

Lynda Dickson for Haa Shaa du Hen

“It is the voice of the people that is important to me, my voice is your voice.”

After many discussions with citizens and for the future of our First Nation, I have put my name forward for the position of Kha Shade du Heni. I was voted in as the Kha Shade du Heni in July 2019, and I would love to continue to lead our First Nation into a better future for our children and future generation to come. I would like to make a difference in helping to shape our First Nation to move forward where we can all benefit. I believe that it is important to continue to see our culture grow and flourish. I also believe that our traditional values such as honesty, accountability and transparency need to be incorporated into all areas of our government, and we need to continue to integrate these values into our daily work of moving our government forward. To me, it is important to be proud of all of our accomplishments that we as a people have done over the years



I am a member of the Ishkahittaan Clan, daughter of Edith Johnson and grandchild of William and Winnie Atlin. I was born and raised here in the Yukon and have always considered Carcross to be my home. I began working with Carcross/Tagish First Nation, in the Finance Department since 2007. I sat as a member of General Council for our Clan from 2009-2014. I also have been a member of the Executive Council from 2014 to 2019. I successfully ran my own business for 30 years and I still continue to lead a healthy lifestyle.

I have thoughts and ideas for goals for our First Nation moving forward. The following is some of my thoughts and ideas on moving forward:

Continue to work on getting our Councils and Boards running the way they were intended such as Family Council and the Constitutional Review. These councils were developed to help our First Nation move forward and need to be having regular meetings. We still need to focus on the health and healing of our First Nations and all of our members.

Continued goals would include still focusing on multi-generational healing from trauma. I would like to see a Healing Centre built here in Carcross. The hard work of the Choutla School clean-up has been the start that our community has been needing for a long time. It is important to build on what others have already started. A place of healing where citizens go when they are ready, willing and able. To focus on building on each other's strengths rather than weaknesses.

Our water is also one of our most valuable resources and we need to protect it and make sure that it is healthy and clean for many generations. We need to continue to work on the education of our citizens. To continue to help our citizens to flourish and to contribute in meaningful ways to the advancement of our First Nation. We need to work on a long-term plan for housing of our citizens. We need to continue the hard work of Economic Development. Carcross is already established as a world class destination and we need to continue building on what has already been accomplished. We already have come leaps and bounds from where we were.

We need to build a healthy government with the participation of all of our citizens. I would like to see a care center for Elders. This could be built in partnership with the territorial government health and healing center. There is a continued need for housing: Self own/land leases, rent to own and social housing.

We need to continue in the development and enhancement of our laws: Constitution, Income Tax Act, GST Act, Financial and Administration Act, Governance Act, Judicial Council and Election Code. We also need to review and make all necessary changes to all of our policies, including our Personnel Policy.

Some of work that was completed and work in progress:

- Held fiduciary workshops for GC/EC representatives to assist them in decisions that affect the future of the members and to increase accountability.
- Ongoing Clan based Constitution meetings: The Committee has been meeting since the Fall of 2019 and have already provided their interim report. Due to COVID-19 the final report and recommendations have not yet been presented to General Council.
- Haa Kusteeyi: The celebration was a very successful event. A big thank you to all the hard work of the staff, directors and volunteers for planning and hosting the event.
- Sent some of our clan reps to Teslin to observe the way they hold their GC and EC meetings to see if we can find or learn new way to communicate with our clans and the way our clans conduct our business.
- Share the Knowledge Clan Conference: Participated with Constitutional Review Committee members to seek traditional knowledge on Governance and Laws.
- All of our EC meetings have been conducted by consensus, we are all trying to work together for the better of the Nation.
- Sewing Classes: Ongoing for 3 years and still happening are the sewing classes on Sundays, due to COVID-19 the classes have been cancelled, but when we can will start again.

I would like to thank everyone that has brought our First Nation together during the COVID-19 pandemic, our lives as we know has changed and we as a First Nation are adapting but also learning to love and care for one another. During this time we strived to be safe and help each other as much as we could. I want to thank everybody who stepped up to help during these trying times. Our air is cleaner; our water is cleaner.

What do you see and feel is important for us as a people to be working on together? My voice is your voice. I would very much like to speak with anyone that has concerns, ideas or thoughts. If you would like to talk to me more please feel free to give me a call, send me an email, a message on Facebook or reach out to me any way you feel comfortable. My home number is 867-821-3251, my cell number is 867-333-0667, my email is lyndadickson@live.ca. I look forward to hearing from you.

In Unity