



# Dàkwäni

What people are saying

YÚK'E (WINTER) 2016



*Ut'akwädjch'e Dzeny Yè Ayu dzeny kuk'akwädatth'at  
Dàk'akwädinje dáyè Kàáshech'äw yè dadunena shü.*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.  
Our prayers be with you, to all of you and your children too.

*From the CAFN Council and staff*



CHAMPAGNE AND AISHIHIK FIRST NATIONS

# DÄN NÄTTHE ÄDA DÄKWÄL

(MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF)



Some members of the 2016 Christmas Connects team from the CAFN Community Wellness Department.

## Dànách'é.

*Ut'ákwädjch'e Dzänu Näkwänjith'ät N'yè Säköuthj Jè. The CAFN Council and I wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*

*As we enter the holiday season, I invite you to foster a spirit of forgiveness. I believe that choosing to forgive someone, even for the smallest thing, is part of the path to healing ourselves. For me, this means retraining my brain to think about the positive, not dwell on the negative, and thinking about what is really important. The act of forgiving and choosing to move forward in a positive way brings me peace and a richer, more fulfilling life. I hope it does the same for you. Forgiving doesn't need to be in-person. You can forgive someone without having a face-to-face talk and it will still help in healing. Most importantly, we have to forgive ourselves.*

## CONNECTING

*For the second year, CAFN is pleased to offer increased office hours during the 2016 holiday season. Council has directed that CAFN offices only close for one week and that on-call support staff can be easily reached at any time throughout the holidays. This means CAFN offices will only close from December 26 through January 2, and regular business will resume on Tuesday, January 3.*

*CAFN is also busy preparing for a wide variety of holiday programs and activities in December.*

*The Angel Trees are back in our Haines Junction and Whitehorse offices. Kwänaschis to all who have generously donated gifts to ensure every CAFN child receives a Christmas gift this year.*

*Our Community Wellness team is immersed in preparing for CAFN's Christmas Connects program. This means staff are busy gathering food, essentials and useful gifts to deliver door-to-door to people in need in our communities for the holidays.*

*Staff are also planning many fun holiday events for kids and adults, including: Mt. Sima ski days, Lift Your Spirits Day, a sledding party, Elders holiday lunch, Whitehorse open house, community lunch, Family Day, First Night celebration, Star Wars movie, and much more! Please see the most current dates and details at [CAFN.ca/events](http://CAFN.ca/events).*

*CAFN is again offering funding for Citizens to host holiday gatherings in each CAFN community. CAFN has funds set aside for these gatherings and dinners in the Community Health and Well Being Fund (CHWB). Please visit [CAFN.ca](http://CAFN.ca) for more details.*

*In the spirit of connecting, we thank the Southern Tutchone Tribal Council (STTC) for hosting some excellent gatherings for the people of CAFN, Ta'an Kwach'an and Kluane. Recent STTC events include the Dig Your Roots gathering this fall at Da Kų Cultural Centre and the Christmas stocking workshop in Whitehorse this November. Please watch for more STTC gatherings coming soon.*

## SELF-RELIANCE

*Council and I commend the Aishihik Community Advisory Committee members on their good work helping provide community input for the Aishihik dam relicensing process. The recent community workshop and dinner were well-attended and very informative.*

*On behalf of our Council, thank you to the 2016 Employment Opportunities Program (EOP) crews. Kwänaschis to all 14 people who made our 2016 EOP team a great success. Shäw nithän! Excellent work.*

*Chief and Council were also happy to honour our youth who participated in the First Hunt and First Fish camps during a community feast in November. CAFN is proud of our young people who chose to spend time on the land learning how to harvest caribou and salmon and then shared the harvest with the community.*

CAFN continues to work to foster healthy economic development. This October I participated as a keynote speaker at the Cando Conference in Whitehorse. The Cando gathering is for economic development officers for Indigenous organizations across Canada.

Our Council held a tripartite meeting with the Champagne Aishihik Trust and Dakwakada Capital Investments. Highlights included a discussion on the redrafting the responsibilities of the Trust to have better communication between all three parties and with Citizens. Work will continue into the New Year, including work by a new working group being formed to work on redrafting our MOU with the Trust. A big thank you to Angelica Green for her work and commitment to the Trust. Shāw nithän.

## BETTER GOVERNMENT

CAFN thanks all our Citizens who voted in the November 8, 2016 Yukon Territorial election. CAFN was pleased to offer voter support with rides, registration and identification in Haines Junction, Canyon, Champagne, Takhini and Whitehorse. We also hosted a Kluane Candidate Forum to promote informed voting in our electoral district and Traditional Territory. We were gratified by a full house with more than 120 community member who attended. A special thank to all three candidates (Mathieya Alatini, Wade Istchenko and Sally Wright) for participating and to Dave Joe for moderating. A big thank you to Amy McKinnon for her hard work coordinating CAFN's election planning and messages, and to staff who provided voter support, especially Charlene Hume.

I also thank Darrell Pasloski for his work on behalf of all Yukoners as Premier for the past five years. And welcome to Sandy Silver as our new Premier. We look forward to working with you and your new government.



Chief Smith and candidates at the Kluane Candidate Forum at Da Kų Cultural Centre this October.



The CAFN Council, CA Trust and Dakwakada Capital Investments board during a tripartite meeting on December 1, 2016.

The Yukon election also means we must say farewell to our Executive Director, Ranj Pillai. We congratulate Ranj on his election as the Member of Legislative Assembly for Porter Creek South and extend our sincere gratitude for his hard work and dedication on behalf of CAFN for the past two years.

Work toward several initiatives on better government continue here at CAFN.

Chief and Council are taking a direct interest in helping to use and save Dákwanje (our language). We have created a Language Standing Committee which will provide strategic guidance and oversight in the implementation of CAFN's Language Mandate and Strategy.

Deputy Chief Kushniruk participated in the Assembly of First Nations National Housing and Infrastructure Forum in Ottawa early this November and brought back details on ways First Nations are collaborating to improve housing across the country.

Planning for a CAFN Special General Assembly is underway. The Special General Assembly is tentatively set for one day in early 2017. The purpose of the 2017 Special GA is: 1) to finalize our General Assembly rules of procedure and 2) to begin the process of the scheduled review of the CAFN Constitution. We look forward to sharing more details on this important meeting as planning continues.

Lastly, I congratulate Brian MacDonald on his new role as the Assistant Deputy Minister for Aboriginal Relations with the Yukon government.

Sincerely,

Kaaxnox, Dän Nätthe ada  
Chief Steve Smith

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

### Chief and Council Decisions

The following decisions were made during the July 29, 2016 regular Chief and Council meeting.

#### CYFN General Assembly

Chief and Council agreed to pay honorarium to four Elders who attended the CYFN General Assembly on June 28, 2016 for the express purposes of attending the CYFN Elders Meeting.

#### Da Kų Cultural Centre

Chief and Council agreed to support a proposal by MBA students Shadelle Chambers and Alexia Mckinnon to conduct a study on the economic potential for Da Kų Cultural Centre.

#### Budget Revision

Council agrees to amend the 2016-17 Property Services External budget to account for \$461,276.50 in additional external funding through CMHC RRAP programs.

**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) 634-4200 ext 231.*

### Chief and Council Meetings

The CAFN Chief and Council holds regular meetings monthly in Haines Junction. All regular Chief and Council meetings are open to CAFN Citizens. 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) 634-4200 ext 231.

#### Executive Assistant to the Chief

Part-time Executive Assistant to the Chief Lenette Graham can be reached in the Executive Council Office at (867) 634-4200 ext. 238 or by email to [EA2chief@cafn.ca](mailto:EA2chief@cafn.ca). Lenette also continues to work half-time in the Property Services Depart.

## DÄN Kų YENDA K'ÄKWÄTS'ENÄTA PROPERTY SERVICES NEWS

### BE PART OF A SAFER NEIGHBORHOOD

Safer Communities and Neighborhoods (SCAN) law applies on First Nations settlement land. The SCAN unit works with First Nations to develop protocols on how this Act is implemented on First Nation lands.

The SCAN unit supports safer communities by investigating and if necessary, shutting down properties that are regularly used for illegal activities, such as:

- ✓ producing, selling or using illegal drugs,
- ✓ unlawful sale and/or consumption of alcohol.

SCAN gives Yukon citizens an effective way to respond to illegal activities that are having a negative impact on their neighborhood. It also holds tenants and property owners accountable for threatening or disruptive activities regularly taking place on the ir property.

If you have a concern about a property that is having a negative impact on your neighborhood you can make a confidential complaint to SCAN.

**To confidentially report suspicious activity:**

**Call Toll free: 1-866-530-7226 or 456-SCAN (7226)**

**Submit a complaint online:**

[www.justice.gov.yk.ca/SCAN.html](http://www.justice.gov.yk.ca/SCAN.html)

**SUPPORT SAFER COMMUNITIES.  
IT'S YOUR CALL!**

## Burn the Right Wood the Right Way

Now that the home heating season is here again, this is a good time for a reminder to keep your home fires burning clean and efficient.

- Burn only seasoned, dry, split wood. To properly season wood, it should be cut, split and stacked in a covered area for about six months (including the summer months) before burning.
- Never burn green, wet, treated or painted wood, garbage, plastic, cardboard or glossy or bleached paper. Doing so releases poisons.
- Remember that fire needs oxygen. A clean and efficient burn requires ample air flow, so don't overload your stove and don't damp it down too much. Smoldering fires produce more pollutants because the wood is not being combusted completely.
- Running a high fire for 10 to 15 minutes after each refueling will help the wood burn better and will produce more heat for the amount of wood you use.
- Check the chimney for creosote build-up. A build-up of creosote might mean that your fires are not as efficient as they should be. While you're up there, clean the chimney to prevent a chimney fire.



*Photo at left: Footings were poured for the Champagne Hall expansion this October. Construction will continue this winter and is expected to be complete by March 31, 2017.*

## Help Prevent Mould in CAFN Housing

Bathroom and kitchen fans are an important part of a home's ventilation system. They remove odours, which improves indoor air quality.

They also remove moisture, which decreases the humidity level in the house. High humidity can damage building materials and can cause mould growth.

Preventing mould in housing doesn't need to be difficult. Here are a few simple things that you can do to prevent and eliminate it from your home.

- ✓ Avoid hanging your laundry indoors to dry.
- ✓ Use the bathroom fan when bathing and kitchen range hood when cooking.
- ✓ Cover boiling pots with a lid when cooking.
- ✓ Dry window frames and sills daily to keep water from dripping.
- ✓ Keep baseboard heaters and heat vents clear for even heat flow.
- ✓ Keep the basement tidy so air can move freely.
- ✓ Use plastic bins with lids instead of cardboard boxes for storage.
- ✓ Avoid placing beds or storing items against outside walls.
- ✓ If your home has a HRV, set it according to instructions.
- ✓ If there are any plumbing leaks, contact CAFN Property Services.

For more information or to request home maintenance or repair, please call Property Services at 634-4200 or [workorders@cafn.ca](mailto:workorders@cafn.ca).

## DÄN KETS'EDÄN YU EDUCATION UPDATE

Äk'än dzenù sòthän (good day).

I hope that everyone is settled down from the busy hunting season and has been working at getting back to the routine of the school year. I have moved my office from Jack Hulland to Elijah Smith this school year and I am currently sharing an office with Cynthia James who is the support worker for Kwänlin Dun First nation.

Each Tuesday Education and Wellness staff have been at the Takhini hall for *Dághaālan Nàakwäkeye* (Our families are playing) night. The hall is open from 3 – 7:30 p.m. and includes snacks, supper, homework time, and crafts. We have worked on *makay yálay ts'át* (button blankets) with Brenda Asp for the month of November. We encourage everyone to come by the hall to say "Dannch'e" and join in the activities.

If you have not applied for the CAFN school supply funding yet please make sure to do this right away as it may take 2-4 weeks to receive your cheque. The forms are available on the CAFN website under the "Education" panel.

I would like to put a huge shout out to all the *dän* who have been coming to *Dákwanjè* classes. Participants have been working their way to understanding over 100 words in *Dákwanjè* that are used in the kitchen. We are also adding a couple holiday words to keep up with the festivities. I am very proud of everyone who has been coming on a regular basis and taking time out of their busy lives to learn their language.

*D. Luke S. Campbell, Dakh'awèdí clan*  
*Dän kets'edän yū (They are learning) Education*  
*Elementary Education Support Worker, Whitehorse*  
*suicideTALK trainer, safeTALK provisional trainer*  
*ASIST trainer*  
*(867) 336-3283*  
*lcampbell@cafn.ca*



*A big "thank you" from CAFN Youth who participated in the Trades and Technology Camp in Haines Junction this summer.*

### Youth Summer Camps

This summer Yukon College and Champagne and Aishihik hosted two camps. One in Takhini which was a science camp where youth learned about dams, eco-systems, held bugs from the dinosaur age and made a traditional medicine book. The Trades and Technology Camp at the Youth Centre in Haines Junction included activities like comic book making, mouse robots, candy dispensers and a giant sling shot. Participants also learned the basics for coding a computer (computer language). We joined in on a Southern Tutchone language class and finished the week with a fun day at Pine Lake.

We would like to send a big "thank you" to CAFN for making these camps available to our youth!

*Margaret Chiblow*  
*Education Support Worker, Haines Junction*  
*(867) 634-2231 or 336-1858*  
*mchiblow@cafn.ca*



*CAFN Youth with Council and mentors at the Cando Conference in Whitehorse this fall.*



## **2015-16 Post Secondary Education Scholarships**

*Congratulations to the following CAFN post secondary students who received CAFN Scholarship Awards.*

### **Overall Academic Achievement Award Fund**

GPA to qualify: 2.75

#### **Highest GPA in a degree program**

Maisie Smith - Master of Arts – Counselling

#### **Highest GPA in a diploma program**

Stephanie Joe – Journalism

#### **Highest GPA in Vocational/Trades Certificate**

Dylan Boyko – Year 3 Electrician

### **Field of Study Achievement Award Fund**

GPA to qualify: 2.75

#### **Administration**

Florence Kushniruk – Business Admin.

#### **Law/Justice**

Courtney Wilbur – Bachelor of Arts – Law

#### **Social Sciences**

Emily Hume – Bachelor of Arts – Anthropology

#### **Fine Arts**

Kimiko Clark – Bachelor of Fine Arts – Theatre

#### **Health**

Nikki-Lee Patchett-Williams – Early Learning and Child Care

#### **Technology**

Jared Hougen – Electrical and Computer Engineer Tech

### **Priority Fields of Study**

GPA to qualify: 2.25

#### **Social Sciences**

Bethany Patchett – Assoc. Degree in Sociology

Amy Hannon-Beattie – Bachelor of Arts

#### **Health**

Shayla Battaja-Green – Early Learning and Child Care

#### **Education**

Nantsana Murphy – Bachelor of Education, Yukon Native Teacher Education Program

### **Science and Technology**

Brittany Au – University Transfer

### **Trades and Vocational Training**

- Anthony Primozic, Service Technician
- Kiefer Rissanen, Airline & Flight – Pilot
- Glen Rear, Level 3 Cook

Karen Boyko, Upgrading Grade 13

Jagger Jamieson, Open studies Grade 13



**CHAMPAGNE AND AISHIHIK FIRST NATIONS**

## **2015-16 Academic Achievement Awards**

*Congratulations to the following students who received CAFN Academic Achievement Awards for earning grades with an overall average of 75% or higher for the 2015-16 school year*

### **Grade 8**

Sean Barnaby

Frankie Chartrand

Mya Kinney

Graham MacDonald

Cara McCuaig

Douglas McKinnon

### **Grade 9**

Jordan Cote-Germain

Trevor Jones

Nicholas Williams

### **Grade 10**

Jaden Hume-Berry

Zabrina Leslie

### **Grade 11**

Yataya Van Kampen

### **Grade 12**

Troy Barnaby

***Shāw nithän!***



Our littlest Dakwäkäda Dancers.

We are planning for more interactive language learning revitalization programming in the new year. Please watch for posters and flyer deliveries. For more information or to share any language ideas feel free to contact me any time.

*Ut'äkwädinch'e dzēnù, Nän äyü näkwintth'ät, Dáyè shàw kùulè jè.*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Nàtthàthj'a – Millie Joe  
Language Coordinator  
(867) 634-3301 or 634-5243 cell  
mjoe@cafn.ca*



Above and below: Participants at the Southern Tutchone Christmas stocking workshop.



## DÄN K'E LANGUAGE, CULTURE & HERITAGE UPDATE

### Ukwänjè

*Dännch'e.* Wishing everyone a festive *Sha Kwädäk'wän N-zhā* (shortest sun day) month.

Language Programs had a busy successful winter language program that consisted of staff *Dákwanjè* with Luke Campbell and interactive Total Physical Response (TPR) sessions, community language and sewing programs with Heritage programs from canvas hunting packsacks, quill work to Southern Tutchone Christmas stocking workshops. We also have full *Dákwanjè* programming in the Shawkwunlee Daycare and the Youth Center. We are especially proud of our Youth attending all of the workshops and taking part in many *Dákwanjè* sessions.

We are happy to share pictures of some of our language programming and lessons.

## CAFN Language Mandate and Strategy

We are very excited that Chief and Council have formally adopted a Language Mandate and Strategy, as required by our *Dákwänje Nàts'ùal* Act (CAFN Language Act). Our mandate is: *Dän K'e Kwänje ka Ghaadembèt*, which translates as, "Talking our Language/our way, they hungry for it-really want it". The mandate was selected and developed with the assistance of the Language, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee, and is meant to demonstrate our commitment to inspire and support all citizens to use and learn *Dákwänje*.

For the initial phase of the Language Strategy we will focus on five areas:

- 1) Language Nest Pilot – regular language exposure and immersion in the Skawkwunlee Daycare to lay a life-long foundation in *Dákwänje* for our youngest citizens.
- 2) All Citizen Language Lessons Pilot – a variety of language lessons available to all interested citizens. Six weeks-worth of lessons were offered this past summer, and we will be building on what we learned to offer more in the future.
- 3) Language Domain Pilot – simple gatherings where participants strive to spend their time together talking only *Dákwänje*. Several of these gatherings have happened, and more are being planned.
- 4) Celebrate our Language – we need to recognize our *Dákwänje* speakers, learners and champions for the important work they are doing. We also need to make *Dákwänje* visible in our communities.
- 5) Certificate Program in Language Revitalization (Mentor/Apprentice) – a dedicated language learner and speaker spend a large amount of time together (approx. 1000 hours), learning and talking *Dákwänje*, and earning credits towards a university program.

If you have any interest in, questions or suggestions about CAFN's Language Mandate and Strategy, or programs being proposed, please contact Sean.

*Shäwnlj äk'än dzenù, Däk'anutà jè.*

Sean Sheardown

*Dän K'e, Language, Culture and Heritage Director  
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations  
(867) 634 3310  
ssheardown@cafn.ca*

## What's happening with Collections at Da Ku?

First of all, I can't believe that I have been back to work a year. Like they say, time flies when you're having fun.

Since being back a lot has been going on, most of it is not seen by other people because my work is done behind closed doors. Most of the time people don't even know that I'm working at the back of the building.

I have been working mostly in the Collections Room sorting and out each and every piece that we have in our collection. This has been and still is a very big job. Every item must be resorted, entered into a database, placed into different storage locations, and eventually photographed and boxed. This work will continue for a long time. With all of this sorting out I have found items from the 2013 grand opening that were gifted to Da Ku that are now being put on display for all see and enjoy.

If anyone would like to see the CAFN Collections please feel free to contact me, and I would be very happy to show you around and answer questions.

Have a very Merry Christmas everyone.

*Susan Knight, Collections/Exhibit Officer  
(867) 634-3317  
sknight@cafn.ca*



# Klukshu and Champagne

## Cabin Lot Allocations



*Resolutions 2016-12 (Champagne) and 2016-17 (Klukshu) passed at this past summer's GA instructed CAFN to repossess and reallocate undeveloped cabin lots at Champagne and Klukshu. Chief and Council have directed the Lands and Resources Department to reallocate those lots.*

### Klukshu

- 8 cabin lots will be available at Klukshu.
- They will be open for applications through a land lottery process in **EARLY 2017**.
- Before the Klukshu land lottery can occur, CAFN must make amendments to the CAFN Lands Policy to develop a fair lottery process.
- The Lottery will be advertised in early February 2016. A clear process will be in place along with application forms and a map.
- We expect the Lottery Draw will take place in early March 2017.
- Updates and additional information will be available on our website at **www.cafn.ca**, on Facebook at Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, and posted in CAFN offices. Please stay tuned.

### Champagne

- Lots are now available in the Champagne cabin subdivision
- These lots were previously unavailable due to flooding concerns. The lots that are now available are deemed suitable for development.
- *Application forms and a map of the subdivision are available in the CAFN Lands office in Haines Junction.*
- New areas for future development in Champagne will be explored when revisiting the Community Land Use Plan. The planning process will start in January 2017.
- ***Watch for a meeting date in January 2016 for Citizens to create a community plan that meets the needs of the community of Champagne.***

If you would like more information, please contact Graham Boyd at: (867) 456-6886 or [gboyd@cafn.ca](mailto:gboyd@cafn.ca).

## NEW FACES

### **Florence Kushniruk** **Post-Secondary Education Manager**

*Dannch'e.*

Seasons greeting to all of you. I wish each and every one of you a safe and joyful holiday.

For those of you that may not know me, my name is Florence Kushniruk, the youngest daughter to Sheila Kushniruk and Alfred LaVallee. My maternal grandparents are the late Lydia and George Kushniruk and I am the great-granddaughter of the late Annie Ned. My paternal grandparents are the late Susie Fred and Ralph LaVallee. I have four amazing siblings: Michelle LaVallee, John LaVallee, Sharmane Jones and Cora-Lee Johns.

Since October 2011, I have been the Administrative Assistant to CAFN's Education Department located in Whitehorse. I have enjoyed meeting most of our post-secondary students and their families over the past five years and look forward to meeting more citizens in my new position. I received my Business Administration certificate from Yukon College this past April and am working to earn my diploma by April 2018.

I accepted the Post-Secondary Manager position this fall and my first day was October 3, 2016. I am located in the CAFN Whitehorse office at 304 Jarvis Street, on the first floor, straight past the boardroom. Please come in for a visit, ask a few questions about the Post-Secondary Education program or warm up with a cup of tea or coffee.

I am very excited and grateful for this opportunity to give back to CAFN for the support given to me to succeed in my educational journey. I look forward to all the challenges to come and the lessons that will follow.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

*Kwänaschis* (thank you).

*Florence Kushniruk*  
*Post-Secondary Education Manager*  
*(867) 456-6884*  
*fkushniruk@cafn.ca*

**Please welcome Michelle MacElheron to Finance as the Accounts Payable Clerk. Michelle is filling in for Marsha while she is on parental leave.**

### **Kyra Chambers** **Heritage Resource Officer**

My name is Kyra Chambers and I am the new Heritage Resource Officer for CAFN. I grew up in Champagne before moving to Whitehorse to finish high school and attend Yukon College. Previous to accepting this position, I was fortunate to work with CAFN for a number of years as a summer student. I am excited to be a part of the heritage team and I look forward to the opportunities ahead. I hope to make a positive difference in the Language, Culture and Heritage Department.

*Kyra Chambers, Heritage Resource Officer*  
*(867) 634-3308 or 335-2367 cell*  
*khchambers@cafn.ca*



### **Dixie Smeeton** **Renewable Resource Manager**

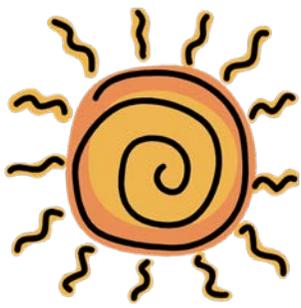
*Dannch'e. Ätsk'ia üye.* My name is Dixie. I am a Champagne and Aishihik citizen and a member of the *Agunda* (Wolf) clan. Through roles as a wildlife biologist/ecologist tech, geology tech, Aboriginal liaison, fish

habitat biologist, pipeline liaison officer, project manager and entrepreneur, I have gained a wealth of base knowledge with industry and governments.

My educational background stems from science. I hold an Associate Degree in Applied Technology in Environmental Sciences, a Bachelor of Natural Resource Science, Post-Baccalaureate in Business and a Master's degree in Business Administration.

The most honouring part of my new position will be giving back to my community. My belief in professionalism and due diligence coupled with my personality and passion to succeed will enable me to perform well as CAFN's Renewable Resource Manager.

*Dixie Smeeton, Renewable Resource Manager*  
*(867) 634-4200 Ext. 252*  
*dsmeeton@cafn.ca*



# Shawkwunlee Daycare

Newsletter

December 2016



It has been a busy year here at the daycare! Enrollments are high and we now have seventeen full and part time students using the center. It's been so much fun to get to know all of these new children, and continue to learn about all of the students who have been with us since the start. If you are going to be looking for care for your child in the near future it's good to plan ahead, as we already have a wait list for the new year. Drop by anytime to meet the staff and grab a registration package, or call us at 634-2163.

## Programming

We have been continuing to use emergent curriculum and it is becoming easier to plan activities as the children become increasingly engaged in helping to shape the curriculum. We have learned about various animals, the weather and the changing of the seasons. As much of our curriculum revolves around outdoor play the children are always questioning the changes that they see. We have been working on a snow fort in the yard, and the children have been exploring the different snow that is created in the various types of weather that we



see each day. Some days are good for walks and knocking snow off the trees, and others for making snow men. We love our outside time, and it's great that we have such healthy small town children who enjoy this so much. The things that we as adults take for granted each day, like the change in snow conditions, can be such fun and enriching learning experiences for young minds.

Center staff continue to be in Early Learning and Child Care courses, and are bringing a lot of programming ideas and handmade curriculum and resources back into the center this semester. Our focus is on teaching math, science and social studies concepts through fun games and hands on learning. Throughout all of this we put a huge focus on supporting emotional and spiritual well-being. It is so important as children grow and learn about the world around them, that they are able to learn how to express their emotions in appropriate ways, in a safe and supportive environment.

We have been working closely with staff of the Child Development Center to learn about the best ways to support children on this journey and it is

really paying off. Our children are learning about the words to use when they want to express themselves, and are learning constructive techniques to use when they are frustrated and overwhelmed.

With so much new and important information to discuss each week, and to allow us the time to create programming based around the needs of each child that we are identifying through observation and working one on one with children and specialists in the field, we are needing to meet as a staff more often. We may close the center early on Fridays, up to once a month, to allow staff adequate time to work on our student plans. Dates will be announced ahead of time.



### **Dän k'e (Language)**

Our dän k'e efforts are beginning to pay off and we are seeing more and more dän k'e being used at the center by both staff and children every day. We have completed a lot of labeling to support staff on this journey, so that there are visual cues reminding us of how to incorporate dän k'e into our everyday routines. We have also had Natane Primozic start three days a week at the center to do some immersive language programming with the children. She comes with new energy and pas-

sion for the job, and is working with center staff and the CAFN language department to try to improve our language initiative at the daycare. We are also always looking for interested community members to come into the center to share their knowledge, stories, language skills or other traditional skills such as drumming and dancing with the children. If this interests you please contact the daycare and we can make a plan.

### **Christmas**

This year the daycare is closed from the 20th of December until the 2nd of January, for our Christmas vacation. We will re-open on the 3rd of January. Our annual Christmas party was held on the 18th of December. We hope that having it on a weekend allowed everyone to attend and have a really fun family event this year. Thank you to all the parents and family members who attended.



### **Shäkwünlee Daycare Fees**

We are lucky to have very low daycare fees here in Haines Junction. With changes to the cost of operation, and the guidelines around how we define full and part time spaces, the daycare fees are going to be modified starting in January 2017. Parents can set up times to come and meet with me if they have any questions about how these changes affect them. There will be changes to the definitions of full and part-time and to the fees themselves.



# Dakwakada

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

## Castle Rock Enterprises (CRE)

Castle Rock is going full out into the fall and winter months. A few of the projects we have completed or near completion this construction season are:

- Whistle Bend dirt haul of 35,000 cubic metres, is running well. Estimated completion date is November 15.
- Save-On-Foods underground work is almost complete for the season and surface works will resume in spring 2017.
- City of Whitehorse operations building water and sewer are in the works on Range Road. Estimated completion date is November 18, 2016
- Atco's ditch 1 & 3 are complete.
- 2016 Faro sewage lagoon is complete
- 2016 Swift River living complex replacement is complete.

We will be working hard this winter on bidding contracts and securing projects for the 2017 season such as:

- Snow removal for the 2016/2017 winter season.
- The Whitehorse Landfill Operations contract continues.
- Whistle Bend Phase 3C has just been awarded. The stripping and grubbing begin in November 2016 and may continue into late December or early January. The underground and surface works will take us to October 2017.

- The second year contract with PCL Builders at the Whitehorse General Hospital Expansion Project is ended for the 2016 season. The surface works will continue in 2017.

CRE completed a COR Internal Safety Audit this summer and achieved a score of 94% in addition to receiving a letter of good standing from Northern Safety Network and WCB. In 2017, CRE will be conducting an external audit with an independent auditor. Our COR certificate continues to be in good standing, and we achieved our 2016 goal of zero loss time!

Safety continues to be integral part of our organizational culture, and we would like to congratulate our safety coordinator, Christine Vandenburg, who just completed a two-week construction officer training session in Vancouver and continues to be a valuable asset to CRE's safety team.

Castle Rock Enterprises staff and management team would like to wish you all the best this Holiday Season and Happy New Year!

## Icefield Tools (ITC)

This past quarter, Icefield Tools has begun marketing its new Gyro Path NSG system (North Seeking Gyro) to individual clients around the globe. This included top companies in oil and gas and geo-technical development.

Next week, Icefield will attend the ADIPEC trade show in Abu Dhabi to showcase the new technology, including a 'real-time' capable modem system that allows the operator to communicate directly

with the instrument within the wellbore. We are excited about opportunities in the Middle East that will result from our marketing efforts there.

Overall, we are seeing signs of improvement in the mining industry, albeit slow. Oil prices continue to hover around \$50, and we are hopeful that there will be gradual improvement over the coming year.

### **RAB Energy (Northerm)**

We have enjoyed an active building season this past summer at both operations and continue to be busy this fall and leading up to winter. On September 29, Northerm Windows celebrated our 30th anniversary of business in the Yukon. This event was very well attended, and we were pleased to celebrate with our employees, customers, shareholders and community members. We are proud to be able to celebrate the major milestone of manufacturing energy efficient, northern made products for the past 30 years. We look forward to many more years to come!

Much effort and time has been spent on finishing up the plant automation and bringing all of the consolidation projects to completion. We will be ready to produce all windows and doors for the Alaska market in early 2017 and send them west bound to our distribution facilities.

We have been successful in securing the Save-On-Foods project in Whitehorse, as well as getting some very encouraging messages on the Whistler Continuing Care Facility currently under construction. We will be bidding on the MacBride Museum expansion as well as a number of other smaller commercial projects for the upcoming construction season.

We would like to thank you and your communities for your continued support and as the holiday season is approaching we wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season.

### **Dakwakada Capital Investments (DCI)**

Dakwakada Capital Investments was very pleased to support and attend the 2016 CANDO conference that was held in Whitehorse in early October 2016. There were many opportunities for networking and valuable information gathered from the presentations, training, and information sessions.

DCI's group of companies' participation in the 2016 CAFN Summer Student Employment Program was a great success! If there are any post-secondary students who are attending or will be attending university, college or a training program, and are interested in 2017 summer employment with one of the companies, please contact Joey Krahn at (867) 668-5831 or joey@dakwakada.com.

Dakwakada Capital Investments would like to wish all community members a wonderful Holiday Season with your friends, family and loved ones!



*Oliver Jim (OJ) and Wilfred Brown together at the Thompson Centre this October.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### REMINDER:

**CAFN still has resources to assist with preparing Citizens' wills and enduring power of attorney.**

**Please contact:**

*Anna Starks Jacob  
at Austring Fendrick & Fairman  
in Whitehorse at 668-4405  
or toll free at 1 (800) 661-0533*

## Shawkwunlee Dunena Sports Society

The Shawkwunlee Dunena Sports Society was established 15 years ago and always welcomes new volunteers.

In the past our fundraising efforts have included:

- North highway Christmas hampers
- Annual Skate with Santa – Haines Junction
- Dance regalia and supplies
- Yukon hand games
- Annual Easter egg hunt
- Sponsorship of youth sports in hockey, curling, soccer, hand games, swimming, and skiing
- New outdoor equipment for shawkwunlee daycare
- Haines junction community pantry
- Drum making workshops
- Halloween prizes
- Haines junction community pantry
- School attendance initiatives
- Youth in trades courses
- Craft courses for youth
- Haines junction and area angel trees ( Christmas gifts for kids).

Current Board members are Brenda Jackson, Monica Primozic, Annette Melancon, Tracy Kane, Bob Reich and Jennifer McPhie.

For more information or to join, please contact Brenda Jackson at 634-2191 or visit Shawkwunlee Dunena Sports Society on Facebook.

## CAFN Citizens: Are you thinking about doing some training?

### If so, here is some very important information!

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations has an Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS).

- An ASETS form must be filled out and submitted to the CAFN Education Department, in full detail, at least 10 business days before your training course starts.
- The Education Department needs this time in order to review applications and be sure they are filled out completely, to comply with the government funding guidelines/policies, and to determine whether we have funding.
- The ASETS program can help CAFN citizens in the Yukon who are unemployed or have employment barriers to access training in order to help gain meaningful employment.
- This program is intended for those who are unemployed or underemployed.
- Important: ASETS does not normally provide for training that would usually be covered by employers through professional development.
- Post-secondary education and trades are usually covered through our Post Secondary Education program.
- ASETS will help you with:
  - o skills development;
  - o training for high-demand jobs;
  - o job finding;
  - o programs for youth;
  - o programs for Aboriginal people with disabilities; and
  - o access to child care so you can attend training courses.
- Funds are limited.
- Not everyone can be funded.
- Not every cost is covered.

For more information or to apply for funding, please contact:

*Tracy Kane, Employment and Training Officer  
(867) 634-4200 ext 261  
tkane@cafn.ca*

## CAFN STAFF AWARDS

Congratulations to all the dedicated CAFN staff who received awards on December 9, 2016.

### **Chief and Council Vision Award Dän Kwäk'e Ndal (Walking Our Way)**

Luke Campbell  
Dorothy John

### **Staff Choice Awards:**

#### **Outstanding Service Provider**

Kelli Backstrom  
Shannon Maloney

#### **Cultural Role Model**

Luke Campbell

#### **Leadership Award**

Fran Asp  
Brenda Jackson



*Darlene Blair, Mike Jim and Harry Smith received awards for 15 years of service to CAFN.*

### **Long Service Awards:**

#### **1 year of service**

Fran Asp  
Nathan Carlick\*  
Brenda Jackson  
Shania Jackson  
Susan Knight  
Ranj Pillai  
Lisa Rawlings-Bird  
Terry Rufiange-Holway  
Diane Strand

#### **5 years of service**

Chris Allen  
Luke Campbell  
Florence Kushniruk  
Miles Morton

#### **10 years of service**

Scott Hume  
Heather Jim  
Tracy Kane  
Shannon Maloney  
Jon Widney

#### **15 years of service:**

Darlene Blair  
Mike Jim  
Harry Smith

*\*Extra special one-year award to Nathan Carlick!  
Sincere apologies for missing you during this event.*



*Fran Asp and Brenda Jackson were selected by other staff to receive the 2016 Leadership Award.*

# Help someone when they need it most.

## Suicide is preventable. Anyone can make a difference.

Attend the half-day safeTALK program and learn to:

- identify people who may have thoughts of suicide,
- ask them directly about the possibility of suicide, then
- connect them to live-saving resources.

safeTALK is open to anyone 15 or older, regardless of prior experience. Both professionals and members of the general public can benefit from safeTALK.

## Why take safeTALK?

**LIFE-SAVING:** Anyone can experience thoughts of suicide. By connecting friends, family members, colleagues, and students with helping resources, safeTALK participants save lives in their communities.

**SIMPLE YET EFFECTIVE:** safeTALK uses the easy-to-follow TALK steps—Tell, Ask, Listen, and KeepSafe—and includes time to practice them so the knowledge is retained.

**ENGAGING:** safeTALK is a dynamic training that incorporates presentations and audiovisuals. It invites participants to become more alert to the possibility of suicide and how to prevent it.

**TRUSTED:** More than 50,000 people attend safeTALK each year. safeTALK is used in over 20 countries worldwide, and many communities, organizations, and agencies have made it a core training program.

**PROVEN:** Studies show that safeTALK participants feel more confident asking people about suicide, connecting them with life-saving resources, and keeping them safe until those resources can take over.<sup>1,2</sup>

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## Upcoming workshops

Monday January 23, 2017 (12.30pm - 5pm) at the Da Kų Cultural Centre in Haines Junction

To register or inquire:

Email: [lcampbell@cafn.ca](mailto:lcampbell@cafn.ca)

Phone: 867-336-3283

Course fee: covered by Champagne and Aishihik First Nation Government

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Learn more at [www.livingworks.net/safeTALK](http://www.livingworks.net/safeTALK)

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1 McLean, J., Woodhouse, A., Schinkel, M., Pynnonen, A., McBryde, L. (2007) Evaluation of the Scottish safeTALK Pilot. Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health, Edinburgh.

2 McKay, K., Hagwood, J., Kavalidou, K., Kolves, K., O’Gorman, J. & De Leo, D. (2012) A Review of the Operation Life Suicide Awareness Workshops. Report to the Department of Veterans’ Affairs. Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention, Brisbane.

## SPECIAL GREETINGS



*Congratulations to all our youth who participated in the First Hunt and First Fish camps this summer and shared their harvest during the community feast this November. Shāw nithan!*



*Kwānaschis - thank you - to all who took part in the 10-day CAFN Men's Warrior Land Based Camp held at Christmas Bay this October.*



**CHAMPAGNE AND AISHIHIK FIRST NATIONS**

***Please send your greetings  
for the Dàkwānī newsletter to:  
Amy McKinnon, Communications  
almckinnon@cafn.ca • (867) 634-4237***

## *Kianna Aurora Baker*



John Baker & Telena Jones  
are star struck by the  
arrival of their baby girl.  
Born  
June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 6:31 am  
3.5 lbs 16 in.



A tiny bit of heaven sent from  
above, a sweet little miracle to  
treasure and love.

We would like to thank our family, friends and  
Champagne/Aishihik First Nations for all your help during our stay in Vancouver BC.  
Words can not express our sincerest and heartfelt gratitude for  
all of you in our time of need!

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

*Happy belated birthdays to:*

*Alan MacDonald (Chop Chop) - October 2*

*Bonnie Chambers - October 19*

*Cameron Sidney - October 29*

*Happy Birthday to:*

*Maddison Dupont - a very happy 1st birthday November 6*

*Elaine Chambers - November 18*

*Bev Rissanen - November 20*

*Odessa Epp - November 22*

*Marion Telep - "60" December 4*

*Grace Southwick - December 5*

*Candace Walker - December 5*

*Glenna Southwick - December 11*

*Nicki Telep - December 13*

*Wyatt Drift - December 17*

*Barry Imbeau - December 20*

*Roy Wabisca - "88" December 21*

*Joe Knight - December 22*

*Mike Telep - December 25*

*Lena Smith-Tutin - December 30*

*Fran Oles - December 31*

*Fred Chambers - January 5*

*From the Wabisca, Telep, Knight and Bratt families.*

*Happy Birthday to daughter and sister Melissa Imbeau on January 4 and happy 2nd birthday to our beautiful granddaughter and niece Piper Mae Imbeau January 9. Love Dad (Grampa Ron), Angie (Grannie Annie), Kaylea (Auntie) and Wyatt (Uncle).*

**Return Address:**

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

**Destination Address:**

## CAFN CALENDAR

### CAFN CHRISTMAS CONNECTS 2016

**CAFN offices closed Dec 26 - Jan 2.**

**Community Wellness on-call support: 634-5226**  
 or join us at the following events!

**December 25 - Christmas Brunch**, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Mun Kų (Elders Complex).

**December 26 - Boxing Day**, please watch for details at [cafn.ca/events](http://cafn.ca/events).

**December 28 - Takhini Potlatch Luncheon**, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**December 29 - Family Fun Sledding Party**, 2 p.m. at Canyon.

**December 30 - Chili and a Bun Drop-in**, 2 p.m. at Mun Kų (Elders Complex).

**December 31 - First Night Celebration**, 8:30 p.m. to midnight at Da Kų Cultural Centre.

**January 3 - CAFN offices open.** Regular business hours resume.

**January 27 - Chief and Council regular meeting**, Haines Junction.

**February 23 - Chief and Council regular meeting**, Haines Junction.

**March 24 - Chief and Council regular meeting**, Haines Junction.

*For many more holiday event dates and details, please visit [CAFN.ca/events](http://CAFN.ca/events) or like [Champagne and Aishihik First Nations](#) on Facebook.*

***Dăyè Sàkwuthj Jè***

May the holidays bring you happiness.



## Dăkwăni

**Champagne and Aishihik First Nations**

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

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CHAMPAGNE AND AISHIHIK FIRST NATIONS

*Dăkwăni*

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**Champagne and Aishihik First Nations**