

# Dàkwäni

What people are saying

ÄDĪNLÄT - SPRING 2016



## DÀDÄN NÄN KAY KÄNÄDÄN Spring camp at Klukshu

*Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) youth ice fishing during the spring camp at Klukshu this March.*

**M**ore than 70 people participated each day during the *Dàdän Nän Kay Känädän* (Our People Learning on the Land) spring break camp at Klukshu this March 12-17.

The 2016 camp had some familiar activities as well as new learning opportunities for a range of

different ages, including: snow machine safety, gun safety, avalanche safety and a bison hunt for older youth, muskrat trapping, rabbit snaring, setting fish net at Dezadeash Lake, daily language games and lessons, making canvas tops, building traditional structures, yoga, traditional medicines

*Continued on page 2*



*The youth built a mun kų with instruction from Elder Chuck Hume.*

*Continued from page 1*

and much more. One highlight for the participants was the Winter Survival Activity - they were split into teams and given a shovel, axe and box of matches, they picked a location and built their own brush shelters, no adult assistance. The kids did a fantastic job and enjoyed the opportunity to put what they have learned about building traditional structures into action!

*Drilling holes for ice fishing at Dezadeash Lake.*



The camp wrapped up with a delicious community feast. On the last night, we had five kids and a chaperone who decided to sleep in the brush shelter that they helped construct with Elder Chuck Hume. It was an excellent experience for them and they were pretty proud of themselves!

*Shāw nithān* to our CAFN youth and families who participated during the camp. And *kwānashis* - thank you - to the Elders, workers and staff who contributed to making the camp an amazing cultural learning opportunity for everyone involved.

*Muskrat trapping success: learning how to skin muskrat with Lorraine Allen.*



# DÄN NÄTTHE ÄDA DÄKWÄL

## (MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF)



*Dànách'é.*

*Ädīnlät kwätè – it is spring time. Winter has passed quickly and mildly in our Traditional Territory and has been a productive time for our government.*

*Looking back to the 2015-16 winter holiday season, it was rewarding to see a very positive Christmas in our community - our people took care of one another.*

*During the 2015 Boxing Day Dinner, Council was pleased to acknowledge several of our Elders and entrepreneurs with awards. Kwānaschis and shāw nithän to Elders Paddy Jim, Fred Brown and Margaret Workman, and entrepreneurs James Allen, Edward Long Jr. and Lorraine Stick.*

*Discussion to help shape the way CAFN delivers citizen services took place in our communities in January and continued this spring. Council continues this important work with the CAFN citizen services team.*

*Council passed updated Terms of Reference for the CAFN Housing Committee and will appoint people to an internal Housing Standing Committee soon. The Housing Standing Committee is tasked with improving CAFN policy and procedures for housing, similar to the work of the Finance Standing Committee.*

*Our Council acknowledges all the individuals who have acted to correct rental arrears with CAFN. Repayment of rental arrears is a very important step to help improve housing programs for our Citizens.*

*Village of Haines Junction Mayor and Council and the CAFN Chief and Council met for dinner on February 18.*



*Yukon First Nation leaders, Premier Pasloski, Grand Chief Massie, and Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada Carolyn Bennett signed an MOU to repeal four amendments to YESAA through Bill S-6 this April 8.*

*Council is pleased to have completed a new process for screening applicants to the CA Trust, which manages the investment of all our compensation dollars. The new process was implemented this winter and finished with appointment of three Trustees: Nathan McCowan, Clint McCuaig and Cody Hougen. The new process enabled the CAFN Council to more thoroughly check each applicants' relevant history, training and experience before making appointments.*

*In our continued work on better government, CAFN is developing a new budget process. CAFN has grown dramatically, but we have not revamped our budgeting process for about 14 years. We recently hired a part-time Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Rob Fendrick, to assist with our financial strategies. A fundamental role of the CFO is to help CAFN manage our dollars to maximize the benefits through programs for our people.*

*This February, our Council was pleased to host a dinner with the Village of Haines Junction Mayor and Council. It was an excellent opportunity for our CAFN Council to meet and get to know the recently-elected Haines Junction officials. We look forward to our continued work together.*

*This February we also hosted Government of Yukon ministers Currie Dixon, Mike Nixon and Wade Istchenko and MLA Patti McLeod in Haines Junction during the Yukon community budget tour. Deputy Chief Shadelle Chambers and I met with them and discussed CAFN priorities for the coming year.*

*In early March I traveled with the Dakwākāda Dancers to Fairbanks, Alaska where we proudly represented our people and culture at the 43rd Festival of Native Arts.*

*CAFN hosted a March spring break camp at Klukshu for youth and families. Highlights included a snowmachine course, traditional medicine making, and a bison hunting trip by some of the older youth.*

*Continued on page 4*



Chief Smith accepts the Harry Allen award on behalf of the CA Storm at the 2016 Yukon Native Hockey Tournament.

Continued from page 3

This April 1-3, we rooted for five CAFN teams during the 39th annual Yukon Native Hockey Tournament. For the first time, a CAFN team (the CA Storm, A division) was honoured with the Harry Allen (Samay Thia) Memorial Leadership Award. Congratulations to CAFN youth Nevada Joe for his MVP and Best Goalie awards. Shāw nith-an to all our CAFN hockey players, coaches and volunteers.

On April 8, the government of Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations to repeal the four problematic amendments to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA) brought about by the passage of Bill S-6 in 2015. Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett was in Whitehorse for the Intergovernmental Forum, where the MOU was signed. She stated that the MOU demonstrates, "the importance of moving forward with all of our partners in a renewed spirit of respect and cooperation...". This is a very positive step in renewing our relationship with the government of Canada and upholding our Final Agreements, but there is a lot of work left to be done.

On April 16, I attended a nàkwat'ày (potlatch) hosted by the Crow people at Champagne. The potlatch focused on our language and thanked Wolf people who have helped Khāsha (Stephen Reid) as a Southern Tutchone student. Khāsha has demonstrated great leadership in preparing for this potlatch and by pursuing his Master's degree and as a Southern Tutchone language instructor.

Council is also busy planning for an exciting summer.

The 2016 General Assembly is set for July 22-24 at the Aishihik Lake Campground, 27-Mile Aishihik Road. This location was chosen because this year is the start of the relicensing process for Yukon Energy's hydro-electric dam at Aishihik. CAFN is making sure we are fully involved throughout the relicensing process. Please see more details on Aishihik relicensing and how you can be involved on page 7 of this newsletter. Council and I look forward to seeing you this summer.

Sincerely,  
Kaaxnox, Dän nätthe ada - Chief Steve Smith

## DÄN NÄTTHE DÄTTH'I DEK'I (CHIEF AND COUNCIL UPDATE)

### Chief and Council Decisions

Chief and Council made the following decisions during their December 11, 2015, and January 8 and 22, and February 19, 2016 regular meetings.

### Supplemental Budget

Chief and Council approved the 2015-2016 Supplemental Budget, which included a 1.3% Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) increase to CAFN Staff and Chief and Council, as per policy, retroactively calculated to April 1, 2015.

### Boards and Committees

Chief and Council appointed Nathan McCowan, Clint McCuaig and Cody Hougen to the Champagne Aishihik Trust for a term of three years ending December 31, 2018.

The Council agreed to nominate Barb Hume to the Yukon Regional Education, Employment and Early Child Development Survey Analysis and Dissemination Committee.

Chief and Council agreed to nominate Charles Hume as a regular member and James Allen as an alternate on the Alsek Renewable Resource Committee for a three year term for April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2019.

Council appointed Lorraine Allen, Lena Smith-Tutin and James Allen to the CAFN Language, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee for three years from February 1, 2016 to January 31, 2019, as recommended by the Elders Executive.

### CAFN Language, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee

CAFN Chief and Council approved amendment of the Terms of Reference for the CAFN Language, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee to correct typos and updated wording to state, "Any vacant positions will be filled on a casual basis until the term of the appointment is expired" and "CAFN will strive to include linguistic representation from the different dialects within the CAFN Traditional Territory." Appointments were increased to three years.

### Land Applications

Chief and Council approved the following land applications:

- 2015-008 by Heather Hougen for a Cabin Lot on R-67A in Champagne, with conditions to limit the allocation to 0.5 hectares, as per CAFN Lands Policy, a heritage site inspection, a harvest consent letter, and adherence to setback of 100 feet.
- 2015-009 by Sophie Braker for a 0.5 hectare Cabin Lot on R-34A near Aishihik Village, with conditions for a heritage site inspection and harvest consent letter.
- 2015-012 by Marie McLaren for a 0.5 hectare Cabin Lot on R-67A in Champagne, with conditions for a heritage site inspection, harvest consent letter, and no interference with other access.
- 2015-013 by Collin E. Long for a 1 hectare Residential Lot on R-25B near Pine Lake, with conditions for a heritage site inspection, harvest consent letter, and confirmation of lot layout by Lands Management Officer.
- 2015-014 by Collin J. Long for a 1 hectare Residential Lot on R-25B near Pine Lake, with conditions for a heritage site inspection, harvest consent letter, and confirmation of lot layout by Lands Management Officer.
- 2014-009 by Denise Trotter for a 0.5 hectare Cabin Lot on S-433B1 on Lower Kathleen Lake, with condition that she rescind her application on S-225B1 on Lower Kathleen Lake.
- 2015-004 by Clayton Zacharias for a 0.5 hectare Cabin Lot on S-225B1 on Lower Kathleen Lake, with condition that he rescind his application on S-433B1 on Lower Kathleen Lake.
- Garrett Zacharias for a 0.5 hectare Cabin Lot on S-225B1 on Lower Kathleen Lake, with condition that he rescind his application on S-433B1 on Lower Kathleen Lake.
- 2015-006 by Joanne MacDonald for a 0.5 hectare Traditional Use Allocation on S-225B1 on Lower Kathleen Lake

### **2016 General Assembly**

Chief and Council approved July 22-24, 2016 as the dates for the General Assembly and selected the location as 27-Mile Aishihik Road.

### **Strategic Metals Exploration Benefits Agreement**

CAFN Chief and Council assigned lead negotiation responsibilities to Geordan Clark of the Champagne Aishihik Community Corporation, with support from CAFN team members Dave Joe, Venesa Lutz and Kim

Hudson, to negotiate and finalize a draft Exploration Benefits Agreement for CAFN Chief and Council review. Council directed Executive Director Ranj Pillai to continue his involvement with this file until the negotiating team has initiated the negotiation process.

### **Aishihik License Renewal Protocol Agreement**

Chief and Council authorized Chief Steve Smith to sign the Aishihik Hydroelectric Power Generation License Renewal Co-Management Protocol Agreement.

### **Interim Enrollment Policy**

Chief and Council adopted an interim policy to consider all new Enrollment Applications on the basis of CAFN ancestry, as established by use of Chapter 3 rules under the CAFN Final Agreement, and put all enrollment applications where CAFN ancestry is not established on hold until an Enrollment Act is passed.

### **Housing Standing Committee**

Council approves Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee on Housing.

### **Crow Potlatch**

Chief and Council, in support for the cultural aspects of our Nation, supported waiving the fee for the Champagne Hall and donation of \$800.00 for the Crow people to host a Crow Potlatch.

**For more information:** *Full copies of the minutes of regular Chief and Council meetings are available with reception at the CAFN Haines Junction and Whitehorse offices, and upon request to Doreen Williams, Executive Assistant to Council, at [drwilliams@cafn.ca](mailto:drwilliams@cafn.ca) or (867) 634-4242.*

## **Chief and Council Meetings**

The CAFN Chief and Council holds regular meetings monthly in Haines Junction (unless noted otherwise). All regular Chief and Council meetings are open to CAFN Citizens. Community concerns are scheduled at 3:30 p.m. Please contact Doreen Williams if you wish to request time on the Chief and Council agenda at [drwilliams@cafn.ca](mailto:drwilliams@cafn.ca) or (867) 634-4242.

### **2016 Regular Chief and Council Meetings:**

May 27 in Whitehorse  
 June 24  
 July 15  
 July 29

# CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLAN



Homes and Community Buildings



Roads, Culverts and Bridges



Drinking Water Source and Systems



Wastewater Systems

## COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

### CCAP-CI & Community Land Use Plan Project Updates:

By John Fingland, Climate Change Community Engagement Coordinator

The Department of Lands and Resources has been busy these past months hosting community meetings and collecting feedback on looking ahead to prepare for climate change in our communities. Turn-out for these community meetings has been growing, which shows our citizens are concerned about this subject that affects us all. We also held a workshop for the Dakwākāda (Haines Junction) Community Land Use Plan on February 22 at Da Kū. This workshop was very helpful in directing CAFN on your vision for your community and where future development for housing, recreational, agricultural, commercial and other community uses should go.

In March we visited some homes for one-on-one interviews, as well as some “kitchen table” focus groups to get more feedback and information from citizens. We will also meet with the Takhini Land Planning Working Group and have more community meetings on the Takhini Community Land Use Plan and Takhini Settlement Land Plan. CAFN members will also be able to complete surveys online and at either CAFN office to help us out with your views on these projects. Look for our **Champagne Aishihik Climate Change** Facebook page and **CAFN.ca** for more info!

For more information contact John Fingland at [jfingland@cafn.ca](mailto:jfingland@cafn.ca) or Analie Lafreniere-Lemieux at [alafreniere-lemieux@cafn.ca](mailto:alafreniere-lemieux@cafn.ca).





*Aishihik village.*

## AISHIHIK RELICENSING PROCESS

### **CAFN and Yukon Energy Sign a Protocol Agreement for the relicensing of the Aishihik Hydro Generating Station**

CAFN Government recently negotiated an Agreement with Yukon Energy (YEC) for the relicensing process for the Aishihik Hydroelectric Generating Station. The current water license and authorization are set to expire in December 2019.

This agreement sets out a new relationship based on the need to reconcile historic challenges and move forward on joint decision making and co-management, rather than relying on Yukon Energy to prepare its application on their own and consulting CAFN later.

The Protocol establishes a Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of this agreement. It is co-chaired by Lawrence Joe (CAFN) and Michael Brandt (YEC Vice-president). The protocol also established a technical working group called the Aishihik Advisory Committee. It is co-chaired by Roger Brown (CAFN) and Goran Sreckovic (YEC), and includes various regulatory bodies, the Alsek Renewable Resource Council, the Yukon Water Board, YESAB and stakeholder groups. This group is established to work on the identification of studies and preparation of the relicensing application.

The agreement also sets out the creation of a CAFN Community Advisory Committee. Interested Citizens willing to make a commitment of time and



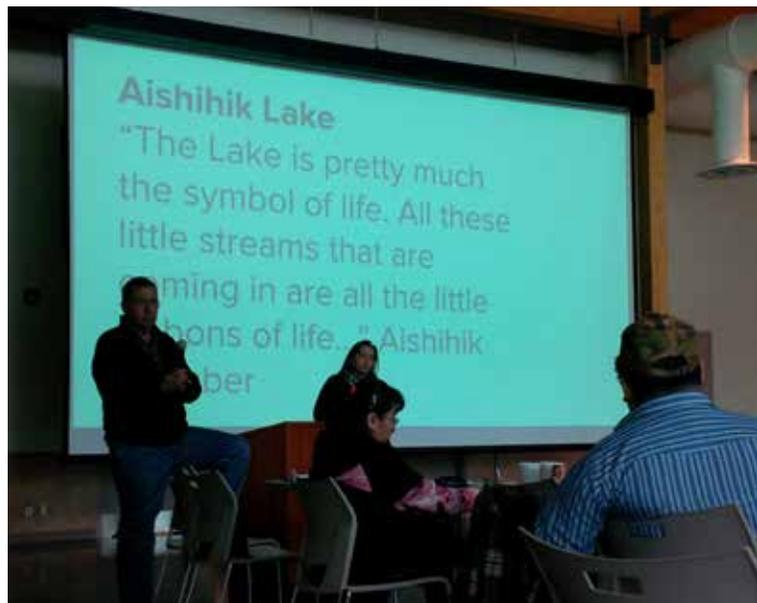
*Community members participate at the March 23, 2016 Aishihik relicensing meeting in Haines Junction.*

energy over the next two years to sit on this Committee applied this spring. On April 15 Chief and Council appointed: Marie Martin (Chair), Margaret Workman (Elder), Azriel Allen (Youth), Harry Smith, Lorraine Stick, Luke Williams, Lorraine Allen, and Stephanie Brown to the Aishihik Community Advisory Committee. It will be a working committee and is expected to meet about four times per year. The members will advise CAFN and YEC on matters to consider and address through the relicensing process.

The Lands and Resources Department hosted two community meetings on March 22 and 23 to talk about the relicensing process for the Aishihik facility, and to identify interested Citizens to become members of the Committee. Please watch for more information as this work continues.

For more information please contact:  
*Lawrence Joe, Lands and Resources Director*  
*(867) 456-6877*  
*ljoe@cafn.ca*

*Lawrence Joe and Nadia Joe presented during the March 23 session.*



# No Cow Moose Hunting

## Understanding Your Harvesting Rights and Responsibilities

By: Micheal Jim, Fish and Wildlife Officer

All hunting of cow moose in the CAFN Traditional Territory is suspended, as per CAFN's Wildlife Harvesting Regulation under the CAFN Fish and Wildlife Act.

The *Hunting and Fishing: Your Harvesting Rights and Responsibilities as a Beneficiary of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations* (2012) brochure was developed to build awareness and provide certainty on Citizens' harvesting responsibilities under the CAFN Final Agreement. The brochure includes information on a CAFN Wildlife Harvesting Regulation passed in 2000, which prohibits any Citizen from hunting a female moose (other than an elder who has obtained a permit).

Since 2012, section 3(1) of CAFN's Wildlife Harvesting Regulation has been revised and now states that no permits to harvest any cow moose shall be issued. The regulation was amended in response to a GA resolution passed by Citizens concerned with the declining moose populations in our traditional territory and called on CAFN to suspend all cow moose hunting (GA Resolution 2013-27).

Prohibiting cow moose harvesting is a conservation measure through our existing legislation to ensure a healthy sustainable resource remains for the benefit of our future generations to come, and was recommended by you, our CAFN Citizens, at our Annual General Assembly. This amendment does not deny a CAFN Citizen from hunting for subsistence or exercising their 16.4.2 right, it simply prohibits harvesting of cow moose only.

Recent moose survey results show a declining population in the Alesk survey area. The moose population in Zone 7 between Kusawa Lake and the Haines Highway down to the Yukon/BC border

has declined more drastically between 1998 and 2008. It appears to be lower than the Yukon average and is showing some of the lowest recorded counts since the 1980's.

Since the regulation banning all cow moose harvest was passed, cow moose harvest has continued within our traditional territory and has been noticed. It is being taken very seriously by our community members. As a subsistence hunter, you can assist us to positively change the outcome of this decline, by helping us achieve our goal of generating voluntary compliance for no cow moose hunting. CAFN's current law prohibits cow moose harvesting, nevertheless, it continues. In addition, the overall moose harvest rate is above normal limits.

We are asking for your voluntary compliance to respect this wildlife harvesting regulation, as CAFN and our membership do not condone any cow moose harvesting activity. We all have a collective responsibility to ensure we practice sustainable use of our resources. With continued compliance from our harvesters, we will have a sustainable resource for our future generations to come.

Ground-based monitoring by Citizens continues to play an important role in resource and conservation management within our traditional territory. With your support as our eyes and ears on the land, we can help our moose populations recover.

CAFN is moving forward with a Moose Management Strategy to help stabilize our moose population. This strategy will include continued communication, awareness and consultation with our Elders and Citizens to promote compliance with the no cow harvesting regulation.

Please refer to your copy of the harvesting rights and responsibility brochure or contact CAFN's fish and wildlife office if you have any questions:

*CAFN Fish and Wildlife*  
(867) 456-6885 or (867) 634-4211

# MOOSE HARVEST STRATEGY

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU HUNT a BULL MOOSE vs. COW MOOSE?



**This graphic** reflects the average birth and death rate within a population over a 10 year period.

**If cow moose harvesting continues**, it will result in removing all future offspring from the population, as shown above.

**By harvesting a bull moose**, it only removes one moose from the population.

**By continuing to harvest cow moose**, you are depleting a once-sustainable resource of our First Nation. On average, by harvesting one cow moose, you are removing three bull moose from the population. It is important to note that cows are three times as important as bulls.



## FACT SHEET: **Alsek Moose Management Program**

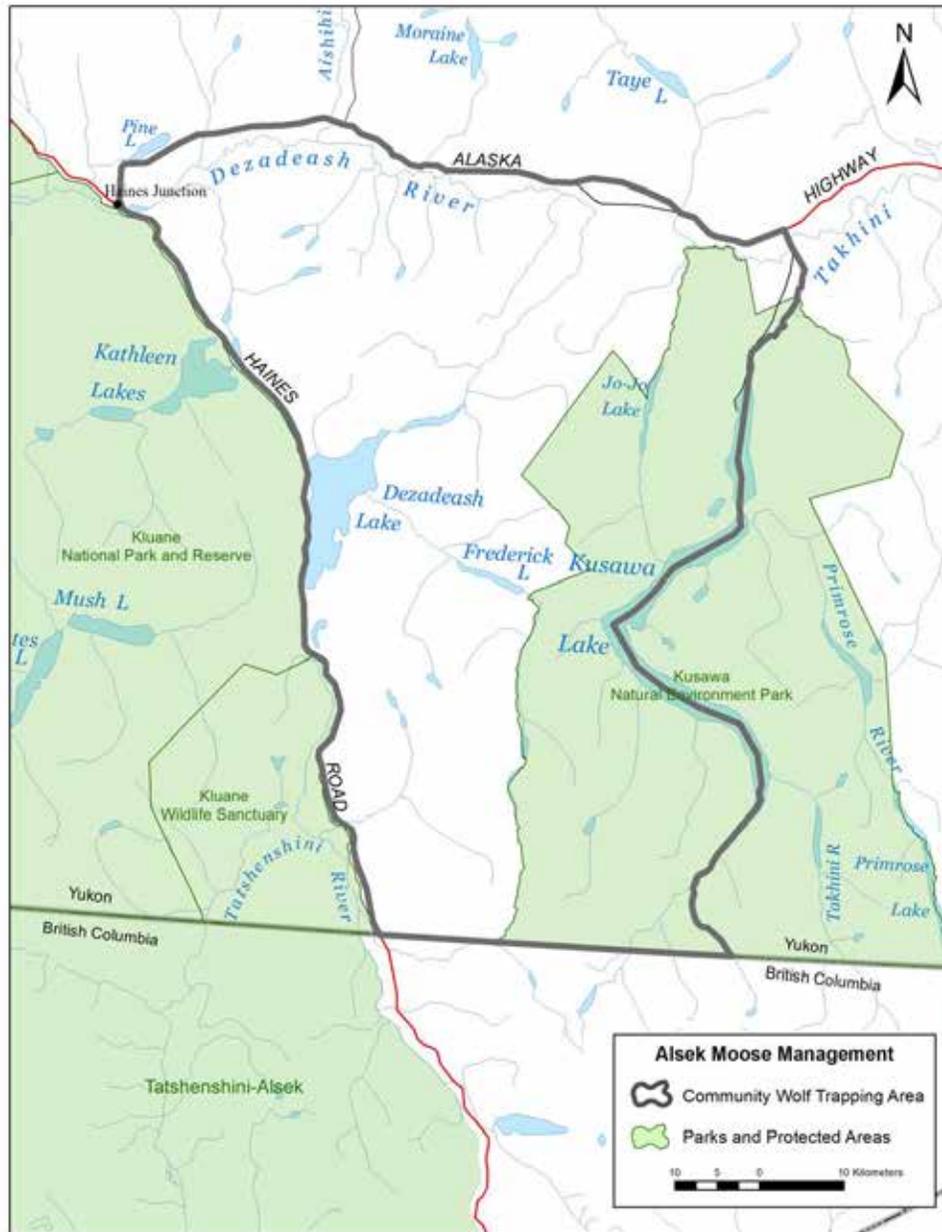
The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Alsek Renewable Resource Council, and Environment Yukon are collaborating on a community-based program to recover the Alsek moose population, located west of Kusawa Lake (in western Game Management Zone 7).

This management program is intended to stabilize - then recover - the Alsek moose population because it has declined, and harvest is higher than sustainable levels. These actions respond to concerns raised in the draft *Community-based Fish and Wildlife Workplan for the Champagne and Aishihik Traditional Territory* and this approach is consistent with the spirit of the Champagne and Aishihik Final Agreement.

A three-year program (with possible extension to five years after successful program review) is being piloted and has three important components:

- **Develop a harvest management strategy** that ensures that First Nation and licenced harvest does not exceed sustainability objectives.
- **A trapping initiative** to promote community members being on the land, encourage stewardship of wildlife resources, increase education and trapping skills and assist moose recovery effort by increasing wolf harvest in the Alsek. Under a contribution agreement, Yukon Government has agreed to contribute three years of funding to CAFN to support collaborative moose management. CAFN is using these funds for a community wolf trapping coordinator to facilitate training, evaluate trapping efforts, and provide honoraria to trappers. Environment Yukon is contributing staff time to the initiative and delivered a two-day-long course on Nov 7-8, 2015 on humane and effective wolf trapping methods.  
NOTE: All program trap set lines include visible signage. This trapping initiative is consistent with Yukon's 2012 *Wolf Conservation and Management Plan*.
- **Enhanced monitoring of moose and wolf numbers** to evaluate management effects. Yukon conducted a moose census in November 2015 in collaboration with the Government of BC and Parks Canada. A wolf survey is planned for February 2016 to better understand wolf distribution and abundance in the area. Additional monitoring work will be completed throughout the duration of the project.

**Further Questions?** Contact Susan Smith, Alsek RRC (634-2524), Shawn Taylor, Environment Yukon (634-2439) or Kim Chambers, CAFN (634-4211).



Participants at the Men's Camp at Klukshu this March made the tools pictured above, based on a design by a member of the Abenaki First Nation. Elder Paddy Jim and Joe Migwans were the facilitators. We learned a lot and everyone enjoyed themselves. Shāw nithän to all the CAFN departments for the support to make this happen. And thank you to the staff of the Youth Camp for leaving the Klukshu Hall so clean. The fire was still burning. It was a smooth transition.

*Dännch'ē.*

Language Programs had a successful and busy *Yúk'ē* (winter), with various language and sewing sessions, language classes and staff language at CAFN.

A winter family cultural camp took place this spring break at *Lu Ghq* – Klukshu, including many traditional and cultural activities along with a first bison hunt for our young hunters.

We are actively planning, researching and creating many new language learning resources for our Citizens and language tools, such as a Southern Tutchone language app, a new language learning CD, and a Southern Tutchone mini-dictionary. We are very proud of our active learners and a big *Shāw Níthan* to our elders and teachers who help us along the way.

Our spring language programming will resume with language/sewing nights, Southern Tutchone movie nights, Southern game nights and more family learning.

If you are interested in the Southern Tutchone Mini Master Apprentice Program, please let me know as we have a few language learners interested and with a few more can start this program and be on our way to a successful language learning experience with you and your mentor. I have more information on this program. Please see me or call any time.

With this update are some pictures I would like to share of the traditional tools talk with Elder Paddy Jim and Wayne Jim. They did an excellent learning session at St. Elias Community School and an evening session for everyone at Da Kų Culture Center. All the kids had a wonderful Southern Tutchone learning experience for a full afternoon and were excited to visit with them.



*Young language learners during a traditional tools talk with Elder Paddy Jim and Wayne Jim at St. Elias Community School this spring.*

For more information or to share you ideas on language revitalization, please feel free to contact me.

*Nätthàth'ja* - Millie Joe

Language Coordinator

(867) 634-3301 or 634-5173 cell

[mjoe@cafn.ca](mailto:mjoe@cafn.ca)

## Language Speakers We Need You!

### CAFN needs speakers to help with Dákwänje (Southern Tutchone) Language Programs

We would like to offer Language classes/sessions in Whitehorse, Champagne, Takhini and Haines Junction. We also want to expose the young children attending the Shākwunlee Daycare to the language, through a "Language Nest" program.

To do this, we need more Language Teachers!

Even if you do not have teacher training or teaching experience, we have a role for you. And you don't have to be fully fluent in the language in order to help others learn it.

Speakers who are able to commit to working longer term with individuals, in a language mentor-apprentice type situation, you would be a great asset to our language programming efforts. Honorariums will be offered.

If you are interested in helping with our Language Programs for any of the Communities, Language Nest or the Mini Master Language Apprentice program, please contact:

*Millie Joe, Language Coordinator*

Call collect: (867) 634-3301

E-mail: [mjoe@cafn.ca](mailto:mjoe@cafn.ca)

## CAFN SCHOLARSHIPS

### Congratulations to our CAFN post secondary students on receiving the following academic achievement awards for the 2014-15 school year:

<i>Brittany Au</i>	<i>Humanities Science</i>	<i>University of Victoria</i>	<i>CAFN Priority Fields of Study Scholarships</i>
<i>Maxine Barker</i>	<i>Health Care Aide</i>	<i>The Health Care Aide Academy</i>	<i>Field of Study Achievement Highest GPA in Health</i>
<i>Shayla Bataja-Green</i>	<i>Adult Basic Education</i>	<i>Yukon College</i>	<i>CAFN Priority Fields of Study Scholarship</i>
<i>Lindsay Chambers</i>	<i>Yukon Native Teacher Education Program</i>	<i>Yukon College/Univ of Regina/Univ of Athabasca</i>	<i>Highest GPA in a degree program (Bachelor, Masters or doctorate)</i>
<i>Shadelle Chambers</i>	<i>Executive Master of Business Administration</i>	<i>Simon Fraser University</i>	<i>CAFN Priority Fields of Study Scholarships</i>
<i>Desiree Cook</i>	<i>Multi Media Communications</i>	<i>Yukon College</i>	<i>CAFN Priority Fields of Study Scholarships</i>
<i>Beth Dawson</i>	<i>Health Care Assistant</i>	<i>Yukon College</i>	<i>CAFN Priority Fields of Study Scholarships</i>
<i>Georgina Griffith</i>	<i>Liberal Arts</i>	<i>Yukon College</i>	<i>CAFN Priority Fields of Study Scholarships</i>
<i>Amy Hannon-Beattie</i>	<i>Bachelor of Arts - Social Science</i>	<i>University of Victoria</i>	<i>CAFN Priority Fields of Study Scholarships</i>
<i>Alexis Hougen</i>	<i>Bachelor of Arts</i>	<i>University of British Columbia</i>	<i>CAFN Priority Fields of Study Scholarships</i>
<i>Annika Joe</i>	<i>Heavy Equipment Technician L1</i>	<i>Southern Alberta Institute of Technology</i>	<i>CAFN Priority Fields of Study Scholarships</i>
<i>Stephanie Joe</i>	<i>Journalism</i>	<i>Southern Alberta Institute of Technology</i>	<i>Highest GPA in a diploma, University transfer or Associate Degree Program</i>
<i>Florence Kushniruk</i>	<i>Business Administration</i>	<i>Yukon College</i>	<i>Field of Study Achievement Highest GPA in Administration</i>
<i>Brandon Long</i>	<i>Electrician Apprenticeship</i>	<i>Industry Training Authority</i>	<i>Highest GPA in a vocational/trade certificate program</i>
<i>Alexia McKinnon</i>	<i>Executive Master of Business Administration</i>	<i>Simon Fraser University</i>	<i>Fields of Study Achievement Highest GPA in Administration</i>
<i>Aubrey McWatters</i>	<i>Cinematography for Film &amp; Video</i>	<i>Capilano University</i>	<i>CAFN Priority Fields of Study Scholarships</i>
<i>Cole Pauls</i>	<i>Visual Arts Degree</i>	<i>Emily Carr University</i>	<i>Field of Study Achievement Highest GPA in Fine Arts</i>
<i>Breanna Smith</i>	<i>Esthetics &amp; Nail Care Tech</i>	<i>Northern Lights College</i>	<i>CAFN Priority Fields of Study Scholarships</i>
<i>Maisie Smith</i>	<i>Masters - Counselling Psychology</i>	<i>University of British Columbia</i>	<i>Fields of Study Achievement Highest GPA in Sciences</i>
<i>Kara Vance</i>	<i>Northern Justice &amp; Criminology</i>	<i>Yukon College</i>	<i>Field of Study Achievement Highest GPA in Social Science</i>
<i>Courtney Wilbur</i>	<i>Bachelor of Arts -Law</i>	<i>Carleton University</i>	<i>Field of Study Achievement Highest GPA in Law</i>
<i>Nikki-Lee Williams-Patchett</i>	<i>Early Childhood Development</i>	<i>Yukon College</i>	<i>CAFN Priority Fields of Study Scholarships</i>

## NEW FACES



Members of the Capacity and Development team in Haines Junction. Left to right: Elly Jackson, Charlene Hume and Brenda Jackson. Not pictured: Fran Asp, Merrilee Basic and Stewart Breithaupt.

### Capacity and Policy Development Department

We are pleased to report that the Human Resources Department has been renamed the Capacity and Policy Development Department. The department is responsible for providing human resource management, occupational health and safety, and implementing policy initiatives in correlation with the government's strategic goals and objectives.

The department's staff include:

- Fran Asp, Director of Capacity and Policy Development;
- Stewart Breithaupt, Human Resource Manager;
- Brenda Jackson, Human Resource Officer;
- Charlene Hume, Occupational Health and Safety Officer;
- Elly Jackson, Human Resource Administrative Assistant; and
- Merrilee Basic, Research and Policy Coordinator.

We are in the development stage of our departmental structure. We are striving to be a benefit to the government in providing quality service with a high degree of professionalism, courtesy and respect.

The team brings to the government much technical expertise, interpersonal skills, diversity, management skills, extensive experience working for First Nation governments and a shared commitment to being accountable, proactive, responsive and effective. We are dedicated to making Champagne and Aishihik First Nations the employer of choice.

All inquiries can be made to Elly Jackson at 634-4215 or [ejackson@cafn.ca](mailto:ejackson@cafn.ca). Elly will direct you to the person who can best help or provide the information you are seeking.



### Shania Jackson Da Ky Cultural Centre

Hi. My name is Shania Jackson. I am your new Da Ky Cultural Centre Receptionist/Retail Clerk. I am very excited to be a part of the Language, Culture and Heritage team. I love sharing the knowledge and culture through our traditional ways. Learning to practice our language is a great opportunity for me. As well as meeting and greeting new people as they enter the Cultural Centre. I will be the first smiling face you see as you walk into the building. You can see me in the retail store as well during the summer season. Anything you need or any questions, please feel free to ask me.

*Shania Jackson  
Da Ky Reception/Retail Clerk  
(867) 634-3300  
[sjackson@cafn.ca](mailto:sjackson@cafn.ca)*



### **Margaret Chiblow Education Support Worker**

I have recently accepted the term position of Education Support Worker here in Haines Junction at the St Elias Community School.

I am a Champagne and Aishihik First Nations member and I belong to the Crow Clan. As the Education Support Worker I can assist you and your family in many different ways.

CAFN offers some financial support to students to help with school supplies, tutoring, Native grad or special circumstances funding. Our First Nation Government also recognizes academic success for grades 8 to 12 students who maintain a 75% overall average. If you would like more information on these services please contact me or stop in my office at the school.

Another aspect of this position, my favorite, is working with the parents and the students. If parents are involved in their children’s school lives the children tend to enjoy school more, stay in school longer, and go off to college and university. By working together we can ensure that our children achieve their academic goals and continue their education into their adult lives.

Education is very important, but so is our culture! I work with the team at St. Elias Community School to ensure that our culture is embedded into the curriculum. If you have any cultural ideas that you would like to see in the school, I strongly encourage you to bring your ideas forward. If you are interested in being a guest at the school or you would like to teach a skill please contact me so we can make arrangements.

Over the next couple of months I would enjoy meeting with parents and students to discuss your needs, and the needs of your child or children. I am here to support our youth in their learning.

As a parent and a community member I want our students to achieve academic success while enjoying their short time in elementary, intermediate and high school!

*Ta Tho - Margaret Chiblow  
Education Support Worker, Haines Junction  
(867) 634-2231 ext 225  
mchiblow@cafn.ca*

### **Terry Rufiange-Holway Property Manager**

My name is Terry Rufiange-Holway. I started as the Property Manager in the Property Services Department on November 2, 2015.

As Property Manager, I oversee and direct the maintenance, repair, and renovation of CAFN buildings in all of our communities, both rental residences and public buildings, with the exception of Da Kų.

A facility management software system enables me to plan, prioritize and keep track of all completed and outstanding work requests.

If you are tenant in a CAFN rental unit and have a work request, or if you observe a need for repair and maintenance at any of the community halls, please send your work request directly to [workorders@cafn.ca](mailto:workorders@cafn.ca). You can contact me at 634-4220 or [tr-holway@cafn.ca](mailto:tr-holway@cafn.ca). For after-hours emergencies, please call Jim at 634-5377.



### **Angie Charlebois Economic Development Officer**

Angie’s role is to assist citizen entrepreneurs and artists. She administers the funds that are used to launch and grow local businesses and to employ citizens. As a coach, trainer and a business owner herself, Angie enjoys helping people earn their income doing what they love. Angie is mom to Jackson, Keona and Solomon, as well as Sean Sheardown’s spouse.

*Angie Charlebois, Economic Development Officer  
(867) 634-4240  
acharlebois@cafn.ca*



## Dakwakada CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

Dakwakada has successfully secured a second round of funding from the Canada Yukon Job Fund for our senior managers of DCI companies to undergo more training in leadership and conflict resolution.

Dakwakada attended the Mineral Exploration Roundup 2016 in Vancouver, BC in January, where we were able to network and meet with key players in the resource sectors whose concentration is on infrastructure, power generation and First Nations partnerships.

DCI and the Champagne Aishihik Trust will be hosting a community meeting later this spring or early summer, so please stay tuned for more details.

### RAB Energy (Northerm)

#### Alaska

We've had a busy third and fourth quarter. Many of our commercial jobs came to completion and our big PVC window job was completed in February. The milder weather this year has given Alaskans opportunity to keep working on home renovations, which has led to more walk-in window sales.

The sales team was very busy developing quotes for the Association of Village Council Presidents for the construction of 19 new homes this year and we were the successful bidder for windows. Our manufacturing team is assembling the windows in March in order to meet the May barge schedule.

We will be meeting with our expanded contractor base in the next few weeks to start planning for the 2016 window season.

#### Yukon

Northerm has had a strong third quarter and the fourth quarter is looking very promising. Our commercial division has secured a few large projects, such as the Yukon government administration building window replacement and the Kluane National Park headquarters project.

With summer approaching, Northerm will be looking for post-secondary summer student positions and will also have positions available in manufacturing, front end sales, greeters and finance. Please send your resume to Amy Thompson at [financemanager@northerm.yk.ca](mailto:financemanager@northerm.yk.ca) before May 2, 2016.

### Icefield Tools Corporation (ITC)

2016 is looking to be a very busy year for Icefield Tools. Test results from the newest Gyro Shot® system have been tremendous, with performance specifications that are better even than we hoped for. As a result, we are working to fill a large order for a client in the Middle East, initially to be used for drilling in Iraq.

Last month, Icefield participated at the Roundup exhibition in Vancouver, and we're hopeful that the slump in the mining sector is finally coming to an end. In March, we'll exhibit at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada event in Toronto.

Icefield is continuing to design new technology and we hope to have exciting news to share this coming summer. In the meantime, the technicians are busy working away, and the sales team is doing their best to find new opportunities to develop.

### Castle Rock Enterprises (CRE)

Castle Rock is anticipating an early start to the 2016 construction season with the warmer weather we have been experiencing. During the slower months we have been utilizing the time to service equipment to get it up to speed for the upcoming season. Senior management and staff have been taking the time to get recertification and gain more training.

Projects we currently have on the go:

- Completed clearing and grubbing at Whistlebend subdivision;
- We had zero waste using our tub grinder for stumps and tree tops that were processed at the City of Whitehorse compost facility;
- Our trucking division has picked up with some trips up North;
- Listed as civil contractor for the Whistlebend Continuing Care Facility;
- Still holding contract for the City of Whitehorse Landfill.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce our recently hired Financial Controller, Shawn Fearon. Shawn brings opportunities for best practices and job costing initiatives from his many years in the construction industry, along with his significant financial background. Shawn is a great fit to the CRE management team.

For more information:

*Paul Gruner, General Manager*

*Dakwakada Capital Investments*

*(867) 668-5831 - [paul@dakwakada.com](mailto:paul@dakwakada.com)*

**[www.dakwakada.com](http://www.dakwakada.com)**

# CITIZEN CORNER



*Stephanie Joe (centre) with some of the Global team.*

## STEPHANIE JOE, INTERN GLOBAL TV

I interned for Global, Calgary for the summer of 2015, from June 1 to August 28.

Working for Global for the summer was engaging and informative. I made fast friends with the news reporters and they were enthusiastic mentors. Global allowed for me to go out with cameramen on my own and get a feel for what it's like to interview and report. It was as if the newsroom was a playground and I had full range of all the equipment and guidance they could offer. They made me a part of the Mosaic Committee, which allowed for me to bring an aboriginal voice to the newsroom. I wrote up a newsletter, profiling CAFN and three of the First Nations communities around Calgary so that the reporters and newsroom staff could get a better understanding of aboriginal history. Pitching stories, writing scripts for the anchors, and writing stories for the web are some of the tasks that they gave me. Global works hard to encourage an open-minded newsroom, and working for them was a gratifying experience.

*Stephanie Joe, News Writer  
SAIT Journalism*



*While working for Global, Stephanie (left) met and got some media tips from Justin Trudeau during his 2015 campaign.*

## LORRAINE STICK, OWNER CLIMATE CLOTHING

I was very moved by the award that was presented to me on Boxing Day.

First of all I would like to say thank you to the Chief and Councillor for this recognition and to the citizens of CAFN. This would not be possible without your support and for this I am grateful.

There was so much I wanted to share and as soon as my name was called my speech went out the window. The following is what I would like to share if you decide you would like to open your own business:

- Location: find a prime location where there is lots of foot traffic and other activities.
- Backup plan: make sure you have a backup plan, expect not to have a salary for at least two year, ensure there is another income coming into the house or some other income to sustain you while you are building your business.
- Have a business plan with a long term vision - 5 years.
- Your business becomes your partner – you are married to your business.
- Have a financial plan and always stay within your budget.
- Marketing is very important – use all social media to the fullest as this is cheap. I find advertising in the newspaper does not always work as not everyone reads the ads.
- Marketing: find out what works for you – what is going to get you the best results for your dollar?
- Questions: I like to ask myself questions and I may not have the answer right away but it gets me thinking about ways to best promote my business and ways to reach more customers. It gets me thinking outside of the box.
- Remain positive – give yourself positive feedback and truly believe in yourself, have faith and embrace what comes your way.
- Another thing I learned is that I am not a superwoman, therefore I ask for help and I also work with a team, this gives me other ideas and how to put it into action.
- Fully concentrate on your business, as this is what is important to you, what others are doing or saying in their business is not important to you, your business is.
- Always think of ways to build up the foot traffic, how to bring more customers to your business.
- Take courses that relate to the business, accounting, marketing and how to read financial statements, as this will help you to understand the business world.

I hope what I share with you will help you and wish you the best in building your business.

Again I would like to say thank you from the bottom of my heart.

*Lorraine Stick, Climate Clothing*



*Lorraine at her shop with the CAFN Entrepreneurship Award presented to her in December 2015.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Waiting for a check from CAFN?

#### If you are expecting a cheque or payment from CAFN:

1. CAFN's policy for payments (accounts payable) is to pay the amount due within 30 days of receiving an invoice or request for payment. This is a standard financial practice across many organizations and governments.
2. CAFN accounts payable are paid on the 15th and 30th of every month.
3. After cheques have been printed and approved, the cheques are mailed immediately after they are signed.

#### What should you do if you are expecting a cheque from CAFN?

- If you are expecting a check, please **do** ensure CAFN has your current mailing address and look for the payment in your mailbox.
- If you have questions on the status of a cheque, please **do** contact the staff member in the department helping with your contract or payment. *For example, if you are waiting for an income assistance payment, contact your Community Wellness case worker. If you are a student waiting for a student funding check, please contact a staff member in the Education Department.*
- Please **do not** call the Finance Department or request special delivery instructions through Finance staff. Though our Finance staff often exceeds standard timeframes for processing payments, when they are frequently interrupted with individual requests for cheques, it reduces their ability to look after payments promptly and follow proper financial procedure.

- Automatic deposit: If you receive a regularly recurring payment from CAFN, such as monthly Elders Benefits, in many cases you can be set up for automatic deposit. Please **do** contact the department you are working with to ask if your payment can be made through automatic deposit to your bank account.

CAFN sincerely thanks our Citizens and businesses for your understanding of the importance of maintaining these good financial practices.

### Elders Activities



#### New fun activities for Seniors in Haines Junction:

**Carpet Bowling and Floor Curling** every Monday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the St. Elias Convention Centre atrium. Light snacks are provided with tea.

For more information on Elders programs and activities, please contact:

*Jacque Chambers or Darlene Blair at 634-2012*

### Congratulations!

**Congratulations to Harold Kane**, the winner of the Air North Certificate from our Forest and Mineral/Mining Policy Meetings/Workshops. Thank you to everyone who came and participated in the questionnaire.

*CAFN Lands and Resources Department*

## Calling CAFN Artists

### Featured Artist Opportunity at Da Ku

There is an opportunity for citizens to apply to be one of our featured artists at Da Ku this season. We are planning for a new exhibit in the main exhibition room of Da Ku Cultural Centre. We will display original visual artwork by our Citizens and share your talent with our guests from around the world.

If you are a CAFN painter, sculptor or carver or other visual artist with an interest in having your work displayed in the centre, we want to hear from you.

To learn more about timelines, expectations and opportunities, please contact Sean Sheardown at 634-3310 or [ssheardown@cafn.ca](mailto:ssheardown@cafn.ca) or Ukjese Van Kampen at [tutchoneart@yahoo.com](mailto:tutchoneart@yahoo.com) by May 2, 2016.

## Training News

The Aboriginal Skills Employment and Training Strategy (ASETS) program can help CAFN citizens in the Yukon who are unemployed or have employment barriers to access training to help them gain meaningful employment.

Citizens who are interested in pursuing training should contact Tracy Kane at 634-4233, at [tkane@cafn.ca](mailto:tkane@cafn.ca) or drop by the education office at the CAFN administration building in Haines Junction (next to Lands offices). Please note, you are required to submit your application for funding and course registrations at least two (2) weeks in advance, in order that we can properly process your application, determine eligibility, and to ensure funds are available to support your training request. This program is intended for those who are unemployed or underemployed. It does not normally provide training that would otherwise be covered by employers through professional development.

For more information:

*Tracy Kane, Employment and Training Officer*  
(867) 634-4233  
[tkane@cafn.ca](mailto:tkane@cafn.ca)

## suicideTALK

Our primary focus is improving helper competencies to intervene with persons at risk of suicide.

Ranging from 90 minutes to a half a day, suicide-TALK invites all participants—regardless of prior training or experience—to become more aware of suicide prevention opportunities in their community. Dealing openly with the stigma around suicide, this exploration focuses upon the question "Should we talk about suicide?" By looking at this question in a number of different ways, session members can discover some of the beliefs and ideas about suicide in their communities—and in themselves. suicideTALK participants learn...

- How suicide is a serious community health problem that is often misunderstood.
- How personal and community beliefs about suicide affect suicide stigma and safety.
- How the steps taught in LivingWorks' safeTALK program can be used to help prevent suicide.
- How to get involved in life protection, preservation, and promotion activities in the community.

Imagine... a suicide-safer community.



This workshop will be offered to CAFN staff and citizens in the upcoming months. Please look on the CAFN website calendar for upcoming dates. It is highly recommended that people wanting to participate in ASIST attend a suicideTALK workshop prior to ASIST.

For more information and to register for upcoming SuicideTALK and safeTALK workshops, please contact:

*Luke Campbell*  
(867) 336-3283  
[lcampbell@cafn.ca](mailto:lcampbell@cafn.ca)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Wildfire Season

#### A little reminder as we enter wildfire season

#### Don't forget to get your burning permit!

If you are planning on burning brush or slash around your cabin or house between April 1st and September 30th, don't forget to get your burning permit! It's Free!!

#### Where can I get a burning permit?

**On CAFN Settlement Land:** at the CAFN Lands office in Haines Junction (634-4231) or Whitehorse (456-6886)

**Off Settlement Land:** at the Haines Junction Wildland Fire Management Office (by Parks Farm), (634-7061); OR in Whitehorse Wildland Fire Management Office, (390-2531).

#### Protect your home and protect your community!



#### Here are few tips for safe burning:

- Call us and let us know when you are planning on burning
- Burn only in LOW Fire Danger
- DON'T burn during periods of MODERATE, HIGH OR EXTREME Fire Danger
- Always have some water and a shovel nearby to keep the fire under control
- Don't burn when it is windy
- Keep fire under supervision at all times until extinguished

## It's Tax Time!

### NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS ON CAFN SETTLEMENT LAND

**During your personal income tax preparations, please note:** If you resided on any Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Settlement Lands **on December 31, 2015**, you are obligated to file the Yukon First Nations Tax form that is attached to your income tax application.

You can find the form at this website: [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/5011-c1/README.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/5011-c1/README.html) and download a PDF file or fill it out online!

Income tax collection and sharing arrangements are signed between the Federal Government, the Government of Yukon and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. These agreements allow the Federal and Yukon Governments to transfer part of these taxes to CAFN.

Each year, CAFN receives a percentage of taxes from Canada and Yukon. This amount is based on all residents who filed personal income tax returns who stated they lived on Settlement Land on December 31, 2015. These taxes increase CAFN's Own Source Revenue.

Chief and Council have discretion over the allocation of the funding received.

If you have low or no income, you may be eligible to receive a GST credit that is a tax-free quarterly payment that helps individuals and families with low or modest incomes to offset all or part of the GST that they pay. The Canada Revenue Agency will automatically determine your eligibility when you file your next income tax and benefit return.

You may also benefit from the Canada Child Tax Benefit which is a tax-free monthly payment made to eligible families to help them with the cost of raising children under age 18. To get your benefits, you have to file your return on time every year, even if you did not have income in the year. If you have a spouse or common-law partner, they also have to file a return every year. Benefits are paid over a 12-month period from July of one year to June of the next year. Your benefit payments will be recalculated every July based on information from your income tax and benefit return from the previous year.

*For further information, please contact Angie Wabisca at (867) 456-6881 at [awabisca@cafn.ca](mailto:awabisca@cafn.ca) or Ian Robinson at [irobinson@cafn.ca](mailto:irobinson@cafn.ca) at (867) 456-6878.*

## Haines Junction Training Trust Fund

HAINES JUNCTION TRAINING TRUST FUND SOCIETY  
BOX 5323, HAINES JUNCTION, YT Y0B 1L0

### About the Fund:

The Haines Junction Training Trust Fund (HJTTF) Society is funded by the Yukon Department of Education, Advanced Education Branch. Applications are reviewed by the Society Board (consists of eight members, residents from the Haines Junction and Champagne and Aishihik Traditional Territory). Applications are assessed based on eligibility, merit and financial need.

### Purpose of the Training Fund:

The main purpose of the Fund is to support training that is responsive to industry and employee training needs from entry-level skills development to career development. The Fund is meant to build skilled labour in response to local and Yukon needs.

### Objective of the Training Fund:

To support residents of Haines Junction and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Traditional Territory by providing educational opportunities to increase employment knowledge, skills and abilities to a high standard.

### Goals Include:

- Fund short-term training that will advance and enhance the Yukon labour force.
- Fund individuals who wish to retrain or refresh skills.
- Increase training opportunities and partnerships

### Expected Results:

- Increase the number of people with the skills necessary to obtain work in various economic sectors.
- Support training that increases opportunities for Yukon workers to obtain employment and diversify their income, especially locally.

### Who can apply?

- Must be a resident of Haines Junction or Champagne and Aishihik Traditional Territory for at least one year.
- Must be 18 or older (no educational level restriction).
- Must have sought other sources of funding (TIA, Social Assistance, RPAY, LDAY, etc.) as well as indicate financial need.
- Must have applied to a registered institution or credentialed course.

### Who cannot apply?

- A person taking the course as part of a diploma/degree program.
- A person who works for any level of government or who is applying for a course required by employer.

### Meeting Dates:

The Training Trust Fund Society Board meets quarterly on the last Wednesday of the month. Upcoming meetings:

- May 25, 2016
- August 31, 2016
- November 30, 2016
- February 22, 2017

### For more information or a Training Trust Fund application form:

*Vera Owlchild*

*CAFN Post Secondary Employment & Training Manager  
(867) 456-6884 or [vowlchild@cafn.ca](mailto:vowlchild@cafn.ca)*

*Ruth Lawrence, Haines Junction Training Trust Fund Society  
(867) 634-2020*

[cafn.ca/haines-junction-training-trust-fund](http://cafn.ca/haines-junction-training-trust-fund)

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## Southern Tutchone Tribal Council General Assembly

By John Finland



The Southern Tutchone Tribal Council held its Annual General Assembly this March at Da Kų.

The morning featured the business side of the day. A new logo was selected featuring art by Jackie Jackson Jr. The afternoon was spent in several activities: drum making, traditional medicines, gopher bag making and stick games demonstrations were all popular. The highlight of the afternoon was a full performance of the Dakwakada Dancers, fresh off their awesome performance in Fairbanks. This was followed by a delicious dinner served up by Bonnie Chambers and helpers. A great way to spend a Saturday and to look forward to another successful year of our Southern Tutchone Tribal Council.

## A CERTAIN SOMETHING

By Luke Campbell, Education Support Worker

When word came out that a Tlingit button blanket workshop was to be taught by the famous Brenda Lee Asp of Dakwäkäda, calls came flooding in to sign up. The course was held over the last weekend in January at *Shadhäla Kų*.

Saturday morning came and participants were eager to start their creations. *Dän* (people) were waiting at *Shadhäla Kų* with ideas and chatting about what they were going to start working on. *Dlua ndäy* (coffee) was flowing and giving everyone the eager jitters as they bustled around to set the hall for the weekend.

Once things got rolling and everyone knew what their task was things got really busy. *Shadhäla Kų* turned into a sewing sweatshop in a matter of minutes. Every single table was in use. Sewing machines were roaring nonstop and fabric was flying everywhere. The irons and *kësheshä* (scissors) turned into a hot commodity and more had to be borrowed from Bonnie Chambers and Dayle Macdonald.

*Dunèna* were playing by the blankets and enjoying their time in *Shadhäla*. *Shadhäla Kų* soon became busy with visitors wanting to eye up the beautiful pieces. The participants shined as they explained what was being put on their blanket and how the end piece was going to look. During the day *mbät* (food) was shared by everyone that came by. *Dän* were encouraged to bring a dish to share. Sushi, turkey soup, chili, and even *kan-day* (moose) was brought to the table. A small jar of *tu* (fish) was snuck around the hall so that everyone could have a little taste. As Saturday came to a close the hall started to come to a halt. Exhausted and tired, *dän* started to make their way home for the night.

Sunday morning came even earlier than expected. *Dän* were waiting to start at the break of dawn, *Sha* (The sun) had not even come up over the *dhal* (mountain). There was talk that people had dreams of their blankets which kept them tossing and turning through the night. Brenda Asp calmly cut fabric while others were panicking about blanket sizing and how their clan crest would fit.

As the busy Sunday morning turned into the afternoon the Dakwäkäda Dancers made the trip out to practice their singing and dancing. The group spared no time to get their music juices flowing. The power that was in the hall when everyone was singing brought goose bumps to the arms.



Participants in the button blanket workshop look at a blanket made by the late Dorothy Wabisca.

The drummers started out at a slower pace that soon turned into a loud fast beat that got the heart pounding. There was a certain presence in the air that could be felt when the *Dunèna* were running through the *khyen* (song) list. The dancers had the hall booming with their music. They sang some of their classics such as “*Sųq Nighq Shadlj*” and “*lee Sta*”. There was applause when the group performed their new hit single “*Ghàálj*” (written by Kâsha, Amanda Workman and Luke Campbell). As the practice came to an end, the group finished with “*See-sta*”.

Sunday night soon came, supplies were packed and fabric was rolled up. Little tiny pieces of black and red fuzz from the blankets floated around the floor. A frenzy of sweeping took over the group and the hall was soon spotless. Loud bangs could be heard as the tables were being dropped on the floor as they were placed back in the holding racks. As things started to dwindle, *Shadhäla Kų* was soon empty. The lights were turned off and the coffee pots were dumped.

A change seems to be happening with *dádän* (our people). We are becoming more connected to who we are. Our ancestors seem to be at the corner of everything we do. We are becoming stronger people when we work together and not stay in the dark as one. Over the course of *łaki* (two) days this shift was noticed by a few people. Hopefully the momentum of what powerful things are happen will keep going to build more resiliency, pride, and strength within *dádän*.

This was one weekend of many where you see *dádän* bringing back our culture/heritage/*Dakwanjè* (our language). All of these things are part of who we are. It is seeing where we are now as a people and looking to where we want to be. As each of us moves along in this journey of life. Let’s take a look at how we are working with others to make a difference. Even though something as small as a button blanket course over one weekend doesn’t seem like it makes a difference, it can be the change that we need to see.

## SPECIAL GREETINGS

### *Kwìdlj dzenù sòthän nch'j!* *Happy Birthday!*

*Happy Birthday to the greatest mother, Debbie Workman, on February 2. Lots of love from Nikki, Alexia, Bob, Hope, Roxy and Tazzy.*



*How my girl has grown. Happy 19th Birthday, Kyra, from your mom.*

*Birthday Greetings going out to:*  
*Rob Taylor, February 2*  
*Jennifer Chambers, February 3*  
*Val Chambers, February 15*  
*Shannon Maloney, February 17*  
*Auntie Kathy VanBibber, February 21*  
*Kimi Clark, February 21*  
*Helen Hassard, February 23*  
*Sandy Wabisca, February 23*  
*Kyra Chamber, March 4*  
*Mike Maloney, March 4*  
*Clayton Zacharias, March 6*  
*Amanda Knight-Teitelbaum, March 7*  
*From the Wabisca, Telep, Knight & Bratt Families*

*Happy Birthday to:*  
*Fredrick Chambers, May 1*  
*Wilmonica VanBibber, May 3*  
*Marie McLaren, May 5*  
*Florence Griffith, May 7*  
*Kim Chambers, May 18*  
*Darren Hubbard, May 16*  
*Steve Smith, May 8*  
*From from Denise, Amy, Mickey and Michelle Beattie*

*Happy Birthday to my beautiful daughter, Amy, on June 8! Love, Mom.*



CHAMPAGNE AND AISHIHIK FIRST NATIONS

*Please send your greetings  
for the Dàkwäni newsletter to:  
Amy McKinnon, Communications*

## POTLATCHES

**May 14 - Potlatch for the late Karen Stutzman,** 2 p.m. at the Carmacks Heritage Hall.

**June 4 - Potlatch for the late David Fredrick Chambers,** 2 p.m. at Champagne.

**June 18 - Potlatch for the late Lawrence Burns** (Muskrat). Headstone viewing at 1 p.m. at Marsh Lake Cemetary. Potlatch to follow at Nakwataku Potlatch House in Whitehorse.

**July 16 - Crow Potlatch for the late Jenny Moose and Annie Holm** (Moose) at Da Kų Cultural Centre, Haines Junction.

**July 23 - Potlatch for the late Arthur George Jones** (Art). Headstone viewing at 1 p.m. at Grey Mountain Cemetery. Potlatch at 3 p.m. at Nakwataku Potlatch House in Whitehorse.

**July 30 - Potlatch for the late Shane Johnson** at the Jacquot Building, Burwash Landing.

**July 30 - Potlatch for the late Evelyn Skookum** (T'âthay), 2 p.m. at the Carmacks Recreation Centre.

**August 6 - Potlatch for the late Cynthia Roxanne Blackjack** (Cenjeya), 3 p.m. at the Carmacks Heritage Hall.

**Return Address:**

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations  
 PO Box 5310  
 Haines Junction, YT  
 Y0B 1L0

**Destination Address:**

## CAFN CALENDAR

**Mondays - Family Games Night**, 7 to 9 p.m. weekly at Mun Ku (Elders Complex).

**Wednesdays - Men's Support Group**, 7 to 9 p.m. weekly at Mun Ku (Elders Complex).

**Thursdays - Women's Empowerment Circle**, 5 to 7 p.m. weekly at Mun Ku (Elders Complex).

**May 9 - Health is Where We Live Work and Play**, with Dr. Alexandra King, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in CAFN Council Chambers.

**May 10-11 - From Wound to Wellness Workshop**, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Da Ku Cultural Centre.

**May 25 - CAFN Graduation Barbecue**, 5:30 p.m. at *Shadhäla Ku* (Champagne Hall).

**May 27 - Chief and Council meeting**, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Whitehorse.

**May 27 - Yukon First Nations Graduation Ceremony**, 2-4 p.m. at Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.

**June 24 - Chief and Council meeting**, Haines Junction.

**July 15 - Chief and Council meeting**, Haines Junction.

**July 22-24 - CAFN General Assembly**, Aishihik Lake Campground, 27-Mile, Aishihik Road.

**July 29 - Chief and Council meeting**, Haines Junction.

**August 22 - September 2 - Operation NANOOK**, earthquake emergency response exercise, Haines Junction.

**For more dates and details: [CAFN.ca/events](http://CAFN.ca/events)**

## Däkwäni

### Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

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

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

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