



STATEMENT TO THE CBC
BY
HAA SHA DU HEN MARIA BENOIT
July 21, 2025

Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN) is a Self-Governing, Modern Treaty holding First Nation. This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the *Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement* and the *Carcross/Tagish First Nation Self-Government Agreement* in 2005. C/TFN has a unique, Clan-based representative system of self-government that is outlined in *The Constitution of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation* (“The Constitution”), which establishes four “GOVERNING BODIES” – the Elders Council, the General Council, the Executive Council, and the Judicial Council. Each governing body and all teams and committees established for C/TFN self-governance have Clan representatives. And it is through this tradition-based Clan representative system that citizen voices are conveyed and considered by C/TFN governing bodies.

Under Section 14 of The Constitution, the Executive Council (EC) has jurisdiction and responsibility for setting the date, location and agenda for an All Clan Meeting. The EC has scheduled an All Clan Meeting for September 13 and September 14, 2025. At this Meeting, established in conformity with The Constitution, as part of the on-going evolution of C/TFN self-governance, issues of concern to ALL C/TFN citizens will be discussed, together with important C/TFN self-governance legislative proposals such as a *Governance Code*. We recognize that we are continually challenged to deal with many complex issues in our unique self-governance journey.

The Constitution also stipulates in Section 2 that, “For certainty, an All Clan Meeting is not a decision-making body but can make recommendations to C/TFN governing bodies.” C/TFN governing bodies will consider recommendations arising at the duly convened ALL Clan Meeting in September, established in accordance with *The Constitution of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation*. This pending All Clan meeting and the ongoing operation of the C/TFN Clan-based system of self-governance is and will continue to be conducted in a manner consistent with the C/TFN “Virtues and Values” upon which C/TFN self-governance is based.

The “Virtues and Values” are:

- SELFLESSNESS
- HONOUR
- RESPECT
- COURAGE
- INTEGRITY
- KNOWLEDGE
- COMPASSION
- HONESTY

As C/TFN *Haa Sha du Hen*, I am and I will continue to be guided by these “Virtues and Values” in the leadership of my First Nation. I expect that all members of all C/TFN governing bodies and all C/TFN citizens will also continue to be guided by these “Virtues and Values” in their decisions and in their participation in C/TFN Self-Government. The success of our unique form of Clan-based self-governance depends on this.

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Respectfully,



Maria Benoit
Haa Sha du Hen