. Brittney Johnson, Traditional Parenting coordinator at Skookum Jim Friendship Centre was invited to share resources, tips and support.

To celebrate the start of the 2020-2021 school year during these unprecedented times and to give strength and confidence to our students, a drumming circle was held at Porter Creek Secondary School. We were honored to have Adanchilla (Trina Pauls), Kothetty (Erin Pauls) and Shaakoon (Blake Lepine) drum and sing for us during our Meet & Greet. The event was held outside of the school while a delicious beef stew kept us warm!

The culture club was launched at Porter Creek Secondary with

the goal to promote First Nations culture. There will be students-led workshops, Elders and family members volunteering to cook meals and facilitation of traditional skills and talent. The club is also intended to be a safe cultural space in the school for students and families. We are offering free soup and sandwiches put together by the food class. The first workshop was led by Adanchilla with the support of her mother Kothetty. We made four drums and sticks. The drums are beautiful. Gunalchéesh for sharing your knowledge with us! The next step will be a ceremony to bring the drums to life and introducing stick gambling games in school.

Elder Judy Gage, assisted by KDFN grade 12 students, shared their beadwork teachings for the grade 8 and 9 students of Shanlaya (Colleen

Joe-Titus)'s Athapaskan class. The students appreciated this lesson and took on new beading projects of their own for the remainder of the second semester. Elder Judy Gage and her assistant also shared their beadwork with the grade 8 and 9 students of Ms. Morrisson-Russas French class. Shāw nítān to Elder Judy Gage, her assistant and the teachers.

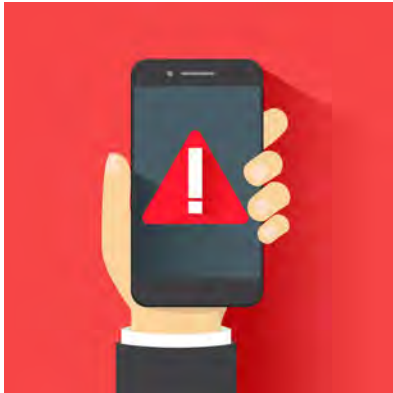
#### **Immersion Program Update:**

- Currently 8 Dän Nàkwàkhèl - Trail Blazers enrolled in program;
- Classes at Da Kų with COVID-19 restrictions in place;
- Students have completed level 2 of Lateral Kindness at the end of October;
- Students finished INLP 300, a high level linguistics course with a S.T. focus;
- Students have nearly completed their 40 hours of Immersion with elders Chughāla and Khut'āla to complete INLP 434 MAP (Mentor Apprentice Program);
- Students are eager to graduate with either a Certificate or Diploma in Indigenous Language Proficiency from the Simon Fraser University.



*Shāw nítān to Elder Judy Gage and her assistant teachers for leading the beadwork classes.*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## ROBOCALL SYSTEM

CAFN invites all Citizens to sign up for our new automated phone and text messaging system. This tool delivers important information to Citizens from the government quickly. To sign up and receive Robocall messages, please visit: [cafn.ca/new-robocall-system](https://cafn.ca/new-robocall-system). There is an "unsubscribe" option to be removed from the alerts at any time after receiving messages.



From the Wabisca, Telep, Knight and Bratt families.

**Congratulations** to CAFN citizen Hailey Loblaw and her teammates for winning GOLD at the 2020 Grade 7 Women's Volleyball Championships!

Your mom is very proud of you!



Happy 21st Anniversary to **Sharmane and John Jones** for January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021!

# 2020 STAFF AWARDS

## CHIEF AND COUNCIL VISION AWARD

Eva Henbrey  
Debbie Williams

## OUTSTANDING SERVICE PROVIDER

This award is given to the staff person who demonstrates a high level of dedication in providing citizen-based customer service. The Outstanding Service Provider routinely assists citizens in their daily work for CAFN.

<b>RECIPIENT(S):</b>	Gayle Corry
Jacquie Chambers	John Fingland
Monique Martin	Levi Graham
Marsha Sparvier	Ruth Haynes
Jim Workman	Florence Kushniruk
Eva Henbrey	Lisa Rawlings-Bird
Debbie Williams	Terry Rufiange-Holway
<b>HONORABLE MENTIONS:</b>	Janet Van Bibber
Sheena Bilton	Vera Williams

## CULTURAL ROLE MODEL:

The Cultural Role Model routinely incorporates traditional values and practices in their work, even if it is not part of their job description, and is highly motivated in their efforts to keep traditions and culture alive.

<b>RECIPIENT(S):</b>	Dorothy John
Audrey Brown	Khasha
<b>HONORABLE MENTIONS:</b>	Erin Pauls
Darlene Blair	Marion Primozic

## THE LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Leadership Award is for a staff person who is a role model in all areas of their work. This person does not have to be a manager or supervisor, but must be a good example to their co-workers. A leader brings vision, teamwork, dedication, integrity and respect into the CAFN workplace and inspires others to do the same.

<b>RECIPIENT(S):</b>	Annette Eikland
Jennifer Lee	Dave Fairbank
<b>HONORABLE MENTIONS:</b>	John Fingland
Barb Allen	Joe MacGillivray
Denise Beattie	Erin Pauls
Anya Braeuner	Angie Wabisca

## SAFETY EXCELLENCE AWARD:

The Safety Excellence Award is for a staff person who is a role model in all areas of safe work practices. This person does not have to be a Manager or Supervisor, but must be a good example to their co-workers in safe work practices. Demonstrated commitment to health and safety in the workplace. Works towards continuous improvement of health and safety in the workplace. For example, activities/actions taken to prevent injuries or illnesses, prevention of unsafe conditions or practices.

<b>RECIPIENT(S):</b>	Charlene Hume
Deanna-Lee Mazur	Kaaxnox, Dän Nätthe Ada (Chief Smith)
<b>HONORABLE MENTIONS:</b>	Lisa Rawlings-Bird
Danielle Evans	

---

*continued on page 32*

## 2020 LONG SERVICE AWARDS:

### 1 YEAR OF SERVICE:

Chris Allen  
Brenda Asp  
Toni Baer  
Sheena Bilton  
Anya Braeuner  
Audrey Brown  
Gayle Corry  
John Fingland  
Ken Graham  
Jeff Hunter  
Shelby Jackson  
Juanita Joe  
Marlaine Joe  
Kathleen Jones  
Jennifer Lee  
Joe MacGillivray  
Megan MacKellar  
Monique Martin  
Erin Pauls  
Janet Van Bibber  
Sandy Wabisca

### 5 YEARS OF SERVICE:

Frances Asp  
Brenda Jackson  
Lisa Rawlings-Bird  
Terry Rufiange-Holway

### 10 YEARS OF SERVICE:

Amy McKinnon  
Marsha Sparvier

### 15 YEARS OF SERVICE:

Marlon Allen  
Roger Brown  
Jocelyn Kinney

### 20 YEARS OF SERVICE:

Patricia George  
Millie Joe

## SAFE 6 AWARDS

The Safe 6 Champion Award nominates a staff person who models respect, integrity, accountability and excellence when it comes to their safety and the safety of others during the COVID-19 Global Pandemic.

### DECEMBER NOMINATIONS

Charlene Hume  
Brenda Jackson  
Michael Jim  
Jennifer Lee  
Jenna Henderson  
Joe MacGillivray  
Amy McKinnon  
Dwayne Smith  
Chief Smith  
Robert Van Lieshout  
Sandy Wabisca



*Jacquie Chambers with her award.*

### JANUARY NOMINATIONS

Sheila John  
Janet Van Bibber

### MARCH NOMINATIONS:

Gary Darbyshire  
Harold Johnson  
Brittany Johnson  
Venessa Lutz  
Skye Jackson  
Karri Brown  
Jordan Cote  
Trevor Jones  
Holly Underschultz  
Shelby Jackson  
Glen Carpenter  
Chief and Council

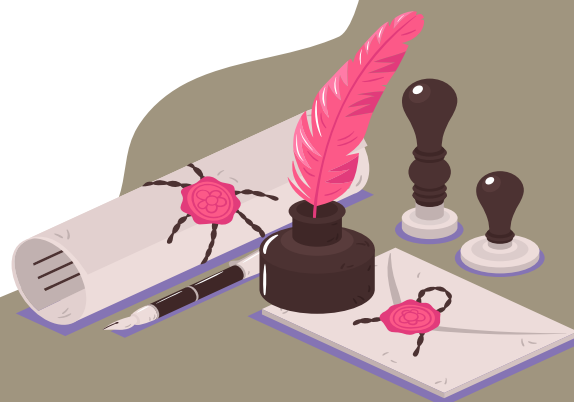
# CITIZEN WILLS AND ESTATES

CAFN continues to provide assistance with Citizens' wills and estate planning.

**Book your appointments soon!**

Please contact:

**Austring Fairman and Fekete at  
(867) 668-4405 or  
Toll free 1-800 -661- 0533**



Laz Van Bibber learning the lessons of trapping on Champagne River with Mike Telep, Jan. 23, 2021.

# BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



## *Birthday Greetings!*

A Happy Belated 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday to my Grandbaby **Aubrey Hazel Tora Vera Williams** for Dec. 19/20

Happy Birthday to Grandson's **Alexander and Nicholas Williams** for January 15<sup>th</sup>, Daughter **Doreen Williams** and Niece **Charlene Hume** for January 20<sup>th</sup>,

Grandson **Brandon Williams** for February 12<sup>th</sup>, Granddaughter **Casey Williams** for February 19<sup>th</sup> and Grandson **Lennox Williams** on March 10<sup>th</sup> - *Love Grandma Vera and Grandpa John*

A big happy 19th birthday to my very special niece, **Amber Kirk** for Jan 30th! To my beautiful niece: you've always danced to the rhythm of your heart and that's

what I love about you! Never stop, chase your wild dreams. Adventure in the unknown and love the heck out of life today and always. *Love your aunty Sharol, uncle Ervin and your little brother KJ.*

Wishing a Very Happy Birthday to: **Nick Williams** and **Alex Williams** for Jan. 15/21

**Doreen Williams** for Jan.20/21  
**Brandon Williams** for Feb.12/21  
**Vera Williams** for Feb.20/21  
*From Debbie Williams*

Sending birthday wishes to:  
Junior Moose --- Feb 18th  
Sharmane Jones --- Feb 19th  
Sheila Kushniruk --- Mar 24<sup>th</sup>  
Love Trevor, Jennika and Flo





## *Happy Birthday to:*

Alan MacDonald (Chop Chop) – October 2

Bonnie Chambers – October 19

Thierry Oles – October 19

Mayzie Campbell – October 22

Cameron Sidney – October 29

Mia Dupont – October 29

Maddison Dupont – November 6<sup>th</sup>

Angie Wabisca – November 14

Elaine Chambers - November 18

Bev Chambers – November 20

Odessa Epp - November 22

Marion Telep – December 4

Grace Southwick - December 5

Candace Walker - December 5

Glenna Southwick - December 11

Nicki Telep - December 13

Wyatt Drift – December 17

Roy Wabisca Sr. – December 21 "92"

Joe Knight - December 22

Mike Telep – December 25

Lena Smith-Tutin - December 30

Fran Oles - December 31

Fred Chambers – January 5

Kristen Wealick (Cook) – January 18

Adriana Sidney – January 18

Nathan Garvice – January 18

Jennifer Chambers – February 3

Kimiko Clark – February 21

Kathleen Van Bibber – February 21

Sandy Wabisca – February 23

---

**Please send your special greetings to:**

**Jenna Henderson**  
**[jhenderson@cafn.ca](mailto:jhenderson@cafn.ca)**  
**(867) 334-6264**  
**CAFN Haines Junction**

**Return Address:**  
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations  
PO Box 5310  
Haines Junction, YT  
Y0B 1L0



Destination Address:

## CAFN CALENDAR

**APRIL 5:** EASTER MONDAY (OFFICES CLOSED)

**APRIL 7:** SACRED FIRES WITH RANDALL TETLICH

**APRIL 22:** CHIEF AND COUNCIL MEETING

**MAY 4:** GA DELEGATE SELECTION  
DA KŪ & ONLINE @ 6:00 PM  
HAINES JUNCTION/KLOO LAKE

**MAY 6:** GA DELEGATE SELECTION  
TAKHINI HALL & ONLINE @ 6:00 PM  
TAKHINI/KUSAWA

**MAY 7:** ELDER'S SENATE ONLINE MEETING

**MAY 8:** GA DELEGATE SELECTION  
CHAMPAGNE HALL & ONLINE @ 11:00 AM  
CHAMPAGNE/HUTCHI

**MAY 11:** GA DELEGATE SELECTION  
DA KŪ & ONLINE @ 6:00 PM  
AISHIHIK/CANYON

**MAY 13:** GA DELEGATE SELECTION  
YUKON INN & ONLINE @ 5:30 PM  
WHITEHORSE

YUKON INN/DA KŪ & ONLINE @ 7:00 PM  
KLUKSHU/SHAWSHE

**MAY 20:** CHIEF AND COUNCIL MEETING

For more event dates and details, please visit  
[CAFN.ca/events](http://CAFN.ca/events) or "Like" Champagne and Aishihik First Nations on Facebook.

## Dàkwāní

### Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

[cafn.ca](http://cafn.ca)

PO Box 5310  
Haines Junction, YT Y0B 1L0  
(867) 634-4200

304 Jarvis Street  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2H2  
(867) 456-6888

**Stories, photos, greetings and artwork are welcome.**

Please send your submissions to: [almckinnon@cafn.ca](mailto:almckinnon@cafn.ca)

All material within is the property of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and may not be reproduced without the expressed written consent of the above party.

**Dàkwāní is available in full colour at [CAFN.ca/news](http://CAFN.ca/news)**



Find us on Facebook at  
**Champagne and Aishihik  
First Nations**



Follow us on Twitter at  
**Champagne Aishihik  
@ShadhalaAsheyi**



This newsletter is printed  
on recycled paper.