



CARCROSS TAGISH  
MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

March 25<sup>th</sup> 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **First Gathering of all Yukon First Nations Former Students of the Chooutla Residential School.**

CARCROSS; For the first time, all Yukon First Nations former students of the Chooutla Residential School are invited to attend a Gathering held by Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Carcross Tagish Management Corporation on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> 2019 at the Learning Centre in Carcross. A whole day gathering to welcome, some for the first time since they attended the Chooutla Residential School, Former Students and open space for them to share their stories.

The Carcross Tagish Management Corporation will be providing updates on the Chooutla Site Clean up and The Carcross/Tagish First Nation will honour the former students by initiating a visioning session on how to move forward with the site. Many ideas have been provided by the C/TFN community for future development on the Chooutla site but it is important for the Government to make sure all Former Students have the opportunity to provide feedback and that all ideas are taking into consideration.

### **Quotes**

“Since the Chooutla Residential School gathering that was held in October 2016, many former students have wondered when there will be a final ceremony. This gathering will enable us to not only update about site clean up to date, but more importantly, an opportunity for former students to provide further direction on a final ceremony and their hopes for the future. We are honoured to have former students on the Traditional Territory of Carcross/Tagish First Nation and look forward to your input and direction”

Ingrid Isaac, Chooutla Project Coordinator  
Health and Wellness Department, Carcross/Tagish First Nation

“We are honoured to host this Gathering and greet Former Students from the Chooutla Residential School in our Traditional Territory. It is important for us to make sure all Yukon First Nations former students feels welcome in our community and that they can take part in decision making for future endeavours of the site”

Haa Shaa du Hen Maria Benoit  
Carcross/Tagish First Nation

### **Agenda for Monday, March 25, 2019 in Carcross**

8-9am	<b>Arriving of Guests</b> at the Learning Centre and Registration
9:30am	<b>Sacred Fire</b> (Harold Gatensby)
9:40am	<b>Prayer</b>
9:45am	<b>Welcome Remarks by Colleen James</b> Introduce facilitator, Joe Tetlich
10am	<b>Joe Tetlich, Introductions/housekeeping &amp; purpose of day</b>
11am	<b>Circle Sharing</b> , Facilitator Joe Tetlich
Noon	<b>LUNCH</b>
1pm	<b>Circle Continues</b> (if needed)
2pm	<b>Chooutla Site visit</b> for those interested
4:15pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b> by Ingrid Isaac (Chooutla Project Coordination) and Randy Lewis (CTMC Senior Project Advisor)
4:30pm	<b>Closing Prayer</b>

### **School History and Reclamation**

The Chooutla Indian Residential School (CIRS) operated in Carcross, Yukon from 1911 to 1969 under the Anglican Church of Canada. Over the years, the school had 2 buildings and locations, with the final building being closed as the CIRS in 1969.

In the 1990's, the actual school building was demolished to ground level. Fuel and PCB contamination was removed to the environmental standards at the time.

Since 2016, the Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN) applied and received funding from the Federal Government of Canada to further work on reclamation of the site.

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