



C/TFN
WINTER NEWSLETTER



(Dan Carr)

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(Dan Carr)



Holiday greetings from your Executive Council



(C/TFN)



Looking forward to the year ahead

Season's greetings to the citizens, staff and friends of Carcross/Tagish First Nation.

As we look forward to the Christmas holidays, we reflect on this past year and on what we will be facing in the coming year.

We would like to welcome Haa Shade Heni Maria Benoit (Deisheettaan), Deputy Haa Shade Heni Darla-Jean Lindstrom (Dakl'aweidi), Robin Lovelace (Yan Yedi), Jared Lutchman (Ganaxtedi) Sharon, Martin (Crow Elder) and Sean McDougall (Deisheettaan) to the executive council. We look forward to having our executive team tackle some hard tasks that need healthy communication and leadership in collaboration and on behalf of our citizens.

Clan development

Clan development is important to all of us. Our Heritage and Governance Staff will be working to develop, with our citizens, a C/TFN clan protocol. This task will require citizens and clans to work together to help define clan protocols. The plan is to call for all-clan meetings, presentations to each clan, separate men's and women's meetings to discuss gender specific protocols, etc.

Some of the subject matter that will be addressed includes: burial (potlatch – burial, headstone, celebration, achievement, marriage, calling for help), rights of passage (male, female, two-spirit), hunting (first hunt, preparation of self, care of animal, ceremony/respect, seasons for different purposes, handling of hunting objects, fishing/trapping/harvesting (respect, offerings, handling of), songs/dancing (clan songs, use/time to sing, teachings, history, permissions, story, new composed songs, gifting of songs, personal, clan gift, quiet times for songs/dances, uses of masks, clan-owned items, crests, blankets, regalia, marriages, birthing, naming/adoption, clan leaders roles and responsibilities, training, selection/duration, release/choosing of new clan leaders, clan houses (family/expanding history and practices).

It will likely take several years before we can put our findings into a booklet for present and future generations.



Strategy plan

We are working on a C/TFN strategy plan that will set our direction for a minimum of five years. Each department has participated in defining priority areas. Presentations were made at previous general councils and work will continue as the plans are being implemented. More information will be available throughout the year and in this newsletter.

Vacancies

Perhaps the most necessary change during the year has been to fill vacant employee positions. Our organization welcomed back James Baker as our Executive Director. Our beloved Chief Financial Officer Andrea Kenderova retired and has been replaced by Harinder Singh. Beverly Sembsmoen has been promoted internally to the position of Governance Director, filling the void left by James Baker's promotion. Ashley Carvill has been promoted to Implementation Manager. We welcome back Susannah Beckett, who has returned from maternity leave, we thank Robin Lord for acting as the Director of Capacity position in her absence. We welcome back Ted James as Director of Infrastructure and Haa Shagoon Hidi, Ted is seconded from Yukon Government for a two-year period. Stacey Robinson-Brown has had a number of new staff join the Health & Wellness Team. We have, finally, found a communicator, Max Leighton, who will be physically joining our staff in the new year.

Human Resources

Our Finance and Human Resource Department has begun using a new tool called Human Resource Management Information System. This system connects the two areas of our government and provides a joint place to house all employment files/records from onboarding, to working as a staff member, to employee performance management reports, disability plans, and complete employment history. It will allow information to go directly to accounting for payroll purposes. There are more components to this HR/finance system that will be added over time, which will further streamline our internal processes.

We are happy with the progress and successes that we, as a nation and community, have completed in the past year. The future for Carcross and the government of Carcross/Tagish First Nation is bright and we all have a hand to play in that. All the warmest of greetings of this season and best wishes for happiness in the new year. Gunalchéesh.



A message from your Governance department

The Governance Department wishes everyone a happy winter season. The seasons have come and gone and we are embracing the snow with wonder and excitement.

We are overjoyed to fill our Communication Officer position and are in the process of setting up a communication team again with one representative from each of the government departments. We are building our capacity with a full-time council clerk who began in November. We are hopeful that C/TFN citizens will be able to fill the IT training positions that have been posted, which would encompass on-the-job training opportunities so they can learn to assist C/TFN staff and leadership with technology issues that may arise.

Because of COVID there haven't been any consistent enrolment meetings. We are pleased to say that the committee is up and running again, and reviewing registry and enrolment information. We will be having constitution committee meetings in the new year to discuss any future constitution amendments with the ongoing evolution of our self-government.

C/TFN is in negotiations with the Yukon Government Wildfire Management to renew a three-year initial attack contract, intended to benefit future citizens if they wish to be employed in this field. This year, we only had one C/TFN citizen working on the crew and it was still a success. C/TFN firefighting hoodies and hats were given out to some of the youth in Carcross. The surplus from this year's fire contract will be going towards fire smart to help protect our subdivisions and infrastructure.

Through the fiscal negotiations table, C/TFN was able to secure funding to begin phase one in building a supportive housing unit within the community. This has been a long-term goal for the community and to see progress taking place is truly remarkable.

Karyn Atlin's job description is being changed to reflect new duties and the addition of further senior job duties. The intent is to create a position that could ensure our registry work continues while also acting as a troubleshooter for special projects.



Along with actively working with departments with regard to policy-related work, policy analyst, Wesley Barrett has also been busy working with Executive Council on their terms of reference, which is being reviewed by the clans and EC. It will then be going to General Council for final approval. The traditional knowledge policy is still on the list of policies needing attention. This may end up being part of the clan protocol work.

Ashley Carvill, our implementation manager, has successfully completed *How to Heal Your Life* teacher and coach training. *The Heal Your Life®* training is a powerful program, which can help you to add skills to an existing career or start an entirely new one. She can now facilitate workshops and is a licensed *How to Heal Your Life®* life coach.

In 2022, we began implementing our new Justice Council, an important component of our government. The Justice Council has a few meetings under their belt and is being called upon to begin dialogue around what the justice pillar should reflect.

After missing Christmas dinner for the past few years, due to COVID, the department is thrilled to be hosting this year's citizen Christmas dinner in Whitehorse.

We wish you and your family peace, health, happiness, and prosperity in the coming year.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays. Be safe.



(Cathie Archbould)



The Latest FROM HLNR

Negotiations continue over Whitehorse dam

C/TFN is in negotiations with TKC, KDFN and the Yukon Energy Corporation about the future water-use license at the Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station (Whitehorse Dam).

The current license expires in May 2025. The Yukon Energy Corp., which owns the dam, is working with the three First Nations whose territories are affected by the operation.

Yukon Energy is seeking another 25-year water license, though the length of license is still to be determined. C/TFN is participating in numerous tables with the aim of coming to agreeable negotiations around benefits to the First Nations and ensuring the data and studies around salmon, fish and wildlife, erosion, water levels are sufficient.

The tables will address reconciliation concerning the historical impacts of the dam.



(File Photo)



(File Photo)

For further information on this file contact:
c.fordlammers@ctfn.ca



'Water and land are not separate or separable'

The Polar Knowledge Project is about creating a C/TFN Water Strategy, including a water vision that sets the foundation for water goals or objectives that acknowledges our traditional laws.

The project was initiated in 2019 but the pandemic and human resource capacity set it back. We are applying for an extension on the grant so we can continue to do this important work.



(File Photo)

“Water within our traditional territory should remain substantially unaltered as to quantity, quality and rate of flow for all living beings including humans, animals, fish, plants, birds and insects forever.” – Draft vision statement.

There is a clan-based C/TFN Water Committee that was struck in 2019 and we were finally able to gather in early October. A draft water vision was created and we had very good discussions. We explored English words in the dictionary to understand their meaning. The group discussed the C/TFN Final Agreement, Chapter 14 Water Management, land planning and potential options for water protection. We also discussed the role of traditional law, common law, declaration or proclamations in relation to the most efficient water protection in the traditional territory. The group will gather in early summer 2023 for an on-the-land engagement to complete the water objectives and to gather stories and collect more data.



Water and land are not separate or separable and work together to bring life to everything. Because of our worldview, there are other projects that intersect with water protection and water governance within the traditional territory. This includes the BC Treaty, How We Walk with the Land and Water planning process, Whitehorse Dam relicensing, nations rebuilding and the Dahká nation, as well as energy project plans that impact us and our cultural ways. Projects gather in person or Zoom and schedule, plan, create documents and collaborate with one another to meet the overall deliverables or objectives of each project.

With this work comes the responsibility to bring C/TFN knowledge and culture to the various discussions and meetings about Indigenous land and water relationships towards planning. This involves gathering information from the community knowledge keeper, archival material, photographs, audio files, scientific data, reporting, and elders' conversations regarding our relationship to Hèen/T'u/Water and apply it.

Happy holidays and good water to you!

You can request a Conrad Newsletter from Pat at the Lands Department.

Gunálchéesh Hèen/T'u

"With this work comes the responsibility to bring C/TFN Knowledge and culture to the various discussions and meetings about indigenous land and water relationships..."



Caribou in schools & moose on smartphones

Southern Lakes Caribou Summit

C/TFN hosted the Southern Lakes Caribou Summit: *Re-establishing our ceremonial and spiritual relationships with the Southern Lakes Caribou.* This summit was created to inform the work of the Southern Lakes Caribou First Nations Working Group and incorporation into Haa Kusteeyi. On the morning of day one, the tone was set by a prayer from Patrick James and a ceremony lead by Colleen James. What followed was two days of knowledge sharing and collaboration between elders, youth and other First Nation representatives from the six southern lakes nations. There were sentiments of incredible hope and appreciation for the caribou as well as pride for the recovery plan, implemented 30 years ago, which has allowed their populations to grow. Moving forward, we must continue to work for the caribou and strengthen our relationship. There are many lessons we can learn from the caribou, such as patience and unity as we continue to protect one another.



“First Nations know the way of the Caribou, how to understand them, protect them, harvest them, live with them. The elders know how to teach the young to look after the Caribou.” – Charlie James, 2021

(File Photo)



Caribou in the Schools

The quote by Charlie James (Page 9) is one of a number of quotes from elders featured (along with history and facts concerning caribou), which can be found in the *Caribou on the Land – Carcross/ Tagish First Nations* booklet. The booklet is one of the materials created as part of the Caribou in the Schools Program. Caribou in the Schools launched this fall and is intended to help educators engage students in the unique history and ongoing story of the southern lakes caribou. The developers (Rivers to Ridges) are eager for teachers to bring the program into their curriculums and give feedback. You can find the Caribou in the Schools material at: southernlakescaribou.com/educators

Ungulate Monitoring

Natural Resources and Kwusen have co-developed a ground-based ungulate monitoring form. The form will allow land guardians and other staff doing fieldwork to record information on sheep, goats, moose and caribou directly into their cellphones while out on the land.

Collaboration for Responsible Mining

The C/TFN has been participating in a collaborative process alongside other Yukon and Transboundary First Nations, Inuvialuit, and Yukon Government to draft new legislation. This new legislation will replace the Placer Mining Act and Quartz Mining Act in the interest of responsible mining. Stay tuned for opportunities to get involved coming in the new year.



Water Sampling

It is a calm day in Carcross and the water is glassy, which for the natural resources team, means it is time to go water sampling. We have been collecting water samples monthly from a number of lakes and rivers within the Yukon River watershed, in collaboration with the Intertribal Watershed Council. This continued monitoring is building up our baseline understanding of the waterbodies' health today, which will allow us to identify future disturbance, contamination, and changes due to climate change. The data will also inform decision making and management.

Fire Smart

In the interest of making Carcross more fires safe, GC/TFN has hired a crew to re-establish the Natasaheeni Fire Break. We are also looking into putting a FireSmart buffer around the Choutla Subdivision.



(File Photo)



Talking together over tea

How We Walk With the Land and Water is a Regional Land and Water Relationship Planning preparation initiative. The intent is to create tools and processes that will help us prepare to meaningfully participate in regional land planning, consistent with the spirit and intent of chapter 11 of the Umbrella Final Agreement.

We do this by focusing on regional land and water relationship processes in a way that combines traditional Indigenous knowledge with science-based approaches.

We do this as a community.

We are currently having tea, gathering values and creating our story — preparing, sharing and learning. Regional plans help each of the three First Nation governments manage and protect the land, water and resources in our traditional territory.

Recently our focus has been on:

Building Relationships

Frequent talks

Looking at things holistically

Acknowledging knowledge holders as the experts



(C/TFN)

Thank you to the communities of Carcross and Tagish who came out and contributed their knowledge of the land, water and the four-legged, the winged and finned ones we share this planet with. We hosted two open houses, one in Whitehorse and the other in Carcross, as a part of ongoing engagement around mapped land and water values on the traditional territories of Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

We are continuing with follow-up interviews with knowledge holders of each of the First Nations. Those who were unable to attend the open houses are welcome to contact us and we can set up a time to meet.

Contact us at:

communications.hww@gmail.com



An update on Heritage

Our steering committee has transitioned to a working implementation group and we are following the management plan signed in July by YG and GC/TFN.

Our next step is the resurrection of Cabin #1. The management plan is available to anyone who'd like to see it.

Employment opportunities

Heritage is working on getting a list of names of citizens for potential employment opportunities within the Tsei Zhele / Sinwaa Eex'i Ye / Conrad site for next season.

Single Track to Success

The Single Track to Success bike crew created a walking trail throughout the non-historic campground side. Infrastructure installed four benches on the historic site.

Newsletter released

We published a newsletter for the historic site that YG puts together, which can be made available upon request.



(Dan Carr)





(Dan Carr)

Ice Patches

Several citizens had the opportunity to get out in the helicopter to see the ice patches and hunting blinds. We maintain a list of citizens to get out on the land. Opportunities are based on flying and funding conditions. Please get in touch with Heritage if you're interested in being added to the list.



(Dan Carr)

Land Management Board

The LMB meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month. If you would like to be on the agenda, please email Sheena Johns: sheena.johns@ctfn.ca.



Negotiators' Updates

BC Treaty Commission Process

From political discussions with ministers to negotiating in the energy sector with BC and Yukon, the treaty team has had a busy year. As we continue to try and advance our rights, titles and interests within our BC territory, it is clear that the Yukon agreements carry a significant weight. The treaty team's mandate is to negotiate an agreement that is no less than what we got in the Yukon. With a potential election looming, the team is working diligently to meet milestones that will help advance our Indigenous sovereignty within our traditional territory.

**BC TREATY
COMMISSION**



Here is where we are in the process

We continue in Stage 4 of the BCTC six stage process with specific work being conducted to officially move to Stage 5 (bctreaty.ca/treaty).

We participate in five main table negotiations a year. The most recent main table negotiation was held on October 25th and 26th, 2022 and was the first in-person meeting since early 2020. Our next main table is scheduled for December 13th and 14th, 2022.

In the spring of 2022, BC's senior negotiator announced that BC has a full mandate to negotiate a treaty with C/TFN and Teslin Tlingit Council.



C/TFN actively participates in the BC First Nations Summit and works closely with their chief negotiator's table. There are many discussions around ways to advance First Nations' inherent rights, titles and interests under Section 35 of the Constitution Act (1982) as a collective.

Three topics we're focusing on

1) The constitutional status of lands 2) Section 87 Tax exemption under the Indian Act and 3) Implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People's Act).

Regional land use planning

A lot of concern and issues around land come from the lack of a regional land use plan over C/TFN's traditional territory. Since C/TFN has signed its Final Agreement (2005), the Yukon Government has failed to engage to implement Chapter 11 regional land planning of *In a good way*. Talking with the Land Management Board, How We Walk with the Land and Water and HLNR department, the treaty team learned that there is a need to focus on C/TFN's planning process and our traditional territory. C/TFN has been working with BC, YG and partnering First Nations to initiate land and water relationship planning for the whole traditional territory and is optimistic we will be initiating this process in the near future.

Nation Building

We are excited to meet and work with Taku River Tlingit First Nation's new negotiating team, which was established this fall. Previous year funds from the Nation Rebuilding Project will be carried over and given to Taku River First Nation to support their participation in this important initiative.

These funds will also help in resourcing TRTFN to join the joint caucus table with TTC and C/TFN. The three Nations will be having discussions on a workplan that can accommodate transboundary negotiations taking place throughout the Dakhka territory. Once the team has a formal workplan, they will follow up with a leadership meeting for approval. Haa kusteeyi is set to go for next year, we are currently working on establishing steering and planning committees.



Transmission Line Process

Implications, timelines and C/TFN

Dakhka Leadership meeting in Atlin: May 2022

The nation rebuilding steering committee met in Atlin BC in May 2022. All three leaderships agreed to develop a political accord that would accompany and help develop the Dakhka work plan with a non-binding timeline of two months. The accord was suggested to help with scoping of the work plan and the incremental steps needed to establish Dakhka's vision and goals.

Transmission line with YG: February

C/TFN has been engaging with YG on the transboundary transmission line and other relevant energy topics to begin a consultation process regarding energy planning in C/TFN's traditional territory. C/TFN has brought up concerns with recent media releases put forth by Canada and YG on energy planning in the traditional territory of C/TFN. Due to these concerns, C/TFN has sent a political letter to Canada on April 28, 2022 saying it failed in its duty to consult and accommodate based on the honour of the crown and the evolving common law.

Transmission line with THELP: August

Tlingit Homeland Energy LP, the proponent and economic developing arm of Taku River Tlingit, is facing project challenges. Due to timelines put on by funders and a lack of clarity on its equity, decision making, and financial models, C/TFN has agreed to engage with THELP in a mediation process that was suggested by YG. Mediation was considered beneficial by all the parties. The parties involved thought that an outside, unaffiliated, knowledgeable person would be suitable to help find solutions so the project can move forward. Chris Henderson was chosen as the mediator. His background is in clean energy, climate change and working with First Nations.



Political leadership meeting in Carcross: September

All three leaderships met in Carcross in October. They discussed the transmission line project and its current state as well as Dakhka priorities. Due to the timelines the project and funders face, THELP leadership has asked C/TFN if we would consider providing a support letter to accompany them on a trip to Ottawa when they try to secure the remaining project funds. C/TFN has expressed they felt uncomfortable providing a support letter without a commitment towards working together as Dakhka. They agreed the proponent and C/TFN's negotiating team would work together to draft a letter of support suitable for Dakhka.

Mediation process: October

During October, THELP and C/TFN went through a mediation process with Chris Henderson (the mediator) and Sara French (YG) as an observer. After listening to us individually and collaboratively, Chris developed a Foundations Document that will guide the project and move it to the next step. Due to current Dakhka discussions, Chris has designed the foundations document to accommodate Dakhka and future thinking. Economics and boundaries are two of the five priorities and can potentially be impacted by this project. The foundations document allows for a commitment to be made and endorsed by support letters signed by the leaderships. The parties agreed to provide a letter of support for the foundation document and commits the parties to work together.



Foundations document: October and Ongoing

This Tlingit Energy Sovereignty Foundation Document (Foundation Document) serves to set out how through building relationships to advance the Atlin Hydro Expansion project (AHEP) the Tlingit Nation can lead a clean energy future. The nation rebuilding priorities are embedded in the document to help guide the process.

C/TFN supports the continued development of the AHEP provided that: a) Tlingit Nation Building Guidance is respected; b) key development principles are adhered to; c) Environmental concerns regarding facets of the project identified through land use planning efforts by C/TFN are appropriately addressed, and; d) the project structure and collaboration process will be followed rigorously, giving C/TFN the opportunity to determine when and how it will partner in the project.

The Key Development Principles that frame the AHEP's development shall be: a) Commitment to transparency and openness such that the C/TFN has the information to make an informed decision on potential project participation; b) Commitment to a Staged Project Collaboration Process in which there is one table where the parties convene regularly, ideally with the support of governments; and, c) 'commitment to build a platform for further clean energy development for the Tlingit nation' such that a long-term strategic view underpins project collaboration.

Ottawa lobbying trip: TBD

THELP is looking to secure the remainder of their project funds. They are planning to go to Ottawa to meet with ministers with hopes to secure the necessary funding for the project. Thelp and TRT have asked if C/TFN would be interested in accompanying them along with the signed letters of support.



WINTER AT ZHELE / SINWAA EEX'I YE / CONRAD



(Cathie Archbould)



Digging the farm life

What's new at the Ȫalak'ách Héeni x'ayaax (Porcupine Creek Farm)?

We had five students join us this year, to help with the daily routine and chores.

We started the season by prepping the growing area, nourishing the soil, and cleaning and repairing the greenhouses and tools. We also spread and packed gravel in the driveway.

We planted and cared for heirloom varieties. We also cultivated a test plot to find the best area for growing vegetables and opened up a new cultivation area, clearing trees and opening up soil, ending the season with a harvest party, supported by many volunteers.



(C/TFN)

Our farm yielded enough to distribute about 150 vegetable care packages to elders, daycares, schools, aunties' camp, traditional camp and to our volunteers.

In the orchard, we pruned, weeded, mulched and revitalized, and fenced each individual tree. We also wildlife-proofed for wintertime.

The farm crew worked with a consultant to create our Strategic Farm Plan, which is coming soon.

We received funding from an application to renovate and winterize our chicken coops.

Porcupine Creek Farm wrapped the season with annual farm winterization.



(C/TFN)



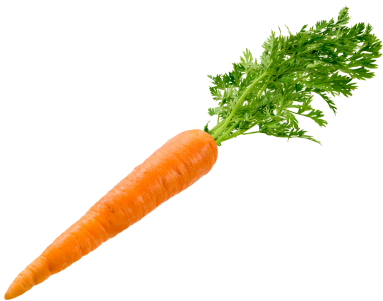
Holiday celebrations with Xalak'ách Héeni x'ayaax

Christmas gift idea: Calendula Oil

- Fill a glass jar 2/3 of the way full with dried calendula flowers.
- Pour olive or almond oil into the jar, making sure to cover the flowers by at least one inch with oil so they will have space to expand.
- Stir well and cap the jar tightly.
- Place the jar in a warm, sunny windowsill and shake once or more daily.
- After 4 to 6 weeks, strain the herbs out using cheesecloth.
- Pour the infused oil into glass bottles and store in a cool, dark place.

Pork is now available for sale: \$6/lb. To order: please fill the form and pay at the front desk

Can you match the image with the word?



gánch



káax'



gandaas'aají.



s'ín

(File Photos)

Answers: CARROT= s'ín Chicken= káax' bee= gandaas'aají. Tobacco= gánch



Capacity at a glance

Welcome back Susannah

Susannah Beckett returned from maternity leave in September to her role as Director of Capacity. She is happy to be back to work alongside the exceptionally hard-working and dedicated team at Capacity and is excited about some of the new initiatives the department will be undertaking in the coming months. These include a university tour for high school students in BC and community family-friendly events in Whitehorse.

A huge Gunalcheesh to Robin Lord who was acting director for much of the last year-and-a-half and to all those who supported her and took on additional workloads to keep programs and services running with limited staff.

Susannah can be reached at
susannah.beckett@ctfn.ca or
 867-821-4251 ext: 8275



(File Photo)

Working with youth in Yukon schools

It was a busy fall and a busy start winter in the education department. Some of the work we've done so far has focused on k4-12 funding and reports as well as hosting meetings.

Our education support workers are busy working with the students on a variety of programs, including Orange Shirt Day/Truth & Reconciliation Day, Halloween, sewing projects, baking, berry picking, culture camp, and canning.



In Carcross, Liz Baker and Leona Bryden work in the classrooms daily. They are there to assist the teachers in programming and using the C/TFN resources within the school and Community. Liz and Leona have an office at Ghuch Tla and it is located in the industrial area of the school. This space is being converted into a cultural area so that programming can happen in one place.

In Whitehorse, Patricia Baker is busy working with high school students within all the high schools & learning centers. Patricia has an office at FH Collins in the First Nations area.

Please remember that our education support workers are here to liaise between staff and students and can assist parents if requested.



(C/TFN)

Nutrition program funded for another year

The breakfast and lunch program at Ghuch Tla Community School received another year of funding from Jordan's Principle. We are also able to continue our monthly hampers and host small events at the school. The funding is for rural communities and children under the age of 18.

For Whitehorse families

Keep an eye out for notices and posters advertising events. Hampers are being given out in Whitehorse by the Yukon First Nation Education Directorate. If you're in Whitehorse you can register for a winter break food hamper in early December at: yfned.ca/winterhampers

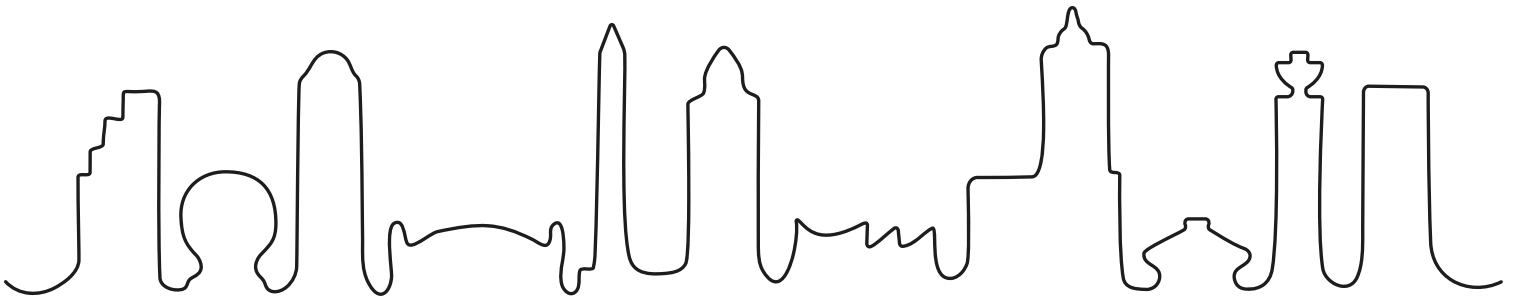


What we're excited about this New Year

We are looking forward to starting our Fish 10 curriculum in Carcross after the New Year. This curriculum was locally developed in partnership with First Nations Partnerships & Programs.

We are also excited for the grade 12 trip to the Vancouver area. Yukon students who will be graduating in June are taking a trip to the Vancouver area to tour colleges and universities and get a feel for the next stage of their educational journey. The trip is still in the planning stages, so more to come.

The alternative program will be getting a new name. Ghuch Tla Community School has 11 students registered in the alternative program (grades 10-12). The students asked permission from the Elders Council to change the name of the program and their request was accepted. Our renaming ceremony will be held in the spring.



Workshops and events for youth

Youth Programming is up and running in conjunction with Carcross Recreation Board programming. We are always looking for new ideas, so let us know if you have them.

During winter break we will have programming at the Capacity building including beading workshops and trips to Whitehorse for various activities. Keep an eye out for posters.



Meet your Youth Council

Youth Council is back up and running. We had a good meeting in November and our next is scheduled for January. We will be opening up meetings to all youth starting the new year. If any youth have ideas, concerns or issues that need to be addressed, please bring them forward to your Youth Council.

Your youth Council Representatives are:

Kristy Smarch, (A)Sheena Johns (Daklaweidi) ,
 Kyle Smith (Gaanaxteidi), (A,) Lakota Smith
 Dominic Johns (Kookhittaan),
 Aliya Grant, (A) Raeanne Collings (Ishkahitaan),
 Morgan Battjia, (A) Lawrence Patterson-Smith (Deisheenaan),
 Taku Lovlace-smith (A) Jake Lovlace-Smith (Yan Yeidi),

Funding for an additional student

The Education Advisory Committee met on November 21, 2022 to review winter 2022/23 post secondary applications and conduct its annual policy review of the capacity development policy. In the fall semester C/TFN funded 27 post secondary students. During the winter intake, funding was approved for one more new post secondary student.

EAC is committed and in your corner. We are working on language within the EAC section of the policy to communicate their role and objectives more clearly as your clan team.

Your clan representatives are:

Josephine Holloway (Deisheetaan) alternate Karen Hall
 Shirley Mclean (Daklaweidi) alternate Gary Johnson
 Angie Dickson (Ishkeetaan) alternate Dianne Thorpe
 Jared Lutchman (Gaanaxtedi) alternate Zena McLean
 Maryanne Wally-Welin (Kookhitaan) alternate Kevin Welin
 Robin Lovelace (Yan Yeidi) alternate Bernard Calford



Happy retirement Joyce

We wish the very best to Joyce Hall who retired from her position as transitional employment coordinator this fall after many years of service. Joyce has worked in most departments within C/TFN throughout her career. She will be missed for her dedication, creativity, kindness and knowledge.

We are in the process of hiring a new TE coordinator. The next group of participants will begin in the New Year once they are hired. This position works closely with our health and wellness department, elders/knowledge keepers and others for employment transitions.

A new role & a familiar face

Capacity is pleased to welcome Bruce Downie to the team in the role of tutor. Bruce brings a full career of community development and nation building through his work in Africa and as a professor at the University of Victoria. Bruce lives in our traditional territory and has many connections with citizens through his work.

Although this position is new, Bruce is already responding to citizens to provide tutoring for education, training and employment interests.

Bruce has developed drivers practice training for class 7 and 5 driver's tests, a manual with over 150 questions that covers road rules and signs.

Bruce is meeting with postsecondary students at Yukon University this month and with elementary and secondary school students for individual needs.

Bruce is working with adult learners to achieve English and math college credits.

If you or someone you know would like to meet with Bruce, please reach out. Bruce can be reached at bruce.downie@ctfn.ca or 867-333-3778.



Full-time driver wanted

Capacity is also excited to welcome Josephin Marbach to the team. Josephin works part-time and lives in our traditional territory. She has been assisting with transportation for students in the math/computers program at Yukon University's Carcross Community Campus.

Capacity has reposted for a full-time driver and is in the hiring process now. Once the full-time person is hired, we will begin a regular daily commute schedule for citizens jobs, training and education programs in Whitehorse.



(File Photo)

Looking Ahead

The Education Employment Training Office is very busy and we are so grateful to have both positions filled for the coming months. Please visit the EETO office for your education/employment and training needs or email eeto@ctfn.ca.

Taylor has been acting in the EETO position since August 2022. We are pleased to formally welcome her to her permanent position here in Capacity.

Laurie Atlin has moved over from Infrastructure for the next six months in the position of Education Employment Training Assistant. Laurie has been pitching-in to assist with the driving for our students attending classes at Yukon University's Carcross Community Campus this semester. Thank you, Laurie, for going the extra mile.

We also serve non-citizens through the Community Training Fund Agreement with the Yukon Government. This year, we've been able to fund a community citizen for two semesters. This individual is studying wildlife which is an important area for C/TFN. We are happy to be able to support this community member in their educational journey.



Join an upcoming workshop

Lateral Kindness will be delivered at Haa Shagoon Hidi March 2nd and 3rd. If you are interested in attending, please contact Taylor or Laurie Anne in the EETO office to register, either by phone at 867-821-4251 ext 8257 or by email at: eeto@ctfn.ca



(C/TFN)



Health and Wellness in 2023

Over the past year the department has been busy creating new programs and services and expanding current ones.

We are pleased to announce

- On-going support with accessing the Whitehorse Food Bank every Thursday to assist individuals who struggle with transportation to acquire needed groceries and food.
- Health and Wellness food pantry located in the department to assist individuals and families with food scarcity.
- Elders Brunch offered every second Friday.
- Wellness Space offered every Wednesday to assist community members struggling with substance use and mental health challenges.
- Family Council Camps will continue to run throughout the year.
- Wallet Wise program to assist community members with budgeting and finances.
- Temporary Financial Assistance for individuals and families struggling to find work to help them meet their basic needs.
- Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP) drop-in's will be held regularly in 2023.
- Community Safety and Wellness staff are available days and some evenings and weekends.
- Family Council meetings will be held regularly starting in January 2023 to begin finalizing the Family Act, creation of policies and procedures, and on-going training of Family Council to support families and continue to hold regular Family Council Camps.
- Peacemaking Circle Training Foundations and Level II are being offered starting in January 2023.

The Department of Health and Wellness continues to work collaboratively with the Choutla Working Committee and will be providing wellness supports during this process.



New Programs and staff

What you can expect

- An outreach van, scheduled to run days and evenings, to help individuals and families who are struggling with food scarcity, substance use and mental health challenges.
- Implementing a case management system, Share Vision, to ensure efficient and comprehensive support for C/TFN community members.

We're expanding

In 2023, the Department of Health and Wellness will be adding a counsellor, another outreach staff for the van, additional community safety and wellness staff, an additional home care staff member to help support elders aging at home, and a psychologist.

New location

To accommodate the influx of new staff to the health and wellness team, home care services, CPNP, and community safety and wellness will be located at the old daycare in 2023.

We will be creating an inviting and safe space for young moms and their children to access services and supports.

The Department of Health and Wellness continues to collaborate with Mental Wellness and Substance Use (Government of Yukon), Family and Children Services (Government of Yukon), Blood Ties Four Directions, and many other service providers in both Carcross and Whitehorse.

Volunteers Needed

Inquire directly. Staff are readily available to provide you with more information. All events and programs are posted on the C/TFN website each month. If you cannot access online, come and have a coffee with Health and Wellness staff.



A Quick Look at Your Infrastructure

What's the status of our infrastructure projects? We're glad you asked.

Supportive Housing

The concrete footings have been stripped, the flooring system prefabbed and hauled to site, framing to be complete to roof by April. The project is back on track after the one week of work stoppage.

IEEP Energy Branch

We will be meeting to update energy upgrades that have been made to our government buildings. Once submitted those expenses will be recorded against the IEEP funding and credits will be returned to respective cost centres.

Richard Atlin Cabin

Framing starts Dec 7th on the addition. Electricians hooked up power at the end of November. The project is expected to be complete before the new year.

Choutla 5 Houses

A new cul-de -sac development. It's a joint venture with the C/TFN infrastructure department and 360 Design, built on the construction of these units.

Rapid Housing #4

Rapid Housing round four has begun. We need to finalize plans for this funding period to address housing on a community-based needs. The sooner the better, as funds dwindle throughout the selection process. Eligible for \$1 million in funding.

Biomass

Rescheduled for Dec 7th. Final reporting to commence immediately after.



A few more updates

Andy Carvill is back from leave this past summer and is in charge of all roads and fleet vehicles.

We apologize for the wood deliveries being late. We have secured another wood contractor.

Judy Duncan works as housing manager. Housing has been extremely busy since April. This department has been playing catch up ever since COVID restrictions were removed, allowing maintenance workers back in rental units. Our first priority has been health and safety. The housing team has been working with infrastructure on the size of the unit and number of bedrooms per unit.

Mark Lutkenhaus is our property manager, and brings more than 10 years experience in property maintenance.

In charge of our custodial workers and upkeep for all C/TFN's community building and elders' maintenance program.

We also have a great yard and driver team working here at infrastructure.

We'll hope you have safe and happy holidays!



(C/TFN)





Season's Greetings

It was a busy year for Haa Shagóon Hídi, with leadership changes, and plenty of external meetings and community events being held after a long pause due to COVID.

We bid the last year farewell with amazing fireworks and a bonfire, while we braved the cold and the snow. We hosted prayer circles and sacred fires while the communities were coming together in grief and sadness.

We were part of the Easter Hunt Festivities and presented an afternoon of extended reality and motion capture technology with Pixelbox Studios, Gary Johnson and Aan Yatx'í Saaní Dancers (Children of the Land),

We welcomed the Yukon First Nations Directorate, the Yukon's First Nation Culture and Tourism Association, the Yukon Forum, the C/TFN Proclamation, and hosted the Governor General here in Carcross.

We provided the venue for our Health Fair, organized by the department of Health and Wellness, we had open houses, community lunches and dinners, Elder's Recognition Dinners, Peacemaking Graduation Ceremony and Recognition Dinner, we booked meetings, workshops, weddings and assemblies, dinner conferences, and also potlatches and funeral services.

We hosted concerts in cooperation with YFNED, the Ted Harrison Foundation, the Mac Bride Museum and Wonderhorse. Diyet and the Lovesoldiers were here, as well as Jake Clemmons and Band. Together with Speed Control and Jake Clemmons we held an amazing music workshop for Carcross youth. We also offered the venue for the Youth Photography Workshop and kids dance classes with instructors from the Heart of Riverdale.

Together with Capacity we hosted a Halloween Movie Night and Halloween Party. We had the National Film Board and Sagafish present the documentary *Voices Across the Water* — the journey of our dugout canoe— here in Haa Shagóon Hídi.



We proudly welcomed our seasonal panel '*Łdakát táakw atxaagáa nay.a'* - *Following the food throughout the year*, carved by Dean Boucher, Keith Wolfe-Smarch, Thomas Fawcett and Violet Gatensby, into our permanent collection.

The panel was hung up in its place later in the year in its permanent place in the foyer of Haa Shagóon Hídi to welcome guests and visitors from all over the world (gunalchéesh to our Department of Infrastructure for the support in this endeavour).

We held farm visits and welcomed visitors, individually and in groups brought to us by our local tourism companies.

Together with our in-house curator we organized exhibitions, starting with *Honoring Our Future* - a travelling presentation of First Nation graduation regalia, followed by *Returning* — a showcase of graduates' art pieces from the Yukon University Carcross Campus First Nation Fine Art Program, as well as *Coming Home*, a display of artifacts and recordings of the ice patch research. We continue to add onto our permanent collection, build archival storage, and being part of the *Memorial Wall* journey in the Clanroom.

We are proud to be able to provide space for the family council workshops like cedar hat, button blanket, and parka making, as well as for wellness drop-ins and community meetings, and are looking forward to incorporating more language into our activities here in Haa Shagóon Hídi.

We will end our year here in Haa Shagóon Hídi with Christmas activities, like the call out for the "Christmas Village" and, organized by our department of capacity, a gingerbread house exhibition here in the lobby. We will also have the Christmas concert and the Christmas market, as well as a solstice fire and of course our annual fireworks and bonfire on New Year's Eve, this year with a family dinner and movie night.

Throughout the year, we experienced changes, losses, but also new connections and moments of laughter and togetherness. Here in Haa Shagóon Hídi, we hope we can be part of the journey to come together, and laugh a bit more often.

Gunalchéesh, yakgawaheigú and all my relations, and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you.

(Back cover photo Cathie Archbould)



