

Dä Kų

Cultural Centre



CAFN Heritage

A frontlet carved by William Kane is part of the CAFN Heritage collection that will be housed in the Cultural Centre

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations



The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) Cultural Centre now has a name: Dä Kų.

Dä Kų means "Our House" in Southern Tutchone. The name was officially selected in April 2010 by CAFN Chief and Council.

Dä Kų is also the name used for CAFN's interim heritage display area, situated in CAFN's old administrative building in Haines Junction. The name will move with Heritage Programs into the new Cultural Centre, when CAFN moves into the new facility.

Construction of Dä Kų is moving ahead. With the water and sewer lines and foundation pad prepared last fall, we will have an early start. This spring and summer there will be lots of exciting progress including:

- The architectural design will be finalized,
- The tender for the main construction contract will be released for bids,
- The building contractor will be selected, and
- Construction will begin in late June.

It is projected that CAFN will move into our completed Cultural Centre in September of 2011, and our tenants (Parks Canada and Yukon Government) will move in during the spring of 2012.

Vision: Our Cultural Centre is a gathering place that recognizes and celebrates the cultural contributions and way of life of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations peoples - the places we come from, the traditions and languages we carry, and the arts we practice and perform. It is an environment creating lasting memories, where young people will learn the wisdom of our Elders, know our stories and legends, and assume responsibility to carry our values.

The Cultural Centre Team



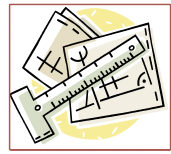
Lawrence Joe, Director

As the Director of CAFN Heritage, Lands and Resources, Lawrence leads the CAFN Cultural Centre team.



Rolland Gerard, Project Consultant

Rolland is a certified engineer technologist and is a technical advisor for CAFN on the construction.



Charles McLaren, Architect

"Charlie" prepared the initial design concept for the Cultural Centre and continues to update the design as space requirements grow and change.



Kevin Sumner, Construction Project Manager

Kevin contributes on behalf of the Yukon Government. He coordinates tender documents, information flow between parties and consultants, and is the lead for construction.



Terry Rufiange-Holway, Construction Support

Terry provides input for design changes and assists with local hire and contractors for earth-works.



Frances Oles & Sheila Quock, Exhibit Planning

Frances and Sheila are working to develop design ideas and content for the exhibits to be featured at Dä Kų.



Alexia McKinnon, Heritage Projects

Alexia coordinated the project and secured funding and partnerships. She continues to seek new funding for exhibits, collections, archives and programming.



Richard Smith, Collections

Richard Smith oversees CAFN's collections and ensures appropriate collections and archives storage.



Paula Banks, Heritage Planner

Paula provides support for the project related to heritage programs.



Natalie Oles, Retail Store

Natalie focuses on establishing the retail gift shop in Dä Kų, which will highlight arts and crafts by CAFN people, and assists with securing financing and identifying work opportunities for CAFN businesses.



Shadelle Chambers, Financial Administration

Shadelle administers contracts, tenders and finances for the project.



Ian Robinson, Lease Negotiations

Ian works with our partners to ensure satisfactory sharing of the Cultural Centre space.



Murray Arsenault, Financial Advisor

Murray brings experience on lease negotiations, partnerships, and business opportunities.

Gwānaschis to:

The Building Advisory Committee

The Building Advisory Committee provided direct input into the design of the Cultural Centre building. Thank you for the hard work and dedication of: Chuck Hume, Mary Jane Jim, Frances Oles, Millie Joe, Natalie Oles, Terry Rufiange-Holway, CAFN Heritage staff, technical staff from Yukon Government and Parks Canada, and all who contributed to the design.

The Steering Committee

The original Cultural Centre Steering Committee, formed in 2002, guided development of the Cultural Centre project as it first got off the ground. Gwānaschis to original Committee members and support staff: Fran Wellar, Ed Stick, Sharon Shadow, Chuck Hume, Ron Chambers, Donna Darbyshire, Shadelle Chambers, Frances Oles, Sarah Gaunt, Sheila Greer and Diane Strand.

Exhibits & Programs

Mission: Our Cultural Centre will celebrate and honour the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations people - past, present and future - by revitalizing our Southern Tutchone and Tlingit cultures and languages through a living, interactive environment that inspires teaching, learning and performance of traditional arts, practices and knowledge. It will promote communications and understanding of our deep connection to and respect for the Land, and the special places that have shaped our families and clans and the stories and legends that we each carry.

Exhibit Design

Our exhibit design team continues to plan for exhibits and displays in the Cultural Centre.

CAFN is currently requesting proposals from professional design teams to develop the exhibit and display designs and content. Community consultation on exhibits will continue once a design team is hired. Thank you to all the community members who provided input during community consultation on exhibits in the fall of 2009.

Work is also planned on artifacts and repatriation. CAFN will identify artifacts that should be included in our collections and find ways to purchase or repatriate them.

Repatriate means to get back artifacts that have travelled away from our lands and people.

A Living Museum

Activities and programs for CAFN citizens will also be a major emphasis when Dä Kų opens its doors. It is a place for keeping our traditions alive.

The Cultural Centre will have spaces for:

- a language classroom
- a language lab and resource centre
- an outdoor workshop/craft area
- a community gathering hall
- spaces for artists and crafts people to work

Cultural Centre Timeline



1991

Elijah Smith

"We should have a museum of our own."



2004

Feasibility Study Completed



2007

General Assembly Resolution

supports cultural centre



2009

Danā

Funding totalling \$12 million secured



2009-2011

Dä Kų Construction



2011

Dä Kų Opens

Site Blessing

A Site Blessing Ceremony is being held May 5, 2010 to to bless the building site and to ensure construction goes ahead in a safe and respectful manner. The ceremony is being led by Wolf and Crow elders.



The CAFN Cultural Centre site with the building pad in the foreground. The Centre will offer a spectacular view of the St. Elias Mountains.

Work Opportunities

Opportunities will be provided to CAFN citizens and businesses to work on the construction of the Cultural Centre. CAFN is compiling a list of CAFN citizens and businesses available to work on the project. This "source list" will be provided to construction companies contracted to work on the building and site. Skookum Asphalt Ltd. was contracted to carry out the site preparation beginning in 2009 and hired CAFN workers. New opportunities will arise when the contract for construction of the building is awarded.

If you are a CAFN citizen or family member interested in working on the cultural centre project and would like to be included on the list of available companies and workers, please contact:

Companies/Businesses

Natalie Oles
Business Development Officer
(867) 456-6882
noles@cafn.ca

Individual Employment

Mary Anne Carroll
Employment & Training Officer
(867) 634-4230
mcarroll@cafn.ca

Other work opportunities will be posted when staffing for the building begins. Please watch for more details!

Partnerships

The main purpose of the Cultural Centre is as a resource for CAFN people, however, it will also provide space for visitor information. Agreements are in place with Parks Canada and the Yukon Government to lease space for their interpretive services. The space will be shared as follows:

- CAFN - 65% (17,621 ft²)
- Parks Canada - 22%, (6,120 ft²)
- Yukon - 13% (3,500 ft²)

CAFN will be the landlord and own the finished building.

Canada and the Yukon are CAFN's partners in funding the construction of the building.

- CAFN \$4 million
- Canada \$4 million
- Yukon \$4 million

Funding arrangements are through the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF), with one third of the costs coming from each of the three partners. MRIF is a federal program that supports new infrastructure in First Nations and smaller Canadian communities. Each partner typically contributes one third of the costs.

Both Parks and Yukon will have prepaid leases to help provide for capital and building operations and maintenance.

For more information

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Heritage Resources

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