# Dàkwäní

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING



## ACKNOWLEDGING THE LATE COUNCILLOR MICKEY BEATTIE (AUGUST 17, 1961 - SEPTEMBER 22, 2023)

It is with great sadness that Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) announces the loss of Councillor Michael "Mickey" Beattie. Mickey passed away unexpectedly on September 22, 2023.

Mickey was first elected to Council in 2019 and again in 2022. Mickey's two terms in office displayed his dedication to the nation. Mickey was known as a "Man of the Land" and spent much of his time out in the wilderness. He loved being able to share this knowledge with his family and friends. He particularly enjoyed his

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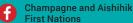


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# ACKNOWLEDGING THE LATE COUNCILLOR MICKEY BEATTIE

work with youth and supporting youth programming. The Bison hunt was an important yearly tradition where he helped educate young Citizens on harvesting and traveling safely out on the land.

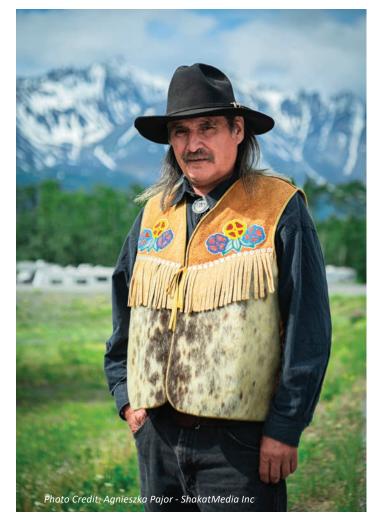
Mickey Beattie received his traditional name last summer, Kù tak'à nndāltà, which means "Walking amongst the forest dad". He was raised by hunters, trappers, cowboys and cowgirls. He was known as the "Champagne Cowboy" and taught horsemanship to many, keeping the hunting traditions of the Shadhäla Dän (people) alive. He believed that through supporting our youth with the knowledge of traditional ways and on the land skills, it would build confidence towards providing for their families and the skills needed to pass on to future generations.

Mickey served on the Kluane Park Management board for over 8 years and was a representative of the Alsek Renewable Resource Council (ARRC) for 2 terms.

CAFN extends our deepest condolences to all of Mickey's family and friends.

He will be missed by many.

"Together, we can make our youth, our language, our culture and our people stronger." – Mickey Beattie









### DÄN NÄTTHE ÄDA DÄKWÄL

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dànách'é



I hope this message finds you well as we transition from summer to autumn. It is my honor to share reflections of the past season and updates with you in this edition.

First and foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the summer students who dedicated their time and effort over the past few months. Your contributions have been invaluable to our community, and your hard work has not gone unnoticed. As I witness your efforts, I feel good to know that there is a bright future ahead for CAFN, carried forward by our youth. Shäw Níthän!

With the signing of the Community Committee Agreement with the First Nation School Board, we have made another big step up in the quality of education for our people. This partnership marks a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to empowering our children and families through education. I look forward to introducing the very first Community Committee, who will in part oversee management and operations at St. Elias Community School.

As the days grow shorter and the nights colder, we are reminded that this season can be particularly challenging for our community. And, with the significant losses to our families over the past few months, I want to emphasize the importance of taking care of yourselves and each other

during this time. Reach out to your loved ones for support, get out on the land as much as possible and get lots of rest.

The unexpected passing of dän nätthe dätth'i Kỳ tak'ầ nndāltà (Councillor Michael Beattie) has left a profound emptiness in our government and in our hearts. Mickey's dedication as a Councillor and his tireless efforts in support of our community will always be remembered. We will forever cherish the time we had with our beloved Champagne Cowboy.

There will be two Grieving & Loss workshops held in November. Gisela Sartori M.A., Dip.C., RCC, will be facilitating these three-day workshops. Gisela is a counsellor with many years of experience in grief work and deep personal transformation. I would encourage anyone dealing with any loss to participate. Please contact Jocelyn for further information and to register.

To ensure the completion of resolutions from this July's Annual General Assembly, we will be hosting a continuation session on Saturday, November 25 in Champagne. I am eagerly awaiting this chance to gather together again. Council recently determined that the process to elect a new Councillor will begin January 2024. More details will be made available soon.

A few events to look forward to this October/November:

- Community Wellness is hosting a SPOOKTACULAR night of Halloween Festivities in Takhini on Thursday, October 26 and at Da Ku on October 30
- Dakwakada Mountain Festival (November 4)

I also want to recognize the wonderful work of our Citizens! Congratulations to:

- Cole Pauls, on being one of 6 finalists for the Yukon Prize for Visual Arts
- Shadunjen van Kampen on her exhibit 'Worldview' showcased at the Edge Gallery at Arts Underground.
- North American Indigenous Games: Dawson and Phoenix Widney, Jorja and Josh Jackson, Kael, Brielle and Jayla Epp, Jorge Bellmore-Smarch, Alex LeBarge, Johna and Ava Irving-Staley, Alexis Fields-Birckel, Marcus Fred, Malakai Alatini, Justin Johnson, Leah





**NOVEMBER 25, 2023** 



# NŁÄSHĒJEL SPECIAL ASSEMBLY

THIS IS A CONTINUATION OF THE SUMMER GA TO FINALIZE OUTSTANDING RESOLUTIONS

Business starts Saturday at 10 am

**DOOR PRIZES & MEALS PROVIDED** 

# CHAMPAGNE HALL | SHADHÄLA/CHAMPAGNE



#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Kathleen Jones Denise Beattie at (867) 634-4200 (867) 334-3943 kjones@cafn.ca dbeattie@cafn.ca

WWW.CAFN.CA/NLASHEJEL/



McLean, Elsa Gleason, Mya Wilson, Jennifer Tuton, Jamie Nickel, Zorilena Martin, Koltan Jim, Tyanna Dawson, Paxton and Carson Nelson, Samuel Thorn and many other indigenous athletes!

 The Dän K'è Kwänje Ghäkenīdän – "We are learning our language" program has begun with the third cohort of language learners! Shäw Níthän for your determination to keeping dàkwänjè alive! As we embrace the changing seasons and look ahead to the opportunities and challenges they bring, let us remember the strength of our community lies in our unity and shared vision.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our people. Wishing you all a safe and healthy transition into the fall season.

Dän nätthe äda K'úkhįá Chief Barb Joe

#### Our Dän nätthe dätth'i (Council) vision for our term:

#### We want to do this in a good way

Dáshäw k'e shäwthän k'àts'edūnji ni dän yè dánän, shäwthän ghànūzhi däw. Äłäyè dánän kay k'anīdäl k'è, chu ghànīdą k'è, äłeghą ts'edätth'i ch'e, nàts'usàt shį

It is our responsibility to continue Dän K'e, our traditional ways, to heal and empower our people and community.

We strengthen our wellness by connecting with our land, water and each other.



### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

CAFN is seeing an increase in new COVID-19 cases among our staff and community members this fall. Cold and flu season is upon us and we need to remember COVID-19 is part of our day-to-day lives and that it still poses a greater risk for vulnerable people than the flu or a cold, especially to Elders, pregnant women and immunocompromised people.

CAFN's guidance is SIMPLE. SAFE. SMART.

- Stay home when sick
- Wear a mask in public spaces, especially if you are at risk
- Stay up to date with vaccines

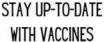
Please remember, it is still important to stay home when you are sick. If you have symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 please follow the Government of Yukon's guidance here: <a href="https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-information/your-health-covid-19/what-do-if-youget-positive-covid-19">https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-information/your-health-covid-19/what-do-if-youget-positive-covid-19</a>.

High quality masks and tests are available at all CAFN administrative buildings and halls for staff and Citizens. Contact covidcoordinator@cafn.ca if supplies are low at your worksite.

COVID-19 boosters and flu shots will be available for all Yukoners this fall. Yukoners in Whitehorse can book thier appointments at <a href="Yukon.ca/en/appointments">Yukon.ca/en/appointments</a> and the Dakwakada Clinics are Oct 16, Oct 25 and 26. The National Advisory Committee for Immunization in Canada recommends a dose of the new formulation of COVID-19 vaccine for all 18+ individuals in or from First Nations communities who have previously received a COVID-19 vaccine, if it has been at least 6 months since the last COVID-19 vaccine dose or known SARS-CoV-2 infection (whichever is later).

Shäw nithän - thank you.







WEAR A Mask inside



STAY HOME WHEN SICK

# SIMPLE. SAFE. SMART.









Congratulations to North American Indigenous Games Athletes Kael, Brielle and Jayla Epp!

### NAN KAY GHAWINJI K'E (OUR WAY OF LIFE ON THIS LAND)

# HERITAGE, LAND AND RESOURCES UPDATE

#### Fish and Wildlife Update

**The Heritage, Land and Resources** (HLR) department is excited for the Fall season and all of the beautiful changes it has to offer, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the amazing summer activities we had the opportunity to participate in and learn from.

#### **Nesketahin Lake Camp**

Our team dove into the summer season with the smelt enumeration project at the Nesketahin Lake camp. The project started when the lake was still frozen to ensure that the work was successful and we were able to be there for the full out migration of smelts. From there, our time was spent completing wildlife surveys, land patrols, forestry assessments, field inspections, cultural surveys and habitat assessments. A trout SPIN survey was also completed on Kathleen Lake.

#### **Collaborations**

Our summer also included participation in events like the Council of Yukon First Nation (CYFN) and CAFN General Assemblies, which were great for information sharing and collaboration with Government entities and other organizations. We worked with other organizations on projects including the Takhini Sonar with Kwanlin Dün First Nation, activities with youth and the "Sunshine Camp", SPIN surveys and Kokanee salmon monitoring in Kluane National Park, assisting with the Klukshu Summer student/Elders Camp, and Alsek Salmon Stock Assessment with the Department of Fisheries and Ocean (DFO).

#### **Land Guardians**

We also conducted regular patrols within the Champagne and Aishihik Traditional Territory, which often included water sampling, environmental monitoring, habitat assessment and fish and wildlife surveys. During this time, our hardworking team continued helping other departments with their onthe-land activities and camps, and our guardians showed leadership by supporting with equipment and logistics. We welcomed one high school student, Drake Workman, to our team this summer and our Guardian Leader Levi Graham made sure Drake was involved in all types of activities that our Guardians typically take part in throughout the summer.



A male spawning sockeye caught at the crossing with the summer students this fall. This sockeye was snagged using a hook and line.

#### **Salmon Update**

HLR will continue to host engagement sessions and on-theland discussions to hear from Citizens on what they would like to see in a Salmon Relationship Plan and to share their salmon stories. Below is an overview of how last year's run went and what to expect for this year.

#### 2022 Alsek Salmon Run Size

Alsek River drainage-wide Gyü (chinook) – **3,365** (below) Klukshu River Gyü (chinook) – **940** (below 10 year average of 1,090) Alsek River drainage wide sambay (sockeye) - **134,869** Klukshu River sambay (sockeye) - **30,509** (above 10 year average of 11,423 fish)

Village Creek sambay (sockeye) – **469** (below 10 year average of 515 fish)

#### 2023 Alsek Salmon Forecast:

Alsek River drainage wide Gyü (chinook) - 5,300 Klukshu River Gyü (chinook) — 1,300 Alsek drainage-wide sambay (sockeye) - 118,000 Klukshu River sambay (sockeye) - 27,200 CAFN would like to remind Citizens that the Village Creek fishery remains closed.

2022 Yukon River Gyü (chinook) Run Size – 12,290 (significantly below the 10 year average of 61,000)

2023 Yukon River Gyü (chinook) Forecast – 34,000

Yukon River Chinook have declined drastically over the last few years, and it is not anticipated that any harvest will be available in Alaska or Canada for the foreseeable future. CAFN requests our Citizens who traditionally harvest on the Takhini and Nordenskiold Rivers to avoid targeting Chinook salmon until stocks are rebuilt.

For those who wish to stay current on the Alsek River Salmon Updates, you can visit the Telemetry website and view salmon that have been tagged: <a href="https://bit.ly/alsek-river-telemetry">https://bit.ly/alsek-river-telemetry</a>





#### **Citizen Information Sessions**

CAFN HLR department staff are currently developing information packages on how the various industries (mining, agriculture, forestry, etc) are permitted and regulated throughout our Traditional Territory. This information is meant to build upon current understanding of how these regimes operate to better inform feedback and perspectives from our own CAFN Citizens and how developments may impact your rights and interests. Updates will be available on our web- and social media pages for how this information will be shared (thumb drives, registry, paper, etc). In addition to this, the HLR department is currently preparing to host informal citizen gatherings (lunch/snacks will be provided) to present updates on projects (proposed and current) occurring throughout dákeyi.

Please stay tuned for upcoming fish and wildlife programming and consultation we are planning to hold during the fall and winter months. We wish you all a beautiful and bountiful harvest season!



High bush cranberries at Shawshe.

#### October 2023

# DÁKEYI UKAANATHI JÈ: ALL OF YOU WATCH OVER OUR COUNTRY WITH YOUR HEART RESTORING FOREST ECOSYSTEMS IN KLUANE NATIONAL PARK AND RESERVE-COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN), Kluane First Nation, and Parks Canada are working together to promote forest health in Kluane National Park and Reserve (KNPR).

Dakeyi ukaanathį jè: All of you watch over our country with your heart is a multi-year, collaborative project that is taking tangible steps toward restoring the health of forest ecosystems and reducing the threat of wildfires in KNPR.

The Fire Management Plan for KNPR was completed in 2023. The Fire management plan sets the strategic direction for the wildfire program in the park for the next 10 years and is closely linked to the Dákeyi ukaanathi jè project.



Bird monitoring equipment being deployed at Alder Creek by former project lead Roger Brown.



New project lead Jeni Rudisill on site at Alder Creek



Fire technician Ryan Long checking on monitoring equipment at Alder Creek.

### **FAST FACTS!**

- There have been considerably fewer fires on the landscape since the 1950s than would be expected from the fire history of that area during the 70 years prior to that.
- Between 1880 and 1950 approximately 17,771 hectares burned.
- From 1880 to 1950 average annual area burned was 257.6 hectares.
- From 1951 to 2022 the average annual area burned was 5.2 hectares.

# **UPCOMING OPEN HOUSE**

Pleas join us for a community meeting in Haines Junction on November 15, 2023 at Da Kų Culture Centre from 6 - 8pm. Refreshments will be served.

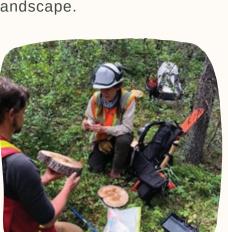
This open house will be a drop-in event where community members can ask questions and provide input on the Dàkeyi ukaanathį jè project. A formal presentation will be given at **6:30 PM** detailing the progress to date and proposed next steps. Community members are encouraged to join, your feedback is valuable and will help shape the future of this project.

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# FIRE AND FOREST OF KLUANE GATHERING: DA KŲ CULTURAL CENTRE, HAINES JUNCTION FEBRUARY 7-8, 2023

The Fire & Forests Gathering served as a place to learn and share and it spurred momentum and inspiration to support the project moving forward. Over 60 community members gathered over 2 days on February 7-8, 2023. Participants shared stories about burning in the past and perspectives about prescribed fire on the landscape.





Circle discussion during the Fire and Forest workshop.

Since the Fire and Forest gathering Parks Canada has been working with CAFN land guardians to study weather, forest fuels, birds and wildlife, while also developing a cultural resource inventory at two areas being considered for future prospective burns: Jarvis River and Alder Creek.

Fire History research with Canadian Forest Service

Contact Us

Email: kluaneinfo@pc.gc.ca

Phone: 867-634-7250

More information can be found on our website by scanning the QR Code



# DÄN KETS'ÄDÄN YŪ (THE PLACE WHERE PEOPLE LEARN)

# **EDUCATION UPDATE**

#### **Summer Students**

This summer we had approximately 30 CAFN students assisting a number of departments. Each student had the opportunity to gain work experience. After all the hard work, students are rewarded with a weeklong camp out on the land, learning practical skills.

In August, students attended the end-of-summer Fish Camp at Klukshu. This year was a bit different as it was combined with the annual Fall Elder's Camp. Students and Elders harvested berries, fish and gophers. They learned how to make soap with Marion Primozic, skinned the gophers with the Heritage, Lands and Resources Department, cleaned, smoked, and canned fish with Rita Burns, and sewed canvas bags with Vivian Smith & Martha Smith.

Thank you to all students for all of your hard work!

#### **New Director of Education - Amy McKinnon**



CAFN would like to welcome Amy McKinnon as the new Education Director!

Shadhäla Äshèyi yè Kwädän, Gúch'än k'e Amy McKinnon ùye. Kajèt ích'e. Dakwäkäda yù nìnje. Eagle River, Alaska ts'än ích'e.

Amy is excited to be serving as the new Education Director as of September, and is honoured and humbled to help carry on this important work. CAFN has amazing learners, from babies to Elders, and amazing education programs for CAFN people and the community. Sher is thrilled to join an amazing team of 27 expert, dedicated Education Department staff.

Amy has lived in Dakwäkäda permanently since 1998 and is a wife and mother to CAFN Citizens. Her first work with CAFN was in 1999/2000 helping out with the annual report. Since then she has worked for CAFN in housing, many years in communications, and in the Executive Council Office.

Staff and Citizens can find her in the CAFN Dakwäkäda office, at almckinnon@cafn.ca or at 867 634-4200.

#### **Elders & Summer Student Camp**

Shaw nithan to everyone who made the Elders and Summer Students Camp possible. It was a first special camp combining both Youth and Elders together.

We practiced traditional activities such as trapping gophers, fishing/gaffing, smoking and canning fish, sewing/beading, handgames, and berry picking, etc. A very special mention to everyone who put their daily life tasks aside and dedicated their time and efforts to this camp:

All elders for their presence and knowledge and all summer students – we hope this camp fueled some growth to face another year. Your nation is very proud of you.

Erin Jim – for leading the Southern Tutchone scavenger hunt. All children for being curious, we admire your eagerness to learn. Vivian and Martha for leading sewing and beading. Rita Burns for leading the canning of fish. Bonnie Chambers, Ellie Jackson and Susan Hume - our wonderful cooks! Nicole – researcher from Edmonton who helped out at the youth centre.

We would also like to recognize our wonderful CAFN staff: Lena Ross, Marion Primozic, Levi Graham, Mike Jim and staff, Josee Tremblay and staff, Mike who drove Elders from HJ to Klukshu, Youth Centre worker Terrence and Shannon, Angelica Fairclough, Heather VanBibber, Crystal Shimoon. Shaw nithän!



Summer students and Elders gather together at Klukshu to collect berries, make soap, and harvest gophers.

# DÄN KETS'ÄDÄN YŪ (THE PLACE WHERE PEOPLE LEARN)

# **COMMUNITY COMMITTEE AGREEMENT**

On July 23, 2023 Chief Barb Joe and First Nation School Board trustee and CAFN Citizen, Shadelle Chambers, signed the first Community Committee Agreement in the territory. This agreement asserts Champagne and Aishihik First Nation's authority and responsibility for the education of our children as part of our inherent right as a self-governing First Nation. Creating a FN school board and local community advisory committee for St. Elias Community School (SECS) will put more power, decision making, funding, and new opportunities in the hands of our community.

The Committee will have the power to influence the operation and management of SECS. This will insure the community can closely support Indigenous students by encouraging participation from family members. Concurrently, with dakwanje and dan k'e being integrated into the curriculum, other concrete actions are being taken towards Indigenizing education in CAFN country.

The Community Committee will be made up of residents of SECS's attendance area (pictured). Yukon residents outside of this area who have a close family member attending SECS may also apply. At least three of the four members must be CAFN Citizens.

The board posting closed September 6, 2023 and we are looking forward to introducing the Committee to the public!

"We are extremely proud to sign this historic agreement with the Yukon First Nation School Board. Chief and Council are taking proactive steps to establish community committees, encouraging and unifying the voices of our people. We are laying a strong foundation for the future of our education by reinforcing firm connections between our community and the new board. This partnership empowers us to have direct say in our children's education, embrace dakwanje (Southern Tutchone) in our school system and most importantly, ensure that each and every student is supported in their journey. This is a marked step in our people's path of self-determination."

- Chief Barb Joe, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations



# WELCOMING THE 2023 DÄN K'È KWÄNJE GHÄKENĪDÄN



CAFN would like to introduce the third cohort of Language Immersion students.

The Dän K'è Kwänje Ghäkenīdän "We are learning our language" program began this fall in Dakwäkäda. This two-year Adult Language Immersion program will earn each student a certificate in Language Proficiency through Simon Fraser University (SFU).

CAFN welcomes the following students and support:

#### Dän Nàkwä khèl:

- Kasälätà (Mundy Joe)
- Chetth'ät (Mary Jane Smith)
- Ghùch oox (Justin Johnson)
- Chutsäymą (Lorraine Stick)
- Dawn Smeeton
- Gu'qwaket (Noli Eastmure)
- Kukhäla (Monica Primozic)

Shäw Níthän for keeping dàkwänjè alive!

#### Dáshäw:

- Chughala (Lorraine Allen)
- Khut'äla (Audrey Brown)

#### Dän kenädän äch'e:

- Kaasháa
- Mäts'äsänäma

#### Dän Nàkwä khèl Support:

Barb Allen

# DÄN NÄTTHE DÄTTH'I

# NŁÄSHĒJEL (WE COME TOGETHER)

All General Assembly Resolutions will be available after the **November 25, 2023 Special Assembly.** 













### Da Kų Nän Ts'étthèt Dance Festival Photos **Language and Culture**

















# LANGUAGE AND CULTURE UPDATE







#### Da Kų Cultural Centre

The Da Kų Cultural Centre had an eventful and amazing summer, over-flowing with tourists and bus tours.

Visitor Stats to the Da Ku Cultural Centre: June = 2, 906 / July = 2,662 / August = 3,287 for a grand total of 8,855 visitors by tour bus and school tours.

The Da Ku Water Wednesdays with Jai Reid and John Fingland were well participated in by Citizens and Visitors. The Dug Out Canoe was transported and available for a paddle every Wednesday afternoon in August and September, the last paddle day was September 27th.

Da Ku also hosted two amazing beading workshops with Teagyn Aatagweix'i Vallevand this summer, beading Strawberry Earrings and then a Beaded Mountain Cuff. Both workshops were at capacity with Citizens, visitors and locals.

Shaw Níthan to our summer students and staff for all your amazing work, sharing and teachings this summer:

- Sheila Kushniruk, Da Ku Interpreter
- John Fingland, Da Ku Interpreter
- Justin Johnson, Da Ku Interpreter
- Jai Reid, Da Ku Interpreter
- Mitehos Reid, Da Ku Student Interpreter
- Juliette Joe, Da Ku Student Interpreter
- Kendra Neiman, Da Ku Student Interpreter
- Jennika Jones, Front Desk/Nju Store Retail
- Cameron Hume, Nju Store Retail
- Marika Ford, Nju Store Retail
- John Robillard, Da Ku Grounds Keeper
- William Hume, Da Ku Building Maintenance

#### Summer Students at Da Kų

This years language summer students, Shat K'e ye Änikhįą (Brittney Johnson and Erin Jim) ye Adanchilla worked hands-on with their mentors to learn and share dakwanje.

The young language leaders created a Dákwänje Äzįzha K'uk (Our Language Calendar) for 2024.

Each month includes language lessons and bonus materials at the end, all of which can be further explored via QR codes.



We used all the resources available online through the CAFN Language page & the Yukon Native Language Centre (YNLC) as well as the many dakwanje books, recordings and pictures. And of course they had the invaluable support of Sha'ala (Luke Campbell), and Elders Chughala (Lorraine Allen) and Hut'ala (Audrey Brown). Citizen photos and artwork will also be featured in the calendar. The students had a great time making the calendar for everyone and hope learns learn lots and enjoys the process! They will be available at both main offices early this winter.

A few other projects the students had over the summer include recording the dàkwänjè present on the walls of Dá kų Cultural Centre. They installed QR codes close to the words so that pronunciation and more information about those words can be access via smartphones. They also did an excellent job producing and recording dän K'e ads for CHON FM radio. These ads were very well received!

To round out their learning experience, Shat K'e ye Änikhįą took part in a couple hikes around dấ keyī. On the Dezadeash Trail, they enjoying the stories and teachings Sha'ala shared along the walk. Each animal, plant and insect were identified and directional teachings shared in dàkwänjè.

We raise our hands up to these youth who are working so hard for their language!



Da Ku staff pose for a group photo!



# KŲ K'Ā KWÄNÄTA YÜ (THE PLACE WHERE THEY LOOK AFTER HOUSES)

# PROPERTY SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE

CAFN Property Services, with funding from CIRNAC- First Nation Solid Waste Management Initiative (FNSWMI) has begun removing End of Life Vehicles from Däkwäkäda/Haines Junction, Tthe Yänlin Chemi/Canyon Creek, and Lu ghä/Klukshu. This summer we have been able to collect over 85 vehicles from CAFN land to depollute, and send down south for recycling.

The communities of Shadel/Champagne and T'a hîni/Takhini will have end of life vehicles removed in Summer 2024. We would like to thank everyone for their efforts in making CAFN Lands cleaner, safer, and more beautiful.

CAFN has also been a leader among Yukon First Nation governments with respect to EVs and EV charging; and will be installing 2 Level 2 chargers at the Administration building in Dakwakada during the upcoming months. The Yukon Government will be issuing CAFN 90% rebates.

Stay tuned more more updates on social media.









Congratulations to all of the 2023 North American Indigenous Games (naig) athletes!

## DAKWAKADA CAPITAL INVESTMENTS



#### Dakwäkäda Capital Investments LP (DCILP) Fall 2023 Newsletter Submission

It was great to meet so many Citizens at the CAFN General Assembly in July. We hope those of you who stopped by are getting good use out of the bags, shirts, hats, phone holders, back scratchers and other swag we had with us, including the lucky few who were able to snag a special knife from our friends at Castle Rock Enterprises who joined us at our booth. And a special congratulations to Shauna Strand who won our winter sled door prize from our Mac Plastics business in Edmonton.



#### Welcome Conrad Browne, new DCILP President & CEO

DCILP is excited to introduce our new President & CEO to the CAFN community. Conrad Browne joined us at the beginning of September from the Teal Jones Group

in Surrey, BC where he was the Director of Indigenous Partnerships and Strategic Relations. Prior to joining Teal Jones, he was CEO of the K'awat'si Economic Development Corporation (KEDC) for the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations (GNN) in Port Hardy, BC. Overall, Mr. Browne has over 30 years of management experience in various sectors, including natural resources, large national and international companies as well as hospitality and restaurant businesses. Conrad can be reached by email at conrad@dakwakada.com.

DCILP Board Chair Elaine Chambers shared "throughout the recruitment process, Conrad stood out as an ideal candidate for DCILP. Additional to his diverse knowledge of business operations, he brings valuable experience with and understanding of First Nations culture and priorities. We are confident that Conrad is the right person to lead the continued growth and success of DCILP in the years to come." In discussing joining DCILP as President & CEO, Mr. Browne stated "I am very excited to join DCILP and relocate to Whitehorse. Dakwakada has a strong track record of success

and I look forward to that continuing as we ensure existing ventures are profitable, explore opportunities to diversify the investment portfolio and leverage synergies between businesses while increasing community engagement and awareness."

# Farewell and thank you to Randy Coley, DCILP Director of Finance

We would also like to thank Randy Coley for four great years as DCILP's Director of Finance. Randy brought to DCILP a great deal of senior financial and operational experience, which DCILP and our companies benefited from significantly. From improved due diligence on acquisitions, advancing financial controls and reporting, and the overall growth and success of our businesses, Randy's contributions have been many. We will miss his contributions and his camaraderie as he retires and returns to Alberta to spend more time with his children and grandchildren. We wish him health, happiness and success in all he does going forward.

#### Job Opportunities at DCILP companies

Our new job board, which will feature available jobs across all DCI-owned companies in Yukon, BC, Alberta and Alaska will be up and running by the end of October. Interested Citizens are encouraged to check it regularly for great career opportunities.

The new job board can be found at: www.dakwakada. bamboohr.com/careers

#### **DCILP Business Updates: Castle Rock Enterprises LP**

It has been a busy summer and the Fall season started off with the positive news that CRE was awarded the Midnight Sun Lift Station contract with Ketza Builders. This project will start this fall and continue into Spring 2024. CRE has also started the Copper Ridge Phase 1 development for Chu Niikwan LP, which will also continue into next spring.

The Whistle Bend 9A project has been very successful with most work completed this season and some small carry-over into 2024. CRE has also concluded the road repairs on Aishihik Road, conducted preliminary test pitting operations at two pre-existing gravel extraction locations, and is finalizing the testing phase for the collected samples.

CRE was also excited to unveil both its new website at www. castlerockent.com but also an updated company logo that now includes CAFN and DCI imagery, reinforcing our pride of CAFN ownership.



# RAB ENERGY (Operating as Northerm, Windows and Glass, Bud's Overhead Doors, and Capital Glass Windows and Doors):

We have recently purchased four pieces of new equipment which will improve our insulated glass and door manufacturing operations. Delivery lead times required for this equipment mean that we will not receive them until spring 2024 – but we are preparing for these upgrades now. These investments will allow us to increase automation and improve production while expanding the types of products that we are able to manufacture at Northerm.

The Overhead Door team continues to be busy. The move into the Northerm facility at 17 Burns Road will occur this fall - watch for advertisements about our new location! Bringing the Overhead Door operation into the same location as the rest of Northerm's operations will allow us to better support the overhead door shop through shared procurement, inventory management, sales, and health & safety.

Work in our commercial window division remains strong with several projects underway including:

- Family Preservation Wellness Center (in Whistle Bend)
- Whistle Bend Elementary School
- Whitehorse General Hospital Mental Health Expansion
- Whitehorse Gymnastics and Climbing Facility
- Daylu Dena Council Multipurpose Cultural Center (in Watson Lake)
- Liard First Nations Elder's Complex
- Chu Niikwan Place (Northwestel Building in Whitehorse)
- The Loft's on 2nd

#### **Mac Plastics LP**

The Fall sees the installation team 90 percent done at the Expo Centre working on a skylight that is 500 feet long by 10 feet wide. The project should be completed by the end of September, with only a few finishing touches to be done in October.

Two new large projects are also underway for completion before winter takes hold; one in St. Albert with Delnor and the other in Tofield. We are also completing a supply only order (no installation) of 24 skylights for the Chinook Centre in Calgary. The team continues to get the word out about our exciting new solar square product, which we have started installing in customer homes, and we continue to do a lot of custom plastic work for boats (windshields), portable air conditioners and beehives.

We look forward to more promotion and business development at the fall and winter home shows across western Canada.

#### **Canada West Garage Doors LP**

CWGD has continued with its steady growth over the summer months and working into the Fall. Interest rates are causing a slowdown on the Residential side of the business, but we are still well positioned on the Service and Commercial segments of our business. We continue to have lots of inquiries and quoting opportunities for townhome projects starting in the fall and early 2024. Being aggressive in our quoting will assure some wins in this area; as the market shrinks it will also become more and more competitive, as we have seen in the past.

Commercial Sales has continued its strong performance through this year and has just been awarded a \$190,000 commercial installation to be completed before Christmas this year. Along with gate installs and commercial service work, the commercial segment will continue its strong sales through the rest of the year. Residential Sales continues its focus on gaining opportunities with builders that we have identified as a good fit for the CWGD brand and that we believe are big enough to sustain the economic environment we are currently in. Recent weeks have seen an increase in

requests for quotes from these customers, and follow ups in the coming days and weeks will determine how many we can convert to CWGD lifelong customers.

The fires that the Okanagan Valley has experienced this summer will have some effect on the length of time it takes builders to complete a home, so we are expecting a bit of a slowdown that can be attributed to this.

On that note we had several employees impacted by the fires and evacuated. With DCI's leadership and help we were able to make sure employees and their families were all safe and taken care of through this difficult time. None of our employees have lost their homes and everyone is back in their home with their families.

A big thanks to all the firefighters that came from around the world to help save these communities.

#### **Harbour Door Services Ltd.**

After a busy spring/summer of sales and installation we are starting to shift our focus to the upcoming cooler months. With sales numbers and quote requests rising steadily towards the end of summer we are anticipating continuing to be busy right through till the Christmas break and into the new year. With some major projects on the horizon and the addition of new staff in key positions we are positioned well for the Fall/Winter and moving into 2024.

Major projects completed by our residential team over the Spring summer included the Mt. Newton Estates replacement project, the Royal Links replacement project, and the start of the Aragon Church Road Subdivision Project, consisting of 54 single family homes and 78 townhomes, with the first 8 of the 132 doors installed in August. Along with these major projects our installers were kept busy with smaller installations for existing contractors and homeowner replacements. After working with GableCraft homes on the 87-unit Coral Townhomes project in Royal Bay we will continue our strong relationship, being awarded the first phase of the Echo Townhomes project in Royal Bay. Phase 1 comprises of 6 buildings and 26 units with a total value of \$80,000. It is the first phase of a 126-unit complex and we are hopeful that our ongoing good relationship will translate into future business.

Our Commercial & Gates departments have been steady. Our Commercial Technicians completed a wide variety of installations over the summer, balanced with our regular emergency service and contract maintenance work. They enjoyed a visit to Galliano Island as they completed the installation of 6 Overhead Doors and 2 Rolling Steel Fire Doors at the new Recycling Facility, installed Parkade doors at Belmont Residences West and Amica Jubilee House, completed a counter shutter at Victoria High School, installed a full Residential Bi Part Sliding Gate system, and began site preparation for two more gate projects that will be completed in the upcoming months. The Commercial and Gate Estimators have been working hard on bids and estimates for larger projects as requests have increased in these departments.

# YUKON RIVER EDUCATION EXCHANGE BRITTANY AU

I was one of seven lucky Canadians chosen to go on the 2023 Yukon River Education Exchange in Alaska. It was an incredible experience where we got to visit four different communities along the Yukon River.

Our first destination was Anvik. This was the smallest community and our first time sharing our salmon story. Our second destination was Grayling, upriver from Anvik. This community was very social and spent a lot of time listening to our salmon stories.

Then we boated downriver to our third destination, Holy Cross. The Chief and Mayor of Holy Cross lent us two 4-wheelers and a UTV to explore their town. It was a very hospitable community.

Eventually, we made our way to the last stop which was Russian Mission. In Russian Mission, we learned how to Eskimo dance and were very humbled with how little these people had, yet how happy they still were.

Each community had different quirks, but everyone was very welcoming. The biggest takeaway was how important salmon are to each and every individual we spoke to. We were lucky enough to witness two fish camps.

However, many of us assumed there would be a lot more considering how close these communities are to the ocean. Due to low numbers of fish, these communities were forced to change their ways of fishing from gill-netting to dip-netting. We quickly learned how much more effort is required to dip-net. Within three hours of dip netting, three boats in the water, and two people dip netting, we only caught four Chum Salmon.

The experience was very eye opening and I encourage anyone who has a strong passion for preserving the longevity of salmon to apply for the next Exchange in 2026.



# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **New Staff and Farewells**



Hello all;

My name is Jessie Baronette and I am originally from Ontario. I have spent 13 years in British Columbia & Alberta before moving here in 2019 so my husband could take a position with Parks Canada. I have a background in Para medicine & health and safety, working in seismic exploration for oil & gas, and on various projects with BC Hydro. I am now returning to work from maternity leave since having our son Everett in 2021.

I enjoy living in the beautiful mountains here, hiking, biking fishing & hunting. We really like living in this community and look forward to raising our family here. I am glad to be working with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations in my new roll as the Health & Safety Officer. I look forward to working with everyone and meeting you all!

Occupational Health & Safety Officer

CELL: 867-634-5107

**OFFICE:** 867-634-4200 ext. 243

ibaronette@cafn.ca



Welcoming back Krista Reid as Director of Language and Culture. Krista was working with the Yukon First Nation Education Directorate over the last year.

Dannch'e. Ayinzhj Krista Reid ùúye.

I have been the Director of Language and Culture at the Da Ku Cultural Centre since 2017, and have enjoyed the challenges, trail breaking initiatives and community involvement that this position has provided. My husband and children's Ancestors are from this land and are Champagne and Aishihik Citizens. My growing years were spent both in Saskatchewan and central/north Vancouver Island. My maternal line comes from the Haudenosaunee Mohawk People in Ontario/Quebec from where my mother was taken away in 1953, where she grew up away from her people, and her traditional lands. I also have strong family connections on the West Coast.

Some of the exciting things I do in my role here are developing and delivering cultural programs and projects, creating exhibits, managing the collection, working on Museum Standards for our beautiful gathering place. I continue to challenge myself in growth, learning and working towards implementing the Nation's vision to enrich, empower and connect CAFN citizens to Culture and Language initiatives. Gunałchîsh for taking care of me in your territories.

**CELL:** 867-334-1217

**OFFICE:** 867-634-3300 ext. 410

kreid@cafn.ca

Please also welcome **Dwayne Smith** in Property Services. He is joining us in Haines Junction as a Field Foreman.

**OFFICE:** 867-634-4200 dwsmith@cafn.ca



Youth Centre participants and staff help with the Nakwanakhe ku greenhouse to grow vegetables and herbs during Shakat season.







Councillor Carol Buzzel at Healing our Spirits Worldwide Conference in Vancouver.



### **Happy Retirement to Susan Knight**

Thank you for your many years of contributions as our Curator and Indigenous Collection Specialist. CAFN wishes you the very best of health, happiness, and success on your new journey in life!

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations would like to recognize and thank **Ian Robinson, Roger Brown and Barb Hume** for their many years of contributions, guidance and support within our government. All the best for what's to come!

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### Congratulations!

To Shadunjen Van Kampen on her exhibit 'Worldview' at Arts Underground this August!



September 6th, Happy 10th Birthday Johnny Däwä "DoubleDigits!" Nk'ets'īdli

Ughàałān xoxoxo





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#### **Birthdays**

Happy Birthday to:

August 20-Grandpa-Allen Patchett
September-Uncle Daniel Green
September 13-Great grandma Vera Brown
September 15-Grandmpa Sophie Green
September 26-Cousin Nikki-Lee Patchett
October 9-Cousin/Nephew 10th Birthday Liam Bill
October 14- 8th Birthday Harmony Fairclough!
October 23-Little cousin-Hudson
November 15-Kip Smith

Love Harmony and family!!



August Drift does it again! Her first grouse was at age 5! Here she is again at age 6 with her younger sister Ava Drift.



Happy 21st Birthday to my son Nevada Joe on September 26th and Right behind her brother.....

Happy 11th Birthday to my daughter Nevaeh Joe on October 1st!

Love from Mom, grandma and grandpa.



Happy Birthday Sophie!

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Dakwäkäda Mountain Festival 2023**

# Where: Da Kų Cultural Centre, Haines Junction

### When: November 4 - Save the date!

Dakwäkäda Mountain Festival – Celebrating Our
Mountain Lands and Culture Through First Nations
and mountain cultures in all their forms – story telling, outdoor adventure, research, traditional knowledge,
workshops, arts, live music, film, dance and shared meals.



- The Climate Change Action Plan adopted by the Yukon First Nation Chiefs (Jocelyn Joe-Strack, Climate Change Fellows)
  Renaissance Women Shadunjen van Kampen Yukon's first indigenous woman pilot, recipient of award for contribution to science, and an artist!
- Geothermal Research in Dákeyi, with staff from Yukon Geological Survey and Geological Survey of Canada
- Chelsie McCutcheon, Wet'suwet'en, advocate for indigenous youth and outdoor recreation activities
- Sydney Kuppenbender, Metis, University of Saskatchewan, sharing research on inter-species communication and Bringing Animal Voices to the Table

#### **Activities confirmed:**

- Try out a Fat Bike!
- Saturday morning yoga with visiting instructor Chelsie McCutcheon
- Beaded cuff workshop with Teagan Vallevand
- Carving workshop with Jai Reid
- Meet Mr. Bannock (Vancouver) and try out Marlene Smith-Tutin's bannock wagon!
- Introducing the QR codes added to the Da Ku Permanent Exhibits, with Brittney Johnson, Erin Jim
- Sharing of traditional stories, with Earl Darbyshire, Mary Leger and others.
- Live music featuring Bria Rose and the Thorns, and others

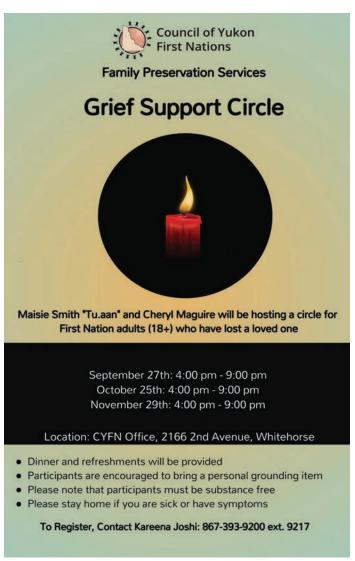
If you would like to be involved (e.g., films you've made that you would like share), we would love to hear from you.

#### For more information contact:

**Heather Callaghan**, Economic Development Manager 867-335-9361 **Sheila Greer**, Heritage Special Projects Manager, 867-335-4604 **Annette Eikland**, Language & Culture, 867-332-2336.

https://dakwakadamountainfest.com/





# Dáyinji Jenäda = We All Feel Bad or Sad

An error was made in the pamphlet of the late Michael (Mickey) Beattie, which was distributed at the Mickey's funeral on October 2, 2023. The wrong logo appears on the front cover of the pamphlet.

We apologize to Mickey and his Wolf family for this error made during a time of grief for so many. We note that the name of Honorary Pallbearer Caullen Taylor was unintentionally omitted from the page of listed workers.

Corrected copies of the cover page have been printed and distributed to the family. For others, these will be available for pick-up at the front desk of the Whitehorse and Dakwakada administration buildings. Tl'ahy - Sheila Greer and Melina Hougen

# **November is Make a Will Month**

Your Will sets out who will receive your money, property and belongings after you pass away. It provides for your loved ones, your children and grandchildren. Your Will may name a person who will look after your children under 19 and any other dependents.

A Will is a legally binding document and is best written with the help of a lawyer. CAFN has contracted a law firm to assist Citizens with their Wills.

# We can help

Austring, Fairman & Fekete Wills and Estate Planning

867.668.4405
Toll free 1.800.661.0533

② 3081 3rd Ave, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 4Z7 Denise Beattie

867.334.3943 867.456.6888 ext. 360

dbeattie@cafn.ca

Kathleen Jones

867.456.6888 ext. 235

kjones@cafn.ca



# Counselling Support for CAFN Citizens

CAFN has support available for CAFN members through Northern Focus Counselling.

Jeane Lassen is travelling to Haines Junction on a regular basis and is available in person, by phone or virtually. To book an appointment with Jeane please call 867-334-7007.

For citizens living outside of Haines Junction, please call the general phone number for Northern Focus to book a counselling appointment at 867-689-1885

# **EVENTS AND PROGRAMS**





October

25th Drop in sewing circle 6 pm -8:30 pm

30th Pumpkin Carving 5 pm

November 1st Poppy beading 6 pm -8:30 pm

2nd Follow up Paddle making 3 pm-7 pm (workshop for participants who joined the first workshop with Jai Reid)

5th Regalia support workshop 6 pm - 8:30 pm

7th Poppy beading 6 pm-8:30 pm

8th Follow up Paddle making 3 pm-7 pm (workshop for participants who joined the first workshop with Jai Reid)

12th Regalia support workshop 6 pm-8:30 pm

14th Drop in sewing circle 6 pm -8:30 pm

15th Follow up Paddle making 3 pm-7 pm (workshop for participants who joined the first workshop with Jai Reid)

19th Regalia support workshop 6 pm - 8:30 p





3 Day Workshop

Facilitated by Gisela Sartori, MA, Dip.C, R.CC, a leader with many years of experience in grief work, and deep personal transformation.

#### **Haines Junction**

Da ku Cultural Centre
Nov 17,18,19, 2023

9:00am-5:00pm

#### <u>Whitehorse</u>

Sternwheeler Hotel

Nov 24,25,26, 2023

9:00am-5:00pm

\*Lunch Provided\*

Transportation is available to Whitehorse for participants living in Champagne & Takhini

Please sign up by October 27 Call/ Text Jocelyn Kinney @ 634-5113



### CAFN CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT

#### **Graham MacDonald**

**Materials Engineering student and CAFN Citizen** 

Champagne and Aishihik First Nation Citizen Graham MacDonald, a second-year Materials Engineering student at the University of British Columbia (UBC), is marking the path for others like him to pursue a career in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Along with the customary "Mom" and "Dad," Graham's first words were "Airplane." and this early interest would be an indication of the lofty places he would reach, both figuratively and literally. Choosing UBC for his schooling was an obvious decision. The short distance to ski slopes, a reputable engineering program, and the mild Vancouver winters were all attractive factors. Yet, what set UBC apart was its commitment to indigenizing the institution, making it the best choice for Graham to pursue his goals.

Materials Engineering might seem like an unconventional choice, but for Graham, it's the perfect path. He maintains that civilizations throughout history are often remembered for their material culture, and as a materials engineer, he has the opportunity to help shape the future through innovation. He emphasizes that materials are the building blocks of progress, enabling us to create virtually anything, and making his career possibilities limitless.

Graham's early interest in airplanes led him to co-found Thunderbird Aerospace, the second Indigenous led rocket design teams in Canada. Contrasting from the other team, Graham's team is exploring fluid-fueled rockets, which are more complex than solid-fueled counterparts. His participation is not just about rockets though; it's about uprooting expectations of what Indigenous students can achieve academically. He aims to expand awareness of STEM career applications to Indigenous matters.

The underrepresentation of Indigenous students in STEM is a persistent issue, and Graham is determined to change that narrative. He envisions broader horizons for Indigenous youth, urging them to explore fields beyond common career paths like medicine or law. He emphasizes the importance of having Indigenous experts in every field, especially those impacting their lands and livelihoods; including their perspectives to insure ecological outcomes.



Graham firmly believes that science and traditional knowledge are not contradictory; instead, they complement each other. Speaking both languages – Indigenous perspectives and engineering – allows for more comprehensive solutions across Turtle Island.

Graham's Indigenous Rocket Design Team, Thunderbird Aerospace, is eagerly preparing for the Dollar Per Foot contest, aiming to launch their rocket by the year's end. Additionally, they are gearing up for the Launch Canada Competition scheduled for next September. These endeavors not only highlight their passion but also their commitment to pushing boundaries and inspiring other Indigenous students to pursue STEM.

As for Graham's future beyond university, he remains open to possibilities. His appetite for interesting problems leaves the path before him wide and boundless, with many thrilling challenges ahead.

Return Address: Champagne and Aishihik First Nations PO Box 5310 Haines Junction, YT Y0B 1L0 Postage paid
Publications Mail
Postage Date
Postage Publications Mail
Postage Publications
Postage Publications

**Destination Address:** 

# CAFN CALENDAR

CHIEF AND COUNCIL MEETING October 19, Council Chambers

GRIEF SUPPORT CIRCLE
October 25, 4-9 pm at the CYFN office

SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN FEST October 26, 2 pm at the Takhini Smoke House

SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN FEST October 30, 5pm at Da Ku Cultural Centre

DAKWAKADA MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL November 4 at Da Ku Cultural Centre REMEMBERANCE DAY (MONDAY HOLIDAY)
November 13

DÀKEYI UKAANATHI JÈ COMMUNITY MEETINGS November 15, 6 - 8 pm at Da Ku Cultural Centre

GRIEVING & LOSS WORKSHOP November 17-19, 9-5 pm at Da Ku Cultural Centre November 24-26, 9-5 pm at Sternwheeler Hotel

SPECIAL GA

November 25, 10 am at Champagne Hall

For more event dates and details, please visit CAFN.ca/events or "Like" Champagne and Aishihik First Nations on Facebook.

### Dàkwäní

# Champagne and Aishihik First Nations 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

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Dàkwäní is available in full colour at CAFN.ca/news







